



# SCV WATER AGENCY TELECONFERENCE REGULAR BOARD MEETING

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 19, 2021**

**AT 6:30 PM**

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

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/340937309>

Listen in Toll Free by Phone:

**-OR-**

1-(877)-309-2073

Access Code: 340-937-309

When practical please provide public comment by 4:30 PM the day of the meeting\* by either e-mail, phone, or mail (please see the agenda for more specifics).

To help expedite public comment, please contact the Board Secretary the day of the meeting at 1-(661)-297-1600 to advise on what items you would like to speak on. Public comments can also be made during the meeting as specified under Item 3 of the Agenda.

\*All written comments received after 4:30 PM the day of the meeting will be posted to <https://yourscvwater.com/> the next day. Public comments can also be heard the night of the meeting.

Disclaimer: Pursuant to the Executive Order N-29-20 issued by Governor Newsom, public may not attend meetings in person. Public may use the above methods to attend and participate in the public board meetings.

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## AGENDA

### **SANTA CLARITA VALLEY WATER AGENCY REGULAR BOARD MEETING AGENDA**

**SANTA CLARITA VALLEY WATER AGENCY  
RIO VISTA WATER TREATMENT PLANT  
27234 BOUQUET CANYON ROAD  
SANTA CLARITA, CA 91350**

**TELECONFERENCE ONLY  
NO PHYSICAL LOCATION FOR MEETING**

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 19, 2021 AT 6:30 PM  
TELECONFERENCING NOTICE**

Pursuant to the provisions of Executive Order N-29-20 issued by Governor Gavin Newsom on March 17, 2020, any Director may call into an Agency Board meeting using the Agency's **Call-In Number 1-(877)-309-2073 Access Code 340-937-309** or **GoToMeeting by clicking on the link <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/340937309>** without otherwise complying with the Brown Act's teleconferencing requirements.

Pursuant to the above Executive Order, the public may not attend the meeting in person. Any member of the public may listen to the meeting or make comments to the Board using the call-in number or GoToMeeting link above. Please see the notice below if you have a disability and require an accommodation in order to participate in the meeting.

We request that the public submit any comments in writing if practicable, which can be sent to [ajacobs@scvwa.org](mailto:ajacobs@scvwa.org) or mailed to April Jacobs, Board Secretary, Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency, 27234 Bouquet Canyon Road, Santa Clarita, CA 91350. All written comments received before 4:30 PM the day of the meeting will be distributed to the Board members and posted on the Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency website prior to the start of the meeting. Anything received after 4:30 PM the day of the meeting will be posted on the SCV Water website the following day.

### **OPEN SESSION BEGINS AT 6:30 PM**

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
3. **PUBLIC COMMENTS** – Members of the public may comment as to items not on the Agenda at this time. Members of the public wishing to comment on items covered in this Agenda may do so now or at the time each item is considered. (Comments may, at the discretion of the Board's presiding officer, be limited to three minutes for each speaker.) Members of the public wishing to comment on items covered in Closed Session before they are considered by the Board must request to make comment at the commencement of the meeting at 6:30 PM.

**4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

**5. CONSENT CALENDAR PAGE**

5.1 *	Approve Minutes of the January 5, 2021 Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency Regular Board of Directors Meeting	5
5.2. *	Approve Minutes of the January 6, 2021 Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency Adjourned Board of Directors Meeting	7

**6. PRESENTATIONS PAGE**

6.1 *	Presentation Regarding Department of Water and Power Reduced Releases from Bouquet Canyon Reservoir and Update Regarding LARC Ranch Pipeline Project	17
6.2	PFAS Groundwater Treatment Implementation Plan Update	
6.3	Status of 2021 Water Supplies	

**7. GENERAL MANAGER’S REPORT ON ACTIVITIES, PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS**

**8. PRESIDENT’S REPORT**

- 8.1 Board Consideration and Approval of Continuing the Suspension of the Limitation of Single Day Events Through June 2021
- 8.2 Delta Conveyance Design and Construction Authority (DCA) Board – Appointment by President

**9. AB 1234 WRITTEN AND VERBAL REPORTS PAGE**

9.1 *	January 7, 2021 NWRA’s Board of Directors Meeting – Vice President Gladbach	59
9.2 *	January 7-8, 2021 NWRA’s Leadership Forum (Strategic Planning) – Vice President Gladbach	63
9.3	Other AB 1234 Reports	

**10. DIRECTOR REPORTS**

**11. CLOSED SESSION – SEPARATE DIAL-IN PHONE NUMBER WILL BE PROVIDED TO THE BOARD AND APPROPRIATE STAFF**

- 11.1 Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation (Paragraph (1) of Subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9), Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency v. 3M Company, et. al., Case No: 2:20-cv-3771-RMG
- 11.2 Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation (Paragraph (1) of Subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9), Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency v. Whittaker Corporation, Case No.: 2:18-cv-06825-GW-RAO

**OPEN SESSION CONTINUES WITH THE PHONE NUMBER LISTED ON THE FIRST PAGE OF THIS AGENDA**

12. **CLOSED SESSION ANNOUNCEMENTS**
13. **DIRECTOR REQUESTS FOR APPROVAL FOR EVENT ATTENDANCE**
14. **REQUESTS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**
15. **ADJOURNMENT**

- \* Indicates Attachment
- ◆ Indicates Handout

**Note: The Board reserves the right to discuss or take action or both on all of the above Agenda items.**

### **NOTICES**

Any person may make a request for a disability-related modification or accommodation needed for that person to be able to participate in the public meeting by telephoning April Jacobs, Secretary to the Board of Directors, at (661) 297-1600, or in writing to Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency at 27234 Bouquet Canyon Road, Santa Clarita, CA 91350. Requests must specify the nature of the disability and the type of accommodation requested. A telephone number or other contact information should be included so that Agency staff may discuss appropriate arrangements. Persons requesting a disability-related accommodation should make the request with adequate time before the meeting for the Agency to provide the requested accommodation.

Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957.5, non-exempt public records that relate to open session agenda items and are distributed to a majority of the Board less than seventy-two (72) hours prior to the meeting will be available for public inspection at the Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency, located at 27234 Bouquet Canyon Road, Santa Clarita, CA 91350, during regular business hours. When practical, these public records will also be made available on the Agency's Internet Website, accessible at <http://www.yourscvwater.com>.

Posted on January 13, 2021.

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Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency – January 5, 2021

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A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency was held via teleconference at 6:30 PM on Tuesday, January 5, 2021. A copy of the Agenda is inserted in the Minute Book of the Agency preceding these minutes.

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Kathy Armitage, B. J. Atkins, Beth Braunstein, Ed Colley, William Cooper, Jeff Ford, Jerry Gladbach, R. J. Kelly, Gary Martin, Dan Mortensen, Piotr Orzechowski and Lynne Plambeck via teleconference.

DIRECTORS ABSENT: None.

Also present via teleconference: General Manager Matthew Stone, General Counsel Tom Bunn and Joe Byrne, Board Secretary April Jacobs, Assistant General Manager Steve Cole, Chief Financial and Administrative Officer Eric Campbell, Chief Engineer Courtney Mael, Chief Operating Officer Keith Abercrombie, Director of Finance and Administration Rochelle Patterson, Director of Water Resources Dirk Marks, Controller Amy Aguer, Human Resources Supervisor Ari Mantis, Resource Conservation Manager Matt Dickens, Principal Engineer Jason Yim, Senior Engineers Shadi Bader and Jim Leserman, Associate Engineer Elizabeth Sobczak, Senior Management Analyst Kim Grass, Financial Analyst Darine Conner, Public Information Officer Kathie Martin, Executive Assistant's Eunie Kang and Leticia Quintero, Administrative Assistant Terri Bell, IT Technician Craig Larsen, Accounting Tech II Kyle Arnold, and members of the public.

President Martin called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM. A quorum was present.

Due to disruptive participants, the meeting was unable to continue and was adjourned to Wednesday, January 6, 2021.

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April Jacobs, Board Secretary

ATTEST:

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President of the Board

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Minutes of the Adjourned Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency – January 6, 2021

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An adjourned meeting of the Board of Directors of the Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency was held via teleconference at 6:30 PM on Tuesday, January 6, 2021. A copy of the Agenda is inserted in the Minute Book of the Agency preceding these minutes.

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Kathye Armitage, B. J. Atkins, Beth Braunstein, Ed Colley, William Cooper, Jeff Ford, Jerry Gladbach, R. J. Kelly, Gary Martin, Dan Mortensen, Piotr Orzechowski and Lynne Plambeck via teleconference.

DIRECTORS ABSENT: None.

Also present via teleconference: General Manager Matthew Stone, General Counsel Tom Bunn and Joe Byrne, Board Secretary April Jacobs, Assistant General Manager Steve Cole, Chief Financial and Administrative Officer Eric Campbell, Chief Engineer Courtney Mael, Chief Operating Officer Keith Abercrombie, Director of Finance and Administration Rochelle Patterson, Director of Operations and Maintenance Mike Alvord, Director of Water Resources Dirk Marks, Director of Tech Services Cris Perez, Resource Conservation Manager Matt Dickens, Human Resources Supervisor Ari Mantis, Principal Engineer Jason Yim, Senior Engineers Shadi Bader and Jim Leserman, Associate Engineer Elizabeth Sobczak, Senior Management Analyst Kim Grass, Financial Analyst Darine Conner, Public Information Officer Kathie Martin, Executive Assistant's Eunie Kang and Leticia Quintero, Administrative Assistant Terri Bell, Technology Administrator Jeff Herbert, Accounting Tech II Kyle Arnold, and members of the public.

President Martin called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM. A quorum was present.

Upon motion of Director Cooper, seconded by Director Ford and carried, the Board approved the Amended Agenda with Item 7.1 being removed for a future meeting, by the following roll call votes (Item 4):

Director Armitage	Yes	Director Atkins	Yes
Director Braunstein	Yes	Director Colley	Yes
Director Cooper	Yes	Director Ford	Yes
Vice President Gladbach	Yes	Director Kelly	Yes
President Martin	Yes	Director Mortensen	Yes
Director Orzechowski	Yes	Director Plambeck	Yes

The Board Secretary administered the Ceremonial Oath of Office to Directors Armitage, Atkins, Braunstein, Colley, Martin and Orzechowski (Item 5.1).

Upon motion of Director Cooper, seconded by Vice President Gladbach and carried, the Board voted to approve 2-year terms for both the position of Board President and Vice President(s) by the following roll call votes (Item 5.2):

Director Armitage	No	Director Atkins	Yes
Director Braunstein	No	Director Colley	No
Director Cooper	Yes	Director Ford	Yes
Vice President Gladbach	Yes	Director Kelly	No
President Martin	Yes	Director Mortensen	Yes

Director Orzechowski	Yes	Director Plambeck	No
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Upon motion of Director Plambeck, seconded by Director Braunstein and carried, the Board approved having two Vice Presidents for the current 2-year term and will revisit this item in January of 2023 by the following roll call votes (Item 5.2):

Director Armitage	Yes	Director Atkins	Yes
Director Braunstein	Yes	Director Colley	Yes
Director Cooper	Yes	Director Ford	Yes
Vice President Gladbach	Yes	Director Kelly	Yes
President Martin	Yes	Director Mortensen	No
Director Orzechowski	Yes	Director Plambeck	Yes

President Martin announced the next item of business was Agenda Item 5.3 election of Board President and Vice Presidents and requested that the Board Secretary conduct the election of officers.

After a review of the guidelines for the election process, the Board Secretary called for nominations for the position of Board President.

Director Braunstein nominated Director Martin and Director's Armitage, Colley, Cooper, Gladbach, Kelly, Orzechowski and Plambeck all supported that nomination.

With there being no further nominations, Director Martin then addressed the Board.

After a brief discussion and there being no objection to Director Martin as Board President a motion and second was requested and a vote taken as shown below.

By motion of Director Plambeck, seconded by Director Kelly and carried, Director Martin was elected to the position of Board President by the following roll call votes (Item 5.3):

Director Armitage	Yes	Director Atkins	Yes
Director Braunstein	Yes	Director Colley	Yes
Director Cooper	Yes	Director Ford	Yes
Director Gladbach	Yes	Director Kelly	Yes
Director Martin	Yes	Director Mortensen	Yes
Director Orzechowski	Yes	Director Plambeck	Yes

The Board Secretary then called for nominations for the position of the first Board Vice President (note that the first and second positions for Vice President are of equal standing).

Director Colley nominated Director Gladbach and President Martin, Directors Cooper, Kelly and Orzechowski supported that nomination. Director Atkins nominated Director Mortensen and Director Gladbach supported that nomination. Director Plambeck nominated Director Armitage and Director Braunstein supported that nomination.

There were no further nominations. Directors Armitage, Gladbach and Mortensen each then addressed the Board.

Votes were then taken, by roll call vote (as shown below), tallied and Director Gladbach received a majority vote of 7.

Director Armitage voted for herself  
Director Atkins voted for Director Mortensen  
Director Braunstein voted for Director Armitage  
Director Colley voted for Director Gladbach  
Director Cooper voted for Director Gladbach  
Director Ford voted for Director Gladbach  
Director Gladbach voted for Director Mortensen  
Director Kelly voted for Director Gladbach  
President Martin voted for Director Gladbach  
Director Mortensen voted for Director Gladbach  
Director Orzechowski voted for Director Gladbach  
Director Plambeck voted for Director Armitage

By motion of Director Kelly, seconded by Director Plambeck and carried, Director Gladbach was elected to the position of Board Vice President by the following roll call votes (Item 5.3):

Director Armitage	Yes	Director Atkins	Yes
Director Braunstein	Yes	Director Colley	Yes
Director Cooper	Yes	Director Ford	Yes
Director Gladbach	Yes	Director Kelly	Yes
President Martin	Yes	Director Mortensen	Yes
Director Orzechowski	Yes	Director Plambeck	Yes

The Board Secretary then called for nominations for the second position of Board Vice President. Director Braunstein nominated Director Armitage and Director Plambeck supported that nomination. President Martin nominated Director Colley and Director Cooper supported that nomination. Director Atkins nominated Director Mortensen and Vice President Gladbach and Director's Kelly and Orzechowski supported that nomination.

There were no further nominations. Directors Colley and Mortensen each then addressed the Board with Director Armitage having a final statement after Board questions and before the vote was taken.

Votes were then taken, by a roll call vote (as shown below), tallied and none of the nominees received a majority vote of 7.

Director Armitage voted for herself  
Director Atkins voted for Director Mortensen  
Director Braunstein voted for Director Armitage  
Director Colley abstained  
Director Cooper voted for Director Colley  
Director Ford voted for Director Colley  
Vice President Gladbach voted for Director Mortensen  
Director Kelly voted for Director Mortensen  
President Martin voted for Director Colley  
Director Mortensen abstained  
Director Orzechowski voted for Director Mortensen  
Director Plambeck voted for Director Armitage

The Board Secretary asked if there were any additional nominations or if any of the candidates would like to withdraw their name.

Director Atkins renominated Director Mortensen and Director Plambeck renominated Director Armitage and Colley.

There were no additional nominations and none of the candidates withdrew their name.

A second vote was then conducted, by a roll call (as shown below), tallied and Director Mortensen received a vote of 8, which is over a majority of the Board.

Director Armitage voted for herself  
Director Atkins voted for Director Mortensen  
Director Braunstein voted for Director Armitage  
Director Colley voted for himself  
Director Cooper voted for Director Mortensen  
Director Ford voted for Director Mortensen  
Vice President Gladbach voted for Director Mortensen  
Director Kelly voted for Director Mortensen  
President Martin voted for Director Mortensen  
Director Mortensen voted for himself  
Director Orzechowski voted for Director Mortensen  
Director Plambeck voted for Director Armitage

By motion of Director Colley, seconded by Vice President Gladbach and carried, Director Mortensen was elected to the position of Board Vice President by the following roll call votes (Item 5.3):

Director Armitage	Yes	Director Atkins	Yes
Director Braunstein	Yes	Director Colley	Yes
Director Cooper	Yes	Director Ford	Yes
Vice President Gladbach	Yes	Director Kelly	Yes
President Martin	Yes	Director Mortensen	Yes
Director Orzechowski	Yes	Director Plambeck	No

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After Board discussion and consideration of Item 5.4, which was to approve a resolution changing the regular Board meetings from 6:30 pm to 6:00 PM, the Board decided to not move forward with any further consideration of this item. The regular Board meeting time will remain at 6:30 PM (Item 5.4).

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Upon motion of Vice President Mortensen, seconded by Director Ford and carried, the Board approved the Consent Calendar by the following roll call votes (Item 6):

Director Armitage	Yes	Director Atkins	Yes
Director Braunstein	Yes	Director Colley	Yes
Director Cooper	Yes	Director Ford	Yes
Vice President Gladbach	Yes	Director Kelly	Yes
President Martin	Yes	Vice President Mortensen	Yes
Director Orzechowski	Yes	Director Plambeck	Yes

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Upon motion of Vice President Mortensen, seconded by Director Atkins and carried, the Board authorized the General Manager to execute a change order to the contract with Pacific Hydrotech Corporation to increase the construction contract amount by \$47,781.05 for the N Wells PFAS Groundwater Treatment and Well Q2 Perchlorate Removal Facility Project by the following roll call votes (Item 7.2):

Director Armitage	Yes	Director Atkins	Yes
Director Braunstein	Yes	Director Colley	Yes
Director Cooper	Yes	Director Ford	Yes
Vice President Gladbach	Yes	Director Kelly	Yes
President Martin	Yes	Vice President Mortensen	Yes
Director Orzechowski	Yes	Director Plambeck	Yes

Upon motion of Director Plambeck, seconded by Vice President Gladbach and carried, the Board approved a revised Emergency Administrative Leave (EAL) Policy – COVID-19 and directed the General Manager to reset available EAL to 10 days, effective retroactively to January 1, 2021 by the following roll call votes (Item 7.3):

Director Armitage	Yes	Director Atkins	Yes
Director Braunstein	Yes	Director Colley	No
Director Cooper	Yes	Director Ford	Yes
Vice President Gladbach	Yes	Director Kelly	Yes
President Martin	Yes	Vice President Mortensen	Yes
Director Orzechowski	Yes	Director Plambeck	Yes

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### **General Manager's Report on Activities, Projects and Programs (Item 8).**

The General Manager welcomed the newest members of the SCV Water Board and advised the Board that he met (virtually) one on one with each of the new Board members to get acquainted.

In addition, he updated the Board on the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and stated that, this year promises to have several important initiatives and issues, and of course, maybe one or two unexpected ones. He advised the Board that they would be hearing about these and other projects in the coming Board and Committee meetings as appropriate.

He then went on to say that PFAS is the newest substance that we are working to remove from our water supply. Further, he mentioned that we have been dealing with perchlorate contamination from the Whittaker-Bermite site for many years, along with low levels of volatile organic compounds (VOC's).

He stated that over time, a number of hazardous substances that have been used in this valley, including perchlorate and VOC's, were released into the Saugus Formation Aquifer by known and potentially unknown parties, including the Whittaker Corporation at the Whittaker-Bermite Facility.

Four wells are presently impacted:

- Saugus 1 and Saugus 2 were shut down in 1997 when perchlorate was detected. In 2011, they were returned to service after treatment facilities were installed and an operating permit was issued by the Division of Drinking Water. That permit set a goal for VOC's and a blending strategy which has been used. However, based on SCV Water's experience with blending strategies, SCV Water is now evaluating whether an additional treatment process is required.
- Well 201 was taken offline in 2010, when perchlorate was detected. A perchlorate treatment system has been installed, but subsequently low levels of VOC's were also detected at that well, so it currently treats for perchlorate and the product water is blended with system water, dechlorinated and discharged to the river. It has been important that we continue to operate this well as it is part of the perchlorate containment and removal strategy for the Saugus Aquifer. Permitted operation of the well to provide potable water is pending a permit and possible installation of VOC treatment.
- Well 205 was taken offline in 2012 when perchlorate was detected. Low levels of VOC's have also been detected there. Preliminary design of perchlorate and VOC removal facilities and environmental review are underway.

Further, he said that the Division of Drinking Water (DDW) has not yet permitted use of treated water from Well 201 for drinking water due to the presence of low levels of VOC's. Absent the issuance of this new permit for Well 201, and a determination by DDW that current VOC levels from Saugus 1 and 2 are permissible under the existing drinking water permit, SCV Water is developing a contingency plan to address DDW requirements concerning VOC levels at all 4 wells.

Furthermore, he went on to say, staff has developed a web page that will host the draft Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis for the proposed projects, as well as the Community Involvement Plan. This is part of the process outlined under CERCLA (the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act). It will also include a public comment form. We anticipate publishing a notice of public comment period to start within the next 10 days, at which time the web page will go live. The comment period will be open for 45 days and a virtual public meeting will be held at the end of that time frame. Outreach for the public comment period and meeting will be similar to other efforts and include a press release, social media and targeted emails.

Lastly, he noted pertaining to the VOC's, we are currently in litigation with Whittaker Bermite over the VOC contamination, which was not included in the scope of the perchlorate settlement. Another cross defendant in the trial, Saugus Industrial Complex, recently entered into a settlement agreement with SCV Water and paid out, he thinks \$2.9 million for their potential share of VOC cleanup costs. The larger case with Whittaker goes on, and the Board will receive an update on this in closed session from our attorneys in the near future.

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#### **Committee Meeting Recap Reports for Informational Purposes Only (Item 9).**

There were no comments on the recap reports.

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**Written Reports for Informational Purposes Only (Item 10).**

Director Orzechowski asked questions on several of the section reports.

There were no other comments or questions on the written reports.

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**President's Report (Item 11).**

The President updated the Board on upcoming events and reminded them that there would be a special Board meeting on February 1, 2021, for the Board to take their mandated Sexual Harassment and Prevention training. He mentioned this meeting would be virtual and start at 6:00 PM.

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**AB 1234 Written and Verbal Reports (Item 12).**

Written reports were submitted by Vice President Gladbach and were included in the Board packet.

There were no further AB 1234 Reports.

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**Director Reports (Item 13).**

There were no Director reports.

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The Board went into Closed Session at 9:55 PM (Item 14).

The Board was instructed to disconnect from the current call and redial in on a separate teleconference line that was provided to them. President Martin instructed the public members and staff who wanted to stay on the call, to stay on the current teleconference line and once Closed Session has ended, the Board will reconvene for Closed Session announcements and the conclusion of the meeting.

President Martin reconvened the Open Session at 10:37 PM.

Tom Bunn, Esq., reported that pertaining to Item No. 14.1 Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation – Significant Exposure to Litigation Pursuant to Paragraph (2) of Subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9, Claim of Interinsurance Exchange of the Automobile Club, Insured Mario Vega Against Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency, Claim for Property Damage, Date of Claim December 3, 2020; Item No. 14.2 Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation – Significant Exposure to Litigation Pursuant to Paragraph (2) of Subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9, Claim of Mario Jr Vega, Against Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency, Claim for

Personal and Property Damage, Date of Claim December 23, 2020 and Item No. 14.3 Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation – Significant Exposure to Litigation Pursuant to Paragraph (2) of Subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9, Claim of Yesenia Ojeda Vega, Against Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency, Claim for Personal and Property Damage, Date of Claim December 23, 2020, the Board voted to reject the claims and send to them ACWA/JPIA by motion of Director Cooper, seconded by Director Kelly and carried, by the following roll call votes:

Director Armitage	Yes	Director Atkins	Yes
Director Braunstein	Yes	Director Colley	Yes
Director Cooper	Yes	Director Ford	Yes
Vice President Gladbach	Yes	Director Kelly	Yes
President Martin	Yes	Vice President Mortensen	Yes
Director Orzechowski	Yes	Director Plambeck	Yes

Pertaining to Item 14.4 Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation – Significant Exposure to Litigation Pursuant to Paragraph (2) of Subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9, Amended Claim of Donald Bashor Against Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency, Claim for Retaliation for Whistleblowing, Date of Claim November 3, 2020, the Board voted to reject the claim by motion of Director Cooper, seconded by Director Kelly and carried, by the following roll call votes:

Director Armitage	Abstained	Director Atkins	Yes
Director Braunstein	Yes	Director Colley	Yes
Director Cooper	Yes	Director Ford	Yes
Vice President Gladbach	Yes	Director Kelly	Yes
President Martin	Yes	Vice President Mortensen	Yes
Director Orzechowski	Yes	Director Plambeck	Yes

There were no other actions taken in Closed Session that were reportable under the Ralph M. Brown Act (Item 15).

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#### **Director Requests for Approval for Event Attendance (Item 16).**

Director Plambeck asked that the Department of Water Resources Urban Water Management Plan Webinars on “Considering Climate Change”, “How to Prepare a Water Shortage Contingency Plan” and “Preparation, Adoption, and Submittal” be pre-approved webinars for this fiscal year, which the Board approved by motion of Director Kelly, seconded by Director Cooper and carried by the full Board as shown below:

Director Armitage	Yes	Director Atkins	Yes
Director Braunstein	Yes	Director E. Colley	Yes
Director Cooper	Yes	Director Ford	Yes
Vice President Gladbach	Yes	Director Kelly	Yes
President Martin	Yes	Vice President Mortensen	Yes
Director Orzechowski	Yes	Director Plambeck	Yes

There were no other Director requests for event attendance.



**Request for Future Agenda Items (Item 17).**

Director Plambeck requested that staff look into supporting and promoting a Lifeline rate for water rate payers in our valley. (This request was forwarded to the Public Outreach and Legislation Committee for consideration.)

Director Plambeck also asked that the Board receive an update on the drought.

Director Kelly asked for a report on the status of the acreage on Placerita Canyon, which was purchased from the City of Santa Clarita to build some wells and tanks. He would like an overall update on the status of where we are on this item.

There were no other requests for future agenda items.

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The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 PM in memoriam of Cheri Fleming **(Item 18)**.

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April Jacobs, Board Secretary

ATTEST:

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President of the Board

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ITEM NO.  
6.1

## BOARD MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** January 19, 2021  
**TO:** Board of Directors  
**FROM:** Steve Cole *SC*  
Assistant General Manager  
**SUBJECT:** Presentation Regarding Department of Water and Power Reduced Releases from Bouquet Canyon Reservoir and Update Regarding LARC Ranch Pipeline Project

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### SUMMARY

The Santa Clarita Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency has requested SCV Water engage in facilitating solutions to resolve the challenges preventing contractual releases from the Bouquet Canyon Reservoir (see attached letter from the SCV-GSA dated November 3, 2020). Staff is providing the SCV Water Board with this presentation to help educate and provide the opportunity for discussion on the topic. The presentation is designed to cover the following areas:

- Background/History of the Releases
- Stakeholder Involvement
- Current Status
- SCV Water's Role

The presentation also includes an update regarding the status of SCV Water's LARC Ranch pipeline project.

### RECOMMENDATION

Receive feedback from the SCV Water Board of Directors regarding SCV Water's engagement in facilitating solutions to resolve the challenges preventing contractual releases from Bouquet Canyon Reservoir.

Attachments

*M65*

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Date: November 3, 2020  
To: SCV Water Board of Directors  
From: B.J. Atkins, Board President, SCV-GSA Board  
Re: Department of Water and Power Reduced Releases from Bouquet Canyon Reservoir

Dear SCV Water Board of Directors:

As most of you are aware, the monthly releases of stored water in the Bouquet Canyon Reservoir have been curtailed sharply, with limited exception. Since 2005 these curtailed flows have resulted in loss of recharge to the basin. In Bouquet Canyon: dry wells, lack of creek flow, loss of recreation, reduction of important habitat has occurred. To make matters worse these curtailed flows have enabled the spread of invasive instream vegetation which has increased sediment load. This sediment loading has resulted in stream blockages causing muddy water (during significant storm events especially) to flow across Bouquet Canyon Road, putting commuters at risk.

For almost a decade now, debris flow(s) in Bouquet Creek downstream of the dam necessitated immediate reduction in releases of water from the reservoir. These reductions were to be temporary, but Los Angeles County Department of Public Works (LACDPW) has been unable to clear debris from the channel, due in part to concerns regarding how such streambed modifications could impact sensitive species.

The working comprised of the LACDPW, US Forest Service, LADWP, US Fish and Wildlife and California Department of Fish and Wildlife has been meeting with no resolution to the current impasse. I understand this group continues to develop a plan to restore flow capabilities of the channel. Swift completion of this plan is essential, as further delay imperils those commuting through this canyon. From a public safety perspective former Santa Clarita Mayor Bob Kellar and others have characterized this as a public safety emergency. Swift action to remove these debris flow(s) must be taken before another wet season is upon us.

A clear understanding of all current work and stream surveys related to debris flow and resulting sediment blockages compiled by all these agencies is imperative to evaluate properly the status of sensitive species present currently in these specific area(s) of concern (debris flow blockage). The working group must demonstrate presence of sensitive species to support continued delays. Should sensitive species not be present in this area of specific concern, what can be done swiftly to enable solutions for clearing the debris to protect public safety, restore historic flow regimes and habitat.

Agreed upon releases (LADWP and United Water Conservation District) have not been made and the resulting impoundment of local water in the reservoir has accumulated to approximately 11,000 acre-feet. Ongoing storage of this water represents a significant loss of local supply in Bouquet Canyon.

With wells having gone dry or drying up at LARC Ranch and Lilly of the Valley Mobile Home Park, SCV Water is doing important work to bring alternative water supply to these water users by partnering with these entities to construct approximately 9,500 linear feet of water line at a cost of approximately \$3M. Fortunately, grant revenues will offset much of these costs. This work continues, but completion is not anticipated until at least the end of 2022, and even then, this should remain an alternative water supply. Returning this drainage to the agreed upon discharges and flows is paramount once public safety has been assured.

The Ground Water Sustainability Stakeholder Advisory Committee working with SCV Water staff brought forward the attached Board memo to the Santa Clarita Valley Ground Water Sustainability Agency's (SCV-GSA's) Board at the October 5, 2020 meeting. The SCV-GSA Board and stakeholders had a robust discussion on this item, including its frustrating history and long delays. The importance of restoring flows for proper groundwater recharge and support of this riparian habitat cannot be understated.

Together we need to be looking at ways for SCV Water to play a new role in facilitating multiple solutions. I cannot urge strongly enough a swift reconvening of the working group described above to find a solution (or solutions) to this clear and present public safety concern. These debris flows / stream impediments represent serious flooding risks during any significant storm event.

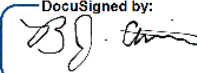
### Conclusion

This long-standing administrative delay governed by others results in substantial public safety concerns caused by debris flow(s) and flooding during significant storm events especially. This regulatory morass decreases significantly surface water flows, has resulted in loss of important recreational opportunities, and habitat. No or decreased groundwater recharge has resulted in water supply wells going dry and enables invasion of instream invasive vegetation. SCV Water, through grant funding, is investing approximately three million dollars for a specific alternative water supply solution involving key water users impacted by this regulatory predicament. The SCV-GSA Board of Directors believes SCV Water is best suited to engage in facilitating solutions due to its role as Santa Clarita Valleys' primary water supplier.

SCV Water's "One Watershed Approach" has broadened the way we look at watershed issues. This Bouquet Canyon issue has been delayed too long. Resolution is vital to several important stakeholders and the health of this watershed. As President of the SCV-GSA Board, I have been called to write this letter requesting SCV Water engage fully in this issue as soon as possible. Please help solve this serious public safety concern and regulatory delay before lives are lost.

The SCV-GSA Board agreed unanimously with the recommendations in the attached Board memo and I request respectfully SCV Water put this topic on the next regular agenda, enabling important Board discussion and swift action.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:  


7C563B1B39F44A3...

B. J. Atkins  
Board President  
Santa Clarita Valley  
Groundwater Sustainability Agency

Attachment

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## Santa Clarita Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency Board Memorandum

**DATE:** October 5, 2020  
**TO:** SCV-GSA Board of Directors  
**FROM:** SCV-GSA Staff  
**SUBJECT:** Department of Water and Power Reduced Releases from Bouquet Canyon Reservoir

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### **BACKGROUND:**

The City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, (LADWP) owns and operates Bouquet Canyon Reservoir (Reservoir) as a storage facility for the Los Angeles Aqueduct. The reservoir also intercepts runoff and underflow from the Bouquet Canyon watershed area and, pursuant to an agreement with United Water Conservation District (United), water is released from the reservoir to Bouquet Creek to avoid a loss of local water supply.

The original agreement, from 1932, provided that LADWP annually release water into Bouquet Creek equal to the amount of runoff coming into the Reservoir. During the initial forty-five years of that agreement, the releases of water from the Reservoir averaged 2,203 acre-feet per year.

To improve operational efficiency and benefit both LADWP and downstream watersheds, and to provide increased recreational opportunities along Bouquet Creek, the parties revised terms to provide a relatively fixed release schedule. The current agreement, attached hereto and dated March 9, 1978, provides that LADWP release a target amount of 2,194 acre-feet and a minimum amount of 2,100 acre-feet of water each year at rates of flow of 2 acre-feet per day October 1 – March 31, and 10 acre-feet per day April 1-September 30 every year.

Several years ago, a debris flow into the Bouquet Creek downstream of the dam necessitated a reduction in releases of water from the reservoir. Los Angeles County Department of Public Works (LACDPW) has been unable to clear debris from the channel and there are significant concerns regarding work in the streambed that could impact sensitive species. The resulting impoundment of local water in the reservoir has accumulated to approximately 11,000 acre-feet. This represents a significant loss of local water supply, particularly affecting wells in Bouquet Canyon.

A working group, including LACDPW, US Forrest Service, LADWP, US Fish and Wildlife and California Department of Fish and Wildlife, continues to develop a plan to restore flow capabilities of the channel, but as of this writing, releases of water from the reservoir are not possible in accordance with the current Agreement.

In an apparent effort to clarify its legal basis for the impoundment of water in the reservoir under the terms of its Agreement with United, LADWP petitioned the SWRCB for a permit to impound and release local water in the reservoir. Two groundwater pumpers within the SCV-GSA area intervened in this proceeding. The SCV-GSA's Stakeholder Advisory Committee has asked SCV-GSA staff to prepare this report and recommend to the GSA Board to consider potential actions to help stakeholders resolve the situation which has impacted them adversely.

## **DISCUSSION:**

The 1978 Agreement between United and LADWP benefits the pumpers in the basin. Impounding stormwater runoff in the reservoir and releasing water at a relatively steady rate into the creek, provides a reliable flow of water in the creek and a sustainable supply of water for a portion of the groundwater basin. The failure of LADWP to release local water from the reservoir has resulted in a significant loss of water supply for groundwater pumpers in the canyon. The current agreement does not contemplate LADWP's inability to release water and thus does not provide terms for a remedy. Further, LADWP is still unable to satisfy its obligations moving forward creating potential to lose local benefits of these releases.

A reasonable approach is to develop a plan to recover water that has been lost in prior impoundments and develop contingency plans for a continued inability of LADWP to perform its obligations under the Agreement. Though this issue is brought to the SCV-GSA, SCV Water is a more appropriate agency to explore these solutions than the SCV-GSA. SCV Water has a highly interconnected delivery system that could bring additional solutions to this challenging issue.

UWCD negotiated the original agreement on behalf of all water interests on the Santa Clara River and negotiated the revised Agreement in 1978 that provides enhanced benefits compared to the original Agreement. Thus, it is appropriate for SCV Water to consult and negotiate with United and LADWP on mechanisms for solving this loss of past and future water supplies.

The SCV-GSA has an ongoing interest in ensuring timely and appropriate solutions to this loss of local water supply, which is adversely impacting groundwater pumpers within the GSA. The recommendations of this letter are intended to ensure the GSA is helping facilitate solutions to this ongoing problem.

## **FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:**

None at this time.

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

That the SCV-GSA Board:

- 1) Request SCV Water develop options to address the impacts from the loss of local water supplies including but not limited to:
  - a. Cooperating with United and LADWP to explore solutions to the prior and ongoing impoundment of local water in violation of the existing Agreement.
  - b. Assigning a SCV Water representative to participate in the working group to assist in resolving the conditions that prevent release of water.
- 2) Receive SCV Water staff updates to the Board on progress toward resolution.
- 3) Direct the General Counsel to monitor progress of the LADWP water rights permit and report on opportunities to participate in that proceeding to facilitate a cure to the ongoing loss of local water supply.

Attachment:  
March 1978 Agreement Between DWP and UWCD

NO. 10162

A G R E E M E N T

between

DEPARTMENT OF WATER AND POWER OF  
THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES

and

UNITED WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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NO. 10162

A G R E E M E N T

THE DEPARTMENT OF WATER AND POWER OF THE CITY OF  
LOS ANGELES and THE UNITED WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT AGREE AS  
FOLLOWS:

1. The DEPARTMENT OF WATER AND POWER OF THE CITY OF  
LOS ANGELES (hereinafter referred to as "Department") and the UNITED  
WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT (hereinafter referred to as "United"),  
successor in interest to the SANTA CLARA WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
(hereinafter referred to as "District"), have heretofore on the 27th  
of April 1932 entered into and have fulfilled the terms of an agree-  
ment to provide for a schedule of water releases from the Bouquet  
Canyon Reservoir down Bouquet Canyon. The purpose of the 1932  
Agreement was to provide a practical and reasonable method whereby  
rainfall which had, prior to the construction of the Bouquet Canyon  
Reservoir, flowed down Bouquet Canyon, and had been used by the  
District and persons and organizations interested therein, would  
continue to be made available to those same claimants. Based upon  
operational experience and acquired historical data, the Department  
and United each desire to supersede and replace the 1932 Agreement  
in order to provide for a more effective and efficient utilization  
of the releases in the light of the historical data, thus elimina-  
ting the need for operating and maintaining recording rain gages  
and computing and filing the rainfall data.

2. Annual releases under the 1932 Agreement have  
fluctuated dramatically. The forty-two years of available records

(1933-34 to 1974-75) show that the scheduled releases have ranged from a minimum of 311 acre-feet in the 1960-61 hydrographic year to a maximum of 8,548 acre-feet in the 1968-69 hydrographic year.

3. The intent of the 1932 Agreement was to recharge the gravels of the Santa Clara River Valley to the extent that they were recharged from Bouquet Canyon outflows prior to the construction of the dam.

4. United and the Department agree that the main purpose of the dams constructed by the Department in Bouquet Canyon is to regulate and store Owens Valley Aqueduct waters for use by the Department.

5. The release schedule called for in the 1932 Agreement provided little opportunity for recreational uses during the summer months. In addition to cabins and residences along Bouquet Canyon, the Forest Service maintains several campgrounds which enjoy greatest recreational use during the summer months. In order to accommodate public recreational use of the Bouquet Canyon area, United and the Department agree to schedule water releases called for by this document during the summer months, so as to provide a significant stream flow for public recreational use, for fish stocking by the State Department of Fish and Game, as well as for fire protection. These benefits are to be accomplished by standardizing the releases and regulating them at rates that will accommodate these uses and still provide water for groundwater recharge.

6. United and the Department agree that the maintenance of the six rain gages within the Bouquet Reservoir watershed area

called for by the 1932 Agreement may be terminated and said gages may be removed from service.

7. United and the Department now have a forty-two year experience record under the 1932 Agreement with operating data beginning with the 1933-34 hydrographic year. This forty-two year period is agreed to be equivalent to the long-term average. During that period, the average rainfall was 16.92 inches and the average scheduled release from Bouquet Reservoir was 2,203 acre-feet per year.

8. For operational efficiency and for the benefit of both parties, United and the Department, by this new agreement, establish a relatively fixed release schedule which will fluctuate only slightly on a yearly basis. The slight variations from a fixed release schedule are necessary to allow for shutoffs during storm periods; leap year totals will also vary slightly.

9. The Department shall release from Bouquet Reservoir each year, into the natural channel of Bouquet Canyon below the Bouquet Dam, between 2,100 and 2,194, respectively, acre-feet of water, as full compensation and replacement for the precipitation runoff, which the Department receives into the reservoir from the watershed of Bouquet Canyon lying above and tributary to the reservoir.

10. Releases shall be at the following rates, at the following times:

October 1 of each year through and including March 31 of the following year, the average daily rate of release shall be two acre-feet per day.

April 1 through September 30 of the same year, the average daily rate of release shall be ten acre-feet per day.

Assuming no adjustments or shutoffs are required, this schedule will provide an annual release totaling 2,194 acre-feet.

11. United and the Department agree that the Department shall have the right in its sole discretion to suspend the releases for brief periods when rainfall appears to present a threat of localized flooding. The release schedule shall not be adjusted to compensate for any suspensions in releases pursuant to this paragraph unless the net effect of any such suspensions would be to reduce the total release below 2,100 acre-feet during any October 1 through September 30 period.

In the event it appears that the total release will fall below 2,100 acre-feet for any such period, the scheduled releases will be adjusted by the Department in whatever amount is necessary to provide no less than 2,100 acre-feet for the October 1 through September 30 period.

12. On or before November 20 of each year, the Department will supply United a record of the total quantity of water released for the preceding October 1 through September 30 period.

13. For the purpose of measuring the water released from the reservoir, the Department shall install and maintain recording devices of an approved type which the Department has found suitable for such measuring purposes.



14. Representatives of United shall have right of access during normal working hours to all the measuring and recording devices relating to the water discharge into Bouquet Canyon from the Bouquet Canyon Reservoir, and said representatives shall be furnished copies of all records pertaining thereto upon request.

15. This agreement shall supersede completely the 1932 Agreement made and entered into by and between the Santa Clara Water Conservation District and the Department of Water and Power of the City of Los Angeles. Upon the approval and execution of this agreement by United and the Department, the 1932 Agreement shall have no further force or effect.

16. Execution of this agreement by the Department and United shall constitute approval of, and agreement to be bound by, each and every paragraph of this agreement. This agreement shall become effective upon the dates the authorized representatives of each party affix their signatures hereto.

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY  
BURT PINES, CITY ATTORNEY

FEB 22 1978

By Edward A. Scholman  
Edward A. Scholman  
Deputy City Attorney

Dated MAR 9 1978

DEPARTMENT OF WATER AND POWER  
OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES

By

BOARD OF WATER AND POWER COMMISSIONERS  
OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES

By Louis H. Winnard  
General Manager and Chief Engineer

and Judith D. Varison  
Secretary

UNITED WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Dated April 17, 1978

Authorized Minutes of UWCD  
Board of Directors  
December 13, 1977

By Richard A. Smith  
Richard A. Smith  
General Manager and Chief Engineer

MAR 9 1978  
AUTHORIZED BY RES. 431

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January 19, 2021

# Bouquet Creek Releases

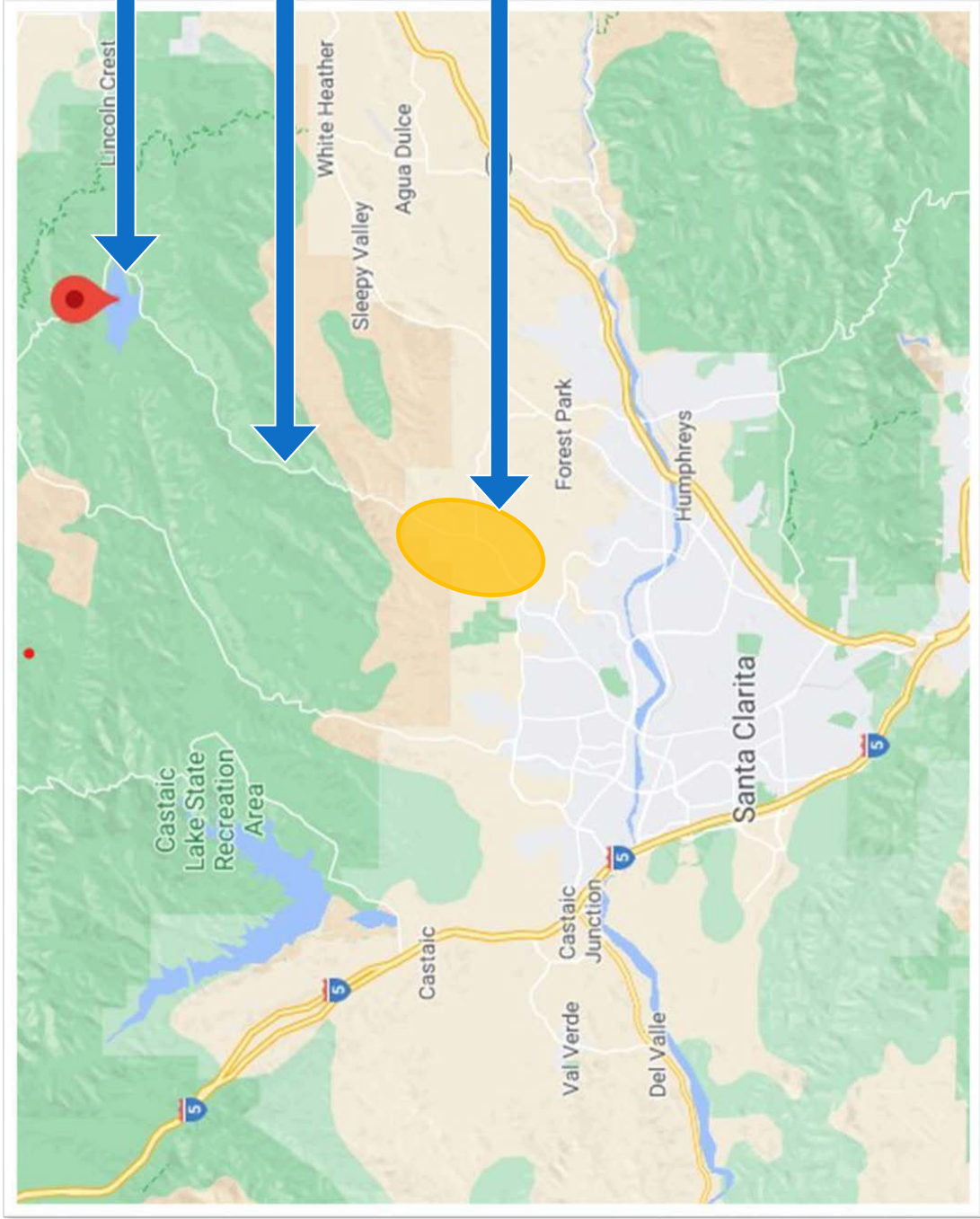
Presentation to the SCV Water Board of Directors

Steve Cole, Assistant General Manager

# Bouquet Creek Releases

- History
- Current Status
- Stakeholders
- SCV Water's Role "A Path Forward"
- Pipeline Project Update



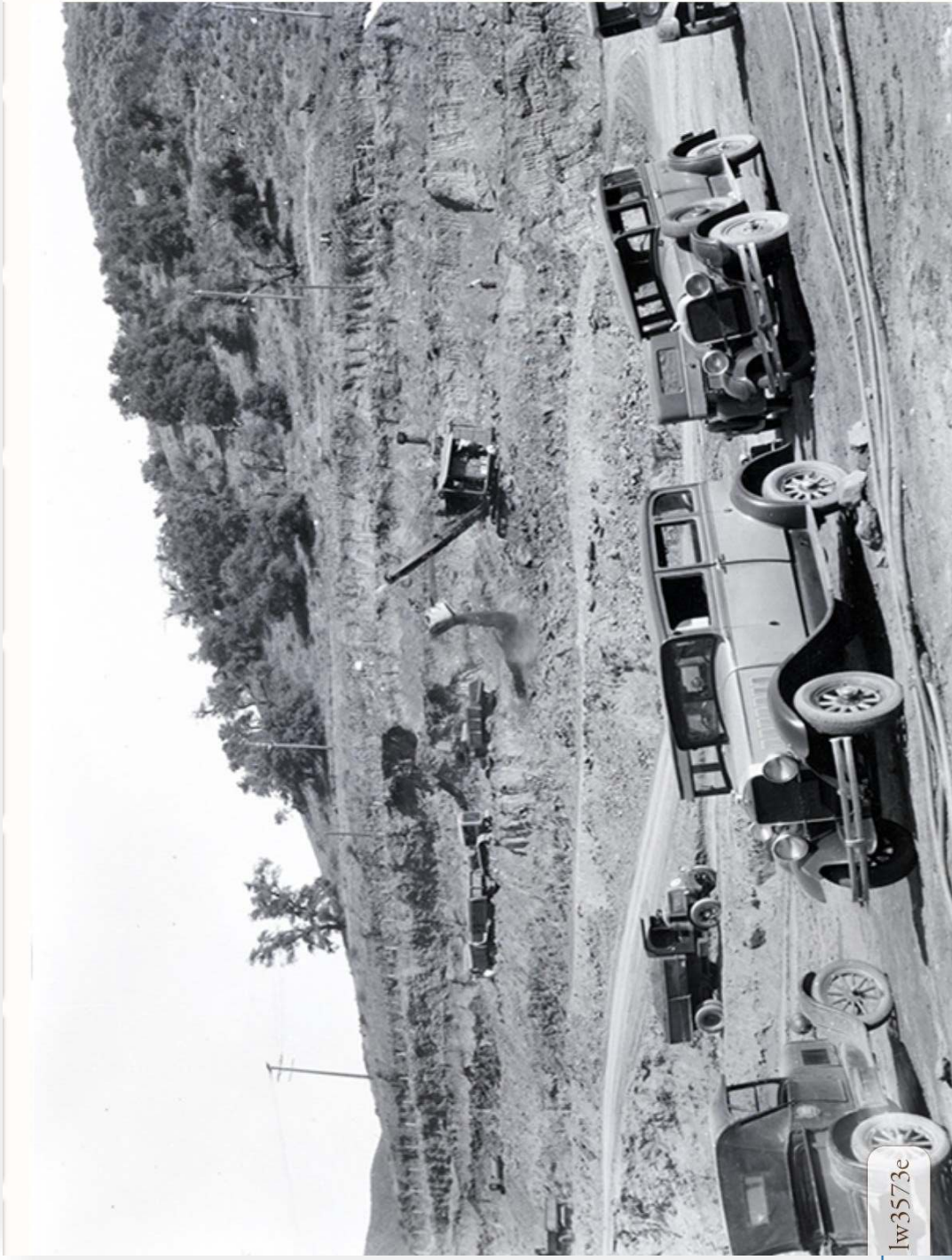


- Bouquet Reservoir

- Bouquet Canyon Road and Creek

- Approximate area of impacted wells

Construction start,  
September 1932.  
Photo from  
scvhistory.com





- Construction. August 1933 Photo from [scvhistory.com](http://scvhistory.com)

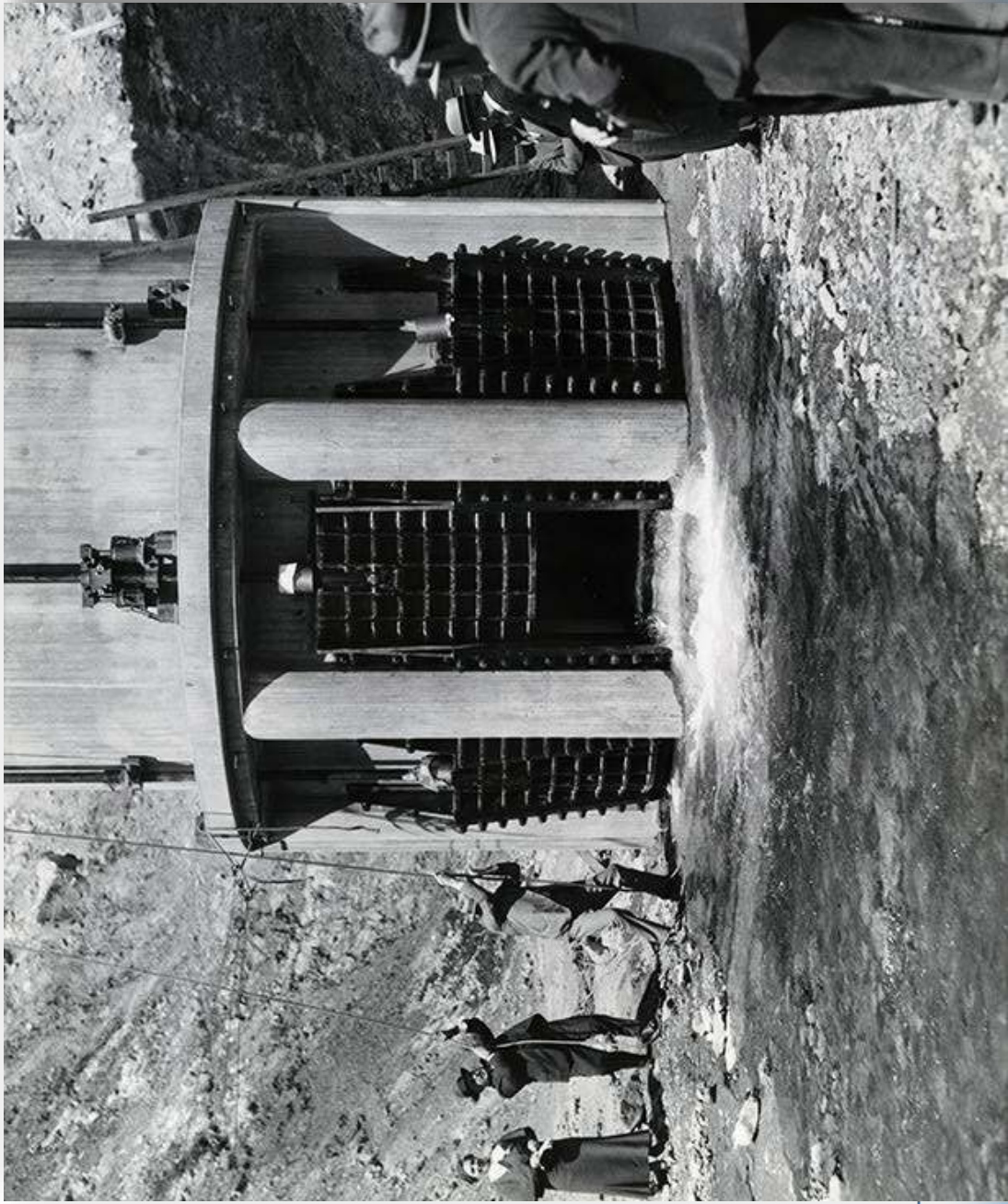
## Bouquet Creek Releases – History

- **1932 Contract:** LA Dept. of Water and Power Contract with Santa Clara Water Conservation District (predecessor to United Water Conservation District) **2,203 acre-feet per year**
- **1934** Bouquet Reservoir Place in Operation
- **1978 Contract Update:**
  - Target of 2,194 acre-feet and minimum of 2,100 acre-feet of water each year at rates of flow of 2 acre-feet per day October 1 – March 31, and 10 acre-feet per day April 1-September 30 every year





- Opening ceremonies, March 1934. Photo from [scvhistory.com](http://scvhistory.com)



## Bouquet Creek Releases – *The Challenge?*

- 2002: Wild-Fire and subsequent debris flows into Bouquet Creek from 2004/ 5 major storms
- 2005 to current:
  - Releases significantly reduced (cumulative total of approximately 11,000 acre-feet)
  - Loss of recharge impacts private groundwater pumping in Bouquet Canyon
  - Impacts to riparian habitat





- Water from Bouquet Creek on Bouquet Canyon Road



YOURSCVWATER.COM



- Water from Bouquet Creek on Bouquet Canyon Road



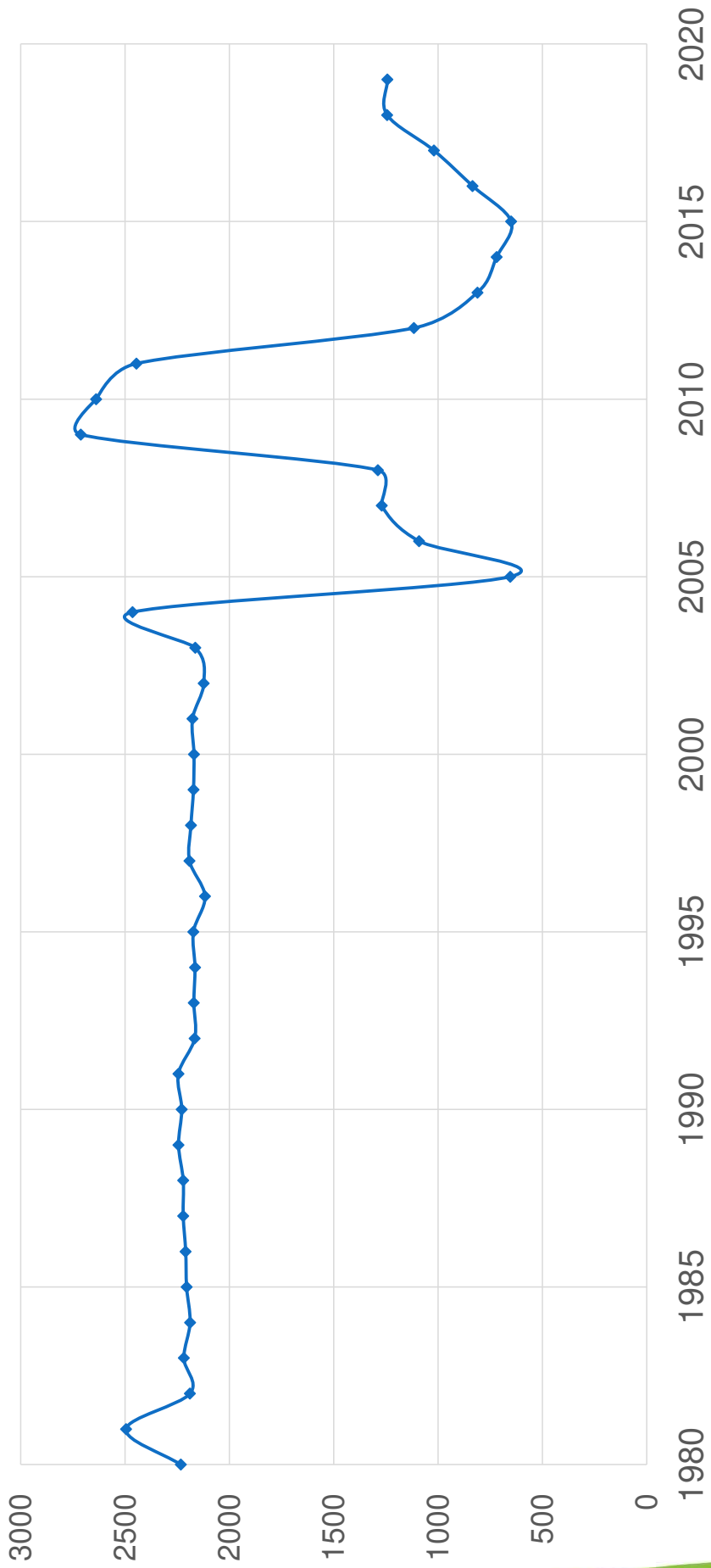
[YOURSCVWATER.COM](http://YOURSCVWATER.COM)

- Culvert between Bouquet Creek and Bouquet Canyon Road



YOURSCVWATER.COM

# BOUQUET RESERVOIR RELEASES (AF/YEAR)



# Bouquet Creek Releases – Stakeholders

- LA County Department of Public Works
- Los Angeles Department of Water and Power
- United Water Conservation District
- United States Fish and Wildlife Service
- United States Forest Service
- California Department of Fish and Wildlife Service
- California State/ Regional Water Board
- Private Pumpers
- Non-governmental organizations

[dpw.lacounty.gov/wrd/projects/BouquetCanyonCreek/](http://dpw.lacounty.gov/wrd/projects/BouquetCanyonCreek/)



YOURSCVWATER.COM

## Bouquet Creek Releases – Current Status

- Los Angeles County Public Works is the Lead Agency
  - Focus has been on Bouquet Creek Restoration
  - AB 353 – Lackey passed in 2015
  - CDM Consultants retained in 2017
  - Working Group formed in 2018
- 2018: LADWP Water Rights Application filed to deal with impounding water
- Loss of recharge has impacted private groundwater pumpers in Bouquet Canyon





# Bouquet Creek Releases – SCV Water's Role

- Letter from the Groundwater Sustainability Agency requesting SCV Water play a leadership role
- Meet with key stakeholders
- Determine current status
- Define the path forward



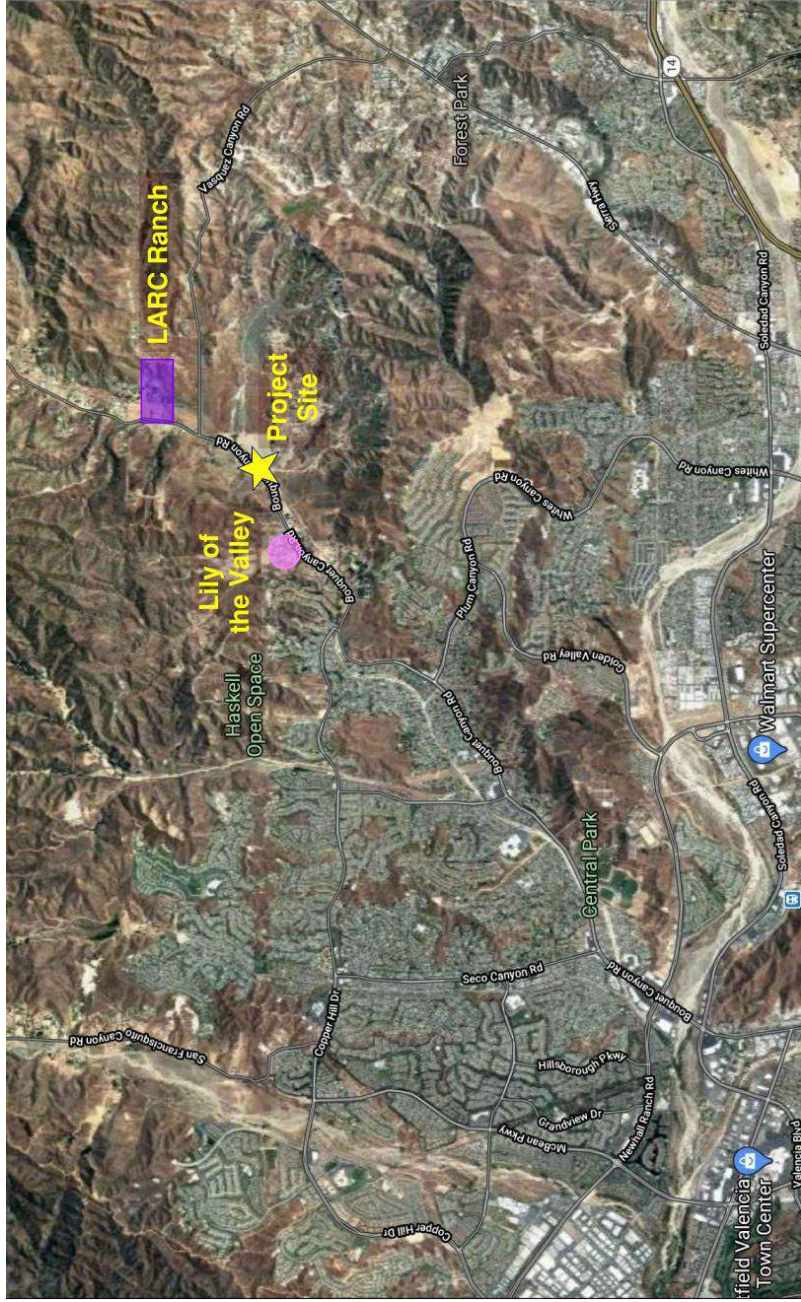
YOURSCVWATER.COM

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# Los Angeles Residential Community (LARC) Pipeline

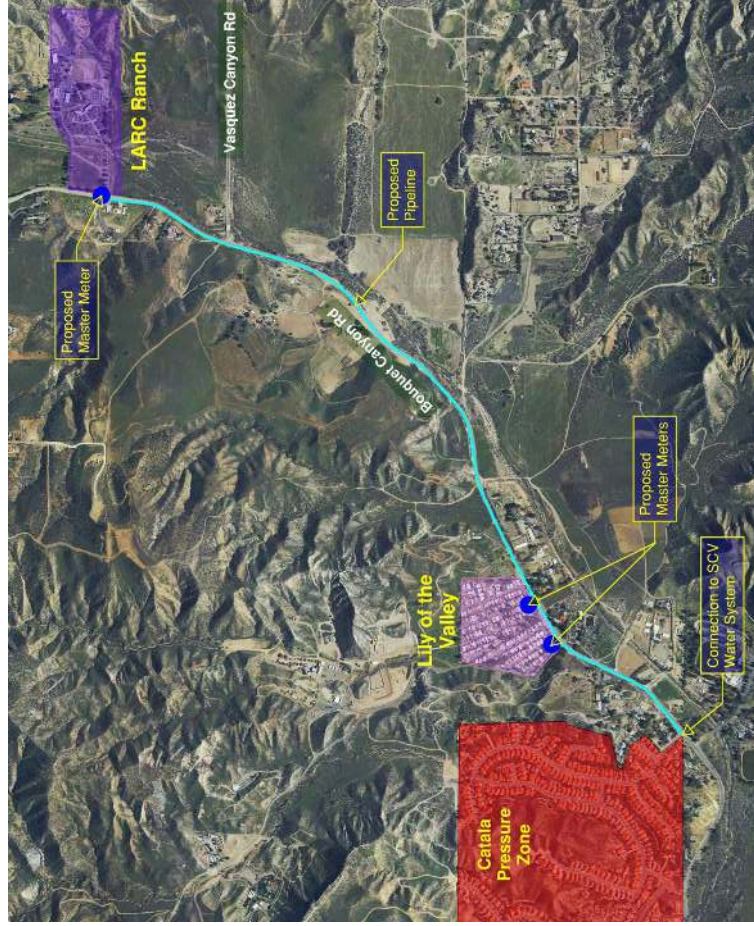
**Project/Grant Funding Update**

# Vicinity Map



# Proposed Pipeline to LARC Ranch

- SCV Water will build 9,600 feet of 12-inch pipeline (ductile iron) to serve LARC and others along the pipeline route
- Scope of Grant recently expanded to include Lily of the Valley Mobile Home Village (LOV) per State Request
- Master Meter Consolidations (LARC and LOV)



# Project Need and Benefits



- LARC wells are inactive due to low groundwater levels along Bouquet Canyon
- LARC trucks in water for potable use
- Project will provide safe and reliable water supply for LARC and others along pipeline route
- Consolidates small disadvantaged water system (SWRCB Objective)



# Grant Funding

- Grant Funds will cover LARC and LOV portion
  - ~ \$2.7 Million for 8-inch pipeline (sized for LARC only) - covers planning, design, construction, capacity fees
- SCV Water will pay for pipeline upsized to 12-inch (~ \$700,000) – FY 2021/22 CIP
- SCV Water qualifies for subsidized funding for other projects based on the LARC/ LOV

## Consolidation

- \$1 Million Grant
- \$10 Million 0%Loan



## Grant Funding Application History and Status

- CLWA Resolution 3116 initiated Grant Application on behalf of LARC (2016)
- CLWA Resolution 3158 Adopted CEQA MND (2017)
- CLWA submitted Grant Application for SWRCB Review (2017)
  - General, Technical, Environmental, Financial
- SWRCB requested to expand Grant Application to include LOV to secure additional funds (2020)
- Staff are updating Grant Application Package to include LOV and to meet current SCV Water design standards (First Quarter 2021)





## Next Steps in Grant Funding

- Finalize updates to Grant Application for SWRCB Approval (First Quarter 2021)
- Grant Fund Approval by SWRCB (Second Quarter 2021)
- Submit Grant Application for Incentive Project(s) (Second Quarter 2021)
- Advertise for Bids (Second Quarter 2021)
- Finalize agreements for funding and consolidations (Board Approval) (Third Quarter 2021)
- Award Pipeline Construction (Board Approval) (Fourth Quarter 2021)
- Complete Pipeline Construction (December 2022)



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**DIRECTOR AB 1234 REPORT**

<b>ITEM NO.</b> <b>9.1</b>
-------------------------------

Director Name: Jerry Gladbach

Name of Meeting: NWRA's Board of Directors

Date of Meeting: January 7, 2021

Date of Meeting to be Presented: January 19, 2021

Points of Interest:

Recognizing that there are new Directors on the Board, I thought it would be a good idea to describe NWRA (National Water Resources Association).

It is an association representing the 17 western states. It's members are state water associations, not individuals. I am 1 Of 3 members of its Board from California, appointed by the President of the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA).

For many years it had its own very small staff with its offices in Arlington, Va. About five years ago with the retirement of its Executive Director, NWRA contracted with Water Strategies to administer the association, whose offices are three blocks from the Capitol. The Association sold its building and put the proceeds , about \$600,000, into a money market account to be only used if we decide to buy another office or to withdraw some funds in extreme financial circumstances. The account now is almost \$1,000,000. NWRA has four conferences a year. The first is its Leadership Forum, a strategic planning session, the Federal Water Issues Conference in DC, the Western Water Seminar and the annual meeting. Each meeting/conference is 2to3 days and the Board meets at each of these meetings. NWRA derives 45% of its income from dues and 55% from conferences.

Recognizing the financial difficulties that many members are experiencing, there is no increase in dues this year.

The only in person meeting last year was the Leadership Forum, others were

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virtual and the staff worked very hard and was successful in getting out of the contracts with hotels with little or no penalty, for 2020 and 2021 meetings. Of course nobody knows when we will meet in person next. Regarding the income and expense for 2020: recognizing that there was only one in person meeting, the net income was \$2622.37, on a budget of \$799,216.00. This year's budget is balanced, getting more revenue from the virtual meetings.

NWRA's Public Affairs activities have really improved with a much greater effort on social media and working with other Associations on joint letters to the public. They have hired a new individual to enhance these efforts.

### **Agenda**

1. Certification of Quorum
  2. Seating of the Board
  3. Approval of Minutes
  4. Treasurer's Report
    - a. 2020 4th Quarter Financials
    - b. Investment Account Update
  5. Conference Committee Report
  6. Audit Committee Report
  7. Strategic Planning Committee Update
  8. Litigation Review Committee Report
  9. Public Affairs Committee Report
  10. Federal Affairs Committee Report
  11. Other Business
  12. Adjournment
-

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**DIRECTOR AB 1234 REPORT**

**ITEM NO.  
9.2**

**Director Name: Jerry Gladbach**

**Meeting Attended: NWRA's Leadership Forum (strategic planning)**

**Date of Meeting: January 7 and 8, 2021**

**Date of Meeting to be Presented: January 19, 2021**

**Points of Interest:**

**The theme for this year was: "Separated by Circumstance—United by Water"**

**Each state presented its list of priorities, which ranged in length from 6 to 24, I have attached ACWA's list.**

**We then discussed those items that most states had presented.**

**Water infrastructure:**

**Funding for aging and new infrastructure**

**Improving dam safety**

**Dredging silt from reservoir**

**Control of invasive species**

**Remove barriers to recharge**

**Include non-federal projects**

**Matching dollars**

**Hydro**

**Clean Water Act**

**Waters of the United States (WOTUS) rules**

**Ag return flows**

**Permitting**

**Regulatory reform**

**Monitor litigation**

**COVIG-19**

**Financial reimbursement for unpaid bills**

**Oppose moratorium on shut-offs**

**Include impacts to ag**

**Forest Health**

Recognize that the snowpack is the largest reservoir in many states

Take a different approach, since no bills passed last year

D.C. representatives have already been working on this

There should be a new caucus: Forest Health

#### PFAS

Dollars for remediation

50 bill were introduced last year, non passed

Looking for someone to introduce a new bill

Individuals were assigned to lead the effort on these items, recognizing that infrastructure is very important, it will be top priority.

Other items of information that were presented at the meeting:

With the very narrow margins in the Senate and House, and recognizing there are divisions within each party in each House, there will have to be a lot of compromising and agreements across the aisle, and regional interests will cut across party lines

We are in a better position than we were 2 years ago

We are lucky to have Lane Dickson and Annick Miller on the staff of the Water, Oceans, and Wildlife (WOW) subcommittee. Lane was formerly with the Salt River Project of Arizona.

The new budget will be delayed

Earmarks will be back in the House, however they will be limited to 8% of the funds in that bill and the item must be included as a line item in the budget

David Palumbo, Deputy Commissioner of Bureau of Reclamation for Operations, is acting Commissioner of the Bureau, and I have known David for several years, he is a great guy, but I doubt he will be appointed Commissioner

President Trump signed the Omnibus Bill on December 27, 2020, and it has the largest funding for the Bureau of Reclamation and the Corps of Engineers, \$1.59b and \$7.9b respectively, in many years.

D.C. reps are already working with new members of Congress

EPA is mainly focused on listing new species and not looking at delisting under ESA.

Therefore some water agencies in Utah, along with local government agencies



and NGOs, have provided funds to have an EPA employee working exclusively on delisting species.

The Forest Service, in some states, is reaching out to others, local agencies and private entities, to form public/private partnerships to improve forest health.

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*Bringing  
Water  
Together*

## **ACWA - Proposed Federal Affairs Committee 117<sup>th</sup> Congress Priorities**

- **Funding for Water Infrastructure**
  - SRF
  - WIFIA for EPA, Corps, and Bureau
  - Water Recycling, Desalination
  - Storage, WIIN Act Storage Account
  - CALFED
  - Colorado River Salinity Control Program
  - Salton Sea
  - Dam Safety
  - Resilient Infrastructure
- **Forest Management/Wildfire legislation and funding**
- **West Wide Drought Legislation**
- **Infrastructure Bill- Include Water Projects**
- **Regulatory: Clean Water Act, Lead and Copper, PFAS**
- **Oppose Drinking Water Regulation by Legislation – PFAS**
- **ESA Implementation**
- **Covid-19 Relief**
- **Tax Exemptions for Water Conservation Rebates**

*Items are listed in no particular order.*

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# Leadership Forum



An Exciting Virtual Event  
Final Agenda 1.6.21

January 7-8, 9, and February 12

NWRA

## Separated by Circumstance - United by Water Planning for the Next Generation

All meeting times noted in Eastern time

Thursday, January 7, 2021	
11:00 am – 12:30 pm	NWRA Board of Directors Meeting
12:30 pm – 1:00 pm	Break
1:00 pm – 2:00 pm	Federal Affairs Update The 117 <sup>th</sup> Congress will present new challenges and opportunities for water managers. NWRA's federal affairs team will provide an update on Hill dynamics and potential areas of focus.
2:00 pm – 3:00 pm	Policy Priority Discussion NWRA's policy priorities are set through an interactive discussion of member key issues. During this morning session, we will be discussing the state, caucus and task force priorities for the coming year.
3:00 pm – 3:30 pm	Break
3:30 pm – 5:00 pm	Policy Priority Discussion We will continue discussing state, caucus, and task force priorities. This discussion guides and informs NWRA's efforts to advocate on behalf of water users on Capitol Hill.
8:00 pm	Networking Reception - H2O Trivia! Network with fellow water managers, test your H2o and general knowledge, and compete for fun and for prizes!
Friday, January 8, 2021	
12:30 pm – 2:00 pm	Strategy Session Review NWRA's priorities and begin to define actionable implementation strategies.
2:00 pm – 2:30 pm	Break
2:30 pm – 3:30 pm	Strategy Session Refine implementation strategies with a focus on the first quarter of 2021.
3:30 pm – 4:00 pm	Break
4:00 pm – 5:00 pm	Strategy Session Conclude NWRA's implementation strategy discussions with work assignments.

# Leadership Forum



An Exciting Virtual Event  
Final Agenda 1.6.21

January 14, 15, and February 12



All meeting times noted in Eastern time

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**Friday, January 15, 2021**

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2:00 pm – 3:30 pm	<p><b>Regulatory Review</b> Regulatory reform is a priority for NWRA. In recent years, the regulatory environment has improved for water managers. This discussion will look at methods that might be used to repeal these improvements and steps water managers can take to protect them.</p>
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**Friday, February 12, 2021**

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12:00 pm – 1:00 pm	<b>Municipal Caucus Meeting</b>
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1:00 pm – 2:00 pm	<b>Irrigation Caucus Meeting</b>
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2:00 pm – 3:30 pm	<p><b>Long-Term Planning and Federal Budget Outlook</b> Water managers plan for the long term, often looking at water management needs decades in advance. Water policy needs to incorporate this long-term horizon. This discussion will look at building out long-term, multiyear advocacy efforts on top of water priorities like infrastructure funding and regulatory reform.</p>
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We will also look at the administration's federal budget and its potential implications for the water sector.

3:30 pm – 4:30 pm	<b>Groundwater Caucus Meeting</b>
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