



PALMDALE WATER DISTRICT

A CENTURY OF SERVICE

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

W. SCOTT KELLERMAN
Division 1

DON WILSON
Division 2

GLORIA DIZMANG
Division 3

KATHY MAC LAREN-GOMEZ
Division 4

VINCENT DINO
Division 5

April 20, 2022

AGENDA FOR REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE PALMDALE WATER DISTRICT TO BE HELD AT 2029 EAST AVENUE Q, PALMDALE OR VIA TELECONFERENCE

FOR THE PUBLIC: VIA TELECONFERENCE ONLY
DIAL-IN NUMBER: 571-748-4021 ATTENDEE PIN: 291-756-008#
Submit Public Comments at: <https://www.gomeet.com/291-756-008>

MONDAY, APRIL 25, 2022

6:00 p.m.

DENNIS D. LaMOREAUX
General Manager

ALESHIRE & WYNDER LLP
Attorneys

NOTES: To comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act, to participate in any Board meeting please contact Dawn Deans at 661-947-4111 x1003 at least 48 hours prior to a Board meeting to inform us of your needs and to determine if accommodation is feasible.

Additionally, an interpreter will be made available to assist the public in making **comments** under Agenda Item No. 4 and any action items where public input is offered during the meeting if requested at least 48 hours before the meeting. Please call Dawn Deans at 661-947-4111 x1003 with your request. (PWD Rules and Regulations Section 4.03.1 (c))

Adicionalmente, un intérprete estará disponible para ayudar al público a hacer **comentarios** bajo la sección No. 4 en la agenda y cualquier elemento de acción donde se ofrece comentarios al público durante la reunión, siempre y cuando se solicite con 48 horas de anticipación de la junta directiva. Por favor de llamar Dawn Deans al 661-947-4111 x1003 con su solicitud. (PWD reglas y reglamentos sección 4.03.1 (c))

Agenda item materials, as well as materials related to agenda items submitted after distribution of the agenda packets, are available for public review at the District's office located at 2029 East Avenue Q, Palmdale (Government Code Section 54957.5). Please call Dawn Deans at 661-947-4111 x1003 for public review of materials.

PUBLIC COMMENT GUIDELINES: The prescribed time limit per speaker is three-minutes. Please refrain from public displays or outbursts such as unsolicited applause, comments, or cheering. Any disruptive activities that substantially interfere with the ability of the District to carry out its meeting will not be permitted, and offenders will be requested to leave the meeting. (PWD Rules and Regulations, Appendix DD, Sec. IV.A.)

Each item on the agenda shall be deemed to include any appropriate motion, resolution, or ordinance to take action on any item.

- 1) Pledge of Allegiance/Moment of Silence.
- 2) Roll Call.
- 3) Adoption of Agenda.



- 4) Public comments for non-agenda items.
- 5) Presentations:
 - 5.1) Review of the Ralph M. Brown Act. (General Counsel Trindle)
- 6) Action Items - Consent Calendar (The public shall have an opportunity to comment on any action item on the Consent Calendar as the Consent Calendar is considered collectively by the Board of Directors prior to action being taken.)
 - 6.1) Approval of minutes of Special Board Meeting held April 11, 2022.
 - 6.2) Approval of minutes of Regular Board Meeting held April 11, 2022.
 - 6.3) Payment of bills for April 25, 2022.
 - 6.4) Approval of Resolution No. 22-9 being a Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Palmdale Water District Proclaiming a Local Emergency Persists, Ratifying the Proclamation of a State of Emergency by the Governor Issued March 4, 2020, and Re-Authorizing Remote Teleconference Meetings of the Legislative Bodies of the Palmdale Water District for the Period Beginning May 1, 2022 and Ending May 30, 2022 Pursuant to Brown Act Provisions. (No Budget Impact – Assistant General Manager Ly)
 - 6.5) Approval of Amendment No. 6 to General Manager Employment Agreement dated July 30, 2015. (Budgeted – Budget Item No. 1-02-4000-000, Salaries – President Dizmang)
- 7) Action Items – Action Calendar (The public shall have an opportunity to comment on any action item as each item is considered by the Board of Directors prior to action being taken.)
 - 7.1) Consideration and possible action on request received from the Antelope Valley Fair for sponsorship of 2022 Rural Olympics. (\$1,000.00 – Non-Budgeted – Director Dino)
 - 7.2) Consideration and possible action on Resolution No. 22-10 being a Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Palmdale Water District Authorizing the Disadvantaged Community Involvement Program Grant Application, Acceptance, and Execution for the Conservation and Education Garden. (No Budget Impact – Resource And Analytics Supervisor Bolanos)
 - 7.3) Consideration and possible action on Resolution No. 22-11 being a Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Palmdale Water District Approving the District’s Grant Application for a Water Use Efficiency Rebate Program for the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation’s WaterSMART Grants Small Scale Water Efficiency Projects for Fiscal Year 2022. (\$125,000 – Budgeted – Resource And Analytics Supervisor Bolanos)
 - 7.4) Discussion and possible action on developing a standardized Director Orientation Program. (President Dizmang)

- 7.5) Consideration and possible action on authorization of the following conferences, seminars, and training sessions for Board and staff attendance within budget amounts previously approved in the 2022 Budget:
 - a) Antelope Valley Economic Development & Growth Enterprise (AVEDGE) 2022 Spring Business Summit “Bridging the Gaps” to be held May 25, 2022 in Lancaster.
- 8) Information Items:
 - 8.1) Reports of Directors:
 - a) Standing Committees; Organization Appointments; Agency Liaisons:
 - 1) Antelope Valley East Kern Water Agency (AVEK) – April 12. (Director Dino/Director Mac Laren-Gomez, Alt.)
 - 2) Palmdale Fin & Feather Club – April 16. (President Dizmang/Director Wilson, Alt.)
 - 3) Palmdale Recycled Water Authority (PRWA) – April 18. (Director Dino/Director Wilson/Director Mac Laren-Gomez, Alt.)
 - 4) Outreach Committee Meeting – April 20. (Director Mac Laren-Gomez, Chair/Director Wilson)
 - b) General Meetings Reports of Directors.
 - 8.2) Report of General Manager.
 - a) April 2022 written report of activities through March 2022.
 - 8.3) Report of General Counsel.
- 9) Board members' requests for future agenda items.
- 10) Adjournment.



DENNIS D. LaMOREAUX,
General Manager

DDL/dd



Palmdale Water District

THE BROWN ACT

Meeting Procedures and Conflicts of Interest for Public Officials

PRESENTED BY G. ROSS TRINDLE, III, GENERAL COUNSEL



ALESHIRE &
WYNDER^{LLP}
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

PART 1

BROWN ACT AND PUBLIC MEETING PROCEDURES



THE BROWN ACT:

AKA: The Open Meeting Laws

“All meetings of the legislative body of a local agency shall be open and public, and all persons shall be permitted to attend any meeting of the legislative body of a local agency.”

(Gov. Code § 54953)



All District Business Must be Conducted at Open Meetings

- **The Brown Act requires all meetings of legislative bodies and advisory bodies to be open and public, including meetings of the Board of Directors / Commissions / any committee bodies**

- **A majority of the Board of Directors may not consult outside a properly noticed meeting open to public.**

- **Narrow Exceptions:**
 - Individual contacts between a member of the legislative body and any other person
 - Conference or similar gathering open to the public that addresses issues of general interest
 - Community meetings held by another organization
 - Other legislative body meetings
 - Standing Committees
 - Social or ceremonial events

What is a Meeting?

Definition: "Meeting" includes any gathering of a *majority* of the members of a legislative body to *hear, discuss, or deliberate* upon any item which is within *its subject matter jurisdiction*.



What is a Meeting?

Means of Communication: A meeting includes *any use of direct communication, personal intermediaries, or technological devices* which are employed by a *majority of the members of the legislative body to develop a collective concurrence* on action to be taken by members of the legislative body.

(Gov. Code § 54952.2)

- **A meeting is deemed to have taken place if a quorum of the legislative body receives information on, discusses, deliberates on any item on which the body may legally act.**



Serial Meetings?

- A serial meeting is a meeting that at any one time involves only a portion of a legislative body, but eventually involves a majority.
 - In Person
 - Telephone
 - Letters
 - Emails
 - Text Messages
 - Social Media (via Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc.)



Social Media Restrictions (AB 992)




- A commissioner may not respond directly to any communication posted or shared by another commissioner regarding commission business on social media.
- This includes likes, thumbs up, emojis, sharing, or commenting
- Social media is any online platform that “is open and accessible to the public.” Includes traditional social media sites such as Facebook, Twitter, or Nextdoor, but also smaller forums such as a discussion section on a news website.

REMEMBER:

- Your emails and text messages may be subject to public disclosure under the Public Records Act.
- ***IT DOES NOT MATTER*** if you are messaging from a personal device or personal email account.



Agenda Requirements

- A written agenda must be prepared for each meeting of the Commission and posted 72 hours before each regular meeting or adjourned regular meeting
 - The agenda must include all matters to be transacted or discussed
 - No action may be taken if an item is not on the agenda (unless it is a qualified emergency item)
 - Each item on the agenda include a brief description, sufficient to inform the public of the nature of each item of business, which allows the public to determine whether to participate
- 

Agenda Requirements: Exceptions

No discussion of any item not on agenda

. . . Except:

- Brief responses.
- Statements or questions.
- Questions for clarification.
- Reference to staff or other resources for factual information.
- Request staff to report at a subsequent meeting.



Public Participation in Meetings

- Anyone can attend open meetings.
- Can encourage, but NOT require names, questionnaires, or conditions to attendance (special exception under AB 361 for virtual attendance).
- Public may record proceedings by video, film or audiotape.
- If meeting is willfully interrupted or order cannot be restored by removing only the disrupting individuals, body may order room cleared.



Public Comment Period(s)

- Public has the right to talk about anything they want that's not on the agenda.
- Members of the public get to speak on each and every item on agenda before deliberations have been made



AB 361 and The Brown Act: Notice and Agenda

- ❖ Special exception to traditional teleconferencing rules during declared state of emergency.
- ❖ Adds additional requirements to the regular Brown Act notice and agenda requirements:
 - Must provide notice of the means by which members of the public may access the meeting and offer public comment
 - Agenda must identify and include an opportunity for all persons to attend via a call-in option or an internet-based service option
- ❖ But note that you do **not** need to:
 - Post agendas at each teleconference location
 - Keep each teleconference location open to the public
 - Have at least a quorum of the members of the legislative body participate within the boundaries of the agency

CLOSED SESSIONS

FOUR GROUNDS FOR CLOSED SESSION:

- ❖ Pending/Anticipated Litigation.
- ❖ Real Property Negotiations.
- ❖ Labor Negotiations.
- ❖ Personnel Matters.



The Brown Act

PENALTIES: Failing to Comply

- Possible nullification of decision.
- Criminal Misdemeanor – for intentional violations (up to 6 months in jail/\$1000 fine).
- Injunction, Mandamus & Declaratory Relief.
- Challenger must demand corrective action within 90 days of action -- or 30 days if agenda issue.



PART 2

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST



Legal Framework

- **Political Reform Act of 1974** (Government Code Section 87100 *et seq.*) referred to as the “PRA,” which regulates all official actions of a public official including Conflicts of Interest.
 - The Fair Political Practices Commission FPPC has adopted detailed regulations implementing the PRA that are set forth in Title 2 of the California Code of Regulations at Sections 18700 *et seq.*
- **Conflicts of Interest in the Making of a Contract** (Government Code sections 1090–1097)

General Rule Under the PRA

- ***No public official at any level of state or local government shall make, participate in making, or in any way use his or her official position to influence a governmental decision in which he or she knows or has reason to know he or she has a financial interest.***

- ❖ Officials must refrain from participating in the decision-making process when it is:
 - 1) reasonably foreseeable
 - 2) that the decision will have a material financial effect on the Official's financial interest
 - 3) that is distinguishable from that of the public generally.

Recognizing Financial Interests

- There are 5 categories of economic interests from which conflicts can arise:
 - 1) Economic Interests in business entities
 - 2) Economic Interests in sources of income to the public official
 - 3) Economic Interests in sources of gifts to the public official
 - 4) The personal financial effects rule
 - 5) Economic Interests in real property



Analyzing Conflicts of Interest

- There are 4 steps that should be followed to determine if a public official has a conflict of interest which may prevent the official from participating in a decision.
 - **STEP 1:** Is it reasonably foreseeable that the governmental decision will have a financial effect on any of the public official's financial interests?
 - **STEP 2:** Will the reasonably foreseeable financial effect be material?
 - **STEP 3:** Can the public official demonstrate that the material financial effect on the public official's financial interest is indistinguishable from its effect on the public generally?
 - **STEP 4:** Is the public official making, participating in making, or in any way attempting to use his or her official position to influence a governmental decision?

Real Property Interests

Three specific categories of materiality based on the location of the real property interest, with differing standards and presumptions or tests for each.

- **500 feet or less:** presumed to be a conflict unless rebutted by clear and convincing evidence.
- **500 - 1,000:** No presumption—complicated set of factors!
- **Over 1,000 feet:** presumed *not* a conflict, unless evidence to the contrary.



Exceptions to Conflict Rule

- There are two exceptions to the PRA's general prohibition on participating in a decision when you have a conflict.
 - The “public generally” exception
 - The “legally required participation” exception

Disqualification versus Abstention

- Mere existence of a conflict does not imply wrongdoing unless you don't disqualify yourself when you should

- Abstention vs. Disqualification
 - Abstention = voluntary
 - Disqualification = legally required

If You Are Disqualified

- Don't discuss or influence (staff or colleagues)
- Identify nature of conflict at meeting
- Leave room (unless on consent)
- No voting *or discussing* the matter
- NOTE: You do not count towards a quorum!!
- May still participate as a private resident



PENALTIES

- The decision may be voidable
- Loss of office (+ disqualification for future)
- Misdemeanor (jail time and penalties)
- Fines (\$5,000 to \$10,000 per violation)
- Attorneys' fees
- Embarrassment (personal and political)



Common Law Bias

- Not a statutory rule but made through case law.
- The common law is violated if a decision maker is tempted by his or her personal or pecuniary interests.
- Applies to financial and non-financial interests.
- Decisions must be fair and impartial.
- Where a common law conflict of interest exists as to a particular transaction, the official is disqualified from taking any part in the discussion and vote regarding the particular matter.

Conflicts of Interest in Making Contracts

- Gov. Code § 1090 prohibits a government officer or employee acting in their official capacity from making a contract, or participating in the making of a contract, in which he or she is financially interested.
- Financial interests would include:
 - Landlord or tenant of contract party
 - Attorney or agent of contracting party
 - Supplier of goods or services to the contracting party.
 - Officer or employee of a nonprofit corporation that is a contracting party.

Penalties for Making Contracts with a Conflict

- The contract will be void and unenforceable and the official will be subject to:
 - Criminal and civil penalties including fines, imprisonment, and forever disqualification from holding office
 - Potential disgorgement of any consideration received, or property acquired in the transaction
- Willful violation of Section 1090 may be punished as a felony.

QUESTIONS?

G. ROSS TRINDLE, III – GENERAL COUNSEL

YECENIA VARGAS – ASSISTANT GENERAL COUNSEL



**ALESHIRE &
WYNDER^{LLP}**
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

**PALMDALE WATER DISTRICT
BOARD MEMORANDUM**

DATE: April 19, 2022 **April 25, 2022**
TO: BOARD OF DIRECTORS **Board Meeting**
FROM: Mr. Adam Ly, Assistant General Manager
VIA: Mr. Dennis D. LaMoreaux, General Manager
RE: ***AGENDA ITEM NO. 6.4 – CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON RESOLUTION NO. 22-9 BEING A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE PALMDALE WATER DISTRICT PROCLAIMING A LOCAL EMERGENCY PERSISTS, RATIFYING THE PROCLAMATION OF A STATE OF EMERGENCY BY THE GOVERNOR ISSUED MARCH 4, 2020, AND RE-AUTHORIZING REMOTE TELECONFERENCE MEETINGS OF THE LEGISLATIVE BODIES OF THE PALMDALE WATER DISTRICT FOR THE PERIOD BEGINNING MAY 1, 2022 AND ENDING MAY 30, 2022 PURSUANT TO BROWN ACT PROVISIONS. (NO BUDGET IMPACT – ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER LY)***

Recommendation:

Staff recommends the Board approve Resolution No. 22-9 being a Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Palmdale Water District Proclaiming a Local Emergency Persists, Ratifying the Proclamation of a State of Emergency by the Governor Issued March 4, 2020, and Re-Authorizing Remote Teleconference Meetings of the Legislative Bodies of the Palmdale Water District for the Period Beginning May 1, 2022 and Ending May 30, 2022 Pursuant to Brown Act Provisions.

Alternative Options:

The Board can choose not to approve Resolution No. 22-9.

Impact of Taking No Action:

Teleconference options for the District’s publicly noticed meetings will end.

Background:

With the issuance of the Governor’s State of Emergency Executive Order due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Brown Act was modified regarding agenda postings, Board member attendance from remote locations via teleconference, public attendance, and participation at publicly noticed meetings via teleconference. These modifications were rescinded by the Governor effective September 30, 2021; however, agencies and special districts have the option to continue remote teleconferencing options under the provisions of newly enacted AB 361. AB 361 provides agencies the ability to meet remotely during proclaimed state emergencies under modified Brown Act requirements beyond September 30, 2021.

April 19, 2022

The criteria to rely on the provisions of AB 361 are as follows:

- 1) The local agency is holding a meeting during a proclaimed state of emergency, and state or local officials have imposed or recommended measures to promote social distancing; or
- 2) The local agency is holding a meeting during a proclaimed state of emergency for the purpose of determining, by majority vote, whether as a result of the emergency, meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees; or
- 3) The local agency is holding a meeting during a proclaimed state of emergency and has determined, by majority vote, that, as a result of the emergency, meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees.

Resolution No. 22-9 addresses these criteria and will remain in effect for a period of 30 days. If the District wishes to continue meeting under modified Brown Act requirements under AB 361 after 30 days, Resolution No. 22-9 must be renewed.

Strategic Plan Initiative/Mission Statement:

This item is under Strategic Initiative No. 5 – Regional Leadership.

This item directly relates to the District’s Mission Statement.

Budget:

There is no budget impact.

Supporting Documents:

- Resolution No. 22-9 being a Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Palmdale Water District Proclaiming A Local Emergency Persists, Ratifying the Proclamation of a State of Emergency by the Governor Issued March 4, 2020, and Re-Authorizing Remote Teleconference Meetings of the Legislative Bodies of the Palmdale Water District for the Period Beginning May 1, 2022 and Ending May 30, 2022 Pursuant to Brown Act Provisions

RESOLUTION NO. 22-9

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE PALMDALE WATER DISTRICT PROCLAIMING A LOCAL EMERGENCY PERSISTS, RATIFYING THE PROCLAMATION OF A STATE OF EMERGENCY BY THE GOVERNOR ISSUED MARCH 4, 2020, AND RE-AUTHORIZING REMOTE TELECONFERENCE MEETINGS OF THE LEGISLATIVE BODIES OF THE PALMDALE WATER DISTRICT FOR THE PERIOD BEGINNING MAY 1, 2022 AND ENDING MAY 30, 2022 PURSUANT TO BROWN ACT PROVISIONS.

WHEREAS, the Palmdale Water District is committed to preserving and nurturing public access and participation in meetings of the Board of Directors; and

WHEREAS, all meetings of Palmdale Water District's ("District") legislative bodies are open and public, as required by the Ralph M. Brown Act (Cal. Gov. Code 54950 – 54963), so that any member of the public may attend, participate, and watch the District's legislative bodies conduct their business; and

WHEREAS, the Brown Act, Government Code section 54953(e), makes provisions for remote teleconferencing participation in meetings by members of a legislative body, without compliance with the requirements of Government Code section 54953(b)(3), subject to the existence of certain conditions; and

WHEREAS, a required condition is that a state of emergency is declared by the Governor pursuant to Government Code section 8625, proclaiming the existence of conditions of disaster or of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property within the state caused by conditions as described in Government Code section 8558; and

WHEREAS, a proclamation is made when there is an actual incident, threat of disaster, or extreme peril to the safety of persons and property within the jurisdictions that are within the District's boundaries, caused by natural, technological, or human-caused disasters; and

WHEREAS, it is further required that state or local officials have imposed or recommended measures to promote social distancing, or, the legislative body meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health and safety of attendees; and

WHEREAS, such conditions now exist in the District, specifically, a State of Emergency has been proclaimed by the Governor of the State of California on March 4, 2020 in response to the global outbreak of the novel Coronavirus disease ("COVID-19"); and

WHEREAS, meeting in person would present an imminent risk to the health and safety of attendees due to the continued impact of the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors does hereby find that a State of Emergency has been proclaimed as a result of the threat of COVID-19 and the contagious nature of COVID-19 have caused, and will continue to cause, conditions of peril to the safety of persons within the District that are likely to be beyond the control of services, personnel, equipment, and facilities of the District, and desires to proclaim a local emergency and ratify the proclamation of state of emergency by the Governor of the State of California; and

WHEREAS, as a consequence of the local emergency, the Board of Directors does hereby find that the legislative bodies of the Palmdale Water District shall conduct their meetings without compliance with paragraph (3) of subdivision (b) of Government Code section 54953, as authorized by subdivision (e) of section 54953, and that such legislative bodies shall comply with the requirements to provide the public with access to the meetings as prescribed in paragraph (2) of subdivision (e) of section 54953; and

WHEREAS, the Palmdale Water District offers the option of teleconferencing to ensure access for the public to attend meetings.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE PALMDALE WATER DISTRICT DOES HEREBY RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Recitals. The Recitals set forth above are true and correct and are incorporated into this Resolution by this reference.

Section 2. Proclamation of Local Emergency. The Board hereby proclaims that a local emergency now exists throughout the District, and meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health and safety of attendees due to the serious and contagious nature of COVID-19.

Section 3. Ratification of Governor's Proclamation of a State of Emergency. The Board hereby ratifies the Governor of the State of California's Proclamation of a State of Emergency, effective as of its issuance date of March 4, 2020.

Section 4. Remote Teleconference Meetings. The staff, General Manager, and legislative bodies of the Palmdale Water District are hereby authorized and directed to take all actions necessary to carry out the intent and purpose of this Resolution including conducting open and public meetings in accordance with Government Code section 54953(e) and other applicable provisions of the Brown Act.

Section 5. Effective Date of Resolution. This Resolution shall take effect on May 1, 2022 and shall be effective until the earlier of (i) May 30, 2022, which is 30 days from the adoption of this Resolution, or (ii) such time the Board of Directors adopts a subsequent resolution in accordance with Government Code section 54953(e)(3) to extend the time during which the legislative bodies of the Palmdale Water District may continue to teleconference without compliance with paragraph (3) of subdivision (b) of section 54953.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Directors of the Palmdale Water District this 25th day of April, 2022, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

President, Board of Directors

ATTEST:

Secretary, Board of Directors

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Aleshire & Wynder, LLP, General Counsel

**PALMDALE WATER DISTRICT
BOARD MEMORANDUM**

DATE: April 20, 2022 **April 25, 2022**
TO: BOARD OF DIRECTORS **Board Meeting**
FROM: Mr. Dennis D. LaMoreaux, General Manager
RE: ***AGENDA ITEM NO. 6.5 – APPROVAL OF AMENDMENT NO. 6 TO GENERAL MANAGER EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT DATED JULY 30, 2015. (BUDGETED – BUDGET ITEM NO. 1-02-4000-000, SALARIES – PRESIDENT DIZMANG)***

Contract Amendment No. 6 to the General Manager Employment Agreement dated July 30, 2015 is attached. Amendment No. 6 was prepared based on the outcome of the General Manager Evaluation conducted on April 19, 2022 and authorizes an 8.5% cost of living increase, a 1.5% merit-based salary increase, and a one year contract extension to July 29, 2024. The cost-of-living increase was calculated based on Consumer Price Index (CPI) information from April 2021 to April 2022 as the latest number available for this year.

Supporting Documents:

- Sixth Amendment to the General Manager Employment Agreement between Palmdale Water District and Dennis D. LaMoreaux.

**SIXTH AMENDMENT TO THE
GENERAL MANAGER EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT**

BETWEEN PALMDALE WATER DISTRICT AND DENNIS D. LAMOREAUX

This SIXTH AMENDMENT TO THE GENERAL MANAGER EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN PALMDALE WATER DISTRICT AND DENNIS D. LAMOREAUX (the “Sixth Amendment”) is made and entered into on April 25, 2022, by and between the PALMDALE WATER DISTRICT, an irrigation district organized and existing under Division 11 of the California Water Code, a (hereinafter the “District”), and DENNIS D. LAMOREAUX, an individual (hereinafter the “General Manager”).

RECITALS

WHEREAS, on May 13, 2015, the District entered into that certain General Manager Employment Agreement Between Palmdale Water District And Dennis D. LaMoreaux to be effective July 30, 2015, as amended on July 26, 2017, May 14, 2018, June 10, 2019, July 13, 2020, and June 14, 2021 (collectively, the “Agreement”); and

WHEREAS, Section 4.2 of the Agreement provides that if General Manager receives a satisfactory performance evaluation from the District Board of Directors (“Board”), then his annual base salary shall be increased by the percentage increase in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange County for the prior calendar year, plus any additional merit-based increase that may be provided in the Board’s discretion; and

WHEREAS, in January 2018 the Bureau of Labor Statistics introduced a new CPI-U geographic revision with a separate index for the Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim Area; and

WHEREAS, on April 19, 2022, the Board conducted a performance evaluation of the General Manager pursuant to Section 5.2 of the Agreement; and

WHEREAS, the Board remains satisfied with the performance of General Manager, and desires to provide General Manager a 8.5 percent (8.5%) cost of living adjustment to General Manager’s base salary, equivalent to the estimated CPI-U for Los Angeles Area from March 2021 to March 2022; and

WHEREAS, the Board also desires to provide General Manager a merit based increase of 1.5 percent (1.5%) resulting in a total base salary increase of 10 percent (10%); and

WHEREAS, the Board also desires to extend the term of the Agreement for one (1) additional year, to July 29, 2024; and

WHEREAS, Section 8.2 of the Agreement allows for any amendment, alteration, extension or modification to the Agreement in writing, signed by the parties hereto, and approved by the affirmative vote of three (3) members of the Board at a public meeting with the written consent of the General Manager; and

WHEREAS, the General Manager desires to accept these employment terms as such from the District and has provided his written consent to the following terms and conditions in this Sixth Amendment; and

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual covenants contained herein, District and General Manager hereby agree as follows:

AGREEMENT

SECTION 1. The above recitals are incorporated by reference as if set forth in full herein.

SECTION 2. The Term described in Section 2.2 of the Agreement shall be from the Effective Date and ending at midnight Pacific daylight savings time on July 29, 2024.

SECTION 3. Section 4.1 of the Agreement is hereby amended to read in its entirety as follows:

“4.1 Annual Base Compensation. General Manager’s base salary effective June 15, 2021 was Two Hundred Seventy Two Thousand Six Hundred Fifteen Dollars and Twenty One Cents (\$272,615.21). Effective April 26, 2022, General Manager’s base salary shall be increased by 8.5 percent (8.5%) consistent with the CPI-U for the Los Angeles Area from March 2021 to March 2022. General Manager’s base salary shall additionally be increased by a 1.5 percent (1.5%) merit based increase resulting in a total base salary increase of 10 percent (10%). The new base salary shall be Two Hundred Ninety Nine Thousand Eight Hundred Seventy Six Dollars and Seventy Three Cents (\$299,876.73). General Manager’s salary may be adjusted from time to time in accordance with Section 4.2 hereinafter, or as this Agreement may be amended. Such salary shall be payable in twenty-six (26) equal installments at the same time as other Department Head employees of District are paid. Such salary shall be adjusted for payroll taxes, workers’ compensation, and other payroll-related liability costs.”

SECTION 4. Except as expressly amended by this Sixth Amendment, the underlying terms, conditions, and compensation of General Manager by District as and for his employment as General Manager shall be as set forth in the Agreement (as amended on July 26, 2017, May 14, 2018, June 10, 2019, July 13, 2020, and June 14, 2021).

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, PALMDALE WATER DISTRICT has caused this Sixth Amendment to be signed and executed on its behalf by its President, and duly attested by its officers thereunto duly authorized, and GENERAL MANAGER has signed and executed this Sixth Amendment, both in duplicate.

Palmdale Water District

Gloria Dizmang, President

Dated: _____

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

G. Ross Trindle, III, General Counsel

Dated: _____

GENERAL MANAGER

Dennis D. LaMoreaux

Dated: _____

[END OF SIGNATURES]

**PALMDALE WATER DISTRICT
BOARD MEMORANDUM**

DATE: April 19, 2022 April 25, 2022
TO: BOARD OF DIRECTORS Regular Board Meeting
FROM: Mr. Dennis D. LaMoreaux, General Manager
RE: *AGENDA ITEM NO. 7.1 – CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON REQUEST RECEIVED FROM THE ANTELOPE VALLEY FAIR FOR SPONSORSHIP OF 2022 RURAL OLYMPICS CALIFORNIA POPPY FESTIVAL. (\$1,000.00 – NON-BUDGETED – DIRECTOR DINO)*

Recommendation:

Staff recommends the Board approve sponsorship of the 2022 Rural Olympics California Poppy Festival.

Alternative Options:

The Board can choose to not approve the sponsorship.

Impact of Taking No Action:

There is no impact for taking no action.

Background:

The tradition of the Rural Olympics dates back to the early 1930's and features farm-related events. This year's Rural Olympics will be held at the California Poppy Festival on April 23, 2022 at the Antelope Valley Fairgrounds. The District's sponsorship of this event shows support for the community.

Although this event occurs prior to the April 25, 2022 Regular Board Meeting, Antelope Valley Fair representatives have indicated the District will be included as a sponsor in promotions for the event.

Strategic Plan Initiative/Mission Statement:

This item is under Strategic Initiative No. 5 – Regional Leadership.
This item directly relates to the District's Mission Statement.

Budget:

This item is non-budgeted.

Supporting Documents:

- Request for sponsorship

Rural Olympics California Poppy Festival

Saturday, April 23, 2022

The tradition of the Rural Olympics dates back to the early 1930's when local ranchers, farmers and their families got together to spend the day in friendly competition in cow milking, hay loading and other farm related events.

Today, we continue to celebrate that original pioneer spirit but need your support for this important event. Please join us as a Sponsor for the Rural Olympics to help us maintain this annual community event at the California Poppy Festival™.

Sponsorship of the Rural Olympics demonstrates your support for your community, your Fair, and this family oriented event. Your Rural Olympics sponsorship will also generate publicity for your business, increase brand recognition, and ultimately increase sales of your product or services!



**PALMDALE WATER DISTRICT
BOARD MEMORANDUM**

DATE: April 19, 2022 **April 25, 2022**
TO: BOARD OF DIRECTORS **Board Meeting**
FROM: Mrs. Claudia Bolanos, Resource and Analytics Supervisor
VIA: Mr. Peter Thompson II, Resource and Analytics Director
Mr. Dennis D. LaMoreaux, General Manager
RE: ***AGENDA ITEM NO. 7.2 – CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON RESOLUTION NO. 22-10 BEING A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE PALMDALE WATER DISTRICT AUTHORIZING THE DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PROGRAM GRANT APPLICATION, ACCEPTANCE, AND EXECUTION FOR THE CONSERVATION AND EDUCATION GARDEN. (NO BUDGET IMPACT – RESOURCE AND ANALYTICS SUPERVISOR BOLANOS)***

Recommendation:

Staff recommends that the Board approve Resolution 22-10 being a Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Palmdale Water District Authorizing the Disadvantaged Community Involvement Program (DACI) Grant Application, Acceptance, and Execution for the Conservation and Education Garden.

Alternative Options:

The Board of Directors can deny the application.

Impact of Taking No Action:

DACI grant funding will not be available through this program.

Background:

The District is currently working with Golden Sun Enterprises to build a Conservation and Education Garden. This grant opportunity will give us funding to cover most of the costs for this project. We will be asking for \$450,000 of grant funding to cover phase 1, which includes the in-ground arena and shade structure, and phase 2 that will cover the water-wise gardening.

Strategic Plan Initiative/Mission Statement:

This item is under Strategic Initiative No. 1 – Water Resource Reliability, No. 4 Financial Health and Stability, No. 5 Regional Leadership, and No. 6 Customer Care, Advocacy and Outreach.

This item directly relates to the District’s Mission Statement.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
PALMDALE WATER DISTRICT

VIA: Mr. Peter Thompson II, Resource and Analytics Director
Mr. Dennis D. LaMoreaux, General Manager

April 19, 2022

Budget:

There is no budget impact.

Supporting Documents:

- Resolution No. 22-9 being a Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Palmdale Water District Authorizing the Disadvantaged Community Involvement Program Grant Application, Acceptance, and Execution for the Conservation and Education Garden.
- Draft DACI Grant Application

RESOLUTION NO. 22-10
A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE PALMDALE WATER DISTRICT AUTHORIZING THE DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PROGRAM GRANT APPLICATION, ACCEPTANCE, AND EXECUTION FOR THE CONSERVATION AND EDUCATION GARDEN

WHEREAS, Palmdale Water District proposes to implement the Conservation and Education Garden;

WHEREAS, Palmdale Water District has the legal authority and is authorized to enter into a funding agreement with the State of California; and

WHEREAS, Palmdale Water District intends to apply for grant funding from the California Department of Water Resources for the Conservation and Education Garden.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Directors of the Palmdale Water District as follows:

1. That pursuant and subject to all of the terms and provisions of Budget Act of 2021 (Stats. 2021, ch. 240, § 80), the Palmdale Water District General Manager, or designee, is hereby authorized and directed to prepare and file an application for funding with the Department of Water Resources and take such other actions necessary or appropriate to obtain grant funding.
2. The Palmdale Water District General Manager, or designee, is hereby authorized and directed to execute the funding agreement with the Department of Water Resources and any amendments thereto.
3. The Palmdale Water District General Manager, or designee, is hereby authorized and directed to submit any required documents, invoices, and reports required to obtain grant funding.

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was duly and regularly adopted by the Board of Directors of the Palmdale Water District at the Regular Board Meeting held on April 25, 2022 by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Gloria Dizmang, President, Board of Directors

ATTEST:

Kathy Mac Laren-Gomez, Secretary, Board of Directors

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Aleshire & Wynder, LLP, District Legal Counsel

PROJECT INFORMATION FORM

Please complete a unique Project Information Form for each project in the application. There are no character limits on specific questions but the Project Information Form as a whole may not exceed 10 pages.

1. Project Name: Conservation and Education Garden
2. Local Project Sponsor (if different than grantee): Palmdale Water District (PWD or the District)
3. Please provide the latitude and longitude of the project site. For linear projects or those covering a large area, report the coordinates for a central point. If this information is confidential, it must be clearly labeled "confidential." You can find the latitude and longitude easily using google maps. You can find instructions at the following link:
<https://support.google.com/maps/answer/18539?hl=en&co=GENIE.Platform%3DDesktop>.

Latitude: 34.58801173314608

Longitude: -118.09369793380745

4. Please briefly describe the proposed project.

The proposed project will build a public Conservation and Education Garden in the City of Palmdale. The Conservation and Education Garden will provide a permanent space where the general public can congregate and learn about water conservation mechanisms and water-wise landscapes in Antelope Valley. The Conservation and Education Garden will be a total of 10,000 square feet in size. An in-ground concrete arena will be constructed, including a walkway near the top of the arena with a designated Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) approved seating space and an ADA ramp. The base of the arena will contain permeable material, allowing water to be reclaimed and used for irrigation in the garden. Additionally, walking paths will be constructed in the two garden areas, which will be filled with water-wise plants, trees, and shrubs. Approximately 9,650 square feet of water-intensive turf will also be removed and replaced with water-wise landscapes. The Conservation and Education Garden will also showcase the District's Water Wise Landscape Conversion (WWLC) Program, a regional turf removal program. Large educational information boards will also be installed throughout the Conservation and Education Garden.

Water conservation is a major component of overall water management in the Antelope Valley. As part of a desert community reliant on imported water supplies, the District has and will continue to use its water resources efficiently. The District has placed a significant focus on water conservation to address increasing demands with limited supplies. The District currently hosts the Antelope Valley Conservation Roundtable, a conservation group formed in July 2021 by the Antelope Valley-East Kern Water Agency, Littlerock Creek Irrigation District, Rosamond Community Services District, Quartz Hill Water District, Los Angeles County Waterworks Districts, and PWD. The group's mission is to reach more customers in the Antelope Valley with a united voice on the importance of water conservation. The District also collaborates with regional water purveyors, cities, and school districts to promote water use efficiency messaging and initiatives throughout the Antelope Valley, such

as residential water surveys and student projects focused on water resource management. Though these conservation efforts have been successful for PWD, there are many opportunities to further conserve water in the service area. The District lacks a space that is dedicated to water conservation. To continue achieving increased conservation in the Antelope Valley, PWD proposes to construct a Conservation and Education Garden adjacent to their main office building on 2029 East Avenue Q.

As described in question 10 below, California is experiencing a drought and the Governor has asked for a 15% voluntary reduction. The project can be completed in a relatively short amount of time since construction is anticipated to be complete by October 2022. Once construction is complete, the District can begin demonstrating water conservation techniques and educating the public about conservation methods that can be easily implemented to result in immediate water savings. While the project does not create a new water supply, it will lead to significant water savings that will result in decreased water demand. According to PWD's Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP), the current water use in the service area is 165 gallons per capita per day (GPCD). Targeted outreach is expected to lead to 1% of the District's service area population, or 1,260 people, to decrease water demands by 10%, resulting in an effective water savings of 23.3 acre-feet per year (AFY) in the first year. Following the first year, PWD anticipates about 630 new visitors to the Conservation and Education Garden annually, resulting in an additional 11.6 AFY of water savings. The first-year water savings are assumed will remain in the following years, resulting in a 35 AFY of effective water savings. Additionally, 9,650 square feet of turf will be removed during construction, leading to an additional 2 AFY of water savings. Combined with the water savings from conservation, the project will save a total of 37 AFY of water.

5. Does this project respond to an existing emergency to humans and/or wildlife? If so, please describe the emergency and how this project is addressing it.
- No**
6. Each project must meet one of the following purposes as it relates to drought. Please select the appropriate purpose for your project.
- Address immediate impacts on human health and safety, including providing or improving availability of food, water, or shelter.
 - Address immediate impacts on fish and wildlife resources.
 - Provide water to persons or communities that lose or are threatened with the loss or contamination of water supplies.
7. Each project must enhance regional drought resilience and align with the goals and objectives of the relevant approved Integrated Regional Water Management Plan. You can find the relevant IRWM Region by using the map at the following link:
<https://gis.water.ca.gov/app/dacs/>

The IRWM Plans can be found at the following link: <https://water.ca.gov/Work-With-Us/Grants-And-Loans/IRWM-Grant-Programs/Plan-Review-Process>. If you have any questions about the IRWM region the contact list can be found at the following link: <https://water.ca.gov/Work-With-Us/Grants-And-Loans/IRWM-Grant-Programs>. Applicants are encouraged to contact and coordinate with the applicable RWMG for the IRWM region

in which the project is located

Please identify the IRWM objective your project addresses.

The proposed project addresses the following objectives from the 2019 Antelope Valley IRWM Plan ([https://pw.lacounty.gov/wwd/avirwmp/docs/finalplan/2019 Final AV IRWMP.pdf](https://pw.lacounty.gov/wwd/avirwmp/docs/finalplan/2019%20Final%20AV%20IRWMP.pdf)):

1) Water Supply Management: Provide reliable water supply to meet the Antelope Valley Region's expected demand between now and 2040; and adapt to climate change. Water demand in the PWD service area is met with imported water from the State Water Project (SWP), local surface water from Littlerock Dam Reservoir, and groundwater from Antelope Valley Groundwater Basin. Imported and surface water supplies are anticipated to become increasingly limited and unreliable because of factors like climate change. While the project does not directly create a new water supply, the Conservation and Education Garden will be a tool to demonstrate conservation techniques and educate the public about the importance of conserving water, which will decrease residential water demand between now and 2040. The project will also help the region adapt to climate change by providing information and demonstration gardens for climate-appropriate landscapes to promote water conservation.

2) Water Supply Management: Stabilize groundwater levels. The Project will help stabilize groundwater levels such that the Production Rights defined in the Antelope Valley Groundwater Basin's adjudication Judgement are met by 2023. The Project will reduce water demand by 37 AFY, which will consequently reduce PWD's demand for groundwater (in addition to surface water and imported water).

3) Flood Management: Optimize the balance between protecting existing beneficial uses of stormwater and capturing stormwater for new uses. The project will include an in-ground arena where workshops will be held. The base of the in-ground arena will be made of permeable material which will capture 41,500 gallons per year of water for irrigation in the garden.

4) Land Use Planning/Management: Meet growing demand for recreational space. The Antelope Valley IRWM Region plans to contribute to local and regional General Planning documents to provide 5,000 acres of recreational space by 2040. The project will help contribute to this goal through the outdoor garden areas, which are approximately a quarter of an acre. Additionally, the Conservation and Education Garden will be located in a disadvantaged community (DAC). According to the 2017 Nature-Based Solutions to Climate Change Adaptation in Urban Areas, low-income communities, such as DACs, have less green space or are exposed to poorly maintained and unsafe green areas. The project will provide more green spaces to DACs.

5) Climate Change Mitigation: Mitigate against climate change. This Project will effectively reduce associated energy demands for imported water conveyance and for groundwater pumping. As a result, conservation will decrease the release carbon emissions that are the root cause of climate change. The Project will help mitigate against climate change by reducing water demand in PWD's service area by 37 AFY, which will reduce 62,867 kWh/year of energy required to supply that volume.

8. Describe the Primary Benefit of the project.

Quantified benefit: 37

Units (Drop down):Acre feet per year If other please enter:
Benefit Type: Water Conservation If other please enter:

9. Describe the Secondary Benefit of the project:

Quantified benefit: 44.6

Units (Drop down):Other If other please enter:Metric tons of CO2

Benefit Type: Other If other please enter:Greenhouse gas emission reduction

10. Please briefly describe how the project will achieve the claimed benefits.

The Conservation and Education Garden will decrease residential water consumption. As previously mentioned, the District estimates that 1% of its service area, or 1,260 people, will attend water conservation workshops and visit the Conservation and Education Garden in the first year. After the first year, the District anticipates an average of about 630 new visitors annually. The benefits of the Conservation and Education Garden will have life-long impacts on the District's service area. For example, PWD anticipates hosting approximately 300 students every year at the Conservation and Education Garden where they will learn about the importance of water conservation in the region. Educating about water conservation will provide students with the building blocks they need to become lifelong water ambassadors. To quantify the water savings, the District estimates the Conservation and Education Garden will lead to a 10% reduction in residential water use. The current water use in PWD's service area is 165 GPCD. If all garden visitors will reduce their water use by 10%, a water savings of 23.3 AFY can be achieved in the first year. Following the first year, PWD estimates 630 new visitors will visit the garden, which will save an additional 11.6 AFY of water. The District anticipates water savings will carry over to the following years, leading to 35 AFY of water savings. Additionally, 9,650 square feet of turf will be removed and replaced with water-wise landscapes. Assuming turf has a water demand of 51.4 gallons per square feet as determined in the Antelope Valley IRWM Plan, the removal of 9,650 square feet of turf will decrease water demand by 2 AFY. Combined with the 35 AFY of water savings, the Conservation and Education Garden will result in a total water savings of 37 AFY.

The secondary benefit of the project is a reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. PWD's water supply consists of 50% groundwater, 30% imported water, 19% local surface water, and 0.3% recycled water. Because recycled water is a local, reliable drought-proof water supply, PWD anticipates only offsetting demand for imported water, groundwater, and surface water. Therefore, a reduction of residential water use by 37 AFY is anticipated to result in a reduction of 18.6 AF of groundwater, 11.2 AF of imported water, and 7.2 AF of surface water supplies. Energy savings were calculated using DWR's Bulletin 132 to estimate energy requirements for imported water deliveries to the SWP East Branch, which were reported at 4,875.3 kilowatt-hours per AF (kWh/AF) for the Pearblossom Pumping Plant. Energy intensity for pumping and/or diverting, conveying, and treating groundwater and local surface water (326.3 kWh/AF) was obtained from PWD's 2020 UWMP. Energy savings were calculated to 62,867 kWh/year, which is equivalent to 44.6 metric tons of carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's GHG equivalencies calculator.

11. Briefly describe how the community/area benefiting from this project is being impacted by the current drought.

PWD is located in Los Angeles County in the western part of the Mojave Desert within the greater Antelope Valley, a region that experiences frequent droughts. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, portions of PWD's service area are experiencing severe drought conditions. Los Angeles County is also experiencing its 6th driest year to date over the past 128 years.

Residents who live within the service boundaries of PWD rely on a combination of 30% imported water from the SWP, 20% local surface water from the Littlerock Reservoir, and 50% groundwater from the Antelope Valley Groundwater Basin. The current statewide drought threatens PWD's water supply reliability, especially imported water from the SWP. During the 2013-2017 drought, SWP deliveries were reduced to 5% of allocations statewide in 2014 and to 20% of allocations in 2015. In December 2021, the Department of Water Resources (DWR) announced that allocation for SWP will focus on health and safety needs for 2022, resulting in a 0% allocation. This allocation was increased to 15% in January 2022 due to the December storms, but they were reduced back to 5% in March 2022 due to a historically dry January and February with no significant storms forecasted in March. However, the majority of the state is still experiencing severe drought conditions according to the U.S. Drought Monitor. The state has also had one of its driest January and February periods on record. PWD receives an annual SWP allotment based on available SWP supplies with a total maximum amount of 21,300 AFY. If drought conditions continue, PWD's SWP allotment will decrease.

The decrease in SWP allotment will significantly impact the District's water reliability. Groundwater from the Antelope Valley Groundwater Basin makes up approximately 50% of PWD's water sources based on their 2020 UWMP. During drought conditions, however, groundwater production could increase up to 60% to offset the lack of imported water. However, the adjudication of the Antelope Valley Groundwater Basin in 2015 determined that the basin is in overdraft. As a result of the adjudication, groundwater users will need to decrease pumping to meet their allocated Production Right by 2023. Per the adjudication, PWD has the groundwater production right of 2,770 AFY. This increase of groundwater may cause the District's water wells to be overdrafted, which could decrease groundwater levels, reduce water supplies, and increase pumping costs.

In August 2021, PWD's Board of Directors adopted stage 2 of their Water Shortage Contingency Plan (WSCP) due to ongoing drought conditions in the state. During stage 2 of the WSCP, all restrictions and initiatives from stage 1 are still in effect and the District has implemented conservation methods such as limiting outdoor watering to three days per week. The District has also continued to encourage its customers to conserve 15%. However, the state has received little to no precipitation in January and February. The District estimates they will have 11,350 AF of water available for 2022, but their customer demand is projected at 17,425 AFY, leaving PWD short 6,125 AF. To meet this demand, PWD is evaluating potential transfers and exchanges with other water agencies. If the District cannot close this gap, voluntary conservation measures may be increased to 15% to 20% and they could be made mandatory.

According to a 2019 study from the Public Policy Institute of California, climate change has impacted drought conditions in California. On average, the Sierra Nevada snowpack supplies approximately one-third of the state's water needs. However, warmer temperatures are causing less precipitation to fall as snow and accelerating spring melt, diminishing the Sierra Nevada snowpack. DWR conducted the third snow survey of the

season at the Phillips Station in March 2022. Due to a dry January and February, the snow survey recorded 35 inches of snow depth and a snow water equivalent of 16 inches, which totals to a 68% of average for March at the Philipps Station. The statewide snowpack average is at 63%. The reduced snowpack will make it difficult for the state to meet its water demands because there is not enough runoff to fill the state’s reservoirs. Additionally, climate change is expected to result in more variable weather and precipitation patterns, which increases the severity and frequency of droughts.

12. How will this project alleviate the impacts described in your answer to Question 11?

As previously mentioned, water conservation is a key component for water resource management in the Antelope Valley because it is one of the most cost-effective means to preventing potential supply shortfalls during drought periods. Recognizing the significance of water conservation in reducing water demands, especially during drought periods, PWD works with regional water purveyors, cities, and school districts to promote water use efficiency messaging and initiatives throughout Antelope Valley. However, the District lacks a space that is dedicated to the demonstration, education, and promotion of water conservation. The Conservation and Education Garden will provide the District a dedicated space to host workshops, field trips, and events to emphasize the importance of water conservation especially during drought periods when imported water, surface water, and groundwater supplies are strained. In the Guidance Document on Water Conservation Education Programs developed by the Georgia Environmental Protection Division in 2007, it states that education is a key element for water conservation because without sufficient knowledge, people lack the ability to implement conservation practices. Additionally, the Conservation and Education Garden will promote the District’s WWLC program by showcasing xeriscaping and other water conservation-friendly practices. The WWLC program began on January 2020 and has had 90 participations. In total, the WWLC program has removed 139,000 acre-feet of turf and saved over 20 AFY of water. This additional promotion of PWD’s regional turf removal program will increase the number of program participants and participants adopting other water conservation measures, leading to more water savings in PWD’s service area. Implementation of the Conservation and Education Garden will yield long-term water savings of 37 AFY.

13. Please complete the following budget table for the project. (Identify funding sources in Question 15)

	BUDGET CATEGORY	Grant Amount	All Other Cost	Total Cost
(a)	Project Administration	15,000	0	15,000
(b)	Land Purchase / Easement	0	0	0
(c)	Planning / Design / Engineering / Environmental Documentation	15,000	0	15,000
(d)	Construction / Implementation	420,000	0	420,000
	TOTAL COSTS	450,000	0	450,000

14. Please describe why state funding is needed for this project. If state funding is not secured, what

will happen to the project?

The total cost of the Conservation and Education Garden is \$450,000. Though PWD has funding available in its Water Conservation Budget to teach PWD's customers about the importance of conserving water, the amount is not sufficient to fund the construction of the garden. The Water Conservation Budget is funded by the District's revenue from higher tier usage. Project implementation would require PWD to increase water rates to build cash reserves for this project. However, the District's service area is comprised of 18% DAC and 28% of severely disadvantaged community (SDAC) by population. Increased water rates may cause pronounced and disproportionate affordability challenges on these low-income communities. As a result, without state funding, it is likely that the Conservation and Education Garden will not be implemented.

15. Will the applicant provide cost share (encouraged but not required) and/or will this project require any additional funding from sources other than this solicitation? If so, please describe the funding source and indicate if the funding has been secured. If the funding has not been secured, please describe the plan to secure the necessary funding.

PWD will not provide cost share. As previously stated, the District's Water Conservation Budget is insufficient to fund the construction of the Conservation and Education Garden as the budget has been reserved for PWD's other existing conservation programs. The grant will fund the entire project.

16. Is land acquisition or landowner permission required for this project? If so, please briefly describe the status of the acquisition or agreement with the landowner. If the acquisition is not complete or permission not secured at the time of application, please describe the plan to complete it.

The Conservation and Education Garden will be constructed on PWD's property. Therefore, land acquisition or landowner permission is not required.

17. Has planning and design for this project been completed? If not, please describe the status of planning and design.

The design for phase 1 of the project, which includes the in-ground arena and shade structure, is complete. The design of the garden portion is almost complete and will be finalized in October 2022.

18. Are the CEQA (and NEPA if applicable) and permitting processes for this project complete? If not, please briefly describe the permits and CEQA (or NEPA) documents to be completed and projected schedule for completion.

No, the project is exempt from CEQA.

19. Please briefly describe the necessary construction/implementation for this project.

The necessary implementation/construction will include constructing two curbs and ADA ramps to provide access to the in-ground arena. Two ADA parking signs and stripping pavers for walking paths will be installed to provide access to the two garden areas. Additionally, permanent and permeable paver on decomposed granite arena floor, 100 linear feet for seating steps, and 172 linear feet of safety railing will be installed.

20. Please complete the schedule below for the project. Projects must be complete by March 31, 2026, to allow time for final invoice processing and retention payment before the State funds expire on June 30, 2026. Project administration should end at least three months after construction.

	Categories	Start Date	End Date
(a)	Project Administration	2/2/2021	10/31/2023
(b)	Land Purchase / Easement		
(c)	Planning/ Design / Engineering / Environmental Documentation	5/1/2018	10/10/2022
(d)	Construction/ Implementation	4/1/2022	9/1/2022

**PALMDALE WATER DISTRICT
BOARD MEMORANDUM**

DATE: April 19, 2022 **April 25, 2022**
TO: BOARD OF DIRECTORS **Board Meeting**
FROM: Mrs. Claudia Bolanos, Resource and Analytics Supervisor
VIA: Mr. Peter Thompson II, Resource and Analytics Director
Mr. Dennis D. LaMoreaux, General Manager
RE: ***AGENDA ITEM NO. 7.3 – CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON RESOLUTION NO. 22-11 BEING A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE PALMDALE WATER DISTRICT APPROVING THE DISTRICT’S GRANT APPLICATION FOR A WATER USE EFFICIENCY REBATE PROGRAM FOR THE U.S. BUREAU OF RECLAMATION’S WATERSMART GRANTS SMALL SCALE WATER EFFICIENCY PROJECTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022. (\$125,000 - BUDGETED – RESOURCE AND ANALYTICS SUPERVISOR BOLANOS)***

Recommendation:

Staff recommends that the Board approve Resolution 22-11 being a Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Palmdale Water District Approving the District’s Grant Application for a Water Use Efficiency Rebate Program for the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation’s WaterSMART Grants Small Scale Water Efficiency Projects for fiscal year 2022.

Alternative Options:

The Board of Directors can deny the application submission.

Impact of Taking No Action:

Grant funding will not be available through the WaterSMART Grants Small Scale Water Efficiency Program.

Background:

In the past, the District has received grant funding for our Water Wise Landscape Conversion Program (WWLCP) through the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, and the grant program was successful. It would be a great opportunity for the District to apply for the program again, this time taking our whole rebate suite as a complete program. The application will ask to include weather-based irrigation controllers, toilets, washing machines, and urinals, along with our WWLCP.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
PALMDALE WATER DISTRICT

VIA: Mr. Peter Thompson II, Resource and Analytics Director
Mr. Dennis D. LaMoreaux, General Manager

April 19, 2022

Strategic Plan Initiative/Mission Statement:

This item is under Strategic Initiative No. 1 – Water Resource Reliability, and No. 4 Financial Health and Stability.

This item directly relates to the District’s Mission Statement.

Budget:

Item is budgeted for under Budget Item. No – 2-00-5100-100 – Conservation/Rebates

Supporting Documents:

- Resolution No. 22-10 being a Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Palmdale Water District Approving the District’s Grant Application for a Water Use Efficiency Rebate Program for the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation’s WaterSMART Grants Small Scale Water Efficiency Projects for fiscal year 2022.

RESOLUTION No. 22-11
A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE PALMDALE WATER DISTRICT APPROVING THE DISTRICT’S GRANT APPLICATION FOR A WATER USE EFFICIENCY REBATE PROGRAM FOR THE U.S. BUREAU OF RECLAMATION’S WATERSMART GRANTS SMALL SCALE WATER EFFICIENCY PROJECTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Interior, Bureau of Reclamation (the “Bureau”) has established the WaterSMART: Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects Program for 2022 (the “WaterSMART Program”) to provide funding opportunities for entities seeking new water supplies using water efficiency technology; and

WHEREAS, the Palmdale Water District has need for funding for its Water Use Efficiency Rebate Program to meet future municipal and industrial water needs; and

WHEREAS, the WaterSMART Program requires a \$125,000 non-Federal cost share funding and/or in-kind contribution from applicants, and the Board finds the District has the capability of funding its required share of the Project.

NOW THEREFORE, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE PALMDALE WATER DISTRICT DOES HEREBY RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. Funding for the Water Efficiency Rebate Program Project (the “Project”) under the WaterSMART Grant Program meets the objectives of Strategic Initiative No. 1 – Water Resource Reliability and Strategic Initiative No. 4 Financial Health and Stability.

SECTION 2. If selected for a WaterSMART Grant, up to \$100,000 of the total project costs of \$225,000 through monetary contribution shall be committed for funding the District’s proportionate share of the Project, as may be required by the Bureau of Reclamation under the WaterSMART Grant Program, and the District will work with the Bureau to meet established deadlines for entering into an agreement to commit such funds.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED THIS 25th day of April, 2022.

Gloria Dizmang, President, Board of Directors

ATTEST:

Kathy Mac Laren-Gomez, Secretary, Board of Directors

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Aleshire & Wynder, LLP, District Legal Counsel

**PALMDALE WATER DISTRICT
BOARD MEMORANDUM**

DATE: April 19, 2022 April 25, 2022
TO: BOARD OF DIRECTORS **Regular Board Meeting**
FROM: Mr. Dennis D. LaMoreaux, General Manager
RE: *AGENDA ITEM NO. 7.4 – DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON
DEVELOPING A STANDARDIZED DIRECTOR ORIENTATION PROGRAM.
(NO BUDGET IMPACT – PRESIDENT DIZMANG)*

Recommendation:

This item is presented for discussion of the Board.

Background:

Staff follows an informal process when a new Director is seated on the Board. The development of a standardized Director Orientation Program will formalize this process.

Strategic Plan Initiative/Mission Statement:

This item is under Strategic Initiative No. 5 – Regional Leadership.

This item directly relates to the District’s Mission Statement.

Budget:

No budget impact.

Supporting Documents:

There are no supporting documents.



Hotel and Travel Accommodations

Event Name/Date:

AVEDGE 2022 Spring Business Summit "Bridging the Gaps"/May 25, 2022

CONTACT INFORMATION

First Name

Last Name

Date

ACCOMMODATION INFORMATION

Rooms and rates are subject to availability. Complete and submit this form as soon as possible to guarantee a room at the host hotel. In the event that the host hotel is booked, every effort will be made to secure a room at the closet hotel within comparable rates to the event discounted rate.

Arrival Date

Departure Date

No. of guests

Room Type

Do you require a smoking room?

Yes No

Do you need transportation from the airport to the hotel?

Yes No

Flight Number

Time

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION/REQUESTS

Staff Representative

2022 Spring Business Summit
May 25 @ 7:00 am - 12:00 pm



Join us for our 2022 Spring Business Summit!

Bridging the Gaps
May 25, 2022 @ 7AM

Featuring:

- Valuable insights, practical resources, and data on the current and future regional economic climate, and the continued recalibration of post COVID-19 challenges that businesses continue to face
- Regional economic forecast
- Updates from Kern and Los Angeles Counties, the Cities of Lancaster and Palmdale, as well as local legislators
- And More!



Keynote Speaker: Daymond John

From his wildly successful role on ABC's smash hit, Shark Tank, to his distinguished status as a Presidential Ambassador for Global Entrepreneurship, Daymond John has

become globally recognized for his relentless commitment to promoting and supporting entrepreneurs.

Mr. John initially made his mark as the entrepreneur and branding expert behind the groundbreaking lifestyle brand, FUBU (For Us, By Us), which has eclipsed more than \$6 billion in world-wide retail sales.



Ticket Information Coming Soon

**REPORTING FORM FOR
PWD STANDING COMMITTEES AND APPOINTMENTS**

FINANCE COMMITTEE

MEETING DATE: TUESDAY March 29, 2022

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ATTENDING Don Wilson-Chair, Gloria Dizmang

AGENDA ITEM # 4.2 Discussion and overview of Cash Flow Statement and Current Cash Balances as of December 2021 (Financial Advisor Egan)

ITEM CONSIDERED: January to February 2022 Major Account Activity

Money Market General Account #11469 –

\$944,000.00 transferred from #11475,

\$835,000.00 transferred from #11432

\$2mm transferred to checking

Taxes received \$443,714.74 (budget \$313,000)

Money Market Account #11475 (longer term)

Capital Improvements received \$450,000.00

AGENDA ITEM # 4.3. Discussion and Overview of Financial Statements, Revenue and Expense and Departmental Budget Reports for February 2022. (Finance Manager Hoffmeyer)

ITEMS DISCUSSED: This is the 2nd month of the District's Budget Year 2022 thus we are looking for a target percentage of 16.7 % for revenue and expenses. Keeping in mind that winter water usage is less than hot summer months and prior year invoices will hit the books. This skews early percentages, making them higher. As the weather heats up water usage increases and brings percentages back to budget.

Balance Sheet: Assets match Liabilities & Net Position balance at \$212,495,441.

Profit and Loss Statement shows three department percentages above budget:

Facilities at 18.07%

Finance at 17.01%

Information & Technology 23.09%

**AGENDA ITEM # 4.4 Discussion and Overview of Committed Contracts Issued.
(Finance Manager Hoffmeyer)**

ITEMS DISCUSSED:

Next to last payment made on Sierra Highway Tie-in @ Harold Street and Abandonment Plan (Bond Fund) (Replacement Cap) Contract Amount \$669,886 Payments approved \$604,198

Well 36 Design and Construction (Bond Fund) Contract Amount \$612,886 Payments approved \$224,007

AGENDA ITEM # 5.1. Reports (Finance Manager Hoffmeyer)

2021 Revenue Projections

	<u>Accounts</u>	<u>Outstanding</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
February 2022	2,082	\$675,812	9.3%
January 2022	2,013	\$612,784	-42.1
December 2021	2,172	\$871,057	
February 2021	1,512	\$810,175	

At the end of February, we began the shutoff process with the focus on accounts with outstanding balances over 600 days and amounts greater than \$600. This targeted 322 accounts and \$303,575 in outstanding balances. This has been worthwhile as 279 payment arrangements are now in place on \$250,068 with \$73,274 already collected and \$176,793 outstanding.

Over the next month, we will be targeting the first seven route groups and currently have 1,842 accounts scheduled for shutoff with \$356,247 outstanding under SP998 guidelines.

Revenue Projections for 2022 based on selling 17,000 AF shows as of February 28, revenue is behind projections by approximately \$50K.

Rate Assistance Program:

We have 582 qualifying accounts with three slots available. The current make up is 399 seniors, 172 low income and 11 veterans accounts.

AGENDA ITEM #: 5.2. Debt Service Coverage

Total Debt Service

Audited 2017	Audited 2018	Audited 2019	Audited 2020	Jan 2021- Dec 2021	Feb 2021 Jan 2022	Mar 2021 Feb 2022
1.51	1.11	1.27	1.81	1.89	1.74	1.95

AGENDA ITEM #: 6 Board members' request for future agenda items.

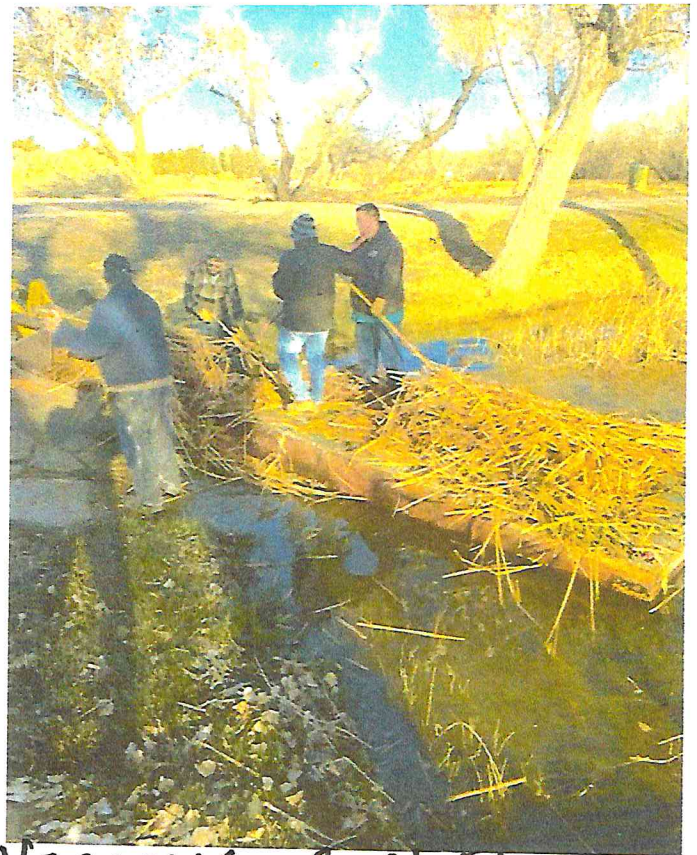
Gloria Dizmang requested leak repair cost summary.

Gloria Dizmang, Fin & Feather Club Liaison

FIN AND FEATHER REPORT FOR APRIL 16, 2022

I attended the meeting of the Fin and Feather Club on Saturday, April 16, 2022. The meeting was short but I was able to get pictures from Bob Beach on the Hydraulic Sycthe and the progress that has been made on defeating our arch enemy, the fearsome Cat Tail. (See photos)..

All boating activity was cancelled do to high winds. The surface of the lake was corvered with white caps. (See photo). I drove around the lake to see the difference made by the CT removal,. I tried to take pictures but my phone died.



Clearing out the vicious cattail

[/mail.google.com/mail/u/0/#inbox/FMfcgzGmvtnqJSWbrksMMHvxFWwV?projector=1](mailto:mail.google.com/mail/u/0/#inbox/FMfcgzGmvtnqJSWbrksMMHvxFWwV?projector=1)

1/1

image_6487327.JPG



Area cleared.



White Caps on Lake Palmdale

**PALMDALE WATER DISTRICT
BOARD MEMORANDUM**

DATE: April 20, 2022 April 25, 2022
TO: BOARD OF DIRECTORS Board Meeting
FROM: Mr. Dennis D. LaMoreaux, General Manager
RE: *AGENDA ITEM NO. 8.2.a – APRIL 2022 GENERAL MANAGER REPORT*

The following is the April 2022 report to the Board of activities through March 2022. It is organized to follow the District's 2020 Strategic Plan approved in August 2020 and composed of six strategic initiatives. The initiatives follow for reference. It is intended to provide a general update on the month's activities.

PWD 2020 STRATEGIC PLAN SUMMARY



Water Resource Reliability: *Resilience, Development, Partnership*

Support and participate with local agencies in the development of projects and policies that improve water reliability

Expand the recycled water distribution system for both public access and construction water

Continue the Palmdale Regional Groundwater Recharge and Recovery Project to maximize state and federal funding opportunities

Support projects and initiatives that increase the resilience of the State Water Project

Expand access to available water supplies to increase drought resiliency, develop water storage projects, and improve the ability to capture groundwater, local surface water, and recycled water

Update the 2010 Strategic Water Resources Plan and Water Supply Fee to ensure funding for needed projects

Strengthen stakeholder relationships and implement Littlerock Dam and Reservoir sediment removal



Organizational Excellence: *Train, Perform, Reward*

Offer competitive compensation and benefits package for employee recruitment and retention

Focus Succession Planning Program on ensuring an overlap of training for key positions

Continue providing transparency to our ratepayers

Promote and support leadership training and professional development programs to enhance the District's customers' experience

Ensure employees are trained on the Strategic Plan and the District's Values of Diversity, Integrity, Teamwork, and Passion

Improve safety for Directors, employees, and customers

Develop career paths at the District for interns and pursue state and federal funding for intern programs

Involve employees in community engagement and professional platforms



Systems Efficiency: *Independence, Technology, Research*

Explore energy independence and evaluate the feasibility of energy options, including wind and solar

Incorporate more energy efficient technologies into the District's infrastructure

Advance new technologies to increase treatment efficiencies, including the use of Granular Activated Carbon (GAC)

Research state-of-the-art treatment techniques to help with systems efficiency and flexibility in using recycled water and surface water

Enhance technologies to increase efficiencies

Re-evaluate Lake Palmdale by-pass pipeline and pursue funding options

Improve Palmdale Ditch to reduce water loss



Financial Health and Stability: *Strength, Consistency, Balance*

Pursue grant funding for District projects and operations

Maintain the five-year financial plan adopted as part of the 2019 Water Rate Study, including the five-year Capital Improvement Plan

Build adequate reserve levels and achieve high-level bond rating

Seek potential revenue sources from vacant District properties

Monitor finances, operations, and projects affected by emergencies

Digitize and document departmental workflows



Regional Leadership: *Engage, Lead, Progress*

Increase involvement with water, business, and community partnerships

Provide opportunities for local businesses to contract with the District

Expand the Greater Antelope Valley Water Emergency Coalition by continuing to collaborate with neighboring water agencies and moving to include more agencies outside of the Antelope Valley

Develop working relationships and mutually beneficial projects with other water agencies in the District's state and federal representatives' districts

Develop events or activities with lessees of District properties

Host a 100th anniversary celebration for a fully re-opened Littlerock Dam and Reservoir recreation area in 2024



Customer Care, Advocacy and Outreach: *Promote, Educate, Support*

Enhance customers' experience through communication and feedback

Evaluate, develop, and market additional payment options

Develop the District's Public Outreach Plan and increase public awareness of current programs and services

Develop partnerships with various agencies to distribute information about resources available to the public

Engage elected officials and the public on the importance of local, state, federal, and global water reliability issues

Expand the District's social media platforms and find new avenues to share information and news

Plan and convert to an Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) to increase customers' knowledge of water use

Continue to promote and expand school water education programs

Overview

This report also includes charts that show the effects of the District's efforts in several areas. They are organized within each strategic initiative and include status of the State Water Resources Control Board's (SWRCB) former long-term conservation orders (20 x 2020), the District's total per capita water use trends, 2022 actual water production and customer use graph, mainline leaks, and the water loss trends for both 12- and 24-month running averages.



Water Resource Reliability *Resilience, Development, Partnership*

This initiative includes conservation efforts, water supply projects, and water planning.

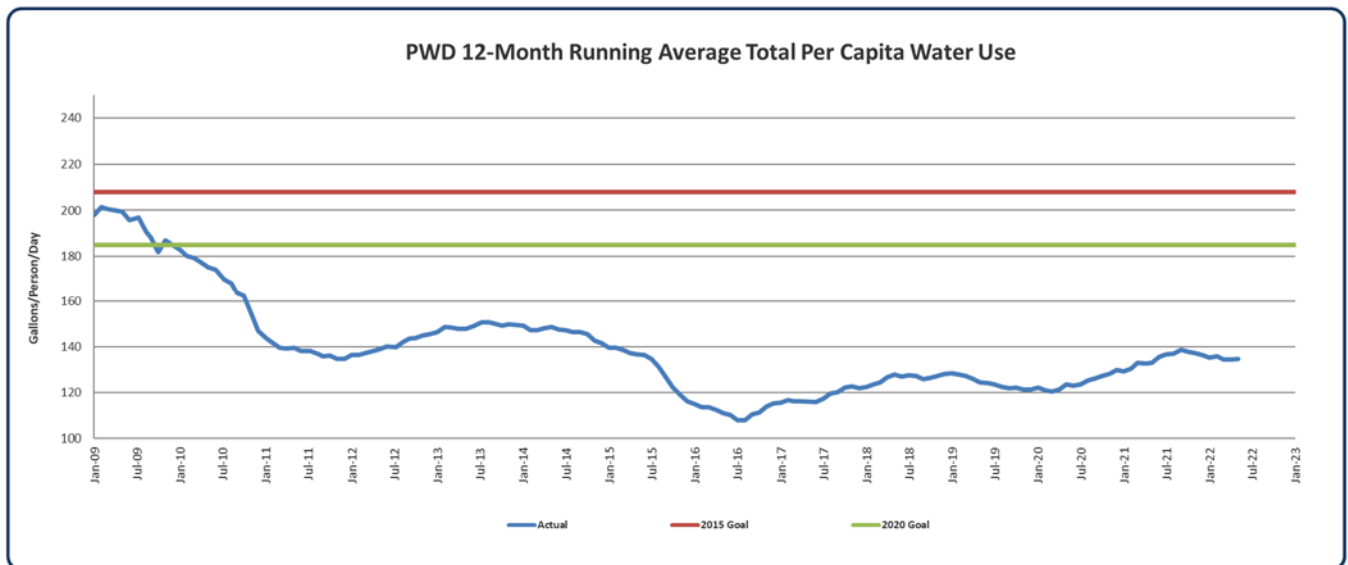
Recent highlights are as follows:

Overall Water Use Goals and Compliance

The 20 x 2020 per capita reduction goals passed by the legislature in 2009 with new long-term water budgeting requirements replaced with new requirements and water agency water budgets. These follow through on the “Making Water Conservation a California Way of Life” plan. The District expects to easily comply with the new requirements as they are based on the same philosophy as the District’s water budget rate structure.

The 2020 Urban Water Management Plan was adopted by the District in June 2021. It does not relate the District’s water use to the upcoming agency water budget. Until these criteria are finalized, the customers’ performance is shown in this report using the 20 x 2020 requirements.

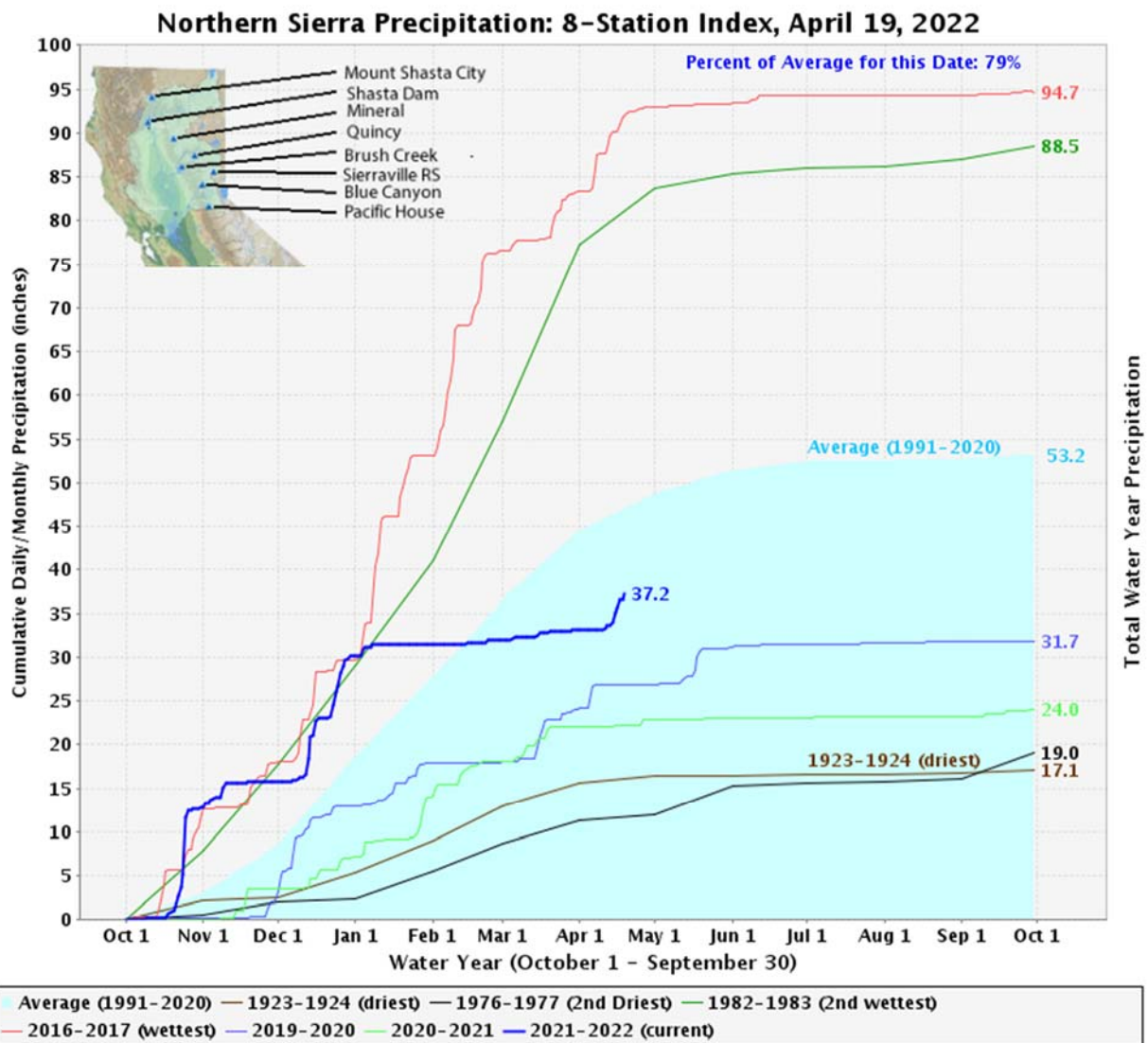
The District’s compliance with the former 20 x 2020 law is evident from the chart titled “PWD 12-Month Running Average Total Per Capita Water Use:”



The District’s customers have cut their water use by **41.6%** from the baseline number of 231 re-established in the 2020 Urban Water Management Plan and met the 2020 Goal in early 2010. The current Metered-GPCD is 135 showing our customers’ reduced usage.

2022 Water Supply Information – Extremely Dry Year

- The AV Adjudication is now entering its seventh year, and the reduction to the native safe yield is in its fifth year. The District’s native groundwater right is 2,769.63 AF. The District’s 2022 groundwater rights will be approximately 8,000 AF with 9,000 AF of Carryover production rights from prior years for a total of 17,000 AF. This is more than the District’s existing wellfield can pump.
- The 2022 water resources plan is not set at this point. Precipitation in the area that contributes to the State Water Project is at 79% of average for the 2021-2022 Water Year (October through September). The SWP allocation was reduced from 15% to 5% in March. This is the first time the SWP has had two consecutive years of a 5% allocation. The District will explore other water sources as needed for 2022 including the SWC Dry Year Program, Yuba Accord Water, third-party water, and exchanges. The current precipitation and state reservoir storage as of Tuesday, April 19, 2022, are as follows:

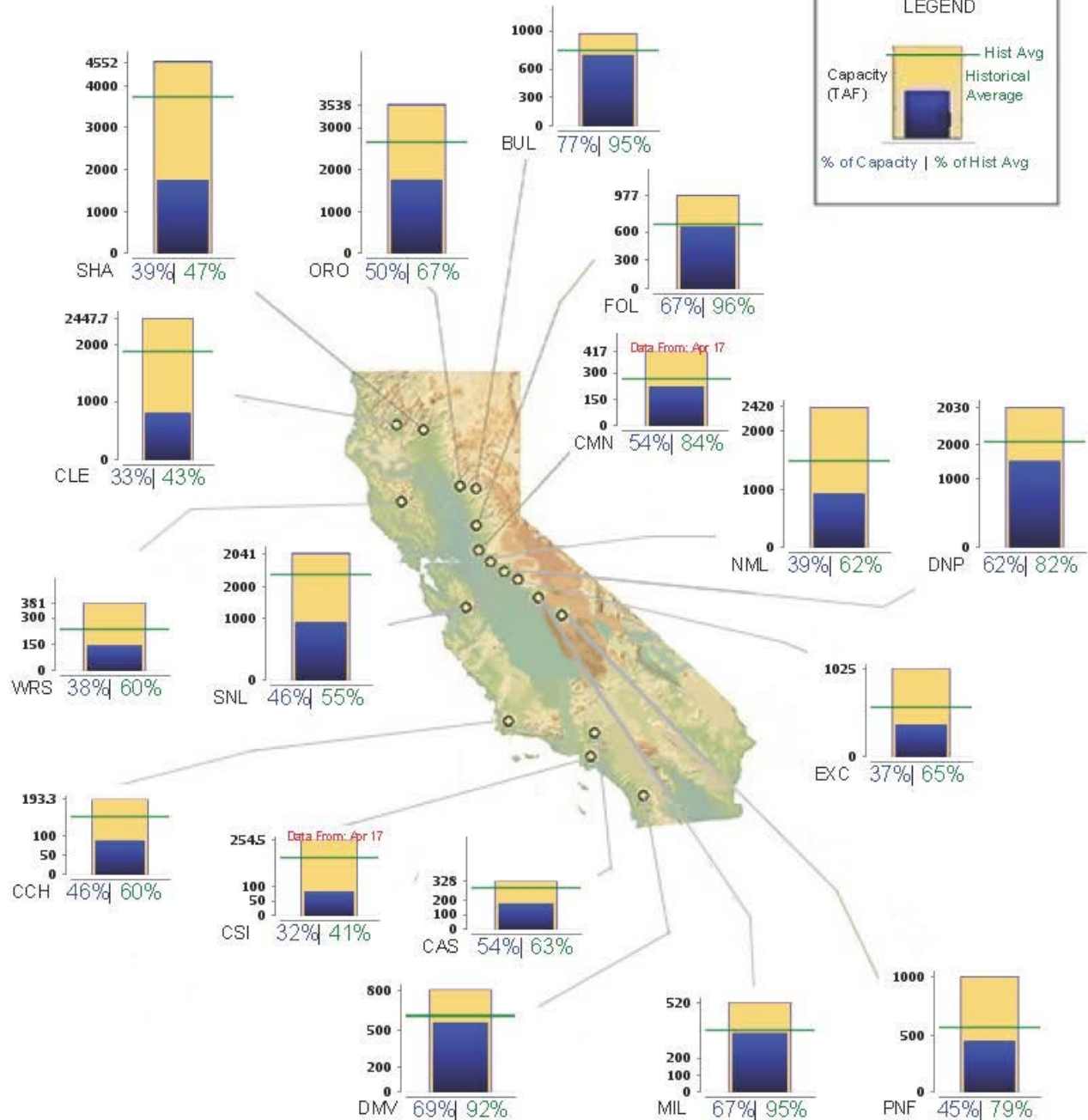




CALIFORNIA MAJOR WATER SUPPLY RESERVOIRS

Midnight - April 18, 2022

CURRENT CONDITIONS

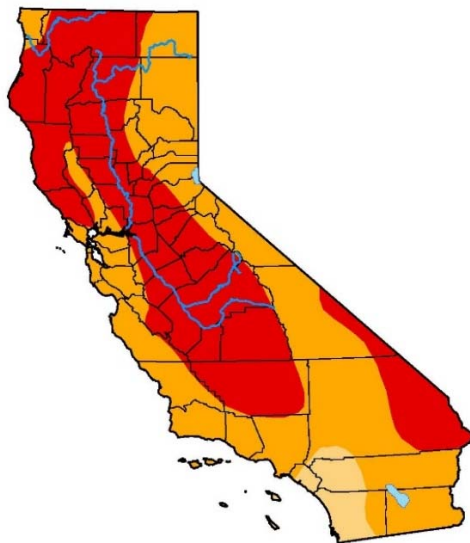


Updated 04/19/2022 08:48 AM

2021-2022 Drought and District Response

- It is easy to see this year’s conditions are getting worse. The following map of California shows the levels of drought in the state as of April 12 and March 15, 2022. Most of Kern County, Sacramento Valley, and San Joaquin Valley are now in “Extreme Drought.” This map is updated on a weekly basis and provides information that can help the District take needed steps to address the drought in the weeks and months ahead.

**U.S. Drought Monitor
California**



April 12, 2022
(Released Thursday, Apr. 14, 2022)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT

	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)					
	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	0.00	100.00	100.00	95.75	46.87	0.00
Last Week 04-05-2022	0.00	100.00	100.00	93.85	40.87	0.00
3 Months Ago 01-11-2022	0.00	100.00	99.25	88.39	1.39	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 01-04-2022	0.00	100.00	99.30	67.62	16.60	0.84
Start of Water Year 09-28-2021	0.00	100.00	100.00	93.93	87.88	45.66
One Year Ago 04-13-2021	0.78	89.22	94.14	78.97	38.66	5.36

Intensity:
 None
 D0 Abnormally Dry
 D1 Moderate Drought
 D2 Severe Drought
 D3 Extreme Drought
 D4 Exceptional Drought

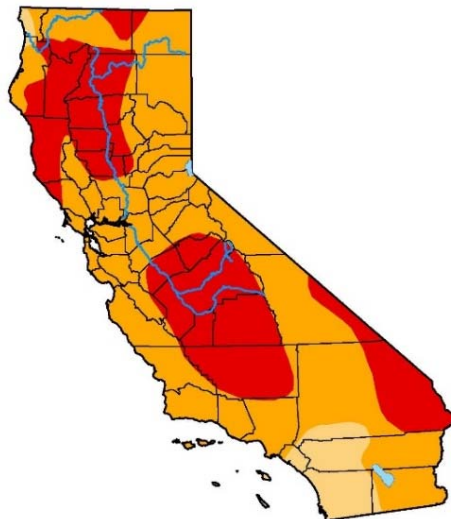
The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

Author:
Richard Tinker
CPC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP



droughtmonitor.unl.edu

**U.S. Drought Monitor
California**



March 15, 2022
(Released Thursday, Mar. 17, 2022)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT

	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)					
	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	0.00	100.00	100.00	93.23	35.22	0.00
Last Week 03-08-2022	0.00	100.00	100.00	86.98	12.82	0.00
3 Months Ago 12-14-2021	0.00	100.00	100.00	92.43	80.28	28.27
Start of Calendar Year 01-04-2022	0.00	100.00	99.30	67.62	16.60	0.84
Start of Water Year 09-28-2021	0.00	100.00	100.00	93.93	87.88	45.66
One Year Ago 03-16-2021	0.78	89.22	90.62	58.59	29.54	3.75

Intensity:
 None
 D0 Abnormally Dry
 D1 Moderate Drought
 D2 Severe Drought
 D3 Extreme Drought
 D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

Author:
Adam Hartman
NOAA/NWS/NCEP/CPC



droughtmonitor.unl.edu

- The dry conditions last year led to the District’s implementation of its Stage 2 of the 2020 Water Shortage Contingency Plan (WSCP) in June. This stage is voluntary and requests our customers to reduce their water use by 15%. The focus was on additional outreach, education, and coordination with the largest water users.

The Board approved moving into mandatory conservation on April 11, 2022 by enacting Stage 2 at 20% reduction compared to 2020 water use. This sets mandatory rules to prevent water waste and reduce outside water use beginning on May 1, 2022. The financial provisions of using the drought factor in the water rate structure to reduce the residential and irrigation accounts Tier 2 allocation by 20% and a \$0.04 per unit, 748 gallons, drought surcharge for water use in Tiers 3 through 5 will be effective on June 1, 2022.

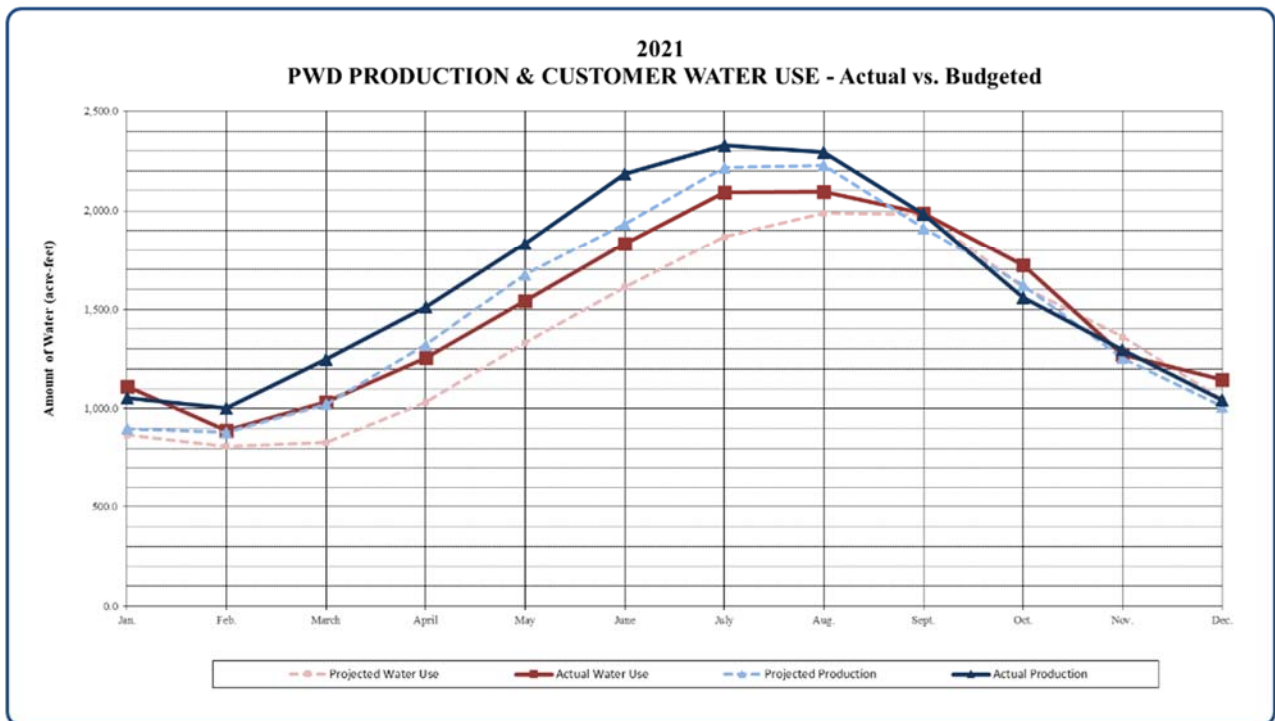
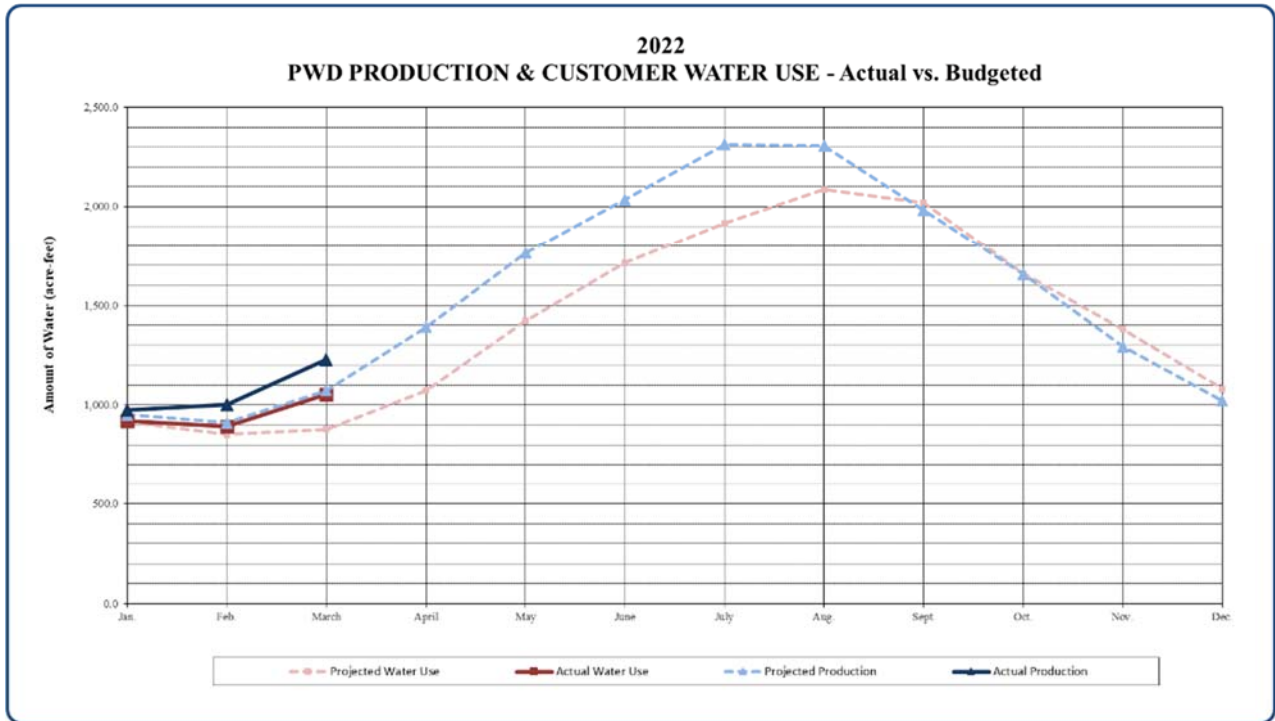
The goal of these actions is to reduce water use by 3,000 AF from May to the end of the year. This is needed to match the available water supplies summarized above. The following table summarizes water use through March 31 as compared to 2020. Water production is currently 8.8% above the same time in 2020. This shows the importance of the mandatory conservation measures.

Year to Date Comparisons								
Year to Date Through:	Total Prod. (ac.-ft.)	Total Billed (ac.-ft.)	Water Loss			Aver. Active Connections	Aver. Gallons per Conn./month	Aver. Per Cap. Use (gal/day/per.)
			(ac.-ft.)	(%)	(12 mo %)			
March 31, '20	2,944.3	2,711.1	233.2	7.9	9.9	26,738	11,014	83.0
March 31, '22	3,203.7	2,868.7	335.0	10.5	7.4	26,963	11,557	88.0
Increase	259.4	157.6	101.8	2.5	-2.5	225	543	4.9
% Increase	8.8	5.8	43.7	32.0	-25.2	0.8	4.9	6.0
5 yr. Average ('17-'21)	2,884.4	2,613.8	270.5	9.4	8.9	26,717	10,624	81

2022 Water Use Information

- The following graph is the projected monthly water consumption and production for 2022 based on the prior five years of actual monthly information. The projected total consumption is based on the 2022 Budget amount of 17,000 AF, a 5.5% reduction from 2021 actual water use.

Actual amounts are shown through March. The 2021 graph shows the projected and actual water use last year. Customer water use was 17,983.6 AF in 2021. This is the most water used by customers since 18,127 AF in 2014, before the 2015-2017 drought.



Other Items

- The Littlerock Reservoir Sediment Removal Project (Project) Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS) was fully approved in 2017. The Project consists of three phases. The Grade Control Structure is Phase 1 and was completed in January 2020.

Phase II is the removal of 1.2 million cubic yards (CY) of sediment from the reservoir. Last year, the Board approved moving forward with Aspen Environmental for the next five years as the environmental permitting, engineering, and monitoring firm. Staff is working with Aspen Environmental to secure all the necessary permits and plans to complete the first year of sediment removal this year from Labor Day through December.

Staff is also working with the Angeles National Forest to clear and restore the recreational area. Recreation staff from United Water Conservation District met with District staff and visited the Littlerock Recreation Area in March. They provided good advice and a rough plan for helping the Area open in 2024.

- The focus of using recycled water for a stable potable water supply has shifted from the Palmdale Regional Groundwater Recharge and Recovery Project (PRGRRP) to the Palmdale Regional Water Augmentation Project (PRWAP). It appears to be feasible and a more cost-efficient way of using recycled water. PRWA suspended work on additional purple pipe while advanced treatment is being evaluated.

A request for proposals was issued for a program management firm to assist the District with the Palmdale Regional Water Augmentation Project (PRWAP) late last year. The proposals were received, evaluated by staff, and the Board approved a contract with Stantec in February and the kickoff meeting is scheduled for April.

- The Upper Amargosa Creek Recharge Project construction is complete. The project partners, City of Palmdale, LA County Waterworks, and AVEK, are now finalizing the operation and maintenance agreement.

The City of Palmdale recently notified the project partners about the mitigation requirements and costs. The two stages, 11.28 acres and 38.72 acres, of mitigation are being finalized with the regulatory agencies. The estimated construction costs are \$1,305,472 and \$3,100,000, respectively, and will be built several years apart. The City is also seeking grant funding for these costs.

- Delta Conveyance Design and Construction Authority (DCA): This joint power authority is responsible for the environmental, design, and engineering of the project and works with the Department of Water Resources (DWR) on the project. The Board is now reorganized with more representation from smaller agencies. This includes adding two seats for the East Branch, Class 8, of the California Aqueduct. The agencies are AVEK, PWD, Littlerock Creek Irrigation District (LCID), Mojave Water Agency (MWA), Crestline-Lake Arrowhead Water Agency, San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District,

San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District (SBVMWD), San Geronio Pass Water Agency, Desert Water Agency, and Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD).

The Delta Conveyance Project (DCP) is moving to the next step of a Draft EIR/EIS (Draft) for the public's review. The Draft is planned for release this summer.

- A set of amendments to the State Water Project Contract was finalized in 2020. These changes provide for increased flexibility for SWP contractors to develop long-term exchanges of water within the SWP. This is beneficial for all the contractors and will help the District maintain the SWP's current level of reliability for our customers. The District is working with these amendments to finalize a long-term exchange with Littlerock Creek Irrigation District.



Organizational Excellence *Train, Perform, Reward*

This initiative includes efforts to restructure staff duties and activities to more efficiently provide service to our customers. Recent highlights are as follows:

- Nearly 80 percent of the District's staff is required to have certifications or licenses issued by the State of California. Many of these have continuing education requirements which must be met by technical training. The District provides for this in several ways including hosting classes given by the California Rural Water Association, having a training budget for staff to attend conferences, and providing an education tuition allowance for each employee.
- COVID-19 Pandemic Response: District staff initiated a draft Pandemic Response Plan on March 4, 2020 as the State of California and County of Los Angeles issued declarations of emergency. The other options to conduct business with the District, including using the website, calling Customer Care, using the automated phone system, and using remote payment sites, were promoted on social media, the website, and radio spots.
The District also continued to comply with social distancing regulations by updating the Pandemic Response Plan, rotating staff to work from home, staggering work hours, and providing face coverings for staff. The lobby was reopened Monday, July 12, 2021. Customer Care representatives alternate between working from the office and home.
- Despite the pandemic, the District has continued to find ways for internships and training opportunities for college and high school students who are interested in the water industry.

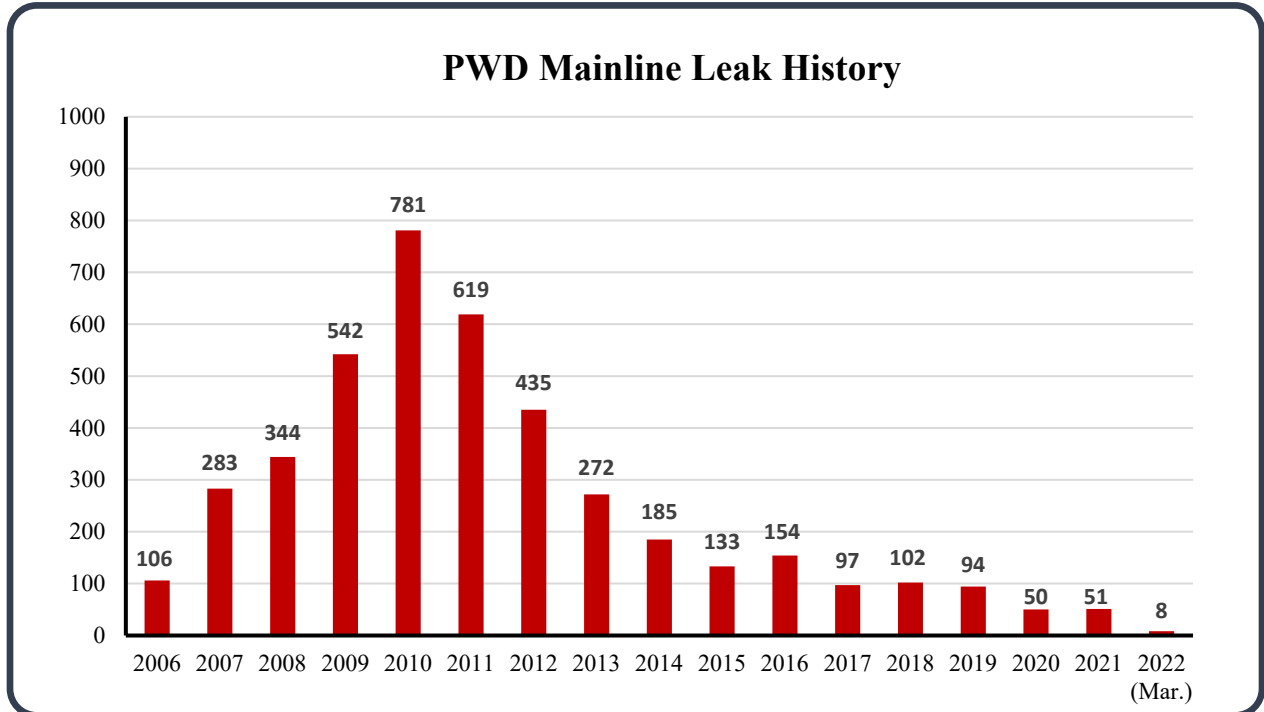
- The update of job descriptions for the District’s positions is now complete. The updated job descriptions will be used as the basis of a salary survey with comparable water agencies later this year.
- The Employee Handbook update is being reviewed by the District’s general counsel and management. It will then be presented to the Ad-Hoc Committee to review and make a recommendation to the Board on its adoption.



Systems Efficiency Independence, Technology, Research

This initiative largely focuses on the state of the District’s infrastructure. Recent highlights are as follows:

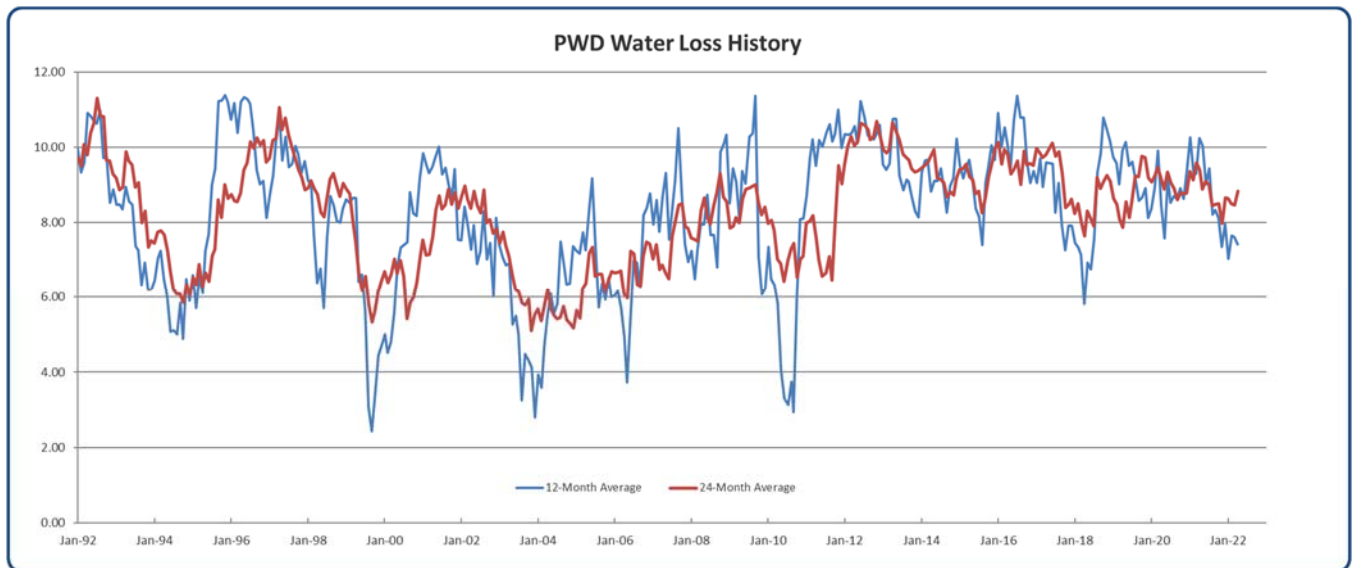
- The effects of the District’s past efforts in replacing failing water mains and meters can be seen in the reduced number of mainline leaks. This is illustrated in the chart titled “Mainline Leak History.” The mainline leaks through March 2022 total 8, no additional leaks in March, with 15 service line leaks.



- Additional water main replacement projects are being designed for construction as planned in the 2019 Water Rate Plan. The first project that will be constructed in 2022 is the neighborhood replacement project bounded by Desert Sands Park, Avenue Q,

Division Street, and 3rd Street East and in 10th Street East north of Avenue P. Work began in January and is nearly complete.

- The positive effect of both water main and water meter replacement programs is also shown on the chart titled “PWD Water Loss History.” The running average for water losses is lowering and running about 8%.



- District staff is working on two energy technologies that will benefit our customers. One is the use of batteries for backup power at four booster facilities. The other is a demonstration project for the generation and storage of hydrogen from wind energy.
These programs are grant funded and managed by the California Public Utilities Commission and California Energy Commission, respectfully. The grant funds go directly to the technology providers, Tesla and DasH2Energy. Both projects involve the installation of pre-designed and assembled equipment at District facilities with minimal construction work at the sites. The approved sites are Well 5 Booster, Underground Booster, 45th Street East Booster, and the new 3M Booster Station. The battery systems are completed and active at Well 5 and the Underground Booster and are installed at the other sites.
- The wind turbine has been inoperable for several months due to a bad anemometer and the maintenance firm’s unwillingness to comply with prevailing wage requirements. Staff is working on a couple fronts to resolve this. A maintenance contract has been completed with a new firm and the needed part received. The new firm is working to replace the part. Staff is looking at the longer-term project of replacing the wind turbine. It has been in operation for seventeen years as of August 2021, and parts are difficult to find. The main considerations moving forward are maximizing the generation, the availability of repair parts, and adequate competition for maintenance contracts.

The replacement hoist and known faulty parts have been installed and final actions are being arranged to start its operation again.



Financial Health and Stability *Strength, Consistency, Balance*

- PWD and City of Palmdale staffs have worked together to obtain funding for the Palmdale Recycled Water Authority (PRWA) Phase II Project. Last year, PRWA decided to suspend the Phase II purple pipe project while the advanced treatment project is studied. PRWA is also nearly ten years old. The Board will consider how to mark that anniversary.
- The Littlerock Sediment Removal Project was awarded nearly \$900,000 through the AVIRWMP Grant Program in the current round of funding. The approved grant for Phase II, now suspended, will be redistributed to other projects in the Antelope Valley. This will change the Littlerock grant to over \$1M.
- The 2019 Water Rate Study and Proposition 218 was completed when the Board unanimously approved Resolution No. 19-15. This set the water rate structure and water rates for 2020-2024 and includes criteria to evaluate the District's financial condition each year. It gives the Board the ability to reduce the water rates if the District's financial position meets four (4) of the criteria in an annual review while preparing the following year's budget.
- Fitch Ratings reviewed the District's bond rating in December 2021. The review affirmed the District's rating with them of "A+" with a stable outlook. This is a good result considering the uncertainty of operating in the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The District is seeking State and/or Federal assistance to provide water service to the Alpine Springs Mobile Home Park on Sierra Highway. It has poor water quality from its well and several health violations. Maria Kennedy, Kennedy Communications, is experienced with these programs and is contracted with the District to accomplish it.
The first step will be the State issuing a check to fund water hauling until the connection to the District is designed, constructed, and operational.
- The Finance Department is continuing to monitor the effect of the State's moratorium on shutoffs due to nonpayment on cash flow. The effect is fluctuating somewhat but is remaining 5% or less below what is usually expected. Staff is also placing property liens as appropriate to help secure payment of large, outstanding bills.
- The shutoff moratorium is over as of January 2022. Staff has started providing dated notices to delinquent customers. However, the District will only focus on customers who

were behind in February 2020 and current amounts over \$1,000. Shutoffs begin in March. They have moved forward with lower amounts of outstanding bills.



Regional Leadership *Engage, Lead, Progress*

This initiative includes efforts to involve the community, be involved in regional activities, and be a resource for other agencies in the area. Recent highlights are as follows:

- Activities of the Palmdale Recycled Water Authority (PRWA), AV Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP), and Antelope Valley State Water Contractors Association have continued. The District has leadership positions in these organizations.
- The PWRA Board consists of two Palmdale City Councilmembers, two PWD Board members, and a public director Zakeya Anson.
- The District staff continues to share the administration of the Antelope Valley Watermaster Board (AVWB) with AVEK and related meetings.
- District staff is active in the local chambers, AV EDGE, regional human resources, and public information organizations.
- The “PWD Water Ambassador Academy” (WAA) and Junior WAA are now scheduled for April 2022.
- The District and other members of the Public Water Agencies Group (PWAG) share the services of an Emergency Preparedness Coordinator. This approach also helped the District successfully comply with the America’s Water Infrastructure Act (AWIA) of 2018 and respond to the current COVID-19 event.
- Staff has taken a lead role in developing and implementing a valley-wide mutual aid agreement for agencies and mutual water companies.
- The District and United Water Conservation District approved a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to work on cooperative projects. These include internships and cooperation with community colleges, combined recreational funding for Piru and Littlerock Reservoir recreational improvements, and advanced treatment of recycled or brackish water for potable use. Several meetings were held between the two staffs in March.



Customer Care, Advocacy, and Outreach *Promote, Educate, Support*

This initiative includes efforts to better serve our customers. Recent highlights are as follows:

- The Board approved moving forward with a new supplier, meter brand, and reading system at the first meeting in September 2020. This change has been troublesome. The new equipment is having difficulty reading all the District's existing water meters. Efforts to resolve the problem are continuing.

A grant from the US Bureau of Reclamation has been awarded to assist with implementing the Automated Meter Infrastructure (AMI) project.

- The ability to make payments at 7-Eleven and Family Dollar Store as well as all electronic forms of payment are continuing to grow due to the COVID-19 event.
- Staff successfully conducted virtual coffee meetings with Directors and their constituents, online "Let's Talk H2O" meetings, issued regular internal and public newsletters, coordinated drive-through giveaways for customers, an in-person customer appreciation day, monitored and maintained the District's social media, and assisted with information for the current drought.
- Staff has finished updating the public website and is working to complete the intranet for staff.