

**A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
UPPER SAN GABRIEL VALLEY MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT  
602 E. HUNTINGTON DRIVE, SUITE B, MONROVIA, CA 91016  
8:00 A.M. – APRIL 27, 2022**

**SPECIAL NOTICE  
Teleconference Accessibility**

*Pursuant to the newly adopted provisions of the Brown Act and consistent with the Board's Resolution ratifying the declaration of a state of emergency by the State of California in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Upper District will hold its board meeting via teleconference or the most rapid means of communication available at the time. Instructions to participate in the teleconference are below:*

**Attendee Zoom Webinar Link**  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81790660221>

**Meeting ID: 817 9066 0221**

**Telephone Dial:**  
**1 (669) 900-6833 US**

**Meeting ID: 817 9066 0221**

*Public comments may be made through teleconference when prompted by the President during the public comment period. Public comments may also be provided by emailing [venessa@usqvmwd.org](mailto:venessa@usqvmwd.org) in advance of the meeting. Please indicate "PUBLIC COMMENT" in the subject line.*

**AGENDA**

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
2. ROLL CALL OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS
3. ADOPTION OF AGENDA [1]
4. PUBLIC COMMENT  
Anyone wishing to discuss items should do so now. A three-minute time limit on remarks is requested.
5. CONSENT CALENDAR [1]
  - (a) Approve minutes of a regular meeting of the Board of Directors held on April 13, 2022 at 8:00 a.m.
  - (b) Adoption of Resolution No. 4-22-639, Requesting the Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles to Permit the Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk to Render Election Services for the General Election to be held on November 8, 2022. (*Resolution No. 4-22-639 enclosed.*)

6. ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS [1]

(a) Water Supply Update and Drought Actions.

Recommendation

This item is for information only. No action is anticipated.

7. INFORMATION ITEMS (These items are for the information of the Board of Directors and require no action) [2]

(a) Press Releases and News Articles.

8. ATTORNEY'S REPORT [2]

9. ENGINEER'S REPORT [2]

10. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT [2]

11. DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS [2]

12. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS [1]

13. ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION – NONE

14. ADJOURNMENT - To a regular meeting of the Board of Directors to be held on May 11, 2022 at 8:00 a.m. via teleconference or the most rapid means of communication available at the time.

LEGEND: [1] INDICATES ACTION ANTICIPATED BY BOARD OF DIRECTORS ON THIS ITEM  
[2] INDICATES INFORMATION ITEM - NO BOARD ACTION NECESSARY

**PRESIDENT ED CHAVEZ, PRESIDING**



**American Disabilities Act Compliance** (*Government Code Section 54954.2(a)*)  
To request special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the Upper District office at (626) 443-2297  
or [venessa@usgvmwd.org](mailto:venessa@usgvmwd.org) at least 24 hours prior to meeting.



**A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
OF THE UPPER SAN GABRIEL VALLEY MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT  
602 E. HUNTINGTON DRIVE, SUITE B, MONROVIA, CALIFORNIA 91016  
8:00 A.M. – April 13, 2022**

Pursuant to the newly adopted provisions of the Brown Act and consistent with the Board's resolution ratifying the declaration of a state of emergency by the State of California in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Upper District held a regular meeting of the Board of Directors via Zoom teleconference on April 13, 2022, at the hour of 8:00 a.m.

**ROLL CALL**

**DIRECTORS PRESENT:** Chavez, Treviño, Garcia, Santana, and Fellow.

**DIRECTORS ABSENT:** None.

**STAFF PRESENT:** Tom Love, General Manager; Steve O'Neill, District Counsel; Steve Johnson, District Engineer; Evelyn Rodriguez, Director of Finance and Administration; Patricia Cortez, Director of Government and Community Affairs; Venessa Navarrete, Executive Assistant; Ruben Gallegos, Project Assistant; Jennifer Aguilar, Water Use Efficiency Analyst; and Nichol Delgado, Government and Community Affairs Representative.

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Andy Bullington, Anteneh Tesfaye, Anthony Alberti, Arrica Jimenez, Ben Lewis, Dan Arrighi, David Muse, Javier Vargas, Jenny Savron, Jose Martinez, Kelly Gardner, Mike Melinte, Stephanie Moreno, Tara Robinson, Tony Zampiello and Ernesto (via phone).

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

On motion by Secretary Garcia, seconded by Director Fellow, the agenda was unanimously adopted by the following roll call vote:

**FELLOW: AYE**  
**TREVIÑO: AYE**  
**GARCIA: AYE**  
**SANTANA: AYE**  
**CHAVEZ: AYE**

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Next scheduled committee meeting dates are as follows:

- (a) Government Affairs and Community Outreach – May 2, 2022, at 4:00 p.m.
- (b) Administration and Finance – May 9, 2022, at 4:00 p.m.
- (c) Water Resources and Facility Management – June 1, 2022, at 4:00 p.m.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

Secretary Garcia moved to approve Consent Calendar items (a) through (e). Treasurer Treviño seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved by the following roll call vote:

**FELLOW: AYE**  
**TREVIÑO: AYE**  
**GARCIA: AYE**  
**SANTANA: AYE**  
**CHAVEZ: AYE**

- (a) Minutes of a public hearing and special meeting of the Board of Directors held on March 16, 2022, at 8:00 a.m.
- (b) List of Demands.

- (c) Financial Reports – February 2022
  - 1. Financial Statements
  - 2. Director's Public Outreach
- (d) Resolution No. 04-22-638, Re-ratifying the Proclamation of a State of Emergency by Governor Newsom and Reauthorizing Remote Teleconference Meetings.
- (e) Federal and state legislative bill positions: STREAM Act, H.R. 5438, H.R. 4602, H.R. 3293, SB 1197, SB 896, AB 2078 and AB 1944, which are consistent with Upper District's 2021-2022 Legislative Policy Principles adopted by the Board in December 2021.

**APPROVE UPPER DISTRICT'S 2022  
MEETING SCHEDULE**

Director Fellow moved to approve the Administration and Finance Committee's recommendation that the Board of Directors reschedule board and/or committee meetings affected by holidays and annual conferences, as well as the additional meeting calendar changes recommended by staff.

May 2022

- a. Reschedule the Administration and Finance Committee meeting to May 9<sup>th</sup> and cancel the Water Resources Facility Management Committee meeting on May 4<sup>th</sup>.

July 2022

- a. Cancel the Government Affairs and Community Outreach Committee meeting scheduled on July 4, 2022.
- b. Hold only one board meeting on Wednesday, July 27, 2022.

August 2022

- a. Hold only one board meeting on Wednesday, August 10<sup>th</sup>.

September 2022

- a. Reschedule the Government Affairs and Community Outreach Committee meeting from Monday, September 5<sup>th</sup>, to Monday, September 12, 2022.

November 2022

- a. Hold only one board meeting on Wednesday, November 9<sup>th</sup>.

December 2022

- a. Reschedule the first board meeting to Wednesday, December 7<sup>th</sup>.
- b. Cancel the Water Resources and Facility Management Committee and Administration and Finance Committee meetings.

Treasurer Treviño seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved by the following roll call vote:

<b>FELLOW:</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>TREVIÑO:</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>GARCIA:</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>SANTANA:</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>CHAVEZ:</b>	<b>AYE</b>

**ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 04-22-637,  
INITIATING PROCEEDINGS FOR THE  
ESTABLISHMENT OF A WATER  
AVAILABILITY STANDBY CHARGE  
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022/23**

The General Manager provided some background information on Upper District's standby charge.

Secretary Garcia moved to approve the Administration and Finance Committee's recommendation to:

- a. Adopt Resolution No. 04-22-637, initiating proceedings for the establishment of water availability standby charge for fiscal year 2022/23;
- b. Schedule a public hearing on May 25, 2022; and
- c. Instruct the General Manager to publish notice of the hearing as required by statute.

Director Fellow seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved by the following roll call vote:

**FELLOW:** AYE  
**TREVIÑO:** AYE  
**GARCIA:** AYE  
**SANTANA:** AYE  
**CHAVEZ:** AYE

**AUTHORIZE THE GENERAL  
 MANAGER TO EXECUTE A NEW  
 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES  
 AGREEMENT WITH ALESHIRE &  
 WYNDER, LLC FOR LEGAL SERVICES**

Steven O'Neill announced general counsel's move to another law firm, stating that the new firm can provide better base support for public agency clients and offer a wide spectrum of legal specialties and litigation capacity.

The General Manager stated that the new agreement has the same rate structure for transactional services, with one exception - the ceiling on the annual cost of living adjustment is currently at 3% while the new agreement proposes to raise it to 5%.

Director Fellow moved to authorize a professional services agreement with Aleshire & Wynder, LLC for legal services. Treasurer Treviño seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved by the following roll call vote:

**FELLOW:** AYE  
**TREVIÑO:** AYE  
**GARCIA:** AYE  
**SANTANA:** AYE  
**CHAVEZ:** AYE

**APPROVE CANDIDATES FOR SPECIAL  
 DISTRICT LAFCO VOTING MEMBER  
 AND FOR SPECIAL DISTRICT LAFCO  
 ALTERNATE MEMBER**

The General Manager stated that the candidates for the Los Angeles County Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) ballot for special district LAFCO voting member are Steven Appleton, Board of Trustee Member for the Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District, Jerry Gladbach, Director of Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency, and Sharon Raghavachary, Director of Crescenta Valley Water District. He added that in the past, Upper District supported Sharon Raghavachary for the LAFCO representative appointment.

He then listed the candidates for special district LAFCO alternate member as Melvin Matthews, Director of Foothill Municipal Water District and Baru Sanchez, Board of Trustee Member for the Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District. He added that in the past, Upper District supported Melvin Matthews for the LAFCO alternate member appointment.

Director Fellow nominated Sharon Raghavachary to serve as LAFCO voting member and Melvin Matthews to serve as alternate member. Vice President Santana seconded the nomination. With no other nominations received, the motion to nominate Sharon Raghavachary as LAFCO voting member and Melvin Matthews as alternate member was approved by the following roll call vote:

**FELLOW:** AYE  
**TREVIÑO:** AYE  
**GARCIA:** AYE  
**SANTANA:** AYE  
**CHAVEZ:** AYE

**INFORMATION ITEMS**

The following items listed on the agenda for the information of the Board were read and ordered received and filed:

- (a) Press Releases and News Articles

**ATTORNEY'S REPORT**

District Counsel reported working with staff on matters relating to redistricting, public records requests, and water fill station agreement language.

He also reported on an upcoming trial between San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA) and Metropolitan Water District (Metropolitan) to be held in May regarding Metropolitan's 2014-2016 rates. He stated he will continue to monitor and report any decisions that have an economic effect on both Metropolitan and Upper District.

**ENGINEER'S REPORT**

The District Engineer provided a report on hydrologic conditions, basin deliveries, reservoir storage, canyon releases and rainfall averages. He stated that the Baldwin Park Key Well groundwater elevation was 182.1 feet as of April 8, 2022, and that the reservoir storage fluctuated the prior month with minimal recovery. He then reported that no notices of wells being shut down due to contamination were received during the month of March 2022. He also reported on Upper District's efforts with Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster and Metropolitan to get more water into the basin.

President Chavez and the District Engineer discussed how the lack of State Water Project water contributed to the loss of 13 ft. of groundwater elevation from the prior year.

Vice President Santana and the District Engineer then discussed the negative impacts of historic low water level would have on Upper District's service area and what work has been done so far to prepare for potential lower groundwater elevation impacts on agencies, as well as recovery alternatives.

The following is a summary of contamination ranges found in samples under Title 22 from 73 wells during February 2022.

<u>Contaminant</u>	<u>Range (ppb)</u>	<u>MCL (ppb)</u>
PCE	ND – 2.5	5*
TCE	ND – 1.7	5*

A detailed written report was also provided to the Board.

**GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT**

The General Manager shared information on Metropolitan's Member Agency Administered Program funds and how local agencies may apply for certain programs or projects and receive demand management funds back from Metropolitan.

The Director of Government and Community Affairs reported that four applications from Upper District's service area were submitted for Metropolitan's program funding. She shared that the Board previously approved the reallocation of these member agency funds to be used for Upper District conservation efforts within the community. Metropolitan commended Upper District's use of funds and development of conservation programs and asked staff to reach out to other member agencies to encourage their participation in Metropolitan's new program.

The General Manager continued to report on the State Water Project (SWP) allocation and its impact on Metropolitan service areas. He shared Metropolitan's proposal for a special water allocation for SWP dependent areas mainly to get significant water conservation and receive health and safety water allocation from the Department of Water Resources (DWR). He reported that DWR announced several steps to manage the State's water supply in anticipation of another dry year with reservoirs at or near historic lows. He added that the provisions are intended for member agencies that receive SWP water, however, adjustments are anticipated due to different demands from local agencies. He stated that he will continue

monitoring the situation and provide updates on any decisions that may impact Upper District and producers.

He then reported working with the Los Angeles County and the State of California, to get approval to take Colorado River water for replenishment, adding that approval will depend on how comfortable they are with Upper District's Quagga Mussel Control Plan. If approved, Upper District will then seek approval from the Department of Fish and Wildlife.

A General Manager's report was also provided in the Board's agenda packet.

## **METROPOLITAN REPORT**

Director Fellow reported that Metropolitan's board recently acted on ad valorem property tax rates, biennial budget for fiscal years 2022/23 and 2023/24, and funding for the next planning phase of the Sites Reservoir Project.

He provided some background on the ad valorem property tax rate and how, by majority vote, the Metropolitan Board approved the tax rate for four years.

He continued to report on how the decreased projected water transactions and increase in operation and maintenance expenses were key drivers for Metropolitan's rate increases. He stated that the Board approved an average of 5% rate increase for 2 years and that the Board will revisit the matter come December.

He then discussed the Board's proposal to collect snowpack and stormwater in the North Delta through the Sites Reservoir project. He explained that water currently runs off to the ocean, and how the project would resolve that and provide a great benefit to Southern California. He continued to discuss how this project would contribute to spawning and migration of salmon and serve as a dedicated environmental storage.

A Metropolitan summary report was also provided in the Board's agenda packet.

## **WATER QUALITY AUTHORITY REPORT**

A Water Quality Authority report was provided in the Board's agenda packet

## **WATERMASTER REPORT**

A Watermaster summary report was provided in the Board's agenda packet.

## **AB 1234 COMPLIANCE REPORT**

An AB 1234 Compliance summary report was provided in the Board's agenda packet.

## **DIRECTORS COMMENTS**

Director Fellow requested to adjourn the meeting in memory of the following people: Sally Baldwin, wife of former San Gabriel Councilman Harry Baldwin; Steve Baker, former City Treasurer of Monrovia; and Andrea Gardner. He then wished everyone a blessed Easter.

Treasurer Treviño echoed Director Fellow's request to adjourn in memory of Sally Baldwin.

Vice President Santana commended staff for pursuing Colorado River water.

## **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

None.

## **ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION**

None.

**ADJOURNMENT**

President Chavez asked if there was any other business to come before the Board. There being none, the meeting was duly adjourned in memory of Sally Baldwin, Steve Baker and Andrea Gardner to a regular meeting of the Board of Directors to be held on April 27, 2022, at 8:00 a.m. via teleconference or the most rapid means of communication available at the time.

**ATTEST**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**PRESIDENT**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**SECRETARY**

**SEAL**

Draft



Demands numbered 21481 through 21510 on the General Fund Account of the Upper District at Citizens Business Bank, in the amount of \$487,108.99 and demands numbered 1027 through 1030 on the Water Fund Account at the same bank in the amount of \$1,865,799.03.

21481	789 Inc.	Inv. E-210110, Public Relation Services, Feb - Mar 2022		\$ 10,000.00
21482	Aaron Read & Associates, LLC	Inv. 211999, State Legislative Advocacy Services, February 2022	10,000.00	
		Inv. 212048, State Legislative Advocacy Services, March 2022 (Board approved 12/09/20)	10,000.00	20,000.00
21483	Accent Computer Solutions, Inc.	Inv. 15032, Subscription Renewal - vmWare Kit	66.96	
		Inv. 150638, IT Management Support, April 2022 (Board approved 10/06/15)	3,232.37	3,299.33
21484	ACWA/JPIA	Inv.0684554, Health Insurance Premium - May 2022		27,399.01
21485	Best Best & Krieger, LLP	Inv. 929403, Lobbying Services through February 28, 2022 (Board approved 02/09/20)		7,500.00
21486	CORO Southern California	Inv. 20220228-02, Sponsorship - Water & Energy Focus Week 2022		1,500.00
21487	Ecotech Services, Inc.	Inv. 2228, Water Bottle Fill Station	5,400.00	
		Inv. 2238, Water Smart Home Program	19,655.00	
		Inv. 2242, Water Bottle Fill Station	21,450.00	
		Inv. 2249, Water Smart Home Program (Board approved 08/07/18)	16,013.00	62,518.00
21488	Foothill Technology Center, LLC	Inv. MAY 22LEA, Office Lease - May 2022 (Board approved 04/09/11)		20,751.00
21489	G3LA, LLC	Inv. 962, Curriculum Development, March 2022	1,750.00	
		Inv. 970, Water Conservation Webinar, March 2022	1,500.00	3,250.00
21490	Green Media Creations, Inc.	Inv. 1560, On-Demand Instruction - Residential Leak Detection, March 2022		650.00
21491	Joey C. Soto	Inv. UD #88, Grant Writing Services, February 2022	16,945.50	
		Inv. UD #89, Grant Writing Services, March 2022 (Board approved 08/04/15)	1,773.75	18,719.25
21492	La Opinion	Inv. 129490222, Water Smart Home Program Ad, February 2022		1,750.00
21493	Media Marketing Services, Inc.	Inv. USG W220308, Bottled Water Program		3,297.00
21494	Olivarez Madruga Lemieux & O'Neill	Professional Services, February 2022		
		Inv. 325.996-18493, Transactional Fees	6,670.60	
		Inv. 325.999-18494, Retainer (Board Approved 05/17/11)	4,064.00	10,734.60
21495	Rogers, Anderson, Malody and Scott, LLP	Inv. 70017, Preparation of State Controllers Report FY 20-21 (Board Approved 06/19/19)		685.00
21496	San Gabriel Valley Newspaper	Inv. 0000537489, Water Conservation Ads, February 2022		3,000.00
21497	Stetson Engineers, Inc.	Inv. 2533-191, General Engineering Support Services, February 2022		22,552.99
21498	State Water Resources Control Board	Inv. 050722_140, Package 4 Annual State Revolving Fund Load Repayment		75,541.85
21499	Tetra Tech, Inc.	Inv. 51860836, Task 24: Recycled Water Reliability Task Force through 01/29/22 (Board Approved 04/01/14)		6,090.00
21500	Upper District Revolving Payroll Fund	Inv. FEB 22, Reimbursement for Payroll and Payroll Taxes for Employees	122,203.18	
		Inv. FEB 22D, Reimbursement for Payroll Taxes for Directors	11,065.63	133,268.81
21501	U.S. Bank Corporate Payment System	CalCard Charges through 03/22/22		
		Meetings, Travel, Conferences	449.33	
		Computer Systems/Office Equipment/Supplies/Maintenance & Service/Utilities	147.95	
		Conservation Program Expenses, Education and Outreach	1,489.08	2,086.36
21502	WLC Architects	Inv. 15, Construction Management Services for March 2022 (Board Approved 08/12/20)		3,620.62
21503	World Journal, LLC	Inv. 3674124, Water Conservation Ad, 02/05/22		1,360.00

21504	Upper District Revolving Fund	Replenish Revolving Fund Account - March 2022		
		Office Supplies	404.99	
		Computer Systems/Equipment/Maintenance/Insurance/Outside Service	1,312.93	
		Director's Outreach	2,366.00	
		Meeting/Travel/Conferences/Dues/Assessments/Membership	139.86	
		Telephone/Utilities/Building Maintenance	585.74	
		Water Conservation Program Expenses	1,427.22	
		WRP Operation and Maintenance	21,625.83	
		Medical/ODA Reimbursement/Processing Fee/Retirement Plan/Overdeposit	8,255.43	36,118.00
21505	Anthony Fellow	Director's Compensation, January 2022		
		7 Days District Business	1,785.00	
		3 Days MWD Business	765.00	
		Meeting/Travel Expenses/Allowance	516.87	
		Less Deferred Comp.	(500.00)	
		Less Taxes Withheld	(1,021.79)	1,545.08
21506	Anthony Fellow	Director's Compensation, March 2022		
		10 Days District Business	2,550.00	
		9 Days MWD Business	2,295.00	
		Meeting/Travel Expenses/Allowance	516.87	
		Less Deferred Comp.	(500.00)	
		Less Taxes Withheld	(1,535.77)	3,326.10
21507	Edward L. Chavez	Director's Compensation, March 2022		
		10 Days District Business	2,550.00	
		Meeting/Travel Expenses/Allowance	516.87	
		Less Deferred Comp.	(1,617.00)	
		Less Taxes Withheld	(1,022.78)	427.09
21508	Charles M. Treviño	Director's Compensation, March 2022		
		10 Days District Business	2,550.00	
		Meeting/Travel Expenses/Allowance	516.87	
		Less Deferred Comp.	(500.00)	
		Less Taxes Withheld	(539.01)	2,027.86
21509	Jennifer Santana	Director's Compensation, March 2022		
		10 Days District Business	2,550.00	
		Meeting/Travel Expenses/Allowance	516.87	
		Less Deferred Comp.	(500.00)	
		Less Taxes Withheld	(376.46)	2,190.41
21510	Katarina M. Garcia	Director's Compensation, March 2022		
		9 Days District Business	2,295.00	
		Meeting/Travel Expenses/Allowance	516.87	
		Less Deferred Comp.	(500.00)	
		Less Taxes Withheld	(411.24)	1,900.63
			<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 487,108.99</b>
1027	City of Industry City Hall	Invoice No. FEB-22, Purchase of 30.6 AF of Recycled Water in February 2022		9,669.60
1028	Metropolitan Water District	Invoice No. 10719, Purchase of 232.4 AF of Treated Water and 1,993 AF of Untreated Water in February 2022		1,838,257.30
1029	San Gabriel Valley MWD	Invoice No. 538, 79.85 AF of Water Delivered through the Alhambra/MWD Exchange Agreement in February 2022 @ \$200 per AF		15,970.00
1030	Suburban Water System	Invoice No. 6679, October 2021 - February 2022 Operating Costs	234.37	
		Invoice No. 6680, Phase IIB Normal Operating Charge, March 2022	1,667.76	1,902.13
			<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 1,865,799.03</b>

**RESOLUTION NO. 4-22-639**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE  
UPPER SAN GABRIEL VALLEY MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT  
REQUESTING THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY  
OF LOS ANGELES TO PERMIT THE REGISTRAR-RECORDER/COUNTY CLERK  
TO RENDER ELECTION SERVICES FOR A GENERAL DISTRICT ELECTION  
TO BE HELD ON NOVEMBER 8, 2022**

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE UPPER SAN  
GABRIEL VALLEY MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT** as follows:

**Section 1.** A general district election is called for November 8, 2022, for the purpose of electing two members to the Board of Directors for the full term of four years to Divisions 1 and 5.

**Section 2.** Pursuant to Elections Code Section 10403, the Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles is requested to consent and agree to conduct the general district election on Tuesday, November 8, 2022, at the same time as the general election.

**Section 3.** The Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk is authorized to canvass the returns of the general district election and the Board of Supervisors is requested to issue instructions to the Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk to take steps necessary for the holding of the election. The District shall pay in full its *pro rata* share of the expenses for the conduct of the election.

**Section 4.** Pursuant to Elections Code Section 10012, each candidate for elective office to be voted for at the general district election may prepare a candidate's statement on an appropriate form provided by the Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk. The statement may include the name, age and occupation of the candidate and a brief description of no more than 200 words of the candidate's education and qualifications expressed by the candidate. The statement shall not include party affiliation of the candidate, nor membership or activity in partisan political organizations. The statement shall be filed in the office of the Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk at the time the candidate's nomination papers are filed. The statement may be withdrawn, but not changed, during the period for filing nomination papers and until 5:00 p.m. of the next working day after the close of the nomination period. No candidate shall include additional materials in the sample ballot package.

**Section 5.** The Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk shall estimate the total cost of printing, handling, translating, and mailing the candidates' statements filed, pursuant to the Elections Code, and require each candidate filing a statement to pay in advance a

*pro rata* share as a condition of having the statement included in the voter's pamphlet. The Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk shall bill each candidate for costs in excess of the deposit and shall refund, within thirty days of the election, the unused portion of the deposit. The Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk shall provide each candidate or the candidate's representative a copy of this Resolution at the time nominating petitions are issued.

**Section 6.** The General Manager is directed to file a certified copy of this resolution with the Board of Supervisors and the Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk of the County of Los Angeles.

**PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED** this 27<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2022.

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Ed Chavez, President

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Katarina Garcia, Secretary

(SEAL)

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Steven P. O'Neill, District Counsel



## WATER DISTRICT LOOKS AT MULTI-BENEFICIAL USE PROJECTS FOR LAND

📍 California Water News Daily © April 21, 2022

The San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District (SBVMWD) will begin considering multi-beneficial use projects for approximately 1,650 acres of land during a board of directors workshop scheduled for today.

SBVMWD acquired the undeveloped land at the base of the San Bernardino mountains from the Orange County Flood Control District that was used for the excavation of natural materials during the construction of the Seven Oaks Dam. Post-dam construction, the land was subsequently envisioned for homes and commercial business, however, development of the site was stalled for over ten years due to environmental lawsuits and other constraints on the location.

“This property in Highland is ideally suited to provide multiple benefits supporting our mission,” commented Valley District CEO and General Manager, Heather Dyer. “Elevation-wise, it’s in a perfect location to accommodate our future water infrastructure needs, including water storage and movement of local water supplies throughout the San Bernardino and Yucaipa Valleys. At the same time, it provides the mitigation land we needed to satisfy permit requirements for our regional Habitat Conservation Plan, which allows eleven public agencies to build over 100 local water projects. Being able to buy the land at auction, for about 10-15% of the cost per acre compared to what we previously had to spend on land for the same purposes, offered tremendous value to the District.”

The public is invited to participate in the Workshop at 2 p.m. via Zoom. Meeting information can be found by clicking [here](#).

“We need to produce reliable water supply for our retail water providers in coming years and to be resilient in the face of uncertain future weather and water conditions” stated Paul Kielhold, Valley District Board President. “Finding properties like this, that can support future water projects over the long-term, complimented by the landscape and environmental benefits already onsite doesn’t happen very often. This purchase was a great opportunity for Valley District.”

In the last decade, Valley District has become a regional leader in water resilience preparation. The District recognized the value of the land in meeting its multi-benefit goals, including habitat mitigation for Valley District and the ten other agencies it has partnered with on their 50-year habitat conservation plan. Within the Upper Santa Ana River Watershed Habitat Conservation Plan, over 100 future projects in the region have been identified to be built in the next 50 years. Along with these projects come requirements to lessen environmental impacts to endangered or threatened species that may be caused by construction and operation. This property will mitigate a large portion of that environmental impact while also providing additional benefits that enhance long-term water supply reliability.

## As Mono Lake shrinks, a reduction in L.A.'s take

Drought causes water level to fall to point forcing cuts in exports to city



ON APRIL 1, Mono Lake's level was just under 6,380 feet above sea level, triggering a 72% reduction in the amount of water L.A. can divert from area streams this year. The Eastern Sierra supplies 48% of L.A.'s water. (Brian van der Brug Los Angeles Times)

BY LOUIS SAHAGÚN AND IAN JAMES

With a third year of drought shrinking the creeks that cascade down the eastern Sierra Nevada, the level of Mono Lake has fallen so low it has triggered a 72% reduction in the amount of water Los Angeles can divert from streams in the area this year.

On April 1, Mono Lake's level measured just under 6,380 feet above sea level — about 1 inch below a threshold set in the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power's licenses for diverting alpine runoff from streams that feed the lake east of Yosemite National Park.

The measurement, taken at the start of a new runoff year, triggered a requirement that the DWP reduce its annual water exports from 16,000 acre-feet, which is enough to supply 192,000 residents, to 4,500 acre-feet, enough to serve 54,000 residents.

The last time Mono Lake fell below the same threshold was from 2015 to 2017, in the final years of California's last severe drought. The level is measured by gauges along a crusty stretch of shoreline next to the town of Lee Vining.

The hypersaline high-desert lake, famous for its towering, craggy tufa formations, has been at the center of [long-running disputes](#) over the city's diversions of water from the lake's feeder streams. The State Water Resources Control Board established limits on diversions in 1994 to resolve a fight between environmentalists and the city 350 miles south.

Since then, the DWP says its water diversions from Mono Basin have been reduced by 80% and it has taken an "environmentally focused approach" to water exports that has included investing in restoration projects. The department says these projects have been successful in improving the ecological health of fish populations and riparian habitats that are vital for birds.

But conservationists remain concerned about the environmental effects of decades of water diversions, especially given the current extreme drought and the worsening [effects of global warming](#).

"Twenty-eight April 1sts have passed since the state water board decision," said Geoffrey McQuilkin, executive director of the Mono Lake Committee, a nonprofit focused on protecting the ecosystem, "yet Mono Lake remains chronically and artificially low."

McQuilkin said Los Angeles has achieved remarkable success in conserving water and developing sustainable water supplies for its roughly 4 million ratepayers, but the city has yet to "repair the damage done by decades of excessive water diversions at Mono Lake in the past."

Adam Perez, the DWP's aqueduct manager, said the department is fulfilling its obligations under its license agreement and is committed to protecting the environment and the health of Mono Lake and its feeder streams.

The department's staff in the area includes biologists and hydrologists and other specialists who study the lake's health, monitor stream flows and sediment on stream bottoms, and track fish populations and water sources that support birdlife. Perez said the restoration projects in Mono Basin have had success in improving the health of streams, riparian vegetation and wildlife habitats.

"We're trying to do our best in balancing the needs of a large city as well as making sure that we can balance the needs and the restoration of Mono Lake as well," Perez said.

After the reductions in water deliveries during the last drought, Mono Lake's level rebounded with wet weather in 2017, then declined over the last three extremely dry years.

The city has infrastructure in place to use water from several streams — Lee Vining Creek, Walker Creek, Parker Creek and Rush Creek — but is currently diverting water from two of them, Rush and Lee Vining creeks, Perez said.

Over the last runoff year from April through March, the DWP exported 13,800 acre-feet from Mono Basin, less than the permitted 16,000 acre-feet. That amount will now shrink by two-thirds during the next 12 months.

In the nearly three decades since the state's order restricted water diversions, the hydrology in the Eastern Sierra has become more extreme, with wetter wet years, drier dry years and longer droughts, which the DWP says has made efforts to boost the lake's levels more difficult. During the last year of extreme heat and dryness, the department says about 150,000 acre-feet of water evaporated from the lake's surface.

In 1994, the state water board laid out a target of restoring Mono Lake to a level of 6,392 feet, about 12 feet above the current level, to protect the ecosystem, water quality and air quality. At that time, the DWP says officials estimated based on models that the longest period to reach that level would be 38 years, or 2032.

"The longer periods of dry have definitely impacted the ability for the lake to rise as forecasted back in the '90s, when they put these models together," Perez said.

And the department says updated models that include the effects of climate change suggest reaching that higher level could take years longer than had been projected.

In the meantime, the Mono Lake shoreline is continuing to retreat, creating a "bathtub ring" of dusty lake bottom. Warmer temperatures, increased turbidity and reduced flows in the creeks threaten trout populations and riparian vegetation that is home to migrating birds such as yellow warblers and lazuli buntings.

With evaporation outpacing inflows from those streams, a sheet of water less than 4 feet deep and a few hundred yards wide is all that protects tens of thousands of breeding gulls from predatory coyotes.

"The relationship between Los Angeles and Mono Lake remains a work in progress," McQuilkin said, "and the current drought isn't helping."

The DWP says the reductions in water deliveries have left water in Mono Basin to support its environmental projects.

"The result of our work is significant," the DWP said in an emailed statement. "Mono Lake and its tributaries now offer abundant resources for the unique water birds nesting on shore, and a healthy environment for the plants and fish to thrive."

The department also plans to begin a \$50-million project on the spillway of Grant Lake Reservoir on Rush Creek, which it says will increase stream flows in wet years.



If the drought persists through this runoff year, Perez said, the DWP will probably be permitted to export the same limited quantity of water next year. If the lake continues to decline in future years below a lower threshold of 6,377 feet, Perez said, "our exports would be essentially turned off from Mono Basin."

The water from Mono Basin represents a small portion of the water the DWP transports through the Los Angeles Aqueduct.

According to DWP figures, 48% of the city's water from 2016 to 2020 came via the aqueduct from the Eastern Sierra. The city purchased 41% from the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, including 35% from the Bay Delta and 6% from the Colorado River. The remainder included 9% groundwater and 2% recycled water.

City officials have laid out goals for decreasing L.A.'s reliance on imported water supplies and [expanding local supplies](#), including recycling more wastewater, capturing more storm water and purifying contaminated groundwater so it can be pumped and used. But the DWP says local water supplies cannot entirely replace imported water.

When the department faces cutbacks on the L.A. Aqueduct, the city typically secures water from the Colorado River Aqueduct and the State Water Project to supplement its supplies. But managers of water agencies expect to receive just [5% of their full allocations](#) from the Bay Delta via the State Water Project this year, and the Colorado River is also in a severe [shortage](#), with reservoirs continuing to decline.

Gov. Gavin Newsom has called on Californians to voluntarily reduce water use 15%, and state officials have urged residents to [step up conservation efforts](#).

"Water allocations are extremely difficult for us at this point," Perez said. "Right now, everybody from throughout the state of California, throughout the West, is going to be looking at each other and figuring out ways that we can all conserve and do our part because we are in a tough situation."

# Map tool identifies habitats to save

Website allows citizens to pick what lands and coastal waters to protect.

BY SAMMY ROTH

Confession time: I love maps. I'm one of those people who occasionally falls down a Google Maps rabbit hole, following the path of a river to its headwaters, or exploring far-flung islands in the Pacific Ocean, or tracing the boundaries of a national park.

So with California making plans to protect 30% of its lands and coastal waters by 2030 — a final strategy report from the state's Natural Resources Agency is due out this month — I was intrigued to learn of a new mapping tool to support that “30 by 30” goal.

The [CA Nature website](https://californianature.ca.gov) — [californianature.ca.gov](https://californianature.ca.gov) — allows Californians to pore over the landscape and consider which areas they might want to see protected in the future.

The site's “[conserved areas explorer](#)” shows the 24.1 million acres — just under 24% of the state's land area — that are already conserved, many of them as parks, forests and preserves.

Other interactive maps show which lands and waters offer the greatest [biodiversity](#), and how rising temperatures and changing rainfall patterns are [expected to alter](#) the state's landscapes.

The Redlands-based geographic information systems company [Esri](#) built the website for state officials. I've found some of the maps difficult to navigate — the biodiversity and climate impact pages in particular — and several features are still being added before Earth Day this week, including an “access” tool to illustrate opportunities for more equitable access to green space.

But assuming the site gets smoothed out a bit, CA Nature is a nifty way to bring to life a conservation initiative that's been embraced by scientists, nature advocates and governments around the world.

“We have never yet had a statewide, bird's-eye view of all the different places across the state that are already conserved,” said Jennifer Norris, a deputy secretary at the California Natural Resources Agency. “That allows you to visualize: ‘OK, if I protect a new piece of land, how is that related to the existing protected areas? ... Is there a lot of biodiversity in this place? Could this be giving access to nature to a community that currently doesn't have it? What's it going to look like under future climate projections?’

“I'm also a map nerd,” she added, “and this is the kind of thing that map nerds dream about.”

President Biden has made 30 by 30 a [priority](#) through his America the Beautiful initiative. The Interior Department said last week it would distribute \$375 million in ecosystem restoration funds to support 30 by 30, with other agencies chipping in \$65 million and the White House targeting \$1 billion in overall funding through private partnerships.

But California is ahead of the game. While federal officials are still working on a road map for how to achieve the conservation goal, Gov. Gavin Newsom's administration released its own [draft strategy document](#) in December, following a series of tribal meetings and workshops collectively attended by thousands of people. Environmental activists are mostly pleased by what they've seen.

“California sets the bar for conservation efforts. What we hope is that the federal effort will follow, and match, the level of ambition and inclusiveness,” said Helen O'Shea, a senior policy analyst at the Natural Resources Defense Council.

The December report spells out nine possible pathways for protecting more of California. The pathways include government agencies acquiring lands directly; conserving private lands through voluntary “easements”; strengthening protections for wildlife and ecosystems on lands that are already publicly owned; and restoring areas that have been degraded by human activity.

None of that will be easy. While nearly a quarter of California's land area and 16% of its ocean waters are already protected, that leaves 6 million acres of land and half a million acres of water that will need to be shielded from development over the next eight years, in a state with a desperate need for new housing and land-use planning decisions dominated by local governments.

For an example of the tension between conservation and development, look to the Mojave Desert, where local elected officials have fought efforts to protect western Joshua trees from the ravages of global warming. Solar energy developers have also [argued against](#) designating the species as threatened, even though scientists say rising temperatures pose a long-term threat.

The battle came to a head last week when state biologists [recommended against protections](#) for the western Joshua tree.

“When the Titanic hit the iceberg, the ship’s captain didn’t wait until nearly everyone on board had drowned to issue an SOS,” Brendan Cummings, conservation director of the nonprofit Center for Biological Diversity, told The Times. “But that is essentially what state biologists are asking us to do with western Joshua trees in distress.”

That fight helps illustrate why the California Natural Resources Agency is emphasizing a bottom-up approach to 30 by 30 that involves listening to local governments and letting individual communities determine which natural spaces are worth protecting.

Still, the Newsom administration will hold itself accountable for making sure the 30% target is actually achieved by 2030, according to Natural Resources Secretary Wade Crowfoot. He said state officials would provide funding and technical assistance to local groups working on conservation plans, and support the writing of regional conservation plans known as “NCCPs” that balance the need for new housing, clean energy infrastructure and other development with the protection of animals, plants and habitat.

“We’re working to cut green tape, reduce the number of hoops one has to jump through to get conservation done,” Crowfoot said.

The 30 by 30 campaign isn’t just about maintaining nature for wildlife, although that’s part of it. Conserved areas such as wetlands, grasslands and forests are vital for [sucking carbon out of the atmosphere](#), limiting the climate damage from burning fossil fuels. They can also protect vulnerable communities from climate change consequences. Healthy coastlines, for instance, offer a buffer against rising seas and worsening floods. Urban parks can provide [shaded](#) refuge from ever-hotter heat waves.

Spending time outdoors can also improve your mental and physical health, with an article on the American Psychological Assn. website [noting](#) that exposure to nature “has been linked to a host of benefits, including improved attention, lower stress, better mood, reduced risk of psychiatric disorders and even upticks in empathy and cooperation.” But across the U.S., low-income people of color tend to have [fewer parks](#) in their neighborhoods, if any. Conservationists see an opportunity to fix that through 30 by 30.

O’Shea pointed toward Inglewood Oil Field as an example. [Culver City](#) and [Los Angeles County](#) officials are trying to shut down drilling and add the oil field to the surrounding Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area, a popular green space in an otherwise park-poor part of town. There are plenty of obstacles, but O’Shea sees it as a good case study of a locally driven conservation plan with multiple benefits. She said the urban oil field has “tremendous habitat value” even if it needs significant restoration work.

“People look at urban areas and say there’s no habitat, there’s no biodiversity. And that’s just not the case,” she said.

O’Shea said she’s hoping for more specifics from the state on protecting freshwater ecosystems — i.e. rivers and streams — which are currently folded into the land-based 30% conservation target rather than given their own standalone plan. The state also needs to keep developing strategies to help Native American tribes reacquire and manage their ancestral lands, O’Shea said.

At the national level, meanwhile, [environmentalists worry](#) the Biden administration will count lands that are being farmed, grazed or logged as “conserved.” That’s less of an issue in California, which has adopted a strict definition of what counts as protected.

So there are reasons for optimism, conflicts to navigate and a lot of natural world still untrammelled. And 30% by 2030 may be just the beginning. The legendary biologist E.O. Wilson popularized the idea of [permanently protecting](#) 50% of planet Earth. For any of that to happen, a lot of people will need to spend a lot of time looking at maps.

“If you don’t know where something is located, you can’t protect it,” said Ryan Perkl, green infrastructure lead at Esri. “Once you have that map of those things, you can start to strategically target them.”

This article was published in Boiling Point, a weekly email newsletter about climate change and the environment. Go to [latimes.com/boilingpoint](https://latimes.com/boilingpoint) to sign up.



NEWS | April 18, 2022

## California Field Campaign Is Helping Scientists Protect Diverse Ecosystems



JPL scientist Dana Chadwick, center, advises a field team working on the SHIFT campaign on locations for collection and analysis of vegetation samples at the Jack and Laura Dangermond Preserve in March 2022. Credit: Piper Lovegreen/University of California, Santa Barbara

### **In Brief:**

Above Santa Barbara County, the Surface Biology and Geology High-Frequency Time Series, or SHIFT, campaign collects data to understand land and aquatic ecosystems.

With a plane crisscrossing the sky and researchers working on land and sea, the Surface Biology and Geology High-Frequency Time Series campaign (SHIFT) combines the ability of airborne science instruments to gather data over widespread areas with the more concentrated observations scientists conduct in the field to study natural environments.

SHIFT is jointly led by NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, The Nature Conservancy, and the University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB), and one of its primary goals is to generate the most precise, high-time-frequency data on plant and aquatic communities ever collected over such a vast region. The 640-square-mile (1,656-square-kilometer) study area, which stretches from Los Padres National Forest in the east to the Central California coast and into the coastal ocean in the west, includes some of the most dynamic ecosystems in the world.

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The data, collected on a weekly basis from late February until the end of May, measures changes in the characteristics of vegetation across the landscape and tracks critical plant species as they emerge from winter dormancy. It will also provide clues about the health and resilience of ecosystems as California's climate grows drier. For The Nature Conservancy and UCSB, both of which maintain nature preserves in the study area, the information collected will inform strategies to protect natural environments in the face of human-created pressures.



University of California, Santa Barbara student Piper Lovegreen measures chlorophyll content of plants at the Jack and Laura Dangermond Preserve in Santa Barbara County in March. The information is used to validate data taken by AVIRIS-NG as it flies over the SHIFT study area. Credit: NASA/JPL-Caltech

"This landscape has gradually changed over time, and now with the twin crises of climate change and biodiversity loss, change is happening much more rapidly," said Mark Reynolds, a SHIFT co-investigator and director of the Point Conception Institute at The Nature Conservancy's Jack and Laura Dangermond Preserve. "This is what it's about for us: to understand the change that's happening, anticipate the change to come, and to influence the trajectory of conservation, now and for future generations."

## Studying Properties of Light

SHIFT employs an imaging spectrometer called AVIRIS-NG (Airborne Visible/Infrared Imaging Spectrometer-Next Generation) that was designed at JPL in Southern California. An aircraft carrying the instrument has been flying above Santa Barbara County weekly during the study period.

The spectrometer works by collecting subtle characteristics of the light reflected from 16-by-16-foot (5-by-5-meter) squares of the surface, which can tell researchers about traits of tree leaves, blades of grass, shrubs, and other plants. Successive scans can detect

variations in the color of the light and its reflectance at different wavelengths, revealing changes in how plants are functioning.



The SHIFT campaign uses a research plane carrying the AVIRIS-NG instrument to collect data on the function, health, and resilience of plant communities in the 640-square-mile (1,656-square-kilometer) area of Santa Barbara County and the nearby ocean shown in this annotated map. Credit: NASA/JPL-Caltech

For example, scientists hope to learn about the health and resilience of Southern California oak species by studying the thousands of acres of oak woodlands in the Dangermond Preserve and UCSB's Sedgwick Reserve. Oaks occupy a crucial niche in their ecosystems: In addition to their leaves taking in carbon dioxide, their acorns provide food for many species, and their trunks and branches serve as habitats for birds and other animals. The SHIFT data can show the nitrogen and phosphorus content of oak leaves, revealing the health of oak communities. It can also show canopy density, which can offer clues about whether oaks are adapting to progressively drier conditions or dying off.

SHIFT is a pathfinder campaign for the proposed Surface Biology and Geology (SBG) satellite mission, which is part of NASA's Earth System Observatory, a set of future Earth-focused missions aimed at addressing climate change and its consequences for health, natural resources, hazards, and food security.

Researchers for SHIFT are also collecting and analyzing samples on the ground, in coastal waters, and in the nearby ocean to validate that the data from AVIRIS-NG reflects what's seen in the field. This will help SBG scientists to understand the benefits and costs of collecting data via satellite as often as weekly and to design the algorithms that will translate SBG's raw data into information researchers can use.

"It's exciting to advance our understanding of the methodology and assess how useful the data will be for managing our vulnerable ecosystems," said David Schimel, JPL research scientist and SHIFT's principal investigator. "SHIFT does both at once without compromising either."



A research plane collecting spectral imaging data of vegetation on land and in the ocean as part of the SHIFT campaign flies just off the Central Coast of California near Point Conception and the Jack and Laura Dangermond Preserve in February. Credit: NASA/JPL-Caltech

## 'Not Just a Scientist's Sandbox'

In the long run, SHIFT's data will lay the foundation for future investigations. Many of the campaign's young field researchers will likely be in more senior science roles or leading their own studies in the future with data from SBG, which would be expected to launch no earlier than 2028.

More immediately, upwards of 60 researchers from institutions around the country plan to use the SHIFT data in their research. A U.S. Geological Survey researcher is studying surface geology and mineral composition. A UCLA scientist is looking at kelp diversity in waters near Santa Barbara. A Cornell University plant pathology expert is studying vineyard diseases.

A common aim of the projects: to turn the SHIFT data into scientific insights that serve broader purposes.

"SHIFT will significantly advance remote sensing and environmental science, and at the same time deliver useful information for resource managers, biodiversity stewards, and many others," said Frank Davis, director of the La Kretz Research Center at the Sedgwick Reserve and a SHIFT co-investigator. "It's not just a scientist's sandbox."

## More About the Campaign

SHIFT is an airborne and field research effort jointly led by The Nature Conservancy, the University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB), and JPL. Caltech, in Pasadena, manages JPL for NASA.

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News for Immediate Release...

# Metropolitan Adopts Two-Year Budget To Address Drought, Climate Change While Mitigating Impacts of Rising Costs, Lower Sales

## Budget includes 5 percent annual rate increases over next two years

April 13, 2022

A two-year budget that strikes a balance between investing in reliable water supplies for Southern California while managing rates to address rising operational costs and reduced revenues due to lower water sales and severe drought was adopted by Metropolitan Water District's Board of Directors.

The board on Tuesday (April 12) unanimously adopted a \$1.9 billion budget for fiscal year 2022-23 and a \$2.0 billion budget for 2023-24, with associated 5 percent overall rate increases in Metropolitan's wholesale water rates in calendar years 2023 and 2024.

**"We are in the midst of unprecedented times – we face a deepening drought emergency as we emerge from a worldwide pandemic and confront national supply shortages and high inflation," said Metropolitan General Manager Adel Hagekhalil. "We must take bold actions today to invest in the future of our region so that we are more resilient to climate change and drought. But we must also limit overall rate increases for our member agencies, which are contending with their own investment needs and affordability concerns."**

The plan serves as a transitional budget as the board deliberates a new direction that will guide Metropolitan's future rate structure and potentially a new business model while meeting near-term challenges, such as high inflation and a deepening drought emergency. Future rate increases are expected to be higher, including an anticipated rate increase of 7 percent in 2025.

**"Our ongoing strategic planning efforts will guide how we adapt to climate change and meet our mission for the next century," Metropolitan board Chairwoman Gloria D. Gray said. "These efforts will involve major investments in storage, local supplies and water efficiency. As we ask people to use less water and our water sales drop, we have to figure out a way to pay for these investments."**

The approved budget will fund priority operations and maintenance projects as well as important drought-proofing local supply projects. It includes nearly 450 capital projects, including planning activities for Metropolitan's full-scale Regional Recycled Water Program that, if approved, would deliver enough water to serve roughly 500,000 Southern California households. It also provides continued support for conservation, development of local resource projects and planning for drier years.





To avoid a higher rate increase in 2023 and 2024, the biennial budget cuts \$53 million from the agency's operations budget, with substantial reductions in materials and supplies, research and planning, travel, training, conferences, and director inspection trips of water facilities. In addition, Metropolitan continues its search for new funding sources, which potentially include state and federal grant opportunities, beneficial water exchanges and partnerships that leverage investments in Metropolitan's system.

**"We all must recognize that the cost of providing water is increasing as we face extraordinary challenges," Hagekhalil said. "We are continuing to work with the state and federal government to advocate for funding that supports Southern California's water future."**

*The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California is a state-established cooperative that, along with its 26 cities and retail suppliers, provide water for 19 million people in six counties. The district imports water from the Colorado River and Northern California to supplement local supplies, and helps its members to develop increased water conservation, recycling, storage and other resource-management programs.*



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## SPOTLIGHT APRIL 2022: TID SOLAR CANAL EXPERIMENT WELL RECEIVED, CLOSELY WATCHED

BY ACWA STAFF APR 15, 2022 NEWSLETTERS



An artistic rendering shows how a stretch of Turlock Irrigation District canal would appear with solar panels mounted over it through the Project Nexus pilot project breaking ground later this year. Photo courtesy of TID

California's oldest irrigation district could spark the country's newest breakthrough in building multi-beneficial climate change resilience through an experiment that will cover a portion of its canal system in solar paneling.

Since announcing the experiment – Project Nexus – in February, Turlock Irrigation District (TID) has drawn national and international attention about the project. The ACWA member agency, which provides both water and power, has also received widespread attention from within the water community. Calls about Project Nexus included one from an irrigation district in New Zealand, said TID External Affairs Department Manager Josh Weimer during a TID Water & Power Podcast.

"There's a tremendous amount of interest from water agencies that have contacted us and want to be kept up to speed about progress on the project, what roadblocks we've encountered and what we've done to mitigate them," Weimer said.

Project Nexus is a public-private-academic partnership among TID, the Department of Water Resources (DWR), Solar AquaGrid, and the University of California, Merced. The first-ever solar panel over canal development in the U.S., the project will assess reduction of water evaporation resulting from mid-day shade and wind mitigation; improvements to water quality through reduced vegetative growth; reduction in canal maintenance through reduced vegetative growth; and generation of renewable electricity, according to a TID news release.

During the podcast, Weimer said that the biggest comment since the announcement is how TID plans to keep the panels clean, especially during the dusty Central Valley harvest. However, the district can rely on technology that cleans the panels, including methods that do not require water.

Groundbreaking on Project Nexus is scheduled for this fall, with project completion expected in 2024 at multiple locations throughout the TID service territory in California's Central Valley. In its initial stage, the project will cover less than two miles of solar paneling over various sections of TID's canal system, using existing TID infrastructure to keep costs low and efficiency high while supporting the region's sustainable farming tradition. Additionally, energy storage will be installed to study how storage facilities can support the local electric grid when solar generation is suboptimal due to cloud cover. The \$20 million project is funded by DWR, which will oversee administration of the project, provide technical assistance and serve as a research partner.

"In our 135-year history, we've always pursued innovative projects that benefit TID water and power customers," stated TID Board President Michael Frantz in a district news release. "There will always be reasons to say 'no' to projects like this, but as the first public irrigation district in

California, we aren't afraid to chart a new path with pilot projects that have potential to meet our water and energy sustainability goals."

While Project Nexus, especially if expanded beyond a demonstration project, offers benefits to TID, the project is seen as a template with potential to be replicated elsewhere in the state to help California achieve its water and energy goals. The inspiration for Project Nexus comes from the concept presented in a recent University of California study, published last year in the journal *Nature Sustainability*.

The UC study illustrated that covering all of the approximately 4,000 miles of California canals could show a savings of 63 billion gallons of water annually, comparable to the amount needed to irrigate 50,000 acres of farmland or meet the residential water needs of more than 2 million people. According to the study, the 13 gigawatts of solar power the solar panels would generate each year would equal about one sixth of the state's current installed capacity.

Turlock Irrigation District has retained Bay Area development firm Solar AquaGrid as project developers and program managers for TID and Project Nexus. The two agencies have been collaborating since the project's inception, Solar AquaGrid originated the project after commissioning the UC Merced Study in 2015 and has facilitated collaboration among the various parties to bring Project Nexus to fruition.

For additional information about the project and project partners, visit [www.tid.org/projectnexus](http://www.tid.org/projectnexus).



# STATE EXPANDS SAVE OUR WATER PUBLIC AWARENESS CAMPAIGN AS DROUGHT INTENSIFIES

BY OFFICE OF GOVERNOR GAVIN NEWSOM APR 14, 2022 NEWS RELEASES

SACRAMENTO – Over the past few months, the state has ramped up communications efforts around the Save Our Water campaign focused on encouraging Californians to reduce water use as drought conditions worsen. This week, the campaign rolled out new content across various multimedia platforms including social, digital and streaming platforms, out-of-home, and radio. The multilingual ads communicate the urgent need to save water and provide actionable steps Californians can take.

Today, the state hosted a briefing with more than a dozen social media influencers and content creators calling on them to support the statewide education efforts. Governor Gavin Newsom joined State Water Resources Control Board Chair Joaquin Esquivel, Department of Water Resources Director Karla Nemeth and Department of Fish and Wildlife Director Chuck Bonham in highlighting the state's severe drought conditions and calling on influencers to engage Californians on how to save water.

"Make no mistake, California and the entire West are feeling the effects of the intensifying drought – notwithstanding today's rainfall," said Governor Newsom. "We're putting to work the lessons learned during the last drought, but with our climate getting hotter and drier, it's critical that we work together to protect our water supply. Engaging Californians from all walks of life and connecting peer to peer, we can meet this challenge head-on."

Governor Newsom Joins Save Our Water public awareness campaign briefing

New paid media includes urgency ads in convenience and grocery stores, radio spots in multiple languages including Spanish, Cantonese, Mandarin, Vietnamese and Hmong, LED billboards across California, and signage at sanitizer stations, among other public awareness efforts.

An example of a new Save Our Water radio spot can be found [here](#).

Following three months of record dry conditions and a rapidly declining snowpack, the April snow survey conducted by the Department of Water Resources (DWR) found that the state snowpack was well below average for that date. The snowpack has plummeted in recent weeks as unseasonably warm temperatures have hit the Sierra, with snowpack – which provides about a third of California's water supply – currently at only 25 percent of average for this date. Dry conditions are impacting every region of the state and many of the state's reservoirs remain at below average levels following several years of drought.

"California just experienced the driest first three months of the year on record, and drought is worsening throughout the West," said California Secretary for Natural Resources Wade Crowfoot. "Climate-driven water extremes are part of our reality now. The Save Our Water campaign aims to create a broader and long-term culture of water conservation and highlights the urgency for Californians to take important steps to save water. From everyday actions like watering less outdoors to switching to low-water plants, there are simple steps we all can take."

To help encourage more conservation at home, the state has enhanced its Save Our Water campaign following additional state funding allocated in March. The public education campaign aims to highlight the dire drought conditions and the urgency behind the call for immediate action, including making some permanent water smart changes to homes and yards that offer the biggest ways to save water.

"While the state has made significant investments in tools and technologies to ensure we make the most out of the snowmelt, water conservation remains our best tool in the face of this ongoing drought," said DWR Director Karla Nemeth. "All Californians must focus on conserving water now. The Save Our Water campaign will help engage Californians with the information and resources they need. Saving water today means more water for tomorrow."

Working to drive conservation at the local level, Governor Newsom last month called on the State Water Board to consider requiring urban water suppliers to activate, at a minimum, Level 2 of their customized Water Shortage Contingency Plans, which require locally-appropriate actions that will conserve water across all sectors. The Governor also directed the State Water Resources Control Board to consider a ban on the watering of decorative grass at businesses and institutions.

Today's influencer briefing is part of a larger comprehensive push by the Save Our Water campaign. The campaign is undertaking a highly targeted statewide education effort to inform Californians about the state's severe drought and to raise awareness of how they can save water,

including updating yards with water-smart plants and drip irrigation, as well as adjusting sprinklers, to water only where needed. The multilingual campaign includes:

A refreshed website highlighting key ways Californians can save the most water as well as other water-saving actions to make both immediate and lasting changes

Increased statewide advertising presence with an emphasis on areas with high residential water usage, including digital, radio, print, billboards and retail presence

In-language advertising, media engagement and educational materials in Spanish, Chinese, Vietnamese, Korean, Hmong and Tagalog to spread awareness across California's diverse communities through trusted communications channels

Collaboration with local water agencies and municipalities to increase urgency behind conservation at the regional and state levels through earned media and other communications

Partnerships with celebrity and social media influencers and content creators, including celebrated cartoonist Lalo Alcazar, Isabella Ferregur, Jesus Zapata, Monica Villa, Leo Gonzalez, and Mario Lopez, to share easy and practical ways to incorporate saving water into Californians' daily routines

Partnerships with California sports teams, businesses, retailers, and other organizations to expand the reach and visibility of Save Our Water

The California WATER WATCH website informing Californians about the hydrological conditions in their own communities and connecting residents with local water suppliers for available incentives and rebates to support water-saving upgrades in the home and yard

Coordination with college campuses to amplify the call to save water across generations

Water-savings resources at community events statewide, including farmers markets, home and garden shows and county fairs

More information on the state's response to the drought and informational resources available to the public are available at <https://drought.ca.gov/>. For water-smart tips and information, visit [SaveOurWater.com](https://SaveOurWater.com)



## **WESTERN ENTERS INTO AGREEMENT TO ENHANCE REGIONAL WATER QUALITY AND SUPPLY**

 California Water News Daily  April 11, 2022

Western Municipal Water District (Western) recently announced the approval of an agreement that will provide a connection to imported water for the Rubidoux Community Services District (Rubidoux) in partnership with four other regional water agencies.

The historic agreement between the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD), San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District (Valley District), West Valley Water District (West Valley), Rubidoux, and Western will provide up to 2,000 acre-feet per year of imported water from the State Water Project to Rubidoux.

The agreement will not only provide Rubidoux with new access to imported water for an agency otherwise entirely dependent on local groundwater supplies, but it will also help Rubidoux address the need to reduce total dissolved solids (TDS) that are discharged to the City of Riverside's wastewater treatment plant – all at a fraction of the cost.

Noting the monumental effort to bring the agreement to fruition, Western's General Manager Craig Miller said, "Developing a complex water purchase and delivery agreement that involves five different regional water agencies was no small task and really required each one of us to think about how to provide water



service in a new way for the benefit of our community. We are proud of this regional collaboration that improves Rubidoux's access to diverse sources of high-quality water at a reasonable cost."

As part of the approved agreement, Western will purchase the water from MWD to be delivered through Valley District's connection to West Valley for Rubidoux's use in Western's service area. Rubidoux will fully reimburse Western for all water purchases from MWD and Western's administrative costs for providing the service.