

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 - David Simpson
Treasurer - Charles Starr II
Director – Brady Colburn

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

**Monday, February 24, 2025
2:00 p.m.
Lodi Grape Festival Grounds- Barrel Room
413 E. Lockeford St, Lodi CA 95240**

**Remote Attendance Location: Board Member Brady Colburn
1278 Munras Avenue, Monterey, CA 93940**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87883217427>

Meeting ID: 878 8321 7427

One tap mobile

+16699006833,,87883217427# US (San Jose)

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Meeting ID: 878 8321 7427

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 January 27, 2025 (*attachment 1*). **Pages 5-8**

B. FINANCIAL/ADMINISTRATIVE

1. Receive and Approve February 2025 NSJWCD Monthly Treasurer's Report and Summary of Accounts and Transfers (*attachment 2*) **pages 9-11**
2. Approve Payment of Bills (*attachment 3*) pages 12-13
3. Report on Cash Flow considerations of current operations

C. CONTRACTS

- 1) Authorize General Manager to enter Employment Agreement with Lisa Noffsinger for part time assistance with Budget and Cash Flow Management. (*attachment 4*) pages 14-19

D. SYSTEM AND PROJECTS

1. Engineer's Report and Operations Plan (*attachment 5*) pages 20-22
 - i. Provide Direction to Staff on Landowner Meter Selection and Automation
2. North System
 - i. Authorize General Manager with agreement of Board President, General Counsel and District Engineer to prepare plans and specifications and issue bid package to replace North System Steel Pipeline with remaining SGMA Grant Funds.
 - ii. Authorize General manager together along with staff to enter into a contract with Arnaudo Construction, to install a valve in steel pipeline at the north end of the Lakso Recharge Project.
3. South System
 - i. Authorize General Manager with agreement of Board President, General Council, and District Engineer to enter contract with a VFD contractor to repair South Pump Station VFD, not to exceed \$40,000
4. Cal-Fed/Woodbridge
5. Tracy Lake ID
 - i. Authorize General Manager with agreement of Board President, General Counsel and District Engineer to enter contract with Delta Pump to repair Tracy Lake Pump, not to exceed \$40,000

E. Grant Activity

1. Consero report (*attachment 6*) pages 23-31

F. Strategic Plan Activity

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) South System Easements – Negotiators are General Counsel Jennifer Spaletta and General Manager Steve Schwabauer, b) 8400 East Handel Road, Lodi CA APN 063-060-39 Negotiators are General Counsel Jennifer Spaletta and General Manager Steve Schwabauer for the District and Andrew Rotner for seller.

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 March 31, 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

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, January 27, 2025

REGULAR MEETING AND PUBLIC HEARING

- 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 January 27, 2025 made by Vice President Colombini, second by Director Colburn. Motion passed unanimously 5/0/0.

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

- 2. Correspondence/Announcements** – Roger Masuda has notified the district that he has added an associate to his law firm.
- 3. Action Items** Note: Votes recorded as: For/Against/Abstention (name)

A. CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Scheduled Board meeting on December 16, 2024. A motion to approve the Minutes for the meeting of the Regular Scheduled Board Meeting on December 16, 2024, made by Treasurer Starr second by Secretary Simpson. Motion passed 5/0/0.

B. FINANCIAL MATTERS

1. Receive and approve January 2025 NSJWCD Monthly Treasurer’s Report and Summary of Accounts and Transfers presented to the board. Perla from Butterfield + Company prepared financial statements for Board action. A motion to approve January 2025 NSJWCD Monthly Treasurer’s Report, made by Vice President Colombini, second by Secretary 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 Director Colburn, second by Secretary Simpson. Motion passed 5/0/0.
3. Report on Cash Flow considerations of current operations – General Manager Schwabauer reviewed draft of cash flow considerations and current operations with reimbursements projections. Cash Flow reports will be done for all projects

and monitored.

4. Election of Officers- A motion to Elect Board President; Joe Valente, Vice President Jason Colombini, Treasurer Starr, Secretary Colburn, and Director Simpson made by Vice President Colombini, second by Director Simpson. Motion passed 5/0/0

5. Reminder of Ethics Training, Sexual Harassment Prevention Training Requirements and April 1, Fair Political Practices Act Form 700 Filing Requirements – Update only, and emails with online links for completion have been sent.

6. Board Input on Town Hall Presentation- update only

7. Board Input on Upcoming Newsletter – update only

8. District Office Discussion – update only

C. Contracts

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. Report was presented at the start of the Board meeting and is available upon request.

2. North System- System is currently off due to lack of flow. During operation a leak in the steel mainline downstream of the Lakso lateral was discovered. Currently working on a solution that can isolate and potentially repair the mainline. During the repair, we plan to expose the pipeline and conduct physical examination of the condition of the pipeline to determine if a patch is appropriate.

3. South System – Phase III construction is underway and installation of the pipe should be complete this week. Outstanding items will be pouring of the walls for the Kettleman control structure and pouring the foundation and walls for the Mettler control structure. The VFD and electrical equipment will likely be available for delivery early February.

4. Cal-Fed Woodbridge – The Costa field recharge project was operational while water was available. The fish screen was repaired and is fully operational. If water becomes available in February operation may continue but if it remains dry, it is likely that operation will not occur again until the fall.

5. Tracy lake ID – No current activity to report.

6. Give Direction to District Engineer on proposed Specifications for Landowner Connections, Metering, Encroachments and Scheduling – District Engineer deGraaf presented pipeline improvements in the South System and potential landowners that would like to hook up to the system. Permit application process presented in the board meeting packet with form for where it is going and permission to connect to the system. Application form reviewed. Connection detail to the actual system and also requirements for flow meter and

what the connection should look like for turnout and on pump. A motion to approve Encroachment Permit Application format and Standard Detail 1.01- STANDARD CONNECTION 1.02 – Flow Meter attached in the board meeting packet (page 19-24) with minor changes to be brought back to General Manager for final approval made by Director Simpson, second by Treasurer Starr. Motion approved 5/0/0.

7. 2023-2024 Operations Year Water Data Presentation – Presentation by District Engineer deGraaf and review of the district numbers, water order form for landowner weekly request to build the process for water deliveries and scheduled timeline.
 8. 2025 Operations Data to Date- Water operations summary of Water Year 2024 Diversions was presented in the board meeting packet and is available upon request.
- E. Grant Activity**
1. Consero Report – Update on funding requests and grant opportunities. Climate Bond has passed, including SWEEP funding.
- F. Strategic Plan Activity –** Staff is in the process of updating the report card at this time and will be presented at the Town Hall Meeting on February 26, 2025.
- G. Groundwater Charge-** Property tax bills have been mailed and received by landowners. Additional appeals and phone calls are being made at this time.
- H. Sustainable Groundwater Management Act/GWA Activity**
1. Discussion Regarding Contract for Consulting Services for APN based ET data collection and analysis (Cal Poly Land IQ and Zanjero proposals)
 2. Presentation from Hydrofocus on GW monitoring results and groundwater levels- available upon request.
 3. Presentation on Status GSP Amendment Submittal- available upon request
- I. SJC Mokelumne River Application Update –** Continuing to work on the CEQA document
- J. Bay Delta Flow Program Update/Voluntary Agreements –** Workshops will continue in January and February.
- K. Landowner Communications –** No additional updates at this time.
- L. Board Planning Calendar –** No additional updates 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** – Woodbridge Irrigation District provided operational updates. Salmon returns have set the all-time record and are still moving past the WID dam.
6. **Closed Session** – The Board entered closed session 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 January 27, 2025 made by Vice President Colombini, second by Treasurer Starr. Motion passed 5/0/0. Meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

The next regular scheduled Board Meeting March 31, 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 January 27, 2025.

Respectfully submitted:

Deputy Secretary- Shasta Burns

**North San Joaquin Water Conservation District
Treasurer's Report
January 2025 – Monthly Summary of Accounts
As of February 24, 2025**

The chart below is a summary of account information including account balances and transactions since the last scheduled Board meeting (January 2024). The attached reports are prepared by Butterfield + Co., CPAs, Inc. for the month of February 2025. Additional attachments that follow include accounts payable, recommendations for bill payments and transfers as noted herein.

| NSJWCD Accounts Summary - January 27, 2025 | Beg Balance as of 1/27/25 with approved transfers | ACH/Autopays Payments after last meeting | Revenue Received after last meeting | Current Balance February 20, 2025 | Proposed bills to be paid today | Proposed transfers | Ending balance February 24, 2025 |
|--|---|--|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------------|
| F&M Checking | 83,014.92 | - (40,665.63) | - 227,107.05 | 269,456.34 | (707,677.00) | 520,000.00 | 81,779.34 |
| County GW Fund | 526,899.06 | - | 4,943.00 | 531,842.06 | - | (520,000.00) | 11,842.06 |
| County Account Fund | 254,181.86 | - (1,474.00) | - | 252,707.86 | - | | 252,707.86 |
| ID#3 | 177,725.66 | - | 29,346.97 | 207,072.63 | - | | 207,072.63 |
| Tracy Lake O&M | 29,548.27 | - (142.66) | - | 29,405.61 | - | | 29,405.61 |
| Totals | \$ 1,071,369.77 | \$ (42,282.29) | \$ 261,397.02 | \$ 1,290,484.50 | \$ (707,677.00) | \$ - | \$ 582,807.50 |

| | Payments after last meeting | Revenue Received after last meeting | Classes | Proposed bills to be paid today |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------|---------------------------------|
| Amazon | (260.76) Prop 1 | 227,107.05 | Dream Project | (304.00) |
| AT&T | (195.78) Interest GW | 4,943.00 | General Exp | (33,280.32) |
| Dropbox | (131.79) Assessments ID#3 | 29,051.50 | GW Management | (17,028.05) |
| Microsoft | (48.00) Interest ID#3 | 295.47 | Operations Fund | (11,235.76) |
| Payroll | (21,940.51) | | Planning Fund | (2,538.00) |
| PG&E | (16,759.38) | - | Recharge Lakso | (400.00) |
| PostNet | (87.11) | - | South System I | (1,083.00) |
| State Comp Ins | (1,210.32) | - | South System II | (1,919.00) |
| Zoom | (31.98) | | South System III | (522,036.00) |
| GW Interest Adj | (1,474.00) | | NS Pump Station | (4,389.00) |
| PGE TLID | (142.66) | | NS Pipeline | (646.00) |
| | | | NS Phase 1B | (65,000.00) |
| | | | North System | (47,817.87) |
| Total | \$ (42,282.29) | Total \$ 261,397.02 | Total | \$ (707,677.00) |

1. SEE ATTACHMENT 1 - ACCOUNTS PAYABLE REPORT.

2. CURRENT PAYMENT RECOMMENDATIONS - SEE TABLE BELOW:

| | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| ABS Direct Inc. | \$ 2,830.51 | Meeting Supplies |
| Baumbach & Piazza | 800.00 | August '24 & November '24 Invoice |
| Butterfield & Co. | 1,947.50 | January Invoice |
| Consero Solutions | 6,855.00 | January Services |
| Cumming Management Group, Inc. | 264.00 | January Services |
| deGraaf Engineering | 36,672.57 | January Services |
| duncan press | 1,729.84 | Newsletter |
| Grandberg & Associates | 2,992.50 | January Services |
| HydroFocus, Inc. | 15,242.05 | January Services |
| Intake Screens, Inc. | 43,100.00 | February Invoice |
| Joe Peterson | 3,300.00 | February'25-December '25 Rent |
| Laurel AG & Water | 6,244.60 | Repairs |
| Moore Biological Consultant | 2,180.37 | January Services |
| Pacific Southwest Irrigation | 65,013.51 | Pump Station 40% Deposit |
| Richard Rodriguez Farms | 8,226.65 | February Invoice |
| Shasta Burns | 2,908.50 | February Invoice |
| Spaletta Law PC | 799.40 | February Rent |
| Teichert Construction | 506,570.00 | January Invoice |
| Total payments recommended | \$ 707,677.00 | |

3. REMAINING ACCOUNTS PAYABLE – \$1,263,939.47

- a. \$ 254,042.87 - Retention due to Arnaudo Construction, Inc.
- b. \$ 9,896.60 – Pacific Southwest Irrigation.
- c. \$1,000,000.00 – Teichert Construction.

4. WARRANTS PAYABLE

- a. \$499,988.17 – F&M Bank

5. ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE – \$1,353,778.29

- a. \$ 300,000.05 - DWR – Prop 1.
- b. \$ 1,051,890.24 – San Joaquin County – Project 4 North System Improvement Component Phase 1 Period 10/01/23-09/30/2024 – Reimbursements.
- c. \$ 1,888.00 – ID3 Assessment Installment #7.

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

| Type | Date | Num | Source Name | Memo | Account | Class | Open Balance |
|---------------------------------------|------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|--|--------------|
| ABS Direct Inc | | | | | | | |
| Bill | 01/30/2025 | 138492 | ABS Direct Inc | Newsletter | 6175 - Public Outreach | -G&A | 1,290.02 |
| Bill | 01/31/2025 | 138580 | ABS Direct Inc | Meeting Postcard | 6175 - Public Outreach | -G&A | 1,540.49 |
| Total ABS Direct Inc | | | | | | | 2,830.51 |
| Arnaudo Construction, Inc. | | | | | | | |
| Bill | 05/31/2023 | RET- SS II App No. 1 | Arnaudo Construction, Inc. | Progress Billing - (Retainage \$31,885.50) | 6115.5 - Pipeline | Capital Outlay:South System Phase 2 | 31,300.50 |
| Bill | 05/31/2023 | RET- SS II App No. 1 | Arnaudo Construction, Inc. | Handel Lateral Junction Box | 6115.5 - Pipeline | Capital Outlay:South System Phase 2 | 585.00 |
| Bill | 12/26/2023 | RET-SS II- App No. 4 | Arnaudo Construction, Inc. | 48" RCP - (Retainage \$32,568.24) | 6115.5 - Pipeline | Capital Outlay:South System Phase 2 | 30,603.00 |
| Bill | 12/26/2023 | RET-SS II- App No. 4 | Arnaudo Construction, Inc. | Miller Recharge Project | 6205 - Repairs & Maintenance | -Groundwater Management | 654.24 |
| Bill | 12/26/2023 | RET-SS II- App No. 4 | Arnaudo Construction, Inc. | Cleaning SS pump | 6205 - Repairs & Maintenance | Operations Fund:South System O&M | 1,311.00 |
| Bill | 01/19/2024 | RET NS 1B - App No1. | Arnaudo Construction, Inc. | 42" Pipe - (Retainage 10,550) | 6115.5 - Pipeline | Capital Outlay:North System Phase 1 | 10,550.00 |
| Bill | 02/09/2024 | RET NS 1B - App No. 2 | Arnaudo Construction, Inc. | 42" Pipe - (Retainage \$59,080) | 6115.5 - Pipeline | Capital Outlay:North System Phase 1B | 59,080.00 |
| Bill | 03/31/2024 | RET NS 1B- App No. 3 | Arnaudo Construction, Inc. | Pipe related work. (Retainage \$8,130) | 6115.5 - Pipeline | Capital Outlay:North System Phase 1B | 8,130.00 |
| Bill | 04/30/2024 | RET SS II - App No.6 | Arnaudo Construction, Inc. | SS Phase II - (Retainage \$4,842) | 6115.5 - Pipeline | Capital Outlay:South System Phase 2 | 4,842.00 |
| Bill | 04/30/2024 | RET NS 1B-App No. 4 | Arnaudo Construction, Inc. | NS Phase 1b - (Retainage \$9,335) | 6115.5 - Pipeline | Capital Outlay:North System Phase 1B | 9,335.00 |
| Bill | 05/18/2024 | RET NS 1B - App No.5 | Arnaudo Construction, Inc. | NS Phase 1b - (Retainage \$26,740) | 6115.5 - Pipeline | Capital Outlay:North System Phase 1B | 26,740.00 |
| Bill | 06/25/2024 | RET NS 1B - App #6 | Arnaudo Construction, Inc. | NS Phase 1b - (Retainage \$34,016.40) | 6115.5 - Pipeline | Capital Outlay:North System Phase 1B | 34,016.40 |
| Bill | 09/30/2024 | RET SS II Ret App #7 | Arnaudo Construction, Inc. | SS Phase II - (Retainage \$10,871.07) | 6115.5 - Pipeline | Capital Outlay:South System Phase 2 | 10,871.07 |
| Bill | 09/30/2024 | RET NS 1B Ret APP #7 | Arnaudo Construction, Inc. | NS Phase 1b - (Retainage \$15,363.46) | 6115.5 - Pipeline | Capital Outlay:North System Phase 1B | 15,363.47 |
| Bill | 11/11/2024 | RET NS-1B App 8 | Arnaudo Construction, Inc. | NS Phase 1b - (Retainage \$3,237.19) | 6115.5 - Pipeline | Capital Outlay:North System Phase 1B | 3,237.19 |
| Bill | 11/25/2024 | RET SS Phase II | Arnaudo Construction, Inc. | SS Phase II - (Retainage \$7,424) | 6115.5 - Pipeline | Capital Outlay:South System Phase 2 | 7,424.00 |
| Total Arnaudo Construction, Inc. | | | | | | | 254,042.87 |
| Baumbach & Piazza, Inc. | | | | | | | |
| Bill | 08/05/2024 | 6919 | Baumbach & Piazza, Inc. | Monument Preservation Acampo Rd | 6180.4 - Engineering Expense | Capital Outlay:North System Phase 1 | 400.00 |
| Bill | 11/08/2024 | 6980 | Baumbach & Piazza, Inc. | Lakso Easement Documentation | 6180.4 - Engineering Expense | Capital Outlay:Recharge Lakso Project | 400.00 |
| Total Baumbach & Piazza, Inc. | | | | | | | 800.00 |
| Butterfield & Co. | | | | | | | |
| Bill | 01/31/2025 | 107167 | Butterfield & Co. | Accounting | 6180.1 - Accounting | -G&A | 1,947.50 |
| Total Butterfield & Co. | | | | | | | 1,947.50 |
| Consero Solutions | | | | | | | |
| Bill | 01/31/2025 | 2092 | Consero Solutions | Funding Research | 6180.3 - Consulting | -Planning Fund | 1,295.00 |
| Bill | 01/31/2025 | 2092 | Consero Solutions | Other Duties | 6180.3 - Consulting | -G&A | 40.00 |
| Bill | 01/31/2025 | 2092 | Consero Solutions | Communit Engagement | 6180.3 - Consulting | -G&A | 5,520.00 |
| Total Consero Solutions | | | | | | | 6,855.00 |
| Cumming Management Group, Inc. | | | | | | | |
| Bill | 01/31/2025 | 162489 | Cumming Management Grou... | Wage Compliance Services | 6180.12 - Labor Compliance Consultant | -G&A | 264.00 |
| Total Cumming Management Group, Inc. | | | | | | | 264.00 |
| de Graaf Engineering, Inc. | | | | | | | |
| Bill | 02/05/2025 | 1249 | de Graaf Engineering, Inc. | General | 6180.4 - Engineering Expense | -G&A | 13,940.57 |
| Bill | 02/05/2025 | 1249 | de Graaf Engineering, Inc. | SGMA | 6180.4 - Engineering Expense | -Groundwater Management | 1,786.00 |
| Bill | 02/05/2025 | 1249 | de Graaf Engineering, Inc. | Grant Funding | 6180.4 - Engineering Expense | -Planning Fund | 1,243.00 |
| Bill | 02/05/2025 | 1249 | de Graaf Engineering, Inc. | CalFed | 6180.4 - Engineering Expense | Operations Fund:Woodbridge/Cal-Fed O&M | 1,197.00 |
| Bill | 02/05/2025 | 1249 | de Graaf Engineering, Inc. | NS General | 6180.4 - Engineering Expense | Capital Outlay:North System Pipeline | 646.00 |
| Bill | 02/05/2025 | 1249 | de Graaf Engineering, Inc. | SS | 6180.4 - Engineering Expense | Capital Outlay:South System Phase 1 | 228.00 |
| Bill | 02/05/2025 | 1249 | de Graaf Engineering, Inc. | Full Dream | 6180.4 - Engineering Expense | Capital Outlay:Dream Project Pipeline | 304.00 |
| Bill | 02/05/2025 | 1249 | de Graaf Engineering, Inc. | SS | 6180.4 - Engineering Expense | Capital Outlay:South System Phase 2 | 1,919.00 |
| Bill | 02/05/2025 | 1249 | de Graaf Engineering, Inc. | SS | 6180.4 - Engineering Expense | Capital Outlay:South System Phase 3 | 11,020.00 |
| Bill | 02/05/2025 | 1249 | de Graaf Engineering, Inc. | NS Pump | 6180.4 - Engineering Expense | Capital Outlay:North System Pump Station | 4,389.00 |
| Total de Graaf Engineering, Inc. | | | | | | | 36,672.57 |
| duncan press | | | | | | | |
| Bill | 02/06/2025 | 38701 | duncan press | Newsletter | 6175 - Public Outreach | -G&A | 1,729.84 |
| Total duncan press | | | | | | | 1,729.84 |
| Granberg & Associates | | | | | | | |
| Bill | 02/03/2025 | 30 | Granberg & Associates | SS Contract Status | 6180.7 - Project Management | Capital Outlay:South System Phase 1 | 855.00 |
| Bill | 02/03/2025 | 30 | Granberg & Associates | SGMA Grant Adm | 6180.7 - Project Management | Capital Outlay:North System Phase 1 | 2,137.50 |
| Total Granberg & Associates | | | | | | | 2,992.50 |
| HydroFocus, Inc | | | | | | | |
| Bill | 02/12/2025 | 5658-30 | HydroFocus, Inc | Hydrologist | 6180.5 - Hydrologist | -Groundwater Management | 15,242.05 |
| Total HydroFocus, Inc | | | | | | | 15,242.05 |
| Intake Screens, Inc. | | | | | | | |
| Bill | 02/05/2025 | 24-2600-01 | Intake Screens, Inc. | Turbine drive and screen base | 6115.6 - Pump Station | Capital Outlay:North System Phase 1 | 43,100.00 |
| Total Intake Screens, Inc. | | | | | | | 43,100.00 |

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

| Type | Date | Num | Source Name | Memo | Account | Class | Open Balance |
|-------------------------------------|------------|---------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|---|---------------------|
| Joe Peterson | | | | | | | |
| Bill | 02/15/2025 | 2025 Rent | Joe Peterson | Feb-Dec Rent | 6142 · Lease Expense | -G&A | 3,300.00 |
| Total Joe Peterson | | | | | | | 3,300.00 |
| Laurel AG & Water | | | | | | | |
| Bill | 01/17/2025 | INVLAW-045965 | Laurel AG & Water | Repairs | 6205 · Repairs & Maintenance | .Operations Fund:Woodbridge/Cal-Fed O&M | 1,798.60 |
| Bill | 02/05/2025 | INVLAW-046824 | Laurel AG & Water | Repairs | 6115.5 · Pipeline | Capital Outlay:South System Phase 3 | 4,446.00 |
| Total Laurel AG & Water | | | | | | | 6,244.60 |
| Moore Biological Consultants | | | | | | | |
| Bill | 02/13/2025 | 4241/01/25 | Moore Biological Consultants | North System | 6180.11 · Biological Consultant | Capital Outlay:North System Phase 1 | 2,180.37 |
| Total Moore Biological Consultants | | | | | | | 2,180.37 |
| Pacific Southwest Irrigation | | | | | | | |
| Bill | 09/05/2024 | 104271 | Pacific Southwest Irrigation | Pumping Station for 4000 GPM#2 | 6115.6 · Pump Station | Capital Outlay:North System Phase 1B | 74,896.60 |
| Bill | 10/11/2024 | 288445 | Pacific Southwest Irrigation | Parts | 6205 · Repairs & Maintenance | .Operations Fund:Recharge Project O&M | 13.51 |
| Total Pacific Southwest Irrigation | | | | | | | 74,910.11 |
| Richard Rodriguez Farms | | | | | | | |
| Bill | 02/14/2025 | 5205 | Richard Rodriguez Farms | Lakso Project | 6205 · Repairs & Maintenance | .Operations Fund:Recharge Project O&M | 6,200.00 |
| Bill | 02/14/2025 | Reimbursement | Richard Rodriguez Farms | Lakso Project - Parts | 6205 · Repairs & Maintenance | .Operations Fund:Recharge Project O&M | 376.65 |
| Bill | 02/15/2025 | 0917 | Richard Rodriguez Farms | Lakso Project | 6205 · Repairs & Maintenance | .Operations Fund:Recharge Project O&M | 1,650.00 |
| Total Richard Rodriguez Farms | | | | | | | 8,226.65 |
| Shasta Burns | | | | | | | |
| Bill | 02/17/2025 | 223 | Shasta Burns | February Invoice | 6180.8 · Board Clerk | -G&A | 2,642.50 |
| Bill | 02/17/2025 | 223-Mileage | Shasta Burns | February Invoice | 6180.8 · Board Clerk | -G&A | 266.00 |
| Total Shasta Burns | | | | | | | 2,908.50 |
| Spaletta Law PC | | | | | | | |
| Bill | 02/17/2025 | February Rent | Spaletta Law PC | February Rent | 6142 · Lease Expense | -G&A | 700.00 |
| Bill | 02/17/2025 | February Rent | Spaletta Law PC | Reimbursement | 6145 · Meeting Supplies | -G&A | 99.40 |
| Total Spaletta Law PC | | | | | | | 799.40 |
| Teichert Construction | | | | | | | |
| Bill | 01/31/2025 | 1056580 | Teichert Construction | SS Phase III | 6115.5 · Pipeline | Capital Outlay:South System Phase 3 | 1,506,570.00 |
| Total Teichert Construction | | | | | | | 1,506,570.00 |
| TOTAL | | | | | | | 1,971,616.47 |

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

P.O. Box E, Victor, CA 95253

From: Steve Schwabauer, General Manager

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Authorize General Manager to Negotiate for and Hire At-Will Part Time Staff for Budget Management Services

DISCUSSION:

The District receives the majority of its services on a contract basis. Our Insurance Carrier, and good business practice require our contract providers to have significant insurance coverage and agree to indemnify the District for liabilities they create for the District. However, these insurance and indemnity requirements are out of the reach of many people we may want to receive services from. An example arose in the operation of the Costa Recharge Project. Costa has an equipment operator who knows the field, the pump and the system. But he is a sole operator without corporate or business operations. It would be difficult to hire him on a contract basis. In addition, he and I struggle to communicate effectively due to a language barrier. As such I propose the District Authorize the General Manager to hire the recently retired City of Lodi Budget Manager Lisa Noffsinger at \$90.00 per hour. The pay is the equivalent of her City paid \$82 hourly rate combined a small supplement to represent benefit costs if she were a full time employee.

RECOMMENDATION:

Authorize General Manager to Negotiate for and Hire At-Will Part Time Staff for Budget Management Services.

FISCAL IMPACT: NTE \$15,000 Funded by the Groundwater Charge.

AT-WILL EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT

This At-Will Employment Agreement ("Agreement") is entered into by and between the North San Joaquin Water Conservation District ("Employer") and Lisa Noffsinger ("Employee"), who are the parties ("Parties") to this Agreement, which is effective on January 1, 2025 ("the Effective Date").

RECITALS

WHEREAS Employer requires the services of a Budget Manager; and,

WHEREAS Employee has the skills to perform the work; and,

WHEREAS Employee wishes to accept that employment,

NOW THEREFORE the Parties agree as follows:

AGREEMENT TERMS

1. Term of Agreement.

1.1 **Initial Term and Extension.** Employee's employment as Budget Manager shall be for the period commencing on January 1, 2025 and ending January 1, 2026 (the "Term"), subject to the termination provisions as provided for in Section 8 herein. This Agreement shall automatically renew for successive one-year terms thereafter unless either party has given written notice of intent not to renew no later than July 1 of each successive year.

1.2 **Non-Renewal of Agreement.** The Agreement and Employee's employment with Employer will end on the expiration date of the Agreement.

2. Title, Duties and Authority.

2.1 **Title.** Employee's position and title with Employer will be Budget Manager, an at-will position.

2.2 **Duties.** Employee's Duties will be provide Budget Management Services including cash flow projections, budget preparation and contract compliance. .

3. Compensation.

3.1 **Hourly Salary.** Employee will be paid, for duties performed pursuant to the Agreement, \$90.00 per hour on a bi-monthly basis.

4. Benefits.

4.1 Employee will not be entitled to benefits other than those required by law.

4.2 **Time Off Benefits.** Employee shall not accrue vacation benefits

4.3 **Sick Leave Benefits.** Employee shall accrue sick leave as required for part time employees under California Law.

5. Expense Reimbursement.

5.1. **Expenses.** Employer will pay or reimburse Employee for all reasonable expenses incurred by Employee in the performance of his duties under the Agreement, and in accordance with the policies and budget approved by the Board. Any such expense that has been properly documented by Employee in accordance with Employer's policies and procedures shall be reimbursed as soon as reasonably possible after they have been incurred, and in no event later than two weeks after they are submitted for reimbursement.

6. Termination of Employment.

6.1(b) **Termination by Employer Without Cause.** Employer may terminate employee at any time without notice with or without cause.

6.2 **Termination by Employee.** This Agreement and Employee's employment hereunder may be terminated by Employee at any time.

6.3 **Termination by Death.** In the event of the death of Employee during the Term of this Agreement, the employment by Employer of Employee will cease automatically and immediately. Employer will pay to Employee's estate his salary earned up to the date of death along with payment "for accrued and unused vacation" for that year. Any vested benefits that Employee has on the date of his death shall be paid or provided in the manner specified in the applicable benefit plan. All other obligations of Employer to Employee will cease.

6.4 **Termination by Disability.** If Employee is prevented from performing his duties because of any physical or mental impairment for a period of one hundred and twenty (120) days within a twelve (12) month period, the Agreement may be terminated by Employer and Employer will pay to Employee or his heirs the base salary earned by Employee until the date of termination along with payment for accrued and unused vacation. Any vested benefits that Employee has on the date of such termination shall be paid or provided in the manner specified in the applicable benefit plan. All other obligations of Employer to Employee will cease.

7. Final and Binding: Arbitration. Any and all claims arising out of Employee's employment that could be filed in a court of law, including but not limited to, claims of unlawful harassment or discrimination, wrongful demotion, defamation, wrongful discharge, breach of contract or invasion of privacy, will be submitted to final and binding arbitration in Sacramento County, California, and not to any other forum. No claim will be submitted to arbitration without first attempting to resolve the matter informally.

The arbitration process will be initiated by delivering a written request for arbitration to the other party within the time limits that would apply to the filing of a civil complaint in a court of law. A late request will be void. If Employer and Employee are unable to agree upon a neutral arbitrator, they will obtain a list of arbitrators from a neutral dispute resolution service such as JAMS, and strike names alternatively until one arbitrator remains. The remaining arbitrator will conduct the arbitration in accordance with the procedures set forth in the American Arbitration Association's Employment

Arbitration Rules, which can be found at <http://www.adr.org> except to the extent that such rules require the arbitration to be administered by the American Arbitration Association. Employer will pay the arbitrator's fees and expenses as well as any conference room charges incurred as a result of holding any and all arbitration hearings. Both Parties will have the right to file dispositive motions, and the Arbitrator will rule on such motions using the same standards as would be applied by a California Superior Court.

The arbitrator will determine the prevailing party in the arbitration. Costs and attorneys' fees will be awarded to the prevailing party in accordance with the same legal standards that would apply had the action been filed in a California Superior Court (provided, however, that any payment of such costs and attorneys' fees to Employee that are in excess of reasonable attorneys' fees or other reasonable expenses incurred to enforce any bona fide claim arising out the service relationship between Employee and Employer must be structured to satisfy the reimbursement requirements in Internal Revenue Code Regulation § 1.409A-3(i)(1)(iv)). The arbitrator will have the authority to order any legal and equitable remedy that would be available in a civil or administrative action on the claim. The arbitrator will prepare a written decision that includes the essential findings and conclusions upon which the award is based.

8. General Provisions.

8.1 Indemnification. Employer will, to the fullest extent permitted under the regulatory exemption for indemnification in Internal Revenue Code ("Code") Regulation § 1.409A-1(b)(IO) and under any applicable law, indemnify, defend and hold and save Employee, his heirs, administrators or executors and each of them harmless from any and all actions and causes of action, claims, demands, liabilities, losses, damages, or expense, of whatsoever kind and nature, including judgments, interest and attorneys' fees and all other reasonable costs, expenses and charges which Employee, his heirs, administrators, or executors and each of them will or may at any time or from time-to-time, subsequent to the date of this Agreement, sustain or incur, or become subject to by reason of any claim or claims against Employee, his heirs, administrators or executors and each of them from carrying out the terms and conditions of this Agreement, except for gross negligence, willful misconduct or criminal acts or omissions on the part of Employee, provided that Employee, his heirs, administrators or executors or one of them promptly notifies Employer of adverse claims or threatened or actual lawsuits. Employee, to the extent reasonably possible, will provide complete cooperation to Employer, its' attorneys and agents in such case.

8.2 Notices. Any notice, request, demand or other communication required or permitted hereunder will be deemed to be properly given when personally served in writing and when deposited in the United States mail, registered or certified, postage prepaid, addressed to the Party at the last address supplied to the sending Party by the addressed Party.

8.3 Waiver. The waiver by any Party of a breach of any provision of the Agreement by the other will not operate or be construed as a waiver of any subsequent breach of the same provision or any other provision of the Agreement.

8.4 Tax Provisions.

(a) All compensation and benefits payable or provided pursuant to the Agreement shall be subject to any tax reporting and withholding requirements that might apply under any applicable law.

(b) The parties intend that all payments and benefits payable to Employee under the Agreement are compliant with and/or exempt from the requirements of Section 409A of the Code and any regulation and other guidance issued by the Internal Revenue Service with respect to such Section (collectively, "Section 409A") so as not to trigger the additional tax and/or penalties or interest imposed by Section 409A. To the extent the Agreement provides for payments to be made or benefits to be provided upon a termination of employment, and to the extent such payments or benefits are subject to Section 409A, the meaning of "termination of employment" (and other similar phrases) for purposes of those payments or benefits shall mean a "separation from service" as defined in Section 409A. Each payment provided for under the Agreement shall be treated as a separate payment for purposes of the application of Section 409A. To the extent any reimbursements or in-kind benefits due to Employee under the Agreement constitute "deferred compensation" under Section 409A, any such reimbursements or in-kind benefits shall be paid to Employee in a manner consistent with Code Reg. Section 1.409A-3(i)(1)(iv), which shall include, but not be limited to, satisfying the following requirements: (i) the right to reimbursement or payment of expenses, or in-kind benefits, shall not be subject to liquidation or exchange for another benefit; (ii) the amount of expenses eligible for reimbursement or payment, or in-kind benefits provided, during any taxable year shall not affect the expenses eligible for reimbursement or payment, or in-kind benefits to be provided, in any other taxable year and (iii) any claim for reimbursement or payment of an eligible expense that has been timely and properly submitted must be paid no later than two weeks after they are incurred.

(c) Nothing contained in the Agreement and no action taken pursuant to the provisions of the Agreement shall create or be construed to create a Trust of any kind. To the extent that Employee acquires a right to receive payments from Employer under the Agreement, Employer's obligation to make such payments represents an unfunded promise or covenant to pay such amount running from Employer to Employee.

8.5 Entire Agreement. Except as provided herein, this Agreement contains the entire agreement of the Parties. It supersedes any and all other agreements, either oral or in writing; between the Parties with respect to the employment of Employee by Employer. Each Party acknowledges that no representations, inducements, promises or agreements, oral or otherwise, have been made by any Party, or anyone acting on behalf of any Party, which are not embodied herein, and that no other agreement or promise not contained in this Agreement will be valid and binding.

8.6 Amendments. No amendments or additions to this Agreement will be binding unless in writing and signed by both Parties except as herein otherwise provided.

8.7 **Paragraph Headings.** The paragraph headings used in this Agreement are included solely for convenience and will not affect, or be used in connection with, the interpretation of this Agreement.

8.8 **Severability.** The provisions of this Agreement will be deemed severable and the invalidity or unenforceability of any provision will not affect the validity or enforceability of the other provisions.

8.9. **Governing Law.** Except where federal law governs, the Agreement is to be governed by and construed under the laws of the State of California, County of San Joaquin.

IT IS SO AGREED.

Date

Lisa Noffsinger "Employee"

Date

Steve Schwabauer
General Manager



Memorandum

To North San Joaquin Water Conservation District
From Daniel de Graaf, P.E.
Subject District Engineer Report
Date 2/24/2025

The following summarizes the status of current projects, upcoming work to be completed, and the anticipated schedules and project milestones.

South System

Phase III construction is nearing completion. All the pipe has been installed and the final connection to the existing pipeline should be completed this week. The walls for the Kettleman box are ready to be poured this week and the slab for the Mettler box should be ready to pour this week as well. Forming, pouring, and stripping forms should be complete within a couple weeks following the slab. Upon completion of the boxes, final backfill and minor road grading will be done to complete the project.

The recent storms caused significant flow into and around the construction site, halting construction until it dries out enough to get equipment back onto the project site.

The additional South System pump has been received by the contractor as well as the flow meters and most of the manifold components. The VFD and electrical equipment will likely be available for delivery early February. Timing for installation will be coordinated with operations and will be scheduled to reduce operational interruptions to a minimum.

A pump test was being performed on Friday, Feb 14th at which point the conditioner in the VFD had an electrical short causing the pump test to be delayed until the VFD can be repaired or replaced.



Handel Lateral

No current activity to report. Pending discussions with landowners, we will be preparing to go out to bid following completion of the final set of plans.

Eastside Ditch

No current activity to report.

DREAM Project and Pixley Pipeline

No current activity to report.

Tecklenburg Recharge Basin

Operation of the project has been shut down and will be until Phase III is complete and the 24" lateral is installed. Staff is working to finalize the easement for the the 24" mainline to the basin with the landowner and will begin construction of the lateral likely starting in April.

Tracy Lakes Improvement District

A pump test was performed, and very poor efficiency was identified for the pump. Delta Pump was contacted to evaluate the cause of poor efficiency and a plan to repair and improve the pump is being developed.

North System

The North System is currently off due to lack of flow. While it is dry, we will continue working on the berms to ensure that we are ready to maximize recharge when water is available. Wind during the recent storms has caused significant erosion of the berms. A more permanent solution for the berms is being explored.

North System Pump

The second pump is near completion and the fish screen is complete and ready for installation pending approval of the permit.

Work is ongoing for the permanent pump, including the early stages of the environmental and permitting work.

Cal-Fed Pump

The Costa field recharge project was operational while water was available during the storms. A pump test was performed on Friday Feb 14th and as expected, the efficiency of the pump could be improved. A brief discussion about the options to improve efficiency, included installation of a VFD or replacement of the pump bowls to better match the system demand. We will explore both options for future consideration.

Monitoring Wells

Staff is working with landowners to acquire easements for the remaining two wells and hope to have them soon. Upon obtaining the additional easements, staff will release the contractor to begin installation.

Other Updates

You may start to see blue utility markers as you drive around where underground district facilities are located. In an effort to protect underground infrastructure like the manholes and valve boxes on the North System and to locate and identify the air vents and valve locations on the Pixley and Dream systems, utility markers are being installed.



P.O. Box E, 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:

Consero Solutions provides monthly reports on funding opportunities for which the District has applied or for which the District is considering applying. As a result of the passage of Proposition 4, approved by California voters in November 2024 and subsequent proposed allocations in the draft 2025-26 State budget, this report contains an update on newly funded programs of District interest. Proposition 4 authorized \$10 billion in general obligation bonds “for safe drinking water, wildfire prevention, and protecting communities and natural lands from climate risks,” including \$193 million for the California Department of Water Resources Sustainable Groundwater Management Program, \$100 million for integrated regional water management, and \$40 million for the State Water and Energy Efficiency Program (SWEEP).

The Governor released the proposed 2025-26 State budget on January 10, 2025 and announced a roughly balanced budget with a modest surplus. According to Environmental and Energy Consulting (EEC), the firm with which Consero Solutions contracts for current information about State budget and policy issues, agencies could open some solicitation in 2025 after approval of the budget by July 1, 2025. EEC reports some agencies, however, may attempt to slow the release of funding so funds will last five years or more. In addition, the State Legislature will likely change some of the Proposition 4 allocations proposed in the 2025-26 budget. As a result, the District has opportunities to talk to legislators and joint with other local agencies to request changes to funding allocations before the Governor releases the May Revise of the 2025-26 budget. The District should prepare for upcoming opportunities by developing projects consistent with State guidelines, including focusing on development of a Master Plan and associated funding strategy in 2025. Projects included as a priority in a Master Plan will be more competitive for grant funding.

DISCUSSION:

1. U.S. Bureau of Reclamation WaterSMART Drought Response Program

Project Name: South System Modernization Project, Phase 4

Amount Requested: \$3 million (compared to \$5 million in FY 2024)

Amount of Cost Share: 50%

Application Submitted: October 4, 2024

Status: The General Manager worked with Consero Solutions to submit the FY 2025 WaterSMART grant application on October 4, 2024. Since WaterSMART is partially funded with Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act funds and the Trump Administration is pulling back these funds, the timeline for release of awards is now unknown. Consero Solutions asked Shelby Neff, manager of the WaterSMART program regarding the status of the program and received this response, “Current WaterSMART NOFOs have been paused and are under review until further notice. We

have no further information on the status of these NOFOs and will provide additional information as soon as it becomes available. Thank you for your patience and understanding.” The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation also updated its website on January 31, 2025 to replace a graphic with a timeline for the grant process (including an award announcement date of March 2025) with an update that the applications are “under review.”

Context: The WaterSMART Drought Response Program is an annual program which receives money through the annual federal appropriations process, but in the last couple of years also received an infusion of funding from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. The program limits applications to \$2 million and only provides between \$30 million and \$40 million in awards. The District applied unsuccessfully for a \$5 million grant from the program 2023-24 cycle for the South System Modernization Project, Phase 4, when the Bureau briefly lifted the \$2 million cap on projects. District staff met with WaterSMART grant managers on May 30, 2024 to review the District’s previous application and addressed all issues the Bureau brought up in the updated application.

2. California 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 Proposition 4 Expenditure Plan contains a total of \$12 million for the Multibenefit Land Repurposing Program in 2025-26 and \$51 million in 2026-27 (see Chapter 2 table in Attachment A). The Department of Conservation (DOC) is in the process of revising the program guidelines (see Attachment B for excerpt) to include language clarifying how groundwater recharge achieved through the program must be treated in a groundwater sustainability agency’s water budget. The new concept is that groundwater recharged with program funded projects still CANNOT be included in the water budget as water that pumpers can extract. However, project outcomes such as groundwater demand reduction, indirect or speculative supply benefits, and passive recharge resulting from the enhancement or restoration of natural conditions may be reported as related outcomes but are not direct groundwater recharge resulting from program funding. Jennifer Spaletta reviewed the language and now recommends exploring a potential application, which in the past she did not recommend because of the previous restrictive language. The DOC will hold virtual stakeholder meetings on March 3, 2025 and March 4, 2025 to present the revised language and solicit further feedback. The DOC will finalize the revised guidelines by mid- to late-March. Consero recommends developing a proposal with local partners and exploring submitting an application for the Multibenefit Land Repurposing Program in FY 2025-26.

Context: The District has 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.

3. 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: TBD

Application Due: TBD

Status: The State Legislature will review the Governor’s proposed 2025-26 budget in February and March, including the timing of Proposition 4 funds allocated to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Program. 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 (see Chapter 2 table in Attachment A), with most of \$193 million from Proposition 4 allocated to “out years.” Paul Gosselin, Deputy Director of the California Department of Water Resources, indicated the State will use these funds to update grant guidelines and therefore will not release a new grant program in 2025-26. He also said they will use the funds to develop a “FloodMAR proof of concept” to assist groundwater sustainability agencies. The State Legislature may change this allocation and Consero Solutions therefore recommends the District write a letter to its legislators requesting more funding for this program in 2025-26 and 2026-27. Consero will provide an update from program staff and the results of State budget hearings at the next Board meeting.

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).”

4. California Department of Water Resources Integrated Regional Water Management Program

Project Name: N/A

Amount Requested: TBD

Amount of Cost Share: TBD

Release Request for Grant Application: TBD

Application Due: TBD

Status: The State Legislature will review the Governor’s proposed 2025-26 budget in February and March, including the timing of Proposition 4 fund allocated to the Integrated Regional Water Management Program. The Governor’s proposed 2025-26 budget includes \$500,000 from Proposition 4 funds for “Integrated Regional Water Management” in 2025-26 and \$3 million in 2026-27 (see Chapter 2 table in Attachment A), with the rest of the \$100 million from Proposition 4 allocated to “out years.” The State Legislature may change this allocation and Consero Solutions recommends the District write a letter to its legislators requesting more

funding for this program in 2025-26 and 2026-27. Consero will check back with program staff once more details emerge between now and the May revision to the State budget.

Context: Section 91031 of SB 867 states: “Of the funds made available by Section 91030, one hundred million dollars (\$100,000,000) shall be available, upon appropriation by the Legislature, to the Department of Water Resources (DWR) for projects related to integrated regional water management to improve climate resilience on a watershed basis. The department shall update and revise the guidelines for the integrated regional water management program to address impacts associated with climate risk.” The bond language does not name the Integrated Regional Water Management Program, instead specifying “integrated regional water management” and watershed resilience more broadly. This, and recent information from the IRWM Roundtable of Regions, indicate DWR may phase out the current iteration of the IRWM Program in favor of an updated Watershed Resilience Program.

5. California Department of Food and Agriculture 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

Status: The Governor’s proposed 2025-26 budget includes \$38 million from Proposition 4 funds for SWEEP in 2025-26 and \$700,000 for SWEEP in 2026-27 (see Chapter 7 Table in Attachment A). Consero expects the California Department of Food and Agriculture will release a grant program in 2025-26 and encourages the District to apply, given the District’s success with implementing the Pilot Block Grant Program, resulting in the allocation of \$2.1 million to District growers for infrastructure to connect to the District’s surface water system. Consero Solutions recommends the District prioritize an application to this program because the proposed 2025-26 budget does not contain funding for the SWEEP grant program in 2026-27 based on the current version of the budget. Consero also anticipates SWEEP may update the guidelines for the program to define “multiple-benefit projects that improve resilience to climate change and save water on California agricultural operations” since this language is new to the program because of Proposition 4. Consero Solutions believes this language connects SWEEP to the California Department of Conservation’s Multibenefit Land Repurposing Program. Consero will check back with program staff once more details emerge between now and the May revision to the State budget.

Context: Section 93510 of SB 867 states: “Forty million dollars (\$40,000,000) shall be available for the State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program to promote onfarm water use efficiency with focus on multiple-benefit projects that improve resilience to climate change and save water on California agricultural operations.” The Department released the SWEEP Direct-to-Producer Grant Program guidelines and request for applications on November 28, 2023 and then postponed the solicitation in December 2023. On January 10, 2024, the Governor

announced as part of his proposed 2024-25 State budget the delay of this grant program to 2025.

Chapter 2. Safe Drinking Water, Drought, Flood & Water Resilience

(\$ in Millions)

| Department | Program | 2025-26 | 2026-27 | Out-Years | Pending Allocation |
|--|--|----------------|--------------|----------------|--------------------|
| State Water Resources Control Board | Water Quality & Safe Drinking Water | \$183 | \$160 | \$242 | \$0 |
| | Tribal Water Infrastructure | \$11 | \$13 | \$1 | \$0 |
| | Multibenefit Urban Stormwater Management Projects | \$1 | \$39 | \$70 | \$0 |
| | Water Reuse & Recycling | \$153 | \$78 | \$154 | \$0 |
| | Cross-Border Rivers & Coastal Waters (Tijuana & New River) | \$9 | \$21 | \$20 | \$0 |
| Dept. of Water Resources & State Water Resources Control Board | Water Data Management & Stream Gages | \$1 | \$2 | \$12 | \$0 |
| Dept. of Water Resources | Groundwater Storage/Banking/Recharge & Instream Flow | \$10 | \$15 | \$361 | \$0 |
| | Brackish Desalination & Salinity Management Projects | \$0.2 | \$6 | \$56.7 | \$0 |
| | Regional Conveyance Projects & Repairs to Existing Conveyances | \$0.7 | \$11 | \$64 | \$0 |
| | Water Conservation in Agricultural & Urban Areas | \$0.3 | \$5 | \$69 | \$0 |
| | Various Flood Management Projects | \$173 | \$222 | \$155 | \$0 |
| | Dam Safety & Climate Resilience | \$232 | \$232 | \$17 | \$0 |
| | Integrated Regional Water Management | \$0.5 | \$3 | \$96 | \$0 |
| | Riverine Stewardship Projects | \$0.1 | \$0.4 | \$50 | \$0 |
| | Urban Streams Restoration Program | \$0.3 | \$23 | \$1 | \$0 |
| Dept. of Conservation | Multibenefit Land Repurposing Program | \$12 | \$51 | \$137 | \$0 |
| California Water Commission | Water Storage Investment Program | \$74 | \$0 | \$0.6 | \$0 |
| Los Angeles Rivers & Mountains Conservancy | Climate Resiliency & Protection of the Los Angeles River Watershed | \$0.6 | \$8 | \$31.0 | \$0 |
| Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy | | \$15 | \$10 | \$14 | \$0 |
| State Coastal Conservancy | Santa Ana River Conservancy | \$10 | \$8 | \$7 | \$0 |
| | Coyote Valley Conservation Program | \$3 | \$0 | \$22 | \$0 |
| | West Coyote Hills Program | \$0 | \$0 | \$25 | \$0 |
| Natural Resources Agency | Wildlife Refuges & Wetland Habitat Areas | \$0.2 | \$23 | \$1 | \$0 |
| | Clear Lake Watershed | \$0.1 | \$19 | \$1 | \$0 |
| | Nature, Climate Education & Research Facilities Grants | \$0.1 | \$19 | \$1 | \$0 |
| Natural Resources Agency & Dept. of Water Resources | Salton Sea Management Program | \$148 | \$1 | \$11 | \$0 |
| To Be Determined | Salton Sea Conservancy or Salton Sea Authority | \$0 | \$0 | \$0.1 | \$10 |
| Wildlife Conservation Board | Lower American River Conservancy | \$3 | \$0 | \$7 | \$0 |
| | Stream Flow Enhancement Program | \$21 | \$1 | \$79 | \$0 |
| | Habitat Enhancement & Restoration Program | \$11 | \$1 | \$39 | \$0 |
| Total | | \$1,074 | \$972 | \$1,744 | \$10 |

Chapter 7. Climate Smart Agriculture

(\$ in Millions)

| Department | Program | 2025-26 | 2026-27 | Out-Years | Pending Allocation |
|---|--|--------------|-------------|-------------|--------------------|
| Dept. of Food & Agriculture | Healthy Soils Program | \$36 | \$26 | \$3 | \$0 |
| | State Water Efficiency & Enhancement Program | \$38 | \$0.7 | \$2 | \$0 |
| | Invasive Species Account | \$20 | \$0 | \$0.2 | \$0 |
| | Certified Mobile Farmers' Markets | \$10 | \$10 | \$0.9 | \$0 |
| | Year-Round Certified Farmers' Markets | \$10 | \$10 | \$0.9 | \$0 |
| | Urban Agriculture Projects | \$19 | \$0.4 | \$0.9 | \$0 |
| | Regional Farm Equipment Sharing | \$0.2 | \$14 | \$0.7 | \$0 |
| | Tribal Food Sovereignty | \$0.2 | \$14 | \$0.7 | \$0 |
| Dept. of Conservation | Protection, Restoration, Conservation and Enhancement of Farm and Range Lands | \$2 | \$9 | \$3 | \$0 |
| | Improve Land Access and Tenure for Socially Disadvantaged Farmers, Ranchers, or Tribal Producers | \$0 | \$0 | \$0.2 | \$30 |
| Dept. of Community Services & Development | Farmworkers Housing Component of the Low-Income Weatherization Program | \$0 | \$0.2 | \$10 | \$0 |
| California Vanpool Authority | Deployment of Vanpool Vehicles, Clean Technologies and Infrastructure | \$0 | \$0 | \$0.1 | \$15 |
| California Dept. of Education | Grants to Postsecondary Education Institutions to Develop Research Farms to Improve Climate Resiliency | \$0 | \$0 | \$0.1 | \$15 |
| Total | | \$134 | \$84 | \$22 | \$60 |

**California Department of Conservation
Solicitation Notice and Application for:**

Multibenefit Land Repurposing Program

FINAL
January 24, 2022
AMENDED
January XX, 2025



California
**Department of
Conservation**

On a case-by-case basis, the Department may approve use of funds to implement projects outside of an eligible groundwater basin if that project can be shown to:

- 1) Reduce groundwater use in an eligible groundwater basin interconnected with surface water,
- 2) Improve groundwater supply in an eligible groundwater basin interconnected with surface water , or
- 3) Improve baseflows in rivers and streams in an eligible groundwater basin.

For the Department to consider such projects for funding, the GSA responsible for the eligible groundwater basin must provide a letter attesting to the benefits the project would provide to the eligible groundwater basin.

~~The Public Resources Trailer Bill (AB 211, Ch. 574, Stat. of 2022) requires that any groundwater recharge achieved through these strategies and projects must be subtracted from any calculation by the Groundwater Sustainability Agency from the groundwater available for extraction by water users for the duration of the benefits paid for by the program. Payments for benefits must be linked to the achievement and delivery of the defined conservation outcomes for the project and the duration of those outcomes.~~

In accordance with the Budget Act of 2021, Stat. of 2022, Ch. 574, Sec. 35(e)(3), "Any groundwater recharge achieved with this funding shall be subtracted from any calculation by the groundwater sustainability agency of groundwater available for extraction by water users for the duration of benefits paid for by the Multibenefit Land Repurposing Program." Positive groundwater supply benefits which directly result from substantive actions undertaken as part of a land repurposing project using program funds (e.g. major construction or alteration of recharge infrastructure, the purchase and application of water for the express purpose of facilitating groundwater recharge, etc.) shall be considered groundwater recharge achieved. Outcomes such as groundwater demand reduction, indirect or speculative supply benefits, and passive recharge resulting from the enhancement or restoration of natural conditions may be reported as related outcomes but are not direct groundwater recharge resulting from program funding.

Where it is determined, as part of the implementation project review process, that a project provides direct groundwater recharge benefits, it is the responsibility of the groundwater sustainability agency (GSA) to ensure, under their existing authorities, that this water is not made available for extraction. Grantees are required to obtain GSA certification at the time of project submittal that groundwater recharge will be accounted for within the GSA's water budget. An updated certification may be required if the scope of the project changes or it is otherwise determined that the achieved benefits vary from those claimed at the time of project submittal. Individual water rights will not be reconfigured, and GSAs may use their discretion to determine the most effective way to balance their water budgets. As with all benefits of the program, groundwater recharge benefits must be reasonably durable. All GSA certifications must be valid for the duration of the benefit, and proportional to the investment of the program in the benefits achieved.