

INDIAN WELLS VALLEY GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY

Ridgecrest City Hall 100 W California Ave., Ridgecrest, CA 93555 760-499-5002

BOARD OF DIRECTORS AGENDA

Wednesday, June 10, 2026

Closed Session – 10:00 a.m.

Open Session no earlier than 11:00 a.m.

NOTICE: *In accordance with the evolving public health declarations, we will continue to provide live stream video for those wishing to participate virtually. Please see the Public Comment Notice below for detailed instructions on submitting public comment as well as websites for livestream broadcasting.*

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you are a disabled person and you need a disability-related modification or accommodation to participate in this meeting, please contact April Keigwin at (805) 764-5452. Requests must be made as early as possible and at least one full business day before the start of the meeting. Documents and material relating to an open session agenda items that are provided to the IWVGA Board of Directors prior to a regular meeting will be available for public inspection and copying at Ridgecrest City Hall, 100 W California Ave, Ridgecrest, CA 93555, or online at <https://iwvga.org/>.

Statements from the Public

The public will be allowed to address the Board during Public Comments about subjects within the jurisdiction of the IWVGA Board and that are NOT on the agenda. No action may be taken on off-agenda items unless authorized by law. Questions posed to the Board may be answered after the meeting or at a future meeting. Dialog or extended discussion between the public and the Board or staff will be limited in accordance with the Brown Act. All Public Comment portions of the meeting shall be limited to three (3) minutes per speaker. Each person is limited to one comment during Public Comments.

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

3. PUBLIC COMMENT ON CLOSED SESSION

4. CLOSED SESSION

- CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATIONS
(Government Code Section 54956.8) - Property: Purchase of Water Rights; Agency Negotiator: Jeff Simonetti; Negotiating Parties: Westside Ag; Under Negotiation: Price and terms of payment.
- CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATIONS
(Government Code Section 54956.8) - Property: Purchase of Water Rights; Agency Negotiator: Jeff Simonetti; Negotiating Parties: Tejon Ranch; Under Negotiation: Price and terms of payment.

- CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATIONS
(Government Code Section 54956.8) - Property: Purchase of Land; Agency Negotiator: April Keigwin / Phillip Hall; Negotiating Parties: Fremont Valley Properties; Under Negotiation: Price and terms of payment
- CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION
(Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(1): IWVGA v. Inyokern CSD – Kern County Superior Court BCV-22-100281
- CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL- EXISTING LITIGATION
(Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(1) - Name of case: Mojave Pistachios, LLC v Indian Wells Valley Water District, et al. Orange County Superior Court Case No. 30-2021-01187275-CU-OR-CJ

5. CALL TO ORDER – No earlier than 11:00 a.m.

- a. Report on closed session
- b. Pledge of Allegiance
- c. Roll Call

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

This time is reserved for the public to address the Board about matters NOT on the agenda. No action will be taken on non-agenda items unless authorized by law. Comments are limited to three minutes per person.

7. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

This time is reserved for comments by Board members and/or staff and to identify matters for future Board business.

8. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Approve Minutes of Board Meeting May 13, 2026
- b. Approve Expenditures
**To view itemized invoices please visit <https://iwvga.org/iwvga-meetings>.*
 - i. \$132,266.24 – City of Ridgecrest
 - ii. \$94,703.07 – Stetson Engineers
 - iii. \$43,833.00 – Regional Government Services – (Replenishment / Extraction)
 - iv. \$25,318.75 – Capitol Core Group – (Replenishment / Extraction)
 - v. \$18,831.72 – Westbound Communication – (Extraction)
 - vi. \$17,864.70 – Provost & Prichard (SGMA IP / EPA)
 - vii. \$14,987.50 – Blue Mountain Development – (SGMA IP / EPA)
 - viii. \$1,187.50 – GFT Infrastructure – (SGMA IP / EPA)
 - ix. \$100.00 – California Association of Mutual Water Companies – (Extraction)

9. DISCUSSION ON INYOKERN DATA CENTER AND PROPOSED LEGISLATION

10. WATERSMART GRANT FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

11. WATER RESOURCES MANAGER REPORT

- a. Grant Funding
- b. GSP Implementation Projects/Management Action Updates
 - i. Imported Water Project
 - ii. Shallow Well Mitigation Program

- c. Consolidation Projects
 - i. Rademacher Way
 - ii. Stark Street
- d. Miscellaneous Items
 - i. Data Collection and Monitoring
 - ii. IWVGA Basin Model Configuration Management Plan
 - iii. Rose Valley Subflow Update

12. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

- a. Monthly Financial Report
- b. Outreach Update
- c. Little Lake Project – Correspondence with Inyo County Board of Supervisors
- d. Report on IWVGA's Water Marketer (Capitol Core Group)

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – JULY 8, 2026

14. ADJOURN

PUBLIC COMMENT NOTICE

IWVGA meetings will be open to the public for physical attendance; However, for those who wish to continue using virtual alternatives please follow the directions below for access to live stream video as well as ways to submit public comment.

- **Watch meetings on-line:**

All of our meetings are streamed live at <https://ridgecrest-ca.gov/369/Watch> (4 second streaming delay) or on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/cityofridgecrest/live> (22 second streaming delay) and are also available for playback after the meeting.

- **Call in for public comments:**

If you wish to make verbal comment, *please call (760) 499-5010*. This phone line will allow only one caller at a time, so if the line is busy, please continue to dial. We will be allowing a 20-30 second pause between callers to give time for media delays and callers to dial in. Due to media delays, please mute your streaming device while making public comment. If you wish to comment on multiple items, you will need to call in as each item is presented.

- **Submit written comments:**

We encourage submittal of written comments supporting, opposing, or otherwise commenting on an agenda item, for distribution to the Board prior to the meeting. Send emails to akeigwin@rgs.ca.gov written correspondence may be sent to April Keigwin, Clerk of the Board, 100 W. California Ave., Ridgecrest, CA 93555. Please specify to which agenda item your comment relates.

- **Large Groups:**

If you are part of a large group that would like to comment on an agenda item, please consider commenting in writing. This will be as impactful to the Board as having a large group in attendance.

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INDIAN WELLS VALLEY GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY

City of Ridgecrest, Indian Wells Valley Water District, Inyo County, Kern County, San Bernardino County

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MAY 13, 2026

IWVGA Members Present:

Chairman Scott Hayman, City of Ridgecrest	Commander Sims, United States Navy
Phillip Peters, Kern County	Dana Stephensen, Bureau of Land Management
David Saint-Amand, Indian Wells Valley Water District	April Keigwin, General Manager
John Vallejo, Inyo County	Steve Johnson, Water Resources Manager
Tim Itnyre, San Bernardino County	Keith Lemieux, Legal Counsel

Attending via teleconference is Tim Itnyre and Steve Johnson.

Meeting recording, public comment letters submitted, and all board meeting related documents are made available at:
<https://iwvga.org/iwvga-meetings/>

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Hayman calls the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

Motion made by John Vallejo and seconded by David Saint-Amand to approve adoption of the agenda. Motion carries by the following roll call vote:

Chairman Hayman	Aye
Vice Chair Peters	Aye
Director Saint-Amand	Absent
Director Itnyre	Absent
Director Vallejo	Aye

3. PUBLIC COMMENT ON CLOSED SESSION:

None.

Chairman Hayman calls the meeting into Closed Session at 10:05 a.m.

4. CLOSED SESSION:

- CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATIONS
(Government Code Section 54956.8) - Property: Purchase of Water Rights; Agency Negotiator: Jeff Simonetti; Negotiating Parties: Westside Ag; Under Negotiation: Price and terms of payment.
- CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION
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- CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATIONS
(Government Code Section 54956.8) - Property: Purchase of Land; Agency Negotiator: April Keigwin /

Phillip Hall; Negotiating Parties: Fremont Valley Properties; Under Negotiation: Price and terms of payment.

- CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL- EXISTING LITIGATION
(Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(1) - Name of case: Mojave Pistachios, LLC v Indian Wells Valley Water District, et al. Orange County Superior Court Case No. 30-2021-01187275-CU-OR-CJ

Closed Session adjourns at 11:10 a.m.

5. OPEN SESSION – no earlier than 11:00 a.m.

Meeting reconvenes into Open Session at 11:16 p.m.

- a. Report on Closed Session – Counsel Lemieux reports no reportable action was taken that would require disclosure under The Brown Act.
- b. Pledge of Allegiance is led by Chairman Hayman
- c. Roll Call

Chairman Hayman	Present
Vice Chair Peters	Present
Director Saint-Amand	Present
Director Itnyre	Present
Director Vallejo	Present

6. PUBLIC COMMENT:

The Board hears public comment from Judie Decker, Renee Westa-Lusk, Katie Cutts, Penelope Leprone, Jennifer Slayton, Kathy Slay, Don Decker, Nina Sunserry, and Beth Hardiness.

7. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:

None.

8. CONSENT AGENDA:

- a. Approve Minutes of Board Meeting March 11, 2026
- b. Approve Expenditures

**To view itemized invoices please visit <https://iwvga.org/iwvga-meetings>.*

**Invoice totals are for two months*

- i. \$181,693.84 – Stetson Engineers
- ii. \$84,952.44 – Regional Government Services – (Replenishment / Extraction)
- iii. \$70,090.30 – City of Ridgecrest
- iv. \$28,662.50 – Capitol Core Group – (Replenishment)
- v. \$26,675.00 – Blue Mountain Development – (SGMA IP / EPA)
- vi. \$24,913.69 – Indian Wells Valley Water District – (Consolidation)
- vii. \$24,030.24 – Westbound Communication – (Extraction)
- viii. \$18,500.00 – Nigro & Nigro – (Extraction / Replenishment)
- ix. \$6,668.75 – GFT Infrastructure – (SGMA IP / EPA)

The Board hears public comment from Renee Westa-Lusk.

Motion made by Phillip Peters and John Vallejo to approve Minutes of Board Meeting March 11, 2026 and the following expenditures in the amount of, \$181,693.84 to Stetson Engineers, \$84,952.44 to Regional Government Services, \$70,090.30 to City of Ridgecrest, \$28,662.50 to Capitol Core Group, \$26,675.00 to Blue Mountain Development, \$24,913.69 to Indian Wells Valley Water District, \$24,030.24 to Westbound Communication, \$18,500.00 to Nigro & Nigro and \$6,668.75 to GFT Infrastructure.

Motion carries by the following vote:

Chairman Hayman	Aye
Vice Chair Peters	Aye
Director Saint-Amand	Aye
Director Itnyre	Aye
Director Vallejo	Aye

9. APPROVAL OF ALLOCATION OF SHALLOW WELL MITIGATION PROGRAM FUNDS FOR RADEMACHER CONSOLIDATION PROJECT:

April Keigwin presents staff report.

The Board hears public comment from Renee Westa-Lusk, Judie Decker, Mike Sinnott and Don Decker.

Motion made by John Vallejo and seconded by Phillip Peters to approve amendment to agreement with Hamner and Jewell.

Motion carries by the following vote:

Chairman Hayman	Aye
Vice Chair Peters	Aye
Director Saint-Amand	Aye
Director Itnyre	Aye
Director Vallejo	Aye

10. APPROVAL OF REPORT AND SUBMISSION OR REPORT TO COURT AS REQUIRED BY CALIFORNIA CODE OF CIVIL PROCEDURE 845:

Counsel Lemieux presents report.

The Board hears public comment from Renee Westa-Lusk.

Motion made by John Vallejo and seconded by Phillip Peters to approve report and submission of report to court as required by California civil code of procedure 845.

Motion carries by the following vote:

Chairman Hayman	Aye
Vice Chair Peters	Aye
Director Saint-Amand	Abstain
Director Itnyre	Aye
Director Vallejo	Aye

11. WATER RESOURCES MANAGER REPORT:

Jeff Helsley provides updates on the following items:

- a. Grant Funding
- b. GSP Implementation Projects/Management Action Updates
 - i. Imported Water Project
 - ii. Shallow Well Mitigation Program
- c. Consolidation Projects
 - i. Rademacher Way
 - ii. Stark Street
- d. Miscellaneous Items
 - i. Data Collection and Monitoring
 - ii. IWVGA Basin Model Configuration Management Plan
 - iii. Rose Valley Subflow Update

The Board hears public comment from Renee Westa-Lusk.

12. GENERAL MANAGER REPORT:

April Keigwin presents monthly financial report and updates on public outreach. Michael McKinney provides legislative update.

The Board hears public comment from Renee Westa-Lusk and Jennifer Slayton.

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – JUNE 10, 2026

14. ADJOURN:

Chairman Hayman adjourns the meeting at 12:51 p.m. on May 13, 2026.

Respectfully submitted,

April Keigwin
Clerk of the Board
Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority

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REPAYMENT SCHEDULE FOR CITY OF RIDGECREST OBLIGATION

2026 REPAYMENT FOR PRIOR YEARS

132,266.24

PAYMENT

EST PMT DATE	PAYMENT	TOTAL
6/30/2026	Final Payment	<u>132,266.24</u>
	TOTAL	<u>132,266.24</u>

Payment is for obligations owed prior to 2025. All backlog payments are complete per City of Ridgecrest records. All payments for 2025 and 2026 are being invoiced and paid within the fiscal year or accrued shortly thereafter.

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Stetson Engineers

Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority
 100 W. California Ave.
 Ridgecrest, CA 93555

Invoice number 2652-105
 Date 05/28/2026

Project **2652 Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority**

Professional services through 04/30/2026

2652-2026 Water Resources Management 2026

2652-2026:01 Meetings & Prep

Professional Fees

	Hours	Rate	Billed Amount
Principal	9.00	244.00	2,196.00
Special Project Director	2.00	244.00	488.00
Supervisor I	14.50	212.00	3,074.00
Supervisor II	9.00	197.00	1,773.00
Senior III	15.50	138.00	2,139.00
Senior Associate	15.75	132.00	2,079.00
Associate II	41.25	119.00	4,908.75
Associate III	4.25	114.00	484.50
Assistant I	0.50	101.00	50.50
GIS Manager	1.50	126.00	189.00

Reimbursables

	Units	Rate	Billed Amount
Mileage			
Non Vendor Reimbursables	280.00	0.725	203.00
Jeff Helsley	236.00	0.725	171.10
Subtotal			374.10
Reproduction (Color)			
Non Vendor Reimbursables	403.00	0.89	358.67
	3.00	0.89	2.67
Subtotal			361.34
Subtotal			361.34
Reproduction (Black and White)			
Non Vendor Reimbursables	222.00	0.15	33.30
Phase subtotal			18,150.49

2652-2026:02.01 SGMA IP Grant Administration

Professional Fees

	Hours	Rate	Billed Amount
Senior I	14.00	170.00	2,380.00



STETSON
ENGINEERS INC.

Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority
 Project 2652 Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority

Invoice number 2652-105
 Date 05/28/2026

2652-2026 Water Resources Management 2026

2652-2026:02.01 SGMA IP Grant Administration

Professional Fees

	Hours	Rate	Billed Amount
Associate III	0.50	114.00	57.00
Assistant I	8.00	101.00	808.00
Phase subtotal			3,245.00

2652-2026:02.02 Urban Community Drought Relief Funding Administration

Professional Fees

	Hours	Rate	Billed Amount
Associate II	3.75	119.00	446.25

2652-2026:03 Grant Review & Application Preparation

Professional Fees

	Hours	Rate	Billed Amount
Associate II	2.75	119.00	327.25

2652-2026:04 Data Mgmt System Support

Professional Fees

	Hours	Rate	Billed Amount
Principal	1.50	244.00	366.00
Supervisor II	15.00	197.00	2,955.00
Senior III	35.75	138.00	4,933.50
Phase subtotal			8,254.50

2652-2026:05 General Project Mgmt

Professional Fees

	Hours	Rate	Billed Amount
Supervisor I	1.25	212.00	265.00
Supervisor II	4.00	197.00	788.00
Senior III	1.00	138.00	138.00
Phase subtotal			1,191.00

2652-2026:07.03 Resiliency Grant: Design

Professional Fees

	Hours	Rate	Billed Amount
Associate II	5.25	119.00	624.75

2652-2026:07.04 Resiliency Grant: Environmental

Professional Fees

	Hours	Rate	Billed Amount
Supervisor I	0.75	212.00	159.00
Associate II	4.25	119.00	505.75
Phase subtotal			664.75



STETSON
ENGINEERS INC.

Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority
 Project 2652 Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority

Invoice number 2652-105
 Date 05/28/2026

2652-2026 Water Resources Management 2026

2652-2026:08 Imported Water: Negotiations & Coordination

Professional Fees

	Hours	Rate	Billed Amount
Principal	1.50	244.00	366.00

2652-2026:10 Stakeholder Coordination

Professional Fees

	Hours	Rate	Billed Amount
Supervisor I	4.25	212.00	901.00
Senior III	4.50	138.00	621.00
Senior Associate	7.00	132.00	924.00

Consultant

	Units	Rate	Billed Amount
SUB			
Ryan Smith			885.00

Phase subtotal 3,331.00

2652-2026:11 Data Collection, Monitoring & Data Gaps

Professional Fees

	Hours	Rate	Billed Amount
Special Project Director	1.00	244.00	244.00
Supervisor II	14.50	197.00	2,856.50
Senior Associate	19.00	132.00	2,508.00
Associate II	1.75	119.00	208.25
Associate III	0.50	114.00	57.00

Reimbursables

	Units	Rate	Billed Amount
Meals			
Stephan Bork			17.59
Mileage			
Stephan Bork	17.00	0.725	12.33
	17.00	0.725	12.33
	133.00	0.725	<u>96.43</u>

Subtotal 121.09

Subtotal 121.09

Overnight Mail

FedEx - 1141-9642-8 40.48

Postage

Stephan Bork 16.32

Storage Fee

Non Vendor Reimbursables 105.60



STETSON
ENGINEERS INC.

Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority
 Project 2652 Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority

Invoice number 2652-105
 Date 05/28/2026

2652-2026 Water Resources Management 2026

Phase subtotal 6,174.83

2652-2026:12 Shallow Well Consolidation Project

Professional Fees

	Hours	Rate	Billed Amount
Principal	1.50	244.00	366.00
Associate II	1.25	119.00	148.75
Phase subtotal			514.75

2652-2026:13 Planning Assistance to States: Army Corps Support

Professional Fees

	Hours	Rate	Billed Amount
Supervisor I	1.25	212.00	265.00
Associate II	5.75	119.00	684.25
GIS Manager	9.50	126.00	1,197.00
Phase subtotal			2,146.25

2652-2026:20 Shallow Well Mitigation Program: Outreach & Impacts Evaluation

Professional Fees

	Hours	Rate	Billed Amount
Assistant I	0.50	101.00	50.50

2652-2026:21 General Engineering

Professional Fees

	Hours	Rate	Billed Amount
Supervisor I	1.00	212.00	212.00
Supervisor II	21.50	197.00	4,235.50
Senior III	7.50	138.00	1,035.00
Associate II	1.50	119.00	178.50
Phase subtotal			5,661.00

2652-2026:22 GSP 5-Year Update

Professional Fees

	Hours	Rate	Billed Amount
Principal	3.00	244.00	732.00
Associate II	1.25	119.00	148.75
Phase subtotal			880.75

2652-2026:23 Annual Report Preparation

Professional Fees

	Hours	Rate	Billed Amount
Associate II	3.00	119.00	357.00
Technical Illustrator	4.00	91.00	364.00
Phase subtotal			721.00



STETSON
ENGINEERS INC.

Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority

Project **2652 Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority**

2171 E. Francisco Blvd., Suite K • San Rafael, California 94901

Phone: (415) 457-0701 • Fax: (415) 457-1638 • Website: www.stetsonengineers.com

Northern California

• Southern California

• Arizona

• Oregon

Invoice number 2652-105

Date 05/28/2026

2652-2026 Water Resources Management 2026

2652-2026:26 Budget Support

Professional Fees

Associate II

Hours	Rate	Billed Amount
2.50	119.00	297.50

2652-2026:27 Litigation Support

Professional Fees

Principal

Special Project Director

Supervisor II

Associate II

Associate III

GIS Manager

Hours	Rate	Billed Amount
27.00	244.00	6,588.00
24.50	244.00	5,978.00
54.50	197.00	10,736.50
116.50	119.00	13,863.50
1.25	114.00	142.50
34.50	126.00	4,347.00

Phase subtotal

41,655.50

Water Resources Management 2026 subtotal

94,703.07

Invoice total **94,703.07**

Thank you for your business!

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INVOICE

Regional Government Services
PO Box 1350
Carmel Valley, CA 93924
AR@rgs.ca.gov
(650) 587-7300 x2



Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority
April Keigwin
akeigwin@rgs.ca.gov

April 30, 2026
Invoice No: 21198
Total This Invoice \$43,533.00

Project 04014.C210200000-40 Indian Wells Valley GA -Professional Employer Services
Professional Services from April 01, 2026 to April 30, 2026

Phase IWVGA General Administration
Professional Personnel

	Hours	Rate	Amount	
Senior Advisor	178.20	150.00	26,730.00	
Totals	178.20		26,730.00	
Total Labor				26,730.00

Additional Fees

Technology Fee			600.00	
Total Additional Fees			600.00	600.00
				Total this Phase \$27,330.00

Phase IWVGA Finance
Professional Personnel

	Hours	Rate	Amount	
Senior Advisor	87.70	150.00	12,353.00	
Senior Finance Manager	27.50	140.00	3,850.00	
Totals	115.20		16,203.00	
Total Labor				16,203.00
				Total this Phase \$16,203.00

Total this Invoice \$43,533.00

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PO Box 1350
Carmel Valley, CA 93924

Revised **Invoice**

Date	Invoice #
4/30/2026	19128 - R

Bill To:
Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority 100 W California Ave Ridgecrest, CA 93555

P.O. No.	Inv Sent
	6/1/2026

Date	Description	Amount
4/30/2026	Reimbursable Expenses for City of Ridgecrest Monthly Rent - please see attached	300.00

Invoice is due 30 days from Inv Sent date	Total \$300.00
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Capitol Core Group
 205 Cartwheel Bend (Operations Dept.)
 Austin, TX 78738 US
 +15125683084
 operations@capitolcore.com
 www.capitolcore.com

BILL TO

Indian Wells Valley Groundwater
 Authority
 500 West Ridgecrest Blvd.
 Ridgecrest, California 93555
 USA

INVOICE 2026-044

DATE 06/05/2026 **TERMS** Net 45

DUE DATE 07/20/2026

VENDOR ID
19553

INVOICE PERIOD
May 2026

DATE	ACCOUNT SUMMARY	AMOUNT
05/01/2026	Balance Forward	28,662.50
	Other payments and credits after 05/01/2026 through 06/04/2026	-12,937.50
06/05/2026	Other invoices from this date	0.00
	New charges (details below)	25,318.75
	Total Amount Due	41,043.75

ACTIVITY	HOURS	RATE	AMOUNT
Charges			
PROJECT 1: IMPORTED WATER SUPPLIES			
P1-A: Negotiations			
Government Relations: Intergovernmental Affairs	5	275.00	1,375.00
A: Freemont Valley Communications (Wueste) {Tatum}			
Government Relations: Intergovernmental Affairs	3	275.00	825.00
A: Tejon Ranch -- Contacts, Negotiation, and Term Sheet Development {Tatum}			
Government Relations: Intergovernmental Affairs	2.25	250.00	562.50
A: Tejon water research and 2019 analysis on Tejon and Fremont {Simonetti}			
P1-B: Other Required Agreements			
P1-C: Regulatory Approvals			
P1-D: 2026 Water Marketing			
Government Relations: Intergovernmental Affairs	3	250.00	750.00
D: Water Resources Discussion {Simonetti}			
Invoice Total Project 1: \$3,512.50			
PROJECT 2: WATER REPLENISHMENT PIPELINE			
P2-A: FY2027 Energy and Water Development Act			
Government Relations: Federal	7	275.00	1,925.00
Congressional: Direct Advocacy: Senate (Senators Padilla and Schiff) --			

ACTIVITY	HOURS	RATE	AMOUNT
Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works {McKinney}			
Government Relations:Federal Agency: USACE - Regulatory {McKinney}	3	275.00	825.00
Government Relations:Federal Congressional: Senate: FY2027 E&WD {Simonetti}	3	250.00	750.00
Government Relations:Federal Agency: DOD, USACE, and OLA -- Pentagon {Simonetti}	4	250.00	1,000.00
P2-B: Other State/Federal Requirements			
P2-C: Regulatory Support (Pipeline)			
P2-D: USACE Transition			
Government Relations:Federal Internal Strategy w/ Construction Management {McKinney}	1	275.00	275.00
Invoice Total Project 2: \$4,775.00			
PROJECT 3: OTHER PROJECTS SUPPORTING THE GSP			
P3-A: Well Mitigation			
P3-B: Land Repurposing			
Government Relations:California Agency: DWR -- Review and Analysis of Proposed Regulatory Guidance (Prop. 4 Spending) {McKinney}	2.50	275.00	687.50
P3-C: Other Infrastructure Requirements			
Government Relations:Federal Agency: USBR -- Discussions with Policy Group and Reclamation Group re: Title XVI amendment and repurposing -- internal analysis and memorandum {McKinney}	2.75	275.00	756.25
P3-D: Groundwater Adjudication Legislation			
Government Relations:California Legislature: Direct Advocacy -- Senate President Pro Tem, Senate Staff, Senate Appropriations Committee, Amendment Review/Drafting, Assembly Speaker, Assembly Staff, Internal Strategy, Chair Papan, Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee staff {McKinney}	8.75	275.00	2,406.25
Government Relations:California D: Legislature -- Direct Advocacy Senate President Pro Tem, Chair Papan, Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Water, Senate Committee on Judiciary, and Senate Committee on Appropriations. {Peterson}	6	250.00	1,500.00
P3-E: General Governmental Affairs			
Government Relations:California Agency: State Water Resources Control Board, DWR, and California Energy Commission -- Data Center issues {McKinney}	2.50	275.00	687.50
Government Relations:California Legislature: Direct Advocacy AB 2469, AB 2619, and AB 1577 {McKinney}	3	275.00	825.00
Government Relations:California Legislature: Review/Analysis of various bills of interest {McKinney}	3	275.00	825.00
Government Relations:California Agency: DWR -- Direct Advocacy -- Proposition 4 Guidance and Internal Memorandum {McKinney}	1.75	275.00	481.25
Government Relations:Federal Agency: WaterSMART program evaluation and internal grant discussion	4	275.00	1,100.00

ACTIVITY	HOURS	RATE	AMOUNT
{McKinney}			
Government Relations:California E: Legislature: Direct Advocacy AB 2469 -- League of California Cities, California State Association of Counties and Data Center Association -- negotiation of amendments {Peterson}	4.50	250.00	1,125.00
Government Relations:California E: State Budget Review -- May Revision, Governor, Assembly, and Senate (split) {Peterson}	5	250.00	1,250.00
Government Relations:California E: Agency: AB 1577 -- Governor's office and California Energy Commission/OLA {Peterson}	2	250.00	500.00
Government Relations:Federal E: Congressional: Federal Data Center Policy Research {Peterson}	3	250.00	750.00
Government Relations:California E: Agency -- Proposition 4 Guidance Review/analysis {Simonetti}	1.50	250.00	375.00
Government Relations:California E: Legislative -- Legislative Discussion {Simonetti}	5	250.00	1,250.00
Government Relations:California E: May Revise Budget -- Office of Governor discussion and write up {Simonetti}	3	250.00	750.00
Invoice Total for Project 3: \$15,268.75			
PROJECT ADMINISTRATION:			
PA-A: Monthly Board Meetings			
General Business Items:Project Administration A: May Board Meeting {Tatum}	3	275.00	825.00
General Business Items:Project Administration A: May Meeting -- Materials Preparation and Board Meeting (Simonetti)	3.75	250.00	937.50
PA-B: Ad-Hoc Reports			
PA-C: Milestone Reports			
PA-D: Communications Reivew			
Invoice Total Project Administration: \$1,762.50			

Regulatory Compliance Notes for Invoice:			
Federal Reporting for Invoice: \$7,381.25			
State Reporting for Invoice: \$12,662.50			

On behalf of the entire Capitol Core Group Team, thank you so much for being our client.

SUBTOTAL	25,318.75
TAX	0.00
TOTAL	25,318.75
TOTAL OF NEW CHARGES	25,318.75

[View and pay](#)

TOTAL DUE \$41,043.75

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Westbound Communications, Inc.
3649 Mission Inn Ave., First Floor Rotunda
Riverside, CA 92501 US
951-462-1106
tmoran@westboundcommunications.com
www.westboundcommunications.com



BILL TO

April Keigwin
Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority
100 W California Ave
Ridgecrest, CA 93555

INVOICE 6075

DATE 05/15/2026 **TERMS** Net 30

DUE DATE 06/14/2026

P.O. NUMBER

April 2026

DESCRIPTION	QTY	RATE	AMOUNT
Professional fees for public relations counsel and services in support of Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority. Period of Service: April 2026	67	240.00	16,080.00
			Subtotal: 16,080.00
Reimbursable expenses for the billing period:			
Technology Access Fee	1	395.00	395.00
			Subtotal: 395.00
040826 Maven's Notebook target media outlet monthly subscription ref# 8626769162 (04/01/26 - 04/30/26)			10.00
042926 (250) Indian Wells Groundwater Authority factsheet and postcards for public workshop			539.32
April- IWVGA newspaper ad, social media ad, map edits, fact sheet, postcard; updates to "Imported Water is Necessary" board			1,500.00
			Subtotal: 2,049.32
Markup @ 15%			307.40

TOTAL DUE

\$18,831.72

We appreciate your business and look forward to helping you again soon.

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PROVOST & PRITCHARD CONSULTING GROUP

455 W Fir Ave • Clovis, CA 93611 • (559) 449-2700
www.provostandpritchard.com

April Keigwin
Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority
100 West California Avenue
Ridgecrest, CA 93555

May 14, 2026
Project No: 04101-23-001
Invoice No: 130571

Project Name: Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority-CEQA/NEPA Documents and Permit Documentation

Client Project #:

For the month of April 2026: P&P staff performed the following tasks:

TSK3 Technical Studies: Continued coordination efforts on required surveys, path forward, continued meetings and discussions on un-surveyed areas with team. Review maps and create figures with GIS staff and send to subs for cost estimates. Coordination meeting with BLM for path forward. Email correspondence.

TSK5: Regulatory Compliance and permitting: Coordinated and reviewed requirements and information for startup of permitting efforts.

Professional Services from April 01, 2026 to April 30, 2026

Phase: TSK3 Technical Studies

Labor

	Hours	Rate	Amount	
Assistant Engineer	2.90	142.00	411.80	
Associate Specialist	.70	140.00	98.00	
Senior Biologist	39.40	162.00	6,382.80	
Senior Specialist	57.90	170.00	9,843.00	
Software	.30	110.00	33.00	
Totals	101.20		16,768.60	
Total Labor				16,768.60
			Total this Phase:	\$16,768.60

Phase: TSK5 Regulatory Compliance and Permitting

Labor

	Hours	Rate	Amount	
Associate Planner	2.60	137.00	356.20	
Totals	2.60		356.20	
Total Labor				356.20
			Total this Phase:	\$356.20
			Total this Invoice	<u><u>\$17,124.80</u></u>

*** Please make checks payable to Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group ***
For billing inquiries, please email Billing@ppeng.com.

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www.provostandpritchard.com

April Keigwin
Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority
100 West California Avenue
Ridgecrest, CA 93555

May 14, 2026
Project No: 04101-24-002
Invoice No: 130572

Project Name: IWVGA Imported Pipeline Mojave Tank Farm Alternative

Client Project #:

TSK3: Review BLM Comments and make summary table.

Professional Services from April 01, 2026 to April 30, 2026

Phase: TSK3 IWVGA Mojave Tank Farm Analysis CEQA_NEPA Compliance

Labor

	Hours	Rate	Amount	
Associate Planner	4.90	151.00	739.90	
Totals	4.90		739.90	
Total Labor				739.90
		Total this Phase:		\$739.90
		Total this Invoice		<u><u>\$739.90</u></u>

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2423 Sebald Ave
 Redondo Beach, CA 90278
 Phone 310.993.9555

CLSB 982332 - A & B

INVOICE

DATE: May 31, 2026
INVOICE # IWVGA 08
FOR: Imported Water Project

Bill To:
IWVGA
 100 W. California Avenue
 Ridgecrest, California 93555

Attn: April Keigwin, Agency Executive

DESCRIPTION	DURATION	RATE	AMOUNT
IMPORTED WATER PROJECT PROGRAM MANAGEMENT			
5/1/26 Project Planning, Ad Hoc Committee Planning	4.5	\$ 275.00	\$1,237.50
5/4/26 Staff Meeting / Ad Hoc Committee Meeting	1.5	\$ 275.00	\$412.50
5/5/26 April / Travis Planning Meeting	1.0	\$ 275.00	\$275.00
5/5/26 Staff Meeting	1.0	\$ 275.00	\$275.00
5/7/26 P&P Cost Estimating Meeting, Sensitive Species Survey Plannina. Property Information Review. Cost Analysis	5.0	\$ 275.00	\$1,375.00
5/8/26 P&P Sensitive Species Planning Meeting, Program Planning. Property Information Review. BLM Plannina Notes	5.0	\$ 275.00	\$1,375.00
5/11/26 Staff Meeting	1.0	\$ 275.00	\$275.00
5/12/26 April / Travis Planning Meeting, Property Information Coordination	2.0	\$ 275.00	\$550.00
5/13/26 P&P SCE Planning Meeting, Sensitive Habit Field Coordination	2.0	\$ 275.00	\$550.00
5/14/26 Regulatory Permits Coordination	1.0	\$ 275.00	\$275.00
5/15/26 Program BMD Planning Meeting	1.0	\$ 275.00	\$275.00
5/18/26 Staff Meeting, PDT Meeting Planning / Notes, SCE Work Zone	4.0	\$ 275.00	\$1,100.00
5/19/26 April / Travis Planning Meeting, PDT Meeting Planning	2.0	\$ 275.00	\$550.00
5/20/26 PDT Meeting Planning, Regulatory Permits Meeting	5.0	\$ 275.00	\$1,375.00
5/21/26 PDT Meeting, Scour Analysis Meeting	4.0	\$ 275.00	\$1,100.00
5/22/26 Program Planning, Task Tracking Development	4.0	\$ 275.00	\$1,100.00
5/26/26 Staff Meeting, Weekly Planning Meeting, USACE	4.0	\$ 275.00	\$1,100.00
5/27/26 BLM Planning, PDT Planning, Document Control Planning, SCE Plannina Meeting	3.0	\$ 275.00	\$825.00
5/28/26 BLM Planning Meeting,	2.0	\$ 275.00	\$550.00
5/29/26 Program BMD Planning Meeting	1.5	\$ 275.00	\$412.50
TOTAL HOURS	54.5		

See enclosed task detail for the work effort for the month of May 2026

AMOUNT BILLED THIS INVOICE \$ **14,987.50**

CONTRACT SUMMARY:

DESCRIPTION OF SERVICES	CONTRACT AMOUNT	AMOUNT BILLED THROUGH THIS BILLING CYCLE	% COMPLETE THROUGH THIS BILLING CYCLE	AMOUNT BILLED THIS INVOICE
TASK 1 - PROGRAM MANAGEMENT SERVICES	\$ 220,000.00	\$ 95,974.50	43.6%	\$ 14,987.50

TOTAL: \$ 220,000.00 \$ 95,974.50 43.6%

INVOICE PAYMENTS PAST DUE OVER 30 DAYS:

Make all checks payable to **Blue Mountain Development, Inc.**
 If you have any questions concerning this invoice, contact Nick Biro at 310-993-9555

THANK YOU FOR YOUR BUSINESS!

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Check Payment Information:

GFT Infrastructure, Inc.
PO Box 829160, Philadelphia, PA 19182-9160 Federal EIN: 25-1613591

ACH/EFT Payment Information:

Account Name: GFT Infrastructure, Inc.
ABA: 031312738 Account No.: 5003165655 Wire Routing No.: 043000096
SWIFT: PNCCUS33 (required for international payments)

Send Remit Info: AccountsReivable@gftinc.com
Send Audit Inquiries: GovtContractAudit@gftinc.com
All Other Inquires Contact the Project Team

Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority
April Keigwin
100 W California Ave.
Ridgecrest, CA 93555

May 27, 2026
Invoice No: 5008371
Due Date: June 26, 2026

Project A0230025.601 IWV-Imported Water Pipeline Acq
Professional Services from April 01, 2026 to April 30, 2026

Professional Personnel

	Hours	Rate	Amount
Cook, Victoria	2.50	250.00	625.00
Guinaldo, Roy	3.00	165.00	495.00
Quick, Katie	.50	135.00	67.50
Totals	6.00		1,187.50
Total Labor			1,187.50

Amount Due This Bill 1,187.50

Outstanding Invoices

Number	Date	Balance
5004368	3/30/2026	2,362.50
5006220	4/28/2026	4,306.25
Total		6,668.75

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PO Box 829160, Philadelphia, PA 19182-9160 Federal EIN: 25-1613591

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Send Audit Inquiries: GovtContractAudit@gftinc.com
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Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority
April Keigwin
100 W California Ave.
Ridgecrest, CA 93555

May 27, 2026
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5006220	4/28/2026	4,306.25
Total		6,668.75

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MEMORANDUM

June 3, 2026

To: IWVGA Board of Directors
From: April Keigwin, General Manager

The 2026–2027 CalMutuals JPRIMA insurance renewal has been successfully processed and paid. As a condition of renewal, the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority (IWVGA) is also required to maintain membership with the California Association of Mutual Water Companies (CAMWC), which includes an annual membership fee of \$100.

The invoice for the CAMWC membership fee was not included with the original renewal documentation and was received after the due date. Upon receipt, the payment was promptly approved and processed to maintain compliance with the insurance renewal requirements.

This payment will be presented to the Board for ratification and reconciled through the Consent Agenda at the June 10, 2026, IWVGA Board Meeting.

April Keigwin

April Keigwin

General Manager
Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority

California Association of Mutual Water Companies
 1370 North Brea Boulevard, Suite 224
 Fullerton, CA 92835



INVOICE

BILL TO	Date	Invoice No
Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority Ron Strand, General Manager 500 W Ridgecrest Blvd. Ridgecrest, CA 93555	Jan 10, 2026	04104

Description	Rate	Due Date
		Net 60
		Total
CalMutuals 2026 Membership Dues AFFILIATE MEMBERS:Non-Potable Districts		\$100.00
Please make checks payable to California Association of Mutual Water Companies and send payments to the address at the top of the invoice. Payments accepted online by credit card at https://caomwc.wildapricot.org/ . For billing inquiries, please call (714) 709-4040. Thank you!	Total	\$100.00
	Payments	
	Balance Due	\$100.00

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TO: IWVGA Board Members

DATE: June 10, 2026

FROM: IWVGA Staff

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item 9 – Discussion on Inyokern Data Center and Proposed Legislation**

The following staff report provides a comprehensive review of the proposed Inyokern Data Center, including the role and responsibilities of the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority (IWVGA), a general overview of data center development and operations based on publicly available industry information, and a summary of relevant state and federal policy initiatives currently shaping data center development in California and throughout the United States.

WATER REGULATION IN THE INDIAN WELLS VALLEY BASIN

THE ROLE OF THE GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY IN THE VALLEY:

A groundwater sustainability agency's (GSA) sole consideration is the proposed development's impact on groundwater sustainability.

A GSA derives its authority from the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, and under those limited authorities, the GSA is charged with developing and implementing a localized plan to achieve groundwater sustainability, called a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP). After a lengthy and detailed GSP development process, which included numerous public committee meetings with technical experts from all the groundwater users in the valley, your Board released the completed draft GSP for final review in the winter of 2019.

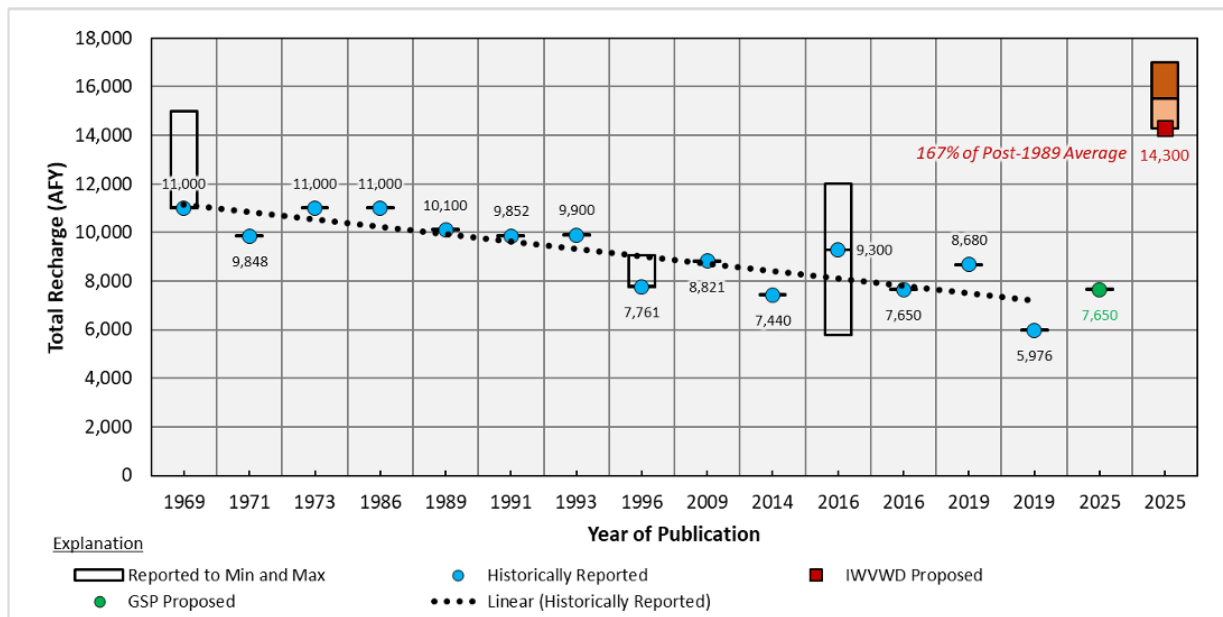
At the conclusion of that review period, your Board adopted the GSP, which set the basin's sustainable yield at 7,650 acre feet per year. The final vote was a four-to-one vote, with the only dissent coming from the Inyo County Board member who specifically objected to the GSP's discussion of potential augmented water sources from Inyo County through the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) aqueduct. Following adoption, the GSP was sent to the Department of Water Resources (DWR) for an additional 2-year-long review and comment period. At the conclusion of that comment and review period, DWR approved the GSP, concluding that it was based on the best available science, and if implemented, it would achieve basin sustainability.

SUSTAINABLE YIELD – IMPLICATIONS FOR WATER USE AND FUTURE GROWTH:

The determination of the basin’s sustainable yield is a cornerstone of any GSP because that number reflects the total amount of water that can be pumped from the basin each year without the need for augmented water resources. Fortunately, the importance of this basin to National Security has led to numerous studies over the last five decades. The following graph depicts the results of those studies, and it includes a regression line showing that scientific analysis and computing power has progressed over the last 50 years; the studies and water models have steadily found the sustainable yield to be less and less. In fact, since 1996, there have been 8 studies of this basin, and the average sustainable yield from those studies is roughly 7,900 acre-feet per year. In contrast, the Water District asserts that the basin’s sustainable yield is almost double what those 8 studies found, and its 167% higher than 11 studies done since 1989, and its model consists of a very large column of water in the northwest of the Basin and a large lake outside of the City.

Trend in recharge estimates has been downward since 1989...

Values proposed by the IWWVD are anonymously high relative to the scientific consensus



Unfortunately, the scientific consensus is clear, and it has been for decades – the sustainable yield in this basin is simply insufficient to meet the most basic groundwater demands in the valley - Essential domestic use pumping, and associated pumping for the valley’s limited commercial development, combined with the pumping for Navy purposes, far exceeds the adopted sustainable yield. As a result, groundwater demand continues to outpace the amount of water that can be sustainably extracted from the basin over the long term.

In fact, even if one were to assume that the anomalously high sustainable yield assertions of the water district, there is still insufficient sustainable yield to meet current basin demands, let alone new development or business of any kind. And

LONG-TERM IMPLICATIONS OF THE COMPREHENSIVE GROUNDWATER ADJUDICATION:

The results of the comprehensive adjudication filed by Indian Wells Valley Water District will potentially create additional challenges for existing users and potential development moving forward. While agricultural operations had agreed to stop pumping and fallow their lands as part of the GSP process, the groundwater adjudication process has upended those agreements, and the most likely result will be that the water district and domestic homeowners will lose water rights to farmers. One need look no further than our neighbors to the south in Rosamond that lost the right to pump roughly 75% of the water they had been pumping for their community to local agricultural operations in the Antelope Valley Adjudication.

Moreover, as a practical matter, the adjudication process will take the determined sustainable yield and it will then divide it entirely among those currently using groundwater. As a result, if the valley does not have an import project to augment the valley's water supply, the valley's potential for growth will be limited to the amount of water controlled by the agricultural operations. Simply put, under an adjudication without an augmented water supply, even the most promising future development would primarily depend on acquiring water rights from agricultural users, potentially limiting growth opportunities and making future development contingent upon the availability and transfer of existing water allocations.

While recognizing the public's concerns regarding the proposed data center and its potential water demands, the IWVGA has no land use or planning authority and therefore must evaluate all proposed developments equally, regardless of their nature or perceived merits. The IWVGA's responsibilities are limited to water use, groundwater sustainability, and compliance with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). Accordingly, it is essential that any proposed development provide a complete and accurate assessment of its water demands so potential impacts can be properly evaluated and addressed as necessary. This discussion is particularly important given the basin-wide need for augmented water supplies and the increasing urgency created by the adjudication process, both of which have significant implications for the long-term sustainability of groundwater resources throughout the valley.

STATE PUBLIC POLICY – PENDING LEGISLATION

The following highlighted legislation is limited to water issues or CEQA permitting requirements for data centers. In the 2025-2026 Legislative Session, 50 pieces of legislation affected data center development.

CURRENT STATUS OF THE LAW:

SGMA does not require local agencies to coordinate planned water. It relies on the local process of developing the GSP and collecting data from groundwater pumpers to establish the sustainable yield calculation and determine the required sustainability measures. Further, applicants are required to provide estimates on water use as part of the project's water supply assessment ("WSA"). California WSA requirements, governed primarily by Water Code §10910 and Government Code Section §66473.7, mandate that large development projects prove water availability. These assessments require local water agencies to verify whether projected water supplies—over a 20-year horizon in normal, single-dry, and multiple-dry years—are sufficient to meet the demand of the proposed project, including existing and planned future uses.

Many of the pending bills focus on increasing reporting requirements for data centers. Proponents argue that it will inform local decision-making, condition data center project approvals on meeting necessary requirements, and avoid increased water rates resulting from data center water demand. Further, proponents are pushing data center project applicants to assume responsibility for the costs of water infrastructure additions required to serve their needs, so that ratepayers do not end up bearing the costs of infrastructure they do not create demand for. This principle is seemingly consistent with the "proportional cost of service" requirement in California's Constitution.

Opponents argue that additional burdensome and disparate reporting requirements on data centers, as compared to others, raise privacy and security concerns and will undermine California's already shrinking data center market. Rather than imposing unique requirements on data centers, the Data Center Coalition asserts that "a more equitable approach would acknowledge that data centers are just one water consumer among many diverse industries." Data center operators are actively prioritizing responsible water use through operational best practices and innovative development strategies, often collaborating with local authorities and conservation organizations on water restoration and reclamation projects.

ASSEMBLY BILL 1577 (BAUER-KAHAN, D-16TH): DATA CENTERS: REPORTING:

The bill would require the owner or developer of a data center, upon applying for a discretionary permit, entitlement, or land use authorization required for the construction or operation of the data center, to submit to the applicable local agency, as defined, specified information, including the expected annual energy consumption, as specified, and the expected sound levels attributable to the operation of the data center, as provided. By imposing a new duty on local agencies, the bill would constitute a state-mandated local program. The bill would authorize the local agency to use this information for various purposes, including, but not limited to, land use planning, infrastructure planning, energy supply assessment, and environmental review. The bill would prohibit the commission or a local agency from disclosing information submitted to the commission on a monthly basis or to the applicable local agency upon applying for a discretionary permit, entitlement, or land use authorization, as described above, in a manner that would result in the disclosure of identifiable information or energy consumption data for a data center customer, except as provided. The most recent amendments removed requirements to report water consumption.

AB 1577 passed the Assembly on May 26, 2026, by a vote of 57-16 (7 NV) and is pending in the Senate Rules Committee (pending referral to policy committee).

IWVGA has taken no public position on AB 1577 and is monitoring the bill.

ASSEMBLY BILL 2469 (PAPAN, D-21ST): DATA CENTERS: WATER USE DISCLOSURES:

This bill would prohibit a city, county, or city and county from approving a discretionary or ministerial permit or other entitlement that would result in the construction, or an expansion that increases the maximum peak water use, of a data center unless specified conditions are satisfied, including, among others, that the applicant provides the city, county, or city and county with prescribed information. The bill would include in this prescribed information a water scarcity plan, a water supply assessment, and a water use assessment, each as provided. The bill would also include in the specified conditions that the applicant assumes responsibility for the full cost of any required water conveyance, treatment, or storage, or distribution infrastructure improvements necessary to serve the project, as determined by the Department of Water Resources or the applicable water supplier. By expanding the duties of local agencies to administer these provisions, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

This bill would require the department to recommend, no later than June 30, 2028, and the board to adopt, no later than December 31, 2029, a CII water-use classification for users that qualify as large-consumptive-use facilities, including data centers. The bill would require that this classification be separate and distinct from classifications applicable to other CII water use. The bill would include findings that changes proposed by this bill address a matter of statewide concern rather than a municipal affair and, therefore, apply to all cities, including charter cities.

AB 2469 passed the Assembly on May 27, 2026, by a vote of 61-14 (5 NV) and is pending in the Senate Committee on Rules.

IWVGA has taken no public position on AB 2469.

AB 2469 is opposed unless amended by the California League of Cities and the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) due to its impact on local planning authority by establishing prohibitions that apply unless specific conditions are met. CSAC and the League are working with Chair Papan on potential amendments to reduce impacts on local planning authorities. IWVGA is involved in those discussions.

ASSEMBLY BILL 2619 (PAPAN, D-21ST): WATER RESOURCES: DATA CENTERS:

This bill would require a person who owns or operates a data center, prior to applying to a city or a county for an initial business license, equivalent instrument, or permit, to provide, under penalty of perjury, its water supplier with an estimate of expected water use, the anticipated source of water, and the data center's projected water use volume for the maximum day, maximum month, and average year. When applying to a city or county for an initial business license, the bill would require a person who owns or operates a data center to report, under penalty of perjury, on the application an estimate of expected water use, the anticipated source of water, and the data center's projected water use volume for the maximum day, maximum month, and average year. When applying to a city or county for a renewal of a business license, equivalent instrument, or permit, the bill would require a person who owns or operates a data center to report, under penalty of perjury, on the application the data center's annual water use for the preceding calendar year, including total water use, direct water use, and indirect water use, as prescribed. By expanding the crime of perjury, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program. The bill would define terms for purposes of these provisions.

This bill would require the Department of Water Resources and the State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission to develop, on or before January 1, 2029, guidelines and best practices to maximize the efficient use of natural resources to address the developing and emerging needs of technology in California that are consistent with urban water use objectives under prescribed provisions of law. The bill would specify that these guidelines and best practices include, among others, the use of closed-loop systems and nonpotable water. The bill would also require the department, in coordination with other relevant state agencies, to develop guidance that cities and counties may use to assess projected water use, water-efficiency measures, and the cumulative water-resource impacts of proposed data centers in the context of local and regional water-management objectives. This bill would require that data center demand be added to a local agency's annual water supply and demand assessment and annual water shortage contingency plan, as specified.

AB 2619 passed the Assembly on May 27, 2026, by a vote of 61-15 (4 NV). The bill is pending in the Senate Committee on Rules.

IWVGA has taken no public position on AB 2619.

FEDERAL PUBLIC POLICY – PENDING LEGISLATION

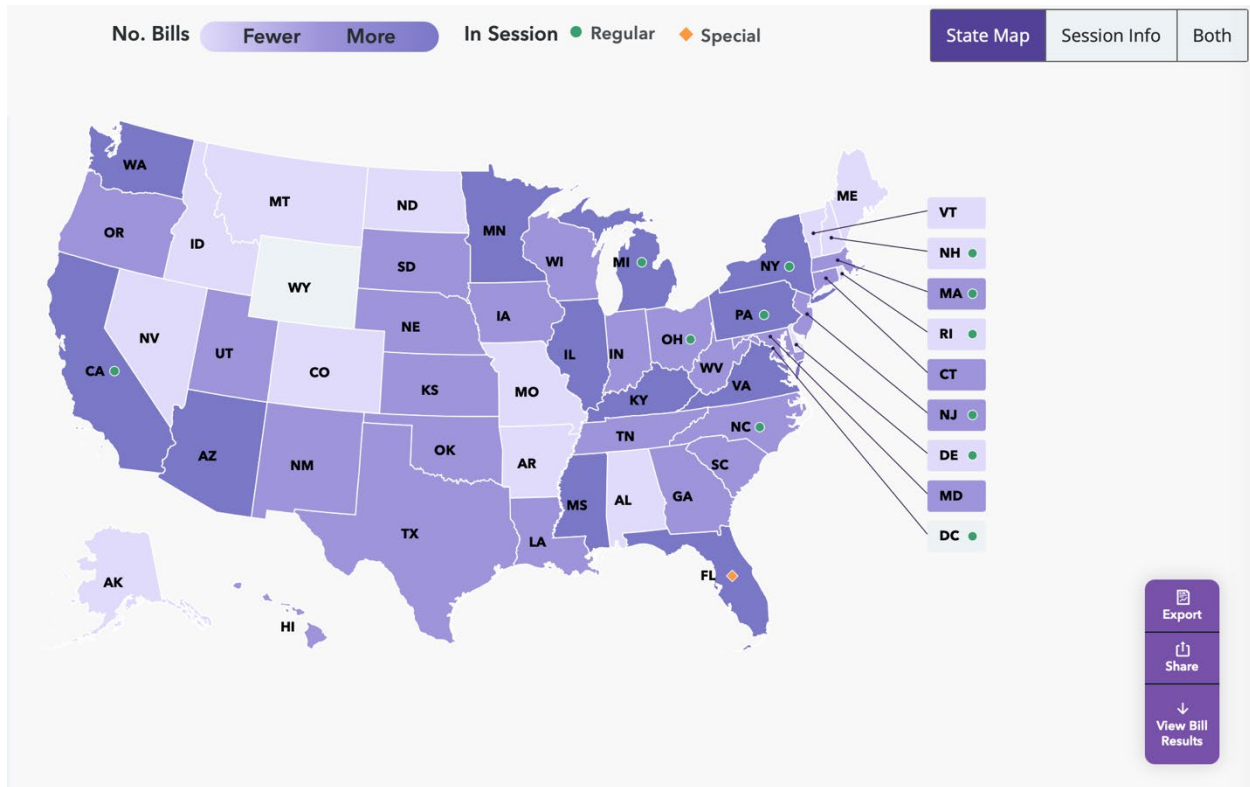
Federal legislation generally differs by Party affiliation.

<p>LEGAL SHIELD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Bill: H.R. 8037▶ Sponsor: Rep. Michael Baumgartner (R-Wash.)▶ Protect data center permits from lawsuits over environmental reviews▶ House Judiciary Committee postponed a markup on the bill in March	<p>OFF-GRID</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Bill: S. 3585▶ Sponsor: Sen. Tom Cotton (R-Ark.)▶ Exempt data centers' self-contained power facilities from federal permitting laws▶ Cotton said US needs faster permitting, construction to compete with adversaries	<p>DEFENSE POWERS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Bill: H.R. 5927▶ Sponsor: Rep. Andy Barr (R-Ky.)▶ Speed federal permits for “critical” AI work using the Defense Production Act
<p>PAY YOUR WAY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Bill: S. 3852▶ Sponsors: Sens. Josh Hawley (R-Mo.) and Richard Blumenthal (D-Conn.)▶ Require data centers to obtain all energy separate from the electric grid — or pay to offset consumer costs for 10 years	<p>BILLED BY SIZE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Bills: S. 3682, H.R. 7066▶ Sponsors: Sen. Chris Van Hollen (D-Md.), Rep. Mike Levin (D-Calif.)▶ Create a large power user rate class and ensure they pay for necessary upgrades▶ Direct utilities to prioritize electricity for data centers that use renewable energy	<p>MORATORIUM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Bill: S. 4214▶ Sponsor: Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.)▶ Block new construction or upgrades on data centers used for AI until laws regulating AI are enacted

PUBLIC POLICY – OTHER STATES:

Data centers ranked among the highest-profile public policy issues in the United States, with 49 jurisdictions (48 states and the District of Columbia) considering 1,237 pieces of legislation. Minnesota and Illinois are both considering 70 bills in the current Session. Energy, water, environmental impact, and permitting are the primary considerations for data centers¹.

¹ Source data: Bloomberg Government (“BGOV”) via AI-search of current and immediate past state legislative session (2025 and 2026) as of June 3, 2026.



BASELINE DATA:

A “data center” is a facility housing a computing server system that stores, processes, and transmits data. Common uses include cloud computing, quantum computing, blockchain computing (digital ledger technologies), cryptocurrency mining, and artificial intelligence (“AI”).

Types of data centers include:

- Enterprise: On-site, owned by one company
- Colocation: Multiple companies lease space from a third-party owner
- Cloud: Remote access offered by online providers

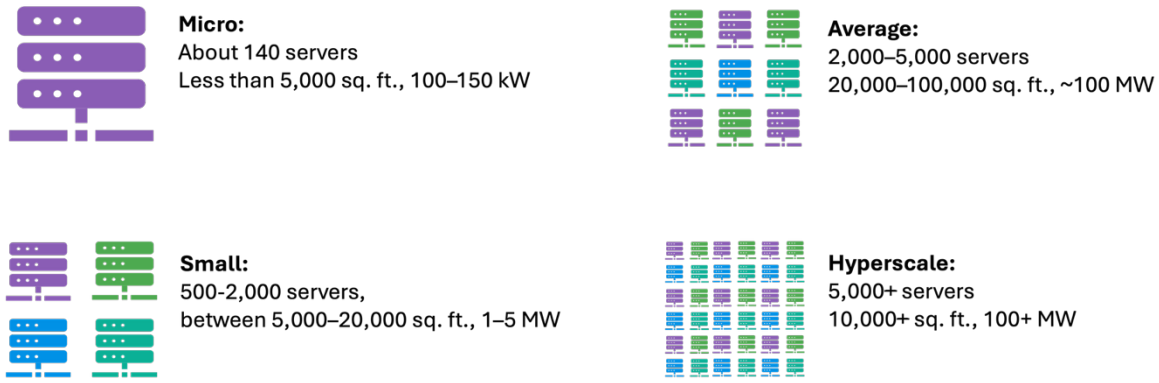
Data centers are classified in “tiers².”

- **T1:** Basic capacity with no redundancy (99.671% uptime): There are no backup generators, Uninterruptible Power Supplies (UPS), or redundant cooling systems.
- **T2:** Adds partial redundancy for power and cooling (99.741% uptime).
- **T3:** Multiple power/cooling paths, allowing for concurrent maintainability without taking the facility offline (99.982% uptime).

² Uptime Institute, “Tier Classification System” and Hewlett Packard’s “Enterprise Systems” classification.

- **T4:** Fault-tolerant infrastructure with redundant capacity components and multiple independent distribution paths (99.995% uptime)

Sizes of data centers include³:



The primary uses of water within a data center include:

- **Evaporative cooling:** The use of cooling mechanisms through the use of heat absorption by water. A typical system uses 1.8-2.0 gallons per minute/ton of evaporative load.
- **Blowdown:** The water removed to manage mineral concentration within the cooling systems.
- **Drift:** Wind and energy pushing “spray” off of cooling systems.
- **Domestic Use**

Water use varies by data center size, tier, and use. According to industry standards, an average-sized data center (~100 MW) with cloud, quantum, or blockchain computing use and a “tier 2” rating uses roughly as much water as 2,600 homes do each day⁴. Annually, this is roughly 70 acre-feet. This calculation does not include reserve water supplies for fire suppression.

The proposed Inyokern Data Center is described in the CEC application as a 100MW (average-sized) colocation facility with unknown use and an unclassified tier (redundancy in water and power systems). The application indicates an estimated water use of 45.3 acre-feet per year, which is at the low end of industry calculations based on size and potential use.

POTENTIAL CONSIDERATION:

STATE PUBLIC POLICY:

The Board may wish to consider supporting pending State Legislation that requires additional reporting for data center development. The need for a GSA to obtain accurate data on proposed water uses within

³ Bloomberg Government 2026 “On Point” presentation entitled, “Unpacking the Data Center Debate”

⁴ Solana Company, 2026

a groundwater basin is critical for determining potential modifications to the GSP and for meeting sustainability requirements. Reporting and greater coordination among local agencies are preferred.

The Board, however, should consider the impacts of any new State policy that could undermine the currently locally driven approach of agencies with planning authority. These policies would include any provision that preempts local governments from making permitting decisions unless extensive new-water-use assessment mandates are in place.

Further, the Board may wish to consider the implications of potential prohibitions on additional water uses in designated “critically overdrafted basins” (CODs). Such prohibitions may limit growth and economic development within a designated groundwater basin. They may also confer land-use planning authority on the GSA or the Department of Water Resources in a COD. These authorities were not originally contemplated by SGMA and impose new requirements on both the GSA and DWR. The Board should consider whether CODs should be the only groundwater basins subject to the prohibitions and the economic development impact on the region. At issue is the role of a GSA or the State in supporting or opposing any particular use of water, regardless of that user’s willingness to proportionately assist the GSA in meeting sustainability requirements, which may include the purchase/development of augmented water supplies and the required infrastructure.

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IWVGA ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE
STAFF REPORT

TO: IWVGA Board Members

DATE: June 10, 2026

FROM: IWVGA Staff

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item 10 – WaterSMART Grant Funding Opportunities**

A key component of Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) implementation is the ongoing identification and resolution of data gaps to accurately characterize the Basin and improve its management under the GSP. The Bureau of Reclamation’s WaterSMART grant program offers two funding opportunities that were evaluated for applicability to the IWVGA’s currently identified data gaps: the Applied Science Grants program and the Drought Response Program.

WATERSMART APPLIED SCIENCES GRANT

The WaterSMART Applied Science Grants program (FOA No. R25AS00280) provides funding to support development of tools and information that improve water management decisions. Eligible projects include modeling enhancements, hydrologic data collection and analysis, forecasting tools, and new datasets. The program has two application windows, with the first round of applications due July 8, 2026 and the second round of applications due April 13, 2027. The program has total funding of \$6,000,000 and an award ceiling of \$400,000, with a 50 percent non-Federal cost share requirement.

Staff believe this grant is well-suited to fund the IWVGA’s data gap priorities in aquifer characterization and groundwater modeling. Specifically, the shallow seismic survey proposed in the attached Technical Memorandum and the replacement of the Inyo Well and Bucket Well, which would help fill data gaps to improve the spatial and temporal resolution of the IWVGA’s groundwater model, which is used to help guide groundwater management and GSP implementation.

WATERSMART DROUGHT RESPONSE PROGRAM GRANT

The WaterSMART Drought Response Program (FOA No. R26AS00016) provides funding for drought resiliency and contingency planning projects. The program has two categories of eligible projects – Infrastructure Projects to improve drought resiliency (Funding Group I) and Water Management and Planning Projects (Funding Group II). Applications are due July 28, 2026. The program has total funding of \$13,500,000.

Funding Group I projects may request up to \$1,500,000 with a required 50 percent non-Federal cost share requirement. Eligible projects include system modifications, groundwater storage and recharge, alternative water supply development through water reuse, and groundwater recovery and treatment. Projects are required to have an anticipated project start date in June 2027 and completion date in October 2030.

Funding Group II projects may request up to \$500,000 with a required 50 percent non-Federal cost share requirement. Eligible projects include developing water management, water marketing, and modeling tools to help communities evaluate options and implement strategies to address drought and developing or updating Drought Contingency Plans.

Currently, staff have not identified any IWVGA projects that would be eligible under the Drought Response Program.

DATA GAP PROJECTS

The attached Technical Memorandum summarizes identified data gaps in the IWVGB and evaluates projects recommended to fill those gaps. The following projects have been identified as high priorities and may be applicable for potential grant funding under the WaterSMART Applied Sciences Grant Program described above.

Inyo Well Replacement (Inyo-2)

The Inyo Well (27S/39E-07R01) in the southwest area of the Basin went dry in 2020 when the water table dropped below the well's perforations. The Inyo Well has documented groundwater levels since 1946 and replacement of the well would allow continued monitoring of groundwater levels in the area. A replacement well (Inyo-2) is proposed near Dixie Wash to restore continuous monitoring in this area. The new well will also collect lithology log, downhole geophysical log, and water quality data to characterize the southwest portion of the Basin. The cost to replace the Inyo well is estimated to be \$415,000.

Bucket Well Replacement or Deepening (Bucket-2)

The Bucket Well (27S/40E-15D01) in the southeast area of the Basin also has a long period of record of groundwater levels since 1961 and has intermittently gone dry since 2019. Options include deepening the existing well or drilling a replacement (Bucket-2) at a nearby location. In addition to restoring water level and water quality monitoring coverage in the southeast Basin, the project will help characterize the geology and hydrogeology of this area. The IWVGA is also evaluating conversion of the Desert Sands Mutual Water Company's well into a monitoring well as part of the ongoing Shallow Well Consolidation Program, as that well is located near the Bucket Well. The cost to replace or deepen the Bucket Well is estimated to be \$350,000.

Shallow Seismic Survey

A shallow seismic survey is proposed for the Junction area between Rose Valley and the IWVGB to improve the definition of bedrock surface in this area. Seismic survey is a non-invasive technology widely used to map faults and bedrock surfaces. This data is essential to define boundary conditions for groundwater model updates and will provide valuable insight into groundwater subflow from Rose Valley. The cost for a shallow seismic survey in the Rose Valley area is estimated to be \$520,000.

FISCAL IMPACT

The WaterSMART Applied Sciences Grant allows multiple applications with different project scopes to be submitted. From the above recommended data gap projects, the Shallow Seismic Survey would be the highest priority project and could be submitted as one application. The total project cost is estimated to be \$520,000, which would require a non-Federal 50% cost share of

\$260,000. The Inyo Well and Bucket Well Replacement could be submitted as a separate application, estimated to be \$765,000, which would require a non-Federal 50% cost share of \$382,500.

Both estimates include staff oversight and grant administration costs, which are eligible for reimbursement under the grant. Additionally, it is anticipated that the cost share for IWVGA would be required in 2027 and can be budgeted for Fiscal Year 2027.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Staff recommend the Board consider submission of the Shallow Seismic Survey, estimated to be \$520,000, and the Inyo Well and Bucket Well Replacement, estimated to be \$765,000, as two separate applications under the WaterSMART Applied Sciences Grant.

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IWVGA ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

STAFF REPORT

TO: IWVGA Board Members

DATE: June 10, 2026

FROM: IWVGA Water Resources Manager

SUBJECT: AGENDA ITEM 11 – WATER RESOURCES MANAGER’S REPORT

AGENDA ITEM 11a – GRANT FUNDING UPDATE

SGMA Implementation Round 1 Update

- Invoice #13
 - Covers July 2025 to September 2025
 - Total requested payment: \$32,759.14
 - Status: Submitted to DWR, awaiting payment.
- Invoice #14
 - Covers October 2025 to December 2025
 - Total requested payment: \$377,862.25
 - Status: Submitted to DWR, awaiting payment.
- Invoice #15 (Final)
 - Covers January 2026 to March 2026
 - Total requested payment: \$753,756.64
 - Status: Submitted to DWR, awaiting payment.
- Grant Completion Report submitted to DWR on December 31, 2025

Urban Community Drought Relief Program Update

- The IWVGA has been awarded \$3,345,000 to consolidate shallow well system(s) into a public water system.
 - Rademacher consolidation currently underway
 - Stark Street consolidation development underway
- Invoice #7
 - Covers July 2025 to September 2025
 - Total requested payment: \$15,080.72
 - Status: Submitted to DWR, received payment.
- Invoice #8
 - Covers October 2025 to December 2025
 - Total requested payment: \$9,247.50
 - Status: Submitted to DWR, awaiting payment.
- Invoice #9
 - Covers January 2026 to March 2026
 - Status: Submitted to DWR, awaiting payment.

AGENDA ITEM 11b – GSP IMPLEMENTATION PROJECTS/MANAGEMENT ACTION UPDATES

Imported Water Project

- Imported Water Pipeline Design Services
 - Continuing coordination with BLM for a Special Use Permit for pipeline construction
 - Coordinating feedback from BLM on the extent existing roads can be used within the Spangler Hills Off-Highway Vehicle Area
 - BLM receiving additional \$25,000 deposit under their existing Reimbursement Agreement with the Authority
 - May 7, 2026: Coordination meeting with WRM Staff and Blue Mountain Development regarding cost estimating and assumptions
 - May 21, 2026: Monthly coordination meeting with all Project consultants and WRM Staff to coordinate pathway forward for the Project
 - May 21 and June 4, 2026: Coordination meeting with WRM Staff and Blue Mountain Development regarding scour design approach
 - Continuing ongoing coordination with Caltrans, California Department of Parks and Recreation (Cal Parks), and Southern California Edison (SCE)
 - SCE Staff continuing design of the powerlines between Pump Station No. 2 and Pump Station No. 3
 - Coordinating meeting with SCE Public Affairs to structure SCE Project Team with IWVGA Project Team
 - Coordinating meeting with Cal Trans to discuss temporary and permanent access routes off Hwy 395 and the Hwy 395 jack and bore crossing.
 - Coordinating finalization of the location of the Hwy 395 crossing
 - Bennett Trenchless will finalize the Draft TM for the trenchless crossings (30% submittal deliverable) to include results of borings into the hydrofracturing analysis that were delayed due to obtaining the California Department of Fish and Wildlife Lake and Streambed Alternation Permit after finalizing the location of the Hwy 395 crossing
 - P&P and Blue Mountain Development continuing analyzing results and design recommendations pursuant to AVEK and Kennedy Jenks's updated hydraulic modeling of the California City Feeder and North Feeder's
 - Blue Mountain reviewing draft current progress print Design Plans
 - Coordinating on creating a GIS platform database for the Project's Design, Environmental, and ROW components
 - Next Steps:
 - Finalize the following after analyzing updated AVEK (Kennedy/Jenks) hydraulic modeling results:
 - Tank TM (a 30% submittal deliverable)
 - Electrical Systems and Instrumentation and Controls TM (a 30% submittal deliverable)
 - Refined System Hydraulics and Transient Mitigation Analysis TM (a 30% submittal deliverable)
 - Draft Mechanical Pump Selection (a 30% submittal deliverable)
 - Provide the updated Preliminary Permitting Requirements TM
 - Provide Draft Corrosion Design TM

- Incorporate additional SCE power infrastructure into design plans after SCE provides preliminary design for power infrastructure
 - Next Milestones
 - Provide 90% Design Submittal after completing the Next Steps above
 - Provide 100% Design Submittal
- Imported Water Pipeline Environmental Services
 - Coordination Meetings
 - April 30 and May 28, 2026: Monthly coordination meeting with BLM, IWVGA Staff, WRM Staff and Consultants regarding Project status
 - Continued to engage with SCE environmental staff and the Project's design consultant on the potential requirements for incorporating the new SCE infrastructure into the Environmental documents
 - May 7, 2026: Coordination meeting with WRM Staff and Blue Mountain Development regarding Regulatory Permitting
 - May 21, 2026: Monthly coordination meeting with all Project consultants and WRM Staff to coordinate pathway forward for the Project
 - Coordinating finalization of the location of the Hwy 395 crossing with Design consultant for consideration into the EA/ EIR
 - Executed No-Cost Change Order No.10a for additional required surveys
 - South Env. subconsultants completed Sensitive Habitat Surveys and are providing results to P&P for review
 - Draft EA/ EIR joint document to be updated per additional SCE components
 - Draft Biological Evaluation to be updated for additional SCE components
 - Draft Biological Assessment to be updated for additional SCE component
 - Air Quality, Greenhouse Gas, Energy, and Noise reports to be updated for additional SCE components
 - Next Steps:
 - Incorporate additional SCE components into EA/EIR after design plans include SCE preliminary design for power infrastructure
 - Provide updated schedule after SCE provides preliminary design to Design consultants
 - Provide draft EA for 45- day Public Comment Period after incorporating SCE into EA/EIR
 - Next Milestones:
 - Provide Final EA/ EIR
- Imported Water Pipeline Right-of-Way Services
 - May 21, 2026: Monthly coordination meeting with all Project consultants and WRM Staff to coordinate pathway forward for the Project
 - April 30 and May 28, 2026: Monthly coordination meeting with BLM, IWVGA Staff, WRM Staff and Consultants regarding Project status
 - Continuing Acquisition Services Task, Preliminary Title Report and Appraisal Report tasks
 - Coordinating plats and legal descriptions with Design team
 - Developed tracking summary of rights of ways, categorization of acquisitions, steps to acquisition to assist in scheduling activities, and integration into GIS for project planning
 - Coordinating priority list of acquisition

- Next Milestone:
 - Provide a final Right of Way Acquisition Plan
 - Complete plats and legal descriptions
- Blue Mountain Development (BMD) Program Management Services
 - May 21, 2026: Monthly coordination meeting with all Project consultants and WRM Staff to coordinate pathway forward for the Project
 - BMD identifying risk factors with focus on technical, environmental, regulatory, fiscal, project phasing, and schedule impacts
 - Evaluating completeness of environmental documents prior to publication relative to current design technical issues, construction phasing, and long term operations.
 - Internal BLM Comment Review – Completed
 - Independent Review – Anticipated in June 2026
 - Updated Draft Document – Anticipated in Fall 2026
 - Key biological surveys partly completed and under way. Work under way integrates current design, SCE alignment, and BLM requirements
 - Sensitive Habitat Biological Surveys – Completed
 - Sensitive Species Surveys – Under way, anticipated to be completed by July 2026
 - Cultural Surveys – Anticipated to begin in July 2026 with completion in late 2026
 - Evaluating current design technical issues including AVEK connection, terminus receiving tank, scour issues, Caltrans crossing, and SCE power distribution for lift stations.
 - Caltrans Crossing & Alignment – Conceptual approach being coordinated with District 9 staff
 - SCE Programing – Initial overall matrix of requirements being developed to being senior management level coordination for design of line extensions and connections.
 - Evaluating property acquisition strategy integrating construction phasing, and appropriation annual funding
 - Right of Way Strategy – Initial overall matrix of locations and required steps to complete acquisition, easement, or license agreement being developed.
 - Initial Property Rights Verification – Select key location of properties being verified for representative underlying rights for upcoming review with BLM, Kern County, and Caltrans.
 - BMD provided updated draft index of central project document repository for WRM Staff review. Consolidation of project control anticipated by June 2026
 - Coordinating agreement with AVEK
 - Framework of Agreement under way with development of Term Sheet for review
 - Coordinating meeting between EPA and BLM for a discussion regarding NEPA requirements pursuant to the EPA’s involvement in the Project through the EPA Resiliency Grant
 - Implemented updated monthly Consultant coordination meeting agenda and minute template for more efficient project tracking
 - Next Steps:
 - Identify risk factors and planning strategies to address and mitigate areas of

- concern.
 - Develop Consolidated Program Management Schedule
- Submittals to DWR
 - Continuing monthly coordination meetings with DWR on IP Grant progress, including coordination on Grant closeout
 - Final deliverables approved, including the Final Invoice and the Final Completion Report
- National Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Drinking Water System Infrastructure Resilience and Sustainability Program (Resiliency Grant)
 - In August 2024, the EPA announced their grant of \$2.79 million to the IWVGA for Imported Water Project planning activities
 - Grant will be used as additional funding to complete planning tasks
 - Performance Evaluation No. 1 submitted to EPA on January 30, 2026.
 - Preparation of first reimbursement request underway.
- US Army Corps of Engineers Planning Assistance to States (PAS) Program
 - GA Staff is coordinating with USACE on tasks
 - Drafting Letter of Intent for PAS to provide full funding provided under Section 8119 of WRDA 2022 for Disadvantaged Communities

Shallow Well Mitigation Program

There are currently no active applications.

AGENDA ITEM 11c – CONSOLIDATION PROJECTS

- The IWVGA has been awarded \$3,345,000 to consolidate shallow well system(s) into a public water system.
- Two consolidation projects, Rademacher Way and Stark Street, have been identified and are currently in the process of being implemented.
- Remaining grant funds after submittal of Progress Report 9: \$2,994,803.47
- Right-of-Way consultants
 - Contract Service Agreement executed
- Request for Amendment to Grant Agreement underway
 - Reallocation of funds under Category A: Project Administration and Category B: Land Purchase/Easement to Category C: Planning, Design, Engineering, Environmental Documentation

Rademacher Way

- Phase 1 complete
 - Two properties hooked up to completed pipeline
- Phase 2 design completed and approved by Division of Drinking Water
- Phase 2 construction pending obtainment of easements

Stark Street

- IWVWD Reimbursement Agreement executed.

- Emergency LAFCO process underway
- CEQA exemption filed as part of Dune 3
- Dune 3 bidding approved by State
- Self-Help sent out letters to Stark Street residents on hauled water delivery end date
- Notice of Consolidation letter for Stark Street residents sent out week of June 1

AGENDA ITEM 11d – MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

Data Collection and Monitoring

- Stetson, the Navy, and KCWA performed Spring 2026 water level measurement field work during week of March 9.
- Data from Spring 2026 water level measurements are being processed.
- Additional monitoring location involving a City of Ridgecrest detention pond adjacent to Little Lake fault was reviewed and determined to not be a priority data gap project.
- Staff have prepared a technical memo on potential monitoring locations and priority for potential funding opportunities.

Subflow from Rose Valley to IWV

- Ongoing work with BLM regarding Cultural Survey and Permitting for second monitoring well
- Next steps: (1) obtain BLM concurrence on the scope of the cultural/archeological field survey, (2) conduct a cultural/archeological field survey, and (3) BLM Right-of-Way grant
- Periodic correspondence with BLM regarding delayed authorization of archeological survey at proposed RVS-2 well site.
- Continued coordination with BLM on permit to install next RVS Monitoring Well
 - In late October, the new BLM Archeologist, Liz Gonzalez Negrete, contacted Stetson regarding next steps on authorization to complete archeological field survey.
 - BLM requested an updated Request for Work Authorization via email and committed to moving the project forward
 - Updated Request for Work Authorization submitted to BLM
 - Epsilon met with BLM to discuss the planned archaeological survey to be scheduled
 - Following meeting with Epsilon and BLM, permit materials and supporting documents were provided.
- Navy/Coso contract deadline extended to August 31, 2026 for completing the RVS Monitoring Well project.
 - Navy/Coso no-cost extension executed July 8, 2025.
- Reimbursement of RVS-1 well underway
 - Need to cancel “Grants Voucher” submitted in January 2024
 - Grants Voucher rejected by Navy on February 4, 2026
 - Invoice for RVS-1 to be resubmitted for reimbursement

ACTION(S) REQUIRED BY THE BOARD

There are no actions required by the Board.

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BUDGET TO ACTUAL REPORT

ACTUALS BY REVENUE ALLOCATION											
	Restricted Extraction	Restricted Second	Restricted	Restricted Shallow	Restricted	Restricted	Restricted Navy/COSO	\$	(A-B) \$	(B/A) %	
	ORIGINAL	Transient Pool	Transient Pool	Augmentation	Well Mitigation	SGMA IP	EPA Grant	Fund	Total	REMAINING	COMPLETED
1 REVENUE											
2 Extraction Fee - Restricted	900,000	30,438	-	-	-	-	-	-	30,438	869,562	3%
3 Transfer In/Loan from Augmentation Fund	570,230	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	588,701	0%
4 Prior Year Fund Balance		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	283,409	0%
5 Augmentation Fee	3,243,315	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,180,781	0%
6 Transfer In/Loan Repayment from Extraction Fund		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%
7 Shallow Well Mitigation Fee	115,000	-	-	-	204	-	-	-	204	114,796	0%
8 Second Transient Pool Fee - Unrestricted	633,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%
9 Department of Water Resources (DWR) Grants -IP Grant	249,500	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	731,870	0%
10 Urban Community Drought Relief Grant Program	2,117,200	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,625,700	0%
11 EPA Resilience Grant	1,889,860	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,678,434	0%
12 Navy/COSO Royalty Fund	151,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	345,000	0%
13 Miscellaneous Revenue	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%
14											0%
15 TOTAL REVENUES	9,869,105	30,438	-	-	204	-	-	-	30,642	9,418,253	0%
16 EXPENSES											
17 Administration											
18 Administration (RGS)	340,000	61,700	-	61,700	-	-	-	-	123,399	216,601	36%
19 Office Rent (City of Ridgecrest)	3,600	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,600	0%
20 Office Supplies	1,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,000	0%
21 Postage and Delivery	360	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	360	0%
22 External Audit	18,500	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	37,000	0%
23 Council Chambers/IT Services (City of Ridgecrest)	2,500	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8,500	0%
24 General Counsel (Aleshire & Wynder/City of Ridgecrest)	428,000	429,648	-	-	-	-	-	-	429,648	(120,648)	139%
25 Additional Legal Services (Aleshire & Wynder/City of Ridgecrest)	60,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10,000	0%
26 Additional Legal Services-Imported Water Pipeline (Aleshire & Wynder)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%
27 Insurance Premium	20,000	21,601	-	-	-	-	-	-	21,601	(1,601)	108%
28 Legal Notices (Daily Independent)	2,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,000	0%
29 Memberships (Cal. Assoc.Mutual Water Co)	100	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	100	0%
30 Printing and Reproduction	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%
31 Bank Service Charges	100	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	100	0%
32											
33 Non-Departmental											
34 Other Legal Services (RWG Law)	1,500,000	-	-	90,139	-	-	-	-	90,139	409,861	18%
35 Lobbying Services (Capitol Core)	229,350	3,503	-	32,134	-	-	-	-	35,638	180,988	16%
36 Other Professional Services (Garrison Brothers)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%
37 California State Lands Commission	140	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	140	0%
38 Miscellaneous- IWVWD Grant Repayment	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%
39 Repayment of City of Ridgecrest In-Kind Services	132,270	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	500,000	0%
40 Transfer Out from Second Transient Pool	570,230	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%
41 Transfer Out/Loan to Extraction Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	588,701	0%
42											
43 Community Engagement											
44 Design Services	180,000	-	-	24,030	-	-	-	-	24,030	970	96%
45 Printing and Reproduction	10,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10,000	0%
46 Website Services	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15,000	0%
47 Website	315	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	315	0%
48											
49 Shallow Well Mitigation Program											
50 Shallow Well Mitigation Emergency Assistance Program	50,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	50,000	0%

BUDGET TO ACTUAL REPORT

ACTUALS BY REVENUE ALLOCATION											
		Restricted Extraction	Restricted Second	Restricted	Restricted Shallow	Restricted	Restricted	Restricted Navy/COSO	\$	(A-B) \$	(B/A) %
	ORIGINAL	Transient Pool	Transient Pool	Augmentation	Well Mitigation	SGMA IP	EPA Grant	Fund	Total	REMAINING	COMPLETED
51	Shallow Well Mitigation Program: Outreach and Impacts Eval.(Stetson)	30,000	-	-	51	-	-	-	51	14,950	0%
52											
53	NAVY/COSO Program										
54	Navy/Coso Royalty Fund: Rose Valley MW Permitting, Bid, Drilling (Stetson)	120,000	561	-	-	-	-	-	561	44,439	1%
55	Navy/Coso Royalty Fund: Develop Projects & Secure Funding (Stetson)	25,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15,000	0%
56	Navy/Coso Royalty Fund: Cooperative Agreement	10,000	321	-	-	-	-	-	321	9,679	3%
57	Rose Valley Construction	151,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	300,000	0%
58											
59	Basin Management Administration										
60	Production Reporting, Transient Pool, and Fee Support (Stetson)	45,000	89	-	-	-	-	-	89	34,911	0%
61	Meetings and Prep (Stetson)	215,000	20,314	20,314	-	-	-	-	40,627	129,373	24%
62	Budget Support (Stetson)	15,000	4,760	-	-	-	-	-	4,760	10,240	32%
63	Stakeholder Coordination (Stetson)	5,000	333	-	-	-	-	-	333	4,668	7%
64	Litigation Support (Stetson)	140,000	-	126,552	-	-	-	-	126,552	(36,552)	141%
65											
66	Basin Management										
67	General Engineering (Stetson)	30,000	5,282	-	-	-	-	-	5,282	44,718	11%
68	TSS: El Paso Well Drilling Support (Stetson)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%
69	TSS: General Coordination/Application Support (Stetson)	2,500	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10,000	0%
70	Coordination with DWR on GSP Review (Stetson)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%
71	GSP 5-Year Update (Stetson)	25,000	1,200	-	-	-	-	-	1,200	98,800	1%
72	Annual Report Preparation (Stetson)	75,000	20,326	-	-	-	-	-	20,326	54,674	27%
73	Data Management System Support (Stetson)	40,000	19,471	-	-	-	-	-	19,471	20,529	49%
74	Allocation Plan: Allocation Process & Transient Pool Support (Stetson)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%
75	Allocation Plan and Rules & Regs on Pumping/Restrictions (Stetson)	10,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10,000	0%
76	Allocation Plan: Following & Transient Pool Transfer Program (Stetson)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%
77	Configuration Management Plan (Stetson)	20,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	100,000	0%
78	General Project Management (Stetson)	40,000	7,821	-	-	-	-	-	7,821	32,179	20%
79	Model Transfer and Upgrade (Stetson)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%
80	Data Collection, Monitoring, and Data Gaps (Stetson)	225,000	20,462	-	-	-	-	-	20,462	204,538	9%
81	Imported Water: Negotiations and Coordination(Stetson)	10,000	-	1,333	-	-	-	-	1,333	8,667	13%
82	Imported Water: Engineering and Analysis(Stetson)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%
83	Recycled Water (Stetson)	10,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	25,000	0%
84	Planning Assistance to States: Army Corps Support (Stetson)	50,000	-	1,440	-	-	-	-	1,440	48,560	3%
85	Review of Outside Studies and Coordination (Stetson)	15,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
86	Well Monitoring Services (WellIntel Inc.)	1,700	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
87	Basin Management (Cont'd)										
88	Review of Outside Studies and Coordination (Stetson)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15,000	0%
89	Well Monitoring Services (WellIntel Inc.)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,700	0%
90											
91	Grant Management										
92	Grant Review and Application Preparation (Stetson)	75,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	75,000	0%
93	IP Grant Management										
94	IP Grant Administration	27,000	-	-	-	5,746	-	-	5,746	5,519	51%
95	Bureau of Land Management	200,000	-	-	-	25,000	-	-	25,000	25,000	50%
96	Southern California Edison	22,500	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
97	Imported Water :Planning/Design/Environmental (Provost & Pritchard)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	520,605	0%
98	Imported Water :Planning/Design/Environmental (Blue Mountain)	-	-	-	-	26,675	-	-	26,675	493,930	5%
99	Pipeline Design	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%
100	Mojave Tank Farm	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%

BUDGET TO ACTUAL REPORT

		ACTUALS BY REVENUE ALLOCATION								(A-B)	(B/A)	
		Restricted Extraction	Restricted Second	Restricted	Restricted Shallow	Restricted	Restricted	Restricted Navy/COSO	\$	\$	%	
	ORIGINAL	Transient Pool	Transient Pool	Augmentation	Well Mitigation	SGMA IP	EPA Grant	Fund	Total	REMAINING	COMPLETED	
101	CEQ/NEPA	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%	
102	Imported Water :Planning/Design/Environmental (Transystems)	-	-	-	-	6,669	-	-	6,669	143,331	4%	
103	Imported Water :Planning/Design/Environmental (Not Grant Reimb)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	37,630	0%	
104	Antelope Valley East Kern Water Agency -Reimb Agreement	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%	
105												
106	Urban Community Drought Relief Grant Program											
107	Urban Community Drought Relief Funding Administration (Stetson)	10,000	-	-	-	-	2,169	-	2,169	17,831	11%	
108	Shallow Well Consolidation Project (Stetson)- Plan/Design/Engin	50,000	-	-	-	-	7,400	-	7,400	32,600	18%	
109	Shallow Well Consolidation Project (IWVWD)-Planning/Design/Engineerin	195,300	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,615,700	0%	
110	Shallow Well Consolidation Project (IWVWD)-Construction	1,861,900										
111	Shallow Well Consolidation Project (IWVWD)-NonReimb	5,000										
112											0%	
113	EPA Resilience Grant											
114	EPA Grant Administration	27,000	-	-	-	-	11,518	-	11,518	14,747	44%	
115	Resilience Grant -Design/Environmental/ROW (Stetson)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	116,667	0%	
116	Resilience Grant-Design (Stetson)	100,000	-	-	-	-	12,963	-	12,963	1,859,067	1%	
117	Resilience Grant-Environmental (Stetson)	29,000	-	-	-	-	3,414	-	3,414	213,391	2%	
118	Resilience Grant --Right of Way (Stetson)	14,000	-	-	-	-	616	-	616	91,567	1%	
119	Resilience Grant - Design (Provost & Pritchard)	990,500	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%	
120	Resilience Grant - Environmental (Provost & Pritchard)	132,610	-	-	-	-	4,499	-	4,499	(4,499)	0%	
121	Resilience Grant - ROW (Transystems)	231,500	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%	
122	Resilience Grant - Project Management (Blue Mountain)	123,750	-	-	-	-	25,713	-	25,713	(25,713)	0%	
123	Resilience Grant - Mojave Tank Analysis (Provost & Pritchard)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	150,000	0%	
124	City of California City	1,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,000	0%	
125	Southern California Edison	100,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	115,000	0%	
126	Cal Trans	15,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15,000	0%	
127	State Water Resources Control Board	15,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,985	0%	
128	California Department of Fish & Wildlife	69,500	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	69,500	0%	
129	California Department of Parks & Recreation	20,000										
130	CalOSHA	1,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,000	0%	
131	Union Pacific Railroad	20,000										
132	Planning/Design/Env - (Not Grant Reimbursable)	39,565	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	161,120	0%	
133												
134	TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>9,234,790</u>	<u>617,391</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>357,642</u>	<u>51</u>	<u>64,090</u>	<u>68,290</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,107,464</u>	<u>4,415,073</u>	<u>11%</u>
135												
136	Surplus (Deficit)	<u>634,315</u>	<u>(586,953)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(357,642)</u>	<u>154</u>	<u>(64,090)</u>	<u>(68,290)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(1,076,822)</u>		

CASH BALANCE

April 2026 Activity

Cash Receipts (Receipts over \$50,000 and all grants are detailed)

IWVWD Augmentation/Extraction/SWM	
Second Transient Pool	
Consolidation	
All Other Cash Receipts	53.06
Total Cash Receipts	<u>\$ 53.06</u>

Cash Disbursements (Obligation payments are detailed)

Warrants	\$ 653,586.70
Total Cash Disbursements	<u>\$ 653,586.70</u>

Cash Balance

Prior Month to Current Month Ending Balance Reconciliation

March Cash Balance By Investment

Kern County Treasurer	\$ 7,170,523.81
AltaOne Credit Union	<u>2,466,105.37</u>
Total End of Month Cash Balance	\$ 9,636,629.18

April Activity

Cash Receipts	\$ 53.06
Cash Disbursements	(653,586.70)
Banking Adjustment Pending	-
Total End of Month Activity	<u>\$ (653,533.64)</u>

April Ending Cash Balance \$ 8,983,095.54

Less: Outstanding Warrants Approved-Pending Processing

Less: Outstanding Warrants -Pending Approval 2025 (220,856.54)

Less: Outstanding Warrants -Pending Approval 2026 (585,743.80)

Total Available Cash By Activity \$ 8,176,495.20

April Cash Balance by Investment

Kern County Treasurer	\$ 8,982,939.78
AltaOne - In Transit to Kern County	<u>155.76</u>
Total End of Month Balance	\$ 8,983,095.54
Less: Outstanding Warrants	<u>(806,600.34)</u>
Total Available Cash by Investment	<u>\$ 8,176,495.20</u>

Cash Receipts are deposited in AltaOne Credit Union and sent electronically to Kern County Treasurer. Cash in Transit at month end will be reflected in the Kern County Treasurer balance. Warrants are approved by IWVGA Board and administratively processed by IWVGA staff. Warrants are executed by Kern County staff. Outstanding Warrants are vendor invoices received and not yet paid.

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Public Relations + Communications

Monthly Activity Report

May 2026

Prepared by Westbound Communications

Media Activity

Draft Press Release: "The Phase 2 of Adjudication Will Define Basin Safe Yield, but Sustainability Work Continues"



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Phase 2 of Adjudication Will Define Basin Safe Yield, But Sustainability Work Continues

RIDGECREST, Calif. (June 3, 2026) – On June 8, 2026, the Orange County Superior Court will begin hearing Phase 2 of the comprehensive adjudication for the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Basin. The trial will focus on the basin's "safe yield" and the scientific evidence used to calculate that figure.

At the conclusion of Phase 2, a judge will issue a ruling determining the basin's safe yield, which is the amount of groundwater that can be pumped from the basin each year without causing long-term harm, such as falling water tables, dry wells, or land subsidence. In 2024, the Indian Wells Valley Water District filed a comprehensive groundwater adjudication in court to challenge the groundwater authority's findings that the basin's sustainable yield is 7,650 acre-feet per year. Three years later, the water district claimed the safe yield in the basin is 2,008 acre-feet per year.

Phase 2 is a critical step in the adjudication process that will ultimately effect pumping in the basin. What it will not do is change the long-term legal challenge water users face. In 2024, legally required reports of all pumpers in the valley showed that 20,840 acre-feet was pumped from the basin, which is far more than either estimate of what the basin can sustain.

"It's important for our community to understand that the court process and the long-term work of managing this basin are not the same thing," said Scott Hayman, chair of the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority. "Phase 2 will help establish a foundational scientific and legal record. But the obligation to bring this basin to sustainability by 2040 under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act continues regardless of how the court rules."

The Adjudication Journey

Phase 1 of the adjudication addressed the federal reserve water right held by the U.S. Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake. In a final statement of decision issued in September 2025, the judge capped the Navy's federal right at 2,008 acre-feet per year, significantly lower than the 6,350 acre-feet per year requested by the Navy.

Phase 2 will determine the basin's safe yield. The parties to the case, including the groundwater authority, the water district, the Navy and other water users in the basin, will present expert testimony and evidence. The judge will determine, based on that evidence, what is the basin's safe yield.

A court ruling on safe yield is one input into the larger work of bringing the basin into balance. It does not, by itself, achieve sustainability or end the regulatory framework that applies to the basin. Overall, the IWVGA has opposed the adjudication because it ties up the basin in years of litigation, delaying action to address the very active groundwater depletion that is continuing year over year.

Under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), passed in 2009, critically overdrafted basins like the Indian Wells Valley must be sustainably managed by 2040. That obligation rests with the IWVGA as the basin's Groundwater Sustainability Agency.

IWVGA's Role During and After Adjudication

The groundwater authority's role does not end with the phase 2 or any subsequent phase of the adjudication. As long as the basin is in overdraft, IWVGA's responsibility under SGMA is to develop, implement, and enforce a Groundwater Sustainability Plan that brings the basin into compliance with state law.

That responsibility includes demand reduction measures, alternative water supply development, in particular the Indian Wells Valley Pipeline Project, and continued annual reporting to the California Department of Water Resources on the basin's status.

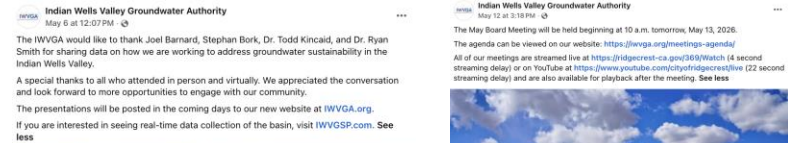
"The public has every right to understand how the court process and our work as an Authority fit together," said Hayman. "The court will make decisions about safe yield. The Authority will continue working to bring this basin into sustainability. Those are parallel processes, and both will continue."

About the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority

The Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority (IWVGA) is the groundwater sustainability agency for the critically overdrafted Indian Wells Valley groundwater basin. The basin spans portions of Kern, Inyo, and San Bernardino Counties. It is home to the City of Ridgecrest and the U.S. Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake, a critical low-flight, weapons development, and testing facility. The groundwater basin serves approximately 38,000 residents.

IWVGA is a joint powers authority that includes representatives from Kern County, the City of Ridgecrest, Inyo County, San Bernardino County, and the Indian Wells Valley Water District. Two federal agencies, the United States Navy and the Bureau of Land Management, are also represented as ex-officio members of the IWVGA Board.

Social Media Support



May Board Meeting Info

Public Workshop Recap

Website Updates & Maintenance



Ridgecrest Can't Afford Further Delay, Sustainability Requires an Imported Water Option
February 12, 2026

[LEARN MORE](#)



IWVGA Supports Navy's 'Request for Relief' Related to Phase 2 Safe Yield Pre-Trial Discoveries Timing but Water District Files Formal Opposition
December 19, 2025

[LEARN MORE](#)



IWVGA & Searles Valley Minerals Announce Comprehensive Settlement and Mutual Release Agreement
November 20, 2025

[LEARN MORE](#)

Monitoring Timely Topics

Inyokern Data Center

Groundwater news – SGMA and GSPs

DWR news

Statewide adjudication activities

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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April Keigwin
General Manager
Keith Lemieux
Legal Counsel

April 22, 2026

Inyo County Board of Supervisors
224 N Edwards St.
Independence, CA. 93526

Subject: Inquiry Regarding Potential Surface Water Acquisition and Export from Little Lake Ranch, Inc.

Dear Members of the Board,

On behalf of the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority (IWVGA), we are writing to request clarification and information regarding a matter of regional importance that has recently come to our attention.

IWVGA has observed that recent Indian Wells Valley Water District (IWVWD) Board agendas have included closed session items pertaining to real property negotiations with Little Lake Ranch, Inc. Based on available information, it is our understanding that these discussions may involve the potential acquisition of surface water rights associated with Little Lake in Inyo County.

We have further been informed of a conceptual approach under which IWVWD may seek to purchase and export surface water from Little Lake, based on the assumption that such water would not be subject to Inyo County's ordinance restricting the export of groundwater. Given the potential implications of such an action, IWVGA respectfully requests clarification on several points:

- Whether Inyo County considers the proposed acquisition and export of surface water from Little Lake to be a feasible and permissible project under existing County ordinances and policies;
- Whether IWVWD has formally engaged with the Inyo County Board of Supervisors or County staff to request agreements, approvals, or other authorizations related to the potential purchase of Little Lake surface water;
- Whether any applications, permits, or approvals have been submitted to or granted by Inyo County for the infrastructure necessary to convey such water;
- Whether Inyo County would consider approval of a project involving the transport of water from Little Lake to another location within Inyo County, and its subsequent use for recharge of the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Basin.

IWVGA is committed to transparent and collaborative regional water management, and we believe it is important to fully understand the regulatory, legal, and logistical considerations associated with any potential project of this nature.

We appreciate your time and consideration of this inquiry and would welcome the opportunity to discuss this matter further at your convenience. Should you have any questions or require further clarification regarding the matters described in this letter, please contact April Keigwin at (805) 490-3510 or via email at akeigwin@rgs.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

April Keigwin

April Keigwin
General Manager
Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority

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COUNTY OF INYO

ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE

DAVID FRASER
County Administrative Officer



May 20, 2026

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

April Keigwin
Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority General Manager
100 West California Avenue
Ridgecrest, CA 93555

Re: Inquiry Regarding Potential Water Acquisition and Export from Little Lake Ranch, Inc.

Dear Ms. Keigwin,

This letter is sent in response to the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority (IWVGA) April 22, 2026, correspondence requesting clarification regarding Inyo County's position on, and authorities implicated by, the potential for the Indian Wells Valley Water District ("WD") to purchase and export water from what is commonly referred to as Little Lake. The County's responses to those questions are set forth below.

1. *Whether IWVWD has formally engaged with the Inyo County Board of Supervisors or County staff to request agreements, approvals, or other authorizations related to the potential purchase of Little Lake surface water? Whether any applications, permits, or approvals have been submitted to or granted by Inyo County for the infrastructure necessary to convey such water?*

Aside from a few informal discussions requested by the WD, the WD has not engaged with Inyo County in regard to the potential purchase of water from Little Lake. Inyo County has not received any applications for permits or other authorization for any project related to the potential purchase of water from Little Lake, and no such permits or approvals have been granted.

2. *Whether Inyo County considers the proposed acquisition and export of surface water from Little Lake to be a feasible and permissible project under existing County ordinances and policies?*

Inyo County is not currently aware of any tangible details regarding the potential scope of a project to purchase and export water from Little Lake, including whether the waters at issue are surface water or groundwater. As such, we are not currently able to definitively determine if the WD's plans are subject to the County's ordinance regulating water transfers.¹

¹ The County's ordinance regulating water transfers is located in Chapter 7.01 of the Inyo County Code, found online at <https://ecode360.com/IN4943>.

3. *Whether Inyo County would consider approval of a project involving the transport of water from Little Lake to another location within Inyo County, and its subsequent use for recharge of the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Basin?*

Inyo County has been a water-resource colony for the City of Los Angeles for over a century; the ongoing social, economic, and environmental consequences of which are a matter of Western United States water wars infamy. Based upon this experience, Inyo County does not support the concept of exporting water from Inyo County to “fix” the consequences created by the decades of critical overdraft occurring in the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Basin and the corresponding lack of planning foresight. This position was formalized by the Inyo County Board in 2020, and articulated to the IWVGA as part of the County’s rationale in voting “no” on the IWVGA GSP.

Having said that, if a proposed project is subject to the County’s groundwater ordinance, the County will evaluate the application for a permit to export water as provided in the ordinance. Also, if a proposed project is to divert surface water, such an activity would require a permit from the California State Water Resource Control Board. Under such circumstances, the County would evaluate any application for a water right permit, a permit to change to use of an existing water right and/or a permit to transfer water, and would participate in the application process as it deems appropriate.

With the above responses in mind, Inyo County hereby reiterates its support of the IWVGA’s efforts and commitment to addressing the ongoing critical overdraft occurring in the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Basin. For its part, Inyo County established a non-groundwater-neutral agricultural use overlay district covering activities within Inyo County that overly the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Basin nearly a decade ago. This overlay district requires any non-groundwater-neutral agricultural activity to be permitted by the County to ensure that an adequate supply of water will be available for the activity. Additionally, Inyo County continues to support the IWVGA’s efforts to connect the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Basin to the Antelope Valley-East Kern Water Agency water system. That project, approved by all IWVGA members except for the WD, is *the* viable project to serve the best interests of the current and future generations of water users within the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Basin.

Respectfully,



David Fraser,
County Administrative Officer
Inyo County

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CAPITOL **CORE** GROUP

Legislative Tracking Report

119TH CONGRESSIONAL SESSION
2026-2026 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

LAST UPDATE: JUNE 2026

Primary Legislation

Legislation of significant impact on operations or interest. Legislation where a public position might be taken with the Legislative body. Updates are provided to staff as events occur.



Indicating a public position of Support with written documentation and active advocacy



Indicating a public position of oppos with written documentation and active advocacy



Indicating a neutral or no public position taken on a bill of significant impact.



Presenting amendment language to the legislation that would change the public polisation from neutral to support



Indicating a public position of oppose but presenting amendment language that would remove opposition to teh legislation




**UNITED STATES CONGRESS
LEGISLATION OF PRIMARY INTEREST
119TH CONGRESSIONAL SESSION**


No Primary Federal Bills of Interest.



**STATE OF CALIFORNIA
LEGISLATION OF PRIMARY INTEREST
2025-2026 SESSION, 2ND YEAR**


VERSION:	AB 1413 (Papan):	Groundwater Adjudication
POSITION:	As Amended	09/02/2025
STATUS:		Senate Floor

SUMMARY: This bill would ensure that a comprehensive adjudication of groundwater rights in a basin does not interfere with the timely completion and implementation of a groundwater sustainability plan. Further, it avoids redundancy and unnecessary costs in developing technical information and a physical solution. Lastly, it is consistent with the attainment of sustainable groundwater management within the timeframes established by the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act. Hostile amendments in the Senate Committee on Appropriations have changed IWVGA’s position on AB 1413 to oppose. Recommendation is for Author to “park” the bill pending leadership change in the Senate. Amendment at ready for submittal.


NEW:	AB 1577 (Bauer-Kahan)	Data Centers: Reporting
VERSION:	As Amended	05/18/2026
POSITION:		
STATUS:		Senate Rules Committee – Pending Referral Passed Assembly 57-16

SUMMARY: This bill requires data centers to report monthly energy usage and efficiency information to the California Energy Commission (CEC). The CEC must integrate this data into the 2029 Integrated Energy Policy Report (IEPR) and annually publish the data in an anonymized and aggregated format for the public. Additionally, data centers must submit similar energy and efficiency information to local agencies when requesting authorization to construct or operate a data center.

Primary Bills
IWVGA Legislative Tracking Report

UPDATE:	AB 2125 (Bennett):	Groundwater Basins: Adjudications: Notice
VERSION:	As Amended	03/25/2026
POSITION:		
STATUS:		Senate Committee on Judiciary – Pending Hearing Assembly Floor – Passed (72-0)

SUMMARY: This bill would impose additional requirements on a plaintiff when filing the notice of completion of mailing. The bill would require the plaintiff to include with the notice of completion an affidavit of the person who mailed the notice and the certified or registered mail delivery receipt for each parcel showing the date, time, and place of mailing. The bill would also require the affidavit to be signed by the party to be served or their legally authorized representative. If a return receipt is not received for a parcel of real property, the bill would require the plaintiff to also include with the notice of completion an delivery receipt of the person who posted the notice specifying the date, time, and physical location of each parcel where the posting occurred, accompanied by a photograph depicting the posted notice.

NEW:	AB 2469 (Papan)	Data Centers: Water Use Disclosures
VERSION:	As Amended	04/08/2026
POSITION:		
STATUS:		Senate Committee on Rules – Pending Referral Passed Assembly – 61-14

SUMMARY: Prohibits a local agency from approving construction of a new, or expansion of an existing, data center unless an applicant for a data center project provides the local agency with detailed information regarding the data center’s water use and meets other requirements related to workforce and infrastructure for the data center.

NEW:	AB 2619 (Papan)	Water Resources: Data Centers
VERSION:	As Amended	04/08/2026
POSITION:	UNDER REVIEW	
STATUS:		Senate Committee on Rules – Pending Referral Passed Assembly – 61-15

SUMMARY: Requires data center developers to provide information on water use to water suppliers and local governments prior to being issued a business license and upon renewal of a business license, and requires urban water suppliers to consider data center demand in water shortage planning.

Programmatic and Funding Requests

Programmatic funding refers to requests made to Congress to fund or authorize federal programs, projects, or agency activities at specific levels during the annual appropriations process.

Legislatively Directed Spending Requests.



FEDERAL PROGRAMMATIC LANGUAGE



CONGRESSIONALLY DIRECTED SPENDING REQUEST

IWVGA PROJECT:	Water Replenishment Pipeline
FEDERAL NEXUS:	Authorized Project Water Resources Development: Environmental Infrastructure: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; Civil Works
LEGISLATIVE STATUS:	HR 9022 – Reported (34-25) Senate Legislation Pending

SUMMARY: Requesting \$5,000,000.00 from the *Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2027* under the USACE Civil Works Construction program to initiate the construction start of the Water Replenishment Pipeline.

REQUEST STATUS: Request submitted to Rep. Fong – request not submitted
Request accepted by Senator Schiff – to Senate Committee on Appropriations
Request accepted by Senator Padilla – to Senate Committee on Appropriations



STATE BUDGET REQUESTS FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027

None submitted for consideration to the 2026 State Budget Act.

Legislation of Interest

Legislation of interest but not significant impact to operations. No public position is taken. No direct advocacy actions are taken. Updates are provided monthly unless the amendment warrants immediate notification to staff.

California "spot bills" are included in the Watch Bill List. This legislation is a placeholder, making non-substantive changes to the code in anticipation of later amendments to meet legislative deadlines.



**UNITED STATES CONGRESS
LEGISLATION OF INTEREST
119TH CONGRESSIONAL SESSION**

Restoring WIFIA Eligibility Act	S. 1760 (Curtis, R-UT)
ACTIONS: Senate Committee on Budget	
VERSION: As Reported	

SUMMARY: This bill would make a Congressional finding that amounts appropriated to the Water Infrastructure Financing and Investment program are not included within the National debt amounts and clarifies the program as private lending backed by the U.S. government.

More Water Act	S. 3738 (Padilla, D-CA)
ACTIONS: Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works	
VERSION: As Introduced	

SUMMARY: S. 3738 has two sections. The first amends reauthorizes the large-scale (\$500 million or more) water recycling funding assistance program (Western Waters Provision) within the *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act* (“Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill”). Reauthorization of this section of IJA is a priority for California Dems but does not have much support from the Administration.

The second section establishes a competitive grant program for water conveyance projects, and criteria for selecting conveyance projects based on federal benefits, design, and critical needs. The bill also addresses cost-sharing requirements, with federal contributions capped at 50% for conveyance projects, and outlines exceptions for multi-benefit projects. The bill authorizes \$500 million for the Water Conveyance Improvement Program, with specific allocations for environmental restoration activities.

NEW: NIDIS Reauthorization Act	S. 3912 (Sheehy, R-MT)
ACTIONS: Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation	
VERSION: As Introduced	

SUMMARY: S Reauthorizes and amends the National Integrated Drought Information System Act of 2006. The bill aims to enhance the United States' capabilities in drought monitoring, prediction, and response. It affects entities involved in weather and climate programs, particularly those within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). The bill introduces new provisions to incorporate flash-drought research, improve subseasonal-to-seasonal precipitation and temperature predictions, and continue research on drought impacts and variability. It emphasizes advancing next-generation technologies, using observational networks, refining drought indicators, and optimizing federal data resources. Additionally, it mandates establishing memoranda of

Watch Bills
IWVGA Legislative Tracking Report

understanding with the National Mesonet Program for coordinated data sharing and requires the Under Secretary to develop a plan to integrate existing NOAA drought products into probabilistic forecasts within one year of enactment. The bill authorizes \$80 million in appropriations over five fiscal years, starting with \$15 million in 2026 and increasing incrementally to \$17 million by 2030.



STATE OF CALIFORNIA
LEGISLATION OF INTEREST
2025-2026 SESSION, 2ND YEAR

UPDATE:	AB 2739 (Soria)	Community Water Affordability and System Stabilization Program
VERSION:	As Amended	04/06/2026
STATUS:		Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Water -- Pending Passed Assembly—78-0

SUMMARY: This bill would establish the Community Water Affordability Program to provide funding in the form of grants to local water suppliers for water system repairs, rehabilitation, and enhancements, water safety and quality, and other local water system infrastructure projects, for the purpose of reducing the amount of local ratepayer funding required for those projects. The bill would require the department, upon appropriation by the Legislature, to develop and administer the program. The bill would require the department to develop and adopt program guidelines and project solicitation documents before disbursing grant funds. The bill would require the program guidelines to require an applicant for a grant to provide at least 50% of the total funding required for the project, as provided. The bill would authorize the department to waive or reduce that minimum amount if that requirement would cause extreme financial hardship to the applicant. The bill would also establish the Community Water Affordability Assistance Fund in the State Treasury. The bill would make moneys in the fund available, upon appropriation by the Legislature, to the department for the purposes of the program. Amendments limit the infrastructure application to disadvantaged census tracts.

UPDATED:	SB 997 (Caballero)	North Fork Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency
VERSION:	As Amended	04/30/2026
STATUS:		Assembly Committee on Water, Parks and Wildlife -- Pending Senate Floor – Passed (38-0)

SUMMARY: This bill would authorize the agency to impose civil penalties on any person who extracts groundwater in excess of the amount that person is authorized to extract under a rule, regulation, ordinance, or resolution adopted by the agency. If any charges for water and other services, or civil penalties imposed by the agency pursuant to its authority, remain unpaid, the bill would authorize the amount of unpaid charges or penalties, in the discretion of the agency, to be secured at any time by filing for record in the office of the

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county recorder of any county a certificate specifying the amount of the charges or penalties and the name and address of the person liable for the charges. The bill would require that, from the time of recordation of the certificate, the amount required to be paid together with interest and penalties would constitute a lien upon all real property in the county owned by the person or afterwards, and before the lien expired, acquired by that person. The bill would require that the lien has the force, priority, and effect of a judgment lien, and that the lien shall continue for 10 years from the date of the filing of the certificate unless sooner released or otherwise discharged. The bill would also authorize the lien to be extended, as provided.

Federal Appropriations and State Budget

Providing a report on current fiscal year federal appropriations and State of California Budget information of interest.

General advocacy in support of operations and interest is provided.

ALBERT GALLATIN
SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY
1846-1869



FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2027 APPROPRIATIONS

UPDATE:

	HOUSE		SENATE			CONFERENCE	
	Subcommittee	Committee	House Vote	Subcommittee	Committee	Senate Vote	House Senate
Energy & Water Development	 People & Contacts	 News & Analysis	H.R. 9022 5/14/2026 Voice Vote	H.R. 9022 5/19/2026 Vote 34 - 25 H. Rept. 119-667			
Defense	 People & Contacts	 News & Analysis					
Interior-Environment	 People & Contacts	 News & Analysis	H R _ 5/20/2026 Roll Call	H R _ 6/2/2026 Vote 35 - 27			
Military Construction- Veterans Affairs	 People & Contacts	 News & Analysis	H.R. 8469 4/16/2026 Voice Vote	H.R. 8469 4/20/2026 Roll Call	H.R. 8469 5/14/2026 Vote 400 - 15 H. Rept. 119-622		



STATE OF CALIFORNIA 2026-2027 STATE BUDGET ACT

UPDATE – MAY REVISION

The California 2026-27 May Revision for Natural Resources reflects a major transition away from the extraordinary one-time drought and climate spending of the past several years and toward a more fiscally constrained model that relies heavily on Proposition 4 climate bond funding, special funds, and targeted General Fund support.

The administration’s overall strategy is to:

- preserve core climate and water resilience priorities,
- maintain wildfire preparedness and flood protection,
- reduce ongoing General Fund pressure,
- and use Proposition 4 bond dollars to replace or backfill prior commitments where possible.

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Overall Natural Resources Changes in the May Revision

1. Major Shift to Proposition 4 Bond Funding

The single biggest structural change is the implementation of Proposition 4, the \$10 billion climate bond approved by voters in 2024.

The administration continues a multiyear expenditure plan that spreads funding across:

- water resilience,
- flood protection,
- wildfire prevention,
- biodiversity,
- coastal resilience,
- and climate adaptation programs.

For 2026-27 specifically, the Governor proposes large allocations including:

- flood management funding,
- drinking water infrastructure,
- water recycling projects,
- wildfire resilience programs,
- and ecosystem restoration.

A key policy shift is that the administration increasingly uses Proposition 4 funds to replace existing General Fund obligations rather than layering new spending on top of prior appropriations. The LAO specifically noted that this frees up General Fund resources for other statewide priorities while limiting expansion of natural resources programs.

Department of Water Resources (DWR) — Detailed Changes

Continued Emphasis on Flood Protection

DWR remains heavily focused on:

- flood risk reduction,
- levee improvements,
- dam safety,
- and climate resilience planning.

One of the clearest May Revision priorities is preserving federally partnered flood projects.

The budget proposes:

- **\$12.5 million total** for Urban Flood Risk Reduction projects,

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- including:
 - \$8.7 million General Fund,
 - \$3.8 million Proposition 4 funding.

This funding supports:

- planning,
- engineering,
- inspections,
- monitoring,
- and project closeout work required for Army Corps of Engineers flood projects.

The administration warned that without this support California could jeopardize major federal flood funding partnerships.

Proposition 4 Fund Shifts Affecting DWR

The administration proposes shifting previously approved DWR activities from the General Fund to Proposition 4 bond funding.

Key DWR shifts include:

- **\$47 million** for dam safety programs,
- **\$15 million** for systemwide flood risk reduction.

This does not create new programs; instead it:

- preserves existing commitments,
- reduces General Fund pressure,
- and reallocates costs to bond financing.

The LAO emphasized this is fundamentally a fiscal strategy rather than a policy expansion.

Water Resilience Funding Continues but at Reduced Overall Levels

DWR continues receiving support for:

- drought resilience,
- watershed planning,
- Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM),
- groundwater sustainability,
- and climate adaptation projects.

However:

- the extraordinary drought-era appropriations from 2021-2024 are largely winding down,
- overall departmental spending is lower than recent peaks,

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- and more projects now depend on bond funding rather than direct General Fund appropriations.

Limited New State Water Project Expansion

The May Revision does not significantly expand State Water Project operations or launch major new statewide infrastructure initiatives.

Instead, the focus is:

- maintaining existing infrastructure,
- resilience upgrades,
- and preserving flood system reliability.

This reflects the administration's broader budget-balancing strategy.

State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) — Detailed Changes

Significant Reduction in Overall Spending

The SWRCB sees one of the largest declines among water agencies because prior one-time drought and infrastructure appropriations are expiring.

The board's total funding declines substantially due to:

- sunset of emergency drought programs,
- expiration of temporary infrastructure spending,
- and reduced one-time climate appropriations.

However, core regulatory and drinking water programs are largely maintained.

Drinking Water Infrastructure Becomes a Central Priority

A major share of Proposition 4 water funding flows through SWRCB-administered programs.

The Governor proposes:

- **\$173 million** for drinking water programs,
- focused heavily on disadvantaged communities and water system reliability.

Additional funding supports:

- SAFER drinking water implementation,

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- small system consolidation,
- emergency drinking water assistance,
- and water quality compliance efforts.

The administration continues prioritizing:

- safe drinking water access,
 - environmental justice communities,
 - and failing small water systems.
-

Water Recycling and Reuse Expansion

SWRCB remains central to California's recycled water strategy.

The May Revision includes:

- **\$78 million** for water recycling investments under Proposition 4.

The administration ties this directly to California's long-term Water Supply Strategy goal of increasing recycled water production statewide.

Funding supports:

- recycled water infrastructure,
- wastewater reuse,
- stormwater capture,
- and local drought-resilience projects.

The budget also notes SWRCB would use early-year funding for:

- updating grant guidelines,
 - preparing competitive solicitations,
 - and developing implementation frameworks before full-scale project rollout.
-

Expanded Regulatory and Permitting Workload

The May Revision also acknowledges increased SWRCB regulatory responsibilities after the federal Sackett v. EPA decision narrowed federal wetlands jurisdiction.

As a result, California must assume greater state-level oversight responsibility for certain waters and wetlands permitting activities.

The administration proposes additional ongoing staffing and permit-support resources to manage:

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- waste discharge permits,
 - wetlands oversight,
 - and water quality enforcement responsibilities.
-

Stormwater and Local Government Relief

The budget package continues broader discussions around:

- municipal stormwater permit compliance costs,
- local government flexibility,
- and implementation timing for water quality mandates.

This reflects ongoing tension between:

- aggressive water quality regulation,
 - and affordability concerns for local agencies.
-

Key Natural Resources Themes Across Both DWR and SWRCB

1. Transition From Emergency Spending to Long-Term Resilience

California is moving away from:

- emergency drought response,
- pandemic-era infrastructure surges,
- and rapid climate spending packages.

The May Revision instead prioritizes:

- long-term resilience,
 - infrastructure maintenance,
 - and targeted adaptation investments.
-

2. Proposition 4 Becomes the Primary Funding Engine

The May Revision makes Proposition 4 the backbone of:

- flood funding,
- drinking water investments,
- water recycling,
- and climate adaptation spending.

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Rather than creating major new General Fund programs, the administration increasingly substitutes bond dollars for existing obligations.

3. Fiscal Restraint Shapes Environmental Policy

The May Revision reflects California's broader fiscal challenges:

- deficits,
- revenue volatility,
- and uncertainty around federal funding.

As a result:

- departments retain core functions,
- but few major new permanent expansions are proposed,
- and agencies are expected to rely more on bonds and special funds going forward.

Items Removed from Report



Final Legislative Action Items reported previously.

Legislation no longer of interest ("Amended Out") as previously reported.

BILLS REMOVED FROM REPORT

UPDATE:	AB 2026 (Aguiar-Curry):	Water Diversion: Groundwater Recharge
VERSION:	As Amended	04/22/2026
STATUS:		Assembly Committee on Appropriations – Pending Hearing Assembly Committee on Natural Resources – DO PASS AS AMENDED (12-0) Assembly Committee on Water Parks and Wildlife – DO PASS AS AMENDED (11-0)

SUMMARY: **AMENDED OUT:** AB 2026 would revise and recast conditions required for the appropriative water right exemption for a diversion of flood flows for groundwater recharge, would apply the requirements to a diversion commenced at anytime, and would further exempt those diversions from the requirements of CEQA and requirements relating to lake or streambed alteration agreements if tribal consultation has been conducted, as provided. The bill would expand the definition of “floodflow” to include flows downstream of a dam that is releasing water for flood control purposes, as provided, and would delete the requirement that eligible diversions have commenced prior to January 1, 2029.

UPDATE:	AB 2728 (Soria):	Open and Transparent Water Data Act
VERSION:	As Amended	03/19/2026
STATUS:		Assembly Committee on Water Parks and Wildlife (pending)

SUMMARY: **AMENDED OUT:** This bill would require, by August 1, 2027, the Department of Water Resources to make available on the platform specified information from state and federal agencies, including information on hatchery production, release, and escapement.

UPDATE:	SB 1291 (Gonzalez)	Mutual Water Companies
VERSION:	As Amended	03/24/2026
STATUS:		Died in Senate Committee on Appropriations

SUMMARY: Existing law allows an “eligible person” (a shareholder) to attend a Mutual Water Company meeting if they have been provided 24-hours' notice. The bill would remove the notice requirement, thus allowing an eligible person to attend any Mutual Water Company meeting.

Existing law requires a Mutual Water Company to provide four days' notice of a board meeting. SB 1291 now requires a Mutual Water Company to post its notification and associated documents on its website (many do not have a website) and in writing. The Mutual Water Company must also make those documents downloadable.

The bill expands definition of “eligible person” to also include a “*federal or state official who represents people who receive drinking water.*” This means that any legislator, USEPA personnel, State Water Resources Control Board personnel, or Department of

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Water Resources personnel may attend a Mutual Water Company meeting without notice.

The bill requires both ratepayers and shareholder be noticed of board or other meetings.

SB 1291 would require the State Water Resources Control Board to, on or before December 31, 2027, complete an assessment of mutual water companies that operate a public water system, with a focus on those serving disadvantaged and low-income communities. The bill would require the assessment to include, among other things, an assessment of compliance history with state drinking water standards by a representative sample of mutual water companies serving disadvantaged and low-income communities. The bill would also require the board to, among other things, host public hearings in disadvantaged and low-income communities served by mutual water companies to receive community input to inform the assessment, as provided.

The bill would require mutual water companies to cooperate with the board in completing the assessment and to reasonably attempt to furnish all information and feedback requested by the board, as provided. The bill would require the board to post the assessment on its internet website and to provide the assessment to the Legislature.

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