

STAFF

Steve Schwabauer, General Manager
Jennifer Spaletta - General Counsel
Roger Masuda - Special Counsel
Shasta Burns - Deputy Secretary
Daniel de Graaf - District Engineer
Robert Granberg – Grants Administrator

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President - Joe Valente
Vice President – Jason Colombini
Secretary – Brady Colburn
Treasurer - Charles Starr II
Director – David Simpson

**NORTH SAN JOAQUIN WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
NOTICE OF MEETING AND PUBLIC HEARING AND AGENDA FOR
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Monday, November 17, 2025
2:00 p.m.
Lodi Grape Festival Grounds- Barrel Room
413 E. Lockeford St, Lodi CA 95240**

The agenda and all noted documentation may be viewed and downloaded at www.nsjgroundwater.org . Requests to receive the agenda and documentation by e-mail may be submitted in writing to the Secretary of the Board. The NSJWCD printed agendas are posted at the District’s location of business at: 498 E. Kettleman Lane, Lodi. The District’s mailing address is: PO Box 334, Victor CA 95253.

NOTICE: Members of the public may address the Board of Directors concerning any agenda item during the Board’s consideration of that item. The public may address non-agenda items at the end of the regular meeting. No action will be taken on those items; however, the Board may agendaize items for future consideration.

- 1. Call to Order - Roll Call - Acceptance of Agenda**
- 2. Correspondence/Announcements**
- 3. Action Items**

Any and all of **the following agenda items are subject to action** being taken by the Board of Directors by motion, resolution or ordinance.

Action items may be added to the agenda upon determination by a majority vote of the Board that an emergency exists, as defined by state law, or by a 2/3 vote of the Board that (1) there is a need to take immediate action; and (2) that the need for action came to the District’s attention after the agenda was posted.

A. CONSENT CALENDAR

- 1. Approval of the Minutes for the Regular Scheduled Board Meeting on October 27, 2025 (*attachment 1*). Pages 4-7

B. FINANCIAL/ADMINISTRATIVE

- 1. Receive and Approve November, 2025 NSJWCD Monthly Treasurer’s Report and Summary of Accounts and Transfers (*attachment 2*) pages 8-10
- 2. Approve Payment of Bills (*attachment 3*) page 10
- 3. Receive Update on three-month cash flow projection (handout)

4. Authorize General Manager to issue Request for Proposals for Accounting Services. (attachment 4) page 11
5. Authorize General Manager to pay \$20,000.00 for bi-annual Lakso Lease Payment

C. CONTRACTS

1. Approve Grape Festival Contract and meeting dates for the calendar year 2026 (attachment 5) pages 12-16
2. Authorize General Manager to enter to remove dead hazard tree on North Pump Station Right of Way (attachment 6) page 17
3. Authorize General Manager to purchase Chevrolet Silverado 1500 Service Truck (attachment 7) pages 18-19
4. Authorize General Manager to sign contract with Hydrofocus for Hydrology services for 2025/2026. (attachment 8) pages 20-24

D. SYSTEM AND PROJECTS

1. Engineer's Report and Operations Plan
2. North System
3. South System
4. Cal-Fed/Woodbridge
5. Tracy Lake ID
 - i. Pump station update (attachment 9)

E. Grant Activity

1. Receive Grant Report form Consero Solutions (attachment 10)

F. Receive Master Plan Update and Provide Direction to Staff

G. Groundwater Charge

H. Sustainable Groundwater Management Act/ GWA Activity

I. SJC Mokelumne River Application Update

J. Bay Delta Flow Program Update/Voluntary Agreements

K. Landowner communications

L. Board Planning Calendar

4. Director and Staff Reports

A. Directors Reports

B. Committee Reports

C. Other

5. Public Comment on Items Not on the Agenda

Interested persons in the audience are welcome to introduce any topic within the jurisdiction of the NSJWCD Board. The time allowed for each speaker for comments made by the public is limited to 3 minutes. Matters presented under this agenda item may be discussed, but no action can be taken by the Board at this meeting except as follows:

- Briefly respond to statements made or questions raised.
- Ask a question for clarification.
- Provide a reference to staff or other resources for factual information.
- Request staff to report back at a subsequent meeting.
- An individual Board member or the Board itself may have the matter placed on a future agenda.

6. Closed Session – 4 items

Closed Session pursuant to Section 54956.9(a) Existing Litigation
CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – *California Sportfishing Protection Alliance v. Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority, et al., Stanislaus County Superior Court, Case No. CV-20-001720*

Closed Session pursuant to Section 54956.9(a) Anticipated Litigation – two cases Bay Delta/Flow Proceeding, and one case where facts shall not be disclosed because they are unknown to potential litigants

Closed Session pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.8 Real Property Negotiations– a) North System Easements and Leases – Negotiators are General Counsel Jennifer Spaletta and General Manager Steve Schwabauer for the District and for the landowners, Thomas and Jean Powell, Lodi CA APN 017-250-07 and Tom and Helen Lakso 017-240-08, James Patrick and Sandra Marie Hale Trust, 01725008, Karen Somers 01725016
b) b) South System Recharge Locations Negotiators are Drew Rotner on behalf of Locust Tree LLC APN 051-13-056; and Andrew Caminata on behalf of APN 05141015_____

Return to Open Session

All reportable actions taken in closed session will be announced in open session following the closed session and will be duly noted in the official minutes of the meeting.

7. Motion to Adjourn

Next Regular Meeting December 15, 2025 from 2:00 PM- 4:00 PM

Lodi Grape Festival Grounds- Barrel Room

413 E. Lockeford St, Lodi CA 95240

Action may be taken on any item

Agendas and Minutes may also be found at [http:// www.NSJGroundwater.org](http://www.NSJGroundwater.org)

Note: If you need disability-related modification or accommodation in order to participate in this meeting, please contact North San Joaquin Water Conservation District Staff at (209) 712-1693 at least 48 hours prior to the start of the meeting

President Joe Valente - Area 3
Vice President Jason Colombini - Area 2
Director David Simpson – Area 1
Treasurer Charles Starr – Area 4
Secretary Brady Colburn – Area 5

General Counsel Jennifer Spaletta
Special Counsel Roger Masuda - Absent
Daniel deGraaf – District Engineer
Deputy Secretary – Shasta Burns
General Manager – Steve Schwabauer

NORTH SAN JOAQUIN WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
REGULAR MEETING AND CONCURRENT SPECIAL MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Lodi Grape Festival Grounds – Barrel Room
413 E. Lockeford Street, Lodi, CA

Monday, October 27, 2025

REGULAR MEETING

1. **Call to Order - Roll Call - Acceptance of Agenda** - The meeting was called to order by President Valente at 2:00 p.m. A motion for the acceptance of the Agenda of September 29, 2025 made by Director Simpson, second by Treasurer Starr. Motion passed 5/0/0.
2. **Correspondence/Announcements** – President Valente reported that Hugh Scanlon passed away. Mr. Scanlon was a prior board member and served on the board for many years.
3. **Action Items** Note: Votes recorded as: For/Against/Abstention (name)

A. CONSENT CALENDAR

Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Scheduled Board meeting on September 29, 2025 and the Special Meeting Minutes for October 17, 2025 (correction August 25, 2025 in last month's meeting minutes date, today approving September 29, 2025, and the end of the minutes stating next meeting, correction to October 27, 2025). A motion to approve the meeting of the Regular Scheduled Board Meeting on September 29, 2025 and the Special Meeting Minutes on October 17, 2025, made by Vice President Colombini, second by Secretary Colburn. Motion passed 5/0/0.

B. FINANCIAL MATTERS

1. Receive and approve October 2025 NSJWCD Monthly Treasurer's Report and Summary of Accounts and Transfers presented to the board. Perla and Wally from Butterfield + Company prepared financial statements for Board action. A motion to approve October 2025 NSJWCD Monthly Treasurer's, made by Vice President Colombini, second by Director Simpson. Motion passed 5/0/0.

2. Approve Payment of Bills. A motion to approve payment of bills listed in the Board meeting packet, made by Vice President Colombini, second by Director Simpson. Motion passed 5/0/0.

3. Receive Update on three-month cash flow projection- Cash Flow Statement handout and the meeting prepared by Susan Bjork. Presented in the board meeting packet.

4. Authorize General Manager to enter part time employment agreement with Ditch Tender, not to exceed \$7,500 per year. A motion to authorize General Manager to enter part time employment agreement with Ditch Tender agreement with an annual amount not to exceed with all taxes and insurances not the exceed \$7,500 made by Director Simpson, second Treasurer Starr. Motion passed 5/0/0

C. CONTRACTS

1. Authorize General Manager to enter contract for emergency repair of electrical lateral serving North Pump Station: Not to Exceed \$40,000 – General Schwabauer reviewed contract and electrical emergency repair in the amount not to exceed \$40,000. A motion to authorize General Manager to enter into emergency contract with JLT2 Electrical to install upgraded wire and electrical conduit for North System in the amount not the exceed \$40,000 made by Director Simpson, second by Treasurer Starr. Motion passed 5/0/0

2. Approve CO 4 with Central Irrigation to complete permanent berm installation at Tecklenberg Basin – A motion to approve line item for additional grading in contract change order #1 with Central Irrigation for the South System Phase 3B project contingent with receiving grant reimbursements coming in made by Vice President Colombini, second by Secretary Colburn. Motion passed 5/0/0

3. **Resolution 2025-** : Certificate of Completion NSJWCD Contract #2018-1 (Contractor: Arnaudo Constriction Inc.; Project: South System Phase 1A) – General Counsel pulled this item from the agenda and is not necessary to adopt. No action taken.

D. System and Projects

1. Engineer's Report and Operations Plan. District Engineer deGraaf gave an overview of where the district stands on each project.

2. North System – Pumps operated well with a few issues related to air in the suction and the power supply limitations. Staff is working with the pump supplier to address the suction issues and has presented a proposal to address the electrical issues

3. South System – Engineer deGraaf reviewed testing during the Tecklenburg lateral the South Pump was manually shut down which caused electrical issues at the pump. Staff worked through some of the issues but the error on one of the VFDS is yet to be resolved but is not causing issues with operation at this point.

4. Cal-Fed Woodbridge – No current activity to report

- 5. Tracy lake ID
 - i. Report on Tracy Lake Pump- Pump was pulled to evaluate the cause of pump failure during previous operation. The impeller is worn or damaged beyond repair and will require replacement.
 - 6. Operations Update for Irrigation and Recharge Deliveries of WID purchased water – Operations for irrigation are happening and doing well.
- E. Grant Activity**
- 1. Consero Report – No update at this time.
- F. Receive Master Plan Update and Provide Direction to Staff – Update from Engineer Daniel deGraaf. All projects and proposed projects reviewed. Reviews are being made with district consultant, Consero. Discussion only. A draft to the public will be presented and a public workshop will be held. Final internal review will be done in late October and a public workshop proposed in November. Once comments are received by the public and final draft will be presented at the District Town Hall in January or February of 2026.**
- G. Groundwater Charge- No update at this time.**
- H. Sustainable Groundwater Management Act/GWA Activity- GWA activity- No additional information at this time.**
- I. SJC Mokelumne River Application Update – Second Draft of EIR is circulating now.**
- J. Bay Delta Flow Program Update/Voluntary Agreements – No additional updates at this time**
- K. Landowner Communications – No additional updates at this time**
- L. Board Planning Calendar – No reports at this time.**
- 4. Director and Staff Reports**
- A. Director’s Report –No reports at this time.**
 - B. Committee Reports – No reports at this time.**
 - C. Other – No reports at this time.**
- 5. Public Comment – No public comments at this time.**
- 6. Closed Session – The Board entered closed session at 4:10 pm, and came out of closed session. Return to Open Session – President Valente returned the meeting to open session and announced there was no reportable action.**
- 7. Adjournment - Motion to adjourn the NSJWCD Regular Meeting on October 27, 2025 made by Vice President Colombini, second by Director Simpson. Motion passed 5/0/0. Meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.**

The next regular scheduled Board Meeting November 17, 2025, from 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

The above minutes of the North San Joaquin Water Conservation District Board of Directors Meeting of October 27, 2025.

Respectfully submitted:
Board Clerk- Shasta Burns

**North San Joaquin Water Conservation District
Treasurer's Report
November 2025 – Monthly Summary of Accounts
As of November 17, 2025**

The chart below is a summary of account information including account balances and transactions since the last scheduled Board meeting (October 2025). The attached reports are prepared by Butterfield + Co., CPAs, Inc. for the month of November 2025. Additional attachments that follow include accounts payable, recommendations for bill payments and transfers as noted herein.

NSJWCD Accounts Summary -October 27, 2025	Beg Balance as of 10/27/25 with approved transfers	Transfer voided after last meeting	ACH/Autopays made after last meeting	Transfer after meeting	Revenue Received after last meeting	Current Balance November 12, 2025	Proposed bills to be paid today	Proposed transfers	Ending balance November 17, 2025
F&M Checking	80,027.10	(900,000.00)	(42,043.17)	-	1,507,960.65	645,944.58	(198,417.80)	-	447,526.78
County GW Fund	(482,261.61)	900,000.00	-	-	2,883.00	420,621.39	-	-	420,621.39
County Account Fund	4,366.91	-	-	-	5,043.00	9,409.91	-	-	9,409.91
ID#3	131,924.67	-	-	-	238.55	132,163.22	-	-	132,163.22
Tracy Lake O&M	28,237.16	-	(157.51)	-	-	28,079.65	-	-	28,079.65
Totals	\$ (237,705.77)	\$ -	\$ (42,200.68)	\$ -	\$ 1,516,125.20	\$ 1,236,218.75	\$ (198,417.80)	\$ -	\$ 1,037,800.95



	Payments after last meeting		Revenue Received after last meeting	Classes	Proposed bills to be paid today
Amazon	(215.35)	GW Charges	5,634.00	General Exp	(35,318.49)
Payroll	(10,263.66)	FUTA Reim	78.15	GW Management	(71,500.35)
PG&E	(29,209.63)	Easements -		NS Pump Station	(10,381.30)
Southwest Airlines	(445.60)	Overpayment	200.00	Operations Fund	(3,911.50)
State Comp Ins	(1,718.95)	Sweep Grant	705.27	South System III	(76,582.16)
USPS	(156.00)	VA Grant	105,408.58	South System IV	(589.00)
Zoom	(33.98)	IRWM	1,395,934.65	TLID	(135.00)
		GW Fund Interest	2,883.00		
PG&E	(157.51)	GF Interest	5,043.00		
		ID3 Interest	238.55		
Total	\$ (42,200.68)	Total	\$ 1,516,125.20	Total	\$ (198,417.80)

1. SEE ATTACHMENT 1 - ACCOUNTS PAYABLE REPORT.

2. CURRENT PAYMENT RECOMMENDATIONS - SEE TABLE BELOW:

ACWA	\$ 14,600.00	2026 Annual Dues
Butterfield & Co.	1,447.00	October Invoice
Central Irrigation, Inc.	75,347.16	Change Order
Consero Solutions	5,171.25	October Services
deGraaf Engineering	30,820.34	October Services
Granberg & Associates	2,850.00	October Services
John Lakso & Helen Lakso	21,049.95	Lease payment and PG&E Reimb
Richard Rodriguez Farms	900.00	November Invoice
Shasta Burns	2,975.70	October Invoice
Spaletta Law PC	1,162.50	October Rent
Stoel Rives, LLP	39,550.00	October Services
Zanjero, Inc.	2,543.90	October Services
Total payments recommended	\$ 198,417.80	

3. REMAINING ACCOUNTS PAYABLE – \$25,483.09

- a. \$ 30,000.00 - Retention due to Arnaudo Construction, Inc.
- b. \$ - 4,516.91 – ABS Direct Inc. Duplicate payment. Credit on account.

4. WARRANTS PAYABLE

- a. \$399,988.17 – F&M Bank

5. ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE – \$119,809.98

- a. \$ 45,628.50 – San Joaquin County – SGMA Grant
- b. \$ 29,999.94 – State of California – FDRE Grant
- c. \$ 32,469.48 – DWR – IRWM Grant
- d. \$ 11,712.06 – DWR – VA Grant

North San Joaquin Water Conservation District
Unpaid Bills by Vendor
All Transactions

	Type	Date	Num	Source Name	Memo	Account	Class	Open Balance
ACWA	Bill	09/30/2025	2026 Annual Dues	ACWA	2026 Annual Agency Dues	6120 · Dues & Memberships	-G&A	14,600.00
Total ACWA								<u>14,600.00</u>
Arnaudo Construction, Inc.	Bill	09/30/2024	RET NS 1B APP #7	Arnaudo Construction, Inc.	NS Phase 1b - (Retainage \$15,363.46)	6115.5 · Pipeline	Capital Outlay:North System Phase 1B	10,000.00
	Bill	06/30/2025	RET NS 1C App #1	Arnaudo Construction, Inc.	Pipeline	6115.6 · Pump Station	Capital Outlay:North System Phase 1C	20,000.00
Total Arnaudo Construction, Inc.								<u>30,000.00</u>
Butterfield & Co.	Bill	10/27/2025	107894	Butterfield & Co.	Accounting	6180.1 · Accounting	-G&A	1,447.00
Total Butterfield & Co.								<u>1,447.00</u>
Central Irrigation, Inc.	Bill	09/25/2025	104742	Central Irrigation, Inc.	(20% deposit) Change Order #1	6115.5 · Pipeline	Capital Outlay:South System Phase 3	12,247.16
	Bill	10/20/2025	105426	Central Irrigation, Inc.	Pipeline	6115.5 · Pipeline	Capital Outlay:South System Phase 3	63,100.00
Total Central Irrigation, Inc.								<u>75,347.16</u>
Consero Solutions	Bill	10/31/2025	2183	Consero Solutions	Management, Research & Outreach	6180.3 · Consulting	-G&A	5,171.25
Total Consero Solutions								<u>5,171.25</u>
de Graaf Engineering, Inc.	Bill	11/10/2025	1307	de Graaf Engineering, Inc.	General	6180.4 · Engineering Expense	-G&A	3,092.04
	Bill	11/10/2025	1307	de Graaf Engineering, Inc.	Master Plan & CIP	6180.4 · Engineering Expense	-Groundwater Management	12,939.00
	Bill	11/10/2025	1307	de Graaf Engineering, Inc.	SS III	6180.4 · Engineering Expense	Capital Outlay:South System Phase 3	1,235.00
	Bill	11/10/2025	1307	de Graaf Engineering, Inc.	SS PH IV	6180.4 · Engineering Expense	Capital Outlay:South System Phase 4	589.00
	Bill	11/10/2025	1307	de Graaf Engineering, Inc.	Operations	6180.4 · Engineering Expense	.Operations Fund:North System O&M	2,584.00
	Bill	11/10/2025	1307	de Graaf Engineering, Inc.	NS Pump	6180.4 · Engineering Expense	Capital Outlay:North System Pump Station	10,381.30
Total de Graaf Engineering, Inc.								<u>30,820.34</u>
Granberg & Associates	Bill	10/03/2025	39	Granberg & Associates	October Services	6180.7 · Project Management	-Groundwater Management	2,850.00
Total Granberg & Associates								<u>2,850.00</u>
John Lakso & Helen Lakso, Trustees	Bill	09/15/2025	Reimbursement	John Lakso & Helen Lakso, Trustees	Reimbursement - PG&E	6235.1 · Electricity	-Groundwater Management	1,049.95
	Bill	12/01/2025	Lease	John Lakso & Helen Lakso, Trustees	Lease Payment	6142 · Lease Expense	-Groundwater Management	20,000.00
Total John Lakso & Helen Lakso, Trustees								<u>21,049.95</u>
Richard Rodriguez Farms	Bill	10/13/2025	5281	Richard Rodriguez Farms	Tecklenburg	6205 · Repairs & Maintenance	.Operations Fund:Recharge Project O&M	900.00
Total Richard Rodriguez Farms								<u>900.00</u>
Shasta Burns	Bill	11/10/2025	232-Mileage	Shasta Burns	November Invoice	6228 · Travel	-G&A	298.20
	Bill	11/10/2025	232	Shasta Burns	November Invoice	6180.8 · Board Clerk	-G&A	2,677.50
Total Shasta Burns								<u>2,975.70</u>
Spaletta Law PC	Bill	11/01/2025	November Rent	Spaletta Law PC	November Rent	6142 · Lease Expense	-G&A	1,162.50
Total Spaletta Law PC								<u>1,162.50</u>
Stoel Rives, LLP	Bill	11/06/2025	8095964	Stoel Rives, LLP	October Services	6180.6 · Legal	-G&A	6,870.00
	Bill	11/06/2025	8095965	Stoel Rives, LLP	October Services	6180.6 · Legal	-Groundwater Management	3,330.00
	Bill	11/06/2025	8095967	Stoel Rives, LLP	October Services	6180.6 · Legal	TLID #1	135.00
	Bill	11/06/2025	8095966	Stoel Rives, LLP	October Services	6180.6 · Legal	.Operations Fund:North System O&M	427.50
	Bill	11/06/2025	8095968	Stoel Rives, LLP	October Services	6180.6 · Legal	-Groundwater Management	28,787.50
Total Stoel Rives, LLP								<u>39,550.00</u>
Zanjero, Inc.	Bill	11/06/2025	7565	Zanjero, Inc.	ET Analysis	6180.3 · Consulting	-Groundwater Management	2,543.90
Total Zanjero, Inc.								<u>2,543.90</u>
TOTAL								<u><u>228,417.80</u></u>

From: Steve Schwabauer, General Manager

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Authorize General Manager to issue Request for Proposals for Accounting Services.

DISCUSSION:

Butterfield and Company currently provides accounting services for the District and has done accurate and timely work. However, on November 7, they informed District Staff that they do not have staff resources to continue serving the District. To their credit they did provide a reference to an accountant that has the skills and service capacity to perform the District's accounting work. However, Staff feels that as a governmental entity we should nevertheless issue and RFP to area firms for accounting services including the accountant referred by Butterfield and Company. Ideally, we would have new services in place next month to ensure a smooth transition for next year's accounting work. I will have a draft RFP for the board to review at the Board meeting

RECOMMENDATION:

Authorize General Manager issue a Request for proposals to area firms for accounting services.

FISCAL IMPACT: TBA

**INTERIM USE RENTAL AGREEMENT
LODI GRAPE FESTIVAL & NATIONAL WINE SHOW ASSN., INC. FACILITIES**

THIS AGREEMENT made this 14th day of November 2025, at Lodi, County of San Joaquin, State of California, by and between the **LODI GRAPE FESTIVAL AND NATIONAL WINE SHOW ASSN., INC.**, a non-profit corporation, hereinafter called the Festival, and **NORTH SAN JOAQUIN WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**, hereinafter called the Renter.

WITNESSETH:

1. Permission is hereby granted to the Renter to use the following described property of the festival for a period beginning **JANUARY 1, 2026** and ending **DECEMBER 31, 2026** upon the conditions, agreements and terms hereinafter set out.
- 2.
3. The description of the premises of the Festival, located in Lodi, County of San Joaquin, State of California, permitted to be used is described as: **BARREL ROOM WITH TABLES AND CHAIRS AS AVAILABLE. NON-EXCLUSIVE USE OF THE VENDOR LOT AND THE MAIN PARKING LOT. 4TH MONDAY OF EACH MONTH CONTRACTED FROM 2PM-4PM.**
4. Renter hereby agrees to pay the Festival for use of said premises: **\$1,200 (ONE THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED DOLLARS) TOTAL RENTAL FEE AS FOLLOWS: \$100 (ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS)** rental of Barrel room for 12 dates a year. Additional equipment may be requested and Renter will be billed accordingly. Renter must provide a certificate of general liability insurance.
5. Amount due is payable as follows: **\$100 (ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS) FOR EVERY MEETING SCHEDULED IN THE BARREL ROOM FOR UP TO 12 DATES A YEAR** and return of signed contract due no later than January 20, 2026.

SEE EXHIBIT "A" ATTACHED, THE CONTENTS OF WHICH ARE MADE PART OF THIS AGREEMENT BY REFERENCE AS THOUGH FULLY INCORPORATED HEREIN.

6. Said premises shall be used for the **MONTHLY MEETING** and for no other purpose without the written consent of the festival first had and obtained. Renter agrees to comply with all ordinances, statues, rules and regulations applicable to the conduct or operation of the activities of Renter herein permitted to be conducted. Renter shall provide adequate police protection to maintain order in and about the premises permitted to be used herein or to which necessary or expedient access has been granted at all times during the use of the premises herein permitted to the Renter. Renter shall not permit a breach of the peace or any unlawful act or omission by any person.
7. Renter agrees to maintain the premises herein permitted to be used and other portions of the premises of the Festival to which it, its employees, agents, licensees or ay member of the public has access to by reason of this agreement in good condition, reasonable wear and tear, damage by the elements, act of God, or casualties beyond the control of Renter only excepted, and Renter agrees to return said premises in the same condition as the premises were before use of the same was permitted hereunder, ordinary wear and tear, damage by the elements, act of God, or casualties beyond the control of the Renter excepted. The Festival shall have the privilege of inspecting the premises at any or all times.
8. Renter shall provide Festival with an original certificate of liability insurance with original signature, naming the **STATE OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF SAN JOAQUIN, LODI GRAPE FESTIVAL AND NATIONAL WINE SHOW ASSN., INC., THEIR AGENTS, DIRECTORS, OFFICERS, SERVANTS AND EMPLOYEES** as additional insured insofar as the operations under this agreement are concerned. The amounts of public liability coverage shall not be less than \$1,000,000 / \$1,000,000 and the amount of property damage coverage shall not be less than \$1,000,000, neither coverage to involve a deductible feature. Said certificates shall contain a statement by the insurance company that it will not cancel said policy without giving 30 days prior written notice to the Festival.

Initials: _____
Festival

Initials: _____
Renter

9. Renter does further expressly agree to indemnify, defend, and save the Festival, its agents, employees or licensees, harmless from any and all claims for loss, damage, injury or liability of whatsoever nature and howsoever the same may be caused or may arise resulting directly or indirectly from the exercise of this agreement or the occupation of the premises herein permitted to be used or the premises of the Festival to which the Renter, its agents, employees or licensees may have access by reason of this agreement.
10. This agreement shall not be assigned in whole or in part nor may any right hereunder granted to the Renter be granted in turn to any person without the written consent of the Festival first had and obtained.
11. The Festival may terminate this agreement and be relieved of any further performance if Renter fails to perform any covenant herein contained at the time and in the manner herein provided, which said right shall be cumulative to any other legal right or remedy. Notwithstanding anything, herein contained to the contrary, this agreement may be terminated and the provisions of this agreement may be altered, changed or amended, by mutual consent of the parties hereto. Any fees paid in addition to the non-refundable deposit will not be refunded if event is terminated by either party 30 days or less prior to the event.
12. The parties hereto agree that the Renter in the performance of this agreement shall be an independent contractor and shall not be an employee of the Festival.
13. Time is of the essence of each and all the provisions of this agreement and the provisions of this agreement shall extend to and be binding upon and inure to the benefit of the heirs, executors, administrators, successors, and assigns of the respective parties hereto.
14. It is mutually understood and agreed that no alteration or variation of the terms of this agreement shall be valid unless made in writing and signed by the parties hereto, and that no oral understanding or agreements not incorporated herein, and no alterations or variations of the terms hereof unless made in writing between the parties hereto shall be binding on any of the parties hereto.
15. All safety orders of the Division of Industry Safety, Department of Industrial Relations, must be strictly observed.
16. NOTICE, Pursuant to Section 107.6 California Rev. & Tax Code. Renter recognizes and understands that this tenancy may create a possessory interest subject to property taxation and that the Renter may be subject to the payment of property taxes levied on such interest.
17. Additional provisions, if any, and/or alterations to existing provisions contained herein, shall be attached to this agreement and marked "EXHIBIT A." Such attached sheets when properly signed by both parties become a party of this agreement and shall be binding upon the parties hereto.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, this agreement has been executed in duplicate by and on behalf of the parties hereto, the day and year first written above.

LODI GRAPE FESTIVAL & NATIONAL WINE SHOW ASSN., INC.
P.O. BOX 848 ~ 413 E. LOCKEFORD ST.
LODI, CA 95241
(209) 369-2771

NORTH SAN JOAQUIN WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
P.O. BOX E
VICTOR, CA 95253
(209) 712-1693

By: _____
MARK A. ARMSTRONG
GENERAL MANAGER

By: _____
RENTER:
BOARD PRESIDENT

EXHIBIT A

RENTER AGREES THAT:

1. **CLOSING TIME:** The fairgrounds close at midnight; all events must have ended by that time. NO EXCEPTIONS.
2. **SECURITY:** Renter shall be responsible for crowd control and security to protect Festival property. Renter agrees to accept financial responsibility for any and all damages incurred to Festival property as a result of this event to either repair damages as approved by Festival Management, or reimburse Festival for repair of damages.
3. **SMOKING:** Smoking is not permitted in any Festival building.
4. **SERVICE OF ALCOHOL:** To serve alcohol at the event Renter must adhere to the following regulations: 1. Shall have a bartender at least 21 years of age or older; 2. Alcohol may only be served to persons 21 years of age or older; 3. Bartender must request proper identification to verify legal age; 4. Bartender may serve no more than two (2) drinks at a time to any one person; 5. Drinks must be served in individual servings (i.e. no pitchers of beer); 6. Beverages shall be dispensed in paper or plastic cups (no glass bottles.)
5. **DECORATIONS:** Any decorations used in or on buildings, other than Chardonnay Hall, are to be affixed with masking tape or painters tape. NO DUCT TAPE, NAILS, STAPLES, SCREWS OR HOT GLUE GUNS ARE PERMITTED. In Chardonnay Hall, decorations may be affixed to the pegboard walls with painters tape but nothing may be affixed to the stucco walls. Nothing is to be hung from the ceiling/fixtures in any building without prior approval of Festival Management. Renter shall remove all decorations and tape. Removal by Festival personnel will be charged to Renter at \$60 (SIXTY DOLLARS) per man-hour, two-hour minimum.
6. **CLEAN-UP:** Renter shall provide clean up as may be necessary during use of facilities and shall return facilities to Festival in the same state of cleanliness as they were at the beginning of the event. Renter shall mop up spills, pick up paper, remove garbage and clean restrooms/facilities used. Festival will provide ample paper goods for restrooms and trash containers for refuse. Renter shall perform a final clean-up of all areas used, including parking areas. Any clean-up not to the satisfaction of Festival Management will be charged to renter at \$60 (SIXTY DOLLARS) per man-hour, two-hour minimum.
7. **SKATEBOARDS/BICYCLES/ROLLER BLADES, ETC.:** Skateboards, bicycles, roller blades, go peds, etc. are NOT permitted on Festival grounds.
8. **ANIMALS:** No animals except bona fide service animals are permitted on Festival property unless prior approval has been granted by Festival Management. All such animals shall be on a leash at all times. Renter shall be responsible for clean up after such animals.
9. **CHILDREN:** Children shall be supervised at all times.
10. **VEHICLES:** Vehicles are not permitted inside any buildings, on concrete walkways or inside Festival grounds during the event except as permitted by Festival Management.
11. **LOCK-UP:** Renter shall turn off building lights and heaters/coolers and lock building(s) and entrance gates at the end of each day and end of event. Failure to comply will result in a charge of \$60 (SIXTY DOLLARS) per hour, two-hour minimum, for a Festival representative to attend to these duties.
12. **FESTIVAL PERSONNAL:** Festival personal are not on duty from 5:00 p.m. Friday to 8:00 a.m. Monday. Renter will be given contact information in case of an emergency.

By: _____

MARK A. ARMSTRONG
GENERAL MANAGER
LODI GRAPE FESTIVAL & NATIONAL WINE SHOW ASSN., INC.

By: _____

NAME:
NORTH SJ WATER CONSERVATION DIST.

ATTACHMENT TO AGREEMENT NO. RA 04-26

SAN JOAQUIN WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT MEETING DATES

JANUARY 26, 2026
FEBRUARY 23, 2026
MARCH 30, 2026
APRIL 27, 2026
MAY 25, 2026*
JUNE 29, 2026
JULY 27, 2026
AUGUST 31, 2026
SEPTEMBER 28, 2026
OCTOBER 26, 2026
NOVEMBER 16, 2026*
DECEMBER 21, 2026*

MARK A. ARMSTRONG
GENERAL MANAGER
LODI GRAPE FESTIVAL

NAME:
TITLE:



3625 E. Stevenson Avenue Stockton, CA 95205
 209.547.0297 Phone 209.547.0385 Fax WCAINC.COM

**Proposal
 # 99649**

PROPOSAL FOR TREE MAINTENANCE SERVICES

CUSTOMER INFORMATION

Main Contact

STEVE SCHWABAUER
 NORTH SAN JOAQUIN WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
 P.O. BOX 334
 VICTOR, CA 95253
 209.329.0250 steve@nsjwcd.com

Billing Contact

STEVE SCHWABAUER
 NORTH SAN JOAQUIN WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
 P.O. BOX 334
 VICTOR, CA 95253
 209.368.2101 steve@nsjwcd.com

Inventory Needed	Link Funds to Job #	Purchase Order #	DIR Project ID #
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No

JOB LOCATION

20600 N. Trethewey Rd, Acampo, CA 95220: Perform (I) tree only Rmvl.

SCOPE OF WORK

Perform (I) tree only removal in accordance with city and industry standards.

QTY	DESCRIPTION	U/M	UNIT PRICE	TOTAL
1.00	Tree Only Removal Services	Lump Sum	\$8,800.00	\$8,800.00
GRAND TOTAL:			\$8,800.00	

COMMENTS

40-ton Crane required, roll-off/ loader required. Schedule work in advance with Steve Schwabauer.

DISCLAIMER: West Coast Arborists, Inc. ensures the quality of work performed, however, we do not ensure the agency's entire tree population from failure. Conditions are often hidden within trees and below ground. WCA is not liable for subsurface installations on private property unless explicitly marked by the customer or property owner. Arborists cannot guarantee that a tree will be healthy or safe under all circumstances. The controlling authority must manage trees and accept some degree of risk. Only work identified in the scope of the proposal and in the contract line item is included in our quote or invoice. All work will be completed in accordance with ANSI A300 standards. Price reflects payment under prevailing wage rates under the wage determination: Tree Maintenance Laborer and report of certified payroll to the Department of Industrial Relations as applicable in accordance with state labor laws. PROPOSAL IS VALID FOR 90 DAYS.

CA Contractors License 366764

Federal Tax ID: 95-3250682

CA DIR Registration 1000000956

TIM PATTERSON

AREA MANAGER

10/14/25

ESTIMATED BY

TITLE

DATE

ACCEPTED BY

TITLE

DATE

From: Steve Schwabauer, General Manager

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Authorize General Manager to purchase Chevrolet Silverado 1500 Service Truck and eliminate \$500 monthly GM Vehicle allowance.

DISCUSSION:

The District does not have a service vehicle. Instead, it operates on a vehicle stipend basis for the General Manager’s use of his personal vehicle. As the District’s facilities have grown it is appropriate for the District to acquire its first vehicle. Staff is proposing a full-size Chevrolet Silverado 1500 4x4 with a tow package and rear-view camera as the base vehicle. This package is recommended as they have all been needed on many occasions by the General Manager.

Staff sought prices from Sanborn Chevrolet and Chase Chevrolet on both two door and four door models. The prices listed below are on an out the door basis and include rebates, dealer discounts and taxes. They all have slightly different options as they are floor models. DMV fees are not included as the vehicle will be exempt from registration fees and have exempt government plates. The two-door model will meet the majority of the District’s needs. However, the four-door model would add utility for carrying passengers and reducing vehicle trips on landowner property for the tours and vendor visits that staff hosts a few times a month. Staff requests the Board authorize staff to purchase one of the vehicles below or its equivalent within \$500 of the approved purchase price from the lowest priced offer between Sanborn and Chase Chevrolet. Staff requests this flexibility because the vehicles below may have been sold by the time approval is provided by the Board.

2 Door Work Trucks:	
Sanborn:	\$44,451.62
Chase:	\$44,955.15
4 Door Short Bed Trucks:	
Sanborn:	\$47,899.76
Chase:	\$50,551.68

The District will also need to remove the current GM \$500 monthly vehicle stipend.

RECOMMENDATION:

Authorize General Manager to purchase Chevrolet Silverado 1500 Service Truck and Remove \$500 monthly stipend for General Manager Vehicle Allowance

FISCAL IMPACT: Purchase Price listed above plus fuel of approximately \$360 a month and insurance of \$250 per month. These costs will be partially offset by the elimination of the \$500 GM Vehicle Allowance. Maintenance Costs will ultimately increase though most will be covered under warranty for the first few years. Funded by GW Charge

From: Steve Schwabauer, General Manager

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Authorize General Manager to enter 2025-2026 contract for Hydrologist services with Hydrofocus.

DISCUSSION:

Hydrofocus provides Hydrology services to the district including monitoring groundwater wells, reporting, assisting with well drilling and modeling and consulting for basin locations. A proposed scope of services for 2025/2026 is attached totalling 149,611. The majority of the scope is for monitoring in the North and South System. However, it also includes \$32,260 for miscellaneous consulting as the need arises.

RECOMMENDATION:

Authorize General Manager enter contract with Hydrofocus for 2025/2026 Scope of Services totaling \$149,611.

FISCAL IMPACT: Funded by GW Charge

Scope of Work
Technical assistance for Groundwater Recharge Projects
North San Joaquin Water Conservation District
HydroFocus, Inc., Davis, CA, 10/20/2025

This proposal responds to the North San Joaquin Water Conservation District’s request for additional technical assistance in achieving the sustainable groundwater management goals of its 2021 Strategic Plan and the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) for the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Subbasin. HydroFocus (HF) proposes to continue the work that was authorized by the District in December 2023 to support the District’s Flood Managed Aquifer Recharge (MAR) projects in each of its two major surface water distribution systems, known as the North and South Systems (Figure 1). These projects utilize on-farm flood irrigation and permanent recharge basins as a form of MAR, by diverting water from the Mokelumne River to agricultural fields and basins to infiltrate and recharge the regional aquifer. HydroFocus proposes to continue its efforts to monitor and assess how the District’s recharge projects affect groundwater storage and tracking the fate of recharged water in aquifers. This work will build on efforts that began in 2023 to monitor and evaluate the effects of recharge to one of its South System agricultural fields known as the Tecklenburg property and begin monitoring and evaluation of recharge to a new project known as the Lakso property in its North System surface water distribution area (Figure 1). HydroFocus also proposes to support the District as needed for any groundwater and SGMA related issues.

Between 2023 and 2025, HF monitored recharge from the Tecklenburg property by installing one monitoring well near the recharge cell and collecting continuous and periodic measurements of water levels. In conjunction with water level data collected from other irrigation wells in the South and North Systems, this monitoring well was used for collecting water quality samples to evaluate groundwater recharge. HydroFocus also monitored surface water levels in the Tecklenburg recharge pond for quantification of infiltration rates.

In September 2025, HF oversaw the drilling and construction of three new monitoring wells to support the District’s efforts to begin a new MAR project in the Lakso property within the North System surface water distribution area. With the recent completion of these new monitoring wells, HF has met its commitments in the District’s December 2023 work authorization. To continue supporting the District beyond October 2025 and through calendar year 2026, HF requests authorization of the proposed work described below.

Proposed Scope of Work

HydroFocus proposes to support the District’s implementation of its MAR projects by evaluating groundwater conditions in each of the two project areas to quantify the effects of recharge on groundwater storage. This will be accomplished by periodic and continuous measurement of water levels in groundwater and recharge ponds, analyzing the chemistry of groundwater samples, estimating pond recharge and groundwater flow conditions, and facilitating effective collaboration, communication, and reporting with key stakeholders.

For each of the North and South water distribution systems, HF proposes the following tasks.

1. Monitor water levels on recharge pond staff gauges and in wells
2. Collect groundwater samples for laboratory analysis
3. Assess effects of groundwater recharge
4. Document and report results
5. Address miscellaneous issues and topics as requested.

These tasks are described below.

Task 1: Monitor water levels from recharge pond staff gauges and wells

We propose to continue routine collection of manual and automatic water level measurements from the groundwater monitoring network that has been in place for the past several years in the District's North and South Systems. This network has included eight irrigation wells, one monitoring well near the Tecklenburg field, and one staff gauge in the Tecklenburg pond. With the recent installation of three new monitoring wells and automatic datalogging equipment near the Lakso ponds, HF proposes to expand routine monitoring to include the new wells. HF also proposes to install and monitor one water level staff gauges in the Lakso ponds. The North and South Systems monitoring network would therefore include eight irrigation wells, four monitoring wells, and three staff gauges associated with the District's North and South Systems. After providing affected landowners with a minimum of three days advance notice, HydroFocus staff will visit the sites monthly and measure water levels manually in wells and the Lakso and Tecklenburg recharge ponds. During these visits, HF staff will also download transducer data and make any necessary adjustments to the datalogging equipment to obtain reliable high frequency water level measurements.

Task 2: Collect and analyze water samples

We propose to collect groundwater samples from the three new Lakso monitoring wells and the Tecklenburg monitoring. Surface water samples will also be collected from the Lakso and Tecklenburg recharge ponds. Standard procedures will be used to ensure that samples are representative and are not contaminated during collection. This will include low-flow purging of the well casings prior to sample collection. Samples will be submitted to a qualified analytical laboratory for analysis of major ions (calcium, magnesium, potassium, sodium, chloride, bicarbonate and sulfate), nitrate, and stable oxygen and hydrogen isotopes (deuterium and oxygen-18). Previous isotope sampling results for the Tecklenburg recharge pond and monitoring well revealed a distinct difference between the groundwater and surface water which can be used to estimate the fraction of recharge water in monitoring-well samples. We propose to continue to sample the Tecklenburg monitoring well and sample the Lakso monitoring wells to assess the isotopic composition relative to Mokelumne River water (Figure 1). Long-term monitoring can help assess the fate of the recharge water.

Task 3: Quantify aquifer recharge and assess fate of recharge water

HydroFocus will evaluate the water level and chemistry data collected in Tasks 1 and 2 to estimate recharge water volumes. As demonstrated by the Tecklenburg data, the isotope data described above can provide information about the presence of recharge water in the monitoring wells.

To estimate recharge from the Lakso and Tecklenburg recharge ponds, we propose to collect high frequency surface-water level measurements. These water level data collected from staff gauges during recharge pond water level declines will be used to estimate infiltration rates, in conjunction with water diversion measurements made by the District, precipitation measurements available from the California Data Exchange Center, and ET data available from CIMIS.

HydroFocus will use the stable isotope results to help determine the fate of recharge water.

Task 4: Documentation and Reporting

HF will maintain clear and consistent written communications with the District to document the completion of proposed tasks, and to provide updates on project progress, outcomes, and schedule.

HF proposes the following written deliverables and schedule:

<u>Deliverables</u>	<u>Anticipated Due Date</u>
Monthly Progress Reports & DWR FDRE Reports	10th of each month
Report & Presentations to District Board	December 2025 and 2026

Task 5: Miscellaneous Work

HF proposes to provide the District with periodic technical review and recommendations as needed to respond to inquiries about the District’s recharge projects, groundwater sustainability efforts, and GSP.

HF expects that this task will include review, preparation, and participation in periodic meetings with the District’s Board, staff, landowners, and other GSAs.

Estimated Costs

To facilitate the District's grant funding and reporting requirements, HF separated the proposed budget for Tasks 1-4 between the North and South Systems. The higher level of effort and cost allocated to the North System reflects the initiation of a new, expanded monitoring program at the Lakso property. The South System budget reflects the efficient continuation of the existing monitoring program for the Tecklenburg property.

Project	Labor	Travel	Equipment (includes monthly rental charge for well transducers)	Materials	Subcontractor (costs for well sampling)	Total
North System	\$55,786	\$1,260	\$10,500	\$100	\$6,000	\$73,646
South System	\$27,917	\$70	\$3,200	\$100	\$2,750	\$34,037
10% contingency	\$7,270	\$133	\$1,370	\$20	\$875	\$9,668
TOTAL	\$79,973	\$1,463	\$15,070	\$220	\$9,625	\$117,351

We estimated an additional \$32,260 for miscellaneous work which results in a **GRAND TOTAL of \$149,611.**

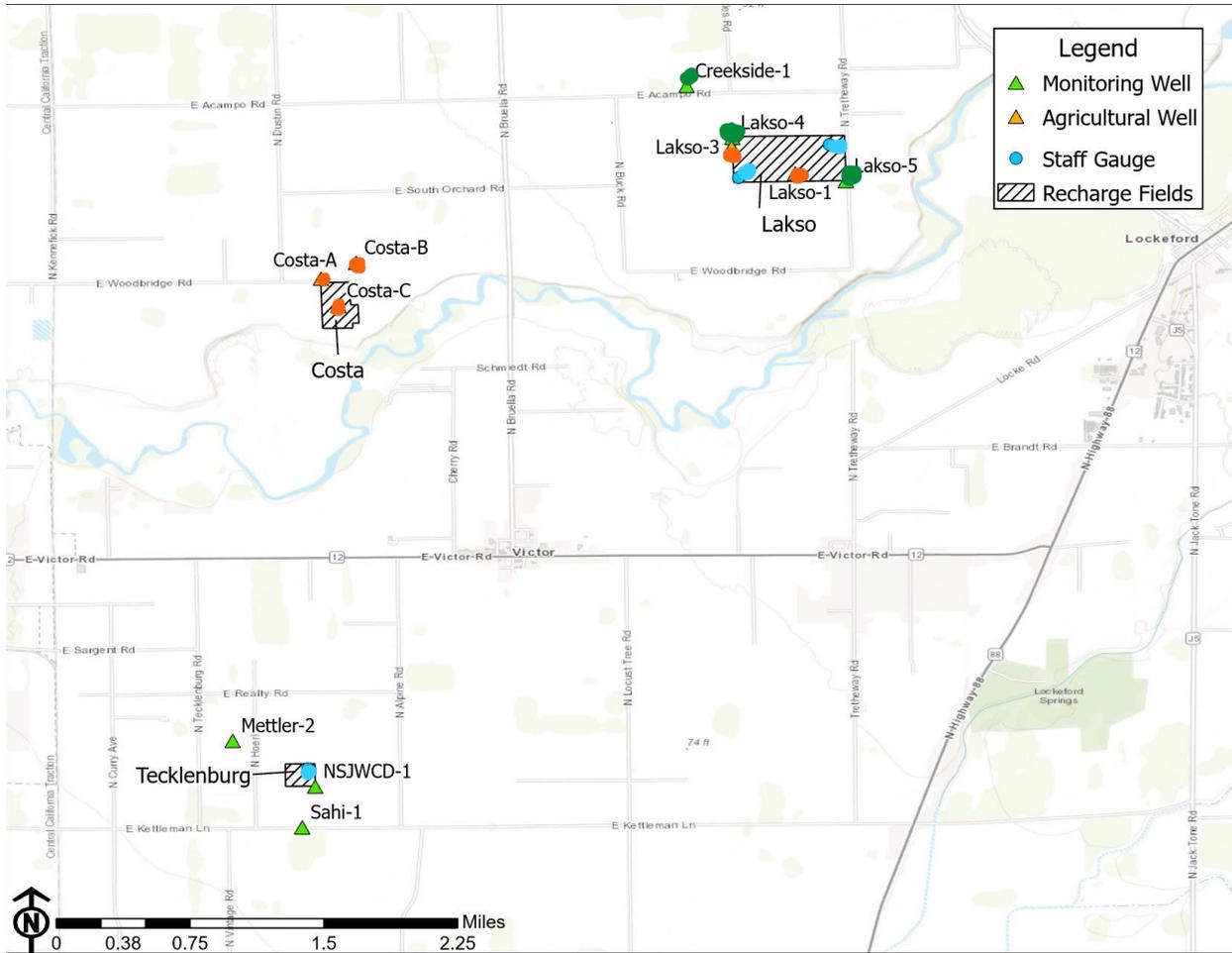


Figure 1. Locations of recharge projects and monitoring wells.



18344

P.O. Box 334, Victor, CA 95253

PREPARED BY: Petrea Marchand, Consero Solutions
Steve Schwabauer, General Manager

RECOMMENDATION: Receive Update on North San Joaquin Water Conservation District Project Funding Requests and Grant Opportunities

BACKGROUND:

Governor Newsom signed SB 105 on September 17, 2025, which allocates Proposition 4 funding to various State agencies. He also signed SB 840 to reauthorize the cap-and-trade program and associated expenditures from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF). Unfortunately, SB 105 did not contain an exemption from the Administrative Procedures Act, which the Legislature has included for grant programs funded by bonds in the past, so state agencies must file emergency regulations instead. This process will result in a longer timeline for the release of grant solicitations.

Proposition 4 contains the following funding of interest to the District:

- \$193 million for the California Department of Water Resources Sustainable Groundwater Management Program (SGMA)
- \$100 million for integrated regional water management,
- \$40 million for the State Water and Energy Efficiency Program (SWEET)
- \$200 million for the Department of Conservation’s Multibenefit Land Repurposing Program.

This report provides an update on the amount appropriated for each of these programs. The 2025-26 budget includes funding for SGMA, SWEET, and the Multibenefit Land Repurposing Program but does not contain any funding for the Integrated Regional Water Management Program. Consero will continue to provide updates on available funding as information becomes available. The District’s Master Plan, currently under development, will help identify priority projects for which the District should pursue Proposition 4 and other funding.

DISCUSSION:

1. California Department of Water Resources Sustainable Groundwater Management Program

Project Name: N/A

Amount Requested: TBD

Amount of Cost Share: TBD

Release Request for Grant Application: 2026/27 TBD

Application Due: TBD

Status: The 2025-26 budget contains \$28 million for “projects related to groundwater storage, groundwater banking, groundwater recharge, or instream flow projects that support the conjunctive use of groundwater and surface water supplies.” This language does not clearly state whether the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) can use these funds for the SGMA grant program or will need to develop a new program. It is highly likely DWR will at least

need to update the SGMA guidelines, a process which Consero expects will take place in 2026 with a solicitation in late 2026 or early 2027. The \$28 million is only a portion of the funds available for groundwater storage and related activities in Proposition 4 but represents an increase over the Governor’s proposal of \$10 million for 2025-26.

Context: Section 91012 of Proposition 4 states: “Of the funds made available by subdivision (a), one hundred ninety-three million one hundred twenty-five thousand dollars (\$193,125,000) shall be available for projects that increase groundwater storage, or are for groundwater banking, and support implementation of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (Part 2.74 (commencing with Section 10720) of Division 6 of the Water Code).” In January, the Governor proposed \$10 million from Proposition 4 funds for “groundwater storage/banking/recharge & instream flow” in 2025-26 and \$15 million in 2026-27, with \$358 million from Proposition 4 allocated to “out years.” The inclusion of \$28 million in the 2025-26 budget is the first step in spending the Proposition 4 funds for groundwater recharge.

2. California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) Office of Environmental Farming and Innovation State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program (SWEEP)

Project Name: N/A

Amount Requested: TBD

Amount of Cost Share: TBD

Release Request for Grant Application: TBD

Application Due: TBD 2026

Status: The 2025-26 budget contains \$36.9 million for the SWEEP program. Carolyn Cook, Assistant Director of the Office of Agricultural Resilience and Sustainability at the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) emailed Consero on October 27, 2025 that she expects to release draft guidelines in early 2026. Like other programs, SWEEP is held up by the need to file emergency regulations. Ms. Cook said she expects and update on the process at the November 13, 2025 meeting of the Environmental Farming Act Science Advisory Panel, which are held to provide input on the CDFA’s environmental programs including SWEEP. The District should encourage growers to apply individually, since the District is unlikely to secure another block grant given the District’s success with implementing the original Pilot Block Grant Program grant.

Context: In January 2025, the Governor’s propose \$38 million in the 2025-26 budget from Proposition 4 funds for SWEEP in 2025-26 and \$700,000 for SWEEP in 2026-27, which is consistent with the amount included in the 2025-26 budget and indicates a desire to complete a solicitation quickly. Proposition 4 states these funds “shall be available for the State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program to promote on-farm water use efficiency with focus on multiple-benefit projects that improve resilience to climate change and save water on California agricultural operations.”

3. Department of Conservation Multibenefit Land Repurposing Program

Project Name: N/A

Amount Requested: TBD

Amount of Cost Share: TBD

Release Request for Grant Application: TBD

Application Due: TBD

Status: The 2025-26 budget includes \$32 million for the Department of Conservation (Department) revised Multibenefit Land Repurposing Program for “groundwater sustainability, projects that reduce groundwater use, repurpose irrigated agricultural land, provide wildlife habitat, improve drought resilience or flood management, or support implementation of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act.” Consero anticipates the Department of Conservation will update the Multibenefit Land Repurposing Program guidelines and encourages the District to participate in the guideline development process.

Context: In January 2025, the Governor proposed \$12 million for the Multibenefit Land Repurposing Program in 2025-26 and \$51 million in 2026-27, so the \$32 million appropriated by the Legislature represents an increase from the Governor’s original proposal. The Department revised program guidelines in 2025 to include language clarifying how groundwater recharge achieved through the program must be treated in a groundwater sustainability agency’s water budget; the District had declined to apply to the Multibenefit Land Repurposing Program in the past because the program did not allow the District to count groundwater recharge or demand reduction through program-funded projects towards its water budget. The updated language still does not address the District’s concerns.