

# CHINO BASIN WATERMASTER



## NOTICE OF MEETING

**Thursday, April 16, 2026**

9:00 a.m. – Advisory Committee Meeting

**CHINO BASIN WATERMASTER  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**

9:00 a.m. – April 16, 2026

*Mr. Scott Burton, Chair*

*Mr. Jeff Pierson, Vice-Chair*

*Ms. Hye Jin Lee, Second Vice-Chair*

**At The Offices Of**

**Chino Basin Watermaster**

9641 San Bernardino Road

Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91730

*(Meeting can also be taken remotely via Zoom at this [link](#))*

**AGENDA**

**CALL TO ORDER**

**ROLL CALL**

**AGENDA – ADDITIONS/REORDER**

**SAFETY MINUTE**

**I. CONSENT CALENDAR**

All matters listed under the Consent Calendar are considered to be routine and non-controversial and will be acted upon by one motion in the form listed below. There will be no separate discussion on these items prior to voting unless any members, staff, or the public requests specific items be discussed and/or removed from the Consent Calendar for separate action.

**A. MINUTES**

Approve as presented:

1. Minutes of the Advisory Committee Meeting held on March 19, 2026 *(Page 1)*
2. Minutes of the Advisory Committee Special Meeting held on March 25, 2026 *(Page 8)*

**B. FINANCIAL REPORTS**

February and March financials are being deferred to the May 2026 meetings.

**II. BUSINESS ITEMS**

**A. REVIEW OF WATERMASTER RULES AND REGULATIONS – SECTION 2.10**

Provide advice and assistance to the Watermaster Board. *(Page 13)*

**III. REPORTS/UPDATES**

**A. WATERMASTER LEGAL COUNSEL**

1. March 27, 2026 Court Hearing (Watermaster Motion for Court to Receive and File 48th Annual Report)
2. May 1, 2026 Court Hearing (Watermaster Motion for Approval of Corrected and Amended Assessment Packages; Request for Approval of Intervention of San Gabriel Band of Mission Indians)
3. Inland Empire Utilities Agency, et al. v. LS-Fontana LLC (C.D. Cal Cases Nos.: 5:25-cv-00809, 5:25 cv01159)
4. City of Ontario – Notice of Appeal – An Order After Judgment Under Code of Civil Procedure § 904.1(a)(2)

**B. ENGINEER**

1. 2025 Safe Yield Reevaluation
2. PBHSP – Recommended Scope and Budget for 2026/27
3. 2025 Maximum Benefit Annual Report to the Regional Board
4. Evaluation of Minimum Recharge Quantity in Management Zone 1

**C. GENERAL MANAGER**

1. Fiscal Year 2026/2027 Budget
2. Fiscal Year 2025/26 Assessment Package
3. Other

**D. INLAND EMPIRE UTILITIES AGENCY (Page 25)**

1. Metropolitan Water District Activities Report (Written)
2. Water Supply Conditions (Written)
3. State and Federal Legislative Reports (Written)
4. Update to RMPU projects (Oral)
5. GWR update (Oral)

**E. OTHER METROPOLITAN MEMBER AGENCY REPORTS**

**IV. INFORMATION**

**A. CHINO AIRPORT AND SOUTH ARCHIBALD PLUMES SEMI-ANNUAL STATUS REPORTS (Page 47)**

**V. COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS**

**VI. OTHER BUSINESS**

**VII. CONFIDENTIAL SESSION - POSSIBLE ACTION**

A Confidential Session may be held during the Advisory Committee meeting for the purpose of discussion and possible action.

None

**VIII. FUTURE MEETINGS AT WATERMASTER**

04/16/26	Thu	9:00 a.m.	Advisory Committee
04/16/26	Thu	9:30 a.m.	Recharge Investigations and Projects Committee (RIPComm)
04/23/26	Thu	9:30 a.m.	Watermaster Orientation (in person only)
04/23/26	Thu	11:00 a.m.	Watermaster Board
04/28/26	Tue	10:00 a.m.	Budget Workshop #2
05/06/26	Wed	2:00 p.m.	Prado Basin Habitat Sustainability Committee (PBHSC)
05/14/26	Thu	9:00 a.m.	Appropriative Pool Committee
05/14/26	Thu	11:00 a.m.	Non-Agricultural Pool Committee
05/14/26	Thu	1:30 p.m.	Agricultural Pool Committee
05/20/26	Wed	9:00 a.m.	2025 SYR Workshop – Revised Draft 2025 SYR Report
05/21/26	Thu	9:00 a.m.	Advisory Committee
05/26/26	Tue	9:00 a.m.	Groundwater Recharge Coordinating Committee (GRCC)
05/28/26	Thu	9:30 a.m.	Watermaster Orientation (in person only)
05/28/26	Thu	11:00 a.m.	Watermaster Board

**ADJOURNMENT**

**DRAFT MINUTES**  
**CHINO BASIN WATERMASTER**  
**ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**  
March 19, 2026

The Advisory Committee meeting was held at the Chino Basin Watermaster offices located at 9641 San Bernardino Road, Rancho Cucamonga, CA, and via Zoom (conference call and web meeting) on March 19, 2026.

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT**

- **NON-AGRICULTURAL POOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT AT WATERMASTER**

Scott Burton, <b>Chair</b>	City of Ontario
Bob Bowcock	CalMat Co.

- **NON-AGRICULTURAL POOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT ON ZOOM**

Brian Geye	California Speedway Corporation
Alexis Mascarinas	City of Ontario (Non-Ag)

- **AGRICULTURAL POOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT AT WATERMASTER**

Jeff Pierson, <b>Vice-Chair</b>	Crops
Bob Feenstra	Dairy
Jimmy Medrano	State of California
Tariq Awan	State of California

- **AGRICULTURAL POOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT ON ZOOM**

Lewis Callahan	State of California
Michael Maeda	State of California

- **APPROPRIATIVE POOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT AT WATERMASTER**

Ben Orosco	City of Chino
Ron Craig	City of Chino Hills
Courtney Jones	City of Ontario
Chris Diggs	City of Pomona
Eduardo Espinoza for John Bosler	Cucamonga Valley Water District
Eric Tarango for Cris Fealy	Fontana Water Company
Justin Castruita	Fontana Union Water Company
Chris Berch	Jurupa Community Services District
Stephanie Reimer for Justin Scott-Coe	Monte Vista Irrigation Company
Stephanie Reimer for Justin Scott-Coe	Monte Vista Water District
Brian Lee	San Antonio Water Company

- **APPROPRIATIVE POOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT ON ZOOM**

Nicole deMoet	City of Upland
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- **MUNICIPAL REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT ON ZOOM**

Matt Litchfield	Three Valleys Municipal Water District
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**WATERMASTER BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT ON ZOOM**

Curtis Burton	City of Chino
Marty Zvirbulis	Fontana Water Company
Bob Kuhn	Three Valleys Municipal Water District

Mike Gardner

Western Municipal Water District

**WATERMASTER STAFF PRESENT**

Todd Corbin  
Edgar Tellez Foster  
Anna Nelson  
Frank Yoo  
Daniela Uriarte  
Ruby Favela Quintero  
Alonso Jurado  
Kirk Richard Dolar  
Jordan Garcia  
Erik Vides  
Noemi Medrano

General Manager  
Water Resources Mgmt. & Planning Director  
Director of Administration  
Data Services and Judgment Reporting Manager  
Senior Accountant  
Executive Assistant  
Water Resources Sr. Associate  
Administrative Analyst  
Water Resources Associate  
Senior Field Operations Specialist  
Administrative Assistant

**WATERMASTER CONSULTANTS PRESENT AT WATERMASTER**

Brad Herrema  
Andy Malone

Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, LLP  
West Yost

**WATERMASTER CONSULTANTS PRESENT ON ZOOM**

Garrett Rapp

West Yost

**OTHERS PRESENT AT WATERMASTER**

Gino Filippi  
Chad Nishida  
Amanda Coker  
Josh Swift  
Eddie Lin  
Bryan Smith

Agricultural Pool – Crops  
City of Ontario  
Cucamonga Valley Water District  
Fontana Union Water Company  
Inland Empire Utilities Agency  
Jurupa Community Services District

**OTHERS PRESENT ON ZOOM**

Eddie Oros  
Hye Jin Lee  
Jessica Singletary  
Nichole Horton  
John Bosler  
Brian Hamilton  
Toby Moore  
Aimee Zhao  
John Russ  
Steven Smith  
John Schatz  
Manny Martinez  
Elizabeth Ewens  
David De Jesus  
Jeff Hanlon  
Jorge Marquez  
Ryan Shaw  
Rick Rees  
Kelly Smith

Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, LLP  
City of Chino  
City of Chino  
City of Pomona  
Cucamonga Valley Water District  
Fontana Water Company  
Golden State Water Company  
Inland Empire Utilities Agency  
Inland Empire Utilities Agency  
Inland Empire Utilities Agency  
John J. Schatz, Attorney at Law  
Monte Vista Water District  
Stoel Rives LLP  
Three Valleys Municipal Water District  
Three Valleys Municipal Water District  
Three Valleys Municipal Water District  
Western Municipal Water District  
WSP USA

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Scott Burton called the Advisory Committee meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

**ROLL CALL**

(00:00:12) Ms. Nelson conducted the roll call and announced that a quorum was present.

**AGENDA – ADDITIONS/REORDER**

None

**SAFETY MINUTE**

(00:02:22) Mr. Corbin reminded everyone of the importance of maintaining situational awareness in the workplace. He noted that a vagrant had been on the Chino Basin Watermaster premises and described a recent incident in which his spouse and a coworker were attacked by an individual hiding in nearby bushes, who kicked the vehicle door and struck the windows.

**I. CONSENT CALENDAR**

**All matters listed under the Consent Calendar are considered to be routine and non-controversial and will be acted upon by one motion in the form listed below. There will be no separate discussion on these items prior to voting unless any members, staff, or the public requests specific items be discussed and/or removed from the Consent Calendar for separate action.**

**A. MINUTES**

Approve as presented:  
Minutes of the Advisory Committee Meeting held on February 19, 2026

**B. FINANCIAL REPORTS**

Receive and file as presented:  
Monthly Financial Report for the Period Ended January 31, 2026

**C. OBMP SEMI-ANNUAL STATUS REPORT 2025-2**

Recommend to the Watermaster Board to adopt the Semi-Annual OBMP Status Report 2025-2, and direct staff to file a copy with the Court, subject to any necessary non-substantive changes.

**D. SGMA REPORTING FOR WATER YEAR 2025**

Recommend to the Watermaster Board to approve and direct staff to file the information/reports with the state Department of Water Resources.

**E. APPLICATION: WATER TRANSACTION – 137.95 AF FROM SAN ANTONIO WATER COMPANY TO CITY OF ONTARIO**

Provide advice and assistance to the Watermaster Board on the proposed transaction.

(00:04:25) Mr. Corbin informed the Advisory Committee that the OBMP Semi-Annual report had been corrected to reflect the correct facility name for *California* Institution for Men.

(00:4:52)

*Motion by Vice-Chair Jeff Pierson, seconded by Mr. Ben Orosco, there being no dissent, the motion was deemed passed unanimously among those present.*

***Moved to approve the Consent Calendar as presented.***

II. **BUSINESS ITEMS**

**A. SAN GABRIEL BAND OF MISSION INDIANS REQUEST FOR INTERVENTION INTO THE APPROPRIATIVE POOL**

Provide advice and assistance to the Watermaster Board on the intervention request.

(00:05:32) Mr. Corbin gave a report.

(00:06:52)

*Motion by Vice-Chair Jeff Pierson, seconded by Mr. Chris Diggs, there being no dissent, the motion was deemed passed unanimously by voice vote among those present.*

***Moved to approve the Business Item II.A. as presented.***

**B. FISCAL YEARS 2021/22 AND 2022/23 CORRECTED AND AMENDED ASSESSMENT PACKAGES**

Provide advice and assistance to the Watermaster Board on the Draft Revised Fiscal Year 2021/22 and 2022/23 Corrected and Amended Assessment Packages.

(00:08:25) Mr. Corbin gave a report. A discussion ensued.

(00:23:54)

*Motion by Mr. Ron Craig, seconded by Vice-Chair Jeff Pierson, with a substitute motion on the floor, this main motion was not voted on.*

***Moved to approve Business Item II.B. as presented***

(00:25:13)

*Substitute motion by Ms. Stephanie Reimer, seconded by Mr. Ben Orosco, with a third motion on the floor, this substitute motion was not voted on.*

***Moved to not approve the item at this time and request the Board to request the Court for a one-month extension to allow parties to continue negotiations toward a resolution for Business Item II.B.***

(00:28:58)

*A third motion was made by Mr. Chris Berch, seconded by Ms. Nicole deMoet; the motion passed by majority 98.11% volume votes in favor as attached to these minutes.*

***Moved to delay action on Business Item II.B. until Wednesday, March 25, 2026, to allow the Advisory Committee time to further discuss at a special meeting.***

**C. WATERMASTER FISCAL YEAR 2026/27 PROPOSED BUDGET**

Provide advice and assistance regarding the proposed Watermaster Fiscal Year 2026/27 Budget as presented.

(00:56:55) Mr. Corbin introduced the item and invited Ms. Daniela Uriarte, Mr. Edgar Tellez Foster, Mr. Garrett Rapp of West Yost, and Mr. Brad Herrema who addressed their specific sections. A discussion ensued.

III. **REPORTS/UPDATES**

**A. WATERMASTER LEGAL COUNSEL**

1. February 20, 2026 Court Hearing (Proposed Order following Court of Appeal Remittitur in Consolidated Cases No. E080457 and E0821270)
2. March 27, 2026 Court Hearing (Watermaster Motion for Court to Receive and File 48th Annual Report)

3. Court of Appeal Consolidated Cases No. E080457 and E082127 (City of Ontario appeal re: Fiscal Year 2021-22 and 2022-23 Assessment Packages)
4. Inland Empire Utilities Agency, et al. v. LS-Fontana LLC (C.D. Cal Cases Nos.: 5:25-cv-00809, 5:25 cv01159)

(01:35:25) Mr. Herrema gave a report.

**B. ENGINEER**

1. 2025 Safe Yield Reevaluation
2. SGMA WY 2025 Annual Reporting for Chino Basin Adjudicated Basin

(01:36:46) Mr. Malone indicated that the report remained unchanged from the Pool Committees and the Advisory Committee declined to receive them again.

**C. GENERAL MANAGER**

1. Status Report: Fiscal Year 2025/26 Exhibit G Physical Solution Transfers
2. Other

(01:37:14) For Item 1, Mr. Corbin reported there were no new changes since the Pools meetings. For Item 2, he invited Ms. Anna Nelson to introduce Ms. Noemi Medrano as the newest member of the Watermaster team.

Chair Burton inquired about the status of the Dry Year Yield meeting, and Mr. Corbin advised that the next meeting of the operating committee is scheduled for March 30, 2026.

(01:40:43) Mr. Corbin also noted that Mr. Kevin Alexander has been appointed as the new Acting General Manager at IEUA.

**D. INLAND EMPIRE UTILITIES AGENCY**

1. Metropolitan Water District Activities Report (Written)
2. Water Supply Conditions (Written)
3. State and Federal Legislative Reports (Written)

This was an informational item, and no oral report was given.

**E. OTHER METROPOLITAN MEMBER AGENCY REPORTS**

None

**IV. INFORMATION**

**A. RECHARGE INVESTIGATION AND PROJECTS COMMITTEE (PROJECT 23a STATUS)**

This was an informational item.

**V. COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS**

None

**VI. OTHER BUSINESS**

None

**VII. CONFIDENTIAL SESSION - POSSIBLE ACTION**

A Confidential Session may be held during the Advisory Committee meeting for the purpose of discussion and possible action.

None

**ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Burton adjourned the Advisory Committee meeting at 10:42 a.m.

Secretary: \_\_\_\_\_

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Attachment:

1. 20260319 Volume Vote Outcome for Business Item II.B. (Third Motion)

**QUORUM  
MET?  
YES**



**2026 ADVISORY COMMITTEE INTERIM<sup>1</sup> VOLUME VOTE**  
(Based on Production Year 2023-2024)

Enter Y or N in Each Cell

Party	Present (Y/N)	Vote (Y/N)	Assigned	Reallocated	Available	Quorum	Total Yes
Minor 1	Y	Y	3.221	0.000	3.221	3.221	3.221
Minor 2	Y	Y	3.221	0.000	3.221	3.221	3.221
Chino Hills, City Of	Y	Y	2.472	0.000	2.472	2.472	2.472
Chino, City Of	Y	Y	4.983	0.000	4.983	4.983	4.983
Cucamonga Valley Water District	Y	Y	10.805	0.000	10.805	10.805	10.805
Fontana Union Water Company	Y	Y	4.371	0.000	4.371	4.371	4.371
Fontana Water Company	Y	N	1.889	0.000	1.889	1.889	0.000
Jurupa Community Services District	Y	Y	6.287	0.000	6.287	6.287	6.287
Monte Vista Water District	Y	Y	6.686	0.000	6.686	6.686	6.686
Ontario, City Of	Y	Y	13.789	0.000	13.789	13.789	13.789
Pomona, City Of	Y	Y	14.570	0.000	14.570	14.570	14.570
Upland, City Of	Y	Y	2.706	0.000	2.706	2.706	2.706
AGRICULTURAL POOL	Y	Y	20.000	0.000	20.000	20.000	20.000
NON-AGRICULTURAL POOL	Y	Y	5.000	0.000	5.000	5.000	5.000
			<b>100.000</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>100.000</b>	<b>100.000</b>	<b>98.111</b>

CALCULATE QUORUM

CALCULATE VOTES

RESET ALL

RESET VOTES

"YES" VOTES  
**98.111%**

"NO" VOTES  
**1.889%**

**PASSED**

<sup>1</sup> Approved by the Advisory Committee on December 18, 2025, to be used until the Fiscal Year 2025/26 Assessment Package is approved/adopted by the Board.



**OTHERS PRESENT**

Jessica Singletary  
Amanda Coker  
Jiwon Seung  
Brian Hamilton  
Toby Moore  
Aimee Zhao  
Eddie Lin  
John Russ  
John Schatz  
Bryan Smith  
Jesse Pompa  
Stephanie Reimer  
Jeremy Jungreis  
Alejandro Reyes  
Elizabeth P. Ewens  
David De Jesus  
Jake Loukeh  
Rick Rees

City of Chino  
Cucamonga Valley Water District  
Cucamonga Valley Water District  
Downey Brand LLP  
Golden State Water Company  
Inland Empire Utilities Agency  
Inland Empire Utilities Agency  
Inland Empire Utilities Agency  
John J. Schatz, Attorney at Law  
Jurupa Community Services District  
Jurupa Community Services District  
Monte Vista Water District  
Rutan & Tucker, LLP  
San Gabriel Valley Water Company  
Stoel Rives LLP  
Three Valleys Municipal Water District  
Western Municipal Water District  
WSP USA

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Scott Burton called the Advisory Committee special meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

**ROLL CALL:**

(00:00:22) Ms. Nelson conducted the roll call and announced that a quorum was *not* met, as there were no Agricultural Pool Committee members in attendance.

**AGENDA - ADDITIONS/REORDER**

(00:03:48) Chair Burton acknowledged that a quorum was not present and the Committee noted that a discussion could be held, but no formal action could be taken.

**I. BUSINESS ITEMS**

**A. FISCAL YEARS 2021/22 AND 2022/23 CORRECTED AND AMENDED ASSESSMENT PACKAGES**

Provide advice and assistance to the Watermaster Board on the Draft Revised Fiscal Year 2021/22 and 2022/23 Corrected and Amended Assessment Packages.

(00: 05:12) Mr. Corbin gave a presentation. A discussion ensued.

(9:34 a.m.) Mr. Noah Golden-Krasner joined the meeting, and a quorum was achieved.

(01:08:24)

*Motion by Mr. Ron Craig, seconded by Mr. Chris Berch, with a substitute motion on the floor, this main motion was voted on second, and passed by 67.65% volume votes in favor as attached to these minutes.*

***Moved to approve Business Item I.A. as presented.***

(01:05:34)

*A substitute motion was made by Mr. Justin Scott-Coe, seconded by Mr. Ben Orosco, the motion failed with 45.03% volume votes in favor as attached to these minutes.*

***Moved to request the Board to request the Court for a one-month extension to achieve settlement for Business Item I.A.***

**ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Burton adjourned the Advisory Committee special meeting at 10:12 a.m.

Secretary: \_\_\_\_\_

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

1. 20260325 Volume Vote Outcome for Business Items I.A. – Main Motion
2. 20260325 Volume Vote Outcome for Business Items I.A. – Substitute Motion

QUORUM  
MET?  
**YES**



## 2026 ADVISORY COMMITTEE INTERIM<sup>1</sup> VOLUME VOTE (Based on Production Year 2023-2024)

Enter Y or N in Each Cell

Party	Present (Y/N)	Vote (Y/N)	Assigned	Reallocated	Available	Quorum	Total Yes
Minor 1	Y	Y	3.221	3.221	6.442	6.442	6.442
Minor 2	N	N	3.221	(3.221)	0.000	0.000	0.000
Chino Hills, City Of	Y	Y	2.472	0.000	2.472	2.472	2.472
Chino, City Of	Y	N	4.983	0.000	4.983	4.983	0.000
Cucamonga Valley Water District	Y	Y	10.805	0.000	10.805	10.805	10.805
Fontana Union Water Company	Y	Y	4.371	0.000	4.371	4.371	4.371
Fontana Water Company	Y	N	1.889	0.000	1.889	1.889	0.000
Jurupa Community Services District	Y	Y	6.287	0.000	6.287	6.287	6.287
Monte Vista Water District	Y	N	6.686	0.000	6.686	6.686	0.000
Ontario, City Of	Y	N	13.789	0.000	13.789	13.789	0.000
Pomona, City Of	Y	Y	14.570	0.000	14.570	14.570	14.570
Upland, City Of	Y	Y	2.706	0.000	2.706	2.706	2.706
AGRICULTURAL POOL	Y	Y	20.000	0.000	20.000	20.000	20.000
NON-AGRICULTURAL POOL	Y	N	5.000	0.000	5.000	5.000	0.000
			<b>100.000</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>100.000</b>	<b>100.000</b>	<b>67.653</b>

CALCULATE QUORUM	CALCULATE VOTES
RESET ALL	RESET VOTES

**"YES" VOTES**  
67.653%

**"NO" VOTES**  
32.347%

**PASSED**

<sup>1</sup> Approved by the Advisory Committee on December 18, 2025, to be used until the Fiscal Year 2025/26 Assessment Package is approved/adopted by the Board.

QUORUM  
MET?  
**YES**



## 2026 ADVISORY COMMITTEE INTERIM<sup>1</sup> VOLUME VOTE (Based on Production Year 2023-2024)

Enter Y or N in Each Cell

Party	Present (Y/N)	Vote (Y/N)	Assigned	Reallocated	Available	Quorum	Total Yes
Minor 1	Y	N	3.221	3.221	6.442	6.442	0.000
Minor 2	N	N	3.221	(3.221)	0.000	0.000	0.000
Chino Hills, City Of	Y	N	2.472	0.000	2.472	2.472	0.000
Chino, City Of	Y	Y	4.983	0.000	4.983	4.983	4.983
Cucamonga Valley Water District	Y	N	10.805	0.000	10.805	10.805	0.000
Fontana Union Water Company	Y	N	4.371	0.000	4.371	4.371	0.000
Fontana Water Company	Y	N	1.889	0.000	1.889	1.889	0.000
Jurupa Community Services District	Y	N	6.287	0.000	6.287	6.287	0.000
Monte Vista Water District	Y	Y	6.686	0.000	6.686	6.686	6.686
Ontario, City Of	Y	Y	13.789	0.000	13.789	13.789	13.789
Pomona, City Of	Y	Y	14.570	0.000	14.570	14.570	14.570
Upland, City Of	Y	N	2.706	0.000	2.706	2.706	0.000
AGRICULTURAL POOL	Y	N	20.000	0.000	20.000	20.000	0.000
NON-AGRICULTURAL POOL	Y	Y	5.000	0.000	5.000	5.000	5.000
			<b>100.000</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>100.000</b>	<b>100.000</b>	<b>45.027</b>

**CALCULATE  
QUORUM**

**CALCULATE  
VOTES**

**RESET ALL**

**RESET VOTES**

**"YES" VOTES**  
45.027%

**"NO" VOTES**  
54.973%

# NOT PASSED

LESS THAN 50 YES VOTES

<sup>1</sup> Approved by the Advisory Committee on December 18, 2025, to be used until the Fiscal Year 2025/26 Assessment Package is approved/adopted by the Board.



# CHINO BASIN WATERMASTER

9641 San Bernardino Road, Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91730  
909.484.3888 www.cbwm.org

## STAFF REPORT

DATE: April 16, 2026  
TO: Advisory Committee Members  
SUBJECT: Review and Discussion of Watermaster Rules and Regulations – Section 2.10  
(Business Item II.A.)

Issue: To review and discuss Watermaster Rules and Regulations – Section 2.10 along with written communications from the City of Ontario and Watermaster.

Recommendation: The Committee is requested to provide advice and assistance to the Watermaster Board.

Financial Impact: None

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### ACTIONS:

**Watermaster Board** – March 26, 2026 [Final]: Requested item be reviewed and considered by the Pools and Advisory Committee.

**Appropriative Pool** – April 9, 2026 [Final] – Requested the creation of an Ad-hoc Committee to review

**Overlying Non-Ag Pool** – April 9, 2026 [Final] – Supported request of the Appropriative Pool

**Advisory Committee** – April 16, 2026 [Recommendation] – Advice and assistance

**Watermaster Board** – April 25, 2026 [Recommendation] – TBD after Advisory Committee

## BACKGROUND

In its letter of February 20, 2026 (Attachment 2), the City of Ontario (“Ontario”) raises concerns about what it characterizes as the failure of Watermaster to act as a neutral arm of the Court and the failure of Watermaster Board members to recuse themselves from Watermaster confidential session discussions involving contested litigation with the potential to impact their agencies’ financial or other interests.

Watermaster notes that Ontario has raised these similar concerns on prior occasions, in filings with the Superior Court, and by way of correspondence to Watermaster from Ms. Courtney Jones on July 24, 2025 (Attachment 3) and January 22, 2025 (Attachment 5). In short summary, Watermaster has consistently responded that it acts in accordance with the Court approved Chino Basin Watermaster Rules and Regulations that have now governed Watermaster for 25 years.

## DISCUSSION

Watermaster’s Conflict of Interest policies and rules are found in Watermaster’s Rules and Regulations, Section 2.10. Section 2.10 of the Rules and Regulations explains that “Watermaster is an interest based governing structure in which various interests must be represented in decision-making. It is expected and preferred that each interest to be allowed to participate in Watermaster decisions...” Section 2.10 requires that “each member of the Watermaster Board ... shall vote on matters before the Board.... unless that member has a conflict of interest.” Section 2.10(b) addresses the precise circumstances when a conflict of interest arises that is “direct personal and financial interest” that is distinguishable “from matters of general interest to the respective pool... or party to the Judgment, which the Watermaster member has been appointed to represent on the Watermaster Board.” The content of Section 2.10 were carefully negotiated among all stakeholders, and were unanimously approved by action of the three Pool Committees, the Advisory Committee and the Board in 2001.

Watermaster is bound by Court Order to act in accordance with the Rules and Regulations generally and specifically 2.6(1)(i) which establishes the right of the Watermaster Board to confer with counsel in confidential session. The Watermaster Board’s confidential deliberations are subject to the requirement that the Chairs of each of the three Pools are entitled to observe the proceedings to ensure there are no irregularities. It also true that during years in which Ontario Utilities Manager Scott Burton represented the Appropriative Pool on the Watermaster Board as a representative when appointed by the Monte Vista Water District and the City of Ontario, and he faithfully followed these rules as he participated in confidential sessions in which the City of Ontario, his employer, was a party.<sup>1</sup>

Notwithstanding Watermaster’s prior responses to Ontario’s expressed concerns regarding these Court-approved Watermaster conflict of interest and recusal rules, and the consistent historical administration, Ontario now “suggests that Watermaster, in conjunction with the Chino Basin parties, cooperatively develop a conflict-of-interest policy .... to be submitted to the Court for adoption...” As Watermaster already has a Court-approved conflict of interest policy as embodied in its rules, we reasonably infer that Ontario means it seeks changes in the current rules.

We begin with the legal framework that the Watermaster serves, not as a governmental entity, but an entity created by stipulation among the parties, as “an agent of the Court”. (*Las Posas Valley Water Rights Coalition v. Ventura County* (2026) \_\_\_ Cal.App.5th \_\_\_2d \_\_\_. hereinafter *Las Posas*) The court is a judicial branch of the state and not a local agency. (See Cal. Const. article VI Section 1.). Watermaster is not a public entity. (*Las Posas* \_\_\_ Cal.App.5th at p. 38). It is not subject to requirements that attach to actions of local government, such as the California Environmental Quality Act. (*Hillside Memorial Park & Mortuary v. Golden State Water Company* (2011) 205 Cal.App.4th 534, 550.) or Proposition 2018. (*Las Posas* \_\_\_ Cal.App.5th at p.38 ). Whatever actions Watermaster takes, they are distinct from the obligations pertinent to those held by governmental parties to the Judgment. (See *Water Replenishment District of Southern California v. City of Cerritos* (2012) 202 Cal.App.4th 1063, 1072.)

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<sup>1</sup> Mr. Burton served as a representative of the Appropriative Pool from Jan 2022 to Dec 2022 appointed by Monte Vista Water District and from Jan 2023 to Dec 2024 appointed by the City of Ontario.

Staff and counsel leave to the parties, the Board, and the Court as to their desire to develop disclosure categories and requirements of its' Board members, educational and incompatibility measures for senior Watermaster staff, Advisory Committee, Pool Officers, as well as further training. However, as for the conflict and recusal requirements, which constitute the consistent gravamen of Ontario's concerns about Watermaster neutrality, the point staff and counsel have made repeatedly remains the same. That is, as referenced above, the Watermaster Conflict of Interest Policy as embodied in Section 2.10 – is by design, express consent and consistent application, a decision that agency adversity and interest in a decision is **not** a conflict. Section 2.10(b) states that "Watermaster representatives are expressly intended to act in a representative capacity for their constituents. A member of the Board or the Advisory Committee shall not be considered to have a discrete or particular financial advantage unless a decision may result in their obtaining a financial benefit that is not enjoyed by any other person."

As first identified when these policies were enacted and consistently followed by Watermaster for a quarter of a century, concerns arising from a single agency action are accounted for and ameliorated by virtue of a 9-member Board that is representative of diverse stakeholder interests. These interests include agriculture and the State of California, industrial uses and large and small municipal entities. The Appropriative Pool itself has committed to own internal process to equitably select its representatives. These considerations were fundamental to the establishment of the 9-member Board reflected in the Court's 1998 Order establishing the current form of Watermaster.<sup>2</sup> There are representatives of the three Pools (Appropriative, Agricultural and Non-Agricultural) and rotational representation among the members of the Appropriative Pool that assures broad participation by its members. Three Municipal Water Districts, that produce no groundwater appoint representatives that are elected to their Boards by popular vote. Moreover, all actions taken by Watermaster under the Judgment are reviewable by law and motion before the trial court and as an entity, the trial court may remove, reconstitute and replace Watermaster. As such, the conflict-of-interest provisions of the Political Reform Act are not applicable to Watermaster and in fact are antithetical to its purpose and function as an arm of the Court.

As a practical matter, the application of Ontario's suggestion of recusal for agency interest would serve to disqualify most, if not all, Appropriative Pool appointees from participating in the review and approval of assessment packages and Watermaster programs in which their agencies have a financial interest especially in light of the economic injury findings by the Court of Appeal in the Dry Year Yield case. Instead of a 9-member board with diverse membership, the most consequential financial decisions would be left to the Agricultural Pool and the three Municipal Water District representatives. In fact, the Agricultural Pool representatives, along with the Municipal Water District representatives, would be the most financially disinterested representatives and most frequently eligible decision-makers. Staff and counsel believe such a result is entirely inconsistent with the desire and directives of the Appropriative Pool to control and direct expenditures towards preferred initiatives over the past two decades.

On March 26, 2026, the Watermaster Board discussed this item. The Board provided direction to staff in its concluding comments, with no opposition, that the report prepared by Watermaster staff and legal counsel should be sent back through the Watermaster process and presented to the Pools and Advisory Committee for comments and feedback for the Board to consider.

On April 9, 2026, the item was presented and discussed at the Appropriative Pool. A motion was approved, without dissent, to create an ad-hoc committee to further review Section 2.10 of the Watermaster Rules and Regulations and determine if further refinements should be considered. The committee composition should consist of a minimum of representative(s) from the three Pool Committees and any interested stakeholders.

On April 9, 2026, the Overlying Non-Agricultural Pool discussed the item and concurred by consensus to support the Appropriative Pool action earlier that day.

Staff and counsel will be prepared to explain the background and application of the current policy, its legal framework, and current court rulings and respond to comments and recommendations as the Pools may direct.

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<sup>2</sup> *Chino Basin Municipal Water District v. City of Chino* (Superior Court, San Bernardino County, No. RCV 51010, Feb. 19, 1998) Ruling Appointing Nine-Member Watermaster Board.

**ATTACHMENTS**

1. Watermaster Rules and Regulations – Section 2.10
2. City of Ontario letter dated February 26, 2026
3. City of Ontario letter dated July 24, 2025
4. Watermaster response letter dated March 26, 2025
5. City of Ontario letter dated January 22, 2025

disqualified by reason of an opinion of the Watermaster counsel that the member of the board has a conflict of interest, shall be required to vote.

2.10 Conflict of Interest. Watermaster is an interest based governing structure in which various interests must be represented in decision-making. It is expected and preferred that each interest be allowed to participate in Watermaster decisions except as provided in these Rules and Regulations. Each member of the Watermaster Board or the Advisory Committee shall vote on matters before the Board or Advisory Committee unless that member has a conflict of interest as described in this Rule or other provision of general law. No member of the Watermaster Board or Advisory Committee may vote, participate in meetings or hearings pertaining to, or otherwise use his or her position to influence a Watermaster decision in which he knows or has reason to know he has both a direct personal and financial interest.

(a) Subject to the qualification provided for in section 2.10(b) herein, a member of the Watermaster Board or Advisory Committee is deemed to have a direct personal and financial interest in a decision where it is reasonably foreseeable that the decision will have a material effect on the Watermaster member, members of his or her immediate family, or the Watermaster member's other business, property, and commercial interests.

(b) To be classified as a direct personal and financial interest, the particular matter must be distinguishable from matters of general interest to the respective pool (Appropriative, Non-Agricultural, or Agricultural) or party to the Judgment, which the Watermaster member has been appointed to represent on the Watermaster Board or Advisory Committee. The member must stand to personally gain discrete and particular advantage from the outcome of the decision beyond that generally realized by any other person or the interests he or she represents. Moreover, Watermaster representatives are expressly intended to act in a representative capacity for their constituents. A member of the Board or Advisory Committee shall not be considered to have a discrete and particular financial advantage unless a decision may result in their obtaining a financial benefit that is not enjoyed by any other person. In those instances where the Board member or Advisory Committee member does have a conflict of interest, that respective interest may be represented by that interest's designated alternate and the Board or Advisory Committee member with the identified conflict of interest may address the Board or Committee or participate in the hearing or meeting as a party to the Judgment.

2.11 Minutes. The secretary (or in the absence thereof any person so designated at said meeting) shall cause the preparation and subscription of the minutes of each meeting and make available a copy thereof to all Active Parties and each person who has filed a request for copies of all minutes or notices in writing. The minutes shall constitute notice of all actions therein reported. Unless a reading of the minutes is ordered by a majority of the members of the Board acting as Watermaster, minutes may be approved without reading. [Based on Judgment ¶ 37(d).] Watermaster shall publish a copy of its minutes on the Watermaster website.

CITY OF

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ONTARIO

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PAUL S. LEON  
MAYORALAN D. WAPNER  
MAYOR PRO TEMJIM W. BOWMAN  
DEBRA PORADA  
DAISY MACIAS  
COUNCIL MEMBERSSHEILA MAUTZ  
CITY CLERKJAMES R. MILHISER  
CITY TREASURERSCOTT OCHOA  
CITY MANAGER

February 20, 2026

**VIA EMAIL**

Chino Basin Watermaster Board  
 9641 San Bernardino Road  
 Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91730  
 Email: [RFavelaQuintero@cbwm.org](mailto:RFavelaQuintero@cbwm.org)

**Re: Chino Basin Watermaster Conflict of Interest Policy**

Dear Members of the Watermaster Board,

As addressed in prior letters, Ontario has continued concerns about the failure of Watermaster to act as a neutral arm of the Court and, specifically, the failure of Watermaster Board members to recuse themselves from closed session discussions involving contested litigation with the potential to impact their agencies' financial or other interests. It is critically important to effective Basin management that Watermaster preserve its neutrality and act in an open and transparent manner. Added safeguards are necessary to avoid either actual conflicts of interest or the appearance of conflicts of interest. To that end, Ontario suggests that Watermaster, in conjunction with the Chino Basin parties, cooperatively develop a conflict of interest policy ("Policy") to be submitted to the Court for adoption pursuant to the Court's continuing jurisdiction.

Specifically, the Policy should be consistent with the Fair Political Practices Act and Political Reform Act and govern all Watermaster operations. Ontario further suggests that the Policy should contain the following components:

- An annual requirement for members of the Watermaster Board, Watermaster senior staff, and Watermaster counsel to file Statements of Economic Interests (Form 700).
- The identification of specific disclosure categories, detailing the types of financial interests that must be reported by the Watermaster Board members, Watermaster senior staff, and Watermaster counsel.

- Provisions requiring Watermaster Board members to disqualify themselves from participating in decisions or deliberations where they, or their agency, have a financial interest that could be materially and differentially affected by the decision.
- The identification of activities that are inconsistent or incompatible with the duties of Watermaster, the Watermaster Board, Watermaster senior staff, and Watermaster counsel, such as influencing the use of Basin resources for private gain.
- Provisions for training and advisory services regarding the Policy.
- An enforcement mechanism in the event that there are violations of the Policy.

Ultimately, the Policy will promote increased confidence in Watermaster and ensure that Watermaster's role as a neutral arm of the court is not compromised.

Ontario appreciates Watermaster's recent commitment to review rules and regulations governing Basin management and Watermaster's consideration of the above. To help maintain progress, Ontario would appreciate a response from the Watermaster Board on this item by March 6, 2026. Ontario looks forward to partnering with Watermaster and other stakeholders in the Basin in the development of this Policy.

Sincerely,



Scott Burton, P.E.  
City of Ontario, Utilities General Manager

cc: Todd Corbin, General Manager – Chino Basin Watermaster  
Scott Ochoa, City Manager – City of Ontario

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CITY CLERKALAN D. WAPNER  
MAYOR PRO TEMJAMES R. MILHISER  
CITY TREASURER

July 24, 2025

JIM W. BOWMAN  
DEBRA PORADA  
DAISY MACIAS  
COUNCIL MEMBERSSCOTT OCHOA  
CITY MANAGER

Chino Basin Watermaster Board

Marty Zvirbulis or alternate, Fontana Water Company appointed Board Member

Chair James Curatalo or alternate, Cucamonga Valley Water District appointed Board Member

Steve Elie or alternate, Inland Empire Utilities Agency appointed Board Member

Bob Kuhn or alternate, Three Valleys Municipal Water District appointed Board Member

9641 San Bernardino Road

Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91730

**Re: *Chino Basin Municipal Water District v. City of Ontario* (E080457, E082127) (Dry Year Yield Program Litigation) – Renewed Request for Recusal**

Dear Chino Basin Watermaster Board,

As you are aware, the Court of Appeal (COA) issued its final decision in the Dry Year Yield Program (DYY Program) litigation and ruled in favor of the City of Ontario (Ontario). The COA directed the superior court to enter new orders (1) granting Ontario's challenges and (2) directing Chino Basin Watermaster (Watermaster) to correct and amend its FY 2021/2022 and 2022/2023 Assessment Packages (Assessment Packages). As previously addressed in Ontario's January 22, 2025 letter to Watermaster, attached, the correction and amendment of the Assessment Packages in a manner that is consistent with the COA opinion stands to directly impact the financial and other interests of Fontana Water Company (Fontana), Cucamonga Valley Water District (CVWD), Inland Empire Utilities Agency (IEUA), and Three Valleys Municipal Water District (TVMWD). Each agency was a party to the DYY Program litigation, each opposed Ontario's challenges, and representatives appointed by each of these agencies currently serve as members of the Watermaster Board.

Watermaster serves as an arm of the court and in that capacity must ensure its neutrality - free from conflicts of interest or bias – in its decision making. Fontana, CVWD, and IEUA zealously opposed Ontario in the DYY Litigation and have substantial pecuniary and other interests that stand to be affected by the amendment of the Assessment Packages. As an arm of the court, Watermaster cannot credibly maintain its neutrality while allowing interested Board members to participate in closed session conferences on matters regarding the DYY Program litigation and implementation of the COA decision. For this reason, Ontario renews its request that the conflicted Board members representing Fontana, CVWD, IEUA, and TVMWD recuse themselves from any and all closed sessions relating to the DYY

Program litigation and also abstain from votes, if any, concerning the correction and amendment of the Assessment Packages.

Ontario reserves its rights to seek appropriate relief with the trial court under its continuing jurisdiction if these issues are not resolved. Ontario appreciates Watermaster's consideration of these requests.

Sincerely,



Courtney Jones, P.E.  
Deputy General Manager  
City of Ontario

cc: City of Ontario City Council Members  
Scott Ochoa, City of Ontario City Manager  
Scott Burton, City of Ontario Utilities General Manager  
Elizabeth Ewens, City of Ontario Legal Counsel  
Josh Swift, Fontana Water Company General Manager  
CVWD Board of Directors  
IEUA Board of Directors  
TVMWD Board of Directors  
Todd Corbin, Watermaster General Manager  
Scott Slater, Watermaster Counsel

Encl.: January 22, 2025, City of Ontario Letter to Chino Basin Watermaster "Re: *Chino Basin Municipal Water District v. City of Ontario* (E080457, E082127) (Dry Year Yield Program Litigation)"



# CHINO BASIN WATERMASTER

9641 San Bernardino Road, Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91730  
909.484.3888 www.cbwm.org

## BOARD MEMBERS

### James Curatalo

Chair  
Appropriative Pool  
Cucamonga Valley Water District

### Jeffrey Pierson

Vice-Chair  
Overlying Agricultural Pool  
Crops

### Robert Bowcock

Secretary/Treasurer  
Overlying Non-Agricultural Pool  
CalMat Co., Inc.

### Steve Elie

Board Member  
Municipal  
Inland Empire Utilities Agency

### Mike Gardner

Board Member  
Municipal  
Western Municipal Water District

### Bob Kuhn

Board Member  
Municipal  
Three Valleys Municipal Water District

### Jimmy Medrano

Board Member  
Overlying Agricultural Pool  
State of California

### Bill Velto

Board Member  
Appropriative Pool  
City of Upland

### Marty Zvirbulis

Board Member  
Appropriative Pool  
Fontana Water Company

## General Manager

Todd M. Corbin

## Legal Counsel

BHFS, LLP  
Brownstein Hyatt Farber  
Schreck, LLP

March 26, 2025

Ms. Courtney Jones, Deputy General Manager  
City of Ontario  
303 East "B" Street  
Ontario, CA 91764

Re: Ontario Correspondence 1/22/25  
Subj: Watermaster Closed Session and Discussion of the Dry Year Yield Program

Dear Ms. Jones,

We have received your January 22, 2025 letter regarding two pending matters before the Fourth District, Court of Appeal ("Assessment Packages Appeals"). As described in your letter, the Court of Appeal has issued a tentative ruling in the Assessment Packages Appeals. Since your letter, the Court has scheduled Oral Argument on April 1, 2025. Until there is a final Opinion from the Court of Appeal, the parties are in the same position they have been since the City of Ontario initiated its appeal in December 2022. As the arm of the Court, Watermaster will defend the trial court's ruling on appeal.

The Watermaster Board has scheduled a confidential session for Thursday, March 27, 2025 in accordance Section 2.6 of the court-approved Chino Basin Watermaster Rules and Regulations, now in place for twenty-four years. Section 2.6(1)(i) authorizes the Watermaster Board to confer with counsel regarding pending litigation. As noted above, the matters before the Court of Appeal are currently "pending" and the noticed confidential session is appropriate. We note that the Watermaster Board is joined in confidential session by the Chairs of the three Pools that observe the confidential session to provide an additional layer of assurance that the use of the confidential session process is not abused. This is the practice that has been followed for decades.

Your letter also suggests that certain current members of the Watermaster Board should recuse themselves from participating in the confidential session because the entities that appointed them to the Watermaster Board (Cucamonga Valley Water

District, Fontana Water Company and IEUA) are involved and impacted by the pending litigation. Your concern is expressly addressed by Section 2.10 of Watermaster Rules and Regulations, which explains that “Watermaster is an interest based governing structure in which various interests must be represented in decision-making. It is expected and preferred that each interest be allowed to participate in Watermaster decisions...” Accordingly, Section 2.10 requires that “each member of the Watermaster Board . . . shall vote on matters before the Board . . . unless that member has a conflict of interest.” Section 2.10(b) makes clear that such a conflict of interest arises when a Board member has a “direct personal and financial interest” that is distinguishable “from matters of general interest to the respective pool . . . or party to the Judgment, which the Watermaster member has been appointed to represent on the Watermaster Board.”<sup>1</sup> We are unaware of any such direct personal financial interest held by any Board member that would cause recusal.

Both Section 2.6, Section 2.10 were approved by the Court<sup>2</sup> and it has been Watermaster’s pattern and practice and course of dealing to follow these rules as written, for twenty-four years, and during substantial periods where representatives from the City of Ontario have served on the Watermaster Board.<sup>3</sup> This occurred in each of the last two years, in which two cases involving Ontario challenging a trial court ruling were resolved by Court of Appeal and Ontario’s appointed representative attended closed sessions.

In closing, the nature of Watermaster’s responsibility is to make recommendations and where required, to resolve disputes among competing interests when it comes to administration. Regardless of final outcome of the pending appeal, Watermaster acknowledges its responsibility to fairly and consistently administer the decree among all parties as required under the Judgment and judicial orders.

Sincerely,



Todd M. Corbin  
General Manager

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<sup>1</sup> “Moreover, Watermaster representatives are expressly intended to act in a representative capacity for their constituents. A member of the Board or Advisory Committee shall not be considered to have a discrete and particular financial advantage unless a decision may result in their obtaining a financial benefit that is not enjoyed by any other person.” (Watermaster Rules and Regulations, Section 2.10(b).)

<sup>2</sup> See Motion to Approve Chino Basin Watermaster Rules and Regulations, dated March 22, 2001, p. 3; Order Granting Final Approval of Watermaster Rules and Regulations, dated July 19, 2001, p. 2.

<sup>3</sup> See Motion to Approve Chino Basin Watermaster Rules and Regulations, dated March 22, 2001, p. 3; Order Granting Final Approval of Watermaster Rules and Regulations, dated July 19, 2001, p. 2.

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CITY CLERKJAMES R. MILHISER  
CITY TREASURERSCOTT OCHOA  
CITY MANAGER

1/22/2025

**Re: Chino Basin Municipal Water District v. City of Ontario (E080457, E082127) (Dry Year Yield Program Litigation)**

Dear Mr. Corbin,

As Watermaster is aware, the Court of Appeal recently issued a tentative opinion in the Dry Year Yield Program (DYY Program) litigation. Final resolution of the appeal, including Watermaster's ultimate implementation of a final order or negotiation of potential compromise solutions, is of considerable import to Ontario and others throughout the basin. Indeed, while there undoubtedly is a financial component to the DYY Program issues involved, these issues also encompass the structure and operation of a significant storage and recovery program as well as foundational procedural processes required to be utilized by Watermaster in the conduct of its business.

Given the import of the issues before Watermaster, Ontario urges Watermaster to conduct its discussions concerning the DYY Program in open session. Fundamentally, given Watermaster's position as an arm of the court, it is critically important that Watermaster preserve its neutrality and act in an open and transparent manner. Accordingly, Ontario requests that Watermaster reconsider its decision to deliberate on matters impacting the future of the DYY Program, and/or the interpretation or compliance with a final Court order, in closed session.

Alternatively, representatives of parties to the DYY Program litigation who also serve on the Watermaster Board should recuse themselves from all closed session discussions and otherwise abstain from any other Watermaster actions or decisions involving the DYY Program. Specifically, as parties to the DYY Program litigation, Cucamonga Valley Water District, Fontana Water Company, and Inland Empire Utilities Agency have financial and other interests in the outcome of the litigation and implementation of a final order. In short, it is foreseeable that Watermaster recommendations or actions relating to the DYY Program litigation, and any future orders stemming from that litigation, will have a material impact on the individual interests of these agencies. Accordingly, the best course to protect and preserve the neutrality of the Watermaster Board is for these parties to recuse themselves.

Ontario appreciates Watermaster's consideration of these requests.

Sincerely,

Courtney Jones  
Deputy General Manager  
City of Ontario

cc: Scott Slater, Watermaster Counsel  
Scott Burton, City of Ontario Utilities General Manager



## **CHINO BASIN WATERMASTER**

### **ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**April 16, 2026**

### **INLAND EMPIRE UTILITIES AGENCY REPORTS**

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**The following items are provided for receive and file.**

- Metropolitan Water District Activities Report
- Water Supply Conditions
- State and Federal Legislative Reports



# IEUA's Summary on Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) Board Activities

Submitted April 2026

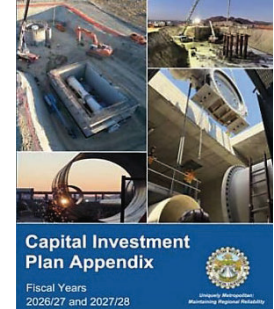
## For More Information Contact:

Eddie Lin  
elin@ieua.org  
909.993.1740

See [www.MWDh2o.com](http://www.MWDh2o.com) for the latest information from MWD and tune into livestream broadcasts of meetings.

## MWD Update on 2026/27 and 2027/28 Proposed Budget and Rates

On March 24<sup>th</sup>, the MWD Board of Directors held the fourth Finance, Affordability, Asset Management, and Efficiency workshop on the proposed 2026/27 and 2027/28 biennial budget and proposed rates. The estimated baseline budget increase was updated to 7.3% for 2027 and 7.2% for 2028 and the revised proposed budget increase was updated to 9.3% and 9.2% respectively. The budget and proposed rates will be presented in April for MWD Board action.



– MWD CIP Budget Plan, March 2026

## MWD Climate Adaptation Master Plan for Water (CAMP4W) Update

On March 9<sup>th</sup>, the MWD One Water & Adaptation Committee received a quarterly update on CAMP4W. To date, CAMP4W has assessed core supply, storage, and system flexibility projects. The projects with the most mature assessments include the 45 MGD, 75 MGD, and 150 MGD Pure Water Southern California alternatives as well as Sites Reservoir and the Delta Conveyance Project. The process has also included assessing potential project portfolios including Pure Water at 150 MGD, Sites Reservoir, and Delta Conveyance together.

Currently, CAMP4W is evaluating project risk and vulnerabilities. Refined CAMP4W project assessments are expected Spring to Summer of 2026, followed by integrated analyses in the Summer and Fall of 2026, and then MWD Board deliberation of Pure Water Southern California and Sites Reservoir in the Fall and Winter of 2026.

The CAMP4W decision-making framework embraces the iterative and adaptive approach of the overall CAMP4W process. Starting with risk assessment, followed by target and policy setting, identifying strategies, evaluating projects, integrating and implementing, and then monitoring and reporting before risk assessment begins again.

## MWD Provides Update on State Water Project (SWP) Invasive Mussel Mitigation

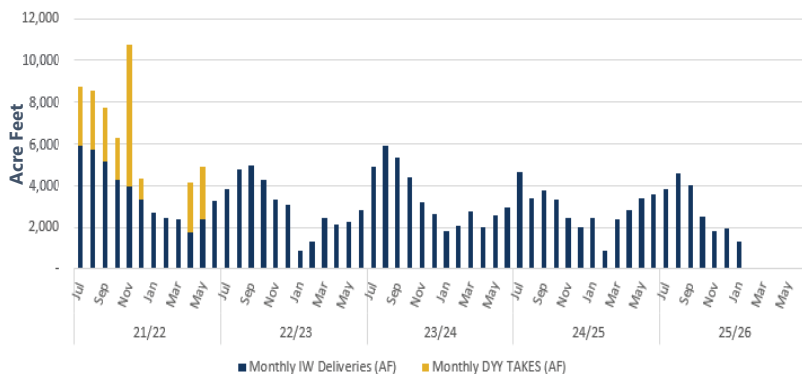
On March 9<sup>th</sup>, the MWD Engineering, Operations, & Technology Committee received an update on Golden Mussels in the SWP. Golden Mussels have been detected in MWD's local waters, including the Rialto Pipeline that serves the Chino Basin. MWD is working on control measures for groundwater delivery locations including San Gabriel Valley's USG-03 delivery point. Additional potential control locations include the Inland Feeder & Rialto Pipeline Interconnection, Foothill Feeder, and Diamond Valley Lake. MWD is also working with Department of Water Resources on a Mussel Control Feasibility Study, which is evaluating the feasibility of installing control measures at Devil Canyon on the SWP East branch and near Castaic Lake on the SWP West branch. The feasibility study kicked off in December 2025 and is expected to be completed in the summer of 2026.



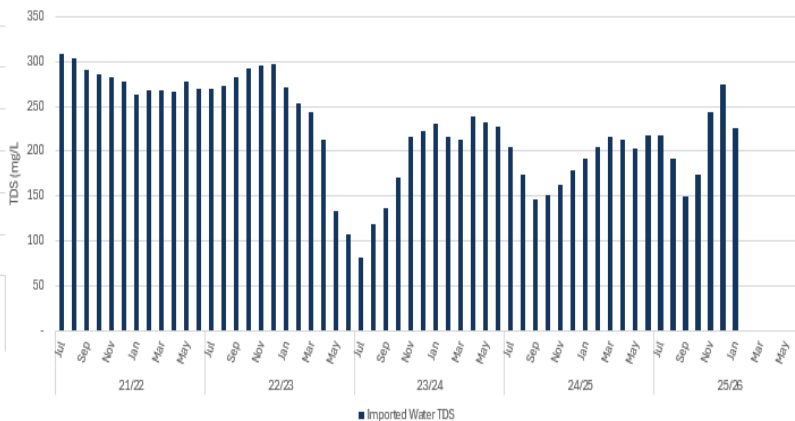
MWD Site Visit– MWD March 9, 2026

### Imported Water

Full Service Imported Water Deliveries Summary  
(FY 2020/21 to 2025/26)

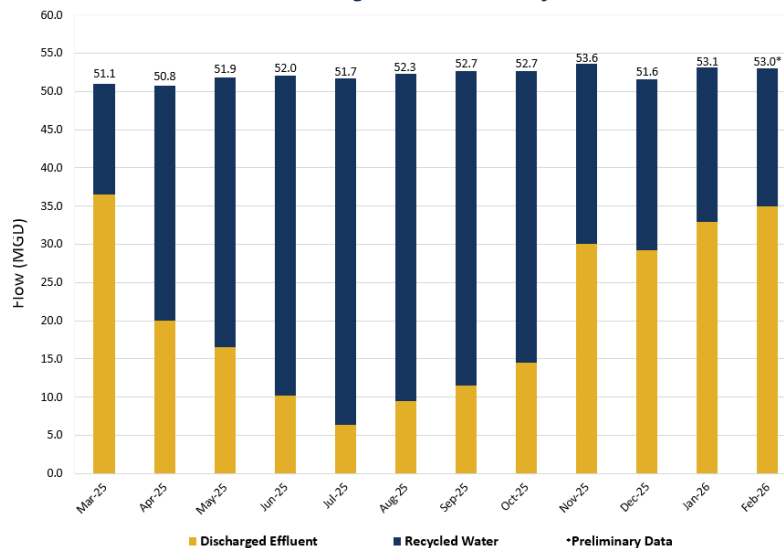


Imported Water TDS Summary  
(FY 2020/21 to 2025/26)

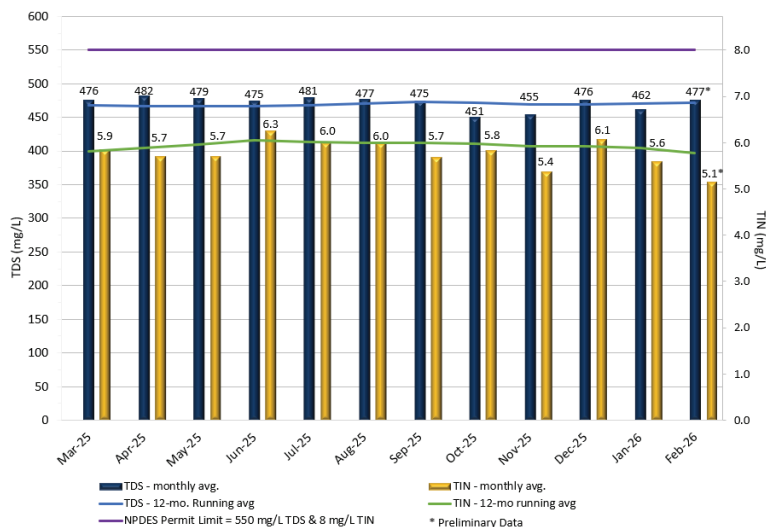


### Recycled Water

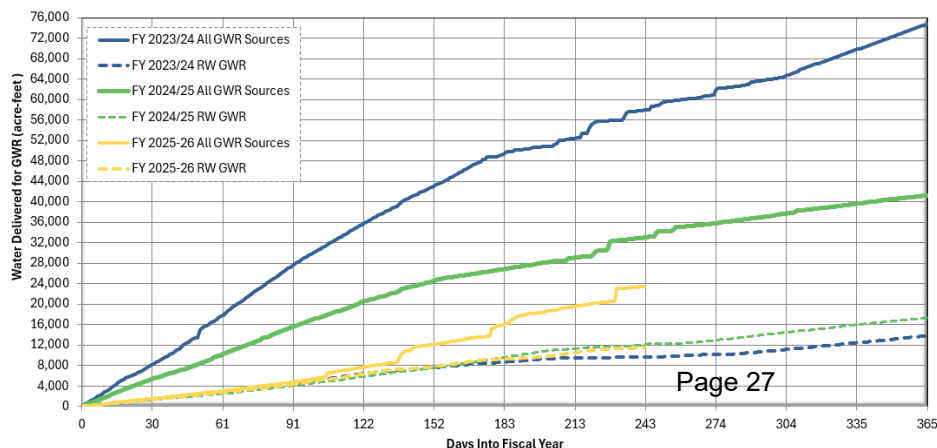
Discharged Effluent & Recycled



Agencywide Effluent TDS & TIN

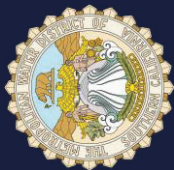


### Groundwater Recharge



#### FEBRUARY 2026 NOTES:

- Total stormwater and dry weather flow recharged is preliminarily estimated at 2,590.3 acre-feet.
- Recycled water delivered for recharge totaled 978.8 acre-feet.
- There was 210 acre-feet of imported water recharged in the Chino Basin from SAWCo.
- Chino Basin Watermaster will remove 1.5% for evaporation losses from delivered supplemental water sources (imported water and recycled water).
- Considering evaporation losses, total recharge is preliminarily estimated at 3,761.2 acre-feet.



# The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California Water Supply Conditions Report

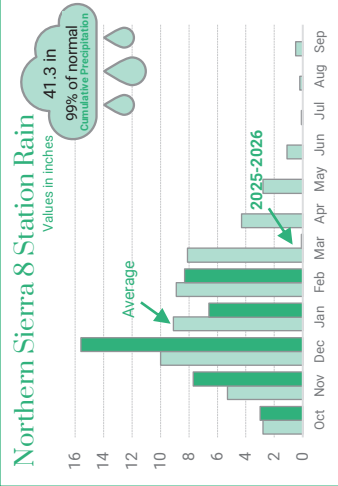
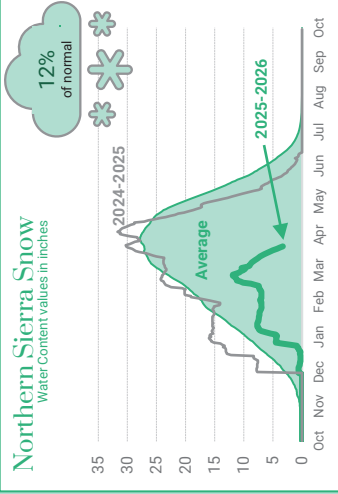
Questions? Reach out via the form: <https://forms.office.com/g/G33aReAtUcM>

<https://www.mwdh2o.com/WSCR>

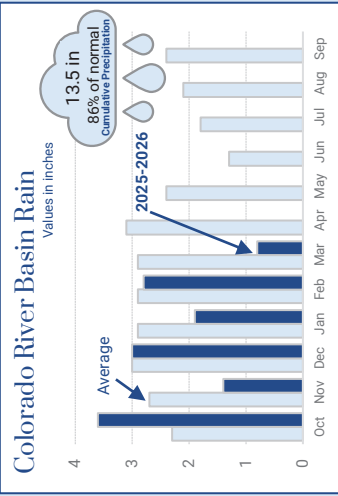
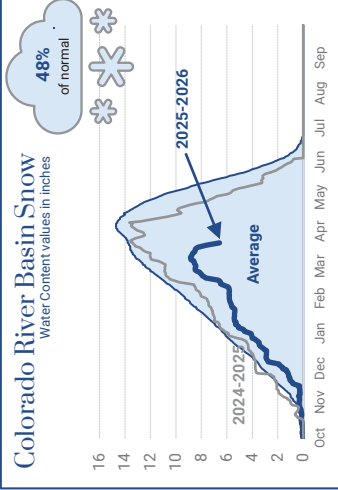
Water Year 2025-2026

As of: 03/22/2026

## State Water Project



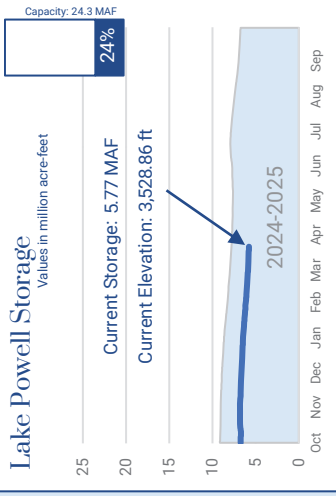
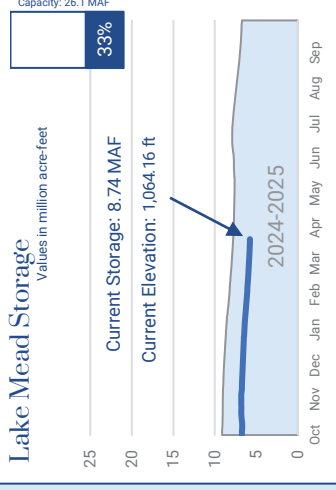
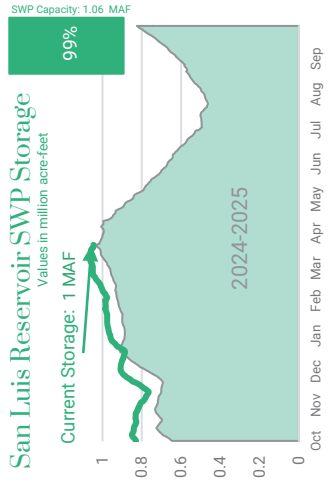
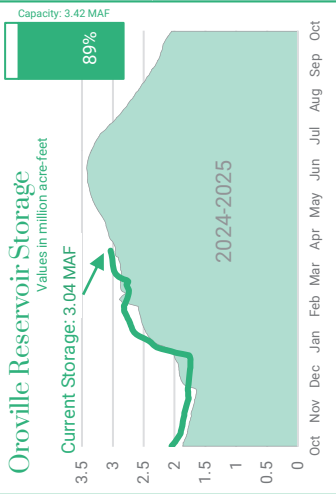
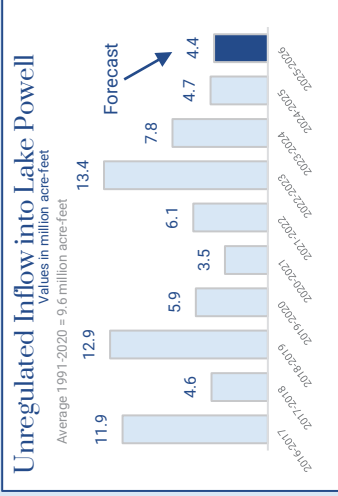
## Colorado River



### Lake Mead Chance of Operating Condition

	2026	2027*	2028*	2029*
Surplus (above 1,145 ft)	0%	0%	0%	0%
Normal Year (between 1,075 and 1,145 ft)	0%	7%	3%	10%
1st Level (between 1,050 and 1,075 ft)	100%	50%	30%	20%
2nd Level (between 1,025 and 1,050 ft)	0%	40%	53%	43%
3rd Level (below 1,025 ft)	0%	3%	13%	27%

\*Years beyond 2026 assume continuation of current operating guidelines



# Inland Empire Utilities Agency, a Municipal Water District Federal Update

March 25, 2026

## Federal Appropriations Update

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) lapse in funding remains unresolved. Negotiations have continued over Democratic demands for immigration enforcement reforms. President Trump has also pressed Senate Republicans to link any DHS funding deal to passage of the *Safeguard American Voter Eligibility (SAVE) Act* ([H.R. 1383](#)), which would require documentary proof of U.S. citizenship to register to vote in federal elections and mandate presentation of valid photo identification to cast a ballot. Senate Majority Leader Thune acknowledged he lacks the votes to bypass the 60-vote filibuster threshold. Airport security lines have worsened significantly, with Transportation Security Administration absentee rates exceeding 40 percent at several major hubs and more than 450 officers having resigned since the shutdown began.

Meanwhile, the Fiscal Year 2027 appropriations process is advancing on both sides of the Capitol. The House Appropriations Committee opened its Member request portal in late February, and most subcommittee deadlines for programmatic and Community Project Funding submissions have now passed. Senate Appropriations Committee Chair Susan Collins (R-ME) and Vice Chair Patty Murray (D-WA) have also released their [Committee's FY27 guidance](#), with Congressionally Directed Spending, programmatic funding, and language submission deadlines spanning April through early May. The Trump Administration is targeting release of its FY27 budget request in early April, with House planning to begin markups in mid-to-late April.

## GSA Proposes Revised Certifications for SAM.gov Registrants

The General Services Administration (GSA) has published a [proposed rule](#) to revise the Financial Assistance General Certifications and Representations required of all entities registered in the System for Award Management (SAM.gov), the federal database through which entities must register to receive federal grants, cooperative agreements, and loans. The proposed revision would add three new certifications that registrants must affirm at initial registration and each annual renewal: (1) that the organization complies with federal anti-discrimination laws as framed under Executive Order 14173 and DOJ guidance issued July 29, 2025, including with respect to programs labeled DEI or DEIA; (2) that the organization will not knowingly transport, conceal, harbor, or hire undocumented individuals; and (3) that the organization will not fund or facilitate violence, terrorism, or activities threatening public safety or national security. Because SAM.gov registration is a prerequisite for all federal financial

assistance, these certifications would function as universal eligibility conditions across federal programs. Some stakeholders have raised questions about the specificity and scope of the anti-discrimination certification, potential retroactive compliance implications for entities renewing SAM registration mid-grant and expanded *False Claims Act* exposure given that a disputed certification could implicate multiple active federal awards simultaneously. The public comment period closes March 30, 2026.

## LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY

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**WIPPES Act Passes the Senate.** On March 22, the passed the *Wastewater Infrastructure Pollution Prevention and Environmental Safety Act* (WIPPES) ([S. 1092](#)) by unanimous consent. The bill would establish federal labeling standards for so-called “flushable” wipes to include the language *Do Not Flush*. These wipes can cause a significant impact to wastewater pipes and infrastructure.

**Senate Confirms Markwayne Mullin as DHS Secretary.** On March 23, the Senate [confirmed](#) Sen. Markwayne Mullin (R-OK) to serve as Secretary of Homeland Security by a 54-45 vote. All Republicans except Sen. Rand Paul (R-KY) voted in favor, joined by two Democrats—Sens. John Fetterman (D-PA) and Martin Heinrich (D-NM). Mullin was sworn in the next day, replacing Kristi Noem. At his confirmation hearing, Mullin signaled a somewhat different approach than his predecessor on several issues, including stating that judicial warrants should generally be used to enter homes and places of business and that FEMA should be restructured rather than eliminated.

**House Agriculture Committee Advances 2026 Farm Bill.** On March 5, the House Agriculture Committee voted 34-17 to advance the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026 ([H.R. 7567](#)), following a markup hearing that spanned more than 20 hours and considered more than 100 amendments. The bill was introduced on February 13 by Chairman G.T. Thompson (R-PA) and would reauthorize federal agriculture, nutrition, conservation, rural development, forestry, energy, and crop insurance programs through Fiscal Year 2031. Key provisions include updates to commodity support and disaster assistance programs, enhancements to working lands conservation programs, reforms to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, investments in rural broadband, childcare, and water infrastructure, new tools for wildfire risk reduction on federal lands, and restrictions on USDA funding for solar energy development on prime farmland. The bill now awaits consideration by the full House. The Senate Agriculture Committee has not yet introduced its own version of the legislation. The current authorization of the 2018 Farm Bill is slated to expire on September 30, 2026.

**House Bill Reintroduced to Expand WIFIA Assistance for Drought Projects.** On March 5, Rep. Scott Peters (D-CA) reintroduced the *Drought Relief Obtained Using Government Help Today (DROUGHT) Act* ([H.R. 7845](#)), which would amend the *Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act* (WIFIA) to increase the federal assistance cap for certain projects from 80 percent to 90 percent of total project costs. The higher limit would apply to projects in states experiencing severe drought, projects designated as regionally or nationally significant, and

projects serving disadvantaged communities. The bill was referred to the House Transportation and Infrastructure and Energy and Commerce Committees for further consideration.

**House Resolution Introduced Recognizing Community Water Fluoridation.** Rep. Lois Frankel (D-FL) introduced [H. Res. 1087](#), a resolution recognizing community water fluoridation as a safe and effective public health intervention to prevent tooth decay and improve oral health. The resolution highlights research supporting fluoridation and encourages states and localities to maintain or adopt fluoridated community water systems.

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## CONGRESSIONAL LETTERS

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**Senators Request DHS OIG Briefing on FEMA Complaints.** On March 6, Senators Peter Welch (D-VT), Richard Blumenthal (D-CT), Chris Van Hollen (D-MD), Mazie Hirono (D-HI), and Ed Markey (D-MA) sent a [letter](#) to Department of Homeland Security Inspector General Joseph Cuffari requesting a briefing on complaints received about FEMA since January 2025. The lawmakers cited concerns about agency leadership vacancies, alleged retaliation against staff, and FEMA's lack of responses to congressional oversight inquiries. The Senators asked for information on the number and subject matter of complaints submitted to the Office of Inspector General.

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## FEDERAL FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

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**Reclamation Publishes WaterSMART Large-Scale Water Recycling Projects NOFO.** On March 12, the Bureau of Reclamation published a [NOFO](#) for up to \$130 million through the WaterSMART Large-Scale Water Recycling Projects program. The program provides up to 25 percent federal cost share for the planning, design, and construction of water recycling projects with a total project cost of \$500 million or greater. Eligible applicants include states, tribes, municipalities, irrigation districts, water districts, wastewater districts, and regional or local authorities with water or power delivery authority located in 17 western states. Applications are due May 13, 2026.

**Reclamation Publishes WaterSMART Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects NOFO.** On March 5, the Bureau of Reclamation published a [NOFO](#) for up to \$4 million through the WaterSMART Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects program. Individual awards are capped at \$125,000. The program funds small-scale projects that conserve water and enhance water supply reliability in water delivery systems, including canal lining, water delivery automation, flow measurement, and similar efficiency improvements. Eligible applicants include states, tribes, irrigation districts, water districts, and other organizations with water or power delivery authority located in western states and U.S. territories, as well as nonprofit conservation organizations partnering with an eligible entity. Applications are due June 2, 2026.

**Reclamation Publishes WaterSMART Drought Response Program NOFO.** On March 5, the Bureau of Reclamation published a [NOFO](#) for up to \$13.5 million through the WaterSMART Drought Response Program. Individual awards range from \$25,000 to \$1.5 million. The program funds projects designed to improve drought resilience, including infrastructure improvements for water storage and distribution, water source diversification, decision-making tools for water management, and drought contingency planning. Eligible applicants include states, tribes, irrigation districts, water districts, and other organizations with water or power delivery authority located in western states and U.S. territories, as well as nonprofit conservation organizations partnering with an eligible entity. The Bureau will host an [informational webinar](#) on April 21, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. PT to discuss eligible applicants, project types, program requirements, and evaluation criteria. Applications are due July 28, 2026.

**Reclamation Publishes WaterSMART Applied Science Grants NOFO.** On March 5, the Bureau of Reclamation published a [NOFO](#) for up to \$6 million through the WaterSMART Applied Science Grants program. Individual awards are capped at \$400,000. The program funds projects to improve access to and use of hydrologic data, develop and improve water management tools, and improve hydrologic modeling and forecasting capabilities, including operational models for irrigation and reservoir operations, snow monitoring technologies, and hydrologic databases. Eligible applicants include states, tribes, irrigation districts, water districts, and other organizations with water or power delivery authority in western states and U.S. territories, as well as universities, nonprofit research institutions, and federally funded research and development centers partnering with an eligible entity. The first application deadline is July 8, 2026; a second application window closes April 13, 2027.

## FEDERAL AGENCY ACTIONS AND PERSONNEL CHANGES

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**White House Releases National AI Legislative Framework.** On March 20, the Trump Administration released a [national legislative framework](#) for artificial intelligence (AI), calling on Congress to establish a uniform federal standard to replace the existing patchwork of state AI laws. The framework is organized around protecting children online; safeguarding communities from AI-enabled fraud and managing data center energy costs; protecting intellectual property rights for creators and publishers; preventing government-directed censorship of AI platforms; removing regulatory barriers to accelerate AI development and deployment; and expanding AI workforce training and education programs. On federal preemption, the framework calls on Congress to preempt state AI laws that impose undue burdens on innovation while preserving state authority over areas such as child protection, consumer fraud, zoning, and state procurement. Prospects for legislation this year are uncertain. Some Republicans, including Sens. Josh Hawley (R-MO) and Marsha Blackburn (R-TN), have pushed for stricter requirements on technology companies, while many Democrats have signaled the framework lacks sufficient substance on issues such as national security threats and misinformation. The framework aims to build on President Trump's December 2025 executive order directing evaluation of state AI regulations and federal preemption options.

**OPM Proposes Changes to RIF Procedures.** On March 5, the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) issued a [proposed rule](#) revising how federal agencies conduct reductions

in force (RIFs). The proposal would prioritize employee performance ratings over length of service when determining which workers are retained during layoffs, with tenure used primarily as a tiebreaker. According to OPM, the change is intended to create a more performance-based framework for workforce restructuring while preserving existing veterans' preference rules. Public comments on the proposed rule are due May 4, 2026.

**EPA Launches RealWaterTA Initiative.** On March 4, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced a [new initiative](#), Real Water Technical Assistance (RealWaterTA), aimed at strengthening support for drinking water and wastewater utilities nationwide. The program will focus on core technical assistance to help systems maintain compliance with the *Safe Drinking Water Act* and *Clean Water Act*, including engineering and design support, operational assistance, workforce development, and financial management. EPA also rescinded a March 2023 guidance memo related to water technical assistance as part of the shift in program priorities.

**EPA Replaces Water Utility Climate Resilience Program.** EPA has replaced a technical assistance program that helped water utilities prepare for climate-related risks with a new initiative that avoids references to climate change. The program, [Strengthening Water Infrastructure for Tomorrow \(SWIFT\)](#), replaces the former Creating Resilient Water Utilities effort and focuses on extreme weather preparedness and infrastructure resilience. According to EPA officials, the shift aligns the program with statutory authorities under the *Clean Water Act* and *Safe Drinking Water Act* and with administration priorities emphasizing state and local preparedness.

**EPA Seeks NDWAC Nominations.** EPA is accepting nominations for three-year appointments to the [National Drinking Water Advisory Council](#) (NDWAC), a 15-member advisory body established under the *Safe Drinking Water Act* to provide recommendations to the EPA Administrator on drinking water policies and programs. EPA is seeking nominees from the general public, state and local agencies, and organizations with expertise in water hygiene and public water supply, including representatives of small and rural systems. Nominations must be submitted by April 8, 2026.

**Court Orders FEMA to Restore BRIC Program.** On March 6, U.S. District Court Judge Richard G. Stearns issued an [order](#) requiring FEMA to take specific steps to restore the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) pre-disaster mitigation grant program. The order followed FEMA's incomplete compliance with the court's December 11, 2025 summary judgment ruling, which had declared the Trump administration's April 2025 termination of the program unlawful. The order requires FEMA to communicate the status of all BRIC projects to each plaintiff state's emergency management agency and to file a status report with the court on remaining steps and timelines to fully reverse the termination. Within 21 days, FEMA was ordered to issue a Fiscal Year 2024 Notice of Funding Opportunity. On March 18, FEMA issued an [advisory](#) confirming it had notified states, Tribes, and territories of the status of their BRIC projects, and signaling its intent to resume programmatic support and publish a new funding opportunity once the lapse in Department of Homeland Security appropriations ends. The BRIC program has distributed more than \$5 billion in grants since its creation and had approximately \$1 billion in funding in the pipeline at the time of its termination.

**Reclamation Announces Initial 2026 Central Valley Project Water Supply Allocations.**

The Bureau of Reclamation has announced [initial 2026 water supply allocations](#) for Central Valley Project contractors. North-of-Delta Sacramento River and American River contractors, Sacramento River Settlement Contractors, In-Delta municipal and industrial contractors, and wildlife refuges all received 100% of their contract supply. South-of-Delta irrigation contractors received 15% of their contract total, while south-of-Delta municipal and industrial contractors received 65% of historic use or public health and safety needs, whichever is greater. Eastside water service contractors received 0%. Friant Division contractors received 100% of Class 1 supply and 0% of Class 2. Reclamation noted that below-average snowpack—currently at roughly 59% of the historical average—is partially offset by stronger-than-average reservoir storage. South-of-Delta contractors are also expected to reschedule approximately 180,000 acre-feet of unused 2025 water for use in 2026, which combined with current allocations accounts for 100% of south-of-Delta repayment contractors' contract supply. Reclamation indicated it will continue to monitor hydrology and may adjust allocations as conditions warrant.

## ## ##

# IEUA Bill List- March 2026

*Italics denote two-year bills*

Bills With Positions								
Measure	Author	Topic	Last Amend	Status	Location	Calendar	Brief Summary	Notes
<b>AB 35</b>	<b>Alvarez, D</b>	Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024; Administrative Procedure Act: exemption: program guidelines and selection criteria.	1/14/2026	1/27/2026 In Senate. Read first time. To Com. on RLS. for assignment.	Senate Rules		The bill would require a state entity that receives funding from Proposition 4 to administer a competitive grant program established using the Administrative Procedure Act exemption to do certain things, including develop draft project solicitation and evaluation guidelines and to submit those guidelines to the Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency, except as provided. The bill would require the Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency to post an electronic form of the guidelines submitted by a state entity and the subsequent verifications on the Natural Resources Agency's internet website.	CASA, WaterReuse, ACWA, CSDA, CMUA all support  SUPPORT
<b>AB 2215</b>	<b>Calderon, D</b>	Water rights: permits: State Water Project.	3/18/2026		Water, Parks & Wildlife Committee		This bill would require that the time periods for the application of water to beneficial use and for the completion of construction work for specific water right permits held by the Department of Water Resources for the operation of the State Water Project be December 31, 2085.	IEUA Support  SWC sponsored bill
<b>SB 601</b>	<b>Allen, D</b>	Water: waste discharge.	7/10/2025	Two-Year Bill	Assembly Appropriations		<i>This bill would authorize the state board to adopt water quality control plans for nexus waters, which the bill would define as all waters of the state that are not also navigable, except as specified. The bill would require any water quality standard that was submitted to, and approved by, or is awaiting approval by, the United States Environmental Protection Agency or the state board that applied to nexus waters as of May 24, 2023, to remain in effect, as provided.</i>	Coastkeeper sponsor  OPPOSE

## Bills With Positions

Measure	Author	Topic	Last Amend	Status	Location	Calendar	Brief Summary	Notes
<b>SB 827</b>	<b>McNerney, D</b>	<b>Climate change: funding priorities</b>	3/19/2026	Sen Natural Resources & Water Committee	S. NRW	4/7/2026	This bill would require, of that amount, beginning with the 2026–27 fiscal year and continuing through the 2046–47 fiscal year, the sum of \$150,000,000 be appropriated annually, to the Department of Water Resources for the purposes of supporting capital improvements to restore the original design water conveyance capacity for state water conveyance systems impacted operationally by land subsidence, and the sum of \$150,000,000 be appropriated annually to the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy for projects in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta to improve existing levees	Support Sponsored by SWC and Restore the Delta
<b>SB 935</b>	<b>Choi, R</b>	<b>Local agency design-build projects: authorization</b>	1/29/2026		Senate Appropriations Committee		Current law authorizes a local agency, as defined, with approval of its governing body, to procure design-build contracts for public works projects in excess of \$1,000,000, awarding the contract either to the lowest bid or the best value. Current law, among other requirements for the design-build procurement process, requires specified information submitted by a design-build entity to be certified under penalty of perjury. These provisions authorizing local agencies to use the design-build procurement process are repealed on January 1, 2031. This bill would repeal the above-described January 1, 2031, repeal date, thereby extending the operation of these provisions indefinitely.	IEUA Support

# Watch Bills

Measure	Author	Topic	Last Amend	Status	Location	Calendar	Brief Summary	Notes
<u>SB 654</u>	<u>Stern, D</u>	California Environmental Protection Agency contract: registry: greenhouse gas emissions that result from the water-energy nexus.		5/22/2025 - Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(5). (Last location was APPR. SUSPENSE FILE on 4/21/2025)(May be acted upon Jan 2026)	5/22/2025 - Senate 2 YEAR		The California Environmental Protection Agency is required to oversee the development of a registry for greenhouse gas emissions that result from the water-energy nexus using the best available data. Current law provides that participation in the registry is voluntary and open to any entity conducting business in the state. Existing law authorizes the agency to enter into a contract with a qualified nonprofit organization to do specified things, including to recruit broad participation in the registry from all economic sectors and regions of the state. Current law limits the term of the term of the contract to 3 years, except as provided. This bill would instead require the agency to oversee the administration of the above-described registry and would authorize the agency to enter into a new contract, limited to a term of 3 years and with a total budget of \$2,000,000, to do specified things, including to recruit broad participation in the registry from all economic sectors and regions of the state to meet the different needs of water users throughout the state by various means, as provided. (Based on 02/20/2025 text)	

## Acronym List

AB	Assembly Bill
ACF	Advanced Clean Fleets
ACWA	Association of California Water Agencies
BRIC	Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities
CARB	California Air Resources Board
CASA	California Association of Sanitation Agencies
CEC	California Energy Commission
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CMUA	California Municipal Utilities Association
CSDA	California Special Districts Association
CVP	Central Valley Project
DOE	Department of Energy
DOJ	Department of Justice
DWR	Department of Water Resources
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FDA	United States Food and Drug Administration
HHS	Health and Human Services
HUD	Housing and Urban Development
IRWD	Irvine Ranch Water District
LAO	Legislative Analyst's Office
LNG	Liquefied Natural Gas
MilCon	Military Construction
MWD	Municipal Water District / Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
NOFO	Notice of Funding Opportunity
OIG	Office of Inspector General
OMB	Office of Management and Budget
POTW	Publicly Owned Treatment Works
PSPS	Public Safety Power Shutoff
SB	Senate Bill
SCE	Southern California Edison

## Acronym List

SWC	State Water Contractors
SWRCB	State Water Resources Control Board
VA	Veterans Affairs



**March 23, 2026**

**To:** Inland Empire Utilities Agency

**From:** Michael Boccadoro  
Beth Olhasso

**RE:** March Report

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Overview:

While reservoir levels remain strong, the March heat-wave is rapidly melting the Sierra Snowpack. The state is quickly approaching the record for worse April 1 snowpack on record. The statewide snowpack is at just 29 percent of April 1 average (just 11 percent in the Northern Sierra)

Reservoir levels remain strong, as much of the melting snow has been captured and reservoirs are being managed for flood control. Lake Oroville is sitting at 89 percent capacity, 125 percent of normal; Lake Shasta is sitting at 89 percent of capacity, 116 percent of average; while San Luis Reservoir is at 89 percent of capacity, 104 percent of average for this time of year.

California's long-planned Sites Reservoir project is moving closer to construction after securing a key draft permit, advancing what could become the state's largest new reservoir in decades. Designed to store water during wet periods for use in droughts, the project highlights both the urgency of expanding storage and the ongoing tension between water supply reliability and environmental protection.

A new Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) report is intensifying debate over how California should manage examining voluntary agreements as an alternative to stricter regulations. While the report emphasizes flexibility and collaboration, it has drawn sharp criticism from environmental and Tribal groups who argue it lacks balance, weakens enforceability, and could fall short in protecting ecosystems.

California is launching an ambitious new water strategy under SB 72, aiming to create 9 million acre-feet of new supply by 2040 through recycling, storage, and groundwater recharge. The plan signals a major shift toward locally controlled, diversified water systems, but its success will depend on funding, coordination, and balancing competing demands in a changing climate.

The Legislature has started working through the committee process for all the legislation introduced since the first of the year. Water stakeholders are working with legislators and other proponents on issues including tribal rights, low-income water rate assistance, State Revolving Fund reform, golden mussels, funding and operation for the State Water Project and many other issues. The deadline for bills to make it out of their first house policy committee is April 24.

## **Inland Empire Utilities Agency Status Report – March 2026**

### ***Water Supply Conditions***

As widely reported, the Sierra snowpack is melting unusually early this year as a stretch of early-season heat rapidly reduces one of the state's most important natural water reserves. In the past three weeks alone, statewide snowpack has been declining by about 1% per day, with melting occurring even at the highest elevations.

Snowpack typically supplies up to one-third of California's water, gradually melting through spring to feed rivers and fill reservoirs. But this year, warming temperatures have pushed peak accumulation to mid-February—far earlier than the usual April 1 peak—and continued heat will accelerate runoff in the coming weeks.

Forecasts of above-normal temperatures raise concerns that California could end up with one of its lowest April 1 snowpack levels on record, potentially second only to the extreme drought year of 2015. If that pattern continues, it could reduce late-season water supplies during the dry summer months.

To better track conditions and improve runoff forecasting, the Department of Water Resources and partners are conducting mid-month snow surveys across key watersheds and using airborne measurements to refine estimates of how much water remains in the snowpack. Water managers say these real-time observations help guide reservoir operations, allowing them to capture as much runoff as possible to support communities and ecosystems through the summer.

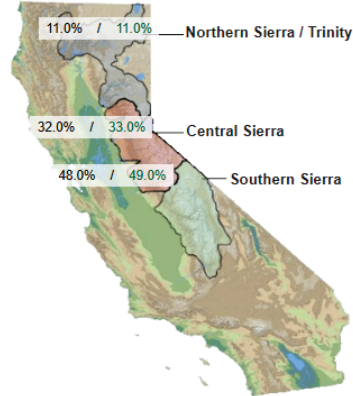
The Northern Sierra snowpack went from 43 percent of normal for this date to 11 percent of normal in just 30 days.

Reservoirs are still holding strong-- San Luis reservoir is at 104 percent of historical average and 89 percent capacity. Lake Oroville is at 89 percent capacity, 125 percent of normal; Lake Shasta is sitting at 89 percent of capacity, 116 percent of average for this time of the year.

Provided by the California Cooperative Snow Surveys

Data For: 23-Mar-2026

% Apr 1 Avg. / % Normal for this Date



Change Date :

NORTH	
Data For:	23-Mar-2026
Number of Stations Reporting	33
Average snow water equivalent	2.9"
Percent of April 1 Average	11%
Percent of normal for this date	11%

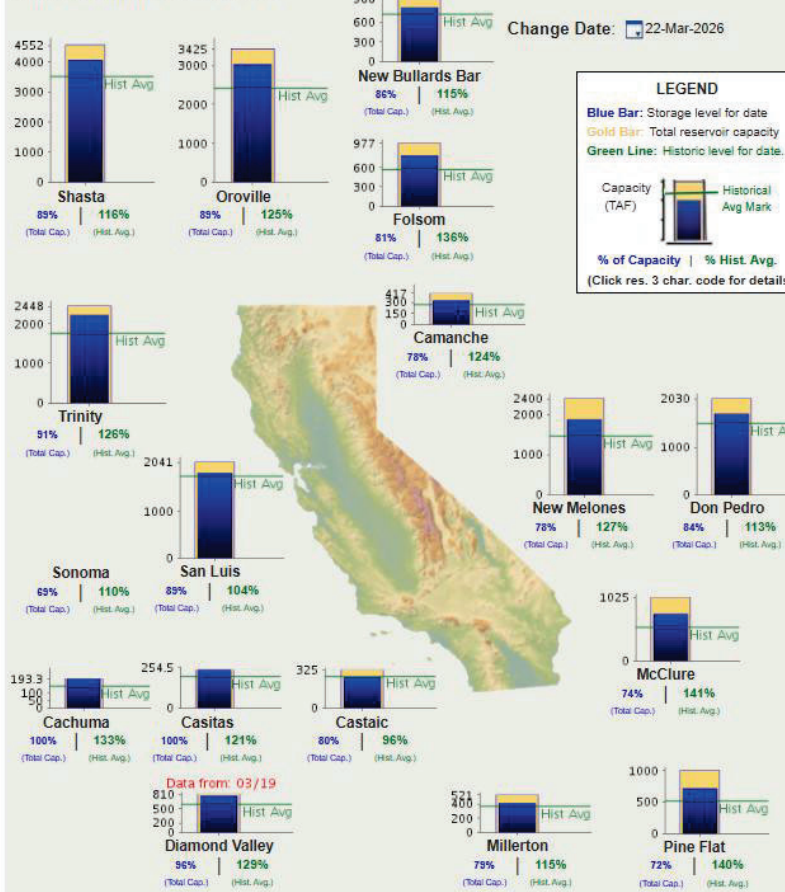
CENTRAL	
Data For:	23-Mar-2026
Number of Stations Reporting	53
Average snow water equivalent	8.8"
Percent of April 1 Average	32%
Percent of normal for this date	33%

SOUTH	
Data For:	23-Mar-2026
Number of Stations Reporting	24
Average snow water equivalent	11.4"
Percent of April 1 Average	48%
Percent of normal for this date	49%

STATEWIDE SUMMARY	
Data For:	23-Mar-2026
Number of Stations Reporting	110
Average snow water equivalent	7.6"
Percent of April 1 Average	29%
Percent of normal for this date	29%

**CURRENT CONDITIONS: MAJOR WATER SUPPLY RESERVOIRS: 22-MAR-2026**

Data as of Midnight: 22-Mar-2026



### ***Sites Reservoir Clears Major Hurdle***

California's long-planned Sites Reservoir project has moved closer to reality after state regulators issued a draft water permit, a key step toward what could become California's largest new reservoir in decades. The project, located off-stream in Colusa and Glenn counties, would store water pumped from the Sacramento River during wet periods rather than damming a river directly.

If approved, the roughly \$6–\$6.8 billion project could begin construction as soon as late 2026, with completion targeted for the early 2030s. The reservoir is designed to hold up to 1.5 million acre-feet of water, which would be used to bolster supplies during drought years and improve long-term water reliability for cities, farms, and industry.

The draft permit would allow water diversions only during wetter months and under strict environmental flow conditions intended to protect fish and river health. The proposal reflects an attempt to balance expanded storage with environmental safeguards.

Supporters, including water agencies and state officials, argue the project is a critical investment in drought resilience as climate change increases swings between floods and dry periods. However, environmental groups and some tribes remain concerned it could further strain the Sacramento River ecosystem and harm salmon populations.

The State Water Resources Control Board will take public comments through May before making a final decision expected later this year, with funding and environmental challenges still ahead even if approved.

### ***Legislative Analyst's Office Releases Report on Bay-Delta Plan***

California's LAO report on the Bay-Delta Plan and proposed Voluntary Agreements (VAs) examines the state's effort to balance water supply reliability with ecosystem restoration in the Sacramento–San Joaquin Delta. The report reviews the hybrid approach of setting water quality standards while also pursuing negotiated agreements with water users that would fund habitat restoration and manage environmental flows more flexibly than traditional regulation.

The LAO emphasizes that while voluntary agreements are intended to accelerate collaboration and investment in habitat improvements, their success depends heavily on clear performance metrics, transparency, and strong legislative oversight. It also warns that the state must ensure any voluntary framework produces measurable environmental benefits and does not delay or weaken enforceable water quality standards.

However, the report has drawn strong criticism from a coalition of environmental organizations and Tribes, who argue it is not a neutral assessment and instead assumes approval of the voluntary agreement pathway. Critics say the LAO downplays the importance of enforceable regulatory flow standards and fails to adequately evaluate alternatives grounded in legally binding water quality protections.

Opponents also raise concerns about accountability, warning that the VA framework could allow water agencies to self-report compliance with limited oversight, creating risks for an already

stressed ecosystem. They argue this approach may not adequately protect Tribal Beneficial Uses or address issues such as harmful algal blooms. The coalition further disputes the report’s framing of “environmental flows,” saying that flows needed for ecosystem health should be set through enforceable standards rather than negotiated arrangements.

Additional criticism centers on claims that the report understates the extent of Tribal and environmental participation and opposition in the process, including testimony from more than 150 individuals opposing the agreements at recent hearings. Some coalition members also argue that past restoration efforts highlighted in the report were driven by litigation, reflecting long-standing failures to protect endangered species.

As the debate continues, the LAO underscores the need for legislative oversight as California considers whether voluntary agreements can effectively deliver ecological outcomes or whether stronger regulatory action will be required.

### ***SB 72 Implementation Kicks Off!***

The Department of Water Resources has launched an ambitious new phase of its long-term water strategy, signaling a major shift in how the state plans to secure supplies amid intensifying climate pressures. Anchored by Senate Bill 72, the plan sets a target of developing 9 million acre-feet of new water supply by 2040, reflecting growing urgency as California faces more extreme swings between drought and flood.

Rather than relying on a single solution, the strategy emphasizes a portfolio approach—expanding water recycling, stormwater capture, groundwater recharge, and new storage projects. State leaders say this diversified model is essential as traditional sources, including Sierra snowpack and imported water from the Delta and Colorado River, become less predictable.

A central focus of the plan is accelerating locally controlled water supplies, particularly in urban regions like Southern California. Investments in advanced water recycling and reuse are expected to play a major role, alongside efforts to capture more runoff during wet periods and store it underground for use in dry years. The plan also calls for streamlining permitting and improving coordination across state and regional agencies to speed up project delivery.

At the same time, the initiative underscores the importance of modernizing aging infrastructure and improving the state’s ability to move and store water efficiently. This includes upgrades to canals, reservoirs, and groundwater systems that are increasingly strained by both overuse and climate impacts.

Supporters describe the plan as one of the most comprehensive water strategies in decades, aimed at building long-term resilience while supporting economic stability and environmental needs. However, its success will depend on sustained funding, coordination across agencies, and the ability to balance competing demands from cities, agriculture, and ecosystems.

As implementation begins, the plan sets the tone for California’s water future: more localized, more flexible, and increasingly shaped by the realities of a warming climate.

### ***Legislative Update***

Committees are starting to work their way through all of the bills introduced in 2026 ahead of the April 24 deadline for bills to advance out of policy committee.

Following the “30 day in print rule” before bills can be amended or acted upon, significant changes have been made to legislation IEUA has been watching.

#### State Water Contractors Sponsored Legislation:

**SB 872 (McNerney)** has been amended into a major climate and water infrastructure funding bill.

Under the revised language, SB 872 would create the Delta Levees and Canal Subsidence Fund that would fund critical water system upgrades over the next two decades — beginning in the 2026–27 fiscal year through 2046–47.

Key provisions include:

- \$150 million annually to the California Department of Water Resources for capital improvements aimed at restoring original conveyance capacity in state water facilities affected by land subsidence — a growing problem as pumping lowers groundwater levels and damages canals.
- \$150 million annually to the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy for levee repairs and related projects in the Delta, strengthening flood protection and habitat conditions.

The bill was recently amended to take out a specific funding source, which will lead to more discussions on the concept during the budget process.

The bill also includes a restriction that these funds cannot be used for the design, construction, operation, mitigation, or maintenance of new Delta conveyance facilities beyond existing infrastructure.

The bill received bipartisan support in the Senate Environmental Quality Committee and will next be heard in the Natural Resources and Water Committee.

**AB 2215 (Calderon):** moves a portion of the DCP Trailer Bill from 2025 into a policy bill. AB 2215 would require that the time periods for the application of water to beneficial use and for the completion of construction work for specific water right permits held by the Department of Water Resources for the operation of the State Water Project be extended out to December 31, 2085. The bill has been referred to the Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee.

State Water Project contractors and MWD member agencies are rallying behind these two bills as essential legislation to keep water flowing.

#### CASA & WateReuse CA:

CASA and WateReuse CA are looking to co-sponsor legislation to add more capacity to the Clean Water State Revolving Fund and make it easier for agencies to get larger loans or reduce burdensome requirements in the contract. The associations are working with the Environmental

Safety & Toxic Materials Committee on language. Committee bills do not follow the same bill introduction deadlines as member-introduced bills, but the bill is expected to be amended soon.

Other significant legislation:

- **AB 1881 (Ramos)** and **AB 2218 (Kalra)** on tribal water rights. Both bills give tribes significant powers over infrastructure projects. However, stakeholders are working with the authors and sponsors to work out mutually agreeable language.
- **SB 1001 (Archuletta)** Identification cards for utility workers to allow access during emergencies. This legislation was significantly amended to align with an already existing system at the CA Office of Emergency Services to offer Personal Identity Verification-Interoperable (PIV-I) cards to operators who apply and meet the requirements.
- Golden Mussels Bills
  - **AB 2032 (Ransom)**: specifies specific actions for the state to undertake to research and provide best management practices for eradication.
  - **AB 1772 (Papan)**: creates a standardized boat inspection program for all reservoir operators.
  - **AB 1894 (Rubio)**: Looks to address some agencies forbidding SWP water from entering a system.

These are just a few bills that will start to work their way through the legislature in the coming months.

Two-Year Bills:

**AB 35 (Alvarez)** would provide an Administrative Procedures Act Exemption for Proposition 4 bond funds. The legislation will help get bond funds out faster. The bill has over 40 co-authors and has not received a single no vote. It has moved to the Senate where it will likely sit until later in the spring.

Early Budget Action: The legislature passed and the Governor signed a “Budget Bill Jr.” that provides the APA exemption for Prop 4 funds allocated in the 2025-26 budget. This action eases some of the pressure to get AB 35 passed quickly.

## Semi-Annual Plume Status Report

### Chino Airport Plumes April 2026

#### CONTAMINANTS

San Bernardino County Department of Airports (County) identifies four primary volatile organic compound (VOC) contaminants associated with the Chino Airport groundwater plumes: trichloroethene (TCE), 1,2,3-trichloropropane (1,2,3-TCP), cis-1,2-dichloroethene (cis-1,2-DCE), and 1,2-dichloroethane (1,2-DCA) with TCE and 1,2,3-TCP being the most frequently detected contaminants at the highest concentrations. For each of the four primary contaminants, the table below lists the California maximum contaminant level (MCL) and the maximum concentration detected in groundwater samples from wells within the plumes over the last five years.

Maximum Concentration of Contaminants of Concern from January 2021 to December 2025				
Contaminant	MCL, micrograms per liter, µg/l	Max Concentration, µg/l	Sample Date	Well
TCE	5	2,900	December 2025	CAMW73
1,2,3-TCP	0.005	39	November 2024	CAMW75
cis-1,2-DCE	6	1,300	November 2024	CAMW73
1,2- DCA	0.5	8.9	December 2025	CAMW75

Secondary contaminants of concern include 1,1-dichloroethene (1,1-DCE), carbon tetrachloride, 1,4-dioxane, tert-butyl alcohol (TBA), and 1,4-dichlorobenzene.

#### LOCATION

The Chino Airport is located in the southwestern portion of the Chino Basin within the City of Chino. Exhibit 1 shows the spatial extent of the TCE and 1,2,3-TCP plumes in groundwater, as delineated by both the Chino Basin Watermaster (Watermaster) for the *2024 State of the Basin Report* and the County for their *Semiannual Groundwater Monitoring Report – Winter and Spring 2025*.<sup>1,2</sup> The delineations prepared by Watermaster show the spatial extent of the plumes with detectable concentrations of TCE and 1,2,3- TCP based on the five-year maximum concentrations measured over the period of July 2019 to June 2024. The delineations by the County show the area where TCE concentrations are greater than or equal

<sup>1</sup> West Yost. (2025). *Optimum Basin Management Program – 2024 State of the Basin Report*. Prepared for the Chino Basin Watermaster. September 2025.

<sup>2</sup> Tetra Tech. (2025). *Semiannual Groundwater Monitoring Report-Winter and Spring 2025*. Prepared for San Bernardino County Department of Airports. October 31, 2025.

to the MCL of 5 micrograms per liter ( $\mu\text{g/l}$ ), and where 1,2,3-TCP concentrations are greater than or equal to the MCL of 0.005  $\mu\text{g/l}$ , based on concentrations measured during the 2025 winter and spring sampling events and data provided by Chino Basin Desalter Authority (CDA) for the desalter wells within the plumes.

The County characterizes West and East plumes, originating from two different main source areas at the Chino Airport. TCE and 1,2,3-TCP concentrations are higher within the West plumes than the East plumes, and the extents of the West plumes are also longer. The West and East TCE plumes have been interpreted as commingling within the airport boundaries since 2017. The West and East 1,2,3-TCP plumes were shown to be commingled within the airport property since 2021. During investigation activities in 2024, contaminants of concern from an additional source area on airport property were also detected in shallow to intermediate-depth groundwater and commingling with the West and East plumes at low concentrations at intermediate depths.

## TCE and 1,2,3-TCP Plumes

The extent of the West TCE Plume with detectable TCE concentrations greater than 0.5  $\mu\text{g/l}$  is about 2.5 miles long. The plume extends south-southwest approximately two miles from the source area in the northwestern quadrant of the Chino Airport to just north of Pine Avenue and then turns southeast extending another 0.6 miles in this direction terminating south of Pine Avenue. The change in direction of the plume in this area may be associated with the location of the Central Avenue Fault that forms a local groundwater barrier and historical pumping at irrigation wells. The source of the smaller East TCE Plume is located approximately 1,500 feet east-northeast of the source of the West TCE Plume. The East TCE Plume commingles with the West TCE Plume on the airport property and extends southeast from the source area about 0.8 miles towards CDA Well I-20. The known lateral extent of TCE at concentrations above the MCL covers an area of approximately 735 acres.

The extent of the West 1,2,3-TCP Plume with detectable 1,2,3-TCP concentrations greater than 0.005  $\mu\text{g/l}$  follows the same general path as the West TCE Plume and extends about 2.9 miles southwest past Pine Avenue, turning southeast for approximately 0.6 miles just east of Euclid Avenue. The smaller East 1,2,3-TCP Plume is approximately 0.7 miles lengthwise trending south and commingling with the West 1,2,3-TCP Plume on airport property. The known lateral extent of 1,2,3-TCP in groundwater above the MCL currently covers an area of approximately 1,450 acres.

Over time, the vertical and lateral extents of the plumes have changed in response to groundwater production at nearby wells and other hydrological factors. Since monitoring began, groundwater production at CDA Wells I-1, I-2, and I-3 has increased the vertical thickness of the West Plumes by more than 100 feet, and the pumping from the Chino II desalter wells east of the Airport and CDA Wells I-20 and I-21 has drawn the East plumes laterally in a southeast direction. Additionally, detections of 1,2,3-TCP in 2022 indicated that the low concentration portion of the 1,2,3-TCP plume south of Pine Avenue may exist further to the south, compared to earlier interpretation.

## REGULATORY ORDERS

- Cleanup and Abatement Order (CAO) No. 90-134 for the County of San Bernardino Department of Airports, Chino Airport—Issued to the County to address the groundwater contamination originating from the Chino Airport.
- CAO No. R8-2008-0064 for the San Bernardino County Department of Airports, Chino Airport—Required the County to define the lateral and vertical extent of the plume offsite from the Chino Airport and prepare a remedial action plan (RAP).

- CAO No. R8-2017-0011 for the San Bernardino County Department of Airports, Chino Airport—Required the County to respond to Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board (Santa Ana Water Board) comments on the draft Feasibility Study and submit a final Feasibility Study. Additionally, it required the County to submit a final RAP within 60 days of the Santa Ana Water Board approval of the Final Feasibility Study and implement the RAP.

## REGULATORY AND MONITORING HISTORY

In 1990, the Santa Ana Water Board issued CAO No. 90-134 to address groundwater contamination originating from the Chino Airport. From 1991 to 1992, ten inactive underground storage tanks and 310 containers of hazardous waste were removed, and 81 soil borings were drilled and sampled on the Chino Airport property. From 2003 to 2005, nine onsite monitoring wells were installed and used to collect groundwater quality samples. In 2007, the County conducted its first offsite groundwater characterization effort, which included 22 cone penetrometer tests (CPT) and direct push borings from which water quality samples were collected. In 2008, the Santa Ana Water Board issued CAO No. R8-2008-0064, requiring the County to define the lateral and vertical extent of the plume offsite and to prepare a RAP. From 2009 to 2012, 33 offsite monitoring wells were installed at 15 locations to characterize the extent of the contamination downgradient from the Chino Airport property. From 2013 to 2014, the County conducted an extensive investigation of 20 areas of concern identified for additional characterization of the soil and groundwater contamination associated with the Chino Airport. The investigative work included: piezocone-penetrometer tests, vertical-aquifer-profiling (VAP) borings with depth-discrete groundwater sampling, soil-gas probe sampling, high-resolution soil sampling and analysis, real-time data analysis, and three-dimensional contaminant distribution modeling. Following the completion of this investigative work, from September 2014 through February 2015, an additional 33 groundwater monitoring wells were installed in 17 locations on and adjacent to the Chino Airport property.

The County completed a draft feasibility study in August 2016 that identified remedial action objectives for groundwater contaminants originating from the Chino Airport and evaluated potential remediation alternatives for mitigation.<sup>3</sup> On January 11, 2017, the Santa Ana Water Board issued CAO R8-2017-0011 to the County, which superseded CAO R8-2008-0064. The order required that the County: (1) submit a final feasibility study within 60 days of receiving the Santa Ana Water Board's comments on the draft feasibility study, (2) submit a final RAP within 60 days of the Santa Ana Water Board approval of the final feasibility study, (3) implement the RAP in accordance with a Santa Ana Water Board-approved schedule, and (4) prepare and submit technical reports and work plans as the Santa Ana Water Board deems necessary. The County submitted the final feasibility study on May 15, 2017.<sup>4</sup> The feasibility study identified a groundwater pump-and-treat system as the preferred remedial action to provide hydraulic containment and cleanup of both the West and the East Plumes. The Santa Ana Water Board approved the final feasibility study on June 7, 2017, and requested that a RAP be prepared.

On December 18, 2017, the County submitted a draft interim RAP (2017 IRAP).<sup>5</sup> The 2017 IRAP was considered "interim" because the County is moving forward on an interim basis to initiate the remedial action as soon as possible, with the opportunity to evaluate and modify the remedy in the future. The

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<sup>3</sup> Tetra Tech. (2016). *Draft Feasibility Study Chino Airport San Bernardino County, California*. Prepared for San Bernardino County Department of Airports. August 2016.

<sup>4</sup> Tetra Tech. (2017). *Final Feasibility Study Chino Airport San Bernardino County, California*. Prepared for San Bernardino County Department of Airports. May 2017.

<sup>5</sup> Tetra Tech. (2017). *Draft Interim Remedial Action Plan Chino Airport, San Bernardino County, California*. Prepared for San Bernardino County Department of Airports. December 2017.

2017 IRAP identified a combination of institutional controls, monitored natural attenuation, and groundwater extraction and ex-situ treatment as the best remedial alternative. From April 2018 to January 2019 a CEQA analysis was completed for the proposed remedial strategy.<sup>6</sup> During this time, the Santa Ana Water Board and County went through a series of comments and response to comments on the 2017 IRAP. Modifications were made to the 2017 IRAP and the Final IRAP was submitted to the Santa Ana Water Board on May 18, 2020.<sup>7</sup> The Final IRAP was approved by the Santa Ana Water Board on November 4, 2020.

In April and May 2020, the County installed a cluster of three downgradient wells to monitor the increasing concentrations of TCE in wells located along the southeastern plume boundary. While the County was reviewing and finalizing the 2017 IRAP, they were simultaneously working on a Human Health and Screening Ecological Risk Assessment (HHERA) to support the IRAP by identifying remedial actions to protect human health and the environment. A draft of the HHERA was submitted to the Santa Ana Water Board for review in August 2018, and at the Board's and Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment direction, the County conducted several subsequent investigations from 2019 to 2025 of soil vapor, soil, groundwater and indoor air to fill data gaps.<sup>8,9,10</sup> In July and August 2024, the County installed six new monitoring wells (CAMW-71 through CAMW-76) in areas where high concentrations of contaminants of concern were detected in the vapor sampling (see Exhibit 1). Monitoring at these new wells resulted in the identification of an additional source area beneath the northwestern portion of the airport property.

## REMEDIAL ACTION

As described in the IRAP, the remedial action for the TCE and 1,2,3-TCP plumes consists of a groundwater pump-and-treat system, institutional controls, and monitored natural attenuation. The groundwater pump-and-treat system includes a total of 22 wells located across ten extraction well sites (EW-1 through EW-10) both onsite and offsite, termed "County extraction wells." Each extraction well site will consist of up to three individual wells to focus extraction at different depths. Exhibit 1 shows the location of the ten existing and proposed well sites for the County extraction wells. Once fully operational, the County extraction wells are predicted to produce approximately 1,700 gallons per minute (gpm) of groundwater, with individual wells ranging from 20-200 gpm each. The pump-and-treat system also includes existing CDA Wells I-16, I-17, and I-18 to pump up to an additional 630 gpm of groundwater; and potentially CDA Wells I-20 and I-21 if treatment is required at those wells in the future.

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<sup>6</sup> Filing of the Notice of Determination for the Mitigated Negative Declaration was completed on January 29, 2019.

<sup>7</sup> Tetra Tech. (2020). *Final Interim Remedial Action Plan Chino Airport San Bernardino County, California*. Prepared for San Bernardino County Department of Airports. May 18, 2020.

<sup>8</sup> Tetra Tech. (2021). *Final Work Plan for Supplemental Data Collection for Vapor Intrusion and Shallow Soil, Chino Airport, San Bernardino County, California*. Prepared for San Bernardino County Department of Airports. April 9, 2021.

<sup>9</sup> Tetra Tech. (2021). *Supplemental Vapor Intrusion and Shallow Soil Investigation Report, Chino Airport, San Bernardino County, California*. Prepared for San Bernardino County Department of Airports. September 2021.

<sup>10</sup> Tetra Tech. (2023). *Work Plan for Focused Supplemental Investigation at Areas of Concern EE, HH, and J/K, Chino Airport, San Bernardino County, California*. Prepared for the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Santa Ana Region. January 3, 2023.

Extracted groundwater will be conveyed via a pipeline network to the main raw water influent line to the existing CDA Chino-I Desalter facility, where it will be treated for VOCs (including 1,2,3-TCP and TCE) at a new granular activated carbon (GAC) treatment system constructed at the CDA's existing Chino-I Desalter facility (South GAC System). The South GAC System is designed to treat a maximum flow rate of 2,400 gpm from the County extraction wells and CDA Wells I-16, I-17, I-18, with an initial operating flow rate of 2,325 gpm. In the future the South GAC System may be expanded to accommodate an additional 800 gpm for CDA Wells I-20 and I-21. Once treated at the South GAC System, water will be conveyed to the existing Chino-I Desalter that uses reverse osmosis and ion exchange to treat for total dissolved solids (TDS) and nitrates, both of which are regional contaminants and not associated with Chino Airport operations or plumes. Treated water will be discharged for use as potable municipal water supply. In April 2023, pumping began at CDA Wells I-16, I-17, and I-18 for treatment at the South GAC System at the Chino-I Desalter facility. An additional treatment system, the North GAC Treatment System, was also constructed by the CDA and began treating water from four CDA Wells (I-1 through I-4) that produce from the lower aquifer in April 2023; however, this system is not associated with the County's remedial action.

To assist in the design of the groundwater pump-and-treat system, the County installed two of the extraction well sites (EW-2 and EW-5) in 2018, along with 12 piezometers and 11 monitoring wells, and conducted aquifer pumping tests at these locations. The findings were submitted to the Santa Ana Water Board on June 19, 2019, and used by the County to refine the system design.<sup>11</sup> On December 8, 2021, the County submitted the *Final Preliminary Well Design Report* for the pump-and-treat system for remediation of the plumes and began working on a remedial action work plan (RAWP) to provide a detailed description of the remediation and construction activities associated with the implementation of the remedial action, including the construction and installation of the extraction wells, pipelines for conveyance of extracted groundwater, and the groundwater treatment system.<sup>12</sup> The 2022 RAWP was submitted to the Santa Ana Water Board on July 22, 2022 and approved in November 2024.<sup>13</sup>

The RAWP divides the construction of the pump-and-treat system into two phases: Phase 1 includes the construction of onsite extraction wells and conveyance piping, as well as five monitoring wells; and Phase 2 includes the construction of offsite extraction wells and conveyance piping. Phase 1 construction, is complete and includes: five extraction wells at two well sites (EW-2 and EW-5) installed in 2018; five extraction wells at three well sites (EW-1, EW-3, and EW-4) installed in December 2023 along with their associated piezometers; and a conveyance pipeline to connect the onsite wells to the South GAC System completed in July 2024. Well construction reports for all onsite extraction wells constructed in Phase 1 are available on GeoTracker. Groundwater pumping and treatment at the onsite extraction wells commenced in February 2026 following the January 2026 issuance of the State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water (DDW), amendment to include the County extraction wells in CDA's permit. Offsite Well EW-10 was constructed at the end of the Phase 1 construction period since the County had secured the necessary access agreements with the property owner. The well equipping and conveyance piping for EW-10, however, will be completed with the other Phase 2 construction, which is currently on hold since the remainder of the offsite property access agreements have not yet been executed. As of March 2026, the County is getting close to executing property access agreements for three

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<sup>11</sup> Tetra Tech. (2019). *Well Installation, Well Destruction, and Aquifer Pumping Test Report, Chino Airport, San Bernardino County, California*. Prepared for San Bernardino County Department of Airports. June 19, 2019.

<sup>12</sup> Tetra Tech. (2021). *Final Preliminary Well Design Report, Chino Airport, San Bernardino County, California*. Prepared for San Bernardino County Department of Airports. December 8, 2021.

<sup>13</sup> Tetra Tech. (2022). *Remedial Action Work Plan, Chino Airport, San Bernardino County, California*. Prepared for San Bernardino County Department of Airports. July 22, 2022.

of the offsite well sites (EW-6, 8, and 9) and are in negotiations with the property owner and developer to obtain access for the EW-7 well site. Because the 2022 RAWP only addresses Phase 1 construction, an addendum to the RAWP will be submitted for Phase 2 construction. This Phase 2 RAWP Addendum will be completed once all agreements have been executed, likely during Q4 2026 with construction commencing shortly after in Q1 2027.

The onsite County extraction wells constructed for Phase 1, along with the offsite County extraction wells to be constructed for Phase 2, will be operated, maintained, and monitored by CDA through a joint agreement between the County and CDA.

## MONITORING AND REPORTING

The County conducts a groundwater monitoring program pursuant to CAO No. R8-2008-0064 to track the extent of the plume. Monitoring is performed per the 2023 *Sampling and Analysis Plan Update (SAP)* with the sampling frequency determined by well classification (i.e., background wells, horizontal or vertical extent wells, seasonal/increasing trend wells, and guard wells), which is updated annually and included in the Groundwater Monitoring Reports.<sup>14</sup> Groundwater quality samples are collected quarterly, annually, or biennially at 95 site-related monitoring wells and four onsite agricultural wells, if in operation, to monitor the plume extents. Quarterly water-level monitoring is performed at the 95 site-related monitoring wells, ten extraction wells, 15 onsite piezometers, and six riparian habitat area piezometers. All water quality data collected by the County are posted on the State Water Resources Control Board's GeoTracker website.<sup>15</sup> Conclusions from the monitoring program can also be found in the semi-annual reports posted on GeoTracker. The most recent monitoring report, the *Semiannual Groundwater Monitoring Report-Winter and Spring 2025*, was submitted to the Santa Ana Water Board in October 2025.<sup>16</sup>

In August 2021, CDA submitted a groundwater sampling and analysis plan to the State DDW for the Chino I Desalter facility.<sup>17</sup> The plan includes the characterization of raw water from groundwater extraction wells, as specified by DDW policy Memo 97-005 for groundwater classified as an 'extremely impaired source'. Based on the results of the initial monitoring event, the monitoring schedule for sampling was revised and the updated plan was approved in September 2022.<sup>18</sup> Per these requirements, the County, in cooperation with CDA, has been performing quarterly baseline water quality monitoring since fall 2021 at extraction wells, proxy wells located near proposed extraction well locations, and surveillance wells, all of which are analyzed for drinking water methods. This data is submitted directly to the DDW for compliance and is not routinely posted on GeoTracker.

On April 7, 2025, the Santa Ana Regional Board approved the monitoring and reporting plan submitted by the County in June 2024 for the operation and performance monitoring of the Groundwater Extraction

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<sup>14</sup> Tetra Tech. (2023). *Sampling and Analysis Plan Update, Chino Airport, San Bernardino County, CA*. Prepared for San Bernardino County Department of Airports. May 5, 2023.

<sup>15</sup> [https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/profile\\_report?global\\_id=SL208634049](https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/profile_report?global_id=SL208634049)

<sup>16</sup> Tetra Tech. (2025). *Semiannual Groundwater Monitoring Report-Winter and Spring 2025*. Prepared for San Bernardino County Department of Airports. October 31, 2025.

<sup>17</sup> Tetra Tech. (2021). *Groundwater Monitoring Sampling and Analyses Plan for Developing Baseline Water Quality, Groundwater Monitoring for Policy Memo 97-500 Purposes, Chino Airport Project, County of San Bernardino*. August 6, 2021.

<sup>18</sup> Tetra Tech. (2022). *Revised Groundwater Monitoring Sampling and Analyses Plan for Developing Baseline Water Quality, Groundwater Monitoring for Policy Memo 97-500 Purposes, Chino Airport Project, County of San Bernardino*. 2022.

and Treatment System (GETS).<sup>19</sup> Monitoring is performed by CDA and the results are evaluated by the County to determine the efficacy of the groundwater remediation program to permanently reduce concentrations of contaminants of concern in compliance with CAO R8-2017-0011. Results of the operations, maintenance, and monitoring activities are presented in quarterly reports, which are available on GeoTracker and the performance monitoring program will be reevaluated every five years and updated as needed.

Watermaster also collects groundwater quality samples from private wells in the plume area and at its HCMP-4 monitoring well, located at the southern end of the plumes. Watermaster uses data from the County, CDA, and its own sampling to perform an independent characterization of the areal extent and concentration of the TCE and 1,2,3-TCP plumes.

## RECENT ACTIVITY

The County has continued quarterly groundwater monitoring events pursuant to CAO No. R8-2008-0064 through the fourth quarter of 2025, and the data is available on GeoTracker. The most recent groundwater monitoring report prepared by the County was for the winter and spring 2025 sampling events and was submitted to the Santa Ana Water Board in October 2025.<sup>20</sup> During these two sample events a total of 123 samples were analyzed for VOCs and seven wells were sampled for 1,4-dioxane in spring 2025. Key updates from this report include:

- TCE was detected above the MCL in 32 percent of wells with a maximum concentration of 1,400 µg/l.
- 1,2,3-TCP was detected above the MCL in 20 percent of the wells analyzed using method 8260B and 39 percent of the wells analyzed using method 8260B-SIM with a maximum concentration of 33 µg/l.
- Cis- 1,2- DCE, 1,2-DCA, carbon tetrachloride, and 1,4-dichlorobenzene were also detected above their respective MCLs in at least one sample.
- 1,4-dioxane was only detected in three of the seven samples and all the detections were below the notification level of 1 µg/l.
- Overall concentrations of TCE, 1,2,3-TCP, and other contaminants of concern were consistent with previous monitoring results, and the extent and general configuration of the plumes have remained fairly consistent since monitoring began.
- Overall decreasing contaminant concentrations near the source areas in the West and East plumes indicate that the dissolved source mass is generally declining.
- Elevated concentrations along the southeastern boundary of the East Plumes reflect continued plume migration to the southeast influenced by groundwater gradients and pumping at wells on the southern boundary of the Airport.
- Water levels continued to decrease more in the deeper wells than in the shallow wells, indicating that influence from active production wells may be affecting water-level drawdown and vertical gradients.

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<sup>19</sup> Tetra Tech. (2024). *GETS Monitoring and Reporting Plan for the Chino Airport*. 2024.

<sup>20</sup> Tetra Tech. (2025). *Semiannual Groundwater Monitoring Report-Winter and Spring 2025*. Prepared for San Bernardino County Department of Airports. October 31, 2025.

Pursuant to the 2024 GETS Monitoring and Reporting Plan, the County continues to submit quarterly Remedial Action Operation and Monitoring Reports with the results of the operations, maintenance, and monitoring activities for the GETS. The most recent report is the *Fourth Quarter 2025 Remedial Action Operation and Monitoring Report* for the period of October 1 through December 31, 2025, which is available on GeoTracker.<sup>21</sup> Key updates from this report include:

- North GAC System:
  - Approximately 1,184 million gallons (MG) of groundwater have been extracted and treated.
  - An estimated 235.8 pounds of TCE and 9.1 pounds of 1,2,3-TCP have been removed.
- South GAC System:
  - Approximately 550 MG of groundwater have been extracted and treated.
  - An estimated 196.4 pounds of TCE and 11.3 pounds of 1,2,3-TPC have been removed.

In September 2025, the County prepared a technical memorandum summarizing the results of the June 2024 and February 2025 paired indoor air and sub-slab vapor sampling completed as part of the Supplemental Investigation of Areas of Concern EE, HH, and J/K at various buildings in Areas of Concern HH and EE to evaluate the potential vapor intrusion risk inside buildings.<sup>22</sup> The results indicate that there is no unacceptable vapor intrusion risk at any of the buildings currently and will be used to update the human health risk assessment and an addendum to the August 2018 HHERA.<sup>23</sup>

In January 2026 the DDW issued a permit amendment to add the County extraction wells to CDA's permit. Pumping and treatment of groundwater from the ten County onsite extraction wells commenced shortly after, in February 2026.

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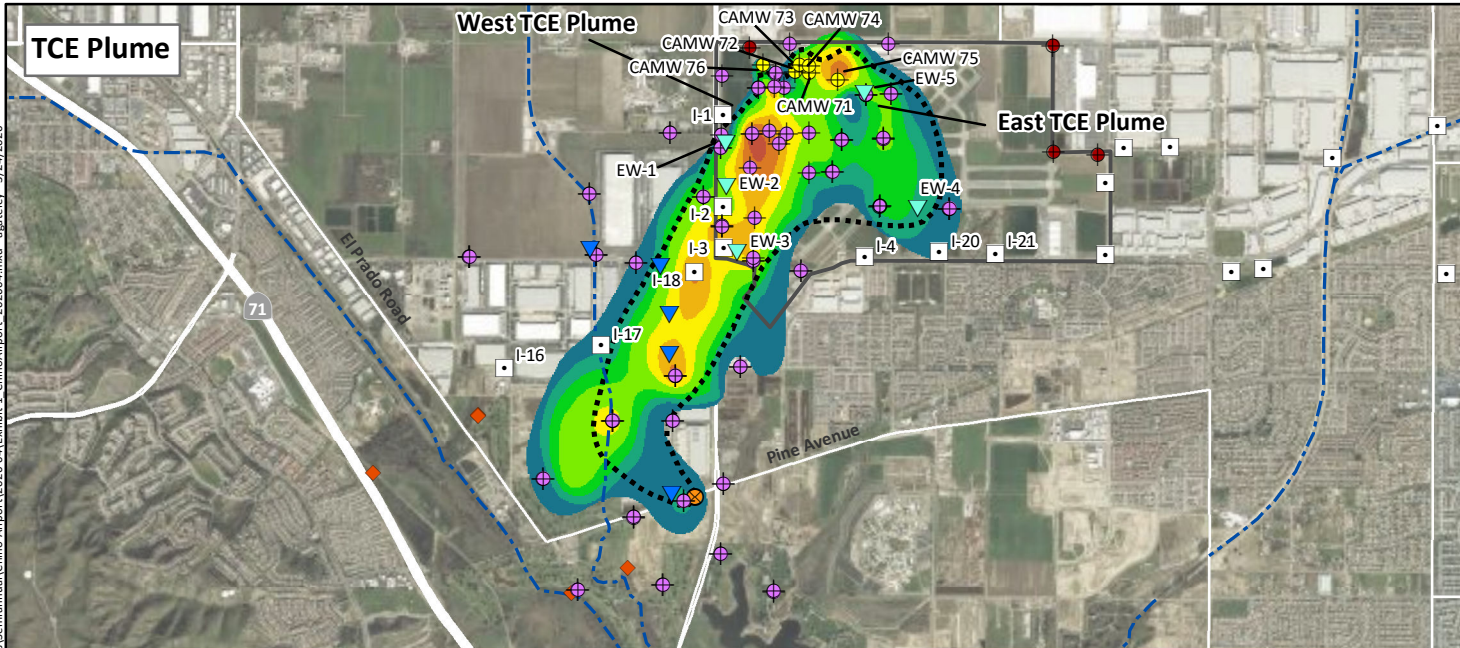
<sup>21</sup> Tetra Tech. (2025). *Fourth Quarter 2025 Remedial Action Operation and Monitoring Report*. Prepared for San Bernardino County Department of Airports. January 29, 2026.

<sup>22</sup> Tetra Tech. (2025). *Paired Indoor Air and Sub-Slab Vapor Sampling in Buildings A340, A515 and A532*. Technical memorandum. September 23, 2025.

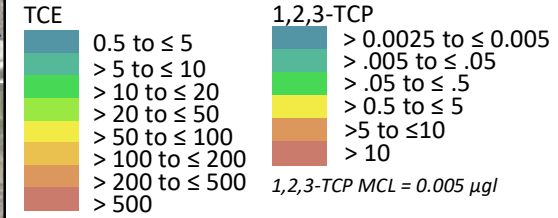
## Exhibit 1

The exhibit presented below is intended to be interpreted alongside the above Status Report.

WEST\_YOST - K:\Clients\941 Chino Basin Watermaster\00-00-00 Master\PE6 - Water Quality\GIS\WQD\Plumes\Status Reports\Chino Airport\2026-04\Exhibit 1 - Chino Airport - 202604.mxd - gateway - 3/24/2026



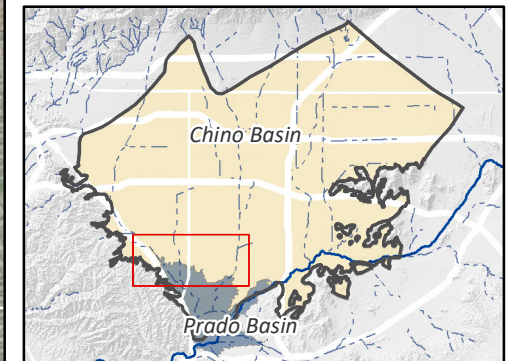
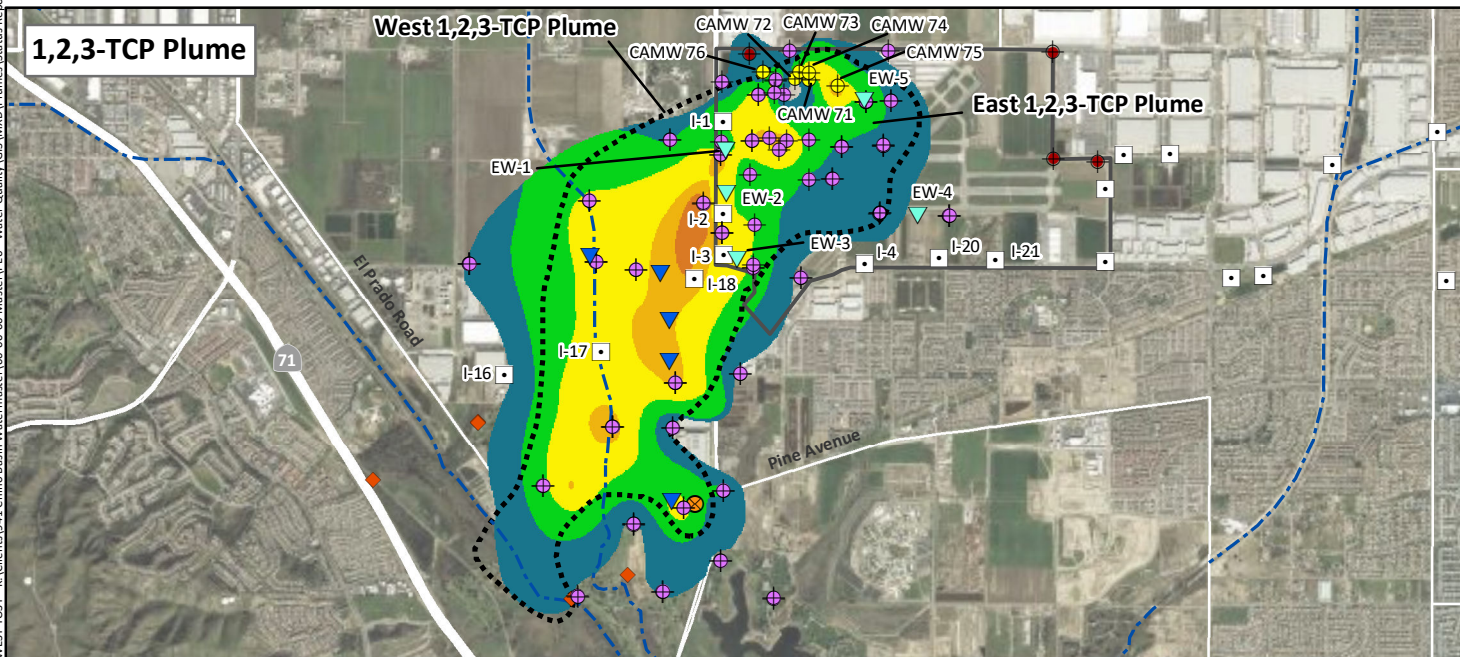
Maximum Concentration ( $\mu\text{g/L}$ )  
July 2019 - June 2024



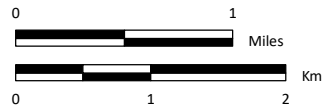
MCL = 5  $\mu\text{g/l}$   
(Delineated by Watermaster in the 2024 SOB Report)

Approximate Extent of TCE ( $>$ 5  $\mu\text{g/l}$ ) or 1,2,3-TCP ( $>$ 0.005  $\mu\text{g/l}$ ) Plume  
(Delineated by the County of San Bernardino for the Winter/Spring 2025 Groundwater Monitoring Report)

- County of San Bernardino Monitoring Well (Some locations have multiple well casings at various depths)
  - Former Agricultural Well
  - Piezometer Near Prado Basin Riparian Habitat
  - HCMP Monitoring Well 4
  - Extraction Well Site
  - Location of Future Extraction Well Site
  - Monitoring Well Installed in Summer 2024
  - CDA Production Well
- Wells are labeled by well name if mentioned in the report
- Chino Airport Boundary
  - Streams & Flood Control Channels



Prepared by:



Prepared for:

Chino Basin Watermaster  
Semi-Annual Plume Report



## Semi-Annual Plume Status Report

### South Archibald Plume April 2026

#### CONTAMINANTS

The primary contaminant is trichloroethene (TCE). The California maximum contaminant level (MCL) for TCE is 5 micrograms per liter ( $\mu\text{g/l}$ ). The maximum TCE concentration detected in a groundwater sample collected from wells within the plume during the last five years (January 2021 to December 2025) is 74  $\mu\text{g/l}$ .

#### LOCATION

The South Archibald TCE plume is located in the southern Chino Basin within the City of Ontario. Exhibit 1 shows the spatial extent of the plume where detectable TCE concentrations are equal to or greater than 0.5  $\mu\text{g/l}$ , as delineated by the Chino Basin Watermaster (Watermaster) for the *2024 State of the Basin Report*.<sup>1</sup> This extent is based on the five-year maximum TCE concentration measured from July 2019 to June 2024. The TCE plume is approximately 23,200 feet long, extending southward from State Route 60 to roughly Kimball Avenue, and is about 14,300 feet wide extending from Grove Avenue to Turner Avenue. Exhibit 1 also shows the complete extent of the plume and the extent of the plume with concentrations greater than 5  $\mu\text{g/l}$  as delineated by the responsible parties during the most recent sampling event in 2025.

#### Regulatory Orders

- 2005 Draft Cleanup and Abatement Orders (CAOs) — In 2005, six Draft CAOs were issued to the following parties: Aerojet-General Corporation, The Boeing Company, Northrop Grumman Corporation, Lockheed Martin Corporation, General Electric Company, and United States Department of Defense.
- Draft CAO R8-2012-00XX for the City of Ontario, City of Upland, and Inland Empire Utilities Agency (IEUA), Former Ontario-Upland Sewage Treatment Plant (Regional Recycling Plant No. 1), City of Ontario, San Bernardino County — This CAO was issued jointly to the City of Ontario, City of Upland, and IEUA.
- Stipulated Settlement and CAO No. R8-2016-0016 for the City of Ontario, the City of Upland, the IEUA, Aerojet Rocketdyne, Inc.<sup>2</sup>, The Boeing Company, General Electric Company, Lockheed Martin Corporation and the United States of America, Former Ontario-Upland Sewage Treatment Plant (Regional Recycling Plant No. 1) City of Ontario— This was the final CAO issued to all parties previously issued Draft CAOs in 2005 and 2012, excluding Northrop Grumman.

<sup>1</sup> West Yost. (2025). *Optimum Basin Management Program – 2024 State of the Basin Report*. Prepared for the Chino Basin Watermaster. September 2025.

<sup>2</sup> Formerly known as Aerojet-General Corporation.

## REGULATORY AND MONITORING HISTORY

In the mid-1980s, as part of its work associated with the Chino Basin Storage Program, the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California collected water quality samples that indicated that TCE was present in private wells in the southern Chino Basin. The Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board (Santa Ana Water Board) confirmed these findings through subsequent rounds of sampling.

In 2005, the Santa Ana Water Board issued Draft CAOs to six parties who were tenants on the Ontario Airport property. On a voluntary basis, four of these parties — Aerojet-General Corporation, The Boeing Company, General Electric Company, and Lockheed Martin Corporation, collectively the ABGL parties, worked with the U.S. Department of Defense to investigate the source of contamination. As part of the investigation, the ABGL parties collected water quality samples from private wells and residential taps, as well from four triple-nested monitoring wells (ABGL wells) constructed in the northern portion of the plume. Private residences in the area where TCE concentrations in groundwater were above the MCL were provided alternative water systems.

In 2008, Santa Ana Water Board staff conducted research to identify the likely source of TCE contamination. Based on their findings, the Santa Ana Water Board staff identified discharges of wastewater to the RP-1 treatment plant and associated disposal areas as potential sources of TCE. Several industries, including previously identified tenants of the Ontario Airport property, were found to have likely used TCE solvents before and during the early 1970's and discharged waste into the sewage system of the Cities of Ontario and Upland, which were tributary to the RP-1 treatment plant and disposal areas. In 2012, the Santa Ana Water Board issued an additional Draft CAO jointly to the City of Ontario, City of Upland, and IEUA as the previous and current operators of the RP-1 treatment plant and disposal area (collectively the RP-1 parties).

From 2007 through 2014, under the oversight of the Santa Ana Water Board, the ABGL parties and the RP-1 parties individually and jointly conducted sampling at private residential wells and taps in areas where groundwater was potentially contaminated with TCE approximately every two years. By 2014, the ABGL parties had sampled all private wells and taps within the plume area at least once as part of the monitoring program. The data was documented in a report published in November 2014.<sup>3</sup> Both the ABGL and RP-1 parties provided potable water to residences in the area where water contained TCE concentrations equal to or above 80 percent of the MCL for TCE (e.g., equal to or greater than 4.0 µg/l) either through water tank systems or by bottled water service.

In July 2015, the RP-1 parties completed a draft feasibility study report for the South Archibald plume (Feasibility Study).<sup>4</sup> The Feasibility Study established cleanup objectives for domestic water supply and plume remediation and evaluated alternatives to achieve these objectives. In August 2015, the RP-1 parties prepared a Draft Remedial Action Plan (RAP) presenting the preferred alternatives for plume remediation and domestic water supply.<sup>5</sup> A public review period followed, and two community meetings were held in September 2015 to educate the public about the plume, the Feasibility Study, and the RAP, and to solicit comments on these reports. In November 2015, the revised Draft Feasibility Study and RAP,

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<sup>3</sup> Erler & Kalinowski, Inc. (2014). *Supplemental Data Report Trichloroethene Plume Central Chino Basin*. Prepared for Aerojet Rocketdyne, Boeing, General Electric, and Lockheed Martin. November 19, 2014.

<sup>4</sup> Dudek. (2015). *Draft Feasibility Study Report South Archibald Plume, Ontario, California*. Prepared for City of Ontario, City of Upland, and Inland Empire Utilities Agency. July 2015.

<sup>5</sup> Dudek. (2015). *Draft Remedial Action Plan South Archibald Plume, Ontario, California*. Prepared for City of Ontario, City of Upland, and Inland Empire Utilities Agency. August 2015.

along with responses to comments, were completed to address input from the public, ABGL, and other parties.<sup>6,7</sup>

In September 2016, the Santa Ana Water Board issued the Final Stipulated Settlement and CAO R8-2016-0016 (Stipulated CAO) jointly to the RP-1 parties and the ABGL parties (excluding Northrop Grumman). The Stipulated CAO was adopted by all parties in November 2016, thus approving the preferred plume remediation and domestic water supply alternatives identified in the RAP. The parties also reached a settlement agreement that aligned with the Stipulated CAO and authorized funding to initiate implementation of the plume remediation alternative.

In July 2021, the RP-1 parties collaborated with the Santa Ana Water Board and Watermaster to distribute a Community Fact Sheet to residences overlying the plume. The Fact Sheet addressed the health and environmental impacts of TCE and other potential contaminants such as per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), as well as their presence in the plume area, and available sampling resources.<sup>8</sup>

## REMEDIAL ACTION

### Plume Remediation

The plume remediation alternative identified in the Feasibility Study, RAP, and Stipulated CAO involves utilizing both existing and newly constructed Chino Basin Desalter Authority (CDA) wells and treatment facilities. The RP-1 parties and the CDA reached a Joint Facility Development Agreement for implementation of a project designed to remediate the South Archibald plume by modifying the CDA facilities to treat TCE and other volatile organic compounds (VOCs) while continuing to use existing facilities (i.e., reverse osmosis membranes) to treat total dissolved solids (TDS) and nitrate. The project consisted of the construction and operation of three new CDA wells (II-10, II-11, and II-12), the construction of a dedicated pipeline to convey groundwater produced from these wells to the Chino-II Desalter treatment facility, and the replacement of existing decarbonators at the Chino-II Desalter facility with an air stripping system to remove TCE and other VOCs from the water treated through the reverse osmosis (RO) trains. Additionally, a new pipeline was constructed to connect existing CDA Well I-11 to the pipeline conveying groundwater produced at the new CDA wells to the Chino-II Desalter facility.

Portions of project construction were funded by Proposition 1 Grant Agreement No. D1712507 (Prop 1 Grant Agreement) and Title XVI grants from the United States Bureau of Reclamation. Construction of CDA wells II-10 and II-11 was completed in September 2015. The equipping of these wells was completed in 2018, and pumping initiated at wells II-11 and II-10 in July and September 2018, respectively. An onsite monitoring well (II-MW-3) near the proposed location of Well II-12 was constructed in 2019 and the construction of Well II-12 was completed in November 2020. The CDA finished equipping Well II-12 in July 2021, and pumping began on August 24, 2021.

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<sup>6</sup> Dudek. (2015). *Draft Feasibility Study Report South Archibald Plume, Ontario, California*. Prepared for City of Ontario, City of Upland, and Inland Empire Utilities Agency. November 2015.

<sup>7</sup> Dudek. (2015). *Draft Remedial Action Plan South Archibald Plume, Ontario, California*. Prepared for City of Ontario, City of Upland, and Inland Empire Utilities Agency. November 2015.

<sup>8</sup> Santa Ana Water Board. (2021). Community Fact Sheet.  
[https://documents.geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/regulators/deliverable\\_documents/9334058463/20210407\\_CommunityFactSheet\\_SouthArchibaldPrivateWells-Short\\_ADA\\_Final.pdf](https://documents.geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/regulators/deliverable_documents/9334058463/20210407_CommunityFactSheet_SouthArchibaldPrivateWells-Short_ADA_Final.pdf)

## Domestic Water Supply

The domestic water supply alternative identified in the Feasibility Study and RAP is a hybrid between the installation of tank systems for some residences, where potable water is delivered from the City of Ontario, and the installation of a pipeline to connect residences directly to the City of Ontario potable water system. Pursuant to the Stipulated CAO, the Cities of Ontario and Upland assumed the responsibility for implementing the domestic water supply alternative and in February 2017, the Cities submitted a *Domestic Water Supply Work Plan* to the Santa Ana Water Board (2017 Work Plan), outlining the approach to provide alternative water supplies to affected residences that were receiving bottled water at the time.<sup>9</sup> The Santa Ana Water Board approved the 2017 Work Plan on March 3, 2017.<sup>10</sup> At that time, 32 residences were using previously installed tank systems and 21 residences were receiving bottled water.

The alternative water supply plan options included: 1) installation of a tank system; 2) connection to an existing City of Ontario water main; 3) connection to a future City of Ontario water main; or 4) remain on bottled water. In accordance with the schedule in the Stipulated CAO and the work plan, tank systems were to be installed within six months of resident consent, connections to Ontario's existing municipal water system were to be constructed within three months of resident consent, and construction and connection to a new water main was to occur within 18 months of resident consent. Additionally, bottled water would be supplied to any newly affected residents immediately upon the determination of the presence of TCE in their water supply at concentrations greater than 4 µg/l. Since 2017, the City of Ontario has continued to conduct annual monitoring at private wells and taps in the area in support of the Stipulated CAO and 2017 Work Plan.

## MONITORING AND REPORTING

Pursuant to the Stipulated CAO and the 2017 Work Plan, the Cities of Ontario and Upland collect annual groundwater quality samples from approximately 50-60 private wells and taps at about 45 residential and agricultural locations within the plume area. The purpose of this sampling is to: 1) evaluate the lateral extent of the plume in accordance with the Stipulated CAO, 2) identify locations where TCE concentrations in private water supply wells exceed the MCL, 3) identify locations where TCE concentrations that were previously above the MCL are now below 80 percent of the MCL, and 4) identify residences that may qualify for participation in the City of Ontario's alternative water supply program. Since 2017, the Cities of Ontario and Upland have conducted nine rounds of sampling, and all the results are documented in annual groundwater monitoring reports submitted to the Santa Ana Water Board. The annual reports are all available to view on the State Water Resources Control Board's GeoTracker online portal.<sup>11</sup>

The IEUA and CDA also conduct groundwater quality sampling under a monitoring and reporting plan developed in 2021 pursuant to the Prop 1 Grant Agreement for the funding of the expansion of the CDA facilities to cleanup TCE in the South Archibald plume, in addition to the high nitrates and TDS in groundwater (Prop 1 Monitoring Plan<sup>12</sup>). The Prop 1 Monitoring Plan includes collecting samples at the CDA production and monitoring wells located within and near the plume. As part of the monitoring

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<sup>9</sup> Dudek. (2017). *Domestic Water Supply Work Plan South Archibald Plume, Ontario, California*. Prepared for the City of Ontario, City of Upland. February 2017.

<sup>10</sup> Santa Ana Water Board. (2017). *Domestic Water Supply Workplan – South Archibald Trichloroethylene Plume, Ontario, California*. Letter to the City of Ontario from Kurt Berchtold. March 3, 2017.

<sup>11</sup> [https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/profile\\_report?global\\_id=T10000004658](https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/profile_report?global_id=T10000004658)

<sup>12</sup> Hazen and Sawyer. (2021). *Monitoring Plan – Chino Basin Improvement and Groundwater Clean-up Project*. Prepared for CDA and IEUA. January 2021.

program, two CDA monitoring wells were constructed at the request of the Santa Ana Water Board and California State Water Resources Control Board (State Board) to monitor key locations in the plume: 1) multi-nested Well II-MW-5 (a, b, c, d) located within the area of the highest concentration of TCE within the plume; and 2) Well II-MW-4 located just upgradient of CDA Well II-12.<sup>13,14</sup> The locations of II-MW-5 (a, b, c, d) and II-MW-4 are shown in Exhibit 1.

The Prop 1 Monitoring Plan includes quarterly sampling for TCE, nitrate, and TDS at CDA production and monitoring wells. The Prop 1 Monitoring Plan also includes sampling for the following additional constituents at all wells except II-MW-5: 1,2,3-trichloropropane (1,2,3-TCP), 1,4-dioxane, perchlorate, and hexavalent chromium. Per the Prop 1 Monitoring Plan, sampling for these additional constituents were conducted at all four well casings at II-MW-5 upon construction completion (March 2021) and then again after the first (2022) and second years (2023). In April and September 2025, the IEUA conducted two more rounds of optional sampling to provide additional data. Moving forward, these constituents will also be sampled at two newly constructed monitoring wells (II-MW-6 and II-MW-7), as outlined in Section 2.2 of the Prop 1 Monitoring Plan and described in the Recent Activity section.

The Prop 1 Monitoring Plan also requires the submission of quarterly and annual Operational Reports<sup>15</sup>, which include data collected during each reporting period. Additionally, the groundwater data is uploaded to the State Board's GeoTracker website.

In addition to the monitoring conducted by the CDA and the RP-1 Parties, Watermaster routinely collects groundwater samples from private wells in the plume area. Watermaster uses data from its own monitoring efforts, along with data collected by the CDA, IEUA, and the City of Ontario, to delineate the South Archibald TCE plume as part of the biennial Chino Basin State of the Basin Report.

## RECENT ACTIVITY

In accordance with the Stipulated CAO, the most recent annual sampling event conducted by the Cities of Ontario and Upland at private wells and taps within the plume area took place from October through November 2025. The sampling was conducted pursuant to the 2025 Sampling Workplan, which was submitted by the City of Ontario in June 2025 and approved by the Santa Ana Water Board on August 22, 2025.<sup>16</sup> During the 2025 sampling event, a total of 47 samples were collected at 35 residential, commercial, and agricultural locations. Additionally, the CDA collected samples from ten CDA pumping and monitoring wells located within and adjacent to the plume. The results of these sampling efforts are documented in the *2025 Annual Groundwater Monitoring Report*<sup>17</sup> and summarized below:

- TCE was detected in 17 samples at residential, commercial, and agricultural locations, ranging from 0.31 µg/l to 46 µg/l and exceeded the MCL of 5 µg/l in six of these samples.

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<sup>13</sup> CDA Board of Directors July 2020 Meeting Agenda and Minutes.  
<https://www.chinodesalter.org/AgendaCenter/ViewFile/Agenda/07022020-309>

<sup>14</sup> Santa Ana Water Board. (2020). *Comments on Responses to Comments on Monitoring and Reporting Plan and Request for Additional Monitoring for Inland Empire Utilities Agency and Chino Basin Desalter Authority Clean-Up Project (Grant Agreement No. D1712507)*. April 24, 2020.

<sup>15</sup> Operational Reports are required to be submitted after the end of the grant term in January 2026.

<sup>16</sup> EEC Environmental. 2025. *Workplan Private Water Supply Well Sampling*. Prepared for City of Ontario. June 30, 2025.

<sup>17</sup> Dudek. (2025). *Annual Groundwater Monitoring Report South Archibald TCE Plume – Ontario, California*. Prepared for the City of Ontario and City of Upland. December 2025.

- TCE was also detected at nine CDA production and monitoring wells sampled throughout 2025.
  - TCE was detected in all groundwater samples from CDA production wells I-10, I-11, II-11, and II-12 with concentrations ranging from 1 µg/l at I-10 to 32 µg/l at II-12 in the center of the plume but only exceeded the MCL of 5 µg/l in CDA Well II-12.
  - The concentration of TCE ranged from 1.2 µg/l to 50 µg/l in groundwater samples collected at various screen intervals from Well II-MW-5 and from 13 µg/l to 40 µg/l in samples collected from Well II-MW-4.
- TCE concentrations in fourteen residential locations along the western edge of the plume are continuing to decline over time. TCE concentrations at CDA Well II-12 and three of the monitoring well intervals in CDA Well II-MW-5 also had a statistically significant decreasing trend.
- TCE concentrations remain the highest in the north-central part of the plume with increasing concentrations observed in residential locations and at CDA Well II-MW-4 in the central part of the plume just north of CDA Well II-12, likely due to groundwater pumping at Well II-12.
- TCE concentrations are also increasing at CDA Wells I-8 and I-11 at the southern extent of the plume. This likely reflects concentrations of TCE in groundwater south of CDA Well II-12 prior to installation.
- Two residential locations were identified as suitable candidates for removal from the alternative water supply program.

On February 17, 2026, the Santa Ana Water Board reviewed the *2025 Annual Groundwater Monitoring Report* and had no comments.

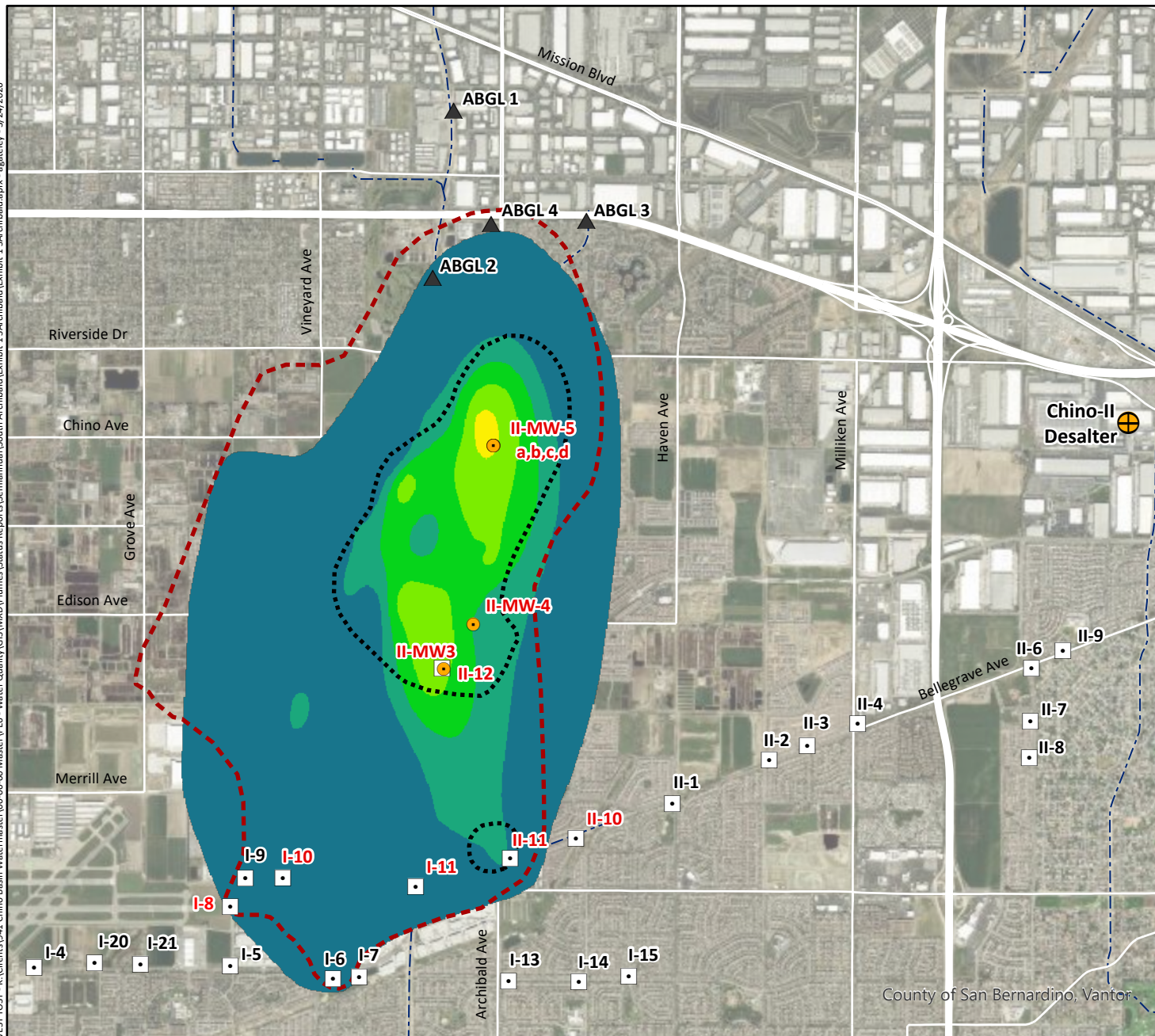
As of the end of 2025, 19 affected residences are supplied water by 13 tank systems. Of these, approximately ten systems are located at the western edge of the plume, where TCE concentrations have remained stable or are declining over time. The City of Ontario will continue to monitor TCE at all potentially affected residences and provide residences with TCE concentrations that exceed 80 percent of the MCL with an alternative water supply.

Construction of all Prop 1 facilities was completed in January 2026 with the completion of new monitoring wells II-MW-6 and II-MW-7. The last Progress Report was submitted in December 2025 and the grant completion date, which marks the transition to the Operational Period was January 31, 2026. The first Operational Report will be due in August 2026 and will cover the full first quarter of the Operational Period from February to April 2026, as well as June 2026.

## Exhibit 1

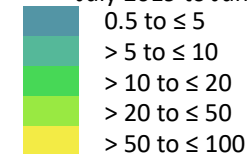
The exhibit presented below is intended to be interpreted alongside the above Status Report.

WEST YOST - K:\Clients\941 Chino Basin Watermaster\00-00-00 Master\PE6 - Water Quality\GIS\WXD\Plumes\Stat.us.Reports\Semianual\South Archibald\Exhibit 1.SArchibald.aprx - 3/24/2026



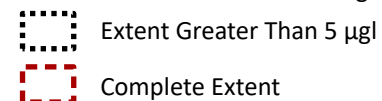
Maximum TCE Concentration (µg/l)

July 2019 to June 2024



(Delineated by Chino Basin Watermaster in the 2024 State of the Basin Report)

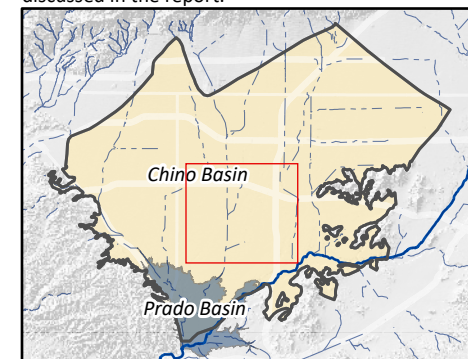
Approximate Extent of the Plume Delineated in the 2025 Annual Groundwater Monitoring Report



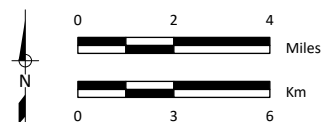
Chino Basin Desalter Authority Facilities:

- Pumping Well\*
- Monitoring Well\*
- Chino-II Desalter Treatment Facility
- ABGL Monitoring Well
- Streams & Flood Control Channels

\*Red labels indicate wells that are specifically discussed in the report.



Prepared by:



Prepared for:

Chino Basin Watermaster  
Semi-Annual Plume Report  
South Archibald

