

I hereby certify that the following agenda was posted at least 72 hours prior to the time of the meeting so noticed below at 24251 Los Alisos Boulevard, Lake Forest, California.



DENNIS P. CAFFERTY, Secretary
of the El Toro Water District and
the Board of Directors thereof



AGENDA

EL TORO WATER DISTRICT REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**July 23, 2026
7:30 a.m.**

**BOARDROOM, DISTRICT OFFICE
24251 LOS ALISOS BLVD., LAKE FOREST, CA 92630**

This meeting will be held in person. As a convenience for the public, the meeting may also be accessed by Zoom and will be available by either computer or telephone audio as indicated below. Because this is an in-person meeting and the virtual component is not required, but rather is being offered as a convenience, if there are any technical issues during the meeting, this meeting will continue and will not be suspended.

Members of the public who wish to comment on any item within the jurisdiction of the District or on any item on the agenda, may attend the meeting in person at the District's office or may observe and address the Meeting by joining at this link:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87388095783> (Meeting ID: 873 8809 5783).

Members of the public who wish only to listen to the telephonic meeting may dial in at the following numbers (669) 900-6833 or (346) 248-7799 with the same Meeting ID noted above. Please be advised the Meeting is being recorded.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER – President Freshley

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Director Gaskins

ROLL CALL (Determination of a Quorum)

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS/PUBLIC COMMENTS

Members of the public may address the Board at this time or they may reserve this opportunity with regard to an item on the agenda, until said item is discussed by the Board. Comments on other items will be heard at the time set aside for "COMMENTS REGARDING NON-AGENDA ITEMS." The public may identify themselves when called on and limit their comments to three minutes.

ITEMS RECEIVED TOO LATE TO BE AGENDIZED

Determine need and take action to agendize items which arose subsequent to the posting of the Agenda. (ROLL CALL VOTE: Adoption of this recommendation requires a two-thirds vote of the Board members present, or, if less than two-thirds of the Board members are present, a unanimous vote of those members present.)

1. **Consider Board Member's Request for Remote Participation (AB 2449)**

2. **Consent Calendar**

(All matters under the Consent Calendar will be approved by one motion unless a Board member or a member of the public requests separate action or discussion on a specific item)

a. Consider approving the minutes of the June 25, 2026 Board meeting

Recommended Action: The Board will consider approving the above Consent Calendar.

3. **Director Reports for Meetings Attended** (Oral Report)

GENERAL MANAGER ACTION ITEMS

4. **Administrative Code Amendment – Artificial Intelligence Policy (§9060)**
(Reference Material Included)

Staff will review and comment on the proposed addition of an Artificial Intelligence Policy to the to the District Administrative Code.

Recommended Action: The Board of Directors will consider adding Section 9060 – Artificial Intelligence Policy to the District Administrative Code.

5. **Administrative Code Amendment – IT Acceptable Use Policy (§9040)**
(Reference Material Included)

Staff will review and comment on updates to Section 9040 of the District Administrative Code regarding the IT Acceptable Use Policy.

Recommended Action: Staff recommend that the Board approve amendments to Section 9040 of the El Toro Water District Administrative Code – IT Acceptable Use Policy.

6. **Orange County Grand Jury Report** (Reference Material Included)

Staff will lead a discussion regarding the District's proposed response to the Grand Jury Report titled "PFAS and Public Awareness"

Recommended Action: Staff recommend the Board approve the District's response letter on the Orange County Grand Jury's findings and recommendations and authorize staff to submit the response letter to the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court.

7. **SOCWA PC-21 – Effluent Transmission Main** (Reference Material Included)

Staff will lead a discussion regarding the proposed discussion with the South Orange County Wastewater Authority regarding the potential acquisition of the Effluent Transmission Main asset by the El Toro Water District.

Recommended Action: The Board will provide direction to staff regarding further engagement with SOCWA in the effort to acquire the Effluent Transmission Main for ownership and operation by the District.

8. **Resolution No. 26-7-1 Commemorating the United States of America's 250th Anniversary** (Reference Material Included)

The Board will consider adopting Resolution No. 26-7-1 which commemorates the 250th Anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

Recommended Action: Staff recommends that the Board approve Resolution No. 26-7-1 which commemorates the 250th Anniversary of the United States of America.

RESOLUTION NO. 27-7-1
RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE EL TORO WATER DISTRICT
COMMEMORATING THE 250TH ANNIVERSARY OF
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

GENERAL MANAGER INFORMATION ITEMS

9. **Madison AI / Team Solve – Knowledge Twin Artificial Intelligence Platforms**
(Reference Material Included)

Staff will provide an update on the Madison AI and Team Solve Artificial Intelligence Platforms that staff are considering to improve administrative and operational efficiencies.

10. **General Manager's Monthly Report** (Reference Material Included)
Staff will review and comment on the General Manager's Monthly Report.
11. **Legislative Reports** (Reference Material Included)
Staff and General Counsel will review and comment on the Legislative reports.
12. **Public Education and Outreach Report** (Reference Material Included)
Staff will review and comment on the Public Education and Outreach report.
13. **Water Use Efficiency Report** (Reference Material Included)
Staff will review and comment on the Water Use Efficiency Report.
14. **South Orange County Wastewater Authority (SOCWA) Report** (Reference Material Included)
 - a. SOCWA Board Meeting – July 9, 2026
 - b. SOCWA Engineering Committee Meeting – July 16, 2026
 - c. SOCWA Finance Committee Meeting – July 21, 2026 (canceled)
15. **Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWDOC) Report** (Reference Material Included)
 - a. MWDOC Met Directors Workshop – July 1, 2026
 - b. MWDOC Planning/Operations Meeting – July 6, 2026
 - c. MWDOC Admin/Finance Meeting – July 8, 2026
 - d. MWDOC Board Meeting – July 15, 2026
 - e. MWDOC/OCWD Joint Planning Meeting – July 22, 2026 - Canceled
16. **Local Agency Formation Commission Report** (Reference Material Included)
Report on the July 8, 2026 LAFCO meeting – Cancelled
17. **ISDOC Meetings Report** (Reference Material Included)
Report on the July 7, 2026 ISDOC Executive Committee meeting
18. **WACO Meeting Report** (Reference Material Included)
Report on the July 10, 2026 WACO Meeting

COMMITTEE AND GENERAL INFORMATION

19. Dates to Remember for July/August (Reference Material Included)

COMMENTS REGARDING NON-AGENDA ITEMS

ATTORNEY REPORT

CLOSED SESSION

At this time the Board will go into Closed Session as follows:

1. Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9 (d) (4) to consult with legal counsel and staff- Potential Initiation of Litigation. (one matter)

REGULAR SESSION

REPORT ON CLOSED SESSION (Legal Counsel)

Mr. Granito will provide an oral report on the Closed Session.

ADJOURNMENT

The agenda material for this meeting is available to the public at the District's Administrative Office, which is located at 24251 Los Alisos Blvd., Lake Forest, CA. 92630. If any additional material related to an open session agenda item is distributed to all or a majority of the board of directors after this agenda is posted, such material will be made available for immediate public inspection at the same location.

Request for Disability-Related Modifications or Accommodations

If you require any disability-related accommodation, including auxiliary aids or services, in order to participate in this public meeting, please telephone the District's Recording Secretary, Marisol Melendez at (949) 837-7050, extension 225 at least forty-eight (48) hours prior to said meeting. If you prefer, your request may be submitted in writing to El Toro Water District, P.O. Box 4000, Laguna Hills, California 92654, Attention: Marisol Melendez.

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
EL TORO WATER DISTRICT

June 25, 2026

President Freshley called the meeting of the Board of Directors of the EL TORO WATER DISTRICT to order at 7:30 a.m.

Director Monin led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

Directors MARK MONIN, MIKE GASKINS, KAY HAVENS, KATHRYN FRESHLEY, and WYATT McCLEAN participated.

Also participating were DENNIS P. CAFFERTY, General Manager, GILBERT J. GRANITO, General Counsel, VISHAV SHARMA, CFO, JUDY CIMORELL, Director of Human Resources, HANNAH FORD, Director of Engineering, SCOTT HOPKINS, Operations Superintendent, MIKE MIAZGA, Information Technology Manager (Zoom), SHERRI SEITZ, Public Affairs Manager, VU CHU, Water Resources Supervisor, and MARISOL MELENDEZ, Recording Secretary.

Determination of a Quorum

Roll Call:

Director McClean	Present
Director Monin	Present
Director Gaskins	Present
Vice President Havens	Present
President Freshley	Present

Five Board members were present for the meeting. Therefore, a Quorum was determined.

Oral Communications/Public Comments

There were no comments.

Items Received Too Late to be Agendized

President Freshley asked if there were any items received too late to be agendized. Mr. Cafferty replied no.

Consent Calendar

President Freshley asked for a Motion.

Motion: Director Monin made a Motion, seconded by Director McClean to approve the Consent Calendar.

Roll Call Vote:

Director McClean	aye
Director Monin	aye
Director Gaskins	aye
Vice President Havens	aye
President Freshley	aye

Directors Reports for Meetings Attended

Director Gaskins stated that he attended the MWDOC P&O meeting, the MWDOC/MET Directors Workshop, the MWDOC Board meeting, the District's Special Board meeting, the MWDOC Water Policy Forum, the Engineering and Finance committee meeting, the TV-6 interview, the SB 827 Fiscal training, and the District's regular Board meeting.

Director Monin stated that he attended both District Board meetings, the MWDOC P&O meeting, the ISDOC Executive meeting, the MWDOC/Met Directors Workshop, the WACO meeting, the MWDOC A&F meeting, the District's Special Board meeting, the MWDOC Water Policy Dinner, the MWDOC Board meeting, and the Laguna Woods City Council meeting.

Director McClean stated that he attended a meeting with the auditor, the District's Special Board meeting, the SB 827 Fiscal training, the Mission Viejo Chamber of

Commerce meeting, the MWDOC Water Policy Forum, the MWDOC P&O meeting, the MWDOC Admin/Finance meeting, the MWDOC Board meeting, the Santiago Aqueduct Commission meeting, the ISDOC Executive meeting, the District's Engineering and Finance meeting, and the District's regular Board meeting.

Vice President Havens stated that she attended the MWDOC P&O meeting, the MWDOC/Met Directors Workshop, the WACO meeting, the MWDOC Admin/Finance meeting, the District's Special Board meeting, the Mission Viejo Chamber of Commerce lunch, the Agenda Review meeting, the MWDOC Water Policy Dinner, the MWDOC Board meeting, the Santiago Aqueduct Commission meeting, the OC WaterReuse meeting, the District's Engineering and Finance meeting, the CSDA Fiscal Training, may attend the Aliso Creek Collaborative meeting, and the District's regular Board meeting.

President Freshley stated that she attended both ETWD's regular Board meetings, the District's Special Board meeting, the Agenda Review meeting, the LAFCO meeting, the Laguna Woods City Council meeting, the WACO meeting, the MWDOC P&O meeting, the MWDOC Board meeting, the Mission Viejo Chamber Luncheon, and the SB 827 Fiscal Training.

ETWD 2025 Urban Water Management Plan, 2026 Water Shortage Contingency Plan and Water Shortage Contingency Response Ordinance (Ordinance No. 2026-1)

Mr. Cafferty stated that this item introduces three interrelated topics which are the 2025 Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP), the 2026 Water Shortage Contingency Plan (WSCP), and the Water Shortage Contingency Response Ordinance No. 2026-1.

Mr. Chu gave a presentation on the UWMP which provides the foundation for thoughtful planning by connecting state wide policy, water supply planning, operations, and long-term water reliability. The UWMP must be adopted every 5 years and it assess current and future water demands and supplies. The WSCP is required by the California Water Code as part of the UWMP and it identifies the District's shortage response actions, communications, enforcement, and monitoring. It also addresses catastrophic interruptions such as power outages, earthquakes, or other emergencies. Mr. Chu stated that the Ordinance provides legal authority needed to implement WSCP shortage response actions.

OPEN PUBLIC HEARING

At approximately 7:50 a.m. President Freshley opened the Public Hearing. Mr. Cafferty reported that the Notice of Public Hearing was appropriately noticed in the newspaper on two different publication dates and the evidences of the notices are in the appendices of the document.

There was no public in attendance and there were no comments.

CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING

President Freshley closed the Public Hearing at approximately 7:51 a.m.

REGULAR SESSION – ACTION ITEMS

Resolution No. 26-6-3 Adopting the El Toro Water District 2025 Urban Water Management Plan

President Freshley asked for a Motion.

Motion: Director Gaskins made a Motion, seconded by Vice President Havens to adopt Resolution No. 26-6-3 which adopts the El Toro Water District 2025 Urban Water Management Plan.

Roll Call Vote:

Director McClean	aye
Director Monin	aye
Director Gaskins	aye
Vice President Havens	aye
President Freshley	aye

Resolution No. 26-6-4 Adopting the El Toro Water District 2026 Water Shortage

Contingency Plan

President Freshley asked for a Motion.

Motion: Vice President Havens made a Motion, seconded by Director Monin to adopt Resolution No. 26-6-4 which adopts the El Toro Water District 2026 Water Shortage Contingency Plan.

Roll Call Vote:

Director McClean	aye
Director Monin	aye
Director Gaskins	aye
Vice President Havens	aye
President Freshley	aye

Resolution No. 26-6-5 Adopting the El Toro Water District Water Shortage Contingency

Response Ordinance No. 2026-1

President Freshley asked for a Motion.

Motion: Vice President Havens made a Motion, seconded by Director Gaskins to adopt Resolution No. 26-6-5 which adopts the El Toro Water District 2026 Water Shortage Contingency Response Ordinance No. 2026-1.

Roll Call Vote:

Director McClean	aye
Director Monin	aye
Director Gaskins	aye
Vice President Havens	aye
President Freshley	aye

General Manager Action Items

California Special District Association (CSDA) Board of Directors, Southern Network – Seat C Election

Mr. Cafferty stated that CSDA is holding elections for their Southern Network - Seat C Board member. The package includes the candidate information for those who are running.

The Board held a discussion and selected John Horst for the CSDA Board of Directors, Southern Network – Seat C nomination.

President Freshley asked for a Motion.

Motion: Director Gaskins made a Motion, seconded by Director Monin to select John Horst and direct the General Manager to cast the ballot for said candidate for the CSDA Board of Directors, Southern Network, Seat C, and cast the ballot by the July 24, 2026 deadline.

Roll Call Vote:

Director McClean	aye
Director Monin	aye
Director Gaskins	aye
Vice President Havens	aye
President Freshley	aye

General Manager Information Items

General Manager's Monthly Report

Mr. Cafferty reported that the water meters at Clubhouse Four were restored and are back in service. Restoration work on the property is underway.

Mr. Cafferty stated that after following up with staff he responded to Mr. Cardenas with appropriate information regarding the reason why staff was at his house.

Mr. Cafferty stated that next month's Board meeting will include an item responding to the Grand Jury report regarding PFAS.

Legislative Reports

Director Gaskins stated that the SB 827 training by CSDA was informative and reaffirmed the District's current policies and procedures.

Public Education and Outreach Report

Ms. Seitz reported that Director Gaskins appeared on the Laguna Woods Village "This Day" interview. The Water Quality Report will be mailed out by the end of the month. The new website training is scheduled for next week and staff plans to go live soon after. She also provided details on the District's participation in America's 250 celebration.

Water Use Efficiency Report

Mr. Chu reported that demand continued to rise in May with total usage up approximately 8% and on a year to date basis usage is only slightly lower than the prior year. He added that the recycled water demand is projected to be approximately 2% higher than last year.

SOCWA Reports

Ms. Ford reported that the design for the Effluent Transmission Main (ETM) Reach B alignment project has been accelerated to accommodate the City's request to complete the work by next October. She also reported that the CEQA proposals were reviewed and will not go to the Board for recommendation since it falls within the General Manager's authority.

Mr. Cafferty explained the historical arrangement for the ETM, noting that the District has participated in the project through PC-21 at SOCWA. Following IRWD's and MNWD's withdrawal, the District assumed 100% capacity. He noted that Ms. Ford has led the ETM replacement project and the grant application process for the Trail Bridge Crossing Project. Mr. Cafferty stated that staff has discussed the possibility of the District assuming ownership of the pipeline. This would allow staff to proactively maintain the facilities. Other pipeline users are supportive of furthering discussions.

Ms. Ford added that direct ownership would reduce the administrative burden without increasing liability on the District. She noted that ownership would allow the District to appropriately charge the beneficiaries for capital labor, add to the District's assets, and provide better control over discharge to the ocean.

The Board held a discussion and staff will initiate discussions with SOCWA and report back to the Board in July.

MWDOC

There were no comments.

South Orange County Agencies Group Meeting

Director Gaskins noted that the meeting format has slightly changed to include conversation topics outside of South Orange County.

Santiago Aqueduct Commission Meeting Report

Vice President Havens reported that the meeting included a discussion on the budget, a presentation on the Baker pipeline relocation, and the 7-day shut off of the Allen-McCulloch pipeline which is expected next March.

LAFCO

President Freshley reported that the commission approved amendments to CEQA, a new auditing accounting firm was hired, and Derek McGregor was reappointed as the regular public member of OC LAFCO.

ISDOC

Director Monin reported that the draft election timeline was discussed.

WACO

Director Monin reported that the program included the topic of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act.

COMMITTEE AND GENERAL INFORMATION

Dates to Remember for June/July 2026

There were no comments.

Comments Regarding Non-Agenda Items

There were no comments.

Attorney Report

Mr. Granito reported that there is a need for a Closed Session today in regards to the item on today's Closed Session agenda.

Closed Session

At approximately 9:21 a.m. everyone left the open session except the Board members, General Counsel, Mr. Cafferty, and Ms. Ford.

Regular Session

At approximately 9:33 a.m., the meeting returned to Regular Session. Also, at this time, Ms. Melendez returned to the meeting.

Open Session Report

Mr. Granito reported that the Board went into Closed Session to discuss the item on today's Closed Session Agenda. No reportable action was taken.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:34 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

MARISOL MELENDEZ
Recording Secretary

APPROVED:

KATHRYN FRESHLEY, President of
the El Toro Water District and the
Board of Directors thereof

DENNIS P. CAFFERTY, Secretary
of the El Toro Water District and
the Board of Directors thereof



STAFF REPORT

To: Board of Directors

Meeting Date: July 23, 2026

From: Dennis Cafferty, General Manager

Subject: Administrative Code Amendment – Artificial Intelligence Policy (§9060)

District staff have been engaged for some time regarding the potential use cases for Artificial Intelligence (AI) to enhance efficiency of the District's administrative and operational functions. Staff established an AI Committee to discuss the benefits of AI, the potential uses at the District and the guardrails necessary to ensure safe implementation and use of AI tools and resources.

The proposed AI policy is the result of a collaborative effort of a number of staff, led by the IT Manager and Director of Engineering, to provide detailed policy requirements relative to the use of AI at the District.

Recommended Action:

The Board of Directors will consider adding Section 9060 – Artificial Intelligence Policy to the District Administrative Code.

1. PURPOSE

This policy establishes a comprehensive governance structure for AI systems used by, procured by, or operated on behalf of the District. This policy enables use of AI systems for the benefit of the District while safeguarding against potential harm. This policy applies to all District employees, directors, interns, volunteers, consultants, contractors, vendors, and other individuals or entities using AI systems for District business purposes or while performing work on behalf of the District. This policy sets the minimum standards expected of District employees. Individual departments may set stricter rules based on their specific needs.

The key objectives of the AI Policy are to:

- Define requirements governing the use, procurement, deployment, and oversight of AI systems.
- Protect confidential District information and personally identifiable information.
- Establish approval and review requirements for AI systems.
- Define roles and responsibilities related to AI governance.
- Align AI use with existing cybersecurity, privacy, public records, and records retention requirements.
- Establish procedures for responding to AI-related incidents.
- Define how AI systems may be used for legitimate District purposes in accordance with applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and District policies.

This policy supplements and shall be read in conjunction with §9040 – IT Acceptable Use Policy.

2. DEFINITIONS

For purposes of this policy, the following definitions apply:

- A. AI system:** Any software, hardware, application, service, tool, utility, or automated process that uses AI to generate content, make predictions, provide recommendations, support decision-making, or perform tasks.
- B. Agentic AI:** An AI system that can independently plan, initiate, coordinate, or execute actions, interact with software systems or data sources, or make recommendations or decisions with limited human intervention.
- C. Approved AI System:** An AI system or service authorized by the IT Manager and General Manager for District business purposes following an appropriate security, privacy, legal, and operational review. Approved AI

Systems may process District information in accordance with this policy but shall not establish persistent or automated connections to Connected District Data Sources unless specifically authorized as a Managed AI System.

- D. Connected District Data Source:** A District information system, application, database, repository, file share, or other electronic resource that an AI system can access through an application programming interface (API), connector, database connection, file share, or other persistent or automated integration.
- E. Deepfake:** An impersonation of another that has been convincingly altered and manipulated to misrepresent someone as doing or saying something that was not actually done or said.
- F. District Information:** Any information created, received, maintained, or used by the District in conducting its official business, regardless of format or storage location. District Information includes Public, Confidential, and Restricted information as defined by District policy.
- G. Generative AI:** An AI system that creates new content such as text, images, audio, video, code, summaries, analyses, or other outputs based on user prompts or other inputs.
- H. Human Oversight:** Review, approval, monitoring, or intervention by District Personnel who remain accountable for decisions, actions, and outputs generated by an AI system.
- I. Managed AI System:** An Approved AI System that has been specifically authorized by IT Manager and General Manager to establish persistent or automated connections to one or more Connected District Data Sources. Managed AI Systems are subject to enhanced security, privacy, contractual, and administrative controls and shall access only the minimum information necessary to perform their authorized business function.
- J. Personally Identifiable Information (PII):** Information that can be used on its own or in combination with other information to identify, contact, locate, or distinguish a specific individual. Examples include, but are not limited to, names, addresses, telephone numbers, email addresses, Social Security numbers, driver's license numbers, financial account information, customer account information, employee records, and other information protected by applicable federal, state, or local privacy laws.
- K. Public AI System:** An AI system or service that has not been reviewed or approved by the District for processing District Information and is not subject to District contractual, security, privacy, or administrative controls.

3. **ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES**

- A. **Information Technology (IT) Manager:** The IT Manager is responsible for administering this policy, maintaining a list of approved AI systems, coordinating security and privacy reviews, and monitoring compliance with this policy. The IT Manager may implement technical controls, logging, web filtering, endpoint controls, identity management, or other administrative and technical measures necessary to monitor and enforce compliance with this Policy.
- B. **District Personnel:** District employees, directors, interns, volunteers, and other authorized users are responsible for complying with this policy, classifying data prior to use in AI systems, protecting District information, and exercising appropriate human oversight of AI-generated outputs. District personnel authorized to use AI systems for District business purposes may be required to annually acknowledge receipt of and compliance with this policy and attend any related training requirements established by the District.
- C. **General Counsel:** General Counsel, and/or Special Counsel when designated or otherwise appropriate, shall advise the District regarding legal, regulatory, contractual, privacy, public records, and risk-management issues associated with the use of AI systems.
- D. **General Manager:** The General Manager may approve, inspect, restrict, suspend, or prohibit the use of any AI system when necessary to protect District interests, ensure compliance with District policy, or mitigate operational, legal, cybersecurity, or public records risks.
- E. **Human Resources:** Human Resources shall participate in the evaluation and oversight of AI systems used for recruiting, hiring, employee evaluations, promotions, discipline, compensation, benefits administration, employee monitoring, or other employment-related purposes. Human Resources shall work with the IT Manager, General Manager, and General Counsel to help ensure such AI systems comply with applicable laws, District policies, employee privacy requirements, and principles of fairness and nondiscrimination.

4. **CORE AI REQUIREMENTS**

The following requirements govern all use of AI systems for District business purposes. AI systems are authorized for District use based on the level of District review, contractual protections, security controls, and technical integration with District information systems.

A. Data Classification Requirements

1. District personnel shall classify information before entering, uploading, transmitting, or otherwise providing information to an AI system.

Classification	Examples	AI Usage
Public	Website content including Board agendas and board packets, public meeting materials	Allowed
Confidential District Information	Internal procedures, draft documents, infrastructure information, utility system maps, emergency response plans, Master Plans, Asset Management Plans, geospatial data, contracts under negotiation, legal advice, cybersecurity information, vendor proposals, internal emails, and other non-public District information	Allowed only in Approved AI Systems and Managed AI Systems
Restricted	PII, employee records, payroll information, financial account data, passwords, credentials, encryption keys, security configurations, protected health information, information protected by law from public disclosure, attorney-client privileged information, and any information designated by the District as Restricted	Never enter into AI systems

2. The IT Manager may classify additional systems, applications, or information as Confidential or Restricted when necessary to protect District operations.

B. Authorized AI System Categories

1. Public AI Systems shall not be used to process Confidential District Information or Restricted Information.
2. Approved AI Systems may be used to process Confidential District Information for authorized District business in accordance with this policy but shall not establish connections to Connected District Data Sources unless authorized as a Managed AI System.
3. Managed AI Systems may access Connected District Data Sources only as approved by the IT Manager and General Manager and only with the minimum permissions necessary to perform their authorized function.

4. Restricted Information, including PII, shall never be entered into any AI System.

C. Human Review and Accountability

1. AI systems are tools that assist District personnel and shall not replace professional judgment.
2. Employees remain solely responsible for all content, analyses, recommendations, decisions, communications, reports, records, and other work products created with the assistance of AI systems.
3. Any output generated by an AI system shall be reviewed, verified, edited as necessary, and approved by the employee before being relied upon, distributed, transmitted, published, incorporated into District records, or used to support operational, regulatory, financial, engineering, legal, personnel, or policy decisions.
4. The individual using the AI system is accountable for the accuracy, completeness, and appropriateness of the final work product.
5. AI systems shall not be used to generate, modify, or debug District systems, applications, or program codes without approval of the IT Manager and General Manager.
6. AI systems shall not be used to create text, audio, or visual content that is intended to represent any individual without their explicit approval and consent.
7. AI systems shall not be used to generate Deepfakes or false or misleading information.
8. AI systems shall not be used for any malicious activity.
9. District personnel shall not use AI systems to create or reproduce content in a manner that knowingly infringes copyrights, trademarks, licenses, publicity rights, or other intellectual property rights. AI-generated content intended for publication or external distribution shall be reviewed for potential intellectual property concerns prior to use.
10. AI-generated images, audio, or video used for District business shall not materially misrepresent District operations, facilities, personnel, or events.

D. Human Oversight of Agentic AI Systems

1. Agentic AI systems shall not be permitted to independently make operational, financial, personnel, customer service, regulatory compliance, procurement, or public communication decisions without meaningful human oversight and approval.

2. Agentic AI systems may assist District personnel by generating recommendations, analyses, drafts, or proposed actions; however, final authority and accountability shall remain with District Personnel.
3. The deployment of any Agentic AI system that can initiate actions, modify records, access District systems, interact with external parties, or execute workflows shall require prior approval by the IT Manager and General Manager.
4. AI systems shall not directly monitor, control, modify, or issue commands to Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) systems, operational technology, treatment processes, pumps, valves, reservoirs, lift stations, chemical feed systems, laboratory systems, or other critical infrastructure without a documented risk assessment, cybersecurity review, operational testing, defined human override, and written approval of the General Manager and IT Manager.
5. AI systems shall not be used as the sole basis for operational decisions affecting water quality, treatment operations, regulatory reporting, emergency response, critical infrastructure operation, or public health.
6. AI systems shall not independently generate or distribute emergency notifications, public safety messages, regulatory notices, boil water advisories, or other emergency communications without review and approval by District Personnel.

E. Human Decision-Making and Fair Treatment

1. AI systems shall not be used as the sole basis for decisions affecting employment, compensation, hiring, promotion, discipline, benefits, customer service, regulatory compliance, utility service, ratepayer treatment, or other matters that may materially affect individuals or organizations.
2. Prior to deploying an AI system for human resources, customer-facing, regulatory, or decision-support functions, the District shall evaluate the system for accuracy, reliability, fairness, and potential unintended impacts.
3. AI systems may be used to assist District personnel by providing information, analysis, recommendations, or draft materials; however, final decisions shall be made by District Personnel exercising independent judgment.
4. AI systems used by or on behalf of the District to support employment, customer-facing, regulatory, or other decisions affecting individuals shall comply with applicable laws governing automated decision-making and shall be subject to appropriate human oversight.

5. Prior to deploying an AI system for human resources, recruiting, hiring, employee evaluation, promotion, discipline, compensation, benefits administration, or other employment-related functions, the proposed use shall be reviewed by the General Manager, Human Resources, the IT Manager, and General Counsel, as appropriate.

5. AI SYSTEM GOVERNANCE AND PROCUREMENT

A. Acceptable Use

1. District personnel are encouraged to use Approved AI Systems and Managed AI Systems to improve productivity, operational efficiency, document drafting, research, data analysis, meeting preparation, report development, software development assistance, training development, professional communications, and administrative functions, provided all requirements of this policy are followed.
2. District personnel shall not enable or authorize AI meeting assistants, transcription services, recording bots, or similar AI-enabled meeting tools for District-hosted meetings unless the service is an Approved or Managed AI System used in accordance with this Policy.

B. Approval of AI Systems

1. The IT Manager, with approval of the General Manager, shall maintain a list of Approved AI Systems and Managed AI Systems authorized for District business purposes.
2. AI systems shall not be procured, subscribed to, connected, integrated, deployed, or installed for District business unless approved in accordance with this policy.
3. The IT Manager and the General Manager may approve, restrict, suspend, or prohibit the use of any AI system that presents unacceptable cybersecurity, privacy, operational, legal, public records, or other risks to the District.
4. Approved AI Systems and Managed AI Systems may be periodically reviewed to verify continued business need, appropriate permissions, vendor compliance, and alignment with District requirements.

C. Review of AI Systems

1. Prior to approval for District use, AI systems shall be evaluated for security, privacy, data protection, records management, operational suitability, and compliance with applicable laws, regulations, and District policies.

2. The IT Manager may require vendors to provide documentation regarding data handling practices, security controls, privacy protections, retention policies, and other information necessary to evaluate the risks associated with an AI system.
3. District personnel shall not install AI-related APIs, plug-ins, connectors, integrations, or software capable of accessing Connected District Data Sources unless specifically authorized as part of a Managed AI System.

D. Vendor Requirements

1. Vendors providing AI-enabled products or services to the District may be required to disclose whether District information, prompts, inputs, outputs, documents, records, or other data may be retained, accessed, shared, or used to train, fine-tune, improve, or develop AI models.
2. District information shall not be used to train, fine-tune, improve, or develop AI models without the express written authorization of the District.
3. The District may require contractual provisions governing the use, protection, retention, return, destruction, and verification of District information processed by AI systems. The District may request documentation reasonably necessary to verify compliance with such requirements, including security documentation, privacy practices, audit reports, certifications, and data handling procedures.
4. Vendors providing AI-enabled products or services shall, upon request, provide documentation demonstrating compliance with applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations governing the use of AI, including requirements related to automated decision-making, algorithmic bias, privacy, discrimination, and transparency, as applicable to the services provided.

E. Data Retention and Disposition

1. The District may require that AI system vendors maintain logs sufficient to support security investigations, compliance reviews, and incident response activities where technically feasible.
2. Upon termination, expiration, replacement, or discontinuation of an AI system, the District may require the return, transfer, deletion, or destruction of District information in accordance with applicable contracts, records retention requirements, and District policies.
3. Vendors shall cooperate with District requests regarding the return, deletion, or destruction of District information and shall provide written certification of such actions when requested by the District.

6. PUBLIC RECORDS AND RECORDS RETENTION

The District is subject to the California Public Records Act and applicable records retention requirements. The use of AI systems does not alter, reduce, or eliminate any obligations relating to public records, records retention, or records management.

A. Public Records

1. District personnel shall comply with the District's Public Records Act Response Policy (§9050) when using AI systems for District business purposes.
2. Information entered into, generated by, transmitted through, or retained by an AI system may constitute a public record and may be subject to disclosure under the California Public Records Act.
3. District personnel shall not assume that prompts, inputs, outputs, conversations, attachments, or other information associated with an AI system are exempt from disclosure solely because they were created or stored within an AI platform. District personnel shall assume that such information may be discoverable or subject to disclosure unless otherwise protected by law.
4. District personnel shall not use AI systems in a manner that intentionally circumvents public records retention, disclosure, or discovery obligations.

B. Records Retention

1. District personnel shall comply with the District's Records Retention Policy when creating, using, maintaining, storing, or disposing of records generated with the assistance of AI systems.
2. The use of AI systems shall not be used to circumvent, avoid, or modify applicable records retention requirements.
3. Records generated with the assistance of AI systems shall be retained, managed, and disposed of in the same manner as comparable records created through other means.

7. AI INCIDENTS

Any District personnel who become aware of an actual or suspected AI-related security, privacy, operational, legal, or compliance incident shall promptly notify their supervisor and the IT Manager.

Examples of AI incidents include, but are not limited to:

- A. Unauthorized disclosure of District information or Restricted information;
- B. Unauthorized use of AI systems;
- C. Circumventing District controls intended to enforce this Policy.
- D. Use of unapproved AI systems for District business purposes;
- E. Exposure of District information to publicly available AI systems;
- F. AI-generated information that results in material operational, legal, regulatory, financial, or public communications impacts; and
- G. Security incidents involving AI systems or vendors providing AI-enabled services.

The IT Manager shall coordinate investigation, containment, mitigation, and response activities. The IT Manager may suspend AI access, disable integrations, require password resets, isolate systems, or preserve logs.

8. ENFORCEMENT

Compliance with this policy is a condition of access to and use of District information, systems, networks, and AI resources.

Violations of this policy may result in disciplinary action, revocation of system access, termination of contracts, recovery of damages, legal action, or other remedies authorized by law, District policy, or contractual agreement.

The General Manager and IT Manager may investigate suspected violations of this policy and take appropriate corrective action. Nothing in this policy limits the District's authority to restrict, suspend, terminate, inspect, monitor, or prohibit the use of any AI system when necessary to protect District information, operations, personnel, customers, or the public interest.



STAFF REPORT

To: Board of Directors

Meeting Date: July 23, 2026

From: Dennis Cafferty, General Manager

Subject: Administrative Code Amendment – IT Acceptable Use Policy (§9040)

Section 9040 of the El Toro Water District Administrative Code – IT Acceptable Use Policy provides guidelines and requirements that govern District staff's use of District Information Technology Resources.

The existing policy provides limited direction regarding the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) systems. Staff are proposing to add a new standalone AI policy to the Administrative Code.

Modifications to Section 10 of the IT Acceptable Use Policy are proposed to replace the existing limited reference to AI requirements with a specific reference to the new AI Policy.

Staff reviewed the entire IT Acceptable Use Policy and do not recommend any other changes.

A redline version of the document clearly showing the changes to Section 10 is included along with a clean version of the modified policy.

Recommended Action:

Staff recommend that the Board approve amendments to Section 9040 of the El Toro Water District Administrative Code – IT Acceptable Use Policy.

§9040 IT ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY

1. PURPOSE

The District provides employees with the Information Technology Resources necessary to promote the efficient conduct of business. All Information Technology Resources are to be used as prescribed within this policy.

This policy applies to all individuals who utilize Information Technology Resources and to District-owned or personal property that is connected to or retrieves data from District systems. This policy establishes procedures relating to the acquisition and use of computer hardware and software and establishes procedures to ensure compliance with license agreements, to protect hardware, software and data from loss or abuse and provide guidance regarding the appropriate utilization of District Information Technology Resources.

This policy will pertain to all District Information Technology Resources except those relating to the SCADA system.

2. DEFINITIONS

For purposes of this policy, the following definitions apply:

A. Information Technology Resource

Information Technology Resources are computer hardware, computer software, tools that allow access to computer hardware, external network access such as the Internet or tools that service information, access information, and the information itself and all information and data stored on District equipment as well as any other equipment or communications that are considered an Information Technology Resource.

B. Computer Hardware

Computer Hardware means the physical equipment associated with the system, including computers and servers, printer servers, individual desktop workstations, laptop computers, handheld computing and tracking devices, communications devices, peripheral input and output devices cellular and office phones; network devices such as data, voice and wireless networks, routers, switches, and hubs; peripheral devices such as printers, scanners and cameras; pagers, radios, voice messaging, facsimile transmissions, copy machines, electronic communications and auxiliary storage devices.

C. Computer Software

Computer Software means programs and routines, including packaged, licensed or internally developed applications, that facilitate the operations

of a computer, including system programs, applications programs and all related documentation.

D. Licensed Software

Licensed Software includes software, which the District does not own but has been licensed to use from outside sources.

3. POLICY STATEMENTS

The District's Information Technology Resources and all information stored on them or on portable media are provided at the District's expense and are the District's property. Communications using Information Technology Resources are not private; they are business records that can be reviewed by the District or subpoenaed under law and may be accessible to the public pursuant to the Public Records Act. Accordingly, employees should have no expectation of privacy regarding any communication, business-related or personal, that they create, send, receive, or store on any of the District's Information Technology Resources.

The District reserves the right to access, monitor, and review the use of its Information Technology Resources, as well as to retrieve or delete District data that is stored and transmitted, for training purposes, quality assurance purposes, and to determine if there have been any breaches of security or confidentiality, misuse, or other violations of District policy. The District may inspect the contents of any device at any time for any reason, including purposes of investigation.

Use of personal devices or personal accounts for any District business on a personal device may subject that device to a search, if warranted, through legal action.

4. HARDWARE AND SOFTWARE ACQUISITION AND DEVELOPMENT

- A. Computer hardware and software design, modification and purchase decisions shall be made by the IT Manager with input from representatives from the user departments.
- B. The IT Manager will be responsible for the installation, implementation, testing and maintenance of all software applications. Department Heads will be responsible for running all applications and assisting their staff in the utilization of the respective applications and programs.
- C. The IT Manager will maintain custody of system and application programs and documentation.

5. HARDWARE AND SOFTWARE MAINTENANCE

- A. The IT Manager shall establish a preventive maintenance program on all hardware to ensure a high degree of reliability in computer equipment.

- B. The IT Manager shall ensure that, when appropriate, the latest version of all software programs is maintained on the District's system and that all employee users are provided appropriate training in the use of such software.
- C. Personal hardware/software will not be connected to or installed on or run from District computers without the approval of the IT Manager.
- D. The IT Manager shall be responsible for maintaining software certificates of license.

6. DATA PROTECTION AND RECOVERY

- A. The IT Manager shall ensure that computer applications and data on datacenter servers are backed up regularly with copies maintained off-site to ensure information is current if recovery is required. Data stored on individual workstations will not be protected.
- B. For physical protection against environmental hazards, the IT Manager shall maintain off-site storage for copies of important files, software and documentation.
- C. The IT Manager shall ensure the District's network has virus protection at the workstation and server levels so as to protect the District's network, applications and data files from viruses and malware.
- D. The IT Manager shall establish a disaster contingency plan to ensure continuity of operations in the event of a disaster.
- E. The IT Manager shall make arrangements to have knowledgeable, professional consultants readily available to assist in re-establishing hardware and software configurations in the event of a disaster.
- F. Computer data shall be maintained in accordance with the District's Records Retention Policy.

7. USE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES

All employees of the District will be provided with access to those computer software programs and data files necessary to complete their duties. The IT Manager, along with the Department Heads will determine what programs and data files are applicable to each employee.

The District shall prevent unauthorized use of Information Technology equipment, data files, E-Mail system, and Internet access and computer programs.

No District employee, contractor, or consultant shall use the District Information Technology Resources for inappropriate purposes, such as (but not limited to) the following:

- A. Personal profit, including commercial solicitation or conducting or pursuing their own business interests or those of another organization.
- B. Unlawful or illegal activities, including downloading licensed material without authorization or downloading copyrighted material without the publisher's permission.
- C. Accessing, creating, transmitting, printing, downloading or soliciting material that is or may be construed to be harassing or demeaning toward any individual or group for any reason, including but not limited to, on the basis of sex, age, race, color, national origin, gender identity, disability, political or organizational affiliation, sexual orientation, or any other protected characteristic.
- D. Accessing, creating, transmitting, printing, downloading, or soliciting sexually oriented messages or images.
- E. Propagating or downloading malware, viruses, hacker tools or other contaminants.

The District, unless authorized by software licensor, does not have the right to rent, lease, de-compile, disassemble, reverse engineer, copy, create a derivative work or otherwise use software except as stated in the license agreement.

Licensed software programs are protected by U.S. copyright laws. Illegal reproduction or acquisition of unauthorized copies is not condoned by the District. District employees conducting such illegal reproductions or acquisitions will be subject to disciplinary action as provided for in the District's Employee Handbook.

Only licensed software shall be installed on District computers. No employee shall install, download or use any software on District's computers without the IT Manager's approval.

Information Technology Resources may be used for incidental personal use, so long as such use does not result in a significant monetary expenditure to the District or involve the expenditure of a significant amount of time by the user away from his or her job duties. Supervisory personnel are responsible for limiting personal use of Information Technology Resource.

8. ELECTRONIC MAIL (E-MAIL)

The District's email system exists for the purpose of conducting District business, and all electronic data, messages and/or images placed on this system are District records and are the property of the District. Accordingly, employees should have no expectations of privacy regarding email messages (or any other data files residing on District-owned hardware, software, or cloud-based systems), either sent or received.

As with all other data on the District's Information Technology Resources, the District reserves the right for the General Manager or staff authorized by the General Manager to access, review and disclose all email messages and data files on the District's information system at any time.

The District's Information Technology Resources do not provide any guarantee of personal privacy protection. Employees should use Information Technology Resources with this limitation in mind.

An employee who receives an email message that the employee finds offensive shall immediately report the message to their supervisor or the HR department.

Employees are reminded that, under some circumstances, communications sent by e-mail may be subject to disclosure under the Public Records Act or during litigation. Therefore, it is important not to compromise themselves or the District under these circumstances.

Employees are advised to retain important/essential e-mail communications and regularly purge all other emails.

Employees found to have engaged in improper activities will be subject to disciplinary action as provided for in the District's Employee Handbook.

9. INTERNET ACCESS

The District's Internet connection exists for the purpose of conducting District business and is not intended for personal use except as described in Section 7 above.

Use of the District's Internet connection is expressly prohibited under the following circumstances:

- A. Compromises the integrity of the District and its business operations in any way.
- B. Commits any illegal act.
- C. Violates the District's affirmative action or sexual harassment avoidance policies.
- D. Results in private gain or advantage for the employee (such as conducting business related to economic interests outside of District employment) or violates the District's ethics policy.

The IT Manager shall block access to internet websites and protocols that are deemed inappropriate. Exception to blocked internet access must be requested through the IT Manager.

The District reserves the right to monitor, access and disclose use of the services on the Internet at the sole discretion of the District. All messages, images and/or transmissions are District records.

The District's Information Technology Resources do not provide any guarantee of personal privacy protection. Employees should use Information Technology Resources with this limitation in mind.

An employee who inadvertently accesses an Internet site that exhibits suspicious activity indicative of malware activity shall immediately report the incident to the IT Manager and their Supervisor.

10. ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Use of Artificial Intelligence systems, including Generative AI and Agentic AI systems, shall be governed by the District Artificial Intelligence Policy (Section 9060 of the Administrative Code). All users of District Information Technology Resources shall comply with the requirements of the Artificial Intelligence Policy when using AI systems for District business purposes. AI systems constitute Information Technology Resources under this policy.

~~Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) is a new branch of AI technology that can generate content such as drafting staff reports, learning repetitive tasks, expanding resident communications, conducting research, and analyzing data. The District recognizes the opportunity for a controlled and responsible approach that acknowledges the benefits of efficiency while minimizing the risks around AI bias, privacy, and cybersecurity.~~

~~Employees may use District-provided Artificial Intelligence tools to perform business operations and improve efficiency and resident service. Users must follow the following rules while using Generative AI for District work, including use of direct services like ChatGPT and extensions like Compose.ai.~~

- ~~A. Information entered into Generative AI systems could be subject to a Public Records Act request, may be viewable and usable by the District, and may be leaked unencrypted in a data breach. No information should be submitted to a Generative AI platform that should not be available to the general public (such as confidential or personally identifiable information).~~
- ~~B. Users shall review, revise, and fact-check any output from a Generative AI via multiple sources. Users are responsible for any material created with AI support. Many systems, like ChatGPT, only use information up to a certain date (e.g., 2021 for free version of ChatGPT).~~
- ~~C. Users shall cite and record usage of Generative AI for any reports or documents.~~

11. CLOUD SERVICES

Users are not permitted to open any Cloud Service accounts or enter into Cloud Service contracts on behalf of the District, or for use on District assets unless authorized to do so by the IT Manager.

12. EMPLOYEE RESPONSIBILITY

A. General:

Each employee accessing the District's Information Technology Resources is responsible for understanding and following these guidelines. Unauthorized or improper use of the District's Information Technology Resources may result in terminating access to it and, depending on the severity of the outcome of unauthorized or improper use, may result in disciplinary action, up to and including termination.

Users have a responsibility to promptly report the theft, loss, or unauthorized disclosure of information.

B. Passwords:

Each employee shall have a uniquely assigned username and password for security purposes, which shall be used for all Information Technology Resource access. While this cannot guarantee privacy, confidentiality, or data security, it is an important component of the District's overall system protection.

1. District-approved password standards and/or guidelines shall be applied to the access of all District Information Technology Resources.
2. All users are responsible for creating and maintaining the confidentiality of the password associated with their unique user ID.
3. No user shall give his or her password to another person under any circumstances.
4. Passwords shall be changed periodically as deemed necessary by the IT Manager.
5. Users who suspect that their password has become known by another person shall immediately change their password and report their suspicion to management and the IT Manager.
6. Users should not use a District account assigned to another individual to access Information Technology Resources.
7. Upon termination of an individual with computer access, the IT Manager shall delete that individual's security password.

C. Smart Devices (smartphone, tablet, etc.):

A user is subject to this Acceptable Use Policy for each device they connect to the District networks and systems. The District reserves the

right to perform a remote wipe of a user's Smart Device, erasing all data and contents, if there is a reasonable belief that the device has been compromised and/or poses a potential security risk to District network systems, data, users, residents and/or other District assets and resources. Personal data may be lost in the event that the IT Department must remotely wipe a device. It is the user's responsibility to take additional precautions, such as backing up personal email, contacts, photos etc.

Multifactor Authentication is required for access to District Email and VPN. Personal cellphones may be required as the second authentication factor if a District cellphone is not provided.

13. ENFORCEMENT

Violation of this policy may result in disciplinary action, up to and including termination of employment, legal action, and/or civil or criminal penalties, as applicable. The organization reserves the right to monitor, log, and review all activities associated with the used of District Information Technology Resources to ensure compliance with this policy.

§9040 IT ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY

1. PURPOSE

The District provides employees with the Information Technology Resources necessary to promote the efficient conduct of business. All Information Technology Resources are to be used as prescribed within this policy.

This policy applies to all individuals who utilize Information Technology Resources and to District-owned or personal property that is connected to or retrieves data from District systems. This policy establishes procedures relating to the acquisition and use of computer hardware and software and establishes procedures to ensure compliance with license agreements, to protect hardware, software and data from loss or abuse and provide guidance regarding the appropriate utilization of District Information Technology Resources.

This policy will pertain to all District Information Technology Resources except those relating to the SCADA system.

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Computer Hardware means the physical equipment associated with the system, including computers and servers, printer servers, individual desktop workstations, laptop computers, handheld computing and tracking devices, communications devices, peripheral input and output devices cellular and office phones; network devices such as data, voice and wireless networks, routers, switches, and hubs; peripheral devices such as printers, scanners and cameras; pagers, radios, voice messaging, facsimile transmissions, copy machines, electronic communications and auxiliary storage devices.

C. Computer Software

Computer Software means programs and routines, including packaged, licensed or internally developed applications, that facilitate the operations

of a computer, including system programs, applications programs and all related documentation.

D. Licensed Software

Licensed Software includes software, which the District does not own but has been licensed to use from outside sources.

3. POLICY STATEMENTS

The District's Information Technology Resources and all information stored on them or on portable media are provided at the District's expense and are the District's property. Communications using Information Technology Resources are not private; they are business records that can be reviewed by the District or subpoenaed under law and may be accessible to the public pursuant to the Public Records Act. Accordingly, employees should have no expectation of privacy regarding any communication, business-related or personal, that they create, send, receive, or store on any of the District's Information Technology Resources.

The District reserves the right to access, monitor, and review the use of its Information Technology Resources, as well as to retrieve or delete District data that is stored and transmitted, for training purposes, quality assurance purposes, and to determine if there have been any breaches of security or confidentiality, misuse, or other violations of District policy. The District may inspect the contents of any device at any time for any reason, including purposes of investigation.

Use of personal devices or personal accounts for any District business on a personal device may subject that device to a search, if warranted, through legal action.

4. HARDWARE AND SOFTWARE ACQUISITION AND DEVELOPMENT

- A. Computer hardware and software design, modification and purchase decisions shall be made by the IT Manager with input from representatives from the user departments.
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- B. Unlawful or illegal activities, including downloading licensed material without authorization or downloading copyrighted material without the publisher's permission.
- C. Accessing, creating, transmitting, printing, downloading or soliciting material that is or may be construed to be harassing or demeaning toward any individual or group for any reason, including but not limited to, on the basis of sex, age, race, color, national origin, gender identity, disability, political or organizational affiliation, sexual orientation, or any other protected characteristic.
- D. Accessing, creating, transmitting, printing, downloading, or soliciting sexually oriented messages or images.
- E. Propagating or downloading malware, viruses, hacker tools or other contaminants.

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The District's Information Technology Resources do not provide any guarantee of personal privacy protection. Employees should use Information Technology Resources with this limitation in mind.

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Users are not permitted to open any Cloud Service accounts or enter into Cloud Service contracts on behalf of the District, or for use on District assets unless authorized to do so by the IT Manager.

12. EMPLOYEE RESPONSIBILITY

A. General:

Each employee accessing the District's Information Technology Resources is responsible for understanding and following these guidelines. Unauthorized or improper use of the District's Information Technology Resources may result in terminating access to it and, depending on the severity of the outcome of unauthorized or improper use, may result in disciplinary action, up to and including termination.

Users have a responsibility to promptly report the theft, loss, or unauthorized disclosure of information.

B. Passwords:

Each employee shall have a uniquely assigned username and password for security purposes, which shall be used for all Information Technology Resource access. While this cannot guarantee privacy, confidentiality, or data security, it is an important component of the District's overall system protection.

1. District-approved password standards and/or guidelines shall be applied to the access of all District Information Technology Resources.
2. All users are responsible for creating and maintaining the confidentiality of the password associated with their unique user ID.
3. No user shall give his or her password to another person under any circumstances.
4. Passwords shall be changed periodically as deemed necessary by the IT Manager.
5. Users who suspect that their password has become known by another person shall immediately change their password and report their suspicion to management and the IT Manager.
6. Users should not use a District account assigned to another individual to access Information Technology Resources.
7. Upon termination of an individual with computer access, the IT Manager shall delete that individual's security password.

C. Smart Devices (smartphone, tablet, etc.):

A user is subject to this Acceptable Use Policy for each device they connect to the District networks and systems. The District reserves the right to perform a remote wipe of a user's Smart Device, erasing all data and contents, if there is a reasonable belief that the device has been compromised and/or poses a potential security risk to District network systems, data, users, residents and/or other District assets and resources. Personal data may be lost in the event that the IT Department must remotely wipe a device. It is the user's responsibility to take additional precautions, such as backing up personal email, contacts, photos etc.

Multifactor Authentication is required for access to District Email and VPN. Personal cellphones may be required as the second authentication factor if a District cellphone is not provided.

13. ENFORCEMENT

Violation of this policy may result in disciplinary action, up to and including termination of employment, legal action, and/or civil or criminal penalties, as applicable. The organization reserves the right to monitor, log, and review all activities associated with the used of District Information Technology Resources to ensure compliance with this policy.



STAFF REPORT

To: Board of Directors

Meeting Date: July 23, 2026

From: Dennis Cafferty, General Manager

Subject: OC Grand Jury Report Response

On June 9 2026, the Orange County Grand Jury released a report titled “*PFAS and Public Awareness – A Closer Look at Orange County Drinking Water*” (Report). The Report addresses issues associated with presence of PFAS in the Orange County groundwater basin.

As stated in the Report “California Penal Code Section 933 requires the governing body of any public agency which the Grand Jury has reviewed, and about which it has issued a final report, to comment to the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court on the findings and recommendations pertaining to matters under the control of the governing body.” Responses are required no later than 90 days after the Grand Jury publishes its report from the Orange county Board of Supervisors, the Orange County Water District Board of Directors and all of the cities and water districts that provide drinking water to Orange County residents.

The Grand Jury Report is attached for reference following the District’s proposed response letter.

Recommended Action:

Staff recommend the Board approve the District’s response letter on the Orange County Grand Jury’s findings and recommendations and authorize staff to submit the response letter to the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court.



El Toro Water District

"A District of Distinction"

Serving the Public – Respecting the Environment

July 23, 2026

Board of Directors

Kathryn Freshley
President

Kay Havens
Vice President

Mike Gaskins
Director

Mark L. Monin
Director

Wyatt McClean
Director

General Manager

Dennis P. Cafferty

The Honorable Sheila F. Hanson
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court of California
700 Civic Center Drive west
Santa Ana, CA 92701

Re: Responses to the Orange County Grand Jury Report *"PFAS and Public Awareness – A Closer Look at Orange County Drinking Water"*

Dear Presiding Judge Hanson,

On June 9 2026, the Orange County Grand Jury released a report titled *"PFAS and Public Awareness – A Closer Look at Orange County Drinking Water"* (Report). This Report requested that El Toro Water District (District) respond to certain findings and recommendations contained in the Report. The District appreciates the opportunity to provide feedback and comments on the Orange County Grand Jury Report. The District recognizes and similarly appreciates the efforts made by the Grand Jury to evaluate the important issues of water quality in Orange County.

The El Toro Water District provides water, wastewater and recycled water service to over 50,000 residents in portions of the cities of Aliso Viejo, Laguna Hills, Lake Forest, Mission Viejo and all of the City of Laguna Woods.

The District is not a member agency of the Orange County Water District and, due to the geology of its service area, does not have access to any groundwater resources. All the drinking water delivered by the District to its customers is surface water imported from the Metropolitan Water District (MWD) and treated at either the Diemer Filtration Plant operated by MWD or at the Baker Treatment Plant, operated by the Irvine Ranch Water District (IRWD).

Per the Orange County Grand Jury's request, and in accordance with Penal Code 933.05, below are the District's responses to each of the Findings and Recommendations outlined in the Report for which the District was requested to respond.

El Toro Water District

FINDINGS

Finding F2: *PFAS is widespread, and contamination has been detected in Orange County groundwater sources. Community water systems are required to report PFAS monitoring results in their annual Consumer Confidence Reports.*

The District agrees with this Finding.

As noted in the report there has been significant detection of PFAS in the Orange County groundwater basin and Orange County Water District and its member agencies have gone to great lengths to mitigate the PFAS issue. The District agrees that Community Water Systems are required to report detected PFAS monitoring results that were monitored under the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR).

Finding F6: *Orange County drinking water meets or exceeds state and federal standards and is safe for consumption without additional home filtration.*

The District agrees with this Finding.

The El Toro Water District goes to great lengths to ensure the safety of the drinking water delivered to its customers. All the drinking water delivered by the District is imported surface water treated at the MWD Diemer Filtration Plant or the IRWD Baker Water Treatment Plant. The District conducts an extensive water quality sampling and maintenance program to further ensure the drinking water exceeds state and federal standards and is safe for consumption without additional home filtration as it moves through the District water distribution system to the individual customer taps.

Finding F8: *There are limited online PFAS education and outreach programs among Orange County water retailers. Most retailers rely on OCWD for PFAS education and outreach. PFAS advisories were included in approximately 55% of the Orange County water retailers' annual water quality reports in 2025.*

The District agrees with this Finding.

While there may be limited online PFAS education and outreach programs among Orange County water retailers, the need and required scope of such programs varies depending on the severity of the exposure. The El Toro Water District relies only on treated surface water which has been historically safe from PFAS exposure. The District continues to comply with the UCMR reporting requirements in its Consumer Confidence Report for detections of unregulated

El Toro Water District

contaminants. Despite the lack of PFAS in the drinking water the District provides to its customers, the District is already in the process of adding a PFAS page to its website to provide education and outreach to its customers and has previously addressed the issue in District newsletters.

Recommendation R4: *By July 1, 2029, all Orange County water retailers should consistently include a PFAS advisory, treatment facilities status, and compliance information in consumer confidence reports and on agency websites, using clear and understandable language for the public. [F2, F8]*

The recommendation has not been implemented but will be implemented in the future

The District is currently in the process of an update and redesign of the District website. A PFAS page has already been added to the new website which will be launched shortly. The District's PFAS monitoring, in compliance with the Unregulated Contaminants Monitoring Rule, has largely demonstrated no detectable PFAS in the drinking water delivered to District customers. The District has therefore not previously included specific language in the Consumer Confidence Report regarding PFAS. The District will consider adding a PFAS advisory, emphasizing the lack of PFAS in the drinking water, in future Consumer Confidence Reports.

Recommendation R5: *By September 30, 2026, OCWD and all Orange County water retailers should enhance coordinated public education efforts to reassure their customers about drinking water safety. [F6, F8]*

The recommendation has not been implemented but will be implemented in the future

The El Toro Water District does not have PFAS in the imported treated surface water delivered as drinking water to its customers. However, the District will continue to evaluate opportunities to coordinate public education efforts to reassure their customers about drinking water safety.

The District, once again, appreciates the efforts of the Grand Jury and the opportunity to provide responses to the Findings and Recommendations of the Report.

Sincerely,

EL TORO WATER DISTRICT

Kathryn Freshley
President



PFAS and Public Awareness

A Closer Look at Orange County

Drinking Water

Orange County Grand Jury 2025-2026



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SUMMARY

Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) form a broad class of thousands of synthetic chemicals characterized by strong carbon–fluorine bonds and are among the most durable compounds in organic chemistry. This bond strength makes PFAS highly resistant to breaking down, allowing them to persist in the environment for decades or longer. Because of this persistence, PFAS are often called “forever chemicals.”

Various industries have used PFAS in consumer and commercial applications since the 1940s because their chemical properties provide water, oil, and stain resistance, as well as heat stability. These properties support applications across numerous sectors, including aerospace, automotive, textiles, firefighting foams, food packaging, electronics, and medical devices. As a result of their widespread use and persistence, PFAS now appear globally in water, air, soil, wildlife, and human blood.

Scientific studies continue to show associations between PFAS exposure and harmful health effects in humans and animals, although the degree of risk varies by compound. In response, federal and state agencies, including the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA), began accelerating regulatory actions in the 2010s to reduce PFAS exposure, enhance monitoring, and develop treatment and disposal methods.

This report identifies and describes PFAS levels detected by Orange County drinking water agencies. It evaluates how these agencies have responded to recent PFAS regulatory requirements. It also examines the progress of PFAS treatment facility planning and installation, along with implementation of public education programs related to PFAS in drinking water. This report’s findings and recommendations aim to strengthen PFAS reporting in annual Water Quality Reports (Consumer Confidence Reports) and expand public outreach by Orange County drinking water agencies.

BACKGROUND

PFAS are a large group of man-made “forever chemicals” produced since the 1940s, known for extreme persistence, environmental mobility, and bioaccumulation due to strong carbon-fluorine bonds.¹ Used in water/stain-resistant coatings, firefighting foams, industrial processes, PFAS have contaminated soil, water, and air globally.

¹ Elsie M. Sunderland, et al., “A review of the pathways of human exposure to poly- and perfluoroalkyl substances (PFASs) and present understanding of health effects,” *Journal of Exposure Science & Environmental Epidemiology*, November 23, 2018, accessed March 16, 2026, https://sunderlandlab.org/assets/sunderland_jeseerev_2018wsi.pdf.

Contaminated drinking water has led to high levels of exposure to PFOA, PFOS, and other PFAS² for some populations residing near manufacturing facilities. Workers in facilities that make or use PFAS can be exposed to higher amounts of these chemicals and have higher levels in their blood.³ Infants may be exposed to PFAS through breastfeeding.⁴

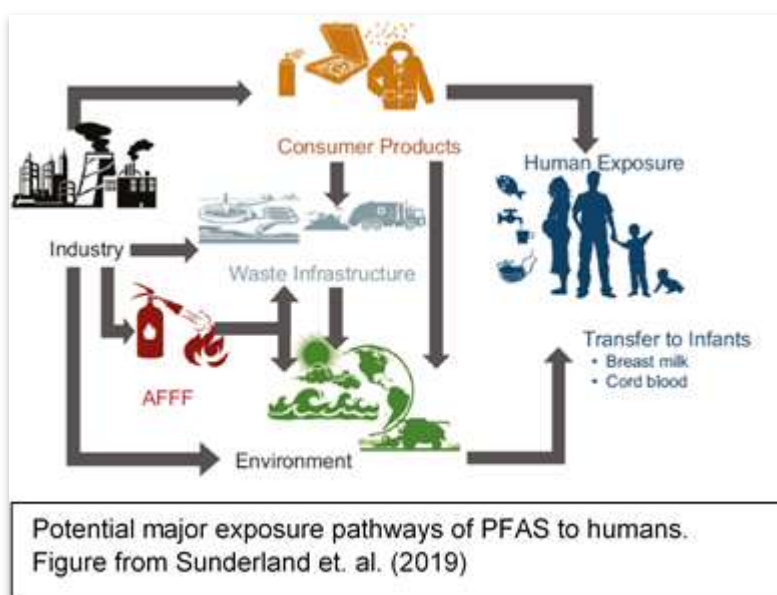


Figure 1 - Potential Major Exposure Pathways of PFAS to Humans⁵

PFAS, especially PFOA and PFOS, have been detected in air, water, and soil in and around manufacturing facilities. However, these releases have been declining since companies began phasing out the production and use of several PFAS in the early 2000s.⁶ Due to their chemical structure, PFAS are very stable in the environment and are resistant to breaking down. Some PFAS are volatile and can be carried long distances through the air, which may lead to contamination of soils and groundwater far from the source of the PFAS emission.⁷

The **four major sources of PFAS** are: fire training/fire response sites, industrial sites, landfills, and **wastewater treatment plants/biosolids**. PFAS can get into drinking water when products containing them are used or spilled onto the ground or into lakes and rivers. Once in groundwater, PFAS are easily transported long distances and can

² Kyle Steenland, Tony Fletcher, and David A. Savitz, "Epidemiologic Evidence on the Health Effects of Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA)," *National Library of Medicine*, accessed May 12, 2026, <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2920088/>.

³ Sunderland, "A review of the pathways of human exposure."

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ "Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) PFAS General," California State Water Resources Control Board, March 4, 2019, https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/pfas/docs/pfas_general_faq.pdf.

contaminate drinking wells. PFAS in the air can also end up in rivers and lakes used for drinking water.⁸

PFAS have been used extensively in surface coating and protectant formulations due to their unique ability to repel oil, grease, and water. Major applications have included protectants for paper and cardboard packaging products, carpets, leather products, and textiles that enhance water, grease, and soil repellency, and in firefighting foams. PFAS have also been used as processing aids in the manufacture of nonstick coatings on cookware. Common consumer products containing PFAS include Teflon, Gore-Tex and Scotchgard.⁹

Background Summary of PFAS and Its Effects

Source and Exposure: Primary sources include industrial sites, firefighting training, landfills, and wastewater treatment plants. They enter drinking water, food, and indoor dust, resulting in widespread human exposure.

Health and Environmental Impact: PFAS are associated with adverse effects, including cancer (i.e. testicular, kidney), developmental delays, liver damage, and high cholesterol. They do not break down easily, leading to "background" contamination even in remote areas.¹⁰

Regulation and Action: While major US manufacturing of certain PFAS ended around 2015, they remain in products and in the environment. The EPA has established Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) for drinking water.¹¹

"Forever Chemicals" Definition: Their chemical structure, featuring one of the strongest bonds in organic chemistry, makes them resistant to heat, water, and oil, thus earning them the nickname "forever chemicals."¹²

In Orange County, PFAS have been detected in the **Orange County Groundwater Basin**, which provides 77% to 85% of the drinking water for north and central parts of the county. Local agencies have taken a proactive stance, shutting down dozens of impacted wells and building some of the nation's largest treatment facilities to ensure tap water meets safety standards.¹³

⁸ "PFAS background," California State Water Resources Control Board, January 14, 2025, <https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/pfas/background.html>

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ "PFAS Explained," EPA, accessed March 11, 2026, <https://www.epa.gov/pfas/pfas-explained>.

¹¹ "Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS), Final PFAS National Primary Drinking Water Regulation," Accessed May 12, 2026, <https://www.epa.gov/sdwa/and-polyfluoroalkyl-substances-pfas>.

¹² Ibid.

¹³ University of California, Irvine, "UCI PFAS Health Study, Frequently Asked Questions," accessed May 12, 2026, <https://sites.uci.edu/pfas/frequently-asked-questions/>.

REASON FOR STUDY

Recent regulatory actions related to PFAS have created significant operational, financial, and communication challenges for drinking water agencies across California. Orange County agencies face an intensifying timeline due to the region's reliance on groundwater supplies, the presence of PFAS in local aquifers, and the need to comply with evolving state and federal standards. As regulatory and monitoring requirements expand, agencies must rapidly adapt their treatment strategies, capital planning, and public outreach efforts.

This study is necessary to provide a clear, up-to-date understanding of how Orange County drinking water agencies are responding to these new requirements. Evaluating the status of PFAS treatment planning and installation helps illustrate the extent of infrastructure readiness, the pace of implementation, and the challenges agencies encounter as they work to bring new systems online. At the same time, assessing the development and delivery of PFAS-related education programs offers insight into how effectively agencies are communicating risks, regulatory changes, and water quality information to the public.

By documenting current conditions and identifying gaps or emerging needs, the study supports informed decision-making among water providers, policymakers, and ratepayers. This work helps ensure that Orange County communities receive safe drinking water and that agencies are equipped to meet regulatory expectations while maintaining public trust.

METHOD OF STUDY

The Orange County Grand Jury investigated the PFAS in Orange County drinking water to provide a clear and accurate assessment. The Grand Jury based its study on a comprehensive review of multiple sources, including interviews, public records, field investigations, and relevant news articles. Multiple independent sources corroborated and validated all facts, findings, and recommendations presented in the report.

- Interviewed several Orange County governmental leaders and senior staff directly involved in managing drinking water quality
- Reviewed and analyzed key documents related to the investigation, including:
 - Published Water Quality reports from all Orange County water retailers
 - Records from all Orange County water agencies
- Examined news articles and publications relevant to the topic.
- Conducted extensive internet research.

- Performed field investigations in which Grand Jury members visited several water management agencies to directly observe and assess drinking water processes.

INVESTIGATION AND ANALYSIS

The 2025-2026 Orange County Grand Jury investigated the presence of PFAS in Orange County drinking water and the response of Orange County community water systems. Community water systems (CWS) are city, county, regulated utilities, regional water systems and even small water companies and districts where people live. Non-community water systems¹⁴ provide drinking water to the public at locations where people do not reside permanently. The investigation included evaluation of Orange County CWS compliance with federal and state PFAS monitoring and reporting requirements and the extent of the voluntary response to PFAS contamination. The Grand Jury also evaluated annual Consumer Confidence Reports, also called Annual Water Quality Reports, which are issued annually by CWS and distributed to their customers.

Orange County Drinking Water Systems

The Grand Jury investigation was limited to community water systems (CWS) operated by cities or special districts that are regulated under the Safe Drinking Water Act.¹⁵ CWS are defined as public water systems that serve at least 15 service connections used by yearlong residents, or regularly serve at least 25 yearlong residents of the area served by the system.¹⁶ In Orange County, there are 31 such CWS that are operated by cities or special districts and that sell drinking water directly to customers on a retail basis. In this report, these Orange County CWS may be referred to as retail water districts or water retailers.

Drinking Water Sources

North and Central Orange County

Orange County is divided into two distinct areas when it comes to drinking water sources. There are 2.5 million residents of north and central Orange County, who receive about 85% of their drinking water supplies from the Orange County Groundwater Basin, and the remaining 15% of their water supplies are imported from

¹⁴ "California Code, Health and Safety Code - HSC § 116275," FindLaw, accessed May 21, 2026, <https://codes.findlaw.com/ca/health-and-safety-code/hsc-sect-116275/>.

¹⁵ "Summary of the Safe Drinking Water Act," EPA, describing statutory authority at 42 U.S.C. § 300f et seq., accessed May 21, 2026, <https://www.epa.gov/laws-regulations/summary-safe-drinking-water-act>.

¹⁶ "California Code, Health and Safety Code - HSC § 116275," FindLaw.

the State Water Project and Colorado River delivered by Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWDOC).¹⁷

South Orange County

Approximately 600,000 residents of south Orange County rely primarily on imported water supplies delivered by MWDOC, and a few south County communities also have groundwater supplies from the San Juan Basin and surface water supplies from Irvine Lake (also referred to as the Santiago Reservoir).¹⁸

Public Supply Wells

According to the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) as of November 2024,¹⁹ there were a total of 217 public supply wells for drinking water in Orange County. Of the 217 total wells, 211 were CWS wells and six were non-community water system wells. See Figure 2 for a Department of Water Resources map of Orange County groundwater public supply wells. This map illustrates the reliance of north and central Orange County on groundwater sources, and the reliance of south Orange County on imported water supplies.

¹⁷ “How water works in Orange County,” OCWD, accessed May 21, 2026, <https://www.ocwd.com/learning-center/how-water-works-in-oc/>.

¹⁸ Ibid.

¹⁹ “California’s Groundwater Live: Well Infrastructure,” California Department of Water Resources, accessed April 13, 2026, <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/f2b252d15a0d4e49887ba94ac17cc4bb>.



Figure 2 - Orange County Groundwater Public Supply Wells

Orange County Water District

Orange County Water District (OCWD) manages the Orange County Groundwater Basin to ensure sustainable use through replenishment of groundwater and delivery of water supplies to its 19 member agencies. Some OCWD member agencies are also members of MWDOC.

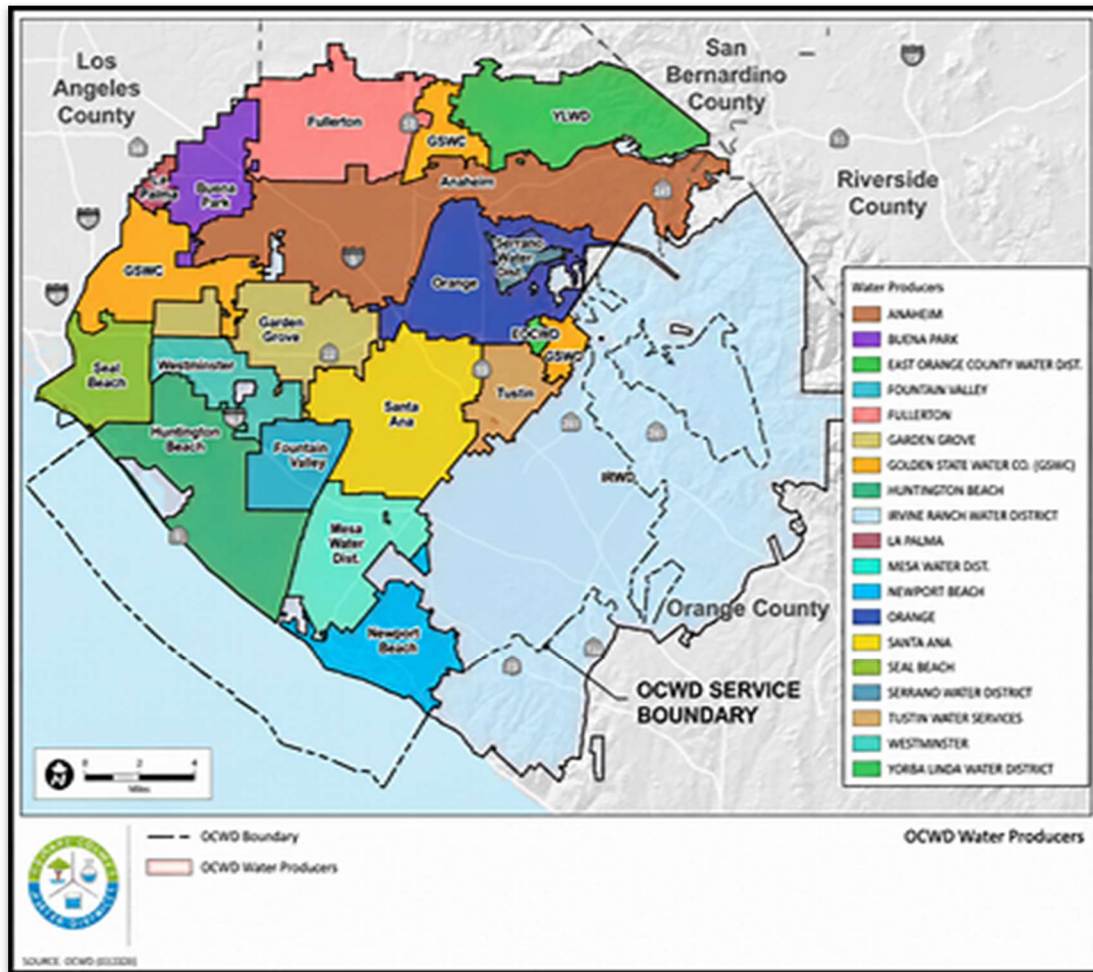
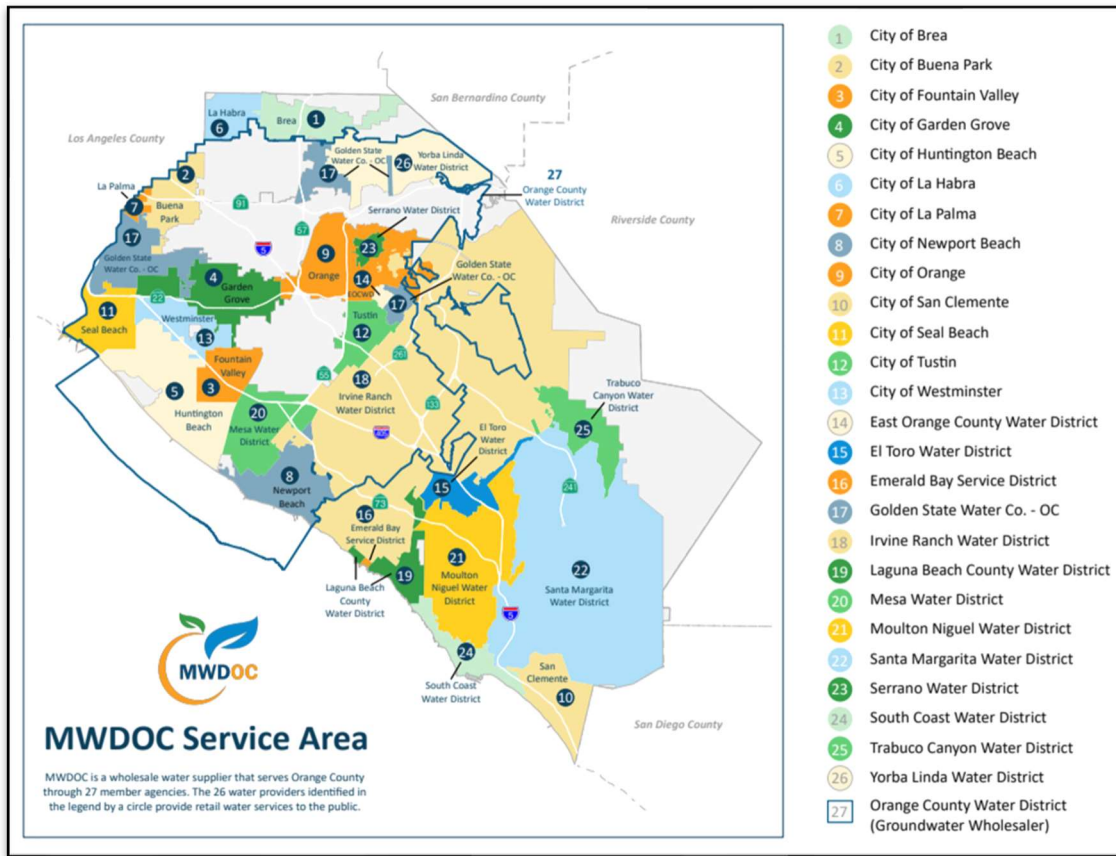


Figure 3 - Orange County Water District (OCWD) Service Area

Municipal Water District of Orange County

MWDOC is the wholesale water provider and resource planning agency that partners with the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) to deliver imported water to its 27 member agencies.²⁰ Some MWDOC member agencies are also members of OCWD.

²⁰ "How water works in Orange County," OCWD.



Source: MWD OC

Figure 4 - Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWD OC) Service Area

PFAS and the Health Effects of Exposure

What are PFAS?

PFAS are a large group of many thousands of manufactured chemicals that are resistant to heat, oil, and water. Among the many thousands of different PFAS, some have been more widely used and studied than others.²¹ PFAS have been used extensively in surface coating and protectant formulations due to their unique ability to reduce the surface tension of liquids, and their ability to repel oil, grease, water, and staining. Major applications have included use as processing aids in the manufacture of nonstick coatings on cookware, surface protectants for paper and cardboard such as disposable food packaging, microwave popcorn bags, pizza boxes, and candy wrappers. Other surface protectants include those used on furniture and carpets,

²¹ "PFAS Explained," EPA.

leather products, outdoor gear, and textiles.²² PFAS are also one of the main components of aqueous film forming foams (AFFF) used frequently at airports and military bases for firefighting and emergency response training activities.²³ It is important to note that PFAS-containing firefighting foams and other emergency response materials containing PFAS are no longer in use at Orange County airports and harbors.²⁴

PFOA and PFOS are two types of PFAS of particular concern that are no longer manufactured or imported into the US. Trace amounts of PFOA and PFOS may still be contained in some imported goods and in other PFAS goods and materials that are still produced and used in the US.²⁵ Under the PFOA Stewardship Program with the EPA, eight major PFAS producers have phased out PFOA and other PFAS substances from their emissions and products; however, manufacturers are replacing substances in the PFAS family with others such as GenX and ADONA.²⁶

Understanding the PFAS Cycle: How PFAS Moves Through the Environment

PFAS move through the environment in a repeating cycle through air, water, soil, products, animals, and humans. This is known as the PFAS cycle. This cycle can be described in four stages and is illustrated at Figure 5.²⁷

Manufacturing and use. The PFAS cycle begins during manufacturing or everyday use of PFAS-containing consumer and industrial products. During manufacture and use, PFAS are released into the air, water, and soil. As more PFAS are manufactured and used, the more they accumulate because they are persistent and resistant to degradation.

Environmental spread. After PFAS are released to the environment, they move through wind, snowfall, rain, and runoff to soil and surface water, and infiltration to groundwater. Industrial sites and wastewater treatment plants are key entry points

²² “Our Current Understanding of the Human Health and Environmental Risks of PFAS,” EPA, Accessed May 21, 2026, <https://www.epa.gov/pfas/our-current-understanding-human-health-and-environmental-risks-pfas>.

²³ Sunderland. “A review of the pathways of human exposure.”

²⁴ “SB-1044 Compliance: Phasing Out PFAS in Class B Firefighting Foam,” CAL FIRE, accessed April 17, 2026, <https://osfm.fire.ca.gov/what-we-do/pipeline-safety-and-cupa/fire-fighting-equipment-and-foam-pfas>.

²⁵ “PFAS – Frequently Asked Questions,” California State Water Resources Control Board Division of Water Quality (SWRCB), 5, [3] 3M Company, “Fluorochemical use, distribution and release overview,” AR226-0550, 1999, updated March 19, 2020, accessed March 25, 2026, https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/pfas/docs/master_pfas_faq_mar.pdf.

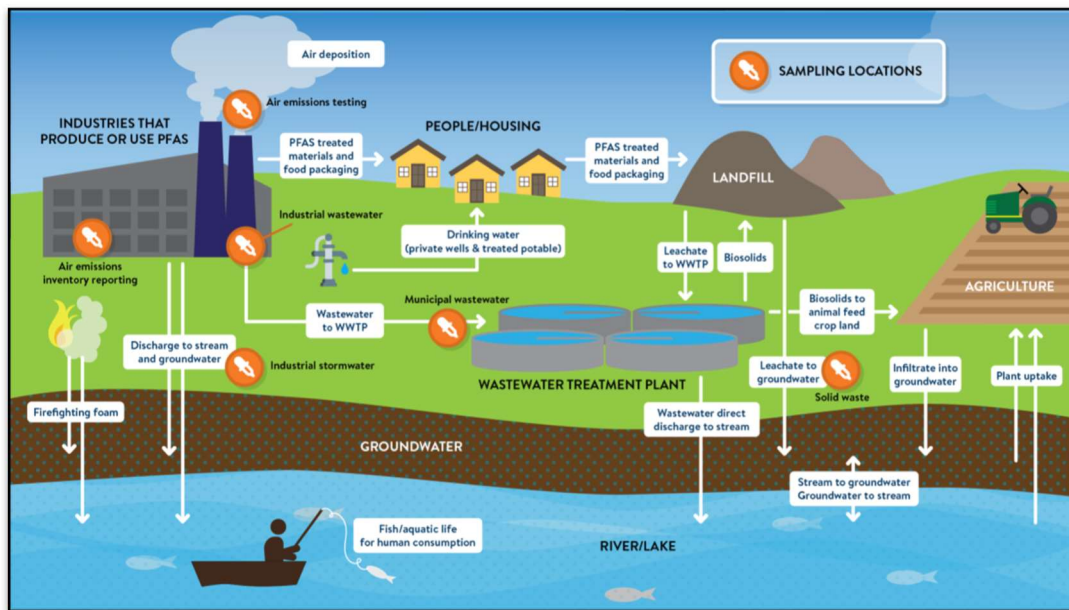
²⁶ “Risk Management for Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) under TSCA,” EPA, accessed May 21, 2026, <https://www.epa.gov/assessing-and-managing-chemicals-under-tsca/risk-management-and-polyfluoroalkyl-substances-pfas>.

²⁷ “Understanding the PFAS Cycle,” EcoPulse, accessed April 13, 2026, <https://www.ecopulsenow.com/insights/understanding-the-pfas-cycle>.

into the environment. PFAS are absorbed from the environment by plants and animals, and then move up the food chain.

Human exposure. Most people are exposed to PFAS through using PFAS-contaminated products, drinking contaminated water, and eating contaminated food such as fish caught from water contaminated by PFAS, and dairy products from livestock exposed to PFAS.²⁸ The US Centers for Disease Control (CDC) National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES) estimated that in NHANES 2017–2018 data 98% of the US population had combined PFAS serum levels greater than 2 nanograms per milliliter.²⁹

Re-entry. Even after disposal of PFAS products, PFAS can re-enter the environment through landfill leachate or runoff to soils, agricultural spreading of biosolids, and municipal wastewater treatment effluent discharges to surface water, resulting in PFAS cycling back into soil, animal feed crops, and water.



Source: Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

Figure 5 - The PFAS Cycle

What is the Source of PFAS in Orange County Groundwater?

Wastewater treatment plants located along the Santa Ana River that discharge effluent to the Santa Ana River upstream of managed aquifer recharge operations are sources

²⁸ "Risk Management for Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) under TSCA," EPA.

²⁹ "National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey. NHANES 2017-18 Overview," Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), accessed April 16, 2026, <https://wwwn.cdc.gov/nchs/nhanes/continuousnhanes/default.aspx?BeginYear=2017>.

of PFAS contamination for public water systems downstream of these wastewater treatment plants.³⁰ The OCWD Groundwater Replenishment System (GWRS) actively manages and recharges the Orange County groundwater basin with surface water from the Santa Ana River, imported surface water, and purified recycled water from the GWRS. For much of the year, flow in the Santa Ana River consists predominantly of effluent from municipal wastewater treatment plants upstream from the Orange County groundwater basin.³¹ Figure 6 illustrates these upstream wastewater discharges to the Santa Ana River.³² PFAS has recently been measured in the Santa Ana River at concentrations consistent with wells surrounding the recharge facilities, suggesting that historic concentrations of PFAS in the Santa Ana River may be a primary input of PFAS in the Orange County groundwater basin.³³

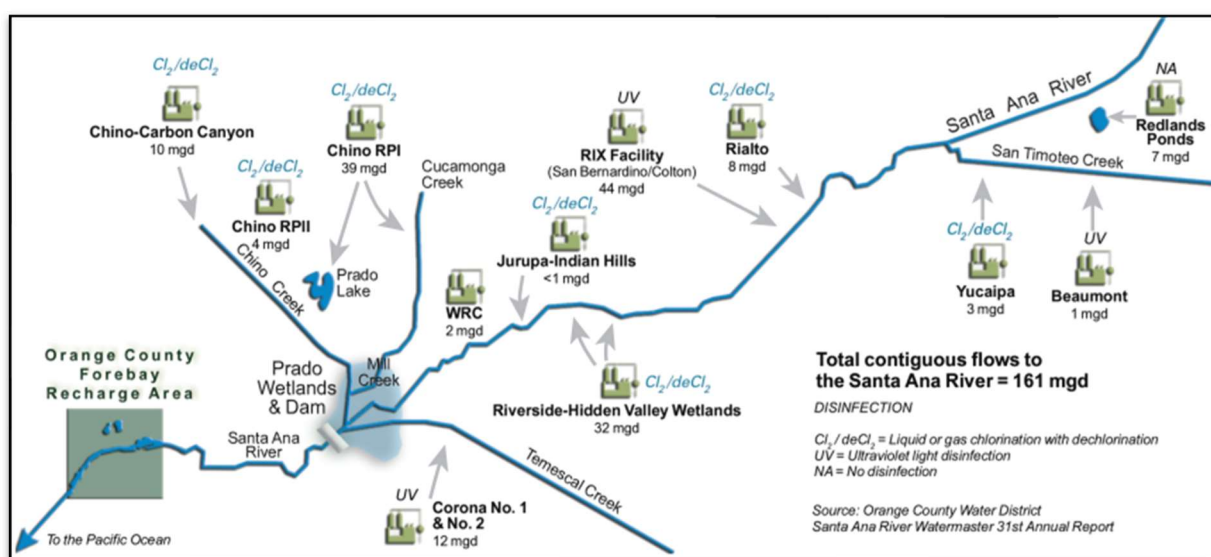


Figure 6 - Wastewater Treatment Discharges to the Santa Ana River

How Much PFAS is Found in the General Population?

Because of their widespread use and their persistence in the environment, many PFAS are found in the blood of people and animals all over the world.³⁴ CDC scientists have measured PFAS in the blood serum (the clear portion of blood) of 98% of participants

³⁰ "Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS), What are PFAS?" SWRCB, accessed May 21, 2026, https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/santaana/water_issues/programs/pfas/.

³¹ "UCI PFAS Health Study," University of California, Irvine, accessed May 12, 2026, <https://sites.uci.edu/pfas/>.

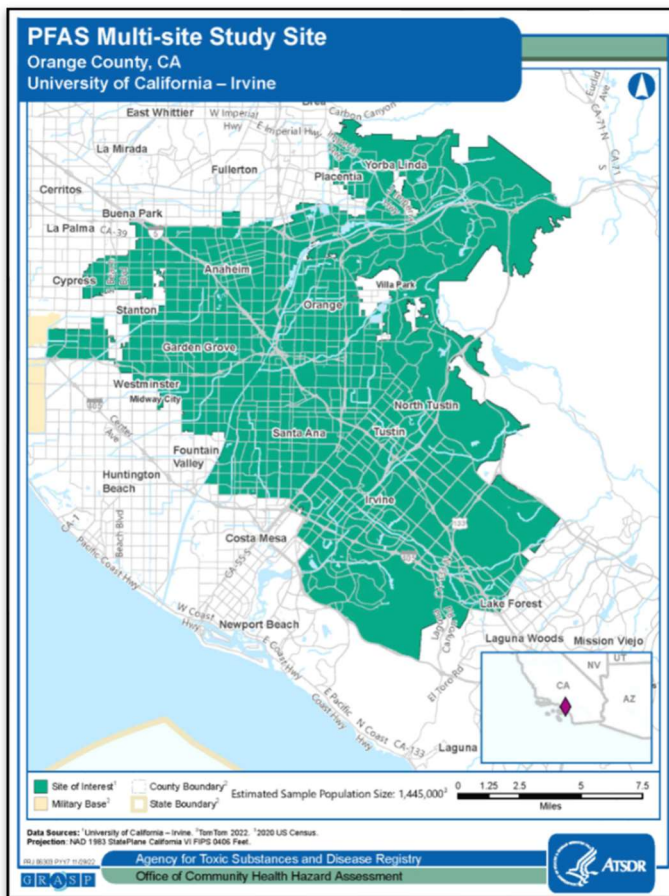
³² National Water Research Institute, *Report of the Scientific Advisory Panel: Orange County Water District's Santa Ana River Water Quality and Health Study*, Fountain Valley, CA, 2004, accessed April 14, 2026, <https://www.ocwd.com/wp-content/uploads/sarwqh-final-nwri-panel-report-2004.pdf>.

³³ Russ Detwiler, *Reconstructing historical PFAS concentrations in groundwater using a reduced-order modeling framework*. Albuquerque NM, InterPore2025, May 20, 2025, accessed April 16, 2026, <https://events.interpore.org/event/56/contributions/7590/>.

³⁴ "PFAS Explained," EPA.

aged 12 years and older since 1999, indicating widespread exposure to PFAS in the US population.³⁵

Researchers at the University of California, Irvine (UCI) are participating in the CDC Multi-site Study (MSS).³⁶ The MSS provides information to communities about the health effects of exposure to PFAS. The UCI MSS site is the area in Orange County, shown at Figure 7.



Source: CDC

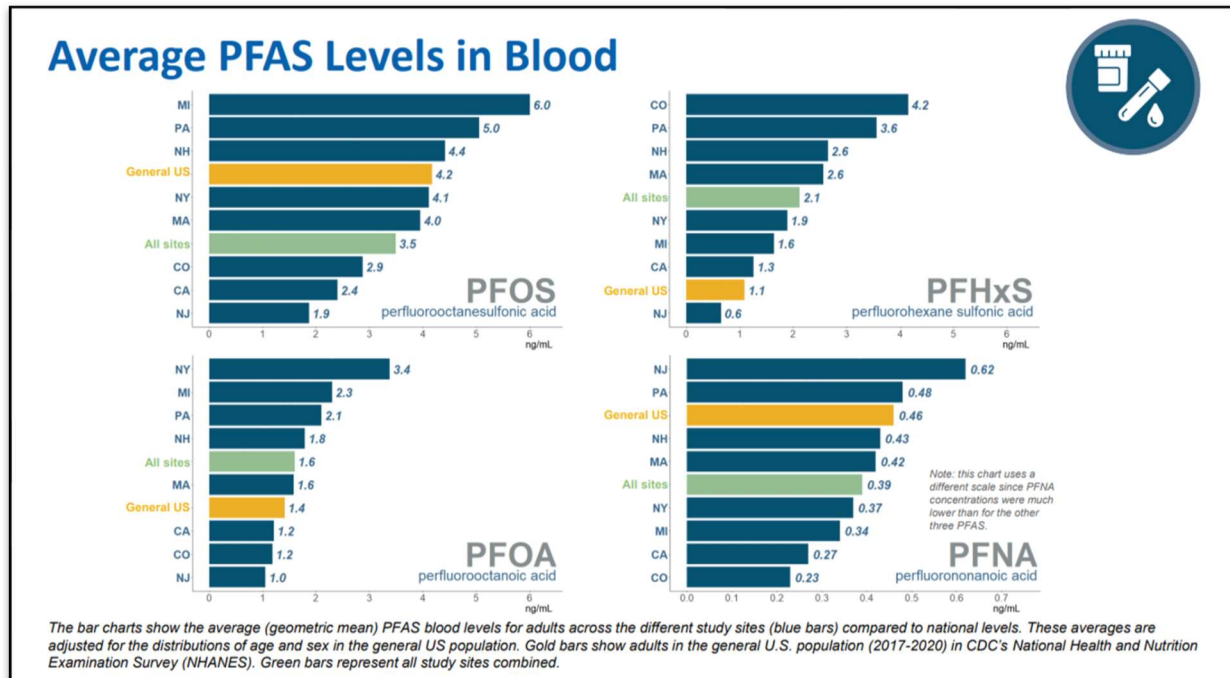
Figure 7 - CDC Multi-site Study Site Orange County, CA

At the July 2025 MSS update, the UCI researchers shared results showing average levels of certain PFAS chemicals in the blood of adults who participated at the Orange County study site. They compared Orange County results with other study locations and with national averages. For adults at the Orange County site, the average blood levels were estimated to be 2.4 for PFOS, 1.2 for PFOA, 1.3 for PFHxS, and 0.27 for PFNA (measured in nanograms per milliliter, ng/L) These levels were lower than the averages seen across all study sites. In addition, all of these levels, except PFHxS, were lower than the average levels found in the general U.S. population. See Figure 8 for the UCI MSS chart of Average PFAS Levels in Blood.³⁷ On the chart, the Orange County study site is labeled “CA.” Orange County is the only California location included in the study.

³⁵ “PFAS Frequently Asked Questions,” SWRCB, 5, [8] CDC, “National Report on Human Exposure to Environmental Chemicals,” 2019, accessed April 23, 2026, https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/pfas/docs/master_pfas_faq_mar.pdf.

³⁶ “Multi-site Study,” CDC, Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) and Your Health, accessed April 16, 2026, <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/pfas/health-studies/multi-site-study.html>.

³⁷ “PFAS Multi-site Study (MSS), Virtual Open House,” CDC, ATSDR, July 28, 2025, accessed April 16, 2026, <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/media/pdfs/2025/08/Open-House-Slides-508.pdf>.



Source: CDC

Figure 8 - Average PFAS Levels in Blood, CDC Multi-site Study Virtual Open House, July 2025

Because of the phasing out of certain PFAS compounds, serum levels of PFOA and PFOS in the general population of the US have decreased dramatically in recent years. According to the CDC, blood levels of both PFOS and PFOA have steadily decreased in US residents since 1999-2000.³⁸

The half-life of PFAS in the human body is defined as the time required for the PFAS concentrations in serum or plasma to fall by half from the starting concentration.³⁹ Thirteen studies conducted mainly in Europe and the US involving both general populations and exposed workers resulted in half-life estimates for PFOA of 2.73 years (range: 1.48 to 5.1 years), 4.70 years for PFOS (range: 1.69 to 5.7 years), and 5.31 years for PFHxS (range: 2.84 to 8.5 years).⁴⁰ Based on that information, with no additional exposure, it could be anticipated that PFAS may be cleared from the body after an average of five years. However, PFAS exposures continue in general

³⁸ "Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) and Your Health, Fast Facts: PFAS in the U.S. Population," CDC, ATSDR, <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/pfas/data-research/facts-stats/index.html>.

³⁹ Isabella Rosato, et al. "Estimation of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) half-lives in human studies: a systematic review and meta-analysis," *Environmental Research*, Volume 242, February 1, 2024, 117743, accessed April 13, 2026, <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0013935123025471>.

⁴⁰ Isabella Rosato, et al. "Estimation of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) half-lives."

populations primarily through food and water despite production phase outs and regulatory interventions.

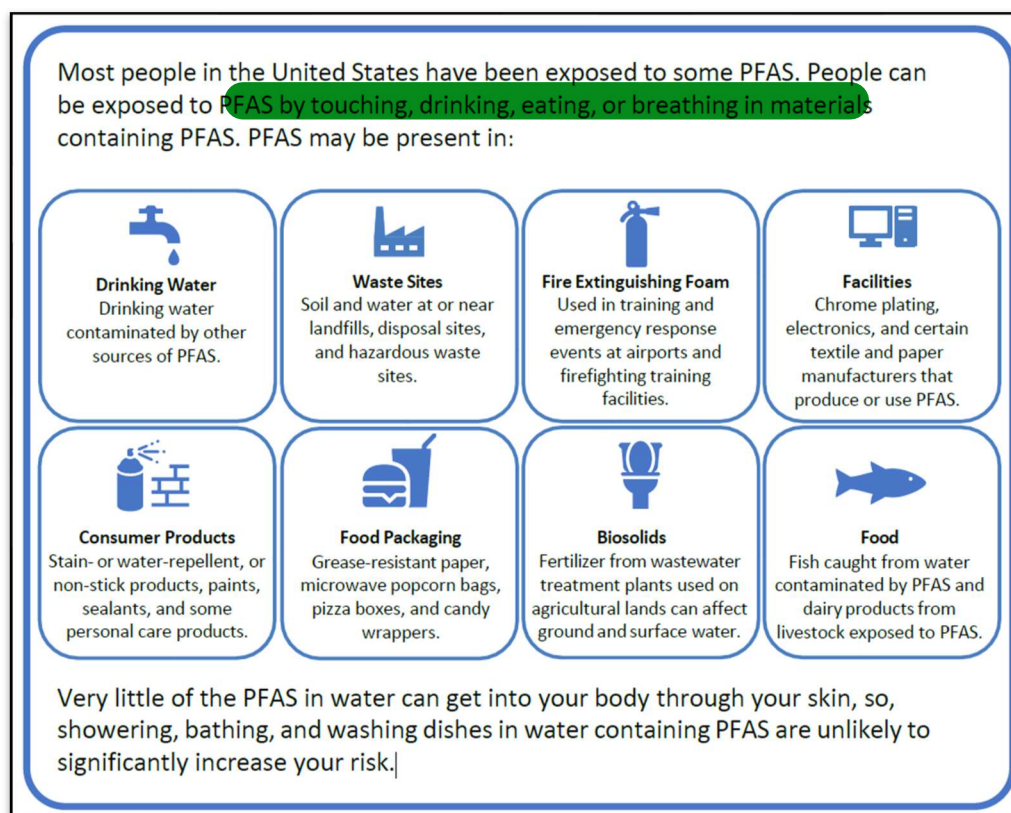
How Are People Exposed to PFAS?

There is general agreement that dietary intake is the largest source of PFAS exposure rather than inhalation or dermal contact.⁴¹ Direct exposures due to use in products can be quickly phased out by production phaseouts but exposures driven by PFAS accumulation in the environment, food chains, and contamination of groundwater and drinking water persist because of the continuing PFAS cycle. Human exposures to PFOS and PFOA, the two PFAS that are of greatest regulatory concern, have been declining due to regulatory interventions while understanding of their adverse effects on human health has been rapidly advancing. At the same time, a proliferation of new PFASs has rapidly replaced PFOS and PFOA with shorter chain length PFASs and new chemicals that are difficult to detect using standard methods.⁴² Emerging evidence from animal experiments suggests some of these alternative PFASs can be equally hazardous.⁴³

⁴¹ Sunderland, "A review of the pathways of human exposure," 136.

⁴² Sunderland, "A review of the pathways of human exposure," 132.

⁴³ Ibid.



Source: EPA

Figure 9 - How are people exposed to PFAS?⁴⁴

PFAS Exposure and Excretion

Exposure happens when a person breathes, eats, drinks, or touches a chemical and it enters their body. Excretion is the process whereby substances, like PFAS, leave the body. All PFAS can leave the body over time through urine, through menstrual blood or blood donation, or through breast milk. All of these factors could affect PFAS levels measured in blood.⁴⁵ While PFAS blood test results can tell you the amount of certain PFAS in your blood, the test results will not provide information to pinpoint a health problem and will not predict future health outcomes. You can talk with your healthcare provider about the benefits and limitations of PFAS blood testing.⁴⁶

⁴⁴ "PFAS Explained," EPA, 2, March 11, 2026, <https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2023-10/final-virtual-pfas-explainer-508.pdf>.

⁴⁵ "Per- and Polyfluoralkyl Substances (PFAS) and Your Health, Preventing PFAS Exposure," CDC, ATSDR, accessed April 16, 2026, <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/pfas/prevent-exposure/your-body.html>.

⁴⁶ "Per- and Polyfluoralkyl Substances (PFAS) and Your Health, Testing for PFAS," CDC, ATSDR, accessed April 17, 2026, <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/pfas/blood-testing/index.html>.

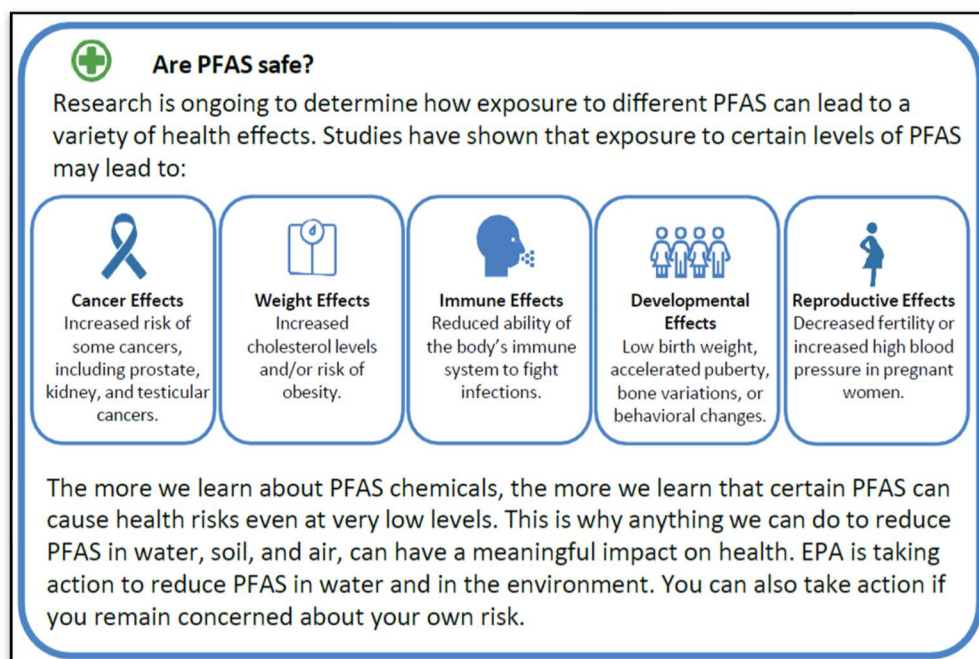
What are the Health Effects of Exposure?

Exposure to unsafe levels of PFOA/PFOS may result in adverse health effects including developmental effects to fetuses during pregnancy, cancer, liver effects, immune effects, thyroid effects, and other effects such as cholesterol changes.⁴⁷

Laboratory studies in animals who were exposed to PFAS found links between the chemicals and increased cholesterol, changes in the body's hormones, alterations of the immunologic system, decreased fertility, increased risk of cancer (especially kidney and testicular), low birth weight, delayed puberty onset, and birth defects. Since humans and animals react differently to PFAS, not all effects observed in animals may occur in humans. Although many epidemiology studies have examined the potential of PFAS to result in adverse health effects, most of the studies are cross-sectional in design and do not establish causality. Based on several factors outlined in the report of PFAS by the CDC including the consistency of findings across studies, the available epidemiology studies suggest associations between PFAS exposure and several health outcomes in humans.⁴⁸

⁴⁷ "PFAS Frequently Asked Questions," SWRCB, 5, [6] A. M. Calafat, L.-Y. Wong, Z. Kuklennyik, J. A. Reidy, and L. L. Needham, "Polyfluoroalkyl Chemicals in the US Population: Data from the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES) 2003–2004 and Comparisons with NHANES 1999–2000," *Environ. Health Perspect.*, vol. 115, no. 11, pp. 1596 - 1602, Nov. 2007, https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/pfas/docs/master_pfas_faq_mar.pdf.

⁴⁸ "PFAS Frequently Asked Questions," SWRCB, 8, [1] ATSDR, "Toxicological Profile for Perfluoroalkyls, Draft for Public Comment," 2018, https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/pfas/docs/master_pfas_faq_mar.pdf.



Source: EPA

Figure 10 - Are PFAS Safe?⁴⁹

PFAS Regulatory Requirements

Public drinking water systems are required to follow certain regulations to ensure that the water they serve to their customers is safe to drink.⁵⁰

In recent years, specific regulations have been issued to address PFAS contamination that require monitoring and taking actions when PFAS is detected in drinking water sources. The following sections present PFAS regulations in the order they were issued by the EPA and California State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB).

PFAS Monitoring Requirements

Monitoring refers to the collection and evaluation of data for contaminants that are suspected of being present in water. Samples are collected and analyzed according to EPA-approved laboratory methods. Monitoring results are reported to either the EPA or SWRCB. This data serves as a primary source of occurrence and exposure information used to develop regulatory decisions.

OCWD conducts all sampling and analyses and reporting of monitoring results to regulatory agencies on behalf of its member agencies. OCWD owns and operates its

⁴⁹ "PFAS Explained," EPA, 1, accessed March 11, 2026, <https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2023-10/final-virtual-pfas-explainer-508.pdf>.

⁵⁰ "Drinking Water Standards and Regulations: An Overview," CDC, accessed May 21, 2026, <https://www.cdc.gov/drinking-water/about/drinking-water-standards-and-regulations-an-overview.html>.

own EPA-certified laboratory where it can use analytical methods approved by the EPA. MWDOC member agencies conduct monitoring activities using either their own staff or contractors to collect samples, which are delivered to EPA-certified laboratories for analyses. Laboratories report the results of their analyses to each MWDOC water retailer, who then reports the results to either the EPA or SWRCB.

EPA Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule

EPA uses the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR) to collect data every five years for no more than 30 priority contaminants that are suspected to be present in drinking water and do not have health-based standards set under the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA).⁵¹ The UCMR applies to all large public water systems (PWSs) serving greater than 10,000 people, all small PWSs serving between 3,300 and 10,000 people, and a representative sample of small PWSs serving fewer than 3,300 people.

EPA establishes the list of contaminants for each five-year UCMR cycle, considering an initial list of contaminants that are not regulated by the National Primary Drinking Water Regulations, are known or anticipated to occur at PWSs, and may warrant regulation under the SDWA.⁵²

The SDWA Public Notification Rule ensures that consumers will receive notice if there is a risk to public health from their drinking water. The Public Notification Rule requires that all PWSs notify their customers of the availability of UCMR results no later than 12-months after results are known. CWS are required to report UCMR results in their Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) when unregulated contaminants are detected. The annual drinking water quality report must include notice of availability of unregulated contaminant monitoring results, the average of the year's results and the range of detections.⁵³

The Grand Jury obtained UCMR monitoring data for all sampling and analyses conducted to fulfill UCMR requirements for its member agencies. The highest PFAS detections for all OCWD sources during the UCMR 3 and UCMR 5 monitoring cycles are shown at Figure 11.

⁵¹ "Summary of the Safe Drinking Water Act," EPA.

⁵² "Learn About the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule," EPA, accessed April 7, 2026, <https://www.epa.gov/dwucmr/learn-about-unregulated-contaminant-monitoring-rule>.

⁵³ "Public Notification Rule," EPA, accessed April 7, 2026, <https://www.epa.gov/dwreginfo/public-notification-rule#rule-summary>.

EPA UCMR	Number of PFAS on UCMR Contaminants List	Maximum PFAS Detection Among all OCWD Sources
2012-2016 UCMR 3	6 PFAS Figure 20, Appendix A	70 ng/L
2022-2026 UCMR 5	29 PFAS Figure 21, Appendix A	29 ng/L

Source: Compiled from OCWD data

Figure 11 - Highest PFAS Detections Among All OCWD Sources During UCMR 3 and UCMR 5 Monitoring Cycles

California State Water Resources Control Board PFAS General Monitoring Orders

Beginning in 2020, the SWRCB Division of Drinking Water, based on review of monitoring results from its 2019 PFAS monitoring orders, determined that it was necessary to expand monitoring to groundwater sources located within the vicinity of the PFAS detections. Several PFAS general monitoring orders were issued to PWSs 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2025 that included Orange County groundwater well locations.⁵⁴

Each of the SWRCB PFAS monitoring orders included requirements for sample collection and laboratory analysis by specific dates, to be followed by monitoring conducted every calendar quarter thereafter.⁵⁵ These PFAS monitoring orders established Consumer Confidence Report Detection Levels (CCRD), and Notification and Response Levels for each PFAS chemical to be monitored. A list of the SWRCB PFAS monitoring orders and exhibits identifying groundwater sources required to be monitored are shown at Appendix A, as well as copies of the CCRDL for each monitoring order.

The Grand Jury obtained monitoring data for all sampling and analyses conducted to fulfill SWRCB monitoring order requirements for sources listed in the monitoring orders that are owned by their member agencies. The highest PFAS detections for all these OCWD sources are shown at Figure 12.

⁵⁴ "PFAS DDW General Orders," SWRCB, accessed May 21, 2026, https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/certlic/drinkingwater/pfas_ddw_general_order/.

⁵⁵ Ibid.

SWRCB Order	Number of PFAS on Order CCRDL	Selected Monitoring Date Range	Maximum PFAS Detection Among All OCWD Sources Listed on Order Exhibit A
2020-0003-DDW	18 PFAS Figure 23, Appendix A	8/27/20 - 2/15/21	67.5 ng/L
2021-0003-DDW	18 PFAS Figure 24, Appendix A	2/16/21 - 10/30/22	470 ng/L ²
2022-0001-DDW	25 PFAS Figure 25, Appendix A	10/31/22 - 4/24/24	169 ng/L ³
2025-0002-DDW	25 PFAS Figure 26, Appendix A	4/25/24 - 3/19/26 ¹	73.7 ng/L

¹OCWD monitoring data as of March 19, 2026
²Outlier result. Next maximum PFAS result 88 ng/L
³Outlier result. Next maximum PFAS result 73.7 ng/L

Source: Compiled from OCWD data

Figure 12 - Highest PFAS Detections Among All OCWD Sources Listed on Each SWRCB Monitoring Order Exhibit A

2025 SWRCB General Order DW 2025-0002-DDW

The 2025 SWRCB General Order, issued on December 12, 2025, adopted the initial monitoring requirements in the federal PFAS Rule for each California CWS and non-transient, non-community water system. The 2025 SWRCB Order allows previously acquired data to count toward initial monitoring if collected on or after January 1, 2019, and reported concentrations no greater than the respective MCL.⁵⁶

The 2025 SWRCB General Order also included a list of Orange County groundwater sources showing that 151 of the 198 listed sources had completed initial monitoring as required by the federal PFAS Rule.⁵⁷

PFAS Notification and Response Requirements

Notification and response levels are health-based advisory levels established by the SWRCB Division of Drinking Water (DDW) for chemicals in drinking water that do not have established MCLs.

When chemicals are found in drinking water at concentrations greater than their notification levels, PWSs are required by law to make specific notifications. When

⁵⁶ "ORDER DW 2025-0002-DDW," SWRCB, accessed May 21, 2026, https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/certlic/drinkingwater/pfas_ddw_general_order/docs/order-dw-2025-0002-ddw-pfas-initial-monitoring.pdf.

⁵⁷ "Exhibit A – List of Sources and Required Monitoring Frequency," SWRCB, accessed May 21, 2026, https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.waterboards.ca.gov%2Fdrinking_water%2Fcertlic%2Fdrinkingwater%2Fpfas_ddw_general_order%2Fdocs%2Forder-dw-2025-0002-ddw-exhibit-a.xlsx&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK.

chemicals are found in drinking water at concentrations greater than their response levels, DDW recommends removal of a drinking water source from service.⁵⁸

PFAS notification and response levels specified in CCRDLs attached to SWRCB general monitoring orders remain in effect until MCLs are established and become effective. For example, MCLs for specific PFAS will become effective in 2029, and at that time will supersede notification and response levels specified the 2022 CCRDL.

PFAS National Primary Drinking Water Regulation

In April 2024 EPA announced the final National Primary Drinking Water Regulation for six PFAS (the federal PFAS Rule).⁵⁹ The PFAS Rule applies to all CWS. The EPA expects that over many years this rule will prevent PFAS exposure in drinking for approximately 100 million people, prevent thousands of deaths, and reduce tens of thousands of serious PFAS-attributable illnesses.⁶⁰

The PFAS Rule establishes initial monitoring and compliance monitoring requirements, and enforceable maximum contaminant levels (MCL) for six PFAS in drinking water. Initial monitoring for six listed PFAS must be implemented beginning April 2024 and must be completed no later than April 26, 2027. Compliance monitoring requirements beginning April 26, 2027, will be either triennial, annual, or quarterly as determined by the SWRCB based on results of the initial monitoring.

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) is the highest level of a contaminant allowed in drinking water. EPA has established legally enforceable MCLs of 4.0 parts per trillion (ppt) for PFOA and PFOS, and 10.0 ppt for PFHxS, PFNA, and HFPO-DA (GenX chemicals). Figure 13 shows the MCLs and MCLG effective April 26, 2029.

Ensuring compliance with drinking water MCLs for the PFAS of most concern is the reason over \$600 million (see Figure 17) is being spent to construct PFAS treatment facilities in Orange County.

⁵⁸ "Drinking Water Notification Levels," SWRCB, accessed May 21, 2026, https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/certlic/drinkingwater/NotificationLevels.html.

⁵⁹ "Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS), Final PFAS National Primary Drinking Water Regulation," EPA, accessed May 21, 2026, <https://www.epa.gov/sdwa/and-polyfluoroalkyl-substances-pfas>.

⁶⁰ Ibid.

Chemical	Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG)	Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)
PFOA	0	4.0 ppt
PFOS	0	4.0 ppt
PFNA	10 ppt	10 ppt
PFHxS	10 ppt	10 ppt
HFPO-DA (GenX chemicals)	10 ppt	10 ppt
Mixture of two or more: PFNA, PFHxS, HFPO-DA, and PFBS	Hazard Index of 1	Hazard Index of 1
Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety and are non-enforceable public health goals. Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL): The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology and taking cost into consideration. MCLs are enforceable standards. ppt: parts per trillion		
Hazard Index (HI): The Hazard Index is a long-established approach that EPA regularly uses to understand health risk from a chemical mixture (i.e., exposure to multiple chemicals). The HI is made up of a sum of fractions. Each fraction compares the level of each PFAS measured in the water to the health-based water concentration.		

Source: EPA

Figure 13 - PFAS Rule Enforceable Maximum Contaminant Levels and Maximum Contaminant Level Goals⁶¹

In addition to ongoing compliance monitoring and MCLs, the PFAS Rule also includes additional requirements with future effective dates. Between April 2027 and April 2029, if monitoring shows that drinking water levels exceed MCLs, CWS must implement solutions that reduce these PFAS; results of initial monitoring must be included in the CCR; results of compliance monitoring must be included in the CCR; and public notification is required for monitoring and testing violations. Starting April 2029, CWS that have MCL violations must take action to reduce levels of these PFAS in their drinking water, and public notification is required for MCL violations.

Compliance with Regulatory Requirements

Consumer Confidence Reports

The Grand Jury reviewed the 2025 Consumer Confidence Reports (Water Quality Reports) issued by 31 water retailers serving Orange County. The CCR is to be delivered to all billing customers by July 1 of each year and must include specified information. All 31 water retailers complied with the eight content requirements specified by the EPA, shown in Appendix B.⁶² Seven of the 11 water retailers operating PFAS

⁶¹ "PFAS National Primary Drinking Water Regulation, April 2024," EPA, accessed May 12, 2026, https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2024-04/pfas-npdwr_fact-sheet_general_4.9.24v1.pdf.

⁶² "Consumer Confidence Report Rule: A Quick Reference Guide," EPA, accessed April 18, 2026, https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2014-05/documents/guide_qrg_ccr_2011.pdf.

treatment facilities in Orange County included a PFAS advisory section in their CCRs, while only 55 percent of the 31 water retailers included any PFAS advisory statement.

The Grand Jury found that the 31 Orange County water retailers reported either “not detected” results or concentrations below notification thresholds for the six PFAS listed in the EPA PFAS Rule on their 2025 CCRs. After PFAS treatment facilities became operational, OCWD member retailers operating these facilities consistently reported “not detected” results for the same six PFAS. The Grand Jury found that PFAS results from individual wells do not necessarily reflect the quality of water delivered to customers, as some tested wells were later placed into inactive status or destroyed. CCRs documented PFAS constituents exceeding notification levels as required and did not report “not detected” results for those constituents. Monitoring results and CCRs are available in the Safe Drinking Water Information System (SDWIS), California’s official database for tracking public water systems, drinking water quality monitoring, regulatory compliance, and enforcement.⁶³

Notification and Response

As of 2020, drinking water retailers with PFAS detections above notification and response levels at wells without PFAS treatment facilities began to rely on imported water, or groundwater blended with imported water to deliver drinking water with PFAS concentrations below notification and response levels. As of 2021, multiple water retailers in Orange County shut down groundwater wells after PFAS concentrations at those wells exceeded established response levels.⁶⁴

PFAS Rule Initial Monitoring

When the 2025 SWRCB General Order adopting the PFAS National Primary Drinking Water Regulation was issued in December 2025, 76% of listed Orange County groundwater sources had already completed initial monitoring required to be completed by April 2027. Most of the remaining Orange County sources received credit for previously acquired data, leaving only 6% with all requirements to be completed by April 2027.

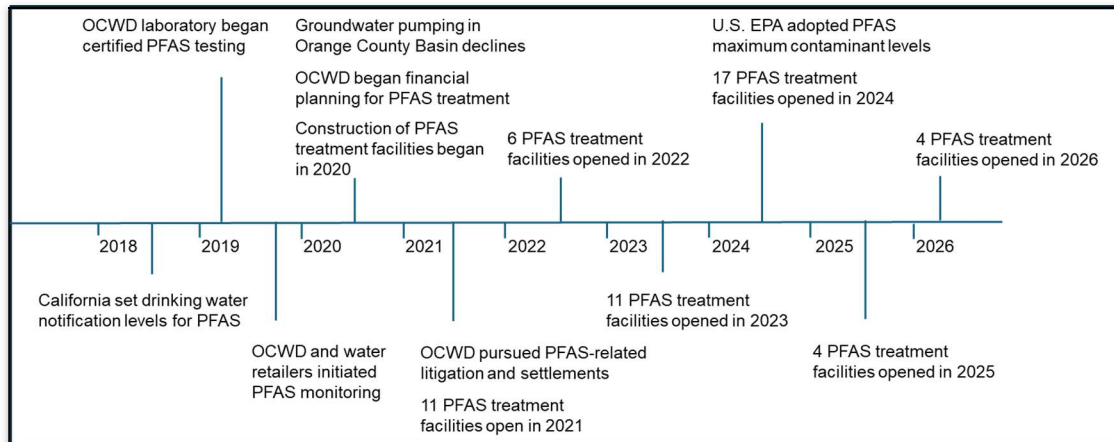
⁶³ “Drinking Water Watch,” SWRCB, Division of Drinking Water, Safe Drinking Water Information System (SDWIS), accessed April 26, 2026, <https://sdwis.waterboards.ca.gov/PDWWW/>.

⁶⁴ “Orange County launches first water plant to remove PFAS toxins,” Solano Public Health, accessed April 29, 2026, <https://publichealth.networkofcare.org/solano/CommunityResources/News/Article?articleId=124536>.

Proactive Response to PFAS Impacts

PFAS Impacts and OCWD Response

OCWD coordinated a regional response to PFAS contamination in partnership with its member agencies. These efforts focus on restoring the groundwater basin, which supplies up to 85 percent of the water used by approximately 2.5 million residents in north and central Orange County. A timeline of OCWD response to PFAS in the Orange County Groundwater Basin is shown in Figure 14. As PFAS-impacted groundwater wells began to be shut down in early 2020, public education became a critical component of community water systems' response. OCWD dedicated resources to public outreach, including the development of informational web pages to inform the public about PFAS impacts and the measures being implemented to address them.⁶⁵



Source: Compiled from multiple OCWD sources

Figure 14 - Timeline of OCWD Response to PFAS in the Santa Ana River Basin

PFAS contamination has impacted more than 100 groundwater wells across 15 water retailers. As of this report, 53 wells have returned to service following construction of treatment facilities. Figure 15 shows a map of current and future PFAS treatment locations in Orange County.

⁶⁵ "PFAS education center," Orange County Water District, accessed April 8, 2026, <https://www.ocwd.com/what-we-do/water-quality/pfas/>.

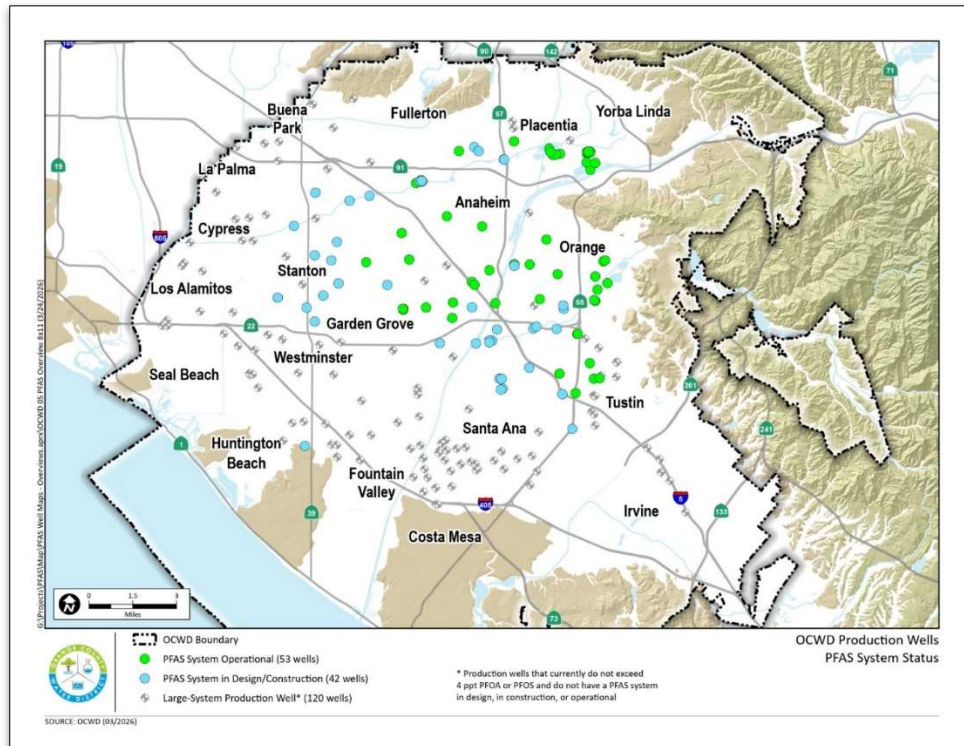
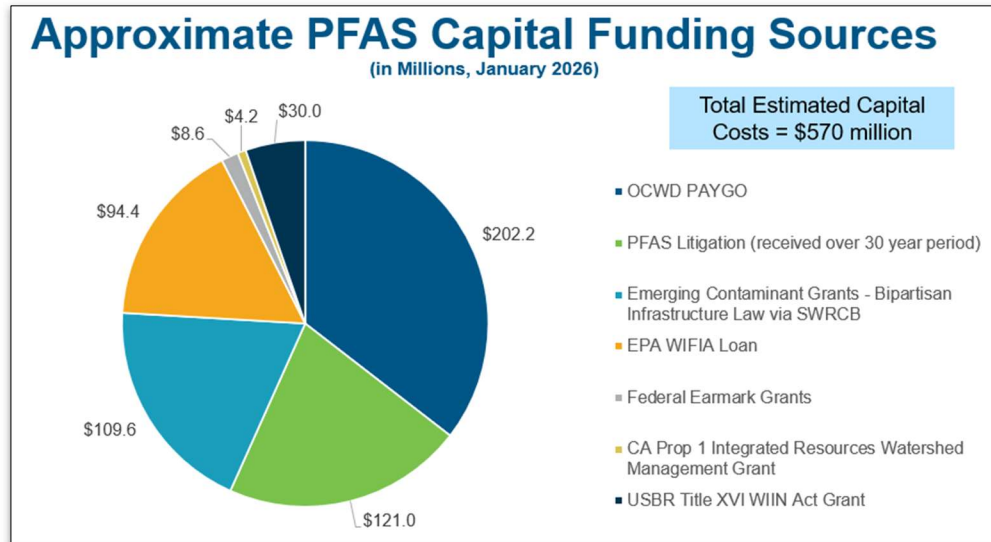


Figure 15 - Map of Current and Future PFAS Treatment Locations

PFAS Treatment Facilities and Capital Costs

Construction of PFAS treatment facilities began in 2020. OCWD executed the PFAS Treatment Facilities and Program Agreement, under which OCWD funds capital costs and shares operating and maintenance (O&M) costs with participating water retailers.

Figure 16 summarizes projected PFAS capital funding sources as of January 2026, including OCWD pay-as-you-go (PAYGO) revenue, state and federal grants, an EPA Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) loan, and litigation settlement proceeds. The Grand Jury commends OCWD for securing diversified funding sources to advance timely treatment facility construction.



Source: OCWD data

Figure 16 - Approximate PFAS Capital Funding Sources

Figure 17 summarizes PFAS treatment facilities by water retailer, opening date, treatment technology, capacity, location, connections, number of wells, and capital costs. Facilities began entering service in mid-2021, starting with a treatment plant in Fullerton, with additional facilities becoming operational over time. Most facilities use ion exchange technology. Capital costs vary based on the number of affected wells, conveyance pipeline requirements, and treatment facility configuration.

OCWD is funding the reasonable costs of designing and constructing PFAS treatment facilities for its member water retailers. Each retailer could either have OCWD design and build the treatment facility or receive reimbursement for designing and constructing the treatment system independently. As of this report, 38 wells with PFAS treatment were built by OCWD and fifteen wells with PFAS treatment were designed and built by the water retailers.

Eighteen wells with PFAS treatment construction projects by OCWD have been completed on schedule. Ten wells with PFAS treatment projects, which were built by OCWD, were completed on schedule; however, OCWD experienced cost overruns due to specialized design requirements or owner-requested improvements. An additional 10 wells with PFAS treatment projects that were done by OCWD were completed late and over budget, primarily due to pandemic-related material delays, design complexity, owner-requested improvements, and utility coordination challenges.

Community Water System	Opening Date	Type	Capacity	Location	Connections	Wells	Total Cost (\$M)	Actual-to Date (\$M)	Remaining Budget (\$M)
City of Anaheim	Sep-2024	Ion Exchange	51,000 gal/min	Nine (9) PFAS treatment facilities at Linda Vista, Katella Ave., Santa Cruz, Energy Field, Brookhurst, Willow Park, Downtown, Boysen Park, and La Palma	64,000	14	\$117.1	\$117.1	\$0.0
	Dec-2028	Ion Exchange	8,000 gal/min	Wells 48 & 53		2	\$16.0	\$0.8	\$15.3
	Dec-2028	Ion Exchange	8,000 gal/min	Wells 39 & 47		2	\$16.0	\$0.9	\$15.1
	Dec-2029	Ion Exchange	TBD	Well 51		1	\$7.0	\$0.0	\$7.0
City of Buena Park	Jun-2026	Packer	2,200 gal/min	Linden Well - Install Packer to reduce flow from PFAS zone(s) in the well - not treatment.		1	\$0.6	\$0.1	\$0.6
City of Fullerton	Jun-2021	Ion Exchange	2,400 gal/min	Kimberly Well 1A	32,000	1	\$5.3	\$4.1	\$1.3
	Dec-2023	Granular Activated Carbon (GAC)	5,000 gal/min	Main Plant 3A		1	\$13.7	\$13.7	\$0.0
	Dec-2026	Granular Activated Carbon (GAC)	4,000 gal/min	Main Plant Wells 5,6,7,8		4	\$12.5	\$2.6	\$9.9
	Jun-2027	Ion Exchange	4,400 gal/min	Kimberly Well 2		1	\$10.9	\$4.3	\$6.6
	Dec-2029	Ion Exchange	1,600 gal/min	Sunclipse Well 10 - Pipeline for Treatment at Kimberly 2 Plant Well 15 - New Well Site Needed		2	\$15.3	\$0.0	\$15.3
City of Garden Grove	Jun-2023	Ion Exchange	17,600 gal/min	Wells 21, 23, 28, 29, 30, 31	34,300	6	\$24.3	\$24.3	\$0.0
	Dec-2026	Ion Exchange	2,000 gal/min	Well 19		1	\$6.5	\$1.9	\$4.7
	Dec-2028	Ion Exchange	13,590 gal/min	Wells 22, 26, and 27		3	\$31.7	\$1.6	\$30.2
	Dec-2030	Ion Exchange	2,000 gal/min	Well 25		1	\$7.0	\$0.0	\$7.0
City of Huntington Beach	Dec-2029	Ion Exchange	3,000 gal/min	Well 3A		1	\$8.0	\$0.0	\$8.0
	Dec-2030	Ion Exchange	3,000 gal/min	Well 6		1	\$8.0	\$0.0	\$8.0
City of Orange	Sep-2022	Ion Exchange	8,420 gal/min	Wells 9, 19, 23, 24	36,000	4	\$10.0	\$9.9	\$0.1
	Apr-2026	Ion Exchange	7,940 gal/min	Wells 20, 21, 22		3	\$14.7	\$14.7	\$0.0
	Apr-2026	Ion Exchange	3,200 gal/min	Well 28		1	\$5.0	\$4.0	\$1.0
	Dec-2028	Ion Exchange	5,500 gal/min	Wells 25, 27		2	\$13.0	\$0.4	\$12.7
	Dec-2029	Ion Exchange	3,200 gal/min	Well 26		1	\$7.0	\$0.1	\$6.9
	Dec-2029	Ion Exchange	TBD	Well 29 - New Well Currently Being Drilled by City		1	\$6.0	\$1.0	\$5.0
	Dec-2029	Ion Exchange							
City of Santa Ana	May-2023	Ion Exchange	2,500 gal/min	Well 40	45,576	1	\$5.8	\$5.8	\$0.0
	Sep-2026	Ion Exchange	2,500 gal/min	Well 38		1	\$7.4	\$7.4	\$0.0
	Dec-2026	Ion Exchange	2,000 gal/min	Well 31		1	\$8.5	\$6.8	\$1.7
	Apr-2027	Ion Exchange	3,600 gal/min	Well 27&28		2	\$17.0	\$8.7	\$8.3
	May-2027	Ion Exchange	9,200 gal/min	Wells 27, 28, 31, 38, 40 at John Garthe Reservoir		5	\$31.4	\$0.0	\$31.4
	Dec-2029	Ion Exchange	12,400 gal/min	Wells 16, 29, 33, 41, 43(fut) at Walnut Reservoir		5	\$25.0	\$0.1	\$24.9
City of Tustin	May-2025	Ion Exchange	6,400 gal/min	Main Street and Prospect Avenue to remove PFAS from four (4) wells in Tustin	14,500	4	\$32.7	\$32.7	\$0.0
	Dec-2029	Ion Exchange	2,000 gal/min	Edinger Well		1	\$7.0	\$0.0	\$7.0
	Dec-2030	Ion Exchange	2,300 gal/min	17th St Wells (2 wells treated)		2	\$7.0	\$0.0	\$7.0
City of Westminster	Dec-2030	Ion Exchange	2,500 gal/min	WM-3 (New Well)		1	\$8.0	\$0.0	\$8.0
	Dec-2030	Ion Exchange	2,500 gal/min	WM-SC4 (New Well)		1	\$8.0	\$0.0	\$8.0
East Orange County Water District	Jun-2024	Ion Exchange	3,200 gal/min	Treatment for East and VanderWerff Wells	19,000	2	\$8.9	\$8.9	\$0.0
Golden State Water Company	Nov-2023	Ion Exchange	3,200 gal/min	Bradford and Fairhaven Plants	46,300	3	\$4.4	\$4.4	\$0.0
	Jul-2027	Ion Exchange	940 gal/min	Sherrill Plant		1	\$3.1	\$0.8	\$2.4
	Dec-2028	Ion Exchange	7,620 gal/min	La Jolla, Fern Plants		3	\$8.3	\$0.5	\$7.8
	Dec-2028	Ion Exchange	7,620 gal/min	Clair, Beach, and Dale Plants		4	\$12.8	\$0.9	\$11.9
	Dec-2030	Ion Exchange	2,500 gal/min	Lowden		1	\$8.0	\$0.0	\$8.0
	Dec-2030	Ion Exchange	2,500 gal/min	Orangewood		1	\$8.0	\$0.0	\$8.0
Irvine Ranch Water District	Oct-2024	Ion Exchange	3,200 gal/min	Orange Park Acres Well No. 1	125,000	1	\$7.2	\$7.2	\$0.0
Serrano Water District	Feb-2022	Ion Exchange	3,200 gal/min	Wells 3 and 5	5,659	2	\$6.0	\$6.0	\$0.0
Yorba Linda Water District	Dec-2021	Ion Exchange	13,200 gal/min	All ten (10) Yorba Linda wells	11,786	10	\$27.7	\$27.7	\$0.0
Note: \$M= Dollars in Millions						106	\$607.8	\$318.9	\$288.9

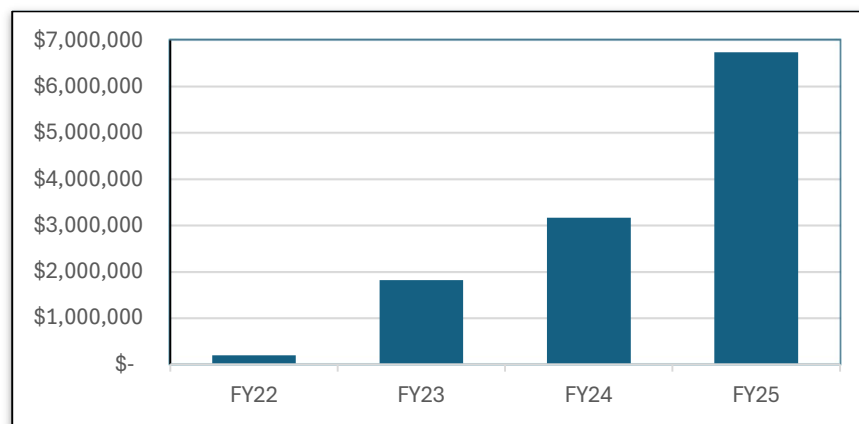
Source: Multiple OCWD and water retailer data

Figure 17 - Summary of PFAS Treatment Facilities

Operations and Maintenance Costs

Under the PFAS Treatment Facilities and Program Agreement, OCWD reimburses 50 percent of eligible operations and maintenance (O&M) costs incurred by participating water agencies. Eligible O&M costs include treatment media replacement, power and chemical costs, routine maintenance, repairs, staffing, compliance monitoring, regulatory compliance activities, additional pumping, waste disposal, sewer costs, and other necessary system maintenance expenses.

Actual PFAS treatment expenses (see Figure 18), which can be found in Annual Comprehensive Financial Reports (ACFRs),⁶⁶ varied primarily due to construction timing and the performance of ion exchange resin media. Specialized resins are a key element in PFAS treatment and help remove PFAS from water using electrostatics. Construction delays meant some treatment facilities were not operational as expected, resulting in lower O&M costs. In FY22 and FY23, initial resin media lasted longer than anticipated and reduced O&M costs. In contrast, FY25 experienced more resin changeouts than anticipated and higher O&M costs. Resin media life varies by treatment system and operating conditions, such as run time, cycling frequency, and production flow rates. OCWD is updating resin performance assumptions and changeout frequency estimates to improve future O&M forecasts.



Source: OCWD

Figure 18 – OCWD’s Share of PFAS Treatment Facility Annual O&M Cost

Program Status and Future Plans

The overall OCWD PFAS Treatment Systems Project currently includes 11 water retailers, with construction planned or underway for four additional retailers, expanding the program to 15. Fifty-three treatment systems are operational. Construction

⁶⁶ “Sound financial management,” Orange County Water District, accessed April 8, 2026, <https://www.ocwd.com/what-we-do/sound-financial-management/>.

continues on 20 additional systems, with design work underway for 24 more. Here is a list of PFAS projects in design or under construction as of May 2026:

- Golden State Water Company Wells SLON and SORG are still in planning. Well SSYC is in design and is anticipated to start construction in Fiscal Year 26/27.
- Tustin 17th Street Well is nearing the start of design.
- Huntington Beach Well 3A, Anaheim Wells 39 and 47, Tustin Edinger Well are all in the design phase and are anticipated to start construction in Fiscal Year 26/27.
- Buena Park Linden Well is currently in construction.

Figure 19 indicates the estimated average monthly cost of PFAS treatment to OCWD service area residents is \$1.42 per person. OCWD anticipates continued design and construction activity over several years.

Average PFAS Impact to OCWD Service Area Residents Over a 25 year period	
Total Capital Costs	\$570,000,000
State & Fed Grants	\$152,000,000
Litigation Proceeds	<u>\$121,000,000</u>
Net Capital Costs	\$297,000,000
Amortized Debt Costs	
	4.50% Interest Rate
	25 Years
	\$297,000,000 Amount
Annual Debt Payment	\$20,029,391
Estimated Annual O&M Cost	<u>\$22,000,000</u>
Total Annual Cost	\$42,029,391
Total Monthly Cost	\$3,502,449
OCWD Population from 19 Member Agencies	2,469,000 persons
Monthly cost per person	\$1.42

Source: OCWD

Figure 19 - PFAS Monthly Cost to OCWD Service Area Residents

FINDINGS

In accordance with California Penal Code Sections 933 and 933.05, the 2025-2026 Orange County Grand Jury requires (or, as noted, requests) responses from each agency affected by the findings presented in this section. The responses are to be submitted to the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court.

Based on its investigation described herein, the 2025-2026 Orange County Grand Jury has arrived at the following six principal findings:

- F1 Commercial and industrial chemical manufacturers are a major source of PFAS contamination. Settlement litigation funds are available for community water systems to make claims.
- F2 PFAS is widespread, and contamination has been detected in Orange County groundwater sources. Community water systems are required to report PFAS monitoring results in their annual Consumer Confidence Reports.
- F3 PFAS exposure is associated with potential adverse human health effects.
- F4 OCWD has taken a proactive leadership role in addressing PFAS in the Orange County Groundwater Basin, though PFAS treatment implementation varies across local cities and water districts.
- F5 Groundwater supplies must either be treated to remove PFAS or must be replaced with imported water supplies that are significantly more expensive than groundwater. Over \$500 million is being spent on construction, operations, and maintenance of PFAS treatment facilities in Orange County.
- F6 Orange County drinking water meets or exceeds state and federal standards and is safe for consumption without additional home filtration.
- F7 Research on newer PFAS compounds and long-term exposure effects is ongoing.
- F8 There are limited online PFAS education and outreach programs among Orange County water retailers. Most retailers rely on OCWD for PFAS education and outreach. PFAS advisories were included in approximately 55% of the Orange County water retailers' annual water quality reports in 2025.

RECOMMENDATIONS

In accordance with California Penal Code Sections 933 and 933.05, the 2025-2026 Orange County Grand Jury requires (or, as noted, requests) responses from each agency affected by the recommendations presented in this section. The responses are to be submitted to the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court.

Based on its investigation described herein, the 2025-2026 Orange County Grand Jury makes the following recommendations:

- R1** By September 30, 2026, Orange County Water District (OCWD), in coordination with state and federal agencies, should pursue cost recovery efforts against PFAS manufacturers to offset treatment, monitoring, and long-term remediation costs incurred by local water agencies and ratepayers. [F1, F5]
- R2** By July 1, 2029, OCWD and its member agencies should monitor PFAS in groundwater and surface water sources and promptly implement PFAS treatment when response levels are exceeded. [F2, F4]
- R3** By September 30, 2026, OCWD, in collaboration with the Orange County Health Care Agency, should update public education and guidance continually as scientific understanding and regulatory standards evolve. [F3]
- R4** By July 1, 2029, all Orange County water retailers should consistently include a PFAS advisory, treatment facilities status, and compliance information in consumer confidence reports and on agency websites, using clear and understandable language for the public. [F2, F8]
- R5** By September 30, 2026, OCWD and all Orange County water retailers should enhance coordinated public education efforts to reassure their customers about drinking water safety. [F6, F8]
- R6** By September 30, 2026, OCWD should continuously monitor national and international PFAS research developments and incorporate new findings into future groundwater management, treatment planning, and regulatory compliance strategies. [F7]

COMMENDATIONS

Many Orange County water agencies have demonstrated exceptional leadership in addressing PFAS through large-scale treatment investments, rigorous monitoring, and public communication. Together, these agencies serve more than two million residents and have implemented some of the most advanced PFAS treatment systems in the nation. The following commendations recognize high-impact programs and measurable achievements across the region.

Orange County Water District (OCWD)

OCWD has implemented the largest PFAS treatment program in the United States, designing and constructing treatment systems for over 100 impacted wells across 15 cities and retail water districts, improving water quality for approximately 1.5 million people. OCWD secured a \$94M EPA Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) loan, \$152M in state and federal grant funding, and \$131M in PFAS manufacturers litigation settlement funds to support this effort, which includes the build-out of more than 30 PFAS treatment facilities.

The Grand Jury offers additional commendations to OCWD and its member agencies for their collaborative cost-sharing agreement. Under this arrangement, OCWD fully funds all PFAS facility design and construction capital expenditures. Ongoing operations and maintenance costs are then shared equally, with OCWD covering 50% and each participating water retailer contributing the remaining 50% for the PFAS treatment facilities they operate. This approach reflects progressive public-sector planning, demonstrating how agencies can work together to address complex and costly challenges. It also serves as a strong model for future government/private-sector cost-sharing agreements, illustrating how thoughtful collaboration can enhance efficiency and long-term public benefit.

Anaheim Water Utility

Anaheim has launched one of the largest municipal PFAS treatment programs in the country, a multi-phase, \$150M effort to construct treatment systems at nine groundwater sites. The utility serves 64,000 metered customers, historically relying on groundwater for 80% of its supply. PFAS treatment systems for Wells 39 and 47 are among the first in a series of facilities designed to restore local production while meeting stringent state and federal standards.

Yorba Linda Water District (YLWD)

YLWD operates the J. Wayne Miller, Ph.D. Water Treatment Plant, recognized as the nation's largest PFAS ion-exchange treatment facility. The plant serves approximately 80,000 customers and has delivered PFAS-free water for nearly three consecutive years. This facility allows YLWD to optimize its groundwater resources while proactively meeting evolving PFAS regulatory standards.

RESPONSES

The following excerpts from the California Penal Code provide the requirements for public agencies to respond to the Findings and Recommendations of this Grand Jury report:

§933

(c) No later than 90 days after the grand jury submits a final report on the operations of any public agency subject to its reviewing authority, the governing body of the public agency shall comment to the presiding judge of the superior court on the findings and recommendations pertaining to matters under the control of the governing body, and every elected county officer or agency head for which the grand jury has responsibility pursuant to Section 914.1 shall comment within 60 days to the presiding judge of the superior court, with an information copy sent to the board of supervisors, on the findings and recommendations pertaining to matters under the control of that county officer or agency head and any agency or agencies which that officer or agency head supervises or controls. In any city and county, the mayor shall also comment on the findings and recommendations. All of these comments and reports shall forthwith be submitted to the presiding judge of the superior court who impaneled the grand jury. A copy of all responses to grand jury reports shall be placed on file with the clerk of the public agency and the office of the county clerk, or the mayor when applicable, and shall remain on file in those offices. One copy shall be placed on file with the applicable grand jury final report by, and in the control of the currently impaneled grand jury, where it shall be maintained for a minimum of five years.

§933.05.

(a) For purposes of subdivision (b) of Section 933, as to each grand jury finding, the responding person or entity shall indicate one of the following:

(1) The respondent agrees with the finding.

(2) The respondent disagrees wholly or partially with the finding, in which case the response shall specify the portion of the finding that is disputed and shall include an explanation of the reasons, therefore.

(b) For purposes of subdivision (b) of Section 933, as to each grand jury recommendation, the responding person or entity shall report one of the following actions:

(1) The recommendation has been implemented, with a summary regarding the implemented action.

(2) The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future, with a timeframe for implementation.

(3) The recommendation requires further analysis, with an explanation and the scope and parameters of an analysis or study, and a timeframe for the matter to be prepared for discussion by the officer or head of the agency or department being investigated or reviewed, including the governing body of the public agency when applicable. This timeframe shall not exceed six months from the date of publication of the grand jury report.

(4) The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable, with an explanation, therefore.

(c) However, if a finding or recommendation of the grand jury addresses budgetary or personnel matters of a county agency or department headed by an elected officer, both the agency or department head and the board of supervisors shall respond if requested by the grand jury, but the response of the board of supervisors shall address only those budgetary or personnel matters over which it has some decision-making authority. The response of the elected agency or department head shall address all aspects of the findings or recommendations affecting his or her agency or department.

(d) A grand jury may request a subject person or entity to come before the grand jury for the purpose of reading and discussing the findings of the grand jury report that relates to that person or entity in order to verify the accuracy of the findings prior to their release.

(e) During an investigation, the grand jury shall meet with the subject of that investigation regarding the investigation, unless the court, either on its own determination or upon request of the foreperson of the grand jury, determines that such a meeting would be detrimental.

(f) A grand jury shall provide to the affected agency a copy of the portion of the grand jury report relating to that person or entity two working days prior to its public release and after the approval of the presiding judge. No officer, agency, department, or governing body of a public agency shall disclose any contents of the report prior to the public release of the final report.

(Amended by Stats. 1997, Ch. 443, Sec. 5. Effective January 1, 1998.)

Comments to the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court in compliance with Penal Code §933.05 are required from:

Orange County Board of Supervisors	90 Day Response Required
Findings:	F3
Recommendations:	R3
Orange County Water District Board of Directors	90 Day Response Required
Findings:	F1, F2, F3, F4, F5, F6, F7, F8
Recommendations:	R1, R2, R3, R5, R6
Orange County Health Care Agency	90 Day Response Requested
Findings:	F3
Recommendations:	R3
City of Anaheim	90 Day Response Required
Findings:	F2, F4, F6, F8
Recommendations:	R2, R4, R5
City of Brea	90 Day Response Required
Findings:	F2, F6, F8
Recommendations:	R4, R5
City of Buena Park	90 Day Response Required
Findings:	F2, F4, F6, F8
Recommendations:	R2, R4, R5
City of Fountain Valley	90 Day Response Required
Findings:	F2, F4, F6, F8
Recommendations:	R2, R4, R5

City of Fullerton	90 Day Response Required
Findings:	F2, F4, F6, F8
Recommendations:	R2, R4, R5
City of Garden Grove	90 Day Response Required
Findings:	F2, F4, F6, F8
Recommendations:	R2, R4, R5
City of Huntington Beach	90 Day Response Required
Findings:	F2, F4, F6, F8
Recommendations:	R2, R4, R5
City of La Habra	90 Day Response Required
Findings:	F2, F6, F8
Recommendations:	R4, R5
City of La Palma	90 Day Response Required
Findings:	F2, F4, F6, F8
Recommendations:	R2, R4, R5
City of Newport Beach	90 Day Response Required
Findings:	F2, F4, F6, F8
Recommendations:	R2, R4, R5
City of Orange	90 Day Response Required
Findings:	F2, F4, F6, F8
Recommendations:	R2, R4, R5

City of San Clemente

Findings:

Recommendations:

90 Day Response Required

F2, F6, F8

R4, R5

City of Santa Ana

Findings:

Recommendations:

90 Day Response Required

F2, F4, F6, F8

R2, R4, R5

City of Seal Beach

Findings:

Recommendations:

90 Day Response Required

F2, F4, F6, F8

R2, R4, R5

City of Tustin

Findings:

Recommendations:

90 Day Response Required

F2, F4, F6, F8

R2, R4, R5

City of Westminster

Findings:

Recommendations:

90 Day Response Required

F2, F4, F6, F8

R2, R4, R5

East Orange County Water District

Findings:

Recommendations:

90 Day Response Required

F2, F4, F6, F8

R2, R4, R5

El Toro Water District

Findings:

Recommendations:

90 Day Response Required

F2, F6, F8

R4, R5

Emerald Bay Service District	90 Day Response Required
Findings:	F2, F6, F8
Recommendations:	R4, R5
Golden State Water Company	90 Day Response Required
Findings:	F2, F4, F6, F8
Recommendations:	R2, R4, R5
Irvine Ranch Water District	90 Day Response Required
Findings:	F2, F4, F6, F8
Recommendations:	R2, R4, R5
Laguna Beach County Water District	90 Day Response Required
Findings:	F2, F6, F8
Recommendations:	R4, R5
Mesa Water District	90 Day Response Required
Findings:	F2, F4, F6, F8
Recommendations:	R2, R4, R5
Moulton Niguel Water District	90 Day Response Required
Findings:	F2, F6, F8
Recommendations:	R4, R5
Santa Margarita Water District	90 Day Response Required
Findings:	F2, F6, F8
Recommendations:	R4, R5

Serrano Water District

Findings:

Recommendations:

90 Day Response Required

F2, F4, F6, F8

R2, R4, R5

South Coast Water District

Findings:

Recommendations:

90 Day Response Required

F2, F6, F8

R4, R5

Trabuco Canyon Water District

Findings:

Recommendations:

90 Day Response Required

F2, F6, F8

R4, R5

Yorba Linda Water District

Findings:

Recommendations:

90 Day Response Required

F2, F4, F6, F8

R2, R4, R5

Acronyms

ACFRS	Annual comprehensive financial reports
ADONA	Ammonium 4 8-dioxa-3h-perfluorononanoate
AFFF	Aqueous film forming foams used frequently at airports and military bases for firefighting and emergency response training activities
AL	Regulatory Action Level The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow
ATSDR	Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry
CCR	Consumer Confidence Report
CCRD	Consumer Confidence Report Detection Levels
CDC	United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
CWS	Community Water System
DDW	Division of Drinking Water
DWR	Department of Water Resources
Effluent	Liquid waste from industrial facilities
EPA	US Environmental Protection Agency
FDA	Food and Drug Administration
GenX	Is a Chemours trademark name for a synthetic, short chain organofluorine chemical compound, the ammonium salt of hexafluoropropylene oxide dimer acid (HFPO-DA). It can also be used more informally to refer to the group of related fluorochemicals that are used to produce GenX.
GWRS	Ground water replacement system
HALF LIFE	Time required for a quantity to reduce to half of its original value
HFPO-DA	Hexafluoropropylene oxide dimer acid
MSS	Multi site study
MCL	Glossary of Terms Maximum Contaminant Level. The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. Primary MCLs are set as

	close to the public health goals and maximum contaminant level goals as is economically and technologically feasible. Secondary MCLs are set to protect the odor, taste, and appearance of drinking water.
MCLG	Maximum Contaminant Level Goal. The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. The United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) sets maximum contaminant level goals.
MRDL	Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level. The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that the addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.
MRDLG	Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.
MWD	Metropolitan Water District
MWDOC	Municipal Water District of Orange County
N/A	Not applicable
ND	Not detected
NHANES	National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey
NL	California Notification Level Non-regulatory, health-based advisory levels established by the State Board for contaminants in drinking water for which an MCL has not been established
NR	Not required to be tested; < = average is less than the detection limit for reporting purposes
NTU	Nephelometric turbidity units
OCWD	Orange County Water District
O & M	Operations and Management
PAYGO	“Pay as you go”
PDWS	Primary Drinking Water Standard MCLs, MRDLs and treatment techniques (TTs) for contaminants that affect health, along with their monitoring and reporting requirements
pCi/L	picoCuries per liter

PFAS RULE Establishes enforceable drinking water standards for six PFAS chemicals

PFAS Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances

PFBA Perfluoro Butanoic Acid

PFBS Perfluoro Butane Sulfonic Acid

PFHpA Perfluoro Heptanoic Acid

PFHxA Perfluoro Hexanoic Acid

PFHxS Perfluoro Hexane Sulfonic Acid

PFNA Perfluorononanoic acid

PFOA Perfluoro Octanoic Acid

PFOS Perfluoro Octane Sulfonic Acid

PFPeA Perfluoro Pentanoic Acid

PHG Public Health Goal The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. The California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA) sets public health goals.

PPB Parts per billion

PPM Parts per million

PPT Parts per trillion

PQL Practical Quantitation Level

PWS Public water supply

RAA Highest Running Annual Average

SAR Santa Ana River

SDWA Safe Drinking Water Act

SDWIS Safe Drinking Water Information System

SWRCB State Water Resources Control Board

WIFIA Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act

TT Treatment Technique. A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water

UCI University of California, Irvine

UCMR	Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule
US	United States
µmho/cm	Micromho per centimeter (equivalent to 1 microsiemens/cm)

Glossary

Cross Sectional Study	Examines prevalence of a condition or characteristic at a single point in time across a population to identify patterns, associations, and risk factors
Ion Exchange Technology	Process that removes/replaces dissolved ions in a solution using solid materials.
Non-Community Water Systems	Public water systems at locations where people do not reside
Non-Transient Water Systems	Public water systems that service at least 25 of the same people over six months of the year, but do not live there

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Appendix A

Unregulated Contaminated Monitoring Rule (UCMR) Contaminants Lists, PFAS Contaminants

Contaminant/CASRN ¹	MRL (µg/L) ²	Use or Environmental Source ³
Perfluorinated Compounds: EPA Method 537		
perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS) 1763-23-1	0.04	Surfactant or emulsifier; used in fire-fighting foam, circuit board etching acids, alkaline cleaners, floor polish, and as a pesticide active ingredient for insect bait traps; U.S. manufacture of PFOS phased out in 2002; however, PFOS still generated incidentally
perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) 335-67-1	0.02	Perfluorinated aliphatic carboxylic acid; used for its emulsifier and surfactant properties in or as fluoropolymers (such as Teflon), fire-fighting foams, cleaners, cosmetics, greases and lubricants, paints, polishes, adhesives and photographic films
perfluorononanoic acid (PFNA) 375-95-1	0.02	Manmade chemical; used in products to make them stain, grease, heat and water resistant
perfluorohexanesulfonic acid (PFHxS) 355-46-4	0.03	Manmade chemical; used in products to make them stain, grease, heat and water resistant
perfluoroheptanoic acid (PFHpA) 375-85-9	0.01	Manmade chemical; used in products to make them stain, grease, heat and water resistant
perfluorobutanesulfonic acid (PFBS) 375-73-5	0.09	Manmade chemical; used in products to make them stain, grease, heat and water resistant

1. CASRN - Chemical Abstracts Service Registry Number
2. MRL - Minimum Reporting Level
3. "Use or Environmental Source" further documented in UCMR 3 Contaminants – Information Compendium. EPA 815-B-11-001. January 2012

Figure 20 - UCMR 3 Contaminants List, PFAS Contaminants

Contaminant	CASRN ¹	MRL ² (µg/L)	Additional Information
25 PFAS: EPA Method 533			
11-chloroeicosafluoro-3-oxaundecane-1-sulfonic acid (11Cl-PF3OUdS)	763051-92-9	0.005	PFAS are a group of synthetic chemicals used in a wide range of consumer products and industrial applications including: non-stick cookware, water-repellent clothing, stain-resistant fabrics and carpets, cosmetics, firefighting foams, electroplating, and products that resist grease, water, and oil. PFAS are found in the blood of people and animals and in water, air, fish, and soil at locations across the United States and the world.
1H,1H, 2H, 2H-perfluorodecane sulfonic acid (8:2FTS)	39108-34-4	0.005	
1H,1H, 2H, 2H-perfluorohexane sulfonic acid (4:2FTS)	757124-72-4	0.003	
1H,1H, 2H, 2H-perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (6:2FTS)	27619-97-2	0.005	
4,8-dioxa-3H-perfluorononanoic acid (ADONA)	919005-14-4	0.003	
9-chlorohexadecafluoro-3-oxanonane-1-sulfonic acid (9Cl-PF3ONS)	756426-58-1	0.002	
hexafluoropropylene oxide dimer acid (HFPO-DA)(GenX)	13252-13-6	0.005	
nonafluoro-3,6-dioxaheptanoic acid (NFDHA)	151772-58-6	0.02	
perfluoro (2-ethoxyethane) sulfonic acid (PFEESA)	113507-82-7	0.003	
perfluoro-3-methoxypropanoic acid (PFMPA)	377-73-1	0.004	
perfluoro-4-methoxybutanoic acid (PFMBA)	863090-89-5	0.003	
perfluorobutanesulfonic acid (PFBS)	375-73-5	0.003	
perfluorobutanoic acid (PFBA)	375-22-4	0.005	
perfluorodecanoic acid (PFDA)	335-76-2	0.003	
perfluorododecanoic acid (PFDoA)	307-55-1	0.003	
perfluoroheptanesulfonic acid (PFHpS)	375-92-8	0.003	
perfluoroheptanoic acid (PFHpA)	375-85-9	0.003	
perfluorohexanesulfonic acid (PFHxS)	355-46-4	0.003	
perfluorohexanoic acid (PFHxA)	307-24-4	0.003	
perfluorononanoic acid (PFNA)	375-95-1	0.004	
perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS)	1763-23-1	0.004	
perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA)	335-67-1	0.004	
perfluoropentanesulfonic acid (PFPeS)	2706-91-4	0.004	
perfluoropentanoic acid (PFPeA)	2706-90-3	0.003	
perfluoroundecanoic acid (PFUnA)	2058-94-8	0.002	
4 PFAS: EPA Method 537.1			
N-ethyl perfluorooctanesulfonamidoacetic acid (NEtFOSAA)	2991-50-6	0.005	See above for PFAS information.
N-methyl perfluorooctanesulfonamidoacetic acid (NMeFOSAA)	2355-31-9	0.006	
perfluorotetradecanoic acid (PFTA)	376-06-7	0.008	
perfluorotridecanoic acid (PFTrDA)	72629-94-8	0.007	

1. CASRN - Chemical Abstracts Service Registry Number
2. MRL - Minimum Reporting Level

Figure 21 - UCMR 5 Contaminants List, PFAS Contaminants

State Water Resources Control Board PFAS General Monitoring Orders, 2020-2025

SWRCB Order Exhibit Title	Internet URL Web Address
2020 SWRCB General Order DW 2020-0003-DDW	https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_decisions/adopted_orders/drinking_water/2020/pfas_go_2020_0003_ddw/pfas_go_2020_0003_ddw.pdf
Exhibit A – List of Sources Subject to General Order No. DW 2020-0003-DDW (for DDW Section 5),	https://wqts.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/go_exhibit_a_section5.pdf
2021 SWRCB General Order DW-2021-0001-DDW	https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_decisions/adopted_orders/drinking_water/2021/pfas_go_2021_0001_ddw/a5.pdf
Exhibit A – List of Sources Subject to General Order No. DW 2021-0001-DDW (For DDW Section 5)	https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_decisions/adopted_orders/drinking_water/2021/pfas_go_2021_0001_ddw/a5.pdf
2022 Amended General Order DW 2022-0001-DDW	https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/certlic/drinkingwater/pfas_ddw_general_order/docs/amended-pfas-general-order-2022-final.pdf
Exhibit A – List of Sources Subject to General Order No. DW 2022-0001-DDW (Amended)	https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/certlic/drinkingwater/pfas_ddw_general_order/docs/pfas_go_2022-0001-DDW_ExhibitA.pdf
2025 SWRCB General Order DW 2025-0002-DDW	https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/certlic/drinkingwater/pfas_ddw_general_order/docs/order-dw-2025-0002-ddw-pfas-initial-monitoring.pdf
Exhibit A – List of Sources Subject to General Order DW 2025-0002-DDW	https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.waterboards.ca.gov%2Fdrinking_water%2Fcertlic%2Fdrinkingwater%2Fpfas_ddw_general_order%2Fdocs%2Forder-dw-2025-0002-ddw-exhibit-a.xlsx&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK

Figure 22 - SWRCB PFAS General Monitoring Orders Issued 2020 through 2025

State Water Resources Control Board General Monitoring Orders PFAS Constituents Lists

General Order No. DW 2020-0003-DDW		
EXHIBIT B		
CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT DETECTION LEVELS (CCRDL)		
	Constituent	CCRDL, ng/L
1	PERFLUOROBUTANESULFONIC ACID (PFBS)	4
2	PERFLUORONONANOIC ACID (PFNA)	4
3	PERFLUORODECANOIC ACID (PFDA)	4
4	PERFLUOROTETRADECANOIC ACID (PFTA)	4
5	HEXAFLUOROPROPYLENE OXIDE DIMER ACID (HFPO-DA)	4
6	4,8-DIOXA-3H-PERFLUORONONANOIC ACID (ADONA)	2
7	PERFLUOROHEPTANOIC ACID (PFHpA)	4
8	N-ETHYL PERFLUOROOCTANESULFONAMIDOACETIC ACID	4
9	PERFLUORODODECANOIC ACID (PFD _o A)	4
10	PERFLUOROTRIDECANOIC ACID (PFT _r DA)	4
11	9-CHLOROHEXADEC AFLUORO-3-OXANONE-1-SULFONIC ACID	2
12	PERFLUOROOCTANE SULFONIC ACID (PFOS)	4
13	PERFLUOROHEXANE SULFONIC ACID (PFH _x S)	4
14	N-METHYL PERFLUOROOCTANESULFONAMIDOACETIC ACID	4
15	PERFLUOROHEXANOIC ACID (PFH _x A)	4
16	PERFLUOROUNDECANOIC ACID (PFU _n A)	4
17	11-CHLOROEICOSAFLUORO-3-OXAUNDECANE-1-SULFONIC ACID	2
18	PERFLUOROOCTANOIC ACID (PFOA)	4

NOTES:

1. The CCRDL is based on a review of the reporting levels reported for monitoring conducted between August and December 2019. Specifically, the SWB calculated the CCRDL as the reporting level that was achievable in 90 percent of all negative result reported during that period. Results were rounded to the nearest whole number.
2. For HFPO-DA, the rounded CCRDL is lower than the 90th percentile of conveyed reporting levels based on consultation with the laboratory reporting the highest volume of results, and their statement that a reporting level of 4 ng/L (4 ppt) could readily be achieved.

Figure 23 - SWRCB General Monitoring Order 2020-0003-DDW, PFAS Constituents

General Order No. DW 2021-0001-DDW					
EXHIBIT B					
CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT DETECTION LEVELS (CCRD) and ADVISORY LEVELS					
	Constituent	CCRD ¹ , ng/L	Notification Level, ng/L	Response Level, ng/L	Exceedance Methodology ³
1	PERFLUOROBUTANESULFONIC ACID (PFBS) ⁴	4	-	-	-
2	PERFLUORONONANOIC ACID (PFNA)	4			
3	PERFLUORODECANOIC ACID (PFDA)	4			
4	PERFLUOROTETRADECANOIC ACID (PFTA)	4			
5	HEXAFLUOROPROPYLENE OXIDE DIMER ACID (HFPO-DA) ²	4			
6	4,8-DIOXA-3H-PERFLUORONONANOIC ACID (ADONA)	2			
7	PERFLUOROHEPTANOIC ACID (PFHpA)	4			
8	N-ETHYL PERFLUOROOCTANESULFONAMIDOACETIC ACID	4			
9	PERFLUORODODECANOIC ACID (PFDaA)	4			
10	PERFLUOROTRIDECANOIC ACID (PFTTrDA)	4			
11	9-CHLOROHEXADEC AFLUORO-3-OXANONE-1-SULFONIC ACID	2			
12	PERFLUOROOCTANE SULFONIC ACID (PFOS)	4	6.5	40	QRAA
13	PERFLUOROHEXANE SULFONIC ACID (PFHxS)	4			
14	N-METHYL PERFLUOROOCTANESULFONAMIDOACETIC ACID	4			
15	PERFLUOROHEXANOIC ACID (PFHxA)	4			
16	PERFLUOROUNDECANOIC ACID (PFUnA)	4			
17	11-CHLOROEICOSAFLUORO-3-OXAUNDECANE-1- SULFONIC ACID	2			
18	PERFLUOROOCTANOIC ACID (PFOA)	4	5.1	10	QRAA

Figure 24 - SWRCB General Monitoring Order 2021-0001-DDW, PFAS Constituents

Order DW-2022-0001-DDW (Amended)
Exhibit B - CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT INFORMATION AND
NOTIFICATION AND RESPONSE LEVELS

Table 1 - Consumer Confidence Report Detection Levels (CCRD L) – EPA Method 533

Constituent	CCRD L (ng/L)	U.S. EPA MCL (ng/L)
11-chloroeicosafluoro-3-oxaundecane-1-sulfonic acid (11Cl-PF3OUdS)	2.0	--
1H,1H, 2H, 2H-perfluorodecane sulfonic acid (8:2FTS)	5.0	--
1H,1H, 2H, 2H-perfluorohexane sulfonic acid (4:2FTS)	2.0	--
1H,1H, 2H, 2H-perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (6:2FTS)	5.0	--
4,8-dioxa-3H-perfluorononanoic acid (ADONA)	2.0	--
9-chlorohexadecafluoro-3-oxanonane-1-sulfonic acid (9Cl-PF3ONS)	2.0	--
hexafluoropropylene oxide dimer acid (HFPO-DA) (GenX)	2.0	10
nonafluoro-3,6-dioxaheptanoic acid (NFDHA)	2.0	--
perfluoro (2-ethoxyethane) sulfonic acid (PFEESA)	2.0	--
perfluoro-3-methoxypropanoic acid (PFMPA)	2.0	--
perfluoro-4-methoxybutanoic acid (PFMBA)	2.0	--
perfluorobutanesulfonic acid (PFBS)	2.0	--
perfluorobutanoic acid (PFBA)	2.0	--
perfluorodecanoic acid (PFDA)	2.0	--
perfluorododecanoic acid (PFDoA)	2.0	--
perfluoroheptanesulfonic acid (PFHpS)	2.0	--
perfluoroheptanoic acid (PFHpA)	2.0	--
perfluorohexanesulfonic acid (PFHxS)	2.0	10
perfluorohexanoic acid (PFHxA)	2.0	--
perfluorononanoic acid (PFNA)	2.0	10
perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS)	2.0	4.0
perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA)	2.0	4.0
perfluoropentanesulfonic acid (PFPeS)	2.0	--
perfluoropentanoic acid (PFPeA)	2.0	--
perfluoroundecanoic acid (PFUnA)	2.0	--

Figure 25 - SWRCB General Monitoring Order 2022-0001-DDW, PFAS Constituents

Order DW-2025-0002-DDW
Exhibit B - CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT INFORMATION AND
NOTIFICATION AND RESPONSE LEVELS

Table 1 - Consumer Confidence Report Detection Levels (CCRD)

Constituent	CCRD (ng/L)	U.S. EPA MCL (ng/L)
11-chloroeicosafluoro-3-oxaundecane-1-sulfonic acid (11Cl-PF3OUdS)	2.0	--
1H,1H, 2H, 2H-perfluorodecane sulfonic acid (8:2FTS)	5.0	--
1H,1H, 2H, 2H-perfluorohexane sulfonic acid (4:2FTS)	2.0	--
1H,1H, 2H, 2H-perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (6:2FTS)	5.0	--
4,8-dioxa-3H-perfluorononanoic acid (ADONA)	2.0	--
9-chlorohexadecafluoro-3-oxanonane-1-sulfonic acid (9Cl-PF3ONS)	2.0	--
hexafluoropropylene oxide dimer acid (HFPO-DA) (GenX)	2.0	10
nonafluoro-3,6-dioxaheptanoic acid (NFDHA)	2.0	--
perfluoro (2-ethoxyethane) sulfonic acid (PFEEESA)	2.0	--
perfluoro-3-methoxypropanoic acid (PFMPA)	2.0	--
perfluoro-4-methoxybutanoic acid (PFMBA)	2.0	--
perfluorobutanesulfonic acid (PFBS)	2.0	--
perfluorobutanoic acid (PFBA)	2.0	--
perfluorodecanoic acid (PFDA)	2.0	--
perfluorododecanoic acid (PFDoA)	2.0	--
perfluoroheptanesulfonic acid (PFHpS)	2.0	--
perfluoroheptanoic acid (PFHpA)	2.0	--
perfluorohexanesulfonic acid (PFHxS)	2.0	10
perfluorohexanoic acid (PFHxA)	2.0	--
perfluorononanoic acid (PFNA)	2.0	10
perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS)	2.0	4.0
perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA)	2.0	4.0
perfluoropentanesulfonic acid (PFPeS)	2.0	--
perfluoropentanoic acid (PFPeA)	2.0	--
perfluoroundecanoic acid (PFUnA)	2.0	--
n-ethyl perfluorooctanesulfonamidoacetic acid (NEtFOSSA)	5.0	--
n-methyl perfluorooctanesulfonamidoacetic acid (NMeFOSSA)	5.0	--
perfluorotetradecanoic acid (PFTA)	2.0	--
perfluorotridecanoic acid (PFTTrDA)	2.0	--

Figure 26 - SWRCB General Monitoring Order 2025-0002-DDW, PFAS Constituents

Appendix B

Eight Content Requirements of a CCR
▶ Item 1: Water System Information – Name/phone number of a contact person; information on public participation opportunities. ▶ Item 2: Source(s) of Water. ▶ Item 3: Definitions – Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL); MCL Goal (MCLG); Treatment Technique (TT); Action Level (AL); Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL); MRDL Goal (MRDLG). ▶ Item 4: Detected Contaminants – A table summarizing reported concentrations and relevant MCLs and MCLGs or MRDLs and MRDLGs; known source of detected contaminants; health effects language. ▶ Item 5: Information on Monitoring for <i>Cryptosporidium</i>, Radon, and Other Contaminants (if detected). ▶ Item 6: Compliance with Other Drinking Water Regulations (any violations and Ground Water Rule [GWR] special notices). ▶ Item 7: Variances and Exemptions (if applicable). ▶ Item 8: Required Educational Information – Explanation of contaminants in drinking water and bottled water; information to vulnerable populations about <i>Cryptosporidium</i>; statements on nitrate, arsenic, and lead.
Optional Information
CWSs are not limited to providing only the required information in their CCR. CWSs may want to include: ▶ An explanation (or include a diagram of) the CWSs treatment processes. ▶ Source water protection efforts and/or water conservation tips. ▶ Costs of making the water safe to drink. ▶ A statement from the mayor or general manager. ▶ Information to educate customers about: Taste and odor issues, affiliations with programs such as the Partnership for Safe Water, opportunities for public participation, etc.
Communication Tips
▶ Provide a consistent message. Be as simple, truthful, and straightforward as possible. Avoid acronyms, initials, and jargon. ▶ Provide links to useful information resources. ▶ Limit wordiness – write short sentences and keep your paragraphs short. ▶ Assume that consumers will only read the top half of the notice or what can be read in 10 seconds. ▶ Display important elements in bold and/or large type in the top half of the notice. ▶ Do not make your text size too small. ▶ Give a draft of your CCR to relatives or friends who are not drinking water experts and ask them if it makes sense. Ask customers for their comments when you publish the CCR. ▶ Use graphics, photographs, maps, and drawings to illustrate your message. Do not distract from your main message with graphics and/or pictures that do not complement your message. ▶ Consider printing the CCR on recycled paper and taking other steps to make the CCR "environmentally friendly." If you hope to get your customers involved in protecting or conserving water, set a good example for them to follow. ▶ Use the CCR as an opportunity to tell your customers about all of the things that you are doing well.

Source: EPA

Figure 27 - EPA Eight Content Requirements of a Consumer Confidence Report



STAFF REPORT

To: Board of Directors

Meeting Date: July 23, 2026

From: Dennis Cafferty, General Manager

Subject: SOCWA PC-21 – Effluent Transmission Main

The Effluent Transmission Main (ETM) conveys treated wastewater from the Irvine Ranch Water District Los Alisos Water Recycling Plant (LAWRP), the El Toro Water District Water Recycling Plant and the Moulton Niguel Water District (MNWD) Regional Treatment Plant to the Aliso Creek Ocean Outfall.

Reach A of the Effluent Transmission Main originates at the IRWD LAWRP and terminates at the point of connection from the ETWD WRP to the ETM. Reach A of the ETM is owned and operated by IRWD.

Reaches B, C and D convey treated wastewater only from the IRWD LAWRP and the ETWD WRP. ETWD owns 100% of the capacity of Reaches B, C and D following the execution of the Assignment and Assumption Agreement with IRWD effective as of July 1, 2023.

Reach E of the ETM includes the pipeline from the connection to the Regional Treatment Plant to the terminus of the ETM at the connection to the Aliso Creek Ocean Outfall. ETWD owns 100% of the capacity of Reaches E following the execution of the Assignment and Assumption Agreement with IRWD and the execution of the Assignment and Assumption Agreement with MNWD effective December 12, 2024.

Given ETWD's 100% ownership of the ETM capacity and the withdrawal of IRWD and MNWD from SOCWA, ETWD casts the only vote at SOCWA for contracts and budgets relative to the pipeline. ETWD is also currently leading ETM capital projects but must still go to the SOCWA Board to seek approval of contracts, agreements and easements. Staff have determined and recommended to the Board that the long-term maintenance of the ETM would be more efficient with ETWD taking over full ownership of the pipeline.

Staff discussed the concept with the District's partners at IRWD and MNWD and received their full support. Staff also engaged in preliminary discussions with SOCWA to gain an understanding of the process. There was a precedent set when SOCWA transferred a pipeline to the City of San Clemente and dissolved Project Committee 10 in 2024. In this case SOCWA would generate a document to transfer the ETM asset to ETWD and dissolve PC 21 following approval by the SOCWA Board.

If staff receive direction to proceed, staff will authorize SOCWA to develop and agendize the appropriate agreement and will also collaborate with IRWD and MNWD to revise the existing Assignment and Assumption Agreements as necessary with particular attention to ensuring the shared liabilities remain as currently agreed.

Staff will provide a presentation regarding the ETM and the proposed benefits of the recommended asset acquisition at the Board Meeting.

Recommended Action:

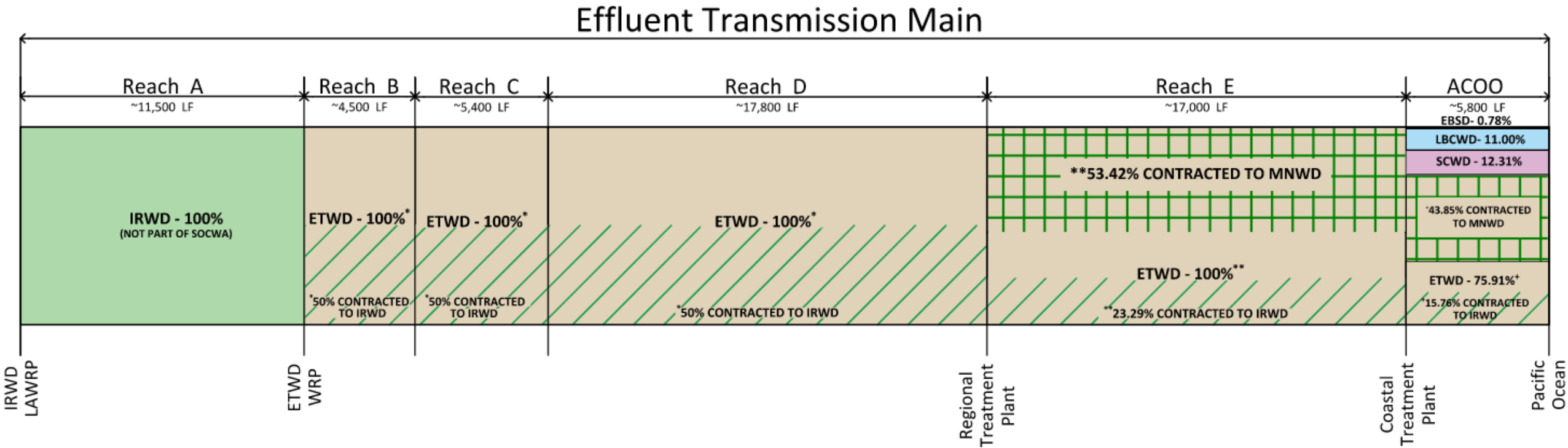
The Board will provide direction to staff regarding further engagement with SOCWA in the effort to acquire the Effluent Transmission Main for ownership and operation by the District.

Effluent Transmission Main

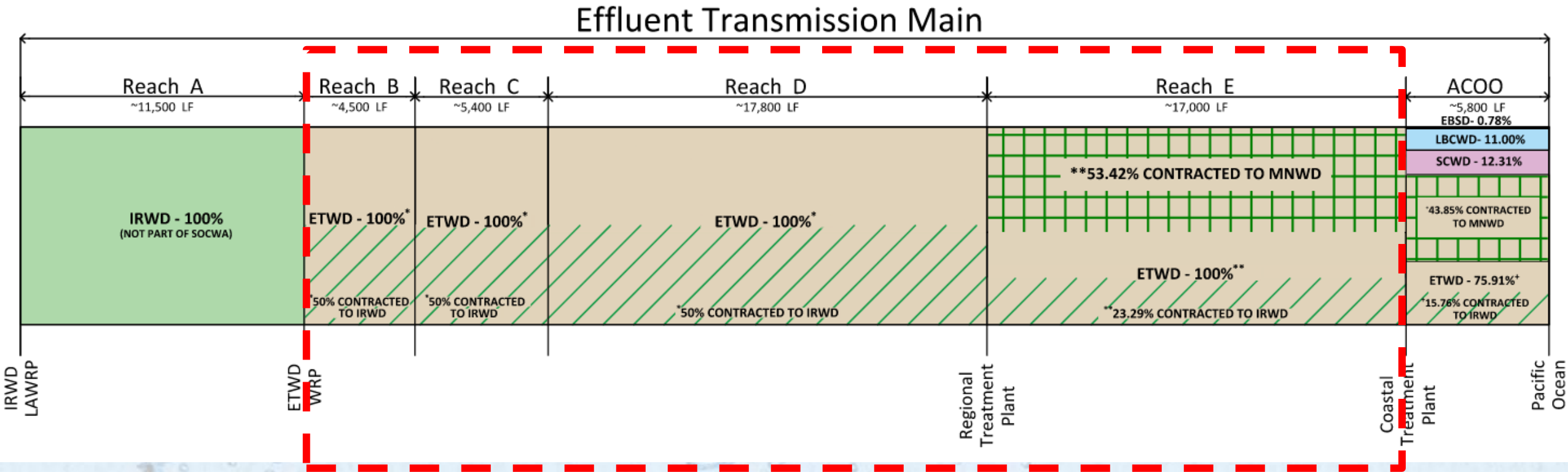
SOCWA Ownership Transfer



The Effluent Transmission Main or ETM is a critical, regional wastewater conveyance pipeline.



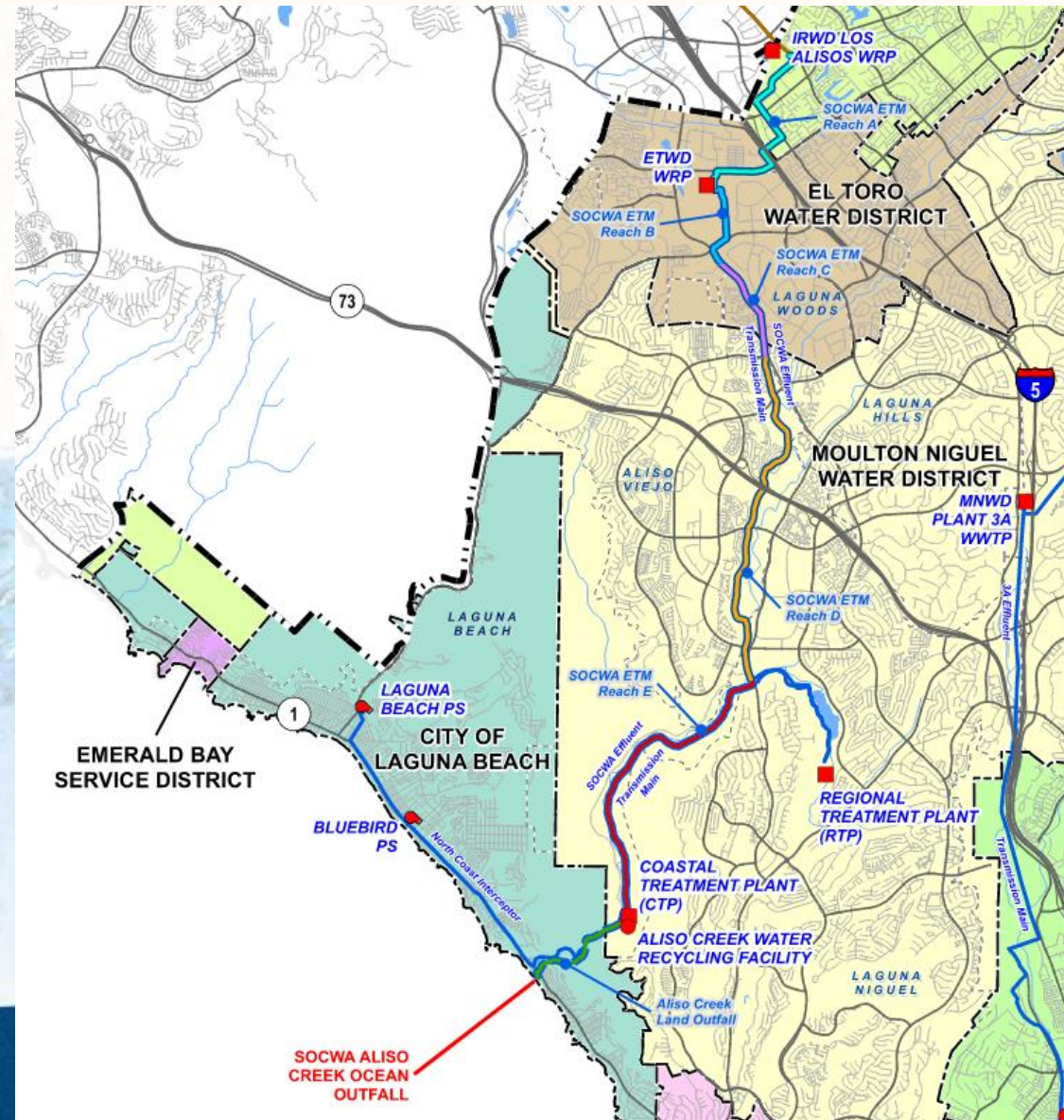
The Effluent Transmission Main or ETM is a critical, regional wastewater conveyance pipeline.



Proposed ownership transfer of Reaches B through E



The ETM runs from IRWD Los Alisos WRP to ETWD WRP to MNWD RTP to SOCWA CTP to Aliso Creek Ocean Outfall.

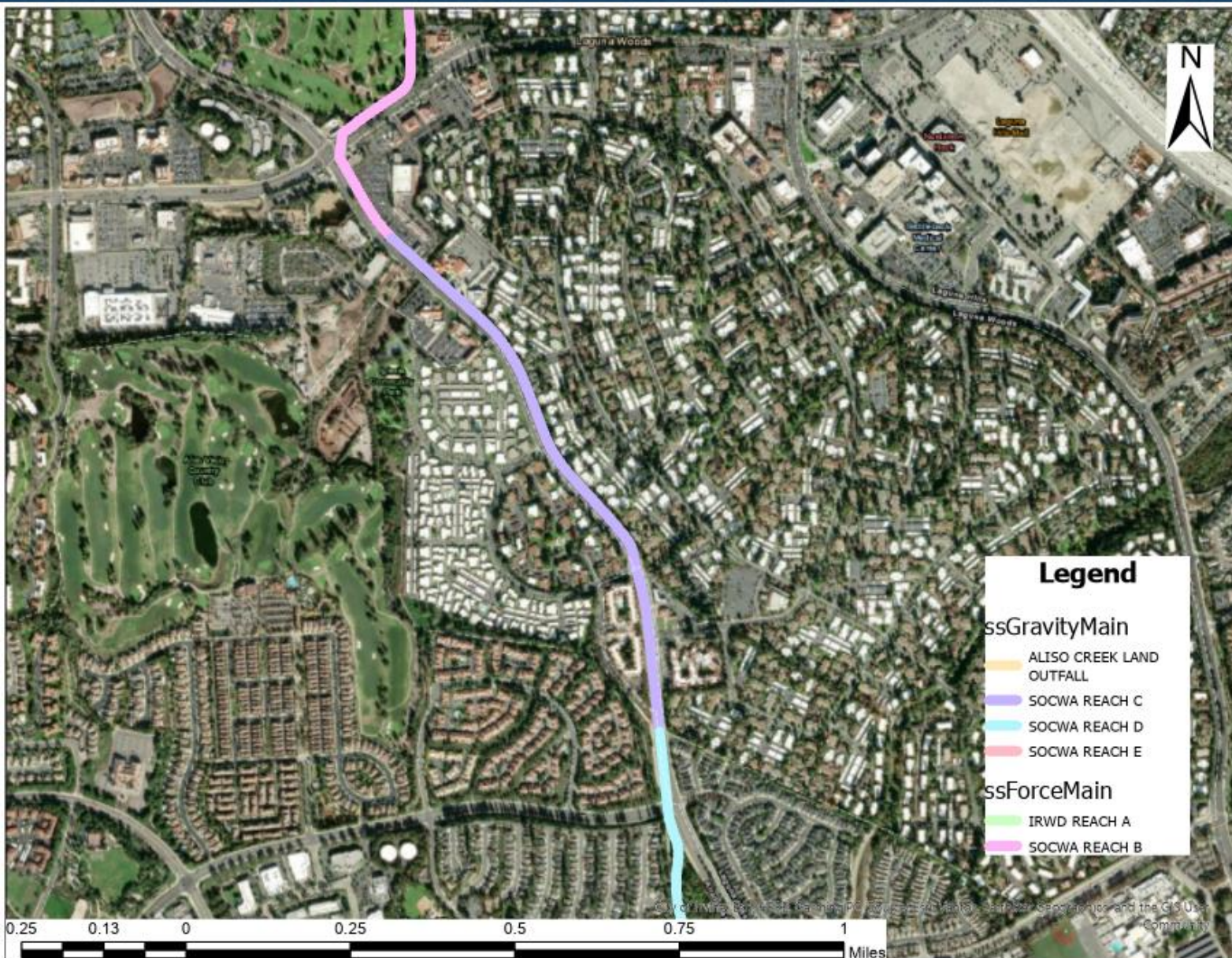


Reach B traverses the golf course from the ETWD Ocean Outfall Pump Station to Moulton Parkway.



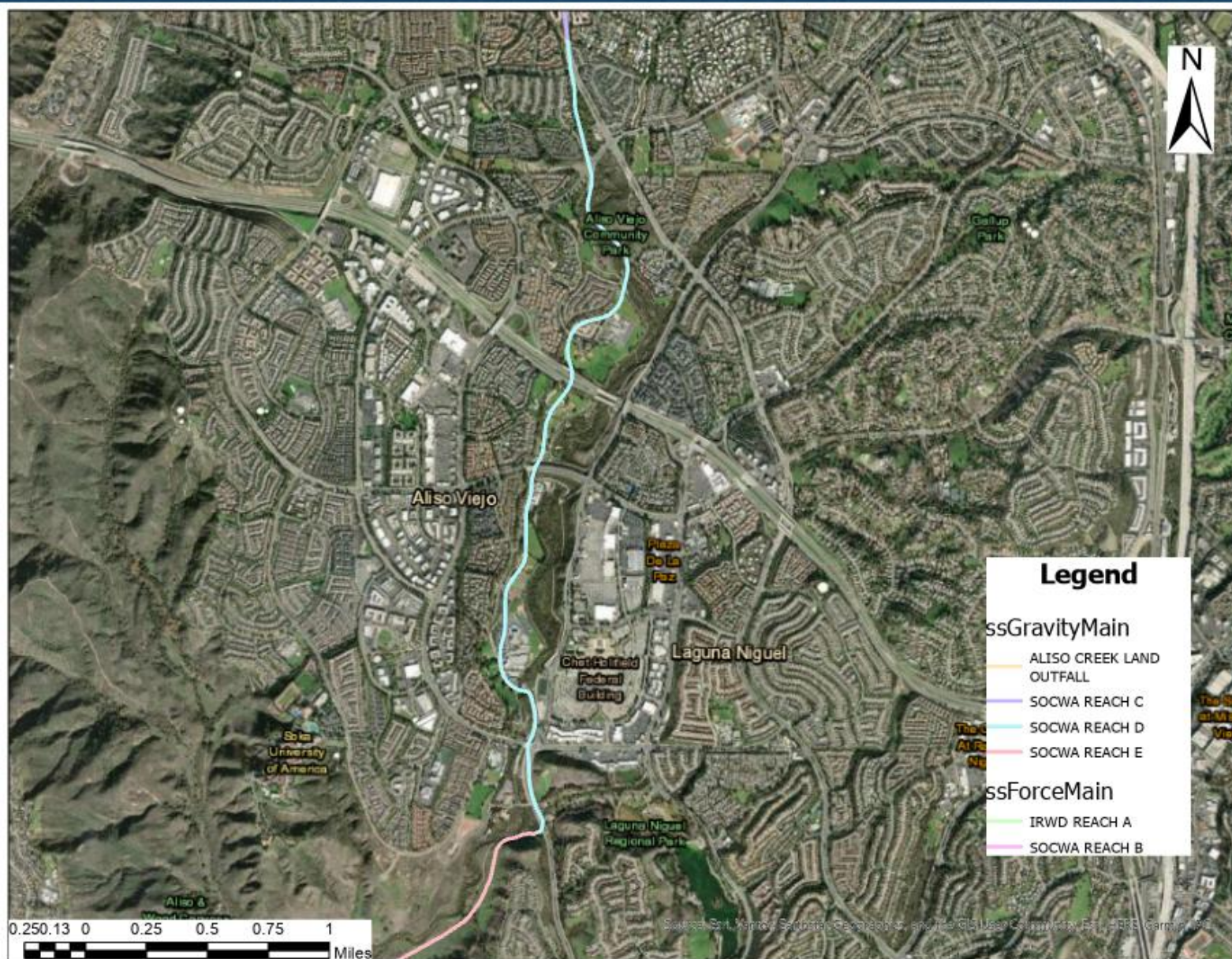
- 4,500 linear feet
- Pressurized
- No manholes or valves
- 21-inch and 27-inch diameter Techite
- Active CIP to replace Techite with new PVC piping

Reach C runs along Moulton Parkway.



- 5,400 linear feet
- Gravity
- One manhole at Reach B-C junction
- 24-inch diameter Techite
- Planned future project to replace Techite with new PVC piping

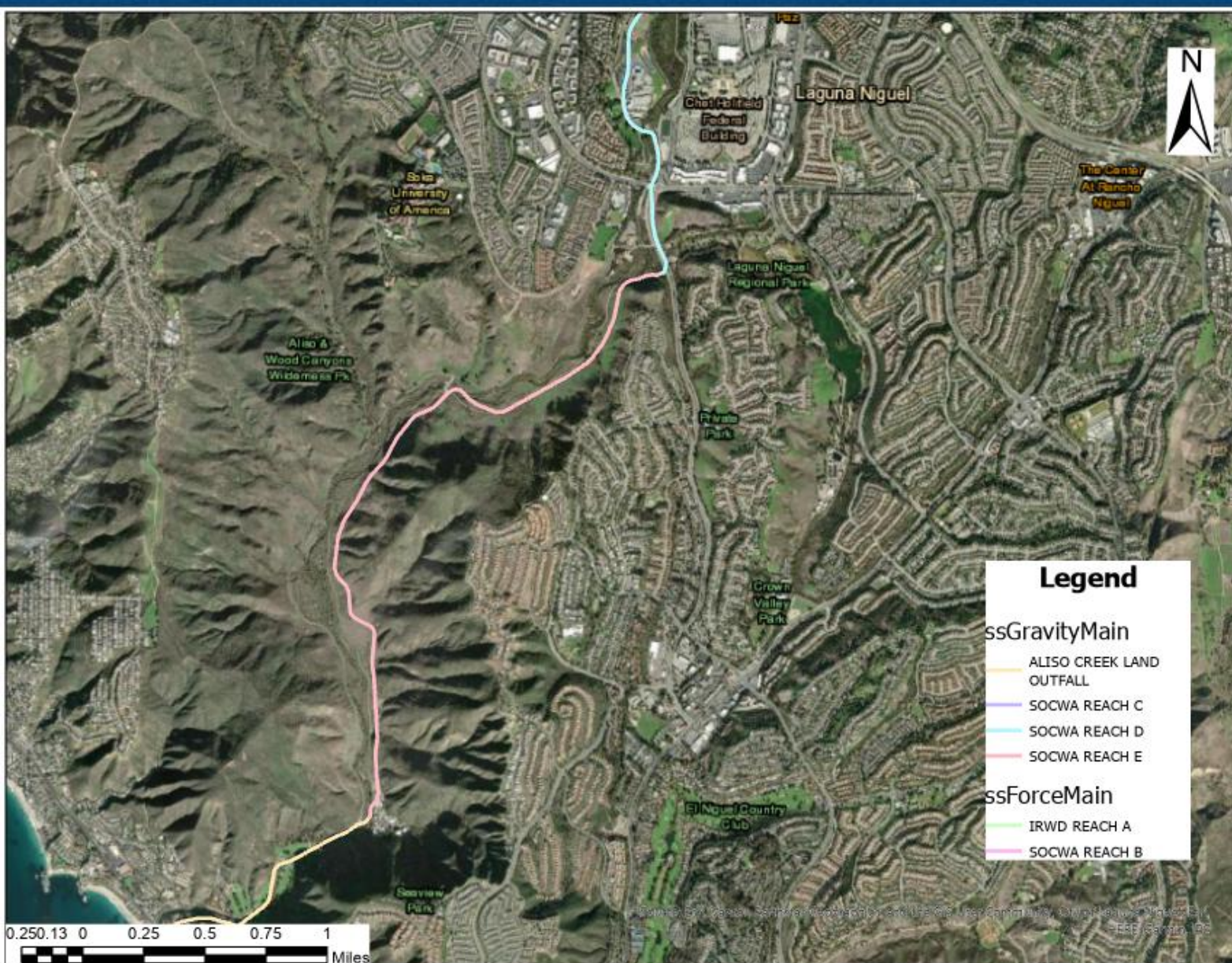
Reach D runs along Aliso Viejo Ranch Road to the Regional Treatment Plant.



- 17,800 linear feet
- Gravity
- No manholes
- 24-inch diameter RCP
- Active CIP to replace air/vacuum valves
- Planned future projects to address creek crossings at Trail Bridge and Pecten Reef
- \$5 million anticipated in HMGP funding to offset microtunneling solution at Trail Bridge



Reach E runs through the Aliso & Wood Canyons Wilderness Park to the Coastal Treatment Plant.



- 17,000 linear feet
- Gravity
- No manholes
- 36-inch diameter RCP
- Active CIP to replace air/vacuum valves



Over \$28 million in capital anticipated over the next 10 years.

Reach	Project	FY 26/27	FY 27/28	FY 28/29	FY 29/30	FY 30/31	FY 31/32	FY 32/33	FY 33/34	FY 34/35	FY 35/36	Total
B	Reach B Techite Replacement	\$3.27	\$1.27									\$4.54
C	Reach C Techite Replacement								\$0.57	\$0.28	\$5.71	\$6.56
D	Trail Bridge Crossing Protection	\$0.05	\$0.38	\$1.08	\$6.08							\$7.60
D	Pecten Reef Crossing Protection							\$0.90	\$2.04	\$4.76		\$7.70
D/E	Air Valve Replacement	\$0.62										\$0.62
C/D/EC	CTV Inspection					\$1.01						\$1.01

Capital project costs shown in millions



Why ETWD Ownership Makes Sense

Easements

ETWD ownership simplifies public outreach and negotiations with property owners in ETWD service area (i.e., GRF)

Grant Funding

ETWD can more directly apply for, administer, and document reimbursement for grant-funded projects

Staff Time

Ownership supports clearer mechanism to track and recover appropriate staff time for ETM project delivery

Decision-Making

Project decisions can be made through ETWD's asset management, capital planning, and Board authorization process



Why ETWD Ownership Matters / Key Takeaways



ETM is a regional conveyance backbone – critical for ocean disposal of treated wastewater.



ETWD's risk and liability does not change.



ETWD ownership supports easement acquisition, grant reimbursement, recovery of staff time, and decision-making.

Questions?





STAFF REPORT

To: Board of Directors

Meeting Date: July 23, 2026

From: Dennis Cafferty, General Manager

Subject: Resolution No. 26-7-1 Commemorating the 250th Anniversary of the United States of America

Recommended Action:

Staff recommends that the Board approve Resolution No. 26-7-1 which commemorates the 250th Anniversary of the United States of America.

RESOLUTION NO. 26-7-1
RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE EL TORO WATER DISTRICT
COMMEMORATING THE 250TH ANNIVERSARY OF
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

RESOLUTION NO. 26-7-1

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE EL TORO WATER DISTRICT COMMEMORATING THE 250TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

WHEREAS, on July 4, 2026, the United States of America commemorates the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, marking two and a half centuries of freedom, democracy, innovation, and public service; and

WHEREAS, the Semiquincentennial provides an opportunity to honor the vision and sacrifices of those who established our Nation and to reflect on the shared values of liberty, opportunity, civic responsibility, and service that continue to unite Americans; and

WHEREAS, public water agencies across the nation play a vital role in protecting public health, preserving natural resources, and enhancing the quality of life for the communities they serve; and

WHEREAS, since its formation in 1960, the El Toro Water District has proudly provided safe, reliable, and high-quality drinking water, recycled water, and wastewater services to the residents and businesses of its service area; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors wishes to commemorate America's 250th birthday by reaffirming the District's commitment to excellence in public service and by honoring the employees, directors, customers, and community partners whose dedication has contributed to the District's success since 1960.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the El Toro Water District hereby:

1. Celebrate and commemorate the 250th Anniversary of the United States of America and join communities across the nation in recognizing this historic milestone;
2. Honor the enduring principles upon which our Nation was founded and acknowledge the importance of public service in strengthening our communities;
3. Recognize the El Toro Water District's proud history of serving the community since 1960 and its continued commitment to providing reliable, sustainable, and high-quality water and wastewater services.

ADOPTED, SIGNED AND APPROVED this 23rd day of July 2026, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

KATHRYN FRESHLEY, President
El Toro Water District and of
the Board of Directors
thereof

ATTEST:

DENNIS P. CAFFERTY, Secretary
El Toro Water District and of
the Board of Directors thereof



STAFF REPORT

To: Board of Directors

Meeting Date: July 23, 2026

From: Dennis Cafferty, General Manager

Subject: Madison AI / Team Solve Knowledge Twin AI Platform

Concurrent with the development of the Artificial Intelligence Policy, staff have engaged with providers of Artificial Intelligence platforms that would efficiently leverage AI tools to the benefit of the District's Administration and Operations day-to-day functions.

Staff will provide an update on the Madison AI and Team Solve Artificial Intelligence Platforms that staff are considering.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

July 2026

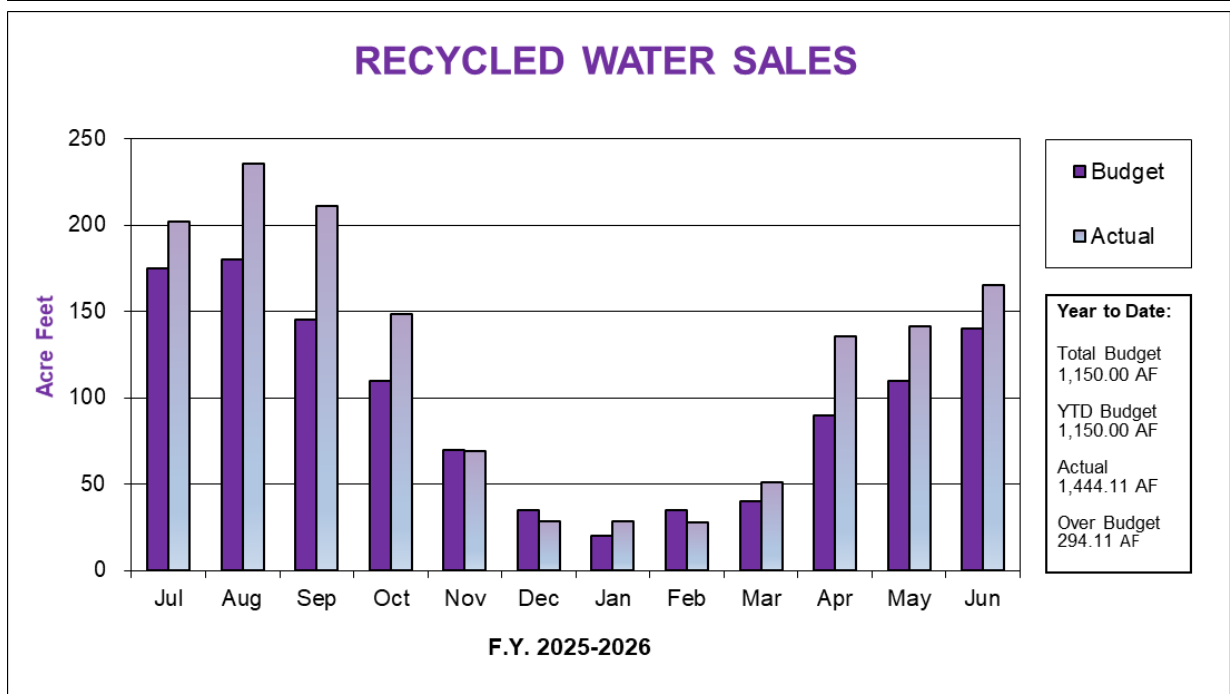
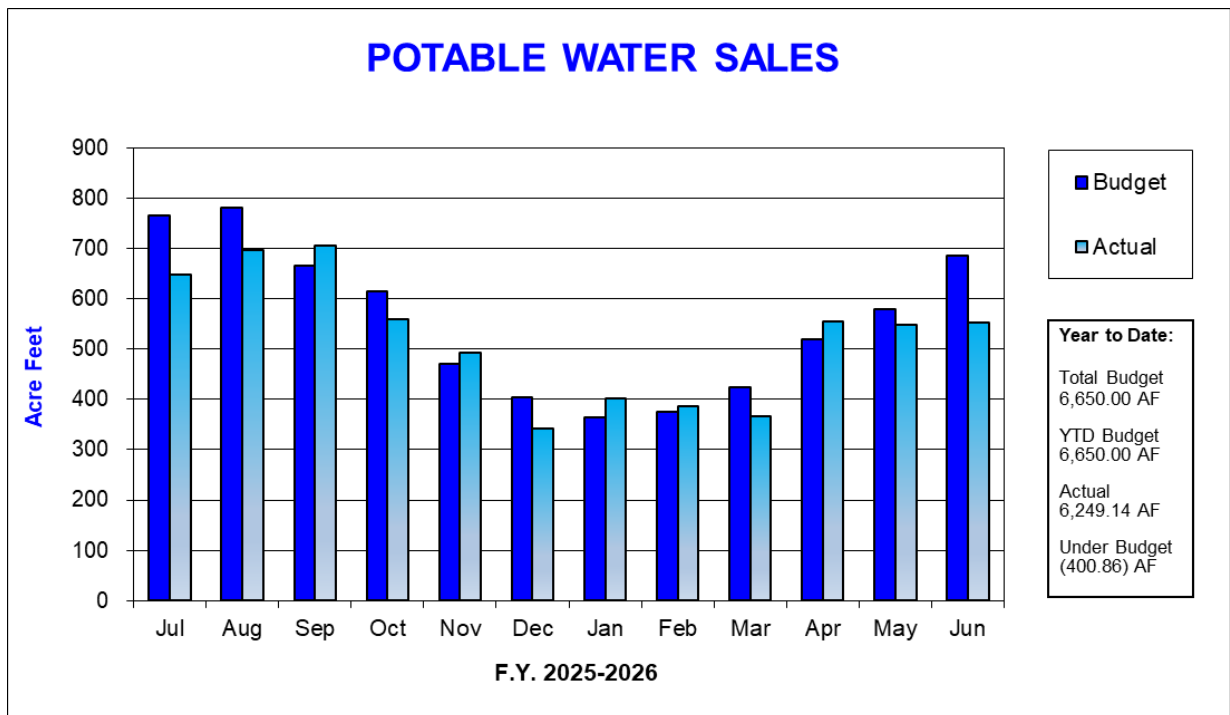
I. OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER

- MWDOC P&O Committee Meeting
- MWDOC Agencies Managers Meeting
- MWDOC A&F Committee Meeting
- SOCWA Board Meeting
- Meeting with VMS Regarding ETWD Work in Laguna Woods Village
- Meeting with OC Registrar
- OC Registrar Candidate Webinar
- ETWD Senior Engineer Position Interview
- ETWD RRC Meeting
- ETWD Agenda Review Meeting
- ETWD Regular Engineering & Finance Committee Meetings
- ETWD Regular Board Meeting

II. DOMESTIC AND RECYCLED WATER SALES

Actual domestic sales for the year-to-date as of June 30, 2026, are 6,249.14 acre-feet. This compares to year-to-date budgeted domestic sales of 6,650.00 acre-feet. The year-to-date variation in actual to budgeted sales reflects a decrease of 400.86 acre-feet. Actual sales are 129.19 acre-feet lower than last year-to-date actual sales for the same period.

Actual recycled sales for the year-to-date as of June 30, 2026, are 1,444.11 acre-feet. This compares to year-to-date budgeted recycled sales of 1,150.00 acre-feet. The year-to-date variation in actual to budgeted sales reflects an increase of 294.11 acre-feet. Actual sales are 35.81 acre-feet higher than last year-to-date actual sales for the same period.

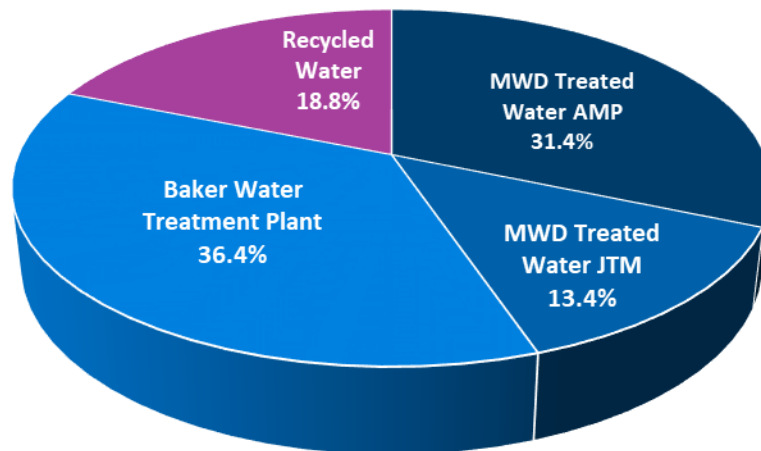


III. WATER SUPPLY SOURCES

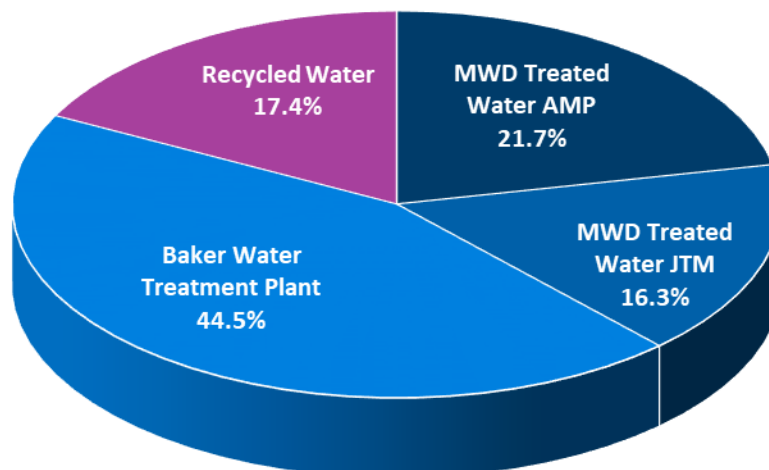
The charts below provide a summary of water supply sources for the month and fiscal year to date (FY 2025-2026). They illustrate the relative contribution of each supply source, including imported treated water from Metropolitan Water District (MWD) via the AMP and JTM connections, local production from the Baker Water Treatment Plant, interconnections with neighboring agencies, and recycled water. These charts help track supply trends and support planning and operational decisions.

Water Supply Sources (AF)				
	June 2026		FY 2025-2026 YTD	
MWD Treated Water AMP	275.5	31.4%	1,800.4	21.7%
MWD Treated Water JTM	117.3	13.4%	1,353.8	16.3%
Interconnections	0.0	0.0%	0.0	0.0%
Baker Water Treatment Plant	319.4	36.4%	3,689.5	44.5%
Recycled Water	165.2	18.8%	1,444.1	17.4%
TOTAL	877.4	100.0%	8,287.8	100.0%

Water Supply Sources
June 2026



Water Supply Sources
FY 2025-2026 YTD



Customer Service Activity Report

Regular Service Calls	JUNE 2026	JUNE 2025	Telephone Calls	JUNE 2026	JUNE 2025
Serviceman Dispatched to Read, Connect/Disconnect Service	92	86	Change of Service: Connections and Disconnections	93	64
Field Investigations:			Billing / Payments & Graph Inquires	188	224
Check for leaks - calls to CS Office:(irrigation,meter,street leaks)			Assistance with online payments and ETWD's portal (cc, e-checks, other.)	1	23
Customer Responsible	15	12	Variance / Adjustment Inquiries	5	14
District Responsible	9	5	Variance / Adjustment Requests		
None found/other	29	6	Processed	11	8
High Reads Checked - High Consumption (Billing Dept.)			Ordinance Infraction / Water Waste Complaints	0	0
Cust Leaks: 11 No Leaks: 10	21	46			
Check Stopped Slowed Meters-Low Consumption (Billing)	17	4	Outside Utility Districts	41	54
Re-Check Read	8	4	Phone calls Transfer to other Departments within ETWD	52	46
Ordinance Infraction	0	0	Phone calls for the Board of Directors	1	0
Recycled Water	0	0	Recycled Water	0	0
Water Quality: Taste / Odor / Color	4	0	Water Quality Taste - Odor - Color	3	0
Phone response: _4 Field response: _0			Leaks / Breaks	29	11
Flooding (Hydrant) Meters issued	0	1	Flooding Meter calls (Hydrant)	0	1
Sewer - Odor/Stoppage/ Manhole Covers	1	0	Sewer Problems (odor / spills)	4	0
Meter Box: Lids 4 Covers 10 Replaced 0	14	3			
Meter Box Clean, Digout	1	1	Backflow / Cross Connection (questions or yearly testing forms)	5	1
			ETWD facilities inquiries:		
Raised Meter Box	1	1	Boxes/Covers/Lids/Hydrants/Pump Stations/Graffiti/ "Gen. Maint"	1	1
Trim Bushes / Meter Obstruction	4	8			
General Maintenance Response	1	2	Tyco (ADT) Calls		
Fire Hydrants: Hit / Leaks / Caps	1	0	(Alarms to ETWD facilities)	1	1
Pressure(psi) Checks / Reads	1	0	ATT Calls (access to tower sites)	0	0
CSSOV (Angle Meter/Ball Valve/Gate Valve/Globe Valve) chk,repair,replaced	10	10	SCE Calls (access to tower sites)	0	0
AMS angle-meter-stop replace/repair		0	Pager Calls specifically for Pump Stations - SCADA	2	0
Bees Removed	0	0			
Backflow / Cross Connection	0	11	Payment Extensions	37	45
			Delinquent Payment Calls to Customer 's prior to shut off per billing calendar (automatic courtesy dialer)		0
Fogged Registers	6	22	Return Calls from customers left on our voice mail system. Ext. 500	2	9
OMCOP: Old Meter Change - Out Program	1	6	Email Correspondence:	39	7
Other: (uncommon non-maintenance calls)	4	4	Maintenance Service Order Requests (bees, psi, fogged-dirty registers)		
On-Call After Hrs. CS Response	21	16	Misc. (other: employment, deliveries, sales calls)	14	10
# Posting Notice & 24 Hr. Door Hangers Hung	110	109		15	6
#Shut Offs/Disconnect for Non-Payment (DNP)	20	23	Payment Processing Fee Complaints	0	0
Removed Meter	1	1	Customers Complaints non bill related.	0	0
New Meter	0	0	Billing Disputes	0	0
Unread Meters	5	11			
Total Field Investigations	397	392	Total Telephone Calls	544	525
Uncollectible Accounts:			Credit Card Payments	JUNE 2026	JUNE 2025
Budget YTD	\$ 13,000.00	\$ 19,500.00	REGULAR	2,183	\$413,734.53
Actual YTD	\$ 161,602.00	\$ (247.00)		2,009	\$337,473.75



The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

Water Supply Conditions Report - <https://www.mwdh2o.com/WSCR>

Questions? Reach out via the form: <https://forms.office.com/g/Gj3aReAuCm>

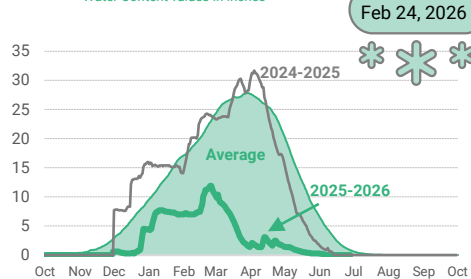
Water Year 2025-2026

As of: 06/28/2026

State Water Project

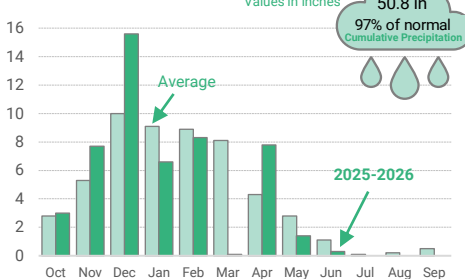
Northern Sierra Snow

Water Content values in inches



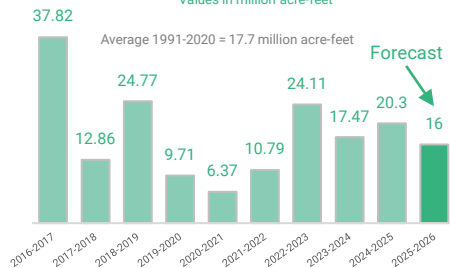
Northern Sierra 8 Station Rain

Values in inches

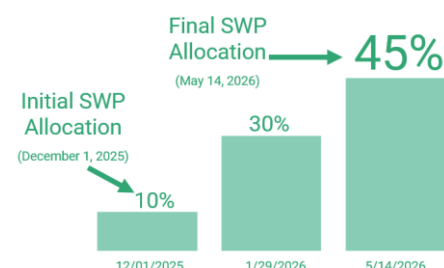


Sacramento River Runoff

Values in million acre-feet

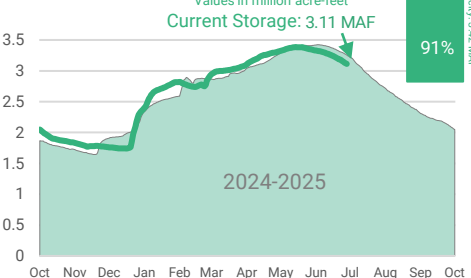


2026 State Water Project Allocation



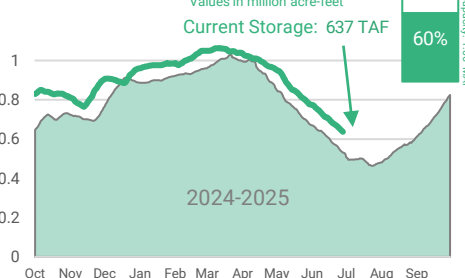
Oroville Reservoir Storage

Values in million acre-feet



San Luis Reservoir SWP Storage

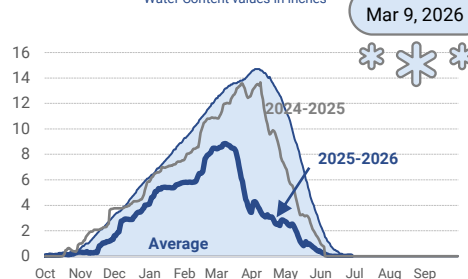
Values in million acre-feet



Colorado River

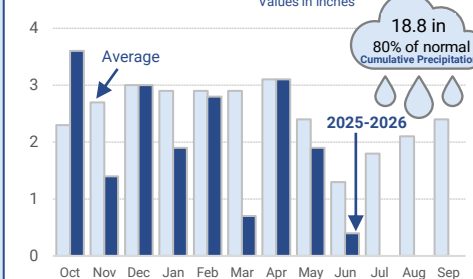
Colorado River Basin Snow

Water Content values in inches

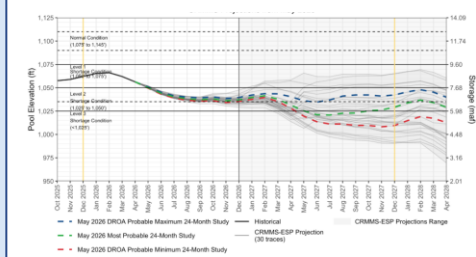


Colorado River Basin Rain

Values in inches



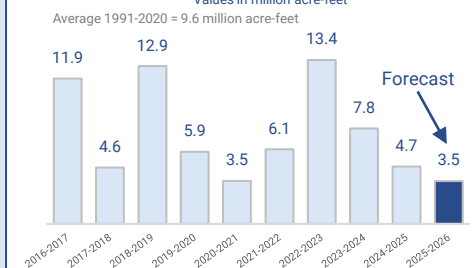
Lake Mead Elevation Projections



* Years beyond 2026 assume continuation of current operating guidelines

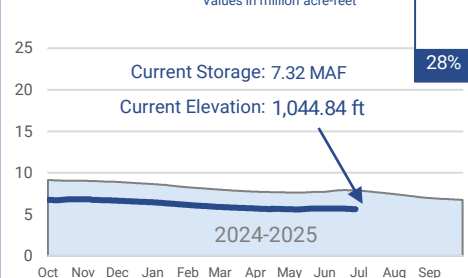
Unregulated Inflow into Lake Powell

Values in million acre-feet



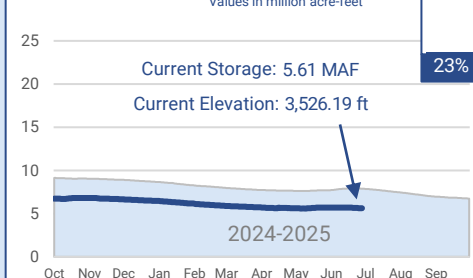
Lake Mead Storage

Values in million acre-feet



Lake Powell Storage

Values in million acre-feet



Water System Infrastructure : <https://www.mwdh2o.com/how-we-get-our-water/>

WILL SERVE SUMMARY REPORT

June 2026

PROJECT NAME	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	Will Serve Letter Date	PHASE	CFF
Burlington Backflow	Addition of a domestic backflow device	10/24/2025	Construction	\$ -
Heritage Market	Converting retail to market with kitchen	6/1/2026	Construction	Not Yet Calculated
Pacific Dental Services	Converting retail to a dentistry	10/20/2025	Construction	\$ 5,540
Asia Spa	Converting retail to beauty parlor	1/14/2026	Construction	\$ 1,912
Muirlands and Los Alisos Intersection Improvements	Relocation of water appurtenances and at-grade adjustments	3/19/2026	Plan Check	Not Yet Calculated
The Village at Laguna Hills (Retail Phase)	Installation of various sized water, fire, and sewer services at the former mall site.	Forthcoming	Plan Check	Not Yet Calculated
The Village at Laguna Hills (Central Residential Phase)	Installation of various sized water, fire, and sewer services at the former mall site.	Forthcoming	Plan Check	Not Yet Calculated
The Village at Laguna Hills (Southern Residential Phase)	Installation of various sized water, fire, and sewer services at the former mall site.	Forthcoming	Plan Check	Not Yet Calculated
Parentis Health Sewermain Relocation	Relocating an existing sewermain.	6/26/2025	Plan Check	Not Yet Calculated
Central Utilities Plant 24451 Health Center Drive	Additional domestic and fire services for a medical central utility plant.	12/20/2024	Construction	\$ 21,856
23272 & 23282 Mill Creek Terravita - Phase 1	Residential development for 43 dwelling units	Forthcoming	Plan Check	Not Yet Calculated
23161 Mill Creek	Residential development for 43 attached condo units	6/30/2026	Plan Check	Not Yet Calculated
23172 Plaza Pointe Dr and 23441 S Pointe Laguna Hills	Residential development of 100 dwelling units	Forthcoming	Planning	Not Yet Calculated
Texas Roadhouse BBQ	Conversion of El Torito into Texas Roadhouse BBQ	4/23/2026	Plan Check	\$ -
23370 Moulton Pkwy Sewer Improvements	Modifications to the sewer lateral	5/8/2025	Construction	\$ -
23501 Avenida De La Carlota Bollmart	Converting retail to market with grocery store	11/26/2025	Construction	\$ 12,706
Laguna Woods City Center Project	Improvement of an existing city park	Forthcoming	Plan Check	\$ -
Laguna Woods Fire Station	Addition of a fire station adjacent to the Pump Station 1 Site	Forthcoming	Planning	Not Yet Calculated
Max Relax Spa	Conversion of a church worship center into a spa	3/13/2026	Close-Out	\$ 3,631
Quick Quack Carwash	Conversion of a restaurant into a carwash	Forthcoming	Plan Check	Not Yet Calculated
24301 Paseo De Valencia	Conversion of a bank to medical offices	2/18/2026	Plan Check	Not Yet Calculated
IVX Health	Conversion of retail to a medical office	6/23/2026	Plan Check	Not Yet Calculated
Mill Creek Terravita - Phase 2	Residential development for 415 dwelling units	Forthcoming	Plan Check	Not Yet Calculated

 The logo for "NATURAL RESOURCE RESULTS" features the words "NATURAL RESOURCE" in a smaller, blue, sans-serif font above the word "RESULTS" in a larger, bold, blue, sans-serif font. A stylized green and blue wave graphic is positioned between the two lines of text.

To: Board of Directors, *Municipal Water District of Orange County*

From: Natural Resource Results

RE: Monthly Board Report – July 2026

Colorado River Post-2026 Negotiations

The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee held a hearing on June 10 to examine the status of Colorado River Basin negotiations and the development of post-2026 operating guidelines. The hearing featured two panels. The first included the Department of the Interior Assistant Secretary Andrea Travnicsek and Bureau of Reclamation Deputy Commissioner David Palumbo. The second panel featured representatives from across the Basin, including Amy Haas of Utah and Bill Hasencamp of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California.

Participating senators included Alex Padilla (D-CA), Catherine Cortez Masto (D-NV), Ruben Gallego (D-AZ), Martin Heinrich (D-NM), and Mike Lee (R-UT). During the hearing, Senator Lee pressed Interior officials on whether federal funding should be made available to states that pursue litigation against other Colorado River Basin states, signaling concerns about the role of federal resources in ongoing disputes. Senator Lee's comments indicate a potential effort to leverage federal funding as a means of discouraging interstate litigation.

Colorado River Desalination and Interstate Water Swap MOU

On June 3, 2026, the Bureau of Reclamation signed a memorandum of understanding with six water agencies in Arizona, California, and Nevada to explore the first-ever interstate water swap mechanism involving desalinated or recycled water in the Colorado River Basin. The agreement was formalized at the Carlsbad Desalination Plant and includes the San Diego County Water Authority, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD), Southern Nevada Water Authority, Arizona Department of Water Resources, Central Arizona Water Conservation District, and Salt River Project Agricultural Improvement and Power District.

The MOU does not alter existing water rights or commit any party to a specific project. Rather, it initiates a two-year process to assess the legal authorities and policy frameworks needed to enable these trades. The core concept is that Arizona or Nevada agencies could invest in coastal California desalination or recycled water projects; California agencies would then use that water and reduce their Colorado River diversions by a corresponding amount, freeing up system storage. For MWD, this arrangement is directly relevant given MWD's participation and its implications for Colorado River water supply reliability in Southern California.

**June 24, 2026****To:** Municipal Water District of Orange County**From:** Michael Boccadoro
Beth Olhasso**RE:** June Report

California ends June with generally strong water supply conditions, supported by robust reservoir storage across key facilities including Oroville, Shasta, and San Luis Reservoir. State Water Project operations reflect this stability with a 45 percent allocation, and most urban water agencies remain well positioned for summer demand due to healthy carryover storage, groundwater banking, recycled water use, and conservation programs. Despite this near-term strength, the rapid loss of Sierra Nevada snowpack during an unusually warm spring has emerged as a key concern, as the early melt reduces the system's natural runoff replenishment and reinforces growing uncertainty around temperature-driven hydrology.

Legislative Democrats passed a \$325 billion state budget by the June 15 deadline. The budget closes a projected deficit while maintaining targeted investments in water, including continued support for Bay-Delta collaborative programs. A notable allocation includes \$25 million for the Healthy Rivers and Landscapes Program, contingent on State Water Resources Control Board adoption of Bay-Delta Plan amendments, linking funding to regulatory action. While stronger-than-expected tax receipts helped stabilize near-term finances, the state continues to face structural fiscal pressure, relying on reserves, spending delays, and internal borrowing to balance competing priorities while protecting core infrastructure and climate-related commitments. Negotiations are heating up between the Legislature and the Governor on a final version of the budget before the July 1 fiscal year.

The Delta Conveyance Project reached a major milestone in June with the issuance of federal biological opinions under the Endangered Species Act by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and NOAA Fisheries. These approvals remove one of the final major federal permitting barriers and allow the project to continue advancing toward financing and pre-construction phases.

Recent amendments to California's Advanced Clean Fleets (ACF) regulation have sparked concern among local governments over how contracted vehicle operations are counted toward fleet compliance requirements. CARB maintains that updates clarify existing rules, but agencies argue the changes could effectively extend compliance burdens into contracted services across public works, transit, and utility operations. In response, AB 1436 seeks to prevent regulatory reach into private contractor fleets under the state and local government provisions.

California's response to the golden mussel invasion is shifting from prevention to long-term system management as the species spreads through State Water Project and Central Valley Project infrastructure, including pumping plants, reservoirs, and conveyance facilities. Local responses now vary by region, from aggressive boat inspection programs in Northern California to expanded monitoring and treatment protocols in the Bay Area, San Joaquin Valley, and Southern California import-dependent systems.

The Legislature is entering the final stretch before its July recess, with key water-related bills advancing through policy and fiscal committees. Among the most significant measures, SB 872 would establish long-term funding for Delta levee rehabilitation and subsidence-related conveyance repairs, while AB 2215 advances timelines related to State Water Project water rights administration. Additional legislation includes AB 2777 to expand Clean Water State Revolving Fund capacity and several bills addressing tribal water rights and invasive species management. With the second year of the legislative session set to conclude on August 31, stakeholders are closely tracking final negotiations on infrastructure funding, regulatory authority, and statewide system resilience.

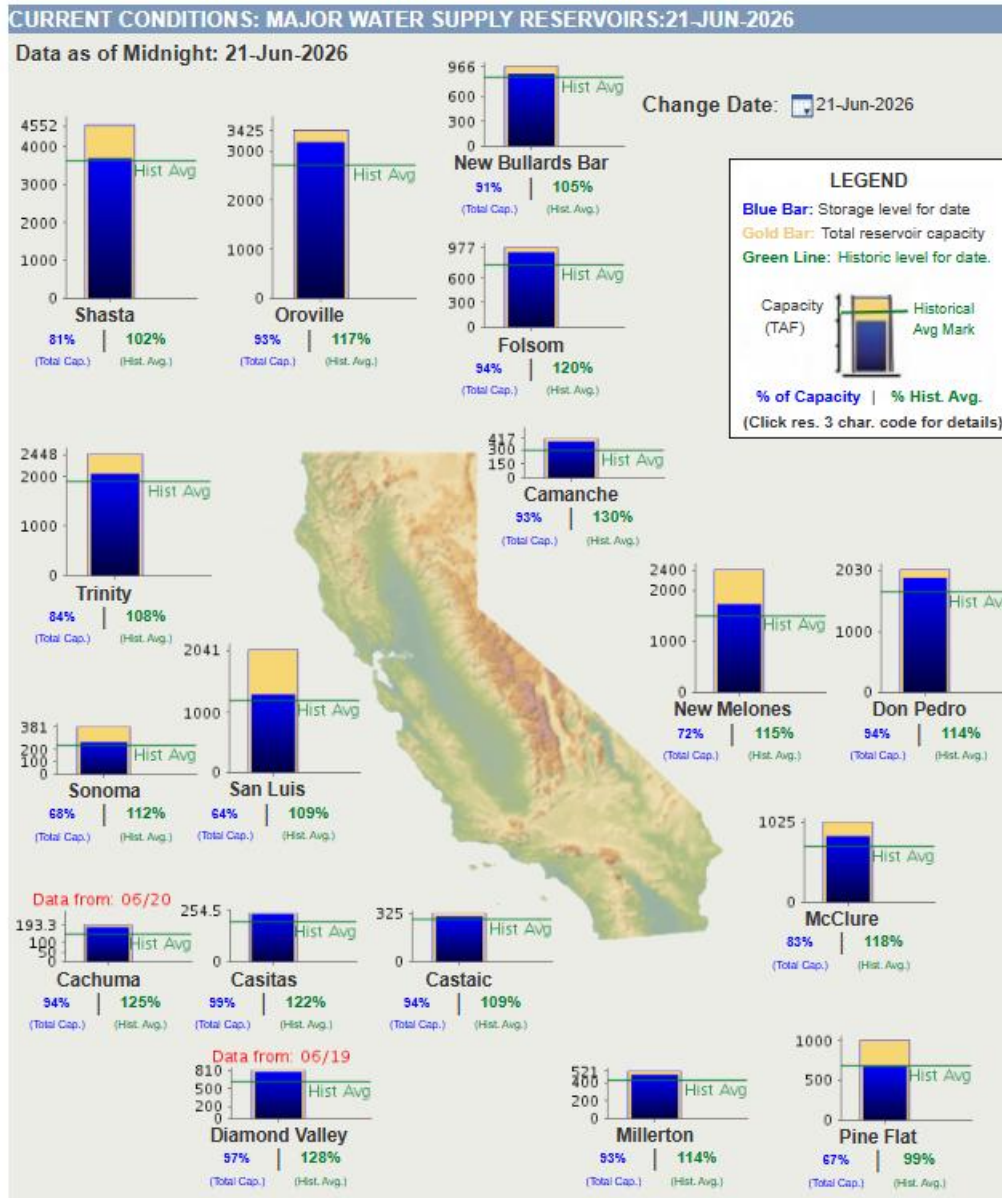
Municipal Water District of Orange County Status Report – June 2026

Water Supply Conditions

California ends June with generally strong water supply conditions, as major reservoirs—including Oroville, Shasta, and San Luis—remain near or above historical averages for this time of year. Oroville is at 93 percent capacity, 117 percent historical average. Shasta is at 81 percent capacity, 102 percent historical average. San Luis Reservoir is at 64 percent capacity and 109 percent historical average.

A 45 percent State Water Project allocation, combined with healthy carryover storage and extensive local investments in groundwater banking, recycled water, and conservation, has left most urban agencies in a stable position heading into peak summer demand.

That strength in storage, however, masks a key vulnerability: the rapid loss of Sierra Nevada snowpack this past spring. Despite near-average precipitation, unusually warm conditions caused the snowpack to melt weeks early, reducing the natural “slow-release” snowpack that typically sustains summer and fall runoff. Water managers are increasingly concerned that this pattern reflects a structural shift toward more volatile, temperature-driven hydrology.



State Budget Preserves Key Water Funding Amid Ongoing Fiscal Challenges

California lawmakers approved the Legislative Democrats version of the \$325 billion state budget last week, closing a projected budget shortfall while preserving several water-related investments, including funding tied to the state's efforts to advance a collaborative approach to Bay-Delta management. The Legislature and the Governor will work towards a final budget before the July 1 start of the fiscal year.

Among the notable water allocations is \$25 million for the Healthy Rivers and Landscapes Program, the centerpiece of the Voluntary Agreements framework being negotiated among water agencies, environmental organizations, state agencies, and other stakeholders. The funding is intended to support habitat restoration, scientific monitoring, planning, and implementation

activities designed to improve ecosystem conditions in the Sacramento-San Joaquin watershed while maintaining water supply reliability.

However, the appropriation comes with an important condition: the funding will only become available if the State Water Resources Control Board adopts the Bay-Delta Plan amendments necessary to implement the Healthy Rivers and Landscapes Program. The contingency reflects the Legislature's desire to support the collaborative framework while ensuring that state funds are tied to formal regulatory action.

The budget's support for the program is viewed by many water stakeholders as a signal that state leaders remain committed to pursuing negotiated solutions to Bay-Delta challenges rather than relying exclusively on traditional regulatory approaches.

The water funding comes against the backdrop of a mixed fiscal picture for California. The state's finances improved modestly during the spring as stronger-than-expected personal income tax receipts, particularly from high-income taxpayers and capital gains revenue, provided additional resources beyond earlier projections. Those revenues helped narrow the immediate budget gap and reduced the need for deeper spending reductions.

Despite the improved near-term outlook, state fiscal analysts continue to warn of persistent structural budget challenges. Spending commitments established during years of record revenues continue to outpace projected long-term revenue growth, and the state faces ongoing pressures from Medi-Cal costs, climate and infrastructure investments, pension obligations, and other programs. Both the Legislative Analyst's Office and Department of Finance have projected that California could face annual operating deficits over the next several years absent stronger economic growth or future budget adjustments.

As a result, the Legislature relied on a combination of spending restraints, funding delays, internal borrowing, reserve drawdowns, and other budget solutions to balance the current year's spending plan. The budget reflects a continued emphasis on protecting core priorities while limiting new commitments that could worsen the state's long-term fiscal outlook.

Federal Approvals Advance Delta Conveyance Project

California's long-planned Delta Conveyance Project reached a significant milestone in June with the completion of key federal environmental reviews, moving the project closer to construction and marking another step in the state's effort to modernize critical water infrastructure.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service issued biological opinions evaluating the project's construction activities under the federal Endangered Species Act. State officials characterized the approvals as one of the final major federal permitting hurdles for the project, which is designed to improve the reliability of State Water Project deliveries in the face of climate change, seismic risks, and sea level rise.

The Delta Conveyance Project would construct a new intake and tunnel system to move water beneath the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. Supporters argue the project is necessary to protect California's primary north-to-south water conveyance system from disruptions caused by earthquakes, extreme storms, flooding, and saltwater intrusion. The State Water Project provides

water to approximately 27 million Californians and supports millions of acres of agricultural land.

For Southern California water agencies, the project is viewed as a long-term reliability investment. Studies by the Department of Water Resources have projected that climate change could reduce the State Water Project's delivery capability by more than 20 percent by mid-century if no additional conveyance improvements are made.

While the federal approvals represent meaningful progress, the project still faces ongoing legal challenges, financing decisions, and additional regulatory reviews before construction can begin. Nevertheless, June's milestone demonstrates continued momentum behind one of California's largest water infrastructure investments in decades.

As California prepares for a future characterized by more extreme swings between drought and flood, the Delta Conveyance Project remains at the center of discussions about how to maintain reliable water supplies for urban, agricultural, and environmental needs throughout the state.

Advanced Clean Fleets Amendments Spur Local Government Concerns as Legislature Advances AB 1436

California's Advanced Clean Fleets (ACF) regulation continues to evolve, with recent regulatory amendments and legislative activity intensifying debate over how zero-emission vehicle requirements should apply to local governments and their contractors.

On June 1, the California Air Resources Board (CARB) released a second set of 15-day modifications to the ACF regulation governing state and local government fleets. The changes seek to “clarify” how public agencies must account for vehicles operated under contract when determining compliance with fleet electrification requirements. According to CARB, public agencies must include covered vehicles operated through contractual arrangements when calculating fleet compliance, even though the private contractors themselves are not directly regulated under the state and local government provisions of the rule.

The clarification has generated significant concern among cities, counties, special districts, and public utilities. Stakeholders argue the revised language could effectively shift compliance obligations onto local agencies for services performed by private contractors, potentially affecting a wide range of contracted activities including construction, maintenance, solid waste, transit, water, and wastewater operations. Critics contend the changes expand the practical reach of the regulation beyond what many agencies understood when the original amendments were proposed.

In response to those concerns, Assemblymember Anamarie Avila Farias has amended AB 1436, to clarify that CARB may not regulate private contract fleets through the state and local government fleet provisions of the ACF regulation.

Supporters of AB 1436 argue the legislation is necessary to preserve the distinction between public fleets and private businesses, prevent unintended compliance burdens on contractors, and avoid increased costs for local government services. Counties, special districts, and other local government organizations have expressed concern that the current regulatory approach could

increase procurement costs and reduce the pool of contractors available to perform essential public services.

CARB maintains that the recent modifications are intended to clarify existing requirements rather than expand them, emphasizing that private fleets themselves remain outside the scope of the state and local government fleet rule. However, stakeholders continue to question how the provisions will be implemented and whether public agencies could ultimately be held responsible for ensuring contracted services meet fleet requirements.

For water agencies, the outcome of both the regulatory process and AB 1436 could have significant implications. Many agencies rely extensively on contractors for construction, maintenance, emergency response, vegetation management, and infrastructure projects. The final resolution will help determine whether fleet electrification requirements remain focused on agency-owned vehicles or extend more broadly into contracted operations.

AB 1436 is currently moving through the Senate, while CARB continues reviewing comments on the latest proposed modifications. The coming months are expected to be critical in determining how the Advanced Clean Fleets regulation will be implemented for local governments and special districts across California.

Golden Mussel Crisis Expands Across California Water Systems

California water agencies are rapidly shifting from prevention to long-term management of the invasive golden mussel as the species spreads through the state's interconnected water delivery network.

First discovered in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta in 2024, golden mussels have now been detected throughout portions of the State Water Project and Central Valley Project systems, including facilities serving the Bay Area, San Joaquin Valley, and Southern California. Water managers report infestations at pumping plants, pipelines, fish screens, reservoirs, and treatment facilities.

The mussels attach to hard surfaces and reproduce rapidly, creating dense colonies capable of clogging pipes, restricting flows, increasing maintenance costs, and impairing critical infrastructure. State officials have reported infestations at key export facilities in the Delta, while local water agencies are increasing monitoring and treatment efforts to protect their systems.

The response is becoming increasingly regional. Lake Tahoe officials recently intercepted a contaminated vessel carrying golden mussels and continue to operate one of the state's most rigorous watercraft inspection programs. Reservoir operators throughout Northern California are expanding inspection requirements and decontamination protocols. Water agencies in the Bay Area and San Joaquin Valley have increased monitoring at treatment plants and conveyance facilities, while Southern California agencies are evaluating potential impacts to imported water infrastructure and reservoir operations.

The Legislature is also considering several measures aimed at strengthening California's response. AB 1772 would expand invasive mussel prevention requirements and require existing prevention plans to address all invasive mussel species known to be present in California waters.

AB 2032 would establish additional authorities and requirements specifically focused on golden mussels, reflecting growing concern that the species presents unique risks compared with earlier quagga and zebra mussel infestations.

AB 1894 seeks to strengthen statewide protections against the introduction and spread of invasive mussels, including measures related to imported water and consistency among local prevention programs.

The CA Department of Fish and Wildlife is expected to release new regulations and guidelines in the coming weeks.

Legislative Update

The Legislature heads to a month-long summer recess on July 3, but not before taking final action on legislation in second house policy committees. Bills that made it through their first house are rushing to get to Appropriations committees before the break. When they return, they will be in Sacramento for the final month of the session before adjourning the second year of the two-year session on August 31.

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 toward 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 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 has received bipartisan support throughout the process, passing to the Assembly on a 39-0 vote. The bill will be heard on June 30 in the Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee.

Funding for at least one year of Delta levee and conveyance subsidence repair is being discussed in the final budget negotiations.

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 December 31, 2045. The bill passed out of the Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee 11-0 and the Appropriations Committee and was approved by the full Assembly 57-1. ACWA recently took a support position on the bill. The bill will be heard in the Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee on July 1.

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

CASA & WaterReuse CA:

CASA and WaterReuse CA's co-sponsored legislation, AB 2777, 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 has passed out of the Environmental Safety & Toxic Materials Committee and Appropriations Committee and passed off the Assembly Floor 75-1. The bill passed the Senate Environmental Quality Committee 7-0

Other significant legislation:

- **AB 1881 (Ramos) and AB 2218 (Kalra)** on tribal water rights. Both bills give tribes significant powers over infrastructure projects. Stakeholders have been working with the authors and sponsors to work out mutually agreeable language. Both bills passed out of Appropriations Committee and passed off the Assembly Floor.

Interestingly, AB 1881 has not been assigned to a Senate Committee.

AB 2218 passed out of the Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee on June 23.

- **Golden Mussels Bills**
 - **AB 2032 (Ransom):** specifies specific actions for the state to undertake to research and provide best management practices for eradication. The bill has an urgency clause, but passed off the Assembly Floor well ahead of the 2/3 vote threshold with 78 "aye" votes. The bill passed out of the Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee on June 23 and will likely be heard in the Environmental Quality on July .1
 - **AB 1772 (Papan):** creates a standardized boat inspection program for all reservoir operators. The bill passed out of the Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee June 23 and will be heard by the Judiciary Committee on June 30.

- **AB 1894 (Rubio):** Looks to address some agencies forbidding SWP water from entering a system. The bill has been amended to address some concerns of other water users, including MWD. The bill was passed by the Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee 7-0 and is in the Appropriations Committee

ACKERMAN CONSULTING

Legal and Regulatory

July 1, 2026

1. **Alameda Island:** The city of Alameda, in the Bay Area, is an island. When it was founded in 1853 it was mostly marsh land. Starting in 1874, extensive dredging occurred to improve the water ways and the marsh was filled in to create the island. Its 23 square miles is home to over 80,000 residents. It is totally surrounded by water and has some large beaches. It is now having serious water issues. Sea level rise, groundwater depletion and soil saturation are forcing the City to consider many solutions. Many of their residents' homes have basements which require constant pumping to keep dry. What land to save and which beaches to sacrifice. The nature and character of this historical and beautiful area is probably going to change.
2. **More PFAS:** It is amazing to learn about research studies in one area leading to important discoveries in a totally unrelated area. The University of Chicago has been studying battery failures in lithium based batteries, trying to discover the causes and possible cures. They studied the chemical process that caused the degrading. They worked with researchers from Northwestern University (just around the corner in Chicago) who asked if that chemistry could breakdown PFAS. It turns out that the answer was Yes. The method uses lithium mediated electroreduction in non aqueous electrolytes to mineralize fluorine. This breaks down the PFAS and makes it easier to separate and remove. It is having a 95% success rate. Scaling and economic analysis is underway.
3. **Microbes and Emissions:** Groundwater throughout the world contains methane. The level of methane can range from practically zero to heavy. Methane is a serious greenhouse gas that can impact climate change and water quality. German researchers (with some help for UCI) have studied the impact of microbes on this methane emission. They have discovered that these microbes can remove up to half of the methane found in groundwater. Using a radiocarbon tracer method they can measure the methane content and the success of microbes in fighting the issue. They are using active microbe filters in the groundwater systems to improve this problem. They acknowledge that there is still significant uncertainty about the role of freshwater methane from a climate change perspective but believe their research will add additional data for the process.
4. **Nonfunctional Turf Regulations:** The California legislature passed AB 1572 in 2023. This bill will ban the use of potable water for nonfunctional turf. The effective date for the bill is 2029. It is mainly aimed at HOAs and could be a significant burden financially and practically. However, whoever drafted the bill may have missed their target. The definition of nonfunctional turf is mowed grass in areas that is inaccessible to residents for walking, sitting or otherwise enjoying the area. Most HOAs that have mowed grass areas allow access to people. Back to the drafting board for the author>>

5. **Public v Private Utilities:** A recent article in Inside Climate News compared the pros and cons of public and private utilities focused on the electrical market. Private utilities charge on average 50% higher rates, spend more on infrastructure, are governed by PUC, pay more interest on bonds, have more liability (wildfires), pay taxes, have different service areas and population, are more regulated, are forced to spend money on social issues and state mandated programs, are trying to make a profit for their investors. Public utilities charge cheaper rates, spend less and are behind on infrastructure, have local government control, have cheaper bond costs, pay no taxes, are not regulated as ardently as privates. There is clearly not a level playing field in this area. Suggested solutions included public ownership of infrastructure (grid and transmission lines), better and equal oversight, scaling back rates of return for privates. Some of these ideas are being considered legislatively now.
6. **Data Centers:** Data centers are getting more attention and more publicity day by day. Many are being built, some cities are banning their construction and more people are questioning the data on data centers. Location is an issue. Most centers in California have been placed in dense urban tech hubs (Silicon Valley). Others are being proposed in more rural areas where energy infrastructure is much smaller. The exact energy requirements, both water and electricity, is not known. The definition of a data center is fluid. Some are big and some are small. Backup generators have become an issue. Since they are normally diesel, the environmental groups are in opposition. Reliability is an issue. These centers are sensitive to voltage changes. The more pressure that is put on a grid, the higher the risk of disconnections and grid failures. The cost of electricity may go up because of additional costs to improve and increase the systems. Who should pay these added costs?? The debate will continue.
7. **Lake Tahoe:** The Lakes clarity is improving. Last year's average was 69 feet which was 7 feet better than the year before. Clarity is measured by how far down you can see a 10 inch white disk. It was 97 feet from 1967 through 1971. Another issue is microplastics. Tahoe was rated the third worst lake for concentration of microplastics in a recent study. Health impacts are still being debated. Efforts at Tahoe are in process to remove as much as the big plastics as possible before they degrade into smaller micros.
8. **Crop Forecast:** As a result of water conditions, climate change and market, California produce is expected to see some changes this crop year. Almonds at 2.7 billion pounds, down 1%. Peaches at 532,000 tons, down 10%. Winter wheat at 9.5 million bushels, down 25%. Duram wheat at 1.9 million bushels, up 8%. Hay stacks at 1.6 million tons, up 14%. Cotton, which is big water user, was down in acres planted but up in yield produced.
9. **Water Mapping:** Stanford University is making a new map. The map of California and the associated tracking of our water supply is a monumental task. They plan to measure all California water, above and below ground, by volume and movement. Groundwater, rivers, creeks, storage, soil saturation will be followed by electromagnetic sensors, satellites, drones, airplanes and stationary equipment. They plan to measure where our water starts and where it ends up. This type of measurement has been done on a regional basis but not on a statewide basis. They are looking at travel through soils to aquifers including quantity and speed. This type of information will be invaluable to water planners and policy makers.

10. **Livestock Feeding:** Stanford is keeping busy this month. They are studying rangelands and animal grazing habits and that impact on the environment and health. Rangelands (grasslands and prairies) cover about one half of the Earth's surface. It supports about 500 million people, worldwide, by feeding livestock. This study looks to maximize use of rangelands and grain fed livestock to reduce emissions and produce better livestock and food supply. Significant reduction in methane can be achieved by proper diet to the herds. Local climate conditions can also influence the methane/diet balance.
11. **Iran Hacks Water World(?):** Iran has claimed they hacked in to various water infrastructure facilities in the US. While this matter is still being investigated, the information available would question this claim. Iran's history of truth telling is fairly consistent. They lie a lot. The pictures of billing records and such do not equate with how to poison the water system or drain the dam. Stay tuned.
12. **PFAS Levels Drop:** New York and California passed laws and/or pressured certain industries to reduce certain chemicals which result in PFAS issues in targeted industries. The industry in question was certain household textiles. The results were a drop in PFAS in that segment by over 98%. The debate is still ongoing in many industries on the basis of safety, cost, quality of product and other issues. As we have mentioned before the causation question is still being analyzed.

TO: MWDOC Board of Directors

FROM: Whittingham Public Affairs Advisors

DATE: July 1, 2026

SUBJECT: July 2026 Local Legislative Report

Following is a few of the more notable developments and issues that have transpired in Orange County over the last several weeks:

- The Garden Grove manufacturing site of GKN Aerospace, a global multi-technology leader in the aerospace industry which serves more than 90% of the world's aircraft and engine manufacturers, continues to dominate local headlines. Officials from various local, regional, state, and federal agencies are reviewing the documents and protocols in place at the facility, and Justice Department agents arrived at the site early one morning to collect documents and records. The Garden Grove City Council held a special meeting at which a GKN representative appeared to share information about the facility, mention the company's \$3 million contribution to the Orange County United Way for distribution to a number of the 50,000-plus residents of Stanton, Garden Grove, and neighboring cities who were evacuated from their homes over Memorial Day weekend, and pledge the company's commitment to holding a town hall meeting when there is more information that can be shared. The United Way relief fund program was closed after roughly two weeks when funds were exhausted. A Senior VP at GKN attended the June 23 Garden Grove City Council meeting and reiterated the company's commitment to holding a town hall meeting soon and to sharing all information as it becomes available.
- The Orange County Board of Supervisors approved a \$10.8 billion budget for 2026-27, some \$300 million less than FY 2025-26 and \$75 million short of a self-balancing budget. County executives pointed to inflation and a number of lawsuit settlements, the largest of which is related to the Airport Fire, when explaining the need one-time funds to help balance the budget. The County has thus far managed to avoid layoffs through a hiring freeze and the elimination of more than 400 vacant positions.
- The Board of Supervisors also appointed County Chief Information Officer KC Roestenberg to serve as Interim Chief Executive Officer, succeeding Michelle Aguirre. Ms. Aguirre had announced her plans to retire at the end of her current contract, which concluded June 26, after a 35-year career at the County.

- Moulton Niguel Water District General Manager Joone Kim-Lopez has been appointed Executive Director of the City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation by Mayor Karen Bass. Ms. Kim-Lopez's tenure begins July 27, pending City Council confirmation.
- Peter DeMarco, who has served as the Director of Legislative Affairs at the County for the past 11 years, will be succeeding Stacy Taylor as Water Policy Manager at Mesa Water®. Ms. Taylor has served in that position since 2010.
- The appointment of former Orange County Supervisor and two-term Congresswoman Michelle Steel to serve as US ambassador to South Korea was confirmed by the US Senate. The former Supervisor, a Seal Beach resident, was born in South Korea to parents who fled North Korea and was raised in Japan before immigrating to the US when she was 19.
- In response to public opposition and outcry regarding the use of herbicides by the County and other public agencies, the County Board of Supervisors voted to permanently discontinue the use of herbicides to control foliage in San Juan and Trabuco Creeks. Fifth District Supervisor Katrina Foley had called for County Public Works to discontinue the use of such chemicals in all waterways maintained by the County, but a majority of the Board voted to focus initially on those two creeks and gather more information on the implications in other areas. The focus is the potential use of glyphosate, a chemical found in many herbicides and pesticides which is an effective weed killer but has faced scrutiny over whether it can cause health concerns, including cancer. Several cities had already banned the use of glyphosate and other chemicals, but a watchdog group has asserted that even in cities where their use was banned, oversight was minimal and spraying often continued.
- The 2026 Orange County Grand Jury took aim at the Board of Supervisors, highlighting how each Supervisor receives \$2.5 million annually to both manage staffs of up to a dozen people and provide discretionary funding to organizations and projects in their respective districts. One of the six findings in their new report, entitled "Growing Political Appointees and Discretionary Spending within the OC Board of Supervisors," detailed a "...widening distance between Supervisors and the Executive Team (which) undermines the value of the County Executive Team and complicates coordination, slows policy implementation, and contributes to fragmented decision-making." Recommendations include limiting or eliminating the discretionary fund practice, establishing criteria for Supervisorial staff members, and realigning the Board's engagement with the County Executive Team and department heads on policy matters to enhance collaboration.
- The Grand Jury also released a report entitled, "PFAS and Public Awareness: A Closer Look at Orange County Drinking Water," which seeks to provide a clear and current understanding of the response by water agencies countywide to PFAS. The Jurors conducted interviews with a number of elected and appointed officials and reviewed published water quality reports and other records from all Orange County water retailers and relevant agencies. The recommendations of the report include enhanced public education and awareness, and the pursuit of cost recovery from PFAS

manufacturers “...to offset treatment, monitoring, and long-term remediation costs incurred by local water agencies and ratepayers.”

- In response to the Grand Jury's PFAS report, OCWD noted that since 2019 it has returned 53 of 106 impacted groundwater wells to service and has secured approximately \$283 million through grants, legal settlements with chemical manufacturers, and other sources to offset costs, with the total cost of addressing PFAS countywide estimated at roughly \$1.8 billion over 30 years.
- Orange County's coastline experienced record swells for several weeks in June, which contributed to dangerous conditions at beaches, including the tragic passing of a five-year-old girl in Laguna Beach, who was swept into the ocean along with her mother and brother, the latter two being rescued by onlookers. King tides also led to flooding in Newport Beach and other coastal areas.
- As results from the June 2 election continue to be updated as signatures are verified and ballots are reviewed, it is expected that two of the three County Board of Supervisors seats on the ballot will move on to a runoff election this November. Second District Supervisor Vicente Sarmiento overwhelmingly defeated three challengers and will retain his seat for another four years, but in the 4th Supervisorial District, Buena Park Mayor Connor Traut and Orange County Department of Education Board member Tim Shaw bested two other candidates and will move on to a runoff in November. In the 5th Supervisorial District, incumbent Katrina Foley received several hundred more votes than Assemblymember Diane Dixon, but neither was able to secure more than 50% due to a third candidate who received roughly 6% of the vote, forcing a runoff for this seat.
- Communities nationwide are examining the potential benefits and detriments of data centers, with several Southern California cities adopting moratoriums on such industrial uses. This campaign has also impacted proposed battery energy storage system, or BESS, projects, with opponents linking the two and raising concerns about increased fire risks. While a proposed BESS project in San Juan Capistrano was put on indefinite hold by its developer earlier this year, the Westminster Reliability Project, which was unanimously approved by the Westminster City Council in 2025, is well into construction adjacent to the SCE Shawnee substation on Garden Grove Blvd. and is expected to come online in October.
- Elsewhere in Westminster, for three generations, members of the Palomino family have lived just yards from Rosita Elementary, a school they helped desegregate. The Garden Grove Unified School District Board has voted to rename the school the Frank and Irene Palomino Elementary School to reflect the family's legacy as one of five plaintiffs in the 1946 Mendez, et al v. Westminster School District of Orange County et al case, which sued school districts in Westminster, Garden Grove, Santa Ana and El Modena — today part of the Orange Unified School District — to challenge the segregation of Mexican-American students into separate schools. A federal judge ultimately ruled in the families' favor, ending segregation in public schools in California. The decision is said to have paved the way for the U.S. Supreme Court decision in Brown v. Board of Education in 1954.

- The non-profit organization known as PierPride, which was formed in 2016, has rebranded as the San Clemente Pier Conservancy ahead of the iconic structure's 100th anniversary in 2028. Among the initiatives the Pier Conservancy will be focused on is improving the Pier Entrance at Avenida Victoria, a crucial transportation-anchored project in preparation for Trestles hosting the surfing competition at the 2028 Summer Olympics.
- Tustin City Council members have called off the local emergency declared in the aftermath of the north hangar fire, roughly 950 days after the blaze burned through the World War II-era landmark. The decision to terminate the local emergency declaration followed the California Department of Toxic Substances Control's announcement that remediation of the hangar property is officially complete. The fire erupted after midnight on Nov. 7, 2023, in the hangar, a 17-story wooden structure built in 1942 to house blimps during World War II and later designated an historic landmark at the former Marine Corps Air Station Tustin.
- An analysis done by a rental website found Irvine's 92618 ZIP code, which includes Great Park and communities north and south of the former El Toro Marine Corps Air Station, is the 20th fastest growing in the country, with the area's housing stock jumping 172% over nine years. Chino's 91708 ZIP code was tops nationally, growing 1,318% between 2014 and 2023, while its population skyrocketed 402%.
- The results of the first phase of an independent review done by a Newport Beach-based audit, tax and advisory firm of the City of Fullerton's budget process did not reveal signs of fraud or intentional financial misconduct. The firm checked for potential errors and miscommunication at the request of city officials, including looking at issues in reporting for the prior fiscal year. The audit request came after a March budget update by staff revealed several issues, including a \$2.9 million audit adjustment that was made in 2022 but not documented until 2025 and the nearly \$10 million in reserve funds that were believed to be available for various uses, but were instead earmarked for specific needs, leaving City officials with far less in reserve funds that could be spent at the city's discretion.
- Facing at least \$170,000 in fines for violating state mandates, the Huntington Beach City Council voted 5-2 to adopt a required housing element to accommodate the construction of more than 13,000 units. In May, a San Diego Superior Court judge ordered the city to pay \$10,000 per month from Jan. 1, 2025, through the end of May, which had grown to the \$170,000 now owed. If the council had not adopted the housing element, the fine was set to increase to \$50,000 a month until a compliant housing element was adopted, and starting next month, the city could have been fined an additional \$100,000 a month, according to a staff report, with the court having the option later to increase the penalties sixfold and appoint a receiver to strip the city of its local zoning control. The housing element will need to be updated again in three years.

As part of our scope of work, Whittingham Public Affairs Advisors has continued to monitor the agendas of the 26 city and water district MWDOC members to identify items of relevance to MWDOC. We also continue to monitor activities at the South Coast Air Quality Management District and Orange County Water District. It is a pleasure to work with you and to represent the Municipal Water District of Orange County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Peter Whittingham', with a stylized, cursive script.

Peter Whittingham

Bill Report: Municipal Water District of Orange County

6/24/2026

Measure	Author	Topic	Last Amend	Location	Calendar	Brief Summary	Position
Support							
AB 1436	Ávila Fariás, D	State Air Resources Board: air pollution regulations: private fleets: exception.	06/22/2026	06/15/2026 - Senate Environmental Quality	07/01/26 S- ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY 9 a.m. - 1021 O Street, Room 1200 BLAKESPEAR, CATHERINE, Chair	The California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 establishes the state board as the state agency responsible for monitoring and regulating sources emitting greenhouse gases and requires the state board to adopt rules and regulations to achieve the maximum technologically feasible and cost-effective greenhouse gas emission reductions from those sources. Pursuant to its authority, the state board has adopted the Advanced Clean Fleets Regulation, which imposes various requirements for transitioning local, state, and federal government fleets of medium- and heavy-duty trucks, and other high-priority fleets of medium- and heavy-duty trucks, and drayage trucks to zero-emission vehicles. Existing federal law, the Clean Air Act, prohibits any state or any political subdivision thereof from adopting or attempting to enforce any standard relating to the control of emissions from new motor vehicles or new motor vehicle engines, except through a waiver, as provided. This bill would prohibit the State Air Resources Board from enforcing any regulation that directly or indirectly compels compliance by private fleets, as provided, until the state has obtained a required waiver or authorization under the federal Clean Air Act. (Based on 06/22/2026 text)	Support
AB 2215	Calderon, D	Water rights: permits: State Water Project.	04/16/2026	06/10/2026 - Senate Natural Resources and Water	07/01/26 S- NATURAL RESOURCES AND WATER 9 a.m. - State Capitol, Room 113 BECKER, JOSH, Chair	The Department of Water Resources operates the State Water Resources Development System, commonly referred to as the State Water Project. Existing law requires that construction work for a project that will put appropriated water to beneficial use be commenced, prosecuted with due diligence, and completed within the time period specified in the water right permit. Existing law authorizes the State Water Resources Control Board to extend the deadline specified in the permit to commence or complete construction work and to put appropriated water to beneficial use for good cause shown. 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, 2046. (Based on 04/16/2026 text)	Support

AB 2739	Soria, D	Water: affordability and system stabilization.	06/11/2026	06/23/2026 - Senate Environmental Quality		The California Safe Drinking Water Act requires the State Water Resources Control Board to administer provisions relating to the regulation of drinking water to protect public health. Existing law declares it to be the established policy of the state that every human being has the right to safe, clean, affordable, and accessible water adequate for human consumption, cooking, and sanitary purposes. This bill would establish in the State Treasury the Water Affordability and System Stabilization Fund for holding the principal and income of the Water Affordability and System Stabilization Trust, which the bill would create. The bill would designate the Treasurer as trustee of the trust, as specified, and would require the trustee, among other things, to hold, manage, and invest the principal of the trust with the obligation of providing a growing perpetual source of annual funding to the Water Rate Assistance Fund, administered by the state board, and the Community Water Affordability Assistance Fund, administered by the department, beginning 25 years after the Legislature transfers funding from the General Fund to the Water Affordability and System Stabilization Fund. This bill would require, during the first 25 years following the Legislature's transfer, 45% of the income of the trust to be transferred from the Water Affordability and System Stabilization Fund to each of the Water Rate Assistance Fund and the continuously appropriated Community Water Affordability Assistance Fund, and would continuously appropriate the remaining 10% of the income of the trust to be invested as part of the principal of the trust. After the first 25 years, the bill would require 50% of the income of the trust to be transferred from the Water Affordability and System Stabilization Fund to each of the Water Rate Assistance Fund and the Community Water Affordability Assistance Fund. The bill would continuously appropriate no more than 1% of the annual income of the trust to pay for administration of the trust. (Based on 06/11/2026 text)	Support
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SB 872	McNerney, D.	Delta Levees and Canal Subsidence Fund.	05/14/2026	05/26/2026 - Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife	06/30/26 A-WATER, PARKS AND WILDLIFE 9 a.m. - State Capitol, Room 444 PAPAN, DIANE, Chair	the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Reform Act of 2009, declares that the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (Delta) is a critically important natural resource for California and the nation and it serves as both the hub of the California water system and the most valuable estuary and wetland ecosystem on the west coast of North and South America. Existing law establishes in the Natural Resources Agency the Department of Water Resources. Existing law requires the department and the Department of Fish and Wildlife to determine the principal options for the Delta and requires the department to evaluate and comparatively rate each option for its ability to do specified things, including, among others, to maintain Delta water quality for Delta users, and to preserve, protect, and improve Delta levees. Existing law establishes in the agency the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy. Existing law requires the conservancy to act as a primary state agency to implement ecosystem restoration in the Delta and to support efforts that advance environmental protection and the economic well-being of Delta residents. Existing law provides for the preservation of specified management areas of the Suisun Marsh, pursuant to a protection plan prepared and adopted by the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission, as provided. Existing law establishes the Delta Stewardship Council, and requires the council to develop, adopt, and implement a comprehensive long-term management plan for the Delta, known as the Delta Plan, as provided. This bill would establish the Delta Levees and Canal Subsidence Fund in the State Treasury and, upon appropriation, would make the moneys in the fund available to the Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency for expenditure consistent with the allocations described below. The bill would authorize the secretary to seek out, and the fund to accept, state moneys from, among other sources, any bond funds, the General Fund, or the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund. The bill would authorize the fund to accept moneys from nonstate sources, including federal and private moneys, and would continuously appropriate those moneys without regard to fiscal year, for allocation as described, thereby making an appropriation. (Based on 05/14/2026 text)	Support
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<u>SB 952</u>	<u>Laird, D</u>	State Water Project: renewable energy resources and zero-carbon resources.	05/18/2026	06/10/2026 - Assembly Appropriations		This bill would require the Department of Water Resources , in procuring electricity to serve all state agencies, to consider portfolio diversity, resource type, location, and hours of typical peak operation. The bill would expand the scope of the department's authorization to defer the procurement of those resource quantities to apply to an existing contract to procure fossil generation entered into before January 1, 2011, rather than January 1, 2010. The bill would authorize, on and after January 1, 2036, excess procurement, as defined, of eligible renewable energy resources and zero-carbon resources in one year to be applied to any subsequent year's obligation, as provided. (Based on 05/18/2026 text)	Support
<u>SB 1048</u>	<u>Becker, D</u>	State Seal of Climate Literacy.	06/17/2026	05/26/2026 - Assembly Education	07/01/26 A-EDUCATION 1:30 p.m. - 1021 O Street, Room 1100 PATEL, DARSHANA, Chair	Existing law establishes the State Seal of Civic Engagement to recognize pupils who have demonstrated excellence in civics education and participation and have demonstrated an understanding of the United States Constitution, the California Constitution, and the democratic system of government, as provided, and establishes the State Seal of Biliiteracy to recognize high school graduates who have attained a high level of proficiency in speaking, reading, and writing in one or more languages in addition to English. This bill would establish the State Seal of Climate Literacy for the purpose of giving high school pupils personal agency to help them and their communities understand and adapt to the effects of climate change. The bill would require the Superintendent of Public Instruction, on or before July 1, 2027, to recommend to the State Board of Education criteria for awarding a State Seal of Climate Literacy to pupils who have demonstrated mastery in climate literacy disciplines, green skills or technical green skills, as defined, and any and all other best practices for climate literacy. The bill would require the Superintendent, in developing the criteria, to consider including (1) the successful completion of at least 2 approved courses in the area of climate literacy and (2) the successful completion and presentation of a climate literacy final experiential learning project, as provided. The bill would require the Superintendent to also recommend to the state board the criteria necessary to award a State Seal of Climate Literacy with specified distinctions. (Based on 06/17/2026 text)	Support

SB 1125	Menjivar, D	Water Rate Assistance Program.	06/09/2026	06/16/2026 - Assembly Utilities and Energy	06/24/26 A- UTILITIES AND ENERGY 1:30 p.m. - State Capitol, Room 437 PETRIE-NORRIS, COTTIE, Chair	Existing law requires the State Water Resources Control Board to develop a plan for the funding and implementation of the Low-Income Water Rate Assistance Program. Existing law requires the plan to include, among other things, a description of the method for collecting moneys to support and implementing the program and a description of the method for determining the amount of moneys that may need to be collected from water ratepayers to fund the program. This bill would establish the Water Rate Assistance Program. As part of the program, the bill would establish the Water Rate Assistance Fund in the State Treasury, available upon appropriation by the Legislature, to provide water affordability assistance for residential water services to low-income residential ratepayers, as specified. The bill would require the state board to take various actions in administering the fund, including, among other things, tracking and managing revenue in the fund separately from all other revenue. The bill would require the state board, in consultation with relevant agencies and after a public hearing, to adopt guidelines for implementation of the program and to adopt an annual report to be posted on the state board's internet website identifying how the fund has performed, as specified. The bill would require the guidelines to include minimum requirements for eligible systems, including the ability to confirm eligibility for enrollment through a request for self-certification of eligibility under penalty of perjury. By expanding the crime of perjury, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program. (Based on 06/09/2026 text)	Support
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Total Measures: 7

Total Tracking Forms: 7

Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
State Legislative Matrix: Second Year of Legislative Session
June 8, 2026

Bill Number and Author	Amended Date and Location	Title – Summary	Metropolitan Position	Effects on Metropolitan
AB 35 D. Alvarez (D – San Diego) Sponsor: San Diego County	Amended 1/14/2026. Senate Desk	Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024: Administrative Procedure Act: exemption: program guidelines and selection criteria. This bill exempts the Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024 (Proposition 4) from the Administrative Procedure Act (APA), which establishes rulemaking procedures and standards for state agencies in California, to expedite funding allocations.	Support Based on 2026 Legislative Policies and Principles.	AB 35 would streamline the funding process for Proposition 4 projects and allow Metropolitan, its member agencies, and partner agencies to access funds more quickly and accelerate project timelines. Proposition 4 funding includes multiple critical areas for Metropolitan, including funding for groundwater management, water recycling, Delta levees, and repairs to regional conveyance.
AB 259 B. Rubio (D – Baldwin Park) Sponsors: California Special Districts Association, Three Valleys Municipal Water District	Amended 4/21/2025. Two-Year Bill	Open meetings: local agencies: teleconferences. This bill eliminates the sunset on provisions added to the Brown Act by AB 2449, a bill that provided additional flexibility with Brown Act meeting procedures in the event of a board member's physical absence in connection with a "just cause" or "emergency circumstances," allowing those members to participate in the meeting remotely consistent with the process detailed in the bill.	Support Based on 2026 Legislative Policies and Principles.	By removing the sunset on the Brown Act provisions, AB 259 preserves flexibility for Metropolitan and Member Agency board members to meet remotely and continue providing the public with essential services.

Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
State Legislative Matrix: Second Year of Legislative Session
June 8, 2026

Bill Number and Author	Amended Date and Location	Title – Summary	Metropolitan Position	Effects on Metropolitan
AB 794 J. Gabriel (D – Encino) Sponsors: Clean Water Action, Environmental Working Group	Amended 4/10/2025. Two-Year Bill Dead	California Safe Drinking Water Act: emergency regulations This bill would authorize the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) to adopt an emergency regulation for water quality based on federal regulations in effect on January 19, 2025, regardless of whether the requirements were repealed or amended to be less stringent. The bill would prohibit an emergency regulation adopted pursuant to these provisions from implementing less stringent drinking water standards, as provided, and would authorize the regulation to include requirements that are more stringent than the requirements of the federal regulation. The bill would require, on or before January 1, 2026, the SWRCB to adopt an emergency regulation and to initiate a primary drinking water standard for perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS).	Oppose Unless Amended Based on 2026 Legislative Policies and Principles.	While AB 794 aims to protect public health, its approach circumvents the established regulatory process for setting Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs). Metropolitan's Legislative Priorities and Principles call for using the best available science to protect public health and improve water quality when setting MCLs. The broad scope of this bill, which would allow the SWRCB to set through emergency action primary and secondary MCLs for any chemical with a federal MCL, sets a dangerous precedent and fails to align with well-established regulatory principles.
AB 2215 L. Calderon (D – Whittier) Sponsor: State Water Contractors	Amended 3/19/2026. Senate Desk	Water rights: permits: State Water Project. This bill would extend the timeline for the full development of the State Water Project water right permits to December 31, 2046, the same term as existing, validated contracts for the State Water Project water supply.	Support Based on 2026 Legislative Policies and Principles.	AB 2215 would grant a necessary time extension to more fully modernize the State Water Project infrastructure in response to climate change. This bill is consistent with the Governor's Executive Order N-16-15 (CA EO), January 31, 2025, which ordered the minimization of administrative obstacles to maximize water supplies. This legislative proposal implements this order without weakening environmental protections and while protecting existing due process protections.

**Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
State Legislative Matrix: Second Year of Legislative Session
June 8, 2026**

Bill Number and Author	Amended Date and Location	Title – Summary	Metropolitan Position	Effects on Metropolitan
AB 2739 E. Soria (D – Merced) Sponsors: Irvine Ranch Water District, Rancho California Water District	Amended 4/6/2026. Senate Desk	Water: affordability and system stabilization. This bill would require the Department of Water Resources (DWR), upon appropriation, to develop the Community Water Affordability Program and would establish the Community Water Affordability Assistance Fund within the State Treasury. The program would provide funding in the form of grants to local water suppliers for water system repairs, rehabilitation and enhancements, water safety and quality, and other local water system infrastructure projects, for the purpose of reducing the amount of local ratepayer funding required for those projects.	Support Based on 2026 Legislative Policies and Principles.	AB 2739 aims to establish a durable statewide funding framework to address water affordability by targeting key cost drivers and by creating a sustainable funding source for a Low-Income Rate Assistance (LIRA) program and a system stabilization fund. This bill would support ratepayer affordability for our member agency retailers and also includes a fund that supports local infrastructure projects, which could be used to support upgrades to Metropolitan's water supply system and reductions in energy costs.
SB 601 B. Allen (D – Santa Monica) Sponsors: California Coastkeeper Alliance, Defenders of Wildlife	Amended 7/10/2025. Two-Year Bill	Water: waste discharge The intent of this bill is to restore Clean Water Act protections in California that were removed per the U.S. Supreme Court's 2023 Sackett v. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) decision. However, the bill goes beyond restoring the statute and includes several provisions that expand regulatory requirements without the benefit of scientific analysis.	Oppose Based on 2026 Legislative Policies and Principles.	Currently, SB 601 poses risks to Metropolitan and its member agencies by: increasing costs of waste discharge requirements (WDRs) permits for discharges of water when dewatering or operating water supply infrastructure, potentially requiring all such water to be recycled regardless of cost to comply; exposing Metropolitan and its Member Agencies to citizen suits in state court, and, for certain nexus waters, both state and federal court; and creating uncertainty in discharge permitting as the bill's ambiguous provisions and implications are likely to be litigated.

Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
State Legislative Matrix: Second Year of Legislative Session
June 8, 2026

SB 872 J. McNERNEY (D – Pleasanton)	Amended 3/26/2026. Assembly Desk	Delta Levees and Canal Subsidence Fund. This bill would establish the Delta Levees and Canal Subsidence Fund in the State Treasury and require funds to be appropriated to the Department of Water Resources (DWR) to support capital improvements to restore water conveyance capacity for state water conveyance systems affected by subsidence. Additionally, this bill would require funds to be appropriated to the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy for levee improvements that would improve the sustainability of local or state water supplies, and projects that improve instream, riparian, flood plain, and wetland habitat.	Support Based on 2026 Legislative Policies and Principles.	The proposed appropriations to fund capital costs of subsidence repairs could reduce State Water Project charges to contractors. The total cost of SWP subsidence repairs is estimated at \$3 billion, meaning this proposal could result in substantial savings for Metropolitan ratepayers. Subsidence in the Central Valley has been caused by decades of over pumping of groundwater and was not caused by Metropolitan or the State Water Contractors. However, in the absence of state and federal funding, the costs for these critical repairs will be shifted to our agencies. The proposed allocations for improvements to levees within the Delta and other actions to improve the sustainability of local or state water supplies and projects that improve instream, riparian, floodplain, and wetland habitat would directly benefit Metropolitan by providing additional funding streams for levee improvements and indirectly through improvements within the Delta region.
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Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
State Legislative Matrix: Second Year of Legislative Session
June 8, 2026

Bill Number and Author	Amended Date and Location	Title – Summary	Metropolitan Position	Effects on Metropolitan
SB 935 S. Choi (R – Irvine)	Assembly Desk	Local agency design-build projects: authorization. This bill would repeal the sunset date of January 1, 2031, authorizing local agencies to use the design-build procurement process for public works construction projects more than \$1,000,000 indefinitely.	Support Based on 2026 Legislative Policies and Principles.	Repealing the sunset date for alternative project delivery processes is aligned with Metropolitan's policy to streamline procurement of public works construction contracts.
SB 952 J. Laird (D – Santa Cruz) Sponsor: State Water Contractors	Amended 3/17/2026. Assembly Desk	State Water Project: renewable energy resources and zero-carbon resources. Existing law mandates that the Department of Water Resources (DWR) achieve a power portfolio that consists of 100% of renewable and zero-carbon energy by 2035. This bill would require DWR to also consider portfolio diversity, resource type, location, and hours of typical peak operation when procuring eligible resources to satisfy state agency obligations imposed on the State Water Project; and allow DWR to shift energy credits from one year to the next if DWR procures more energy than necessary in a given year.	Support Based on 2026 Legislative Policies and Principles.	SB 952 is an important affordability measure for the 27 million customers within the SWP service area, as it would clarify generation attributes DWR may consider for procurement and create certainty for DWR by allowing excess energy procured in low water years be applied to years when SWP energy needs are high. Metropolitan pays a significant portion of the State Water Project's energy cost. This proposal provides a continued commitment to environmental sustainability while adding flexibility that maintains affordability.

**Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
State Legislative Matrix: Second Year of Legislative Session
June 8, 2026**

Bill Number and Author	Amended Date and Location	Title – Summary	Metropolitan Position	Effects on Metropolitan
SB 1125 C. Menjivar (D – San Fernando Valley)	Amended 3/23/2026 Assembly Desk	Water Rate Assistance Program. This bill would establish the Water Rate Assistance Program and Fund, upon appropriation by the Legislature, administered by the State Water Resources Control Board (State Board) to help provide water affordability assistance for drinking water to low-income residential ratepayers. This bill would authorize the State Board to provide for the deposit of the following moneys into the Fund: federal or state funding; voluntary contributions, including gifts, grants, or bequests; and returned funds.	Support Based on 2026 Legislative Policies and Principles.	SB 1125 proposes a viable, reasonable path forward for Low-Income Rate Assistance that protects existing programs and limits the administrative burden on water suppliers. This bill is intended to be a companion measure to AB 2739 and would guide the State Board's implementation of a low-income water rate assistance program. Water rate assistance would provide needed relief at the local retail level, leading to improved revenue stability for local water systems.



STAFF REPORT

To: Board of Directors

Meeting Date: July 23, 2026

From: Sherri Seitz, Public Affairs Manager

Subject: Public Education and Outreach Report`

Laguna Woods Village Television (LWVT)

Staff is coordinating with the Board of Directors to identify and discuss topics for upcoming appearances on Laguna Woods Village Television's *This Day* program.

ETWD Newsletter

Staff is preparing the next edition of the ETWD newsletter. Featured topics include the celebration of America's 250th Anniversary, highlighting America's 250th anniversary, ETWD's history of serving the community since 1960 and recognizing District employees who are military veterans; the 2026 Water Quality Report; fall landscape planting tips; promotion of the Community Advisory Group (CAG); the launch of the District's new website; and highlights of ETWD's participation in community events and outreach activities.

Website Implementation Update

Staff continues to familiarize themselves with the District's new website while completing final content reviews and making detailed refinements in preparation for the site's official launch.

Community/Speaking Engagement Events

City of Laguna Hills America 250 Celebration – July 4, 2026

ETWD staff members Garth Botha and Roman Kociban attended the City of Laguna Hills' America 250 Fourth of July Celebration, where they provided the District's Water Trailer to distribute complimentary drinking water to event attendees. The event was held at the Laguna Hills Community Center, located at Alicia Parkway and Paseo de Valencia.

The event was well attended, and the Water Trailer was a valued community resource during the warm weather. City staff expressed their appreciation for ETWD's participation, noting that the availability of drinking water enhanced the event experience for attendees.

Public Education and Outreach Report
Page 2

In addition, the Water Trailer provided an emergency water supply to a food vendor that had exhausted its water supply early in the event, allowing the vendor to continue serving customers.



City of Lake Forest National Night Out – August 4, 2026

ETWD staff will participate in the City of Lake Forest's National Night Out event on Tuesday, August 4, from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Lake Forest Sports Park. Staff will provide the District's Water Trailer to offer complimentary drinking water to attendees while engaging with the community and promoting ETWD's commitment to public service and community partnerships.



STAFF REPORT

To: Board of Directors

Meeting Date: July 23, 2026

From: Vu Chu, Water Resources Supervisor

Subject: Water Use Efficiency Report

Rebate Programs:

The SoCal WaterSmart regional rebate program is available to ETWD customers through the collaboration of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, the Municipal Water District of Orange County, and ETWD.

Eligible device purchases may qualify for rebates, contingent on meeting eligibility criteria and subject to fund availability. Detailed residential and commercial rebate information is accessible at:

www.etwd.com/conservation/rebates

www.etwd.com/commercial-rebates

Actual Customer Rebates Analysis:

The following ETWD residential customer and commercial customer device rebates were approved by the Metropolitan Water District and the Municipal Water District of Orange County in June 2026.

The table below also shows the ETWD residential and commercial rebates approved for June 2026 and FY 2025-2026.

Rebate Program	June 2026	FY 2025/26
High Efficiency Clothes Washer		10
Irrigation Controller (Residential)		12
Spray to Drip – Commercial		13,831 sq. ft.

Spray to Drip – Residential		6,466 sq. ft.
Turf Replacement – Commercial		19,146 sq. ft.
Turf Replacement – Residential		4,793 sq. ft.
Low-flow Showerheads		7
Faucet Aerators		8
Flow Monitoring Device		1

Water Use Efficiency Plan Update:

The District Water Budget-Based Tiered Conservation Rate Structure (WBBTCRS) pricing structure is the primary plan that gives customers the incentive needed to be efficient. The Plan efforts initially will concentrate on those customers continually in the Inefficient and Excessive Tiers (Tiers 3 and 4). During June 2026, residential customers accounted for 62.7% of Tier 3 usage and dedicated irrigation accounted for 37.3%. For Tier 4, residential customers accounted for 70.4% and dedicated irrigation accounted for 29.6% during the same period.

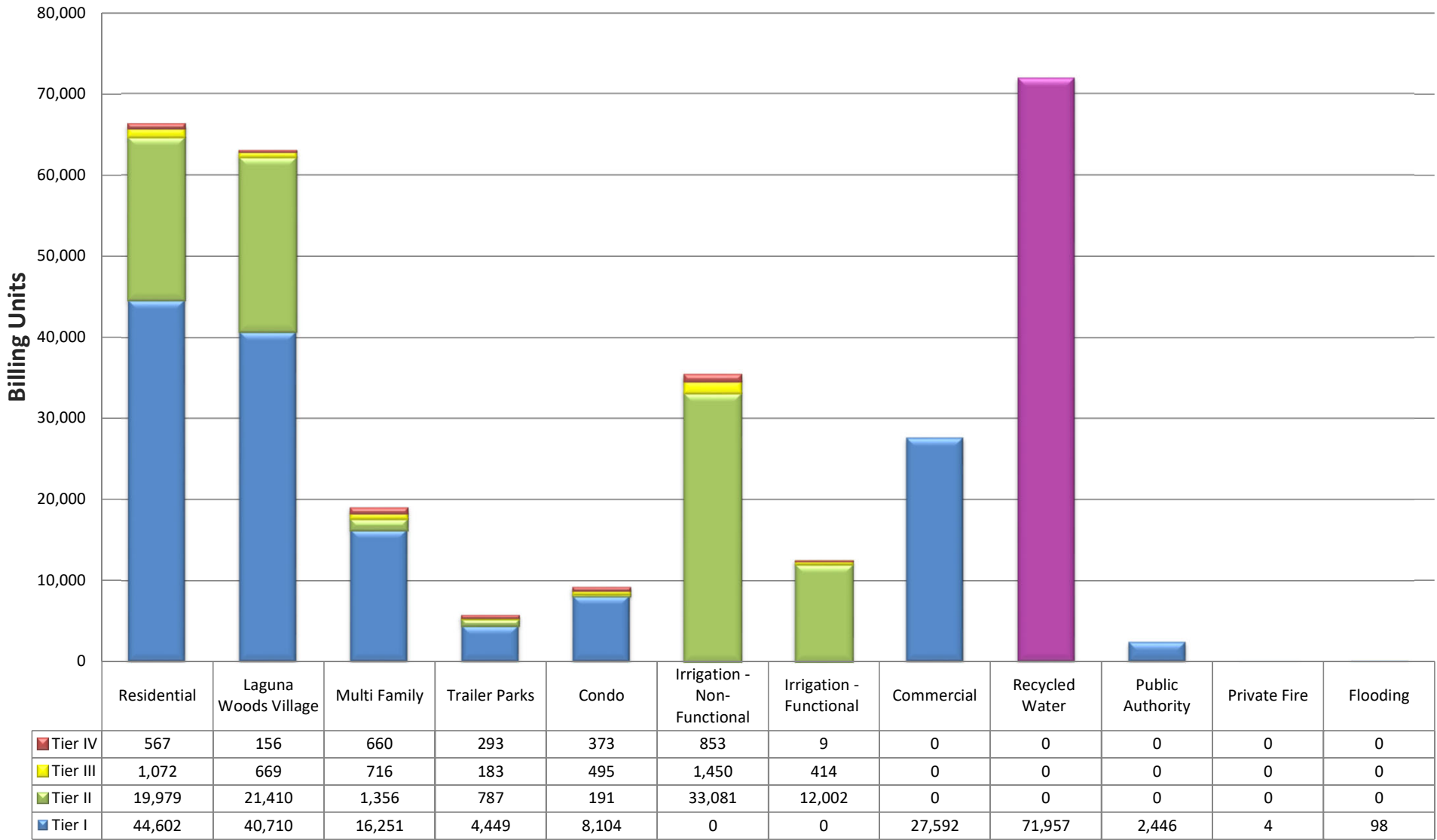
Total Consumption Comparison to Evapotranspiration (ET) Factor:

Included in this month's Water Use Efficiency Report is a chart comparing the current fiscal year consumption and ET factor to the fiscal 2024/25 consumption and ET factor. Total potable water consumption increased by 1.59% in June 2026 compared to June 2025. On a year-to-date basis, potable water consumption through May is 2.03% lower compared to FY 2024–2025. During the same period, the ET factor decreased from 6.06 to 5.78.

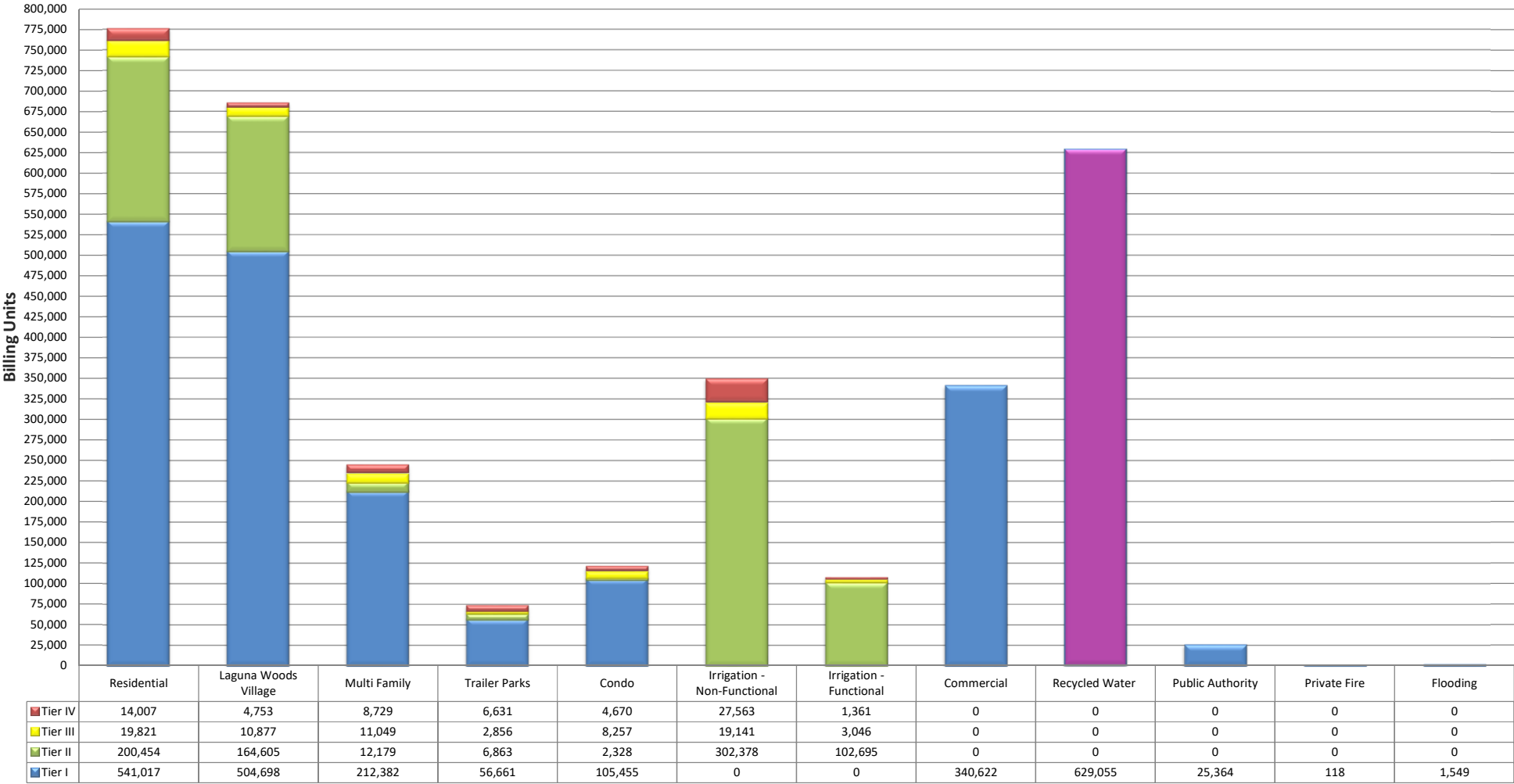
ETWD Tier Consumption Information and Usage Information Compared to Previous Years:

The following graphs highlight ETWD year-to-date consumption and consumption by tier for the current fiscal year compared to the 2024-2025 fiscal year. ETWD water consumption compared to 2013 and 2020 are also included.

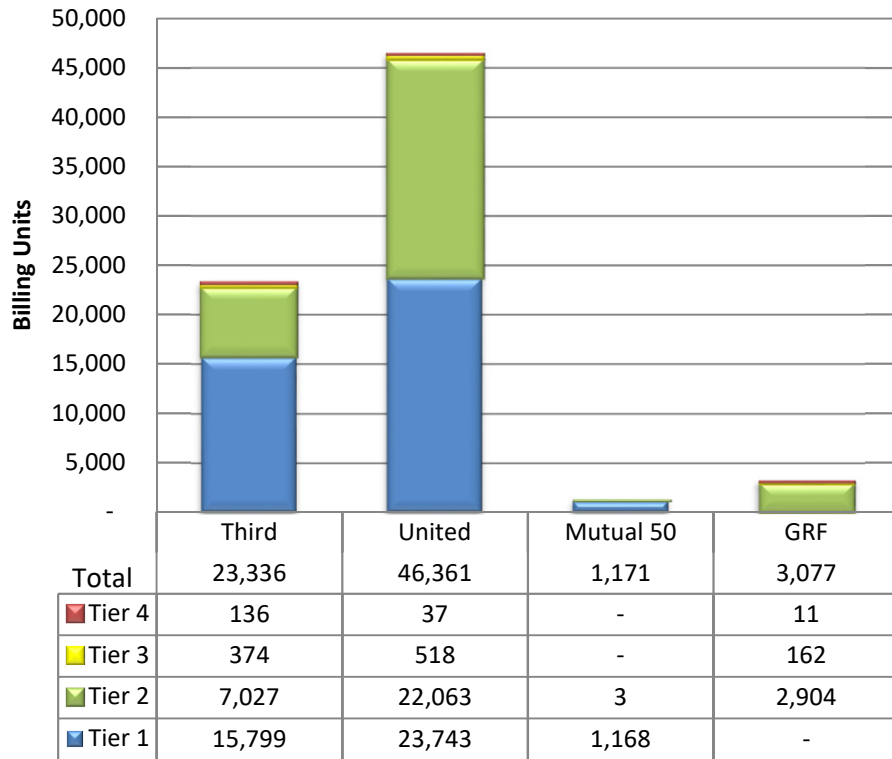
June 2026 Water Sales



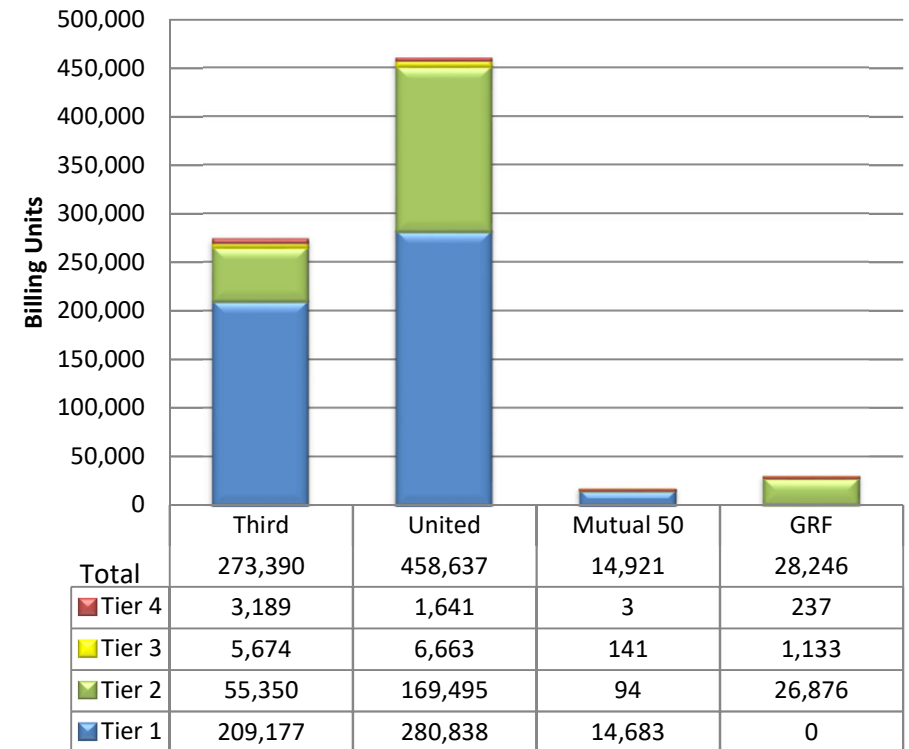
Year-to-Date Water Sales as of June 2026



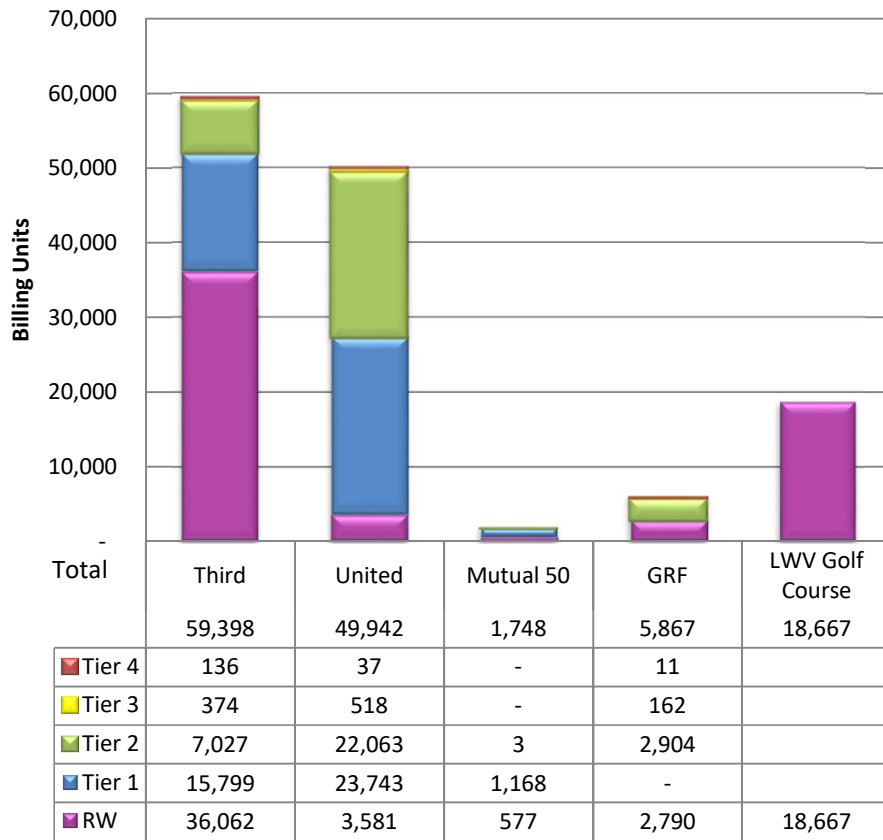
Laguna Woods Village June 2026 Water Sales



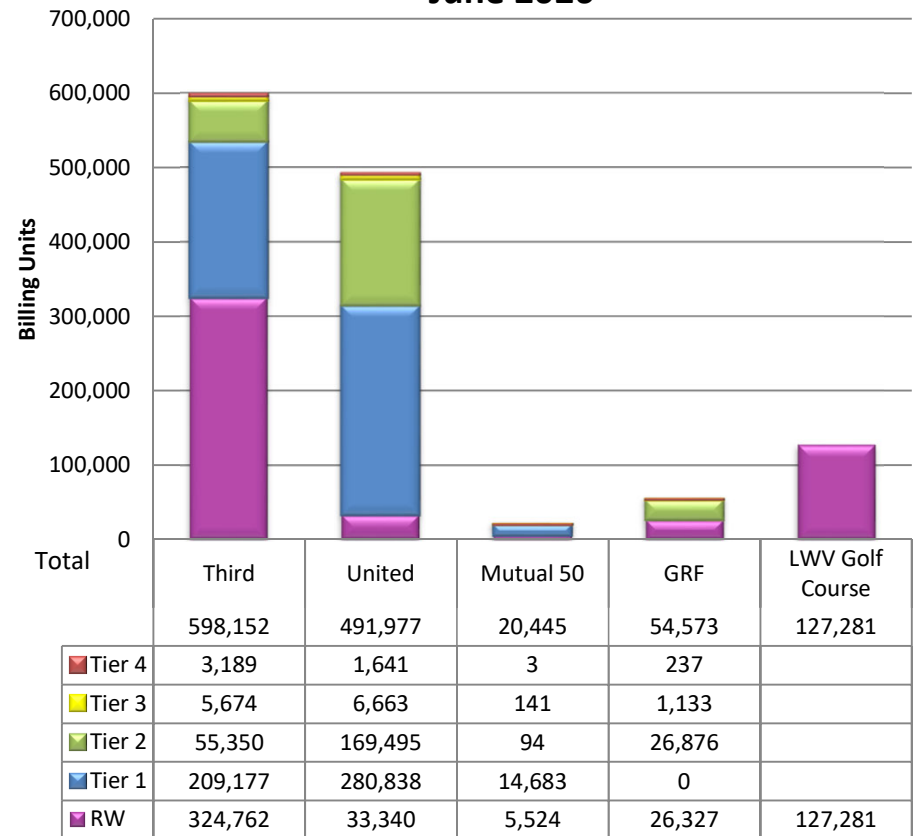
Laguna Woods Village Year-to-Date Water Sales June 2026



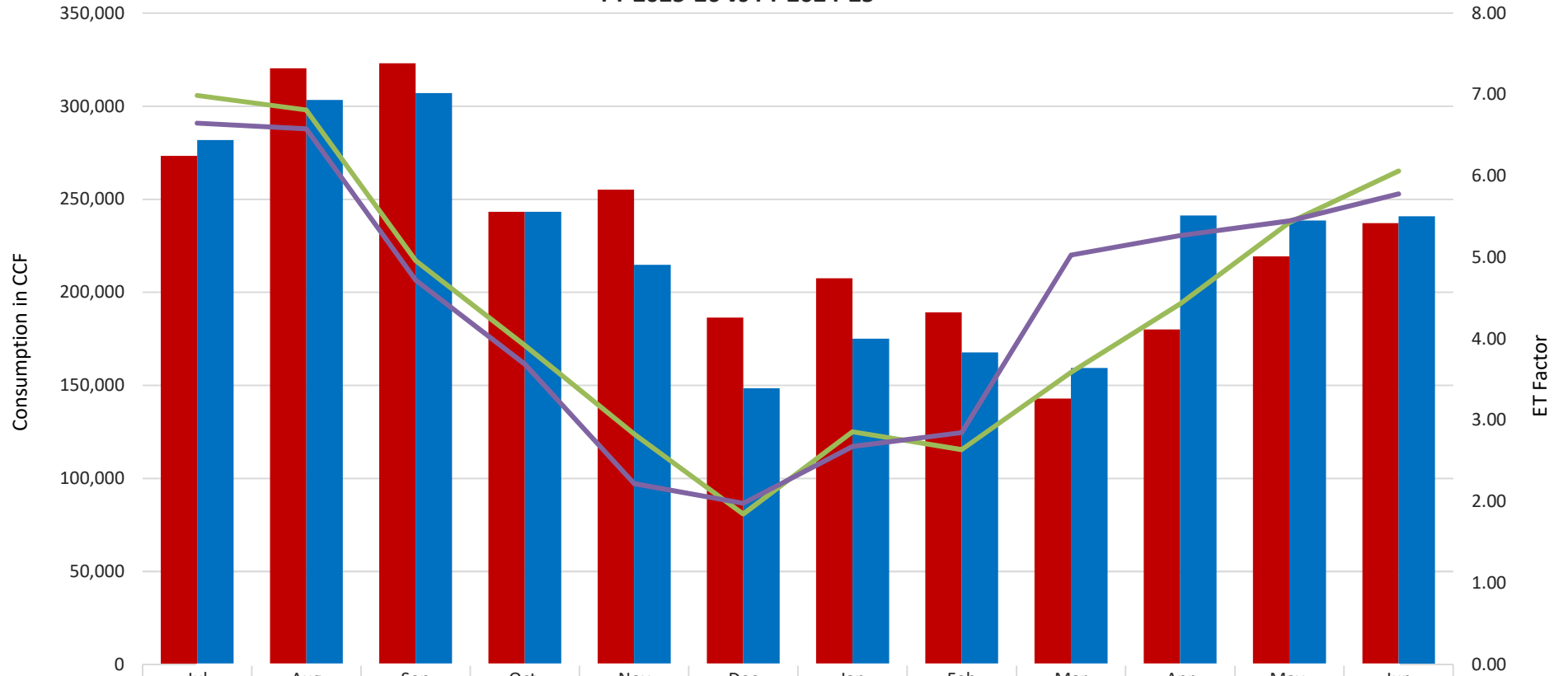
Laguna Woods Village June 2026 Water & RW Sales



Laguna Woods Village Year-to-Date Water & RW Sales June 2026

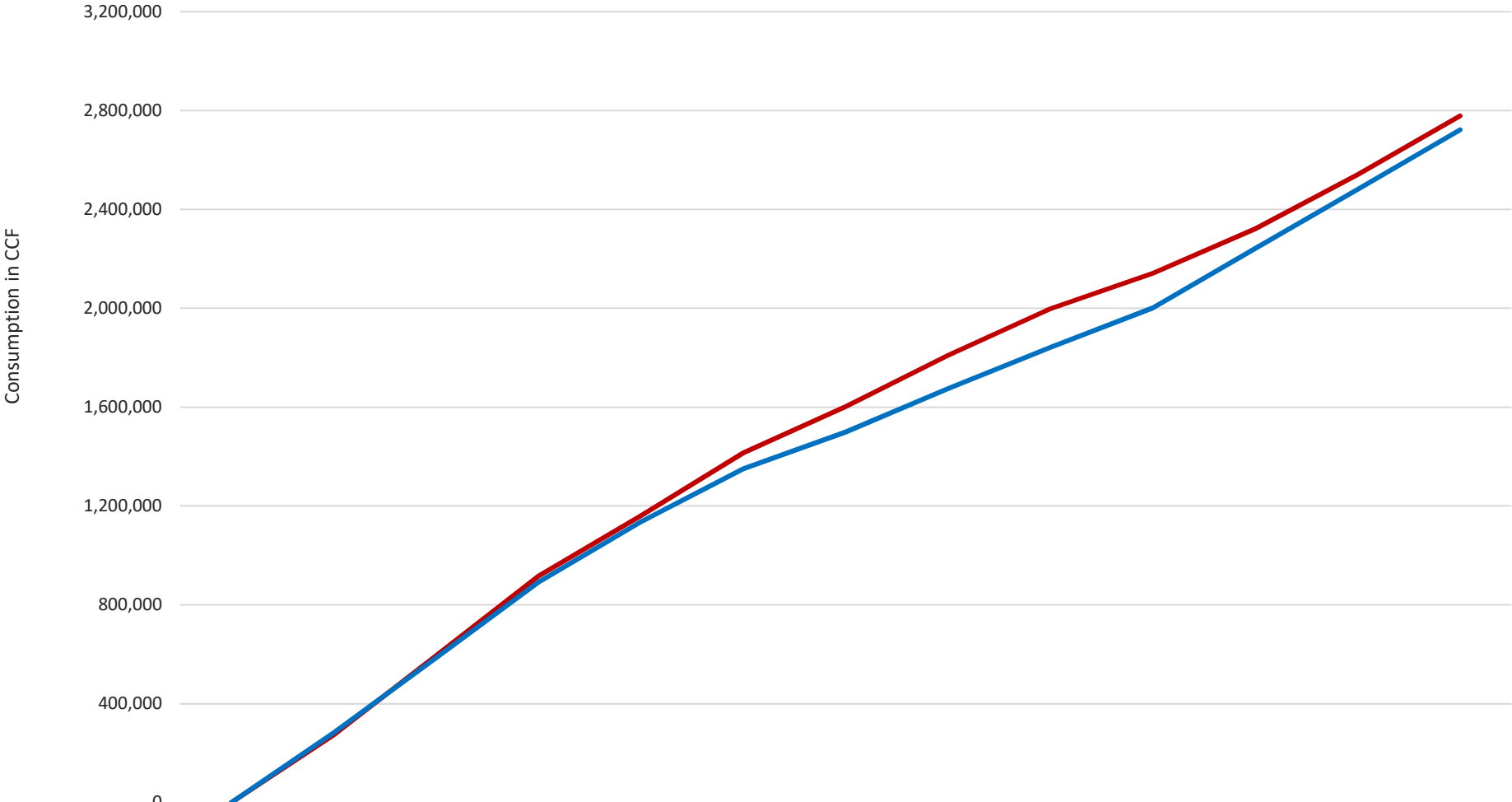


Total Consumption Comparison (CCF)
FY 2025-26 vs FY 2024-25



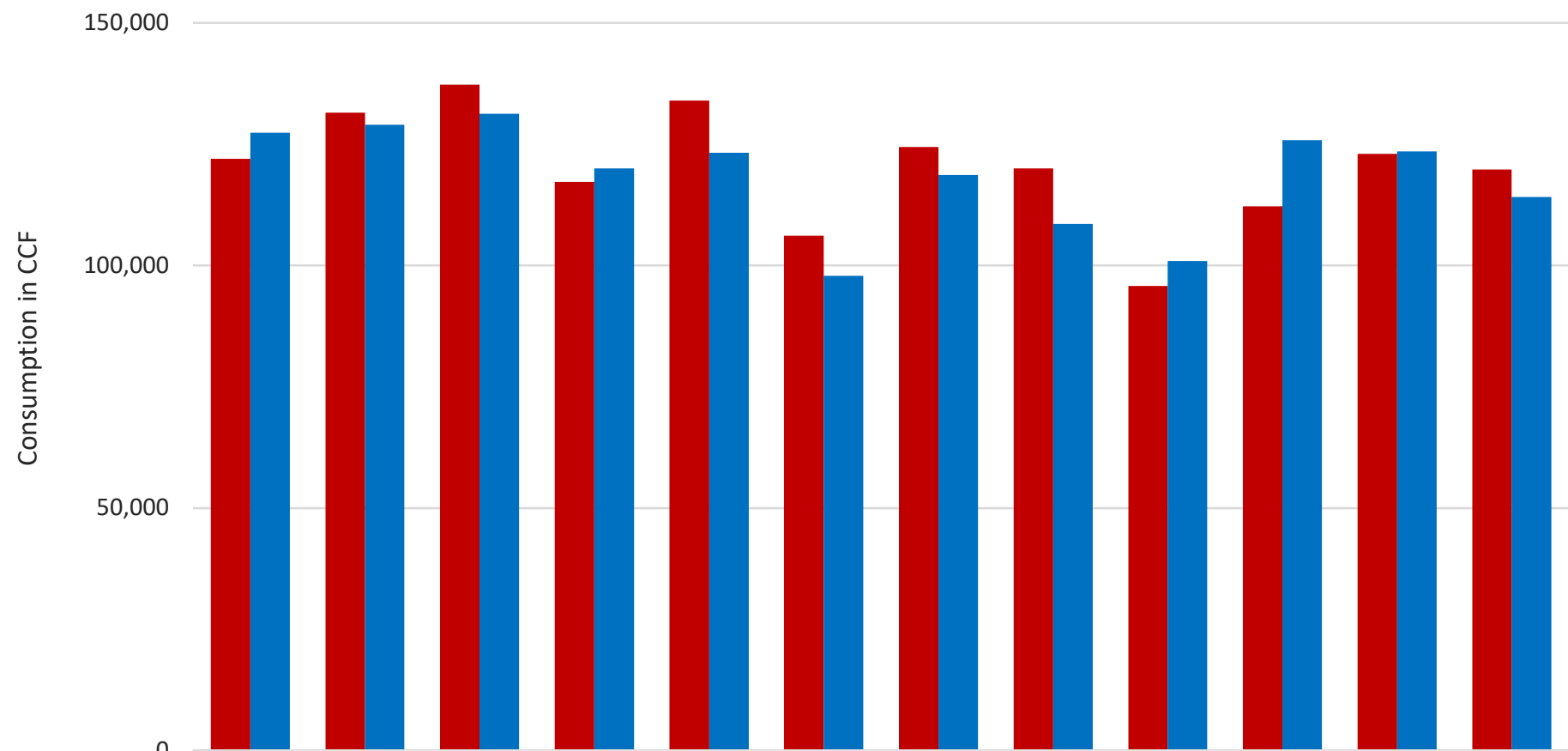
	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
FY 2024-2025	273,341	320,463	323,129	243,352	255,163	186,426	207,474	189,358	143,011	180,075	219,418	237,194
FY 2025-2026	281,724	303,292	307,160	243,370	214,822	148,509	175,157	167,798	159,357	241,314	238,654	240,972
% Change	3.07%	-5.36%	-4.94%	0.01%	-15.81%	-20.34%	-15.58%	-11.39%	11.43%	34.01%	8.77%	1.59%
FY 24/25 ET	6.99	6.81	4.96	3.92	2.83	1.85	2.86	2.64	3.59	4.43	5.43	6.06
FY 25/26 ET	6.65	6.58	4.72	3.69	2.22	1.98	2.68	2.85	5.03	5.27	5.45	5.78

ETWD Fiscal YTD Consumption
FY 2025-26 vs FY 2024-25



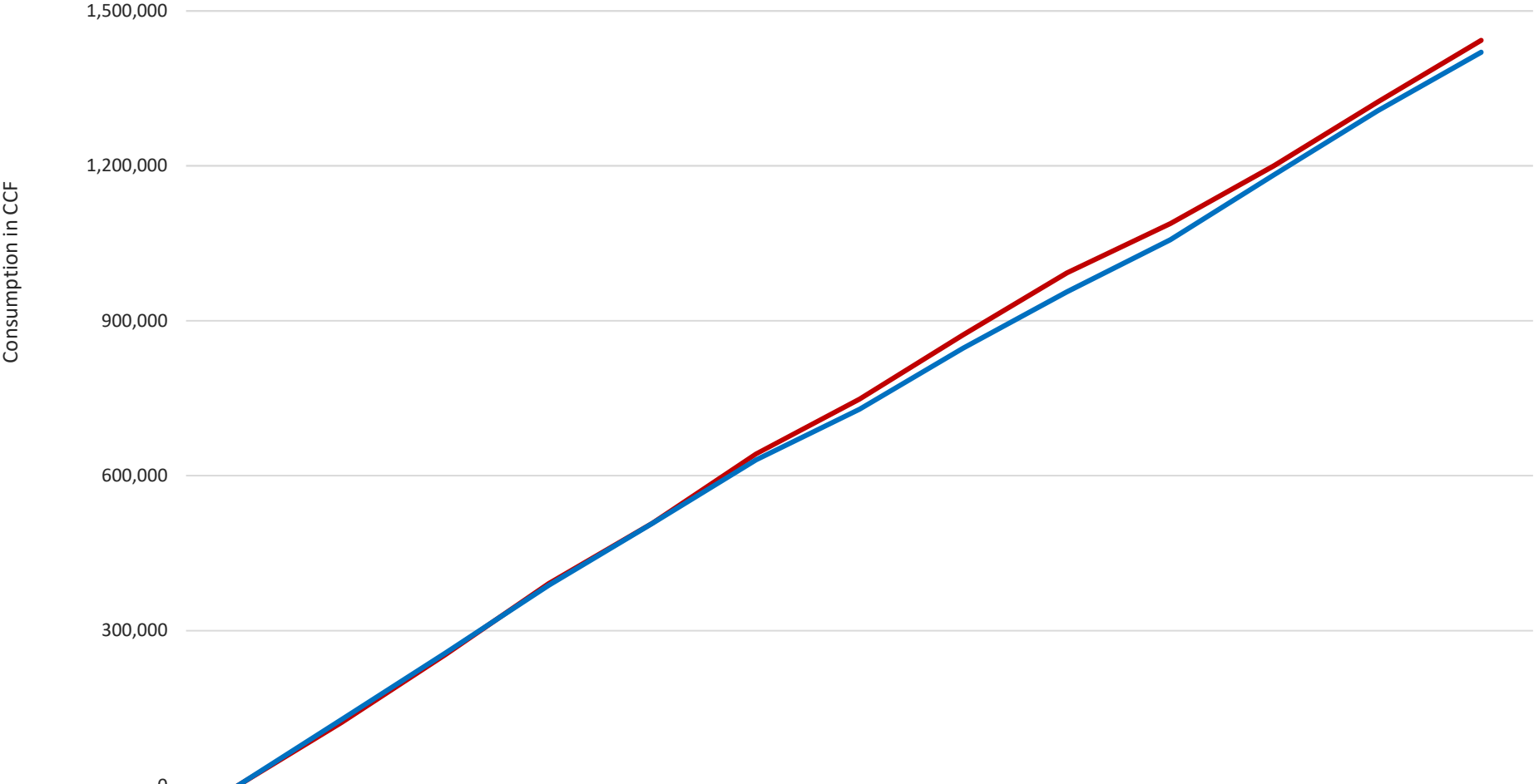
	YTD Start	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
2024-2025	0	273,341	593,804	916,933	1,160,285	1,415,448	1,601,874	1,809,348	1,998,706	2,141,717	2,321,792	2,541,210	2,778,404
2025-2026	0	281,724	585,016	892,176	1,135,546	1,350,368	1,498,877	1,674,034	1,841,832	2,001,189	2,242,503	2,481,157	2,722,129
% Change		3.07%	-1.48%	-2.70%	-2.13%	-4.60%	-6.43%	-7.48%	-7.85%	-6.56%	-3.41%	-2.36%	-2.03%

Tier I Consumption



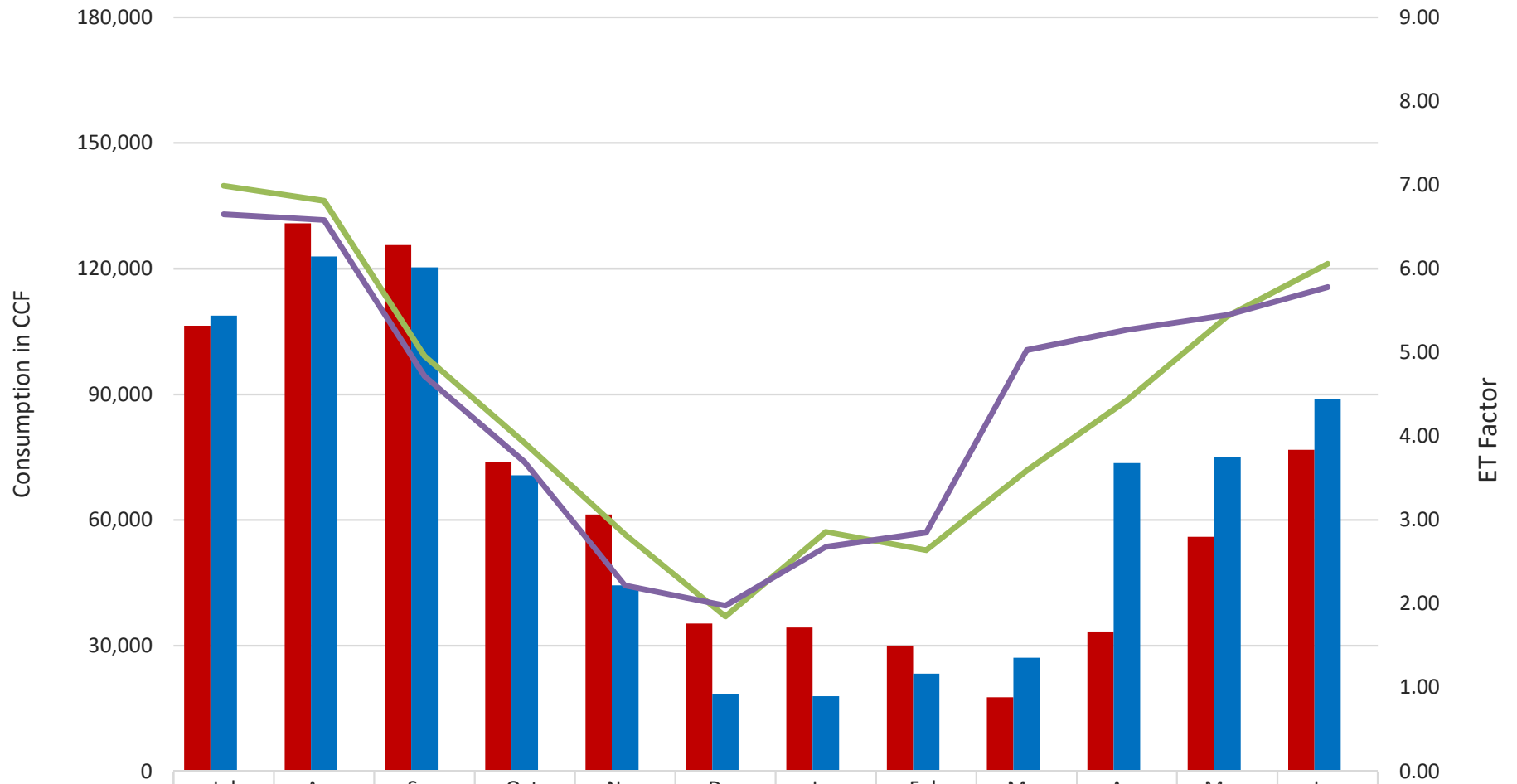
	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
2024-2025	122,015	131,466	137,296	117,207	133,977	106,134	124,382	119,990	95,801	112,176	122,955	119,806
2025-2026	127,358	128,996	131,302	119,965	123,195	97,859	118,616	108,523	100,899	125,873	123,511	114,116
% Change	4.38%	-1.88%	-4.37%	2.35%	-8.05%	-7.80%	-4.64%	-9.56%	5.32%	12.21%	0.45%	-4.75%

Tier I Fiscal YTD Consumption



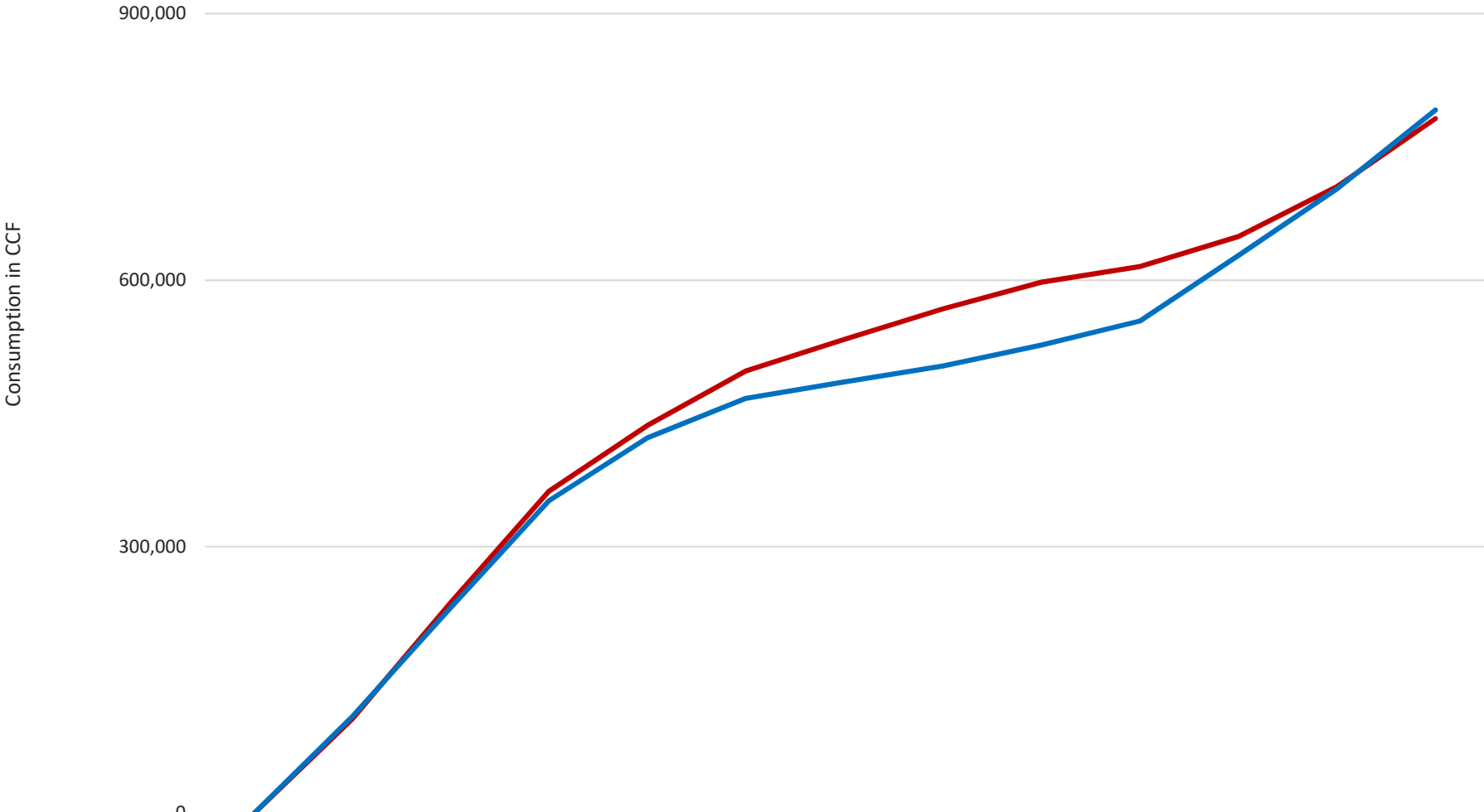
	YTD Start	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
2024-2025	0	122,015	253,481	390,777	507,984	641,961	748,095	872,477	992,467	1,088,268	1,200,444	1,323,399	1,443,205
2025-2026	0	127,358	256,354	387,656	507,621	630,816	728,675	847,291	955,814	1,056,713	1,182,586	1,306,097	1,420,213
% Change		4.38%	1.13%	-0.80%	-0.07%	-1.74%	-2.60%	-2.89%	-3.69%	-2.90%	-1.49%	-1.31%	-1.59%

Tier II Consumption



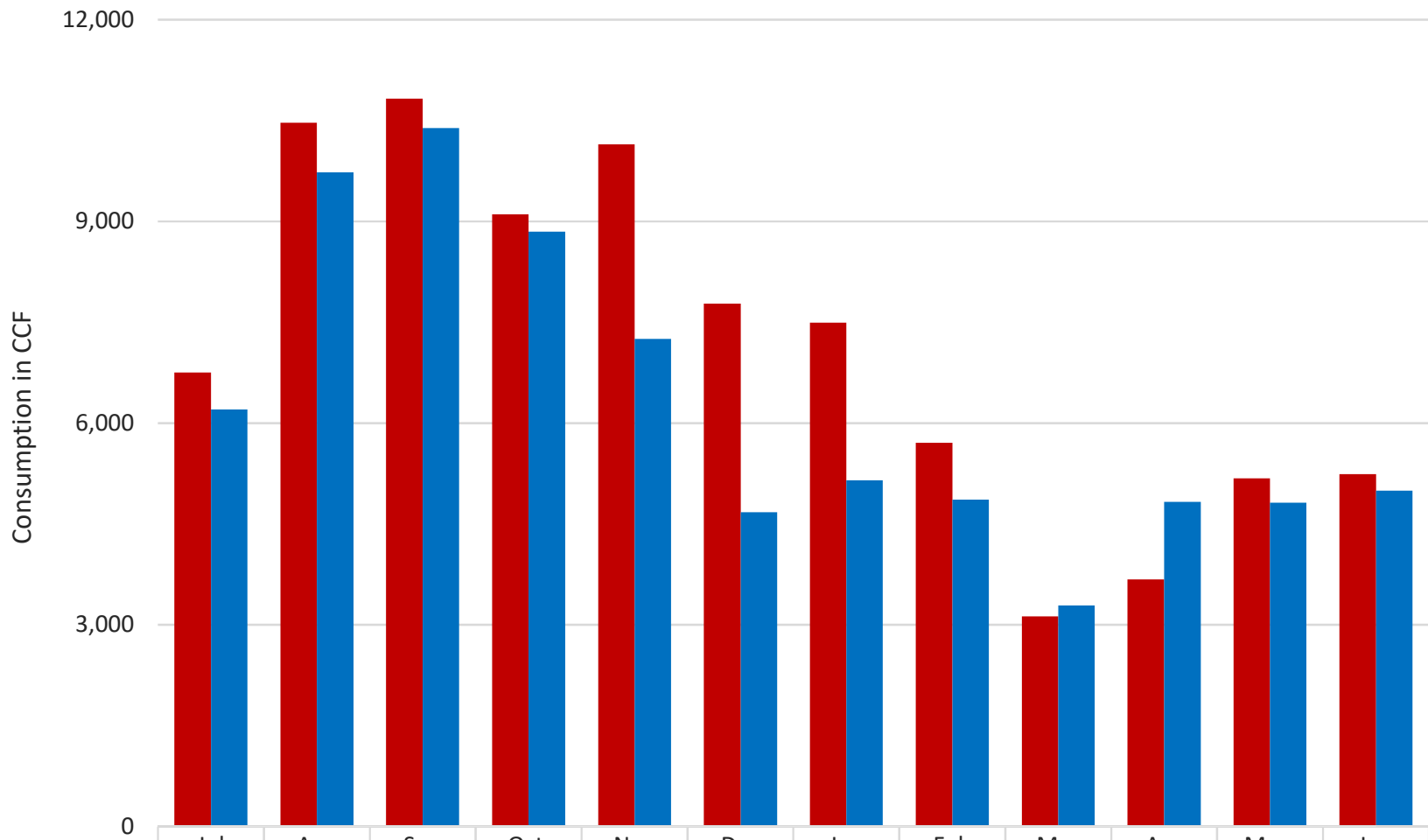
	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
2024-2025	106,453	130,835	125,611	73,825	61,340	35,325	34,381	30,087	17,750	33,471	56,045	76,773
2025-2026	108,802	122,934	120,334	70,731	44,415	18,409	17,923	23,389	27,144	73,604	75,011	88,806
% Change	2.21%	-6.04%	-4.20%	-4.19%	-27.59%	-47.89%	-47.87%	-22.26%	52.92%	119.90%	33.84%	15.67%
24/25 ET	6.99	6.81	4.96	3.92	2.83	1.85	2.86	2.64	3.59	4.43	5.43	6.06
25/26 ET	6.65	6.58	4.72	3.69	2.22	1.98	2.68	2.85	5.03	5.27	5.45	5.78

Tier II Fiscal YTD Consumption



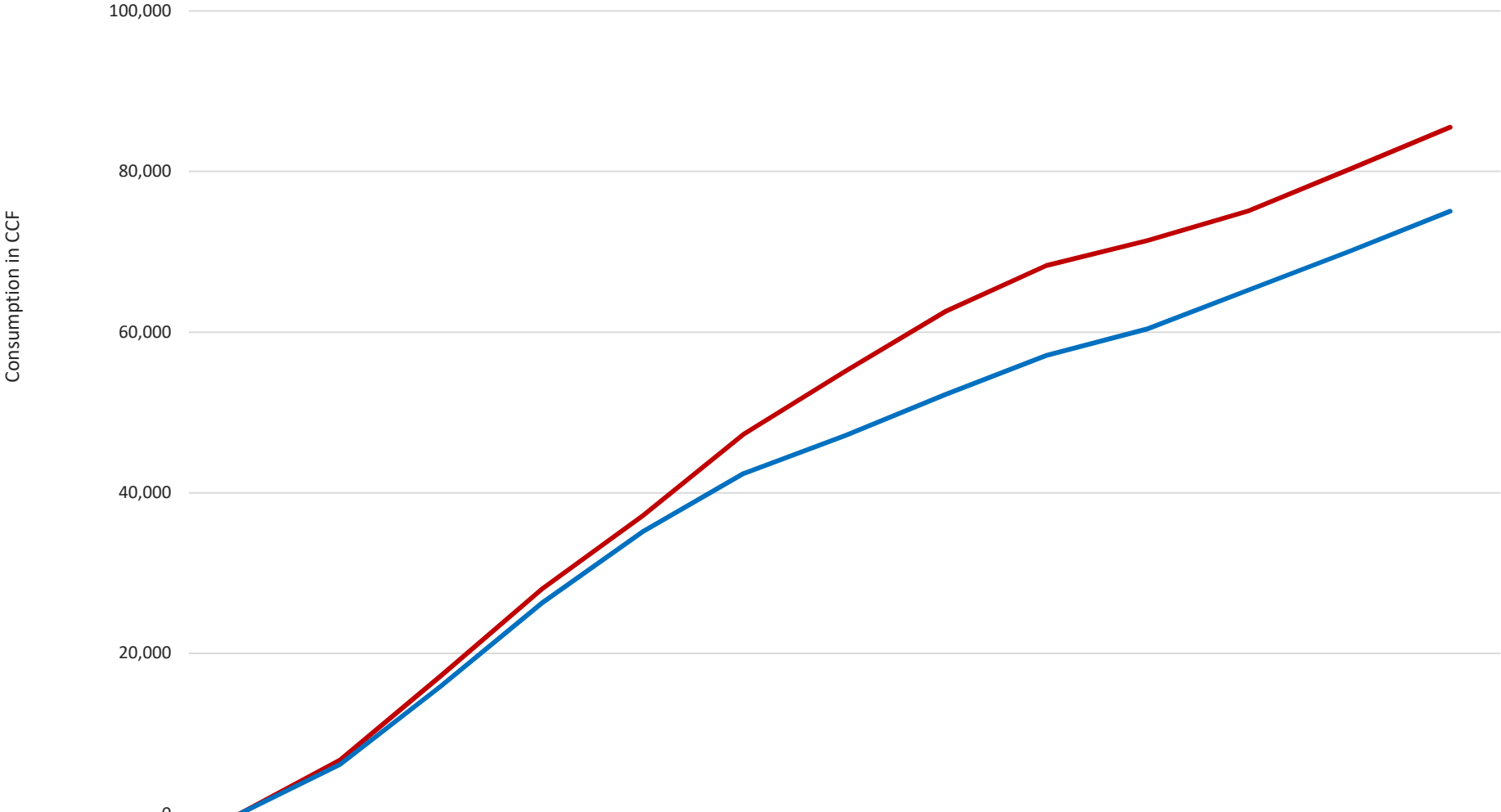
	YTD Start	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
2024-2025	0	106,453	237,288	362,899	436,724	498,064	533,389	567,770	597,857	615,607	649,078	705,123	781,896
2025-2026	0	108,802	231,736	352,070	422,801	467,216	485,625	503,548	526,937	554,081	627,685	702,696	791,502
% Change		2.21%	-2.34%	-2.98%	-3.19%	-6.19%	-8.95%	-11.31%	-11.86%	-9.99%	-3.30%	-0.34%	1.23%

Tier III Consumption



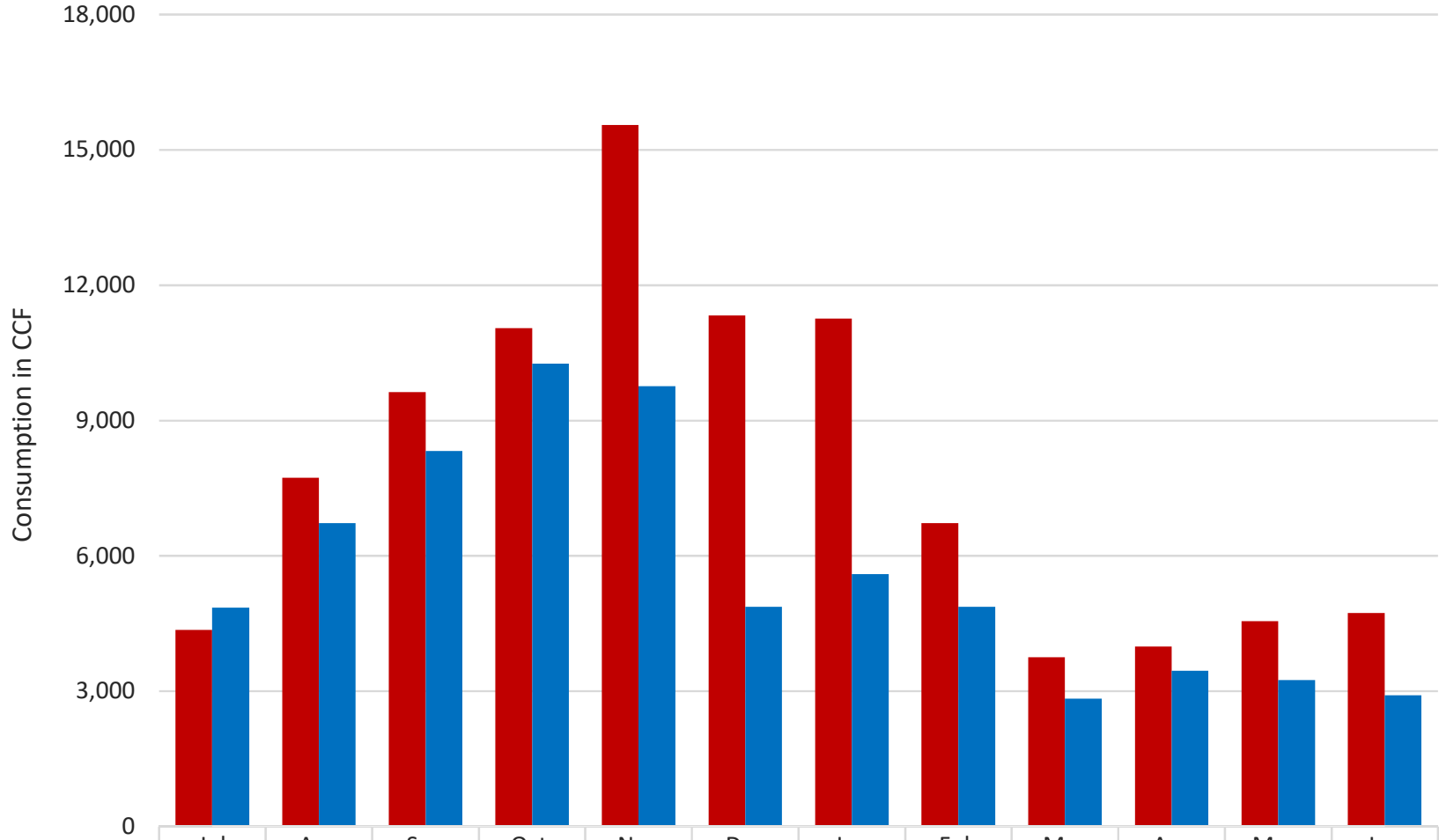
	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
2024-2025	6,754	10,469	10,828	9,107	10,147	7,778	7,493	5,707	3,128	3,676	5,179	5,244
2025-2026	6,207	9,731	10,387	8,848	7,255	4,673	5,149	4,866	3,285	4,829	4,818	4,999
% Change	-8.10%	-7.05%	-4.07%	-2.84%	-28.50%	-39.92%	-31.28%	-14.74%	5.02%	31.37%	-6.97%	-4.67%

Tier III Fiscal YTD Consumption



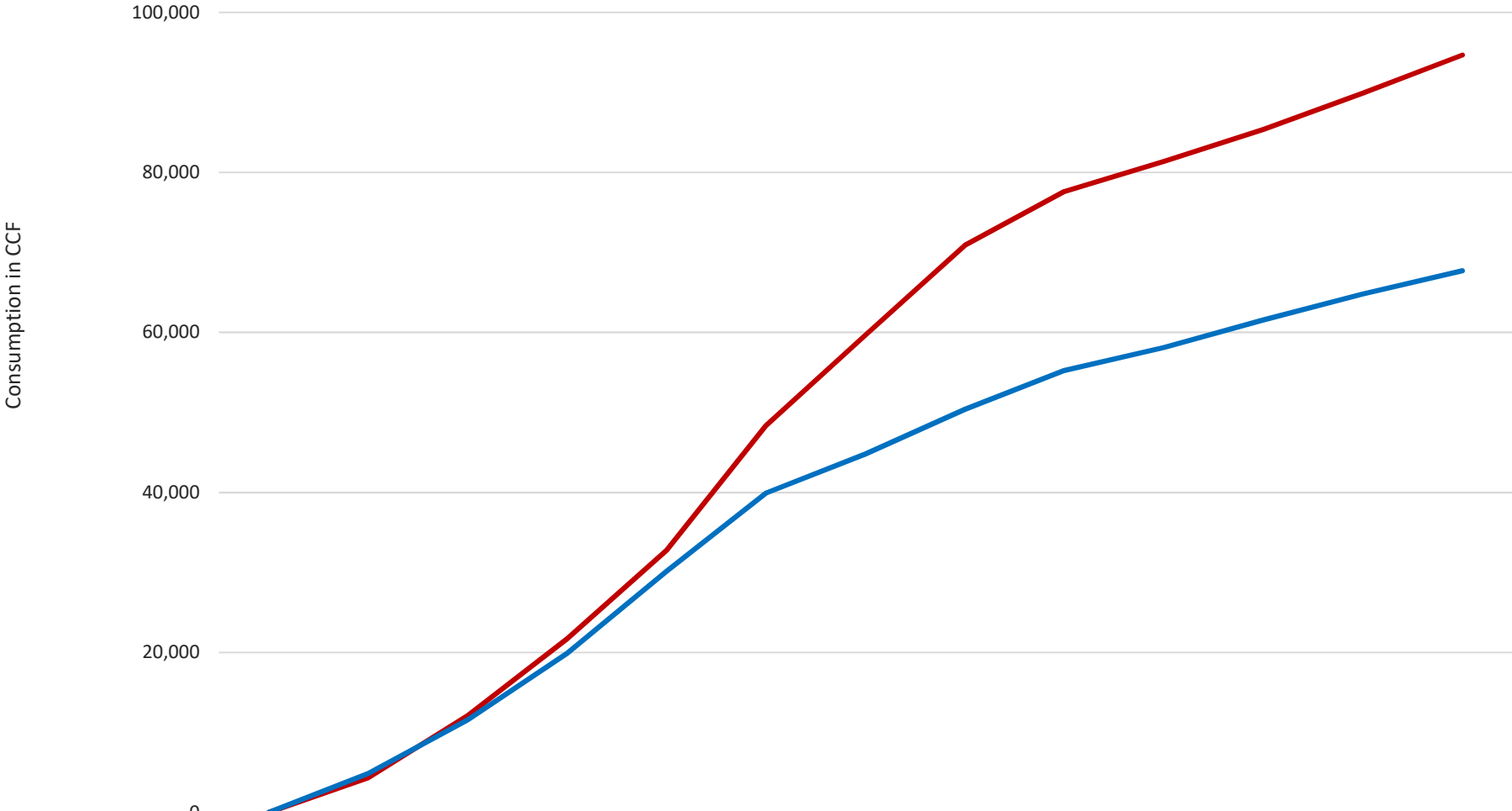
	YTD Start	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
2024-2025	0	6,754	17,223	28,051	37,158	47,305	55,083	62,576	68,283	71,411	75,087	80,266	85,510
2025-2026	0	6,207	15,938	26,325	35,173	42,428	47,101	52,250	57,116	60,401	65,230	70,048	75,047
% Change		-8.10%	-7.46%	-6.15%	-5.34%	-10.31%	-14.49%	-16.50%	-16.35%	-15.42%	-13.13%	-12.73%	-12.24%

Tier IV Consumption



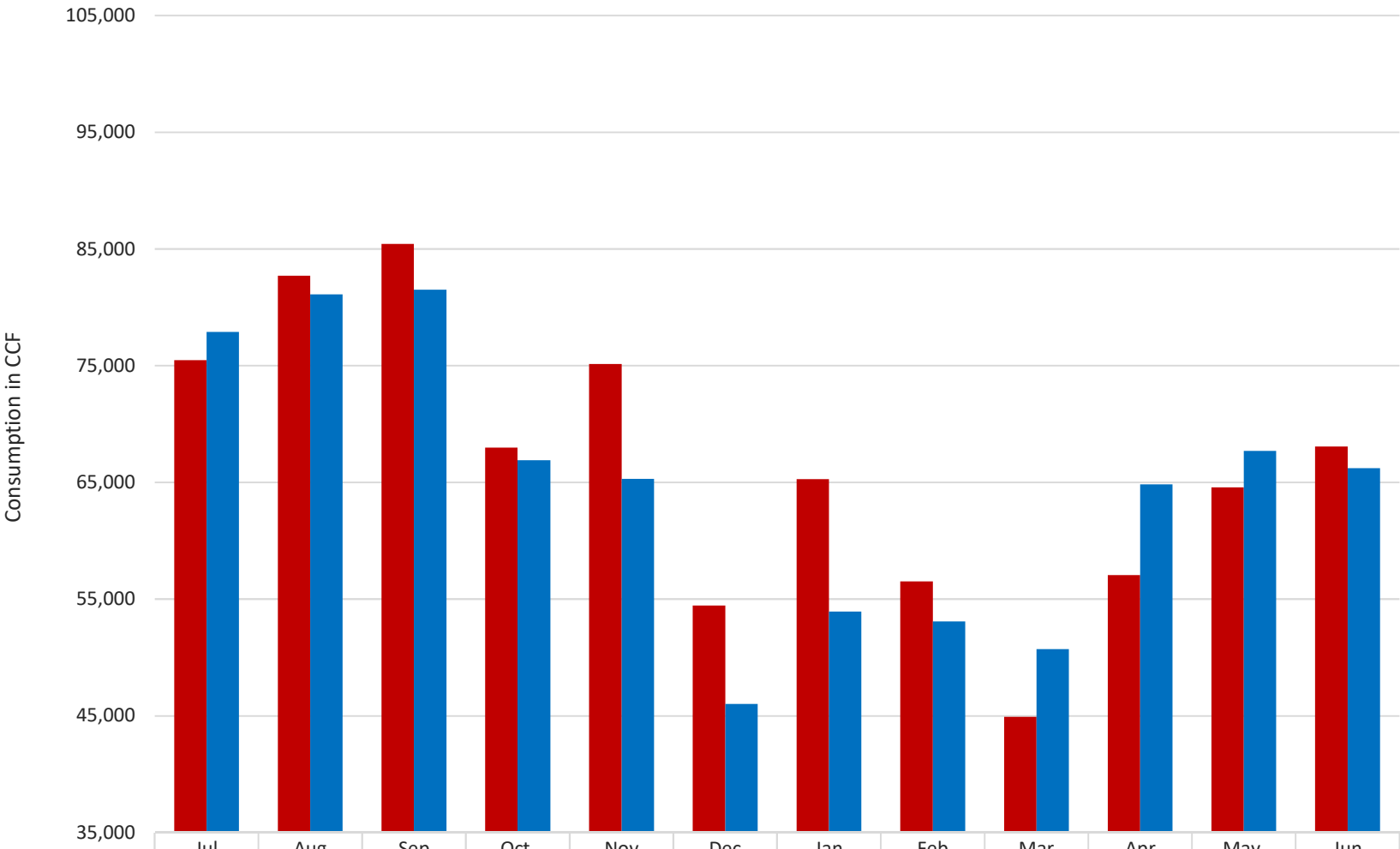
	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
2024-2025	4,363	7,731	9,636	11,043	15,552	11,334	11,258	6,721	3,754	3,994	4,553	4,740
2025-2026	4,851	6,723	8,328	10,265	9,766	4,871	5,594	4,872	2,836	3,452	3,245	2,911
% Change	11.18%	-13.04%	-13.57%	-7.05%	-37.20%	-57.02%	-50.31%	-27.51%	-24.45%	-13.57%	-28.73%	-38.59%

Tier IV Fiscal YTD Consumption



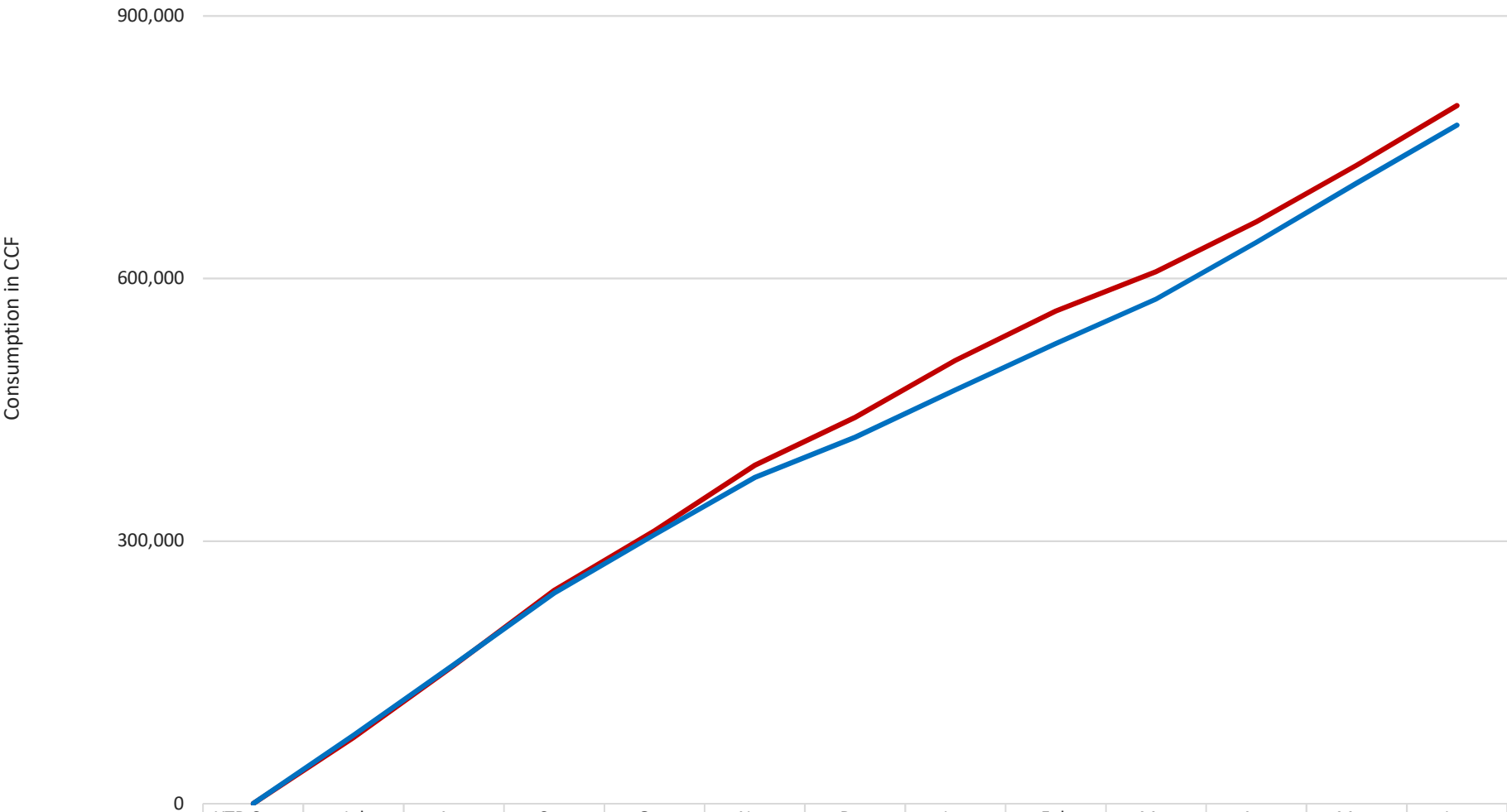
	YTD Start	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
2024-2025	0	4,363	12,094	21,730	32,773	48,325	59,659	70,917	77,638	81,392	85,386	89,939	94,679
2025-2026	0	4,851	11,574	19,902	30,167	39,933	44,804	50,398	55,270	58,106	61,558	64,803	67,714
% Change		11.18%	-4.30%	-8.41%	-7.95%	-17.37%	-24.90%	-28.93%	-28.81%	-28.61%	-27.91%	-27.95%	-28.48%

Single Family Residents Consumption



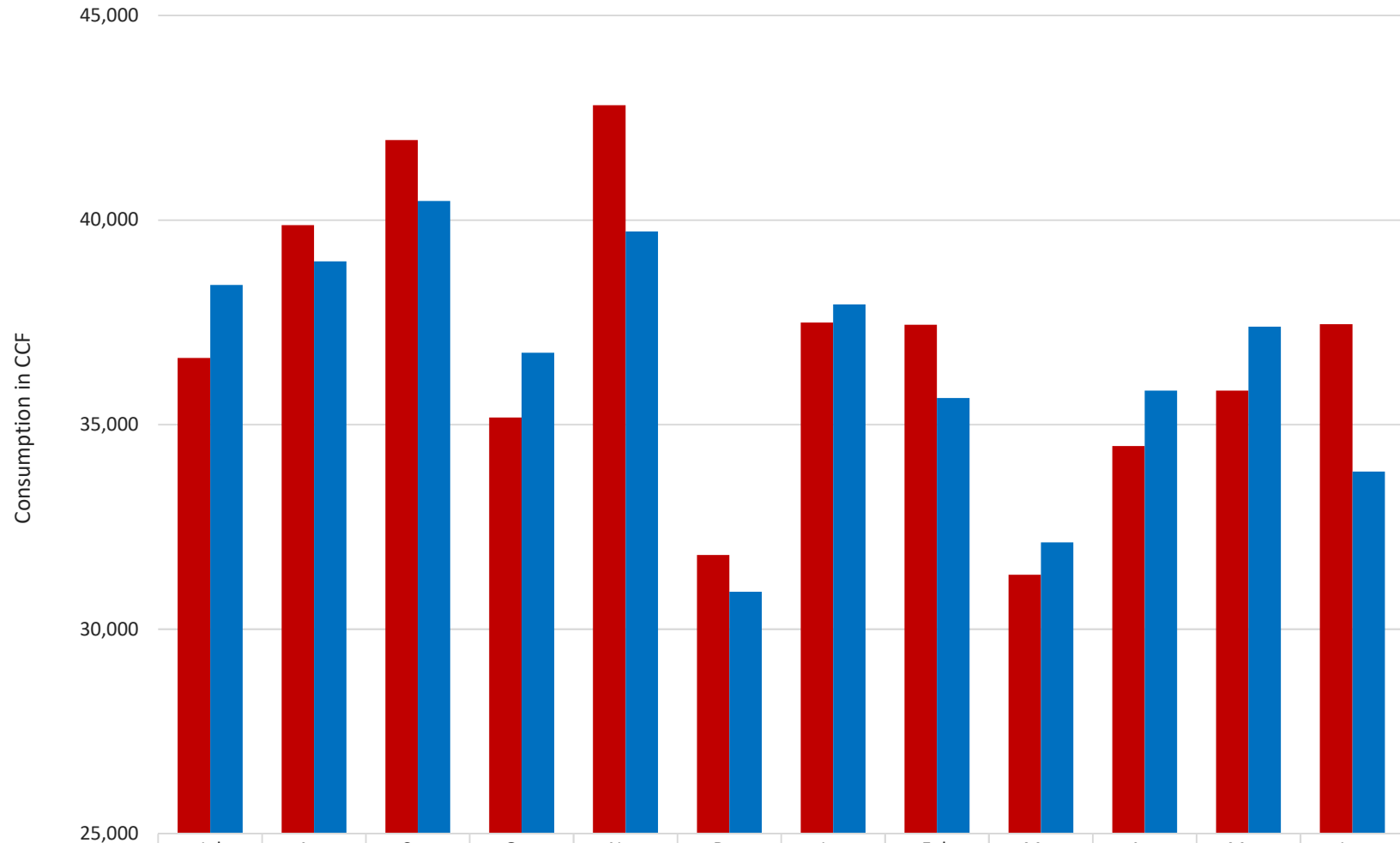
	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
2024-2025	75,474	82,708	85,443	67,979	75,147	54,456	65,296	56,524	44,933	57,065	64,583	68,083
2025-2026	77,907	81,112	81,491	66,913	65,316	46,039	53,951	53,104	50,719	64,824	67,703	66,220
% Change	3.22%	-1.93%	-4.63%	-1.57%	-13.08%	-15.46%	-17.37%	-6.05%	12.88%	13.60%	4.83%	-2.74%

Single Family Residents YTD Consumption



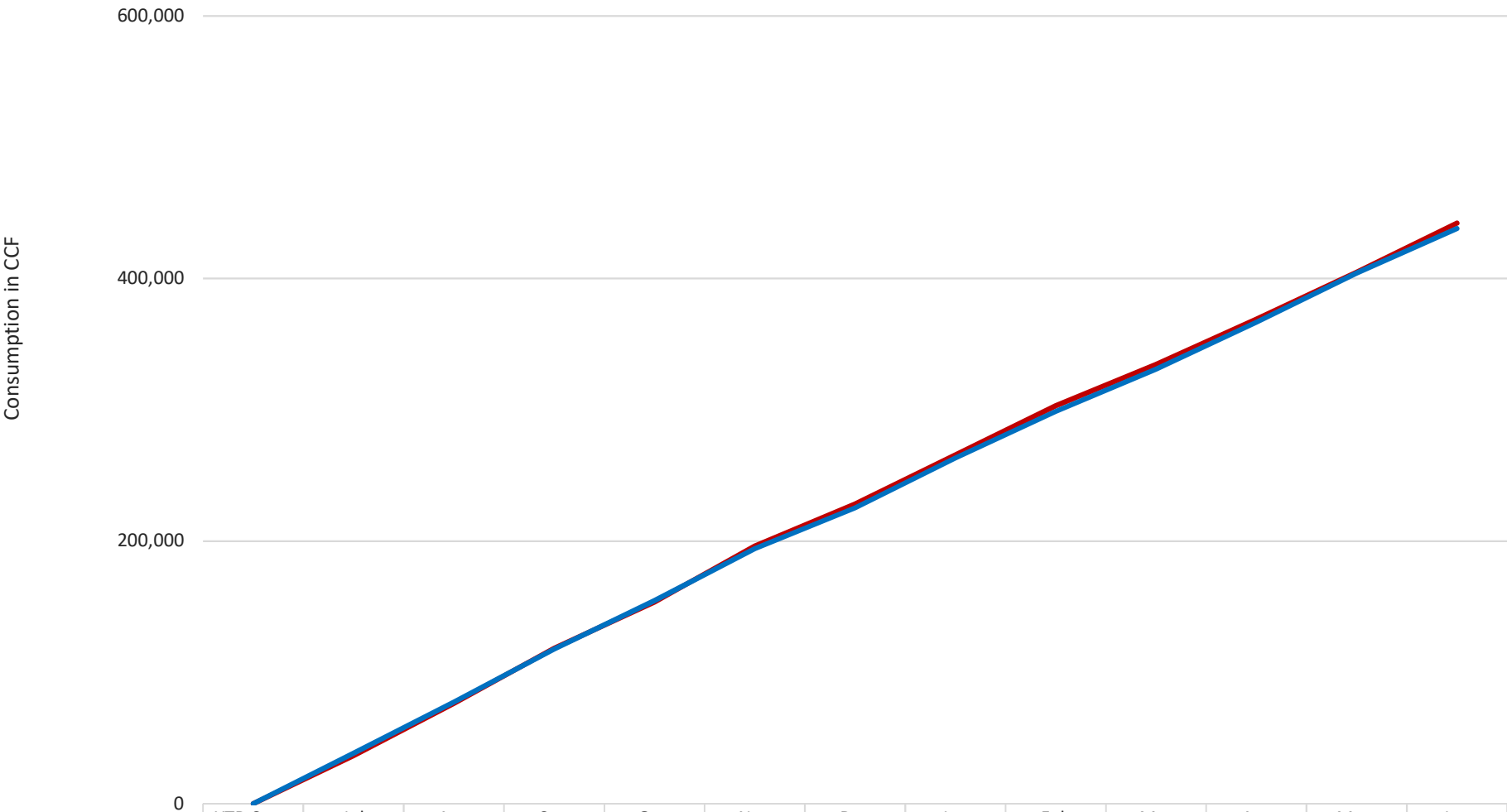
	YTD Start	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
2024-2025	0	75,474	158,182	243,625	311,604	386,751	441,207	506,503	563,027	607,960	665,025	729,608	797,691
2025-2026	0	77,907	159,019	240,510	307,423	372,739	418,778	472,729	525,833	576,552	641,376	709,079	775,299
% Change		3.22%	0.53%	-1.28%	-1.34%	-3.62%	-5.08%	-6.67%	-6.61%	-5.17%	-3.56%	-2.81%	-2.81%

Multi Family Residents Consumption



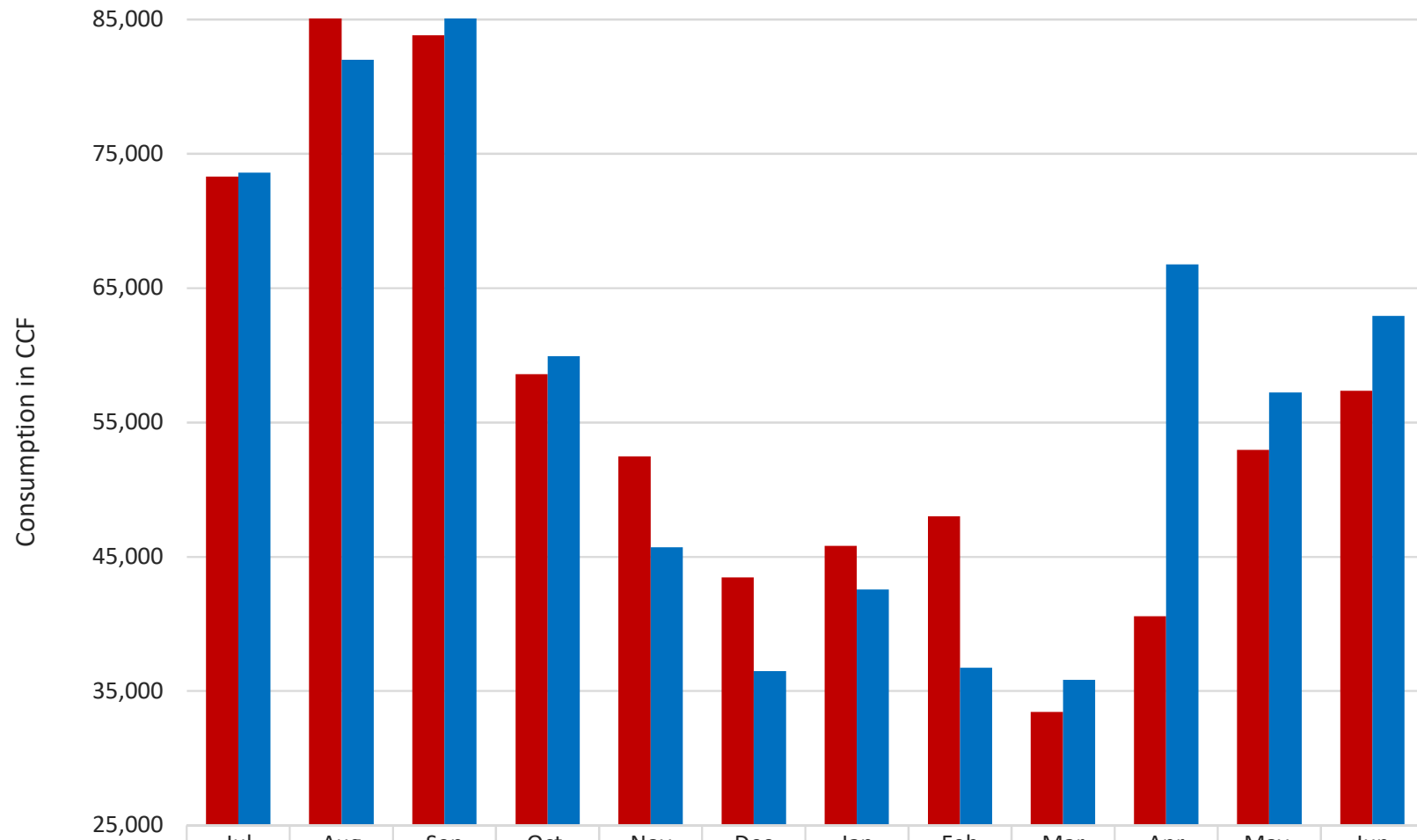
	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
2024-2025	36,626	39,877	41,955	35,175	42,806	31,815	37,493	37,443	31,331	34,478	35,835	37,454
2025-2026	38,413	38,991	40,467	36,756	39,720	30,918	37,934	35,646	32,126	35,837	37,394	33,858
% Change	4.88%	-2.22%	-3.55%	4.49%	-7.21%	-2.82%	1.18%	-4.80%	2.54%	3.94%	4.35%	-9.60%

Multi Family Residents YTD Consumption



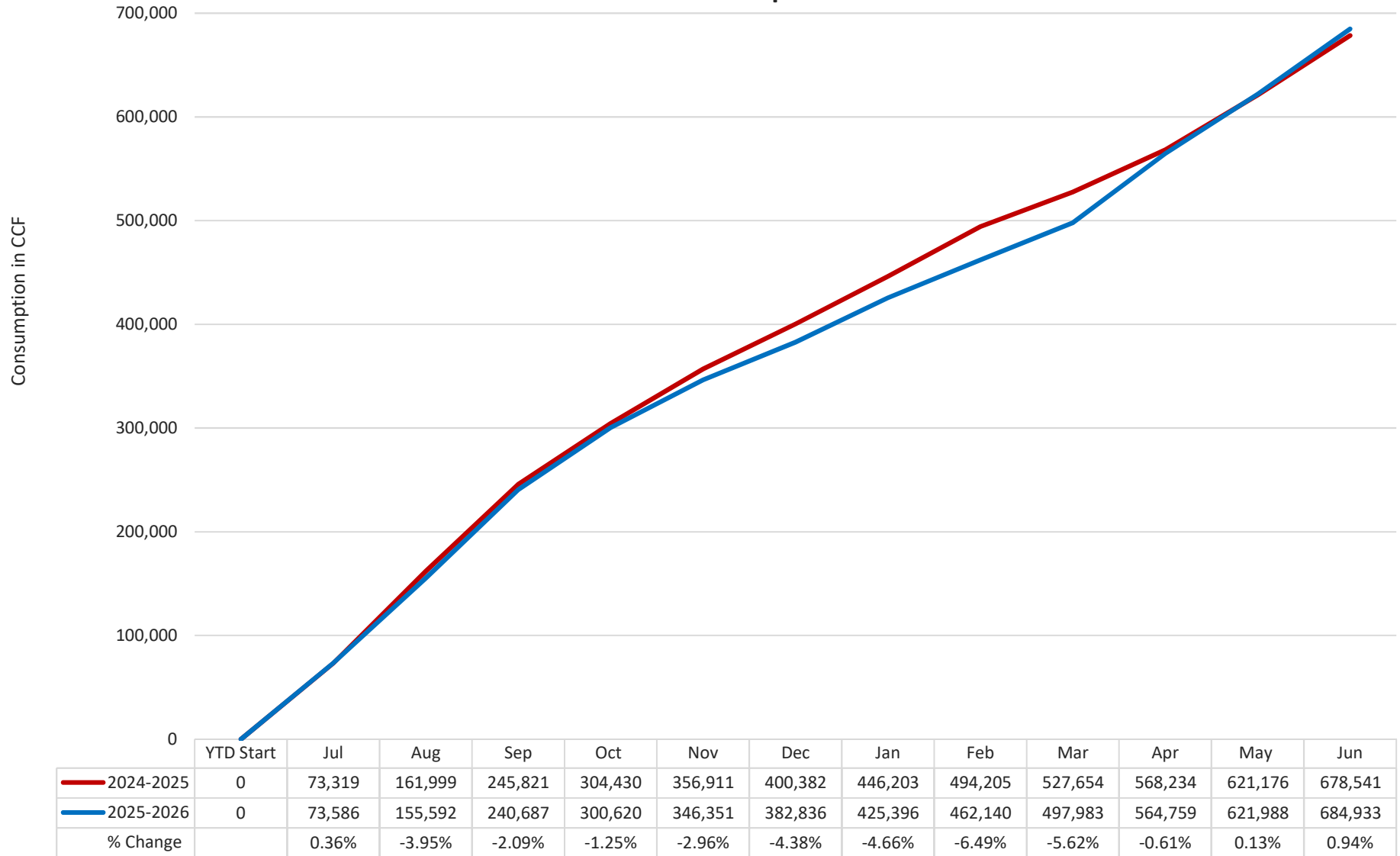
	YTD Start	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
2024-2025	0	36,626	76,503	118,458	153,633	196,439	228,254	265,747	303,190	334,521	368,999	404,834	442,288
2025-2026	0	38,413	77,404	117,871	154,627	194,347	225,265	263,199	298,845	330,971	366,808	404,202	438,060
% Change		4.88%	1.18%	-0.50%	0.65%	-1.06%	-1.31%	-0.96%	-1.43%	-1.06%	-0.59%	-0.16%	-0.96%

Laguna Woods Village Consumption (Excluding Dedicated Irrigation)

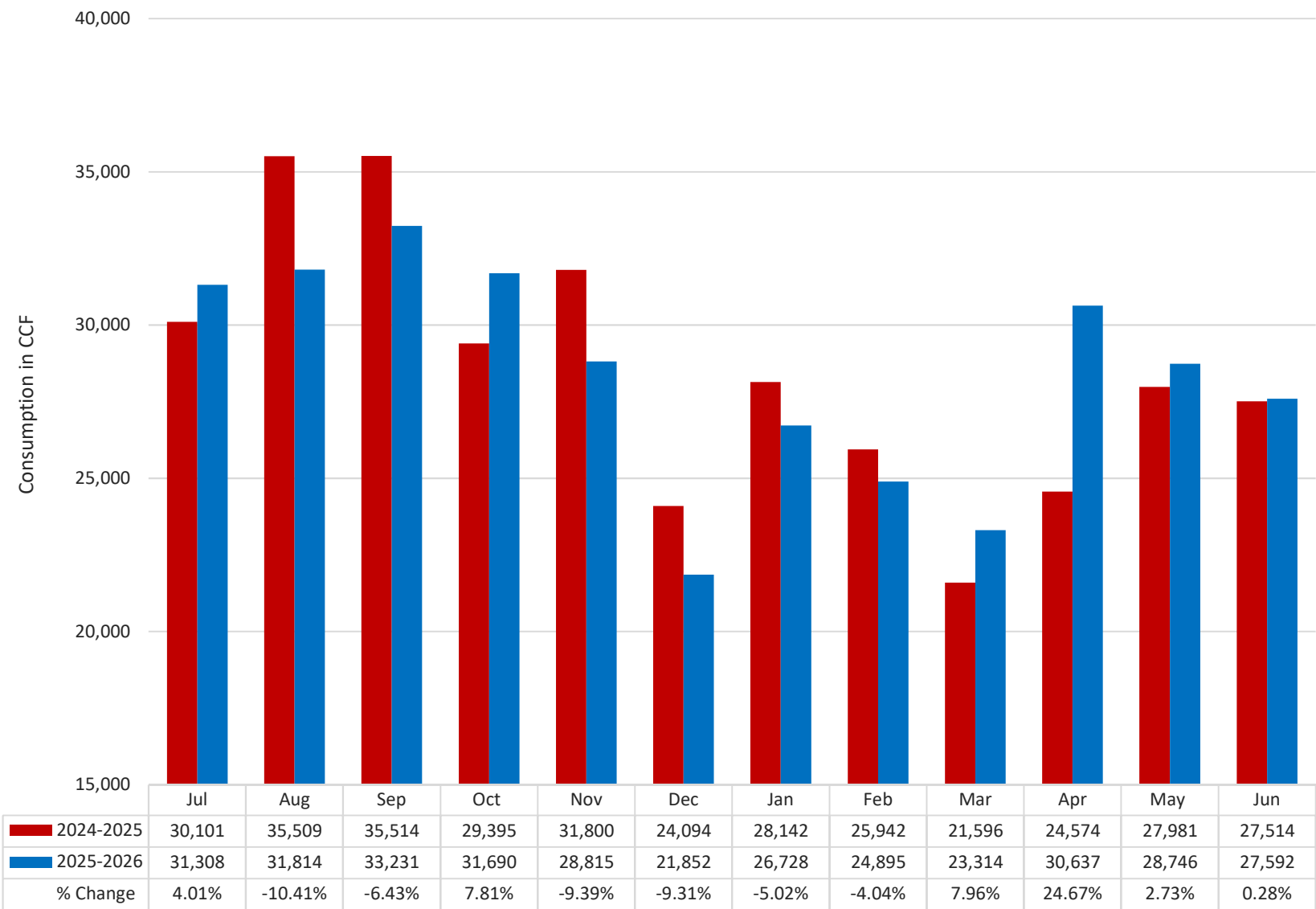


2024-2025	73,319	88,680	83,822	58,609	52,481	43,471	45,821	48,002	33,449	40,580	52,942	57,365
2025-2026	73,586	82,006	85,095	59,933	45,731	36,485	42,560	36,744	35,843	66,776	57,229	62,945
% Change	0.36%	-7.53%	1.52%	2.26%	-12.86%	-16.07%	-7.12%	-23.45%	7.16%	64.55%	8.10%	9.73%

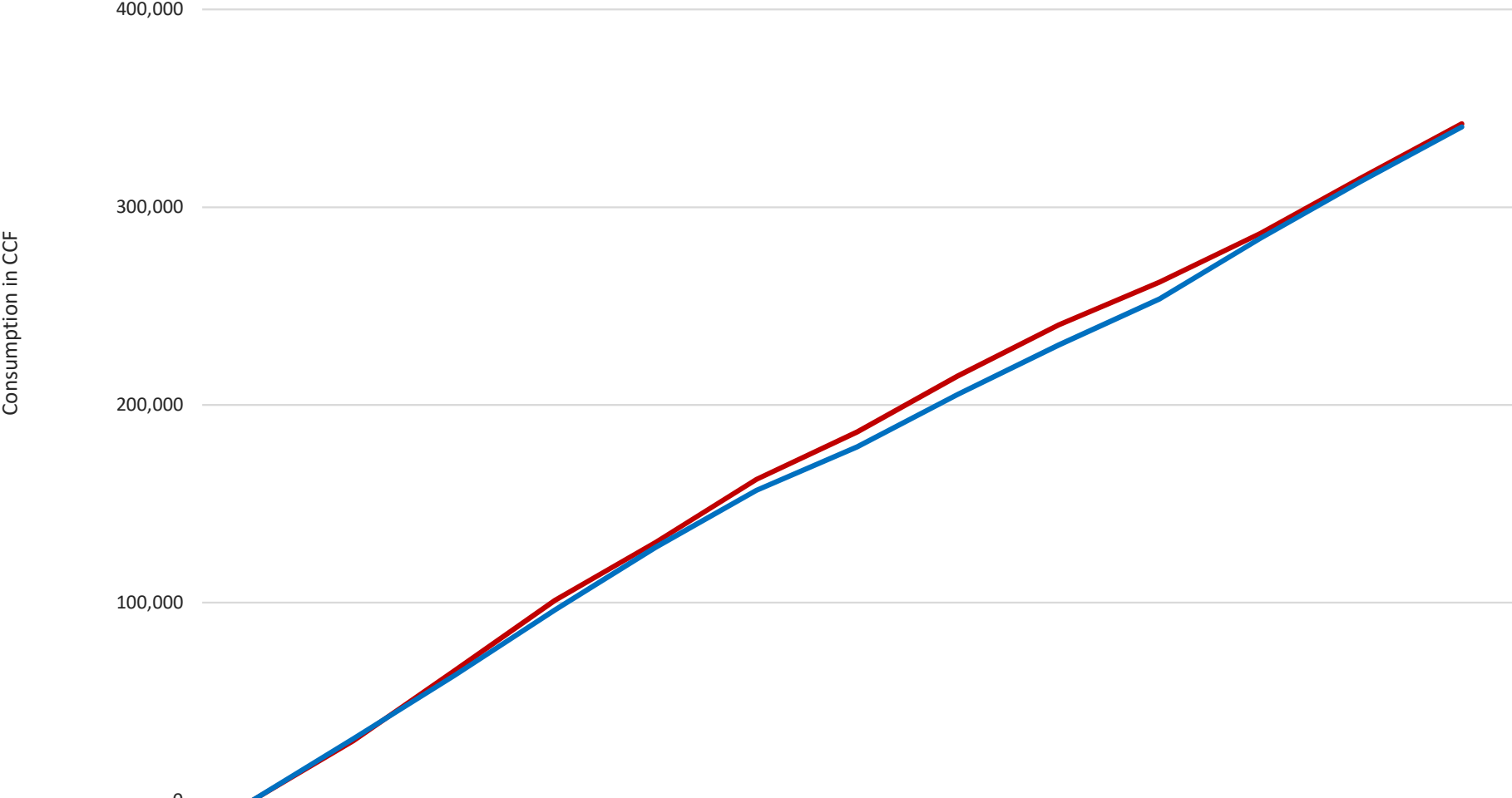
Laguna Woods Village (Excluding Dedicated Irrigation) YTD Consumption



Commercial Consumption

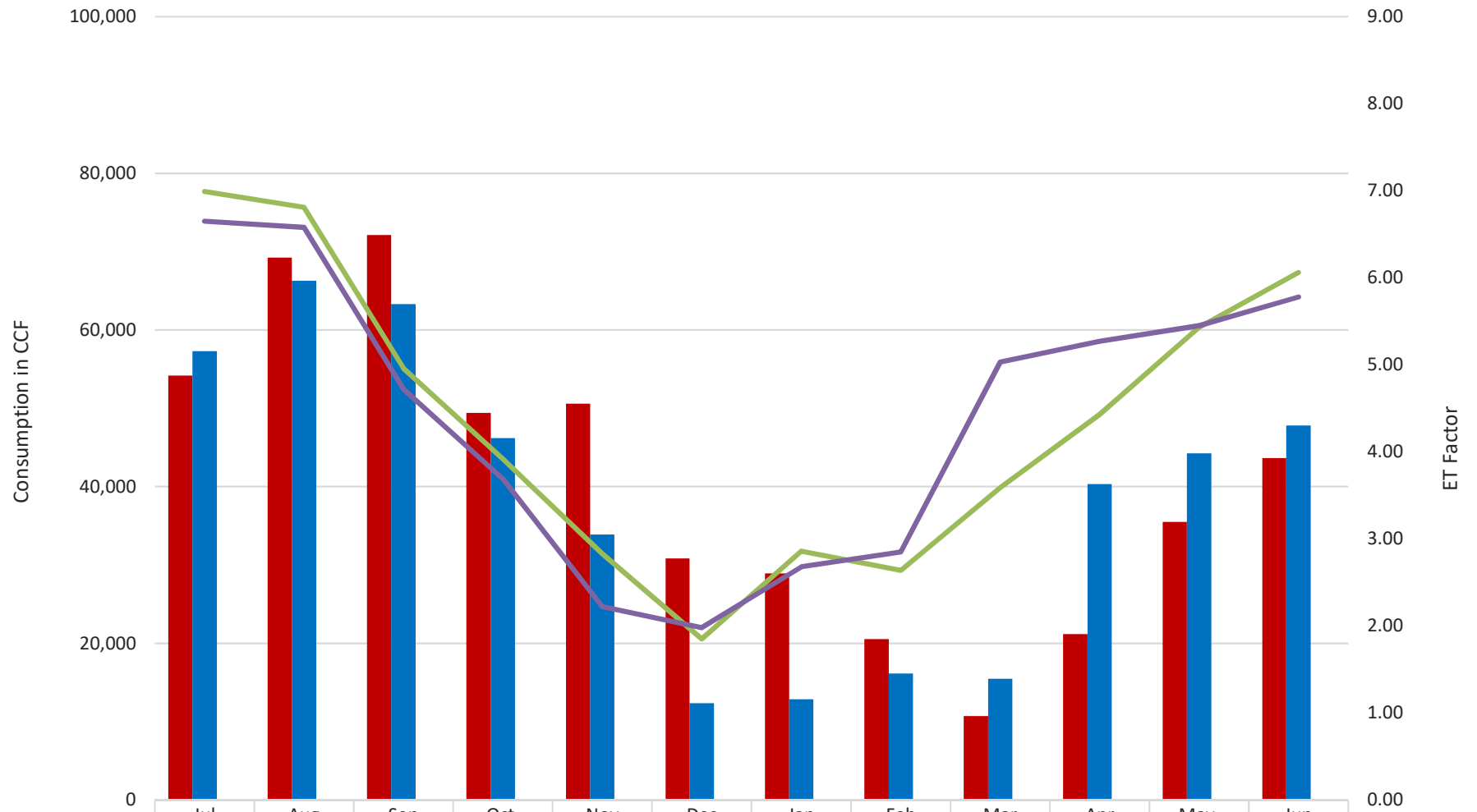


Commercial YTD Consumption



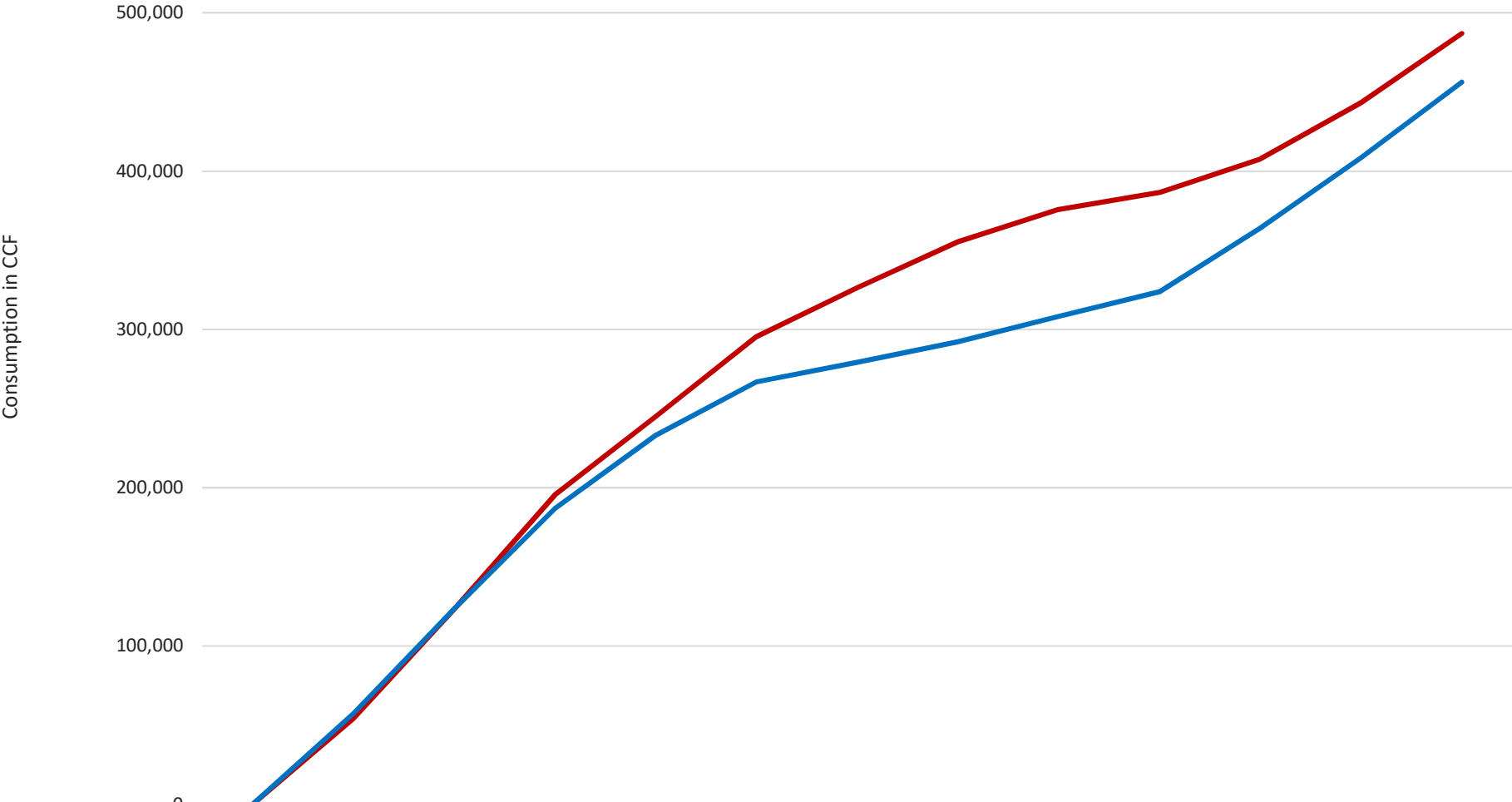
	YTD Start	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
2024-2025	0	30,101	65,610	101,124	130,519	162,319	186,413	214,555	240,497	262,093	286,667	314,648	342,162
2025-2026	0	31,308	63,122	96,353	128,043	156,858	178,710	205,438	230,333	253,647	284,284	313,030	340,622
% Change		4.01%	-3.79%	-4.72%	-1.90%	-3.36%	-4.13%	-4.25%	-4.23%	-3.22%	-0.83%	-0.51%	-0.45%

Dedicated Irrigation Consumption (including LWF)



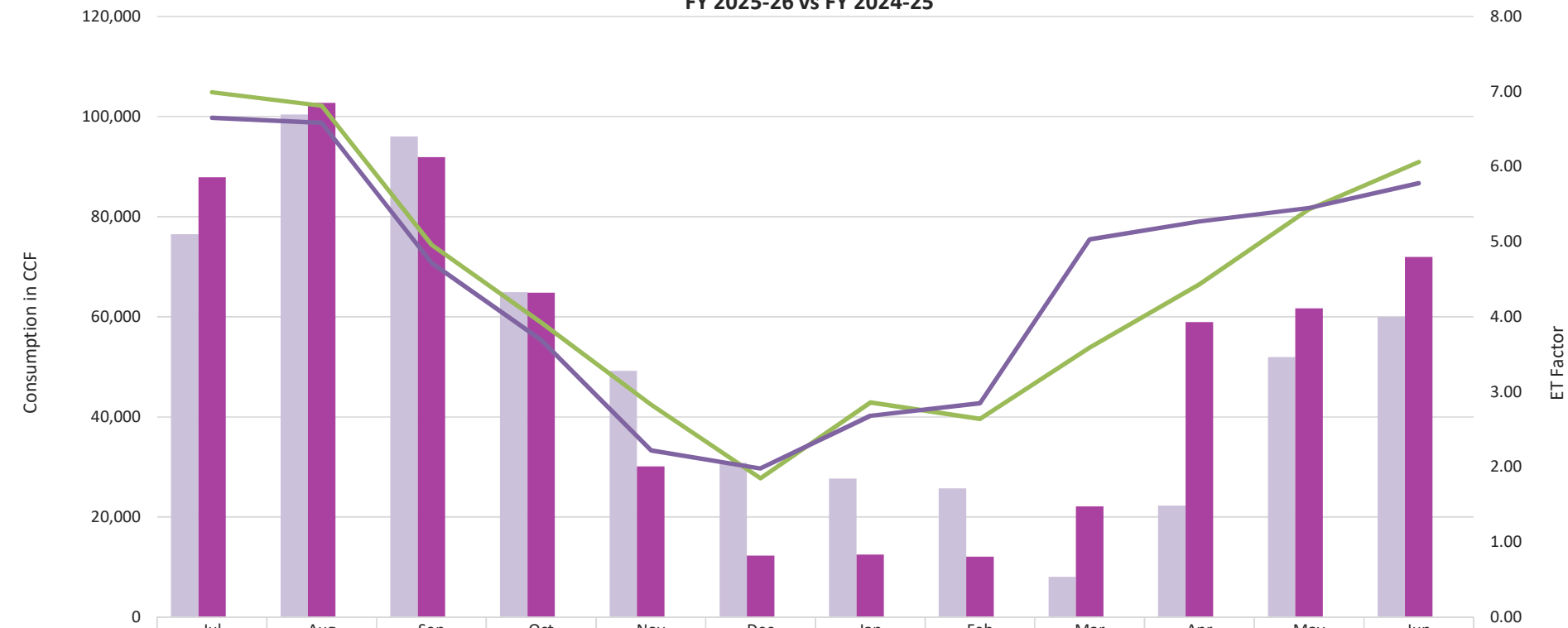
	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
2024-2025	54,166	69,236	72,151	49,419	50,582	30,829	28,904	20,536	10,720	21,194	35,512	43,661
2025-2026	57,312	66,275	63,298	46,207	33,864	12,370	12,837	16,156	15,476	40,321	44,259	47,809
% Change	5.81%	-4.28%	-12.27%	-6.50%	-33.05%	-59.88%	-55.59%	-21.33%	44.37%	90.25%	24.63%	9.50%
24/25 ET	6.99	6.81	4.96	3.92	2.83	1.85	2.86	2.64	3.59	4.43	5.43	6.06
25/26 ET	6.65	6.58	4.72	3.69	2.22	1.98	2.68	2.85	5.03	5.27	5.45	5.78

Dedicated Irrigation Consumption (including LWV)
YTD Consumption



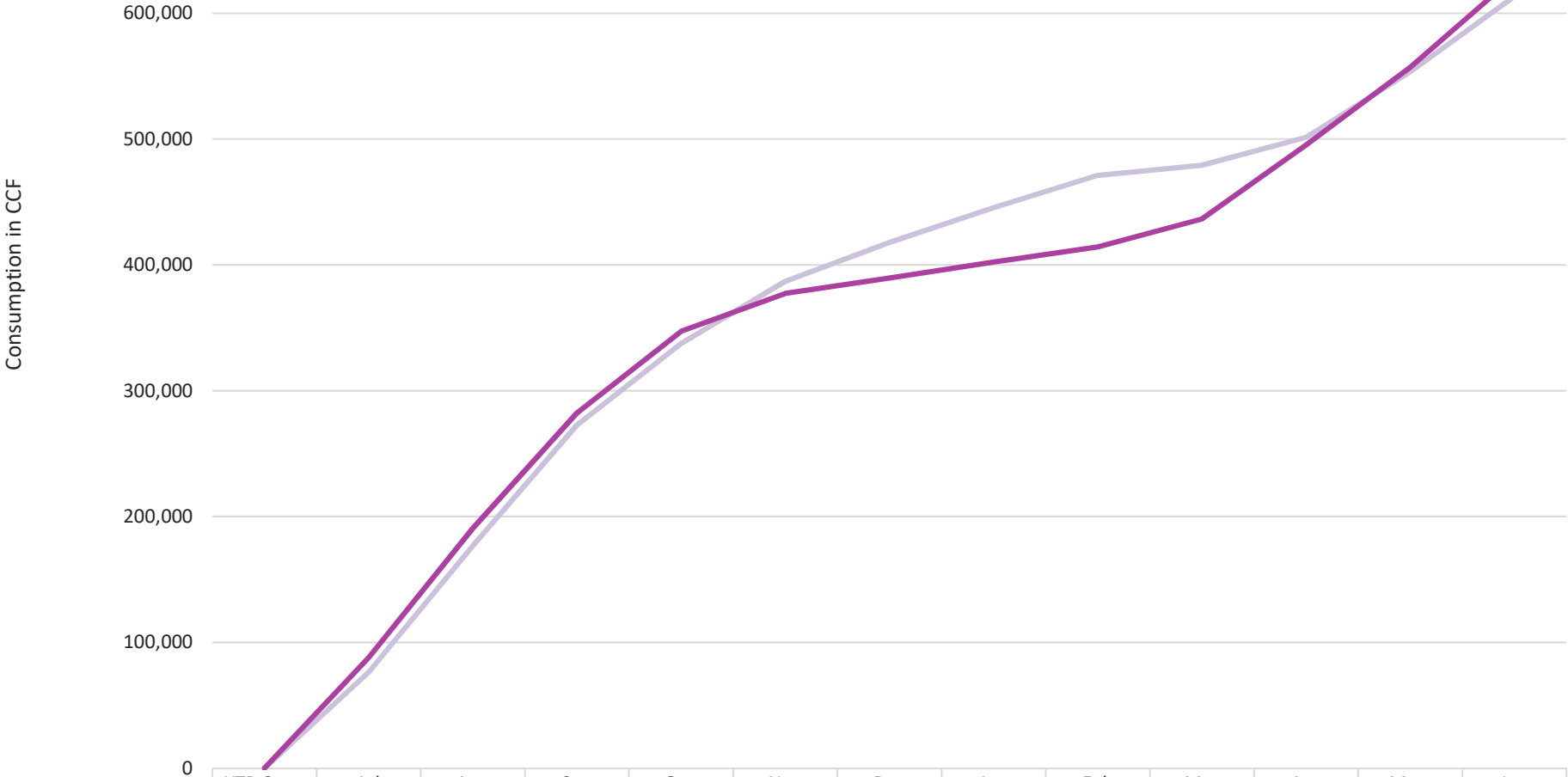
	YTD Start	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
2024-2025	0	54,166	123,402	195,553	244,972	295,554	326,383	355,287	375,823	386,543	407,737	443,249	486,910
2025-2026	0	57,312	123,587	186,885	233,092	266,956	279,326	292,163	308,319	323,795	364,116	408,375	456,184
% Change		5.81%	0.15%	-4.43%	-4.85%	-9.68%	-14.42%	-17.77%	-17.96%	-16.23%	-10.70%	-7.87%	-6.31%

Recycled Water Consumption
FY 2025-26 vs FY 2024-25



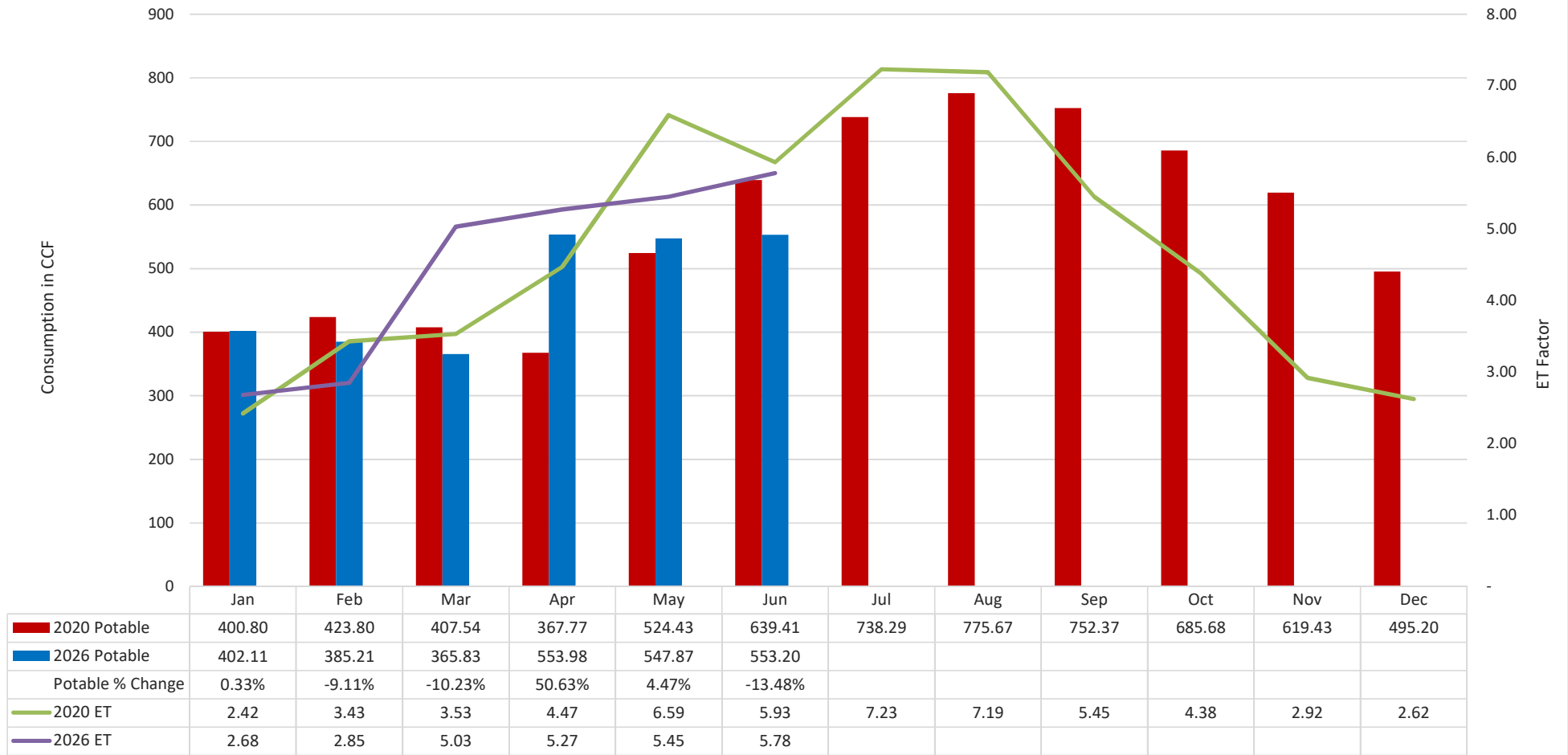
FY 2024-25	76,508	100,368	96,005	64,890	49,208	30,793	27,651	25,705	8,085	22,263	51,983	60,007
FY 2025-2026	87,896	102,736	91,867	64,788	30,130	12,319	12,501	12,078	22,156	58,935	61,692	71,957
% Change	14.88%	2.36%	-4.31%	-0.16%	-38.77%	-59.99%	-54.79%	-53.01%	174.04%	164.72%	18.68%	19.91%
FY 24/25 ET	6.99	6.81	4.96	3.92	2.83	1.85	2.86	2.64	3.59	4.43	5.43	6.06
FY 25/26 ET	6.65	6.58	4.72	3.69	2.22	1.98	2.68	2.85	5.03	5.27	5.45	5.78

Recycled Water YTD Consumption

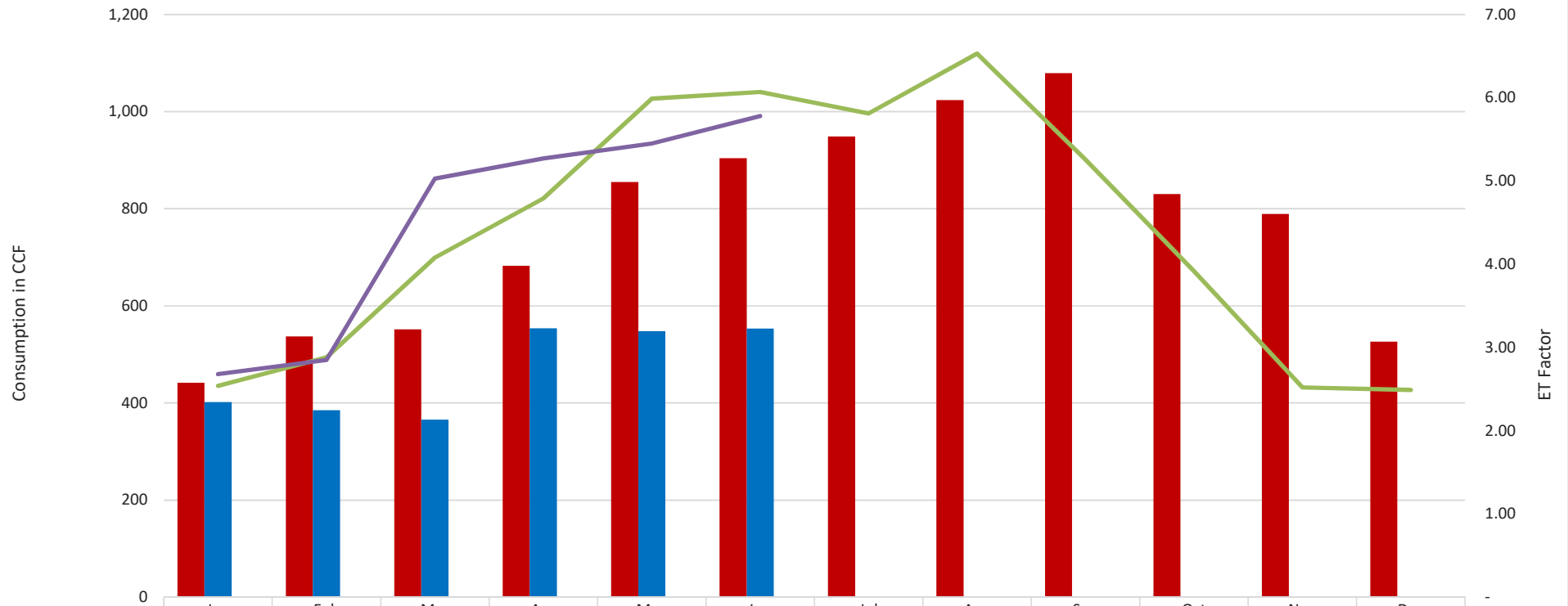


	YTD Start	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
2024-2025	0	76,508	176,876	272,881	337,771	386,979	417,772	445,423	471,128	479,213	501,476	553,459	613,466
2025-2026	0	87,896	190,632	282,499	347,287	377,417	389,736	402,237	414,315	436,471	495,406	557,098	629,055
% Change		14.88%	7.78%	3.52%	2.82%	-2.47%	-6.71%	-9.70%	-12.06%	-8.92%	-1.21%	0.66%	2.54%

ETWD Customer Consumption vs 2020 (Potable AF)

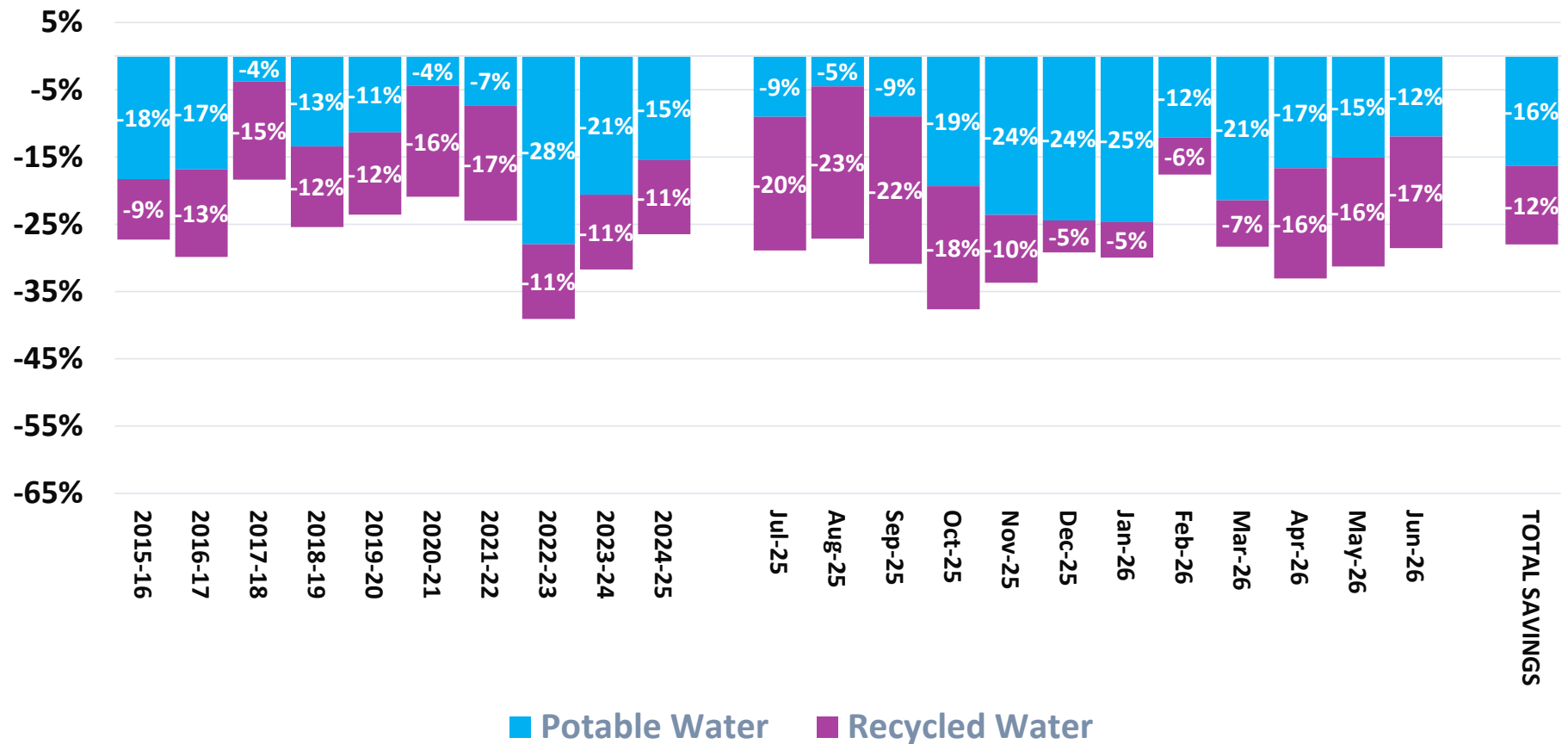


ETWD Customer Consumption vs 2013 (Potable AF)



	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2013 Potable	441.82	537.37	551.75	682.75	855.14	903.87	948.61	1023.72	1079.11	830.36	789.23	526.37
2026 Potable	402.11	385.21	365.83	553.98	547.87	553.20						
Potable % Change	-8.99%	-28.32%	-33.70%	-18.86%	-35.93%	-38.80%						
2013 ET	2.54	2.88	4.08	4.79	5.99	6.07	5.81	6.53	5.26	3.92	2.52	2.49
2026 ET	2.68	2.85	5.03	5.27	5.45	5.78						

ETWD WATER USAGE COMPARED TO 2013



I hereby certify that the following Agenda was posted at least 72 hours prior to the time of the Board Meeting so noticed below at the usual agenda posting location of the South Orange County Wastewater Authority (SOCWA) and at www.socwa.com.


Lynda May, Assistant Secretary
SOCWA and the Board of Directors thereof

REVISED

*Regular Meeting of The
South Orange County Wastewater Authority
Board of Directors*

July 9, 2026
8:30 a.m.

PHYSICAL MEETING LOCATION:
South Orange County Wastewater Authority
34156 Del Obispo Street
Dana Point, CA 92629

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING ROOM IS WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE. IF YOU REQUIRE ANY SPECIAL DISABILITY RELATED ACCOMMODATIONS, PLEASE CONTACT THE SOUTH ORANGE COUNTY WASTEWATER AUTHORITY SECRETARY'S OFFICE AT (949) 234-5400 AT LEAST SEVENTY-TWO (72) HOURS PRIOR TO THE SCHEDULED MEETING TO REQUEST SUCH ACCOMMODATIONS. THIS AGENDA CAN BE OBTAINED IN ALTERNATE FORMAT UPON REQUEST TO THE SOUTH ORANGE COUNTY WASTEWATER AUTHORITY'S SECRETARY AT LEAST SEVENTY-TWO (72) HOURS PRIOR TO THE SCHEDULED MEETING. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HAVE THE OPTION TO PARTICIPATE IN AND MAY JOIN THE MEETING REMOTELY VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE FOR VISUAL INFORMATION ONLY (USE ZOOM LINK BELOW) AND BY TELECONFERENCE FOR AUDIO PARTICIPATION (USE PHONE NUMBERS BELOW). THIS IS A PHONE-CALL MEETING AND NOT A WEB-CAST MEETING, SO PLEASE REFER TO AGENDA MATERIALS AS POSTED ON THE WEBSITE AT WWW.SOCWA.COM. ON YOUR REQUEST, EVERY EFFORT WILL BE MADE TO ACCOMMODATE PARTICIPATION. FOR PARTIES PARTICIPATING REMOTELY, PUBLIC COMMENTS WILL BE TAKEN DURING THE MEETING FOR ORAL COMMUNICATION IN ADDITION TO PUBLIC COMMENTS RECEIVED BY PARTIES PARTICIPATING IN PERSON. COMMENTS MAY BE SUBMITTED PRIOR TO THE MEETING VIA EMAIL TO ASSISTANT SECRETARY LYNDA MAY AT LMAY@SOCWA.COM WITH THE SUBJECT LINE "REQUEST TO PROVIDE PUBLIC COMMENT." IN THE EMAIL, PLEASE INCLUDE YOUR NAME, THE ITEM YOU WISH TO SPEAK ABOUT, AND THE TELEPHONE NUMBER YOU WILL BE CALLING FROM SO THAT THE COORDINATOR CAN UN-MUTE YOUR LINE WHEN YOU ARE CALLED UPON TO SPEAK. THOSE MAKING PUBLIC COMMENT REQUESTS REMOTELY VIA TELEPHONE IN REAL-TIME WILL BE ASKED TO PROVIDE YOUR NAME, THE ITEM YOU WISH TO SPEAK ABOUT, AND THE TELEPHONE NUMBER THAT YOU ARE CALLING FROM SO THE COORDINATOR CAN UNMUTE YOUR LINE WHEN YOU ARE CALLED UPON TO SPEAK. ONCE THE MEETING HAS COMMENCED, THE CHAIR WILL INVITE YOU TO SPEAK AND ASK THE COORDINATOR TO UNMUTE YOUR LINE AT THE APPROPRIATE TIME.

AGENDA ATTACHMENTS AND OTHER WRITINGS THAT ARE DISCLOSABLE PUBLIC RECORDS DISTRIBUTED TO ALL, OR A MAJORITY OF, THE MEMBERS OF THE SOUTH ORANGE COUNTY WASTEWATER AUTHORITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS IN CONNECTION WITH A MATTER SUBJECT FOR DISCUSSION OR CONSIDERATION AT AN OPEN MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS ARE AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION IN THE AUTHORITY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE LOCATED AT 34156 DEL OBISPO STREET, DANA POINT, CA ("AUTHORITY OFFICE") OR BY PHONE REQUEST MADE TO THE AUTHORITY OFFICE AT 949-234-5400. IF SUCH WRITINGS ARE DISTRIBUTED TO MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS LESS THAN SEVENTY-TWO (72) HOURS PRIOR TO THE MEETING, THEY WILL BE AVAILABLE IN THE RECEPTION AREA OF THE AUTHORITY OFFICE AT THE SAME TIME AS THEY ARE DISTRIBUTED TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND SENT TO ANY REMOTE PARTICIPANTS REQUESTING EMAIL DELIVERY OR POSTED ON SOCWA'S WEBSITE. IF SUCH WRITINGS ARE DISTRIBUTED IMMEDIATELY PRIOR TO, OR DURING, THE MEETING, THEY WILL BE AVAILABLE IN THE MEETING ROOM OR IMMEDIATELY UPON VERBAL REQUEST TO BE DELIVERED VIA EMAIL TO REQUESTING PARTIES PARTICIPATING REMOTELY.

THE PUBLIC MAY PARTICIPATE REMOTELY BY VIRTUAL MEANS. FOR AUDIO OF MEETING USE THE CALL IN PHONE NUMBERS BELOW AND FOR VIDEO USE THE ZOOM LINK BELOW.

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://socwa.zoom.us/>

Meeting ID: 850 6723 5259
Passcode: 584450

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+16699006833,, 85067235259#,,, *584450# US (San Jose)

South Orange County Wastewater Authority
Board of Directors Meeting
July 9, 2026

Agenda

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
3. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Members of the public may address the Board regarding an item on the agenda or may reserve this opportunity during the meeting at the time the item is discussed by the Board. There will be a three-minute limit for public comments.

PAGE NO.

4. CONSENT CALENDAR

- A. Minutes of Board of Directors..... 1
- Board of Directors Regular Meeting of May 14, 2026
- ACTION The Board will be requested to approve the subject Minutes.
- B. Minutes of Board of Directors..... 10
- Board of Directors Special Meeting of May 18, 2026
- ACTION The Board will be requested to approve the subject Minutes.
- C. Minutes of Finance Committee 12
- Finance Committee Meeting of March 3, 2026
- ACTION The Board will be requested to receive and file the subject Minutes.
- D. Minutes of Project Committee 23..... 14
- Project Committee 23 Meeting of May 21, 2026
- ACTION The PC 23 Board will be requested to approve the subject Minutes, and the Board will be requested to receive and file the subject Minutes.
- E. Minutes of Engineering Committee..... 16
- Engineering Committee Meeting of April 16, 2026
 - Engineering Committee Meeting of May 21, 2026
- ACTION The Board will be requested to receive and file the subject Minutes.
- F. April-May 2026 Operations Report 23
1. Monthly Operational Report

South Orange County Wastewater Authority
Board of Directors Meeting
July 9, 2026

Agenda

2. SOCWA Ocean Outfall Discharges by Agency
3. Quarterly Report on Key Operational Expenses
4. Beach Ocean Monitoring Report
5. Recycled Water Report
6. Pretreatment Report (April-May)

ACTION The Board will be requested to receive and file subject reports as submitted.

- G. Capital Improvement Construction Projects Progress and Change Order Report (June)
[Project Committees 2 and 15] 71

ACTION Information Item.

- H. Capital Improvement Program Workplan 82

ACTION Information Item.

5. ENGINEERING MATTERS

- A. CTP Regional Flow Study Update- Draft Final 85

ACTION Board Discussion, Direction, or Action.

- B. As-Needed Construction Management Services for Capital Improvement Projects 180

ACTION 1. Staff recommends award of on-call construction management service contracts for general/civil engineering projects to the following firms:

- AKM
- Ardurra/MKN
- Dudek
- La Salle Solutions

2. Staff recommends award of on-call construction management service contracts for coating projects to the following firms:

- Ardurra/MKN
- Harper

- C. CTP Access Road Repaving Contract Award [Project Committee 15] 187

ACTION Staff recommends the following Engineering Committee actions to the Project Committee 15 (PC 15) Board of Directors:

1. Authorize execution of a construction contract with T.E. Roberts in the amount of \$204,068.76.
2. Approve a contract contingency of \$10,203.44 to address any unforeseen conditions encountered during the work.

South Orange County Wastewater Authority
Board of Directors Meeting
July 9, 2026

Agenda

- D. JBL Digester Underground Piping Project [Project Committee 2]..... 189
- ACTION The PC 2 Engineering Committee recommends that the PC 2 Board Directors authorize the following:
1. Increase the budget of Task 32263S by \$820,000 from \$806,490 to \$1,626,490.
 2. Authorize execution of a construction contract with S. S. Mechanical in the amount of \$1,182,241.00.
 3. Approve a contract contingency of \$118,250.00 to address any unforeseen conditions encountered during the work.
- E. Project Management Support Services for FY 26-27 197
- ACTION Staff recommends that the Engineering Committee recommend that the Board of Directors approve a contract with Project Partners for Project Management Support Services for Fiscal Year 2026–2027 in an amount not to exceed \$200,000.
- F. Effluent Transmission Main Reach B Techite Pipe Replacement Final Design Contract Amendment No. 1 [Project Committee 21]..... 201
- ACTION Staff recommends the PC 21 Board of Directors authorize Contract Amendment No. 1 with BKF Engineers in the amount of \$115,873, resulting in a revised total contract amount of \$633,586.
6. GENERAL MANAGER’S REPORT
- A. Selection of Officers for the Board of Directors for Fiscal Year 2026-27 210
- ACTION Staff recommends that the Board of Directors elect/appoint Officers to service the Authority during FY 2026-27
- B. Resolution No. 2026-04, A Resolution of the Board of Directors of the South Orange County Wastewater Authority Approving New Employee Salary Range Summary and Employee Job Classification Salary Schedule to the Memorandum of Understanding (“MOU”) between the South Orange County Wastewater Authority and the SOCWA Employee Association..... 211
- ACTION Staff recommends that the Board of Directors approve Resolution 2026-04, A Resolution of the Board of Directors of the South Orange County Wastewater Authority Approving New Employee Salary Range Summary and Employee Job Classification Salary Schedule to the Memorandum of Understanding (“MOU”) between the South Orange County Wastewater Authority and the SOCWA Employee Association.
- C. Resolution No. 2026-05, A Resolution of the Board of Directors of the South Orange County Wastewater Authority (SOCWA) Approving New Employee Salary Ranges and the South Orange County Wastewater Authority Employee Manual for All SOCWA Employees..... 216

South Orange County Wastewater Authority
Board of Directors Meeting
July 9, 2026

Agenda

- ACTION Staff recommends that the Board of Directors approve Resolution 2026-05, A Resolution of the Board of Directors of the South Orange County Wastewater Authority (SOCWA) Approving New Employee Salary Ranges and the South Orange County Wastewater Authority Employee Manual for All SOCWA Employees.
- D. Resolution 2026-06: A Resolution of the Board of Directors of the South Orange County Wastewater Authority for A Commendation to Cecil Romero for providing Dedicated Service to the South Orange County Wastewater Authority and the Residents of Southern Orange County for the period of June 1991 to July 2026..... 221
- ACTION Staff recommends that the Board of Directors approve Resolution No. 2026-06: A Resolution of the Board of Directors of the South Orange County Wastewater Authority for A Commendation to Cecil Romero for providing Dedicated Service to the South Orange County Wastewater Authority and the Residents of Southern Orange County for the period of June 1991 to July 2026.
- E. Cost Allocation Policy 223
- ACTION Board Discussion, Direction, or Action.
- F. General Manager's Report 246
- ACTION Board Discussion, Direction, or Action.
- G. General Counsel's Report
- ACTION Board Discussion, Direction, or Action.
- H. Government Affairs Report..... 254
- ACTION Board Discussion, Direction, or Action.
- I. Upcoming Meetings Schedule:
- August 13, 2026 – Board of Directors Regular Meeting
 - August 18, 2026 – Finance Committee Meeting
 - August 20, 2026 – Engineering Committee Meeting
- ACTION Information Item.
7. CLOSED SESSION
- Closed Session Conference Pursuant to Government Code § 54956.8
Real Property Negotiation
Property: Coastal Treatment Plant Access Road
Agency Negotiator: Amber Boone, General Manager

South Orange County Wastewater Authority
Board of Directors Meeting
July 9, 2026

Agenda

Closed Session Conference Pursuant to Government Code § 54957(b)(1)
Public Employment
Title: Legal Counsel

Closed Session Conference Pursuant to Government Code § 54957
Public Employee Performance Evaluation
Title: General Manager

Closed Session Conference Pursuant to Government Code § 54957.6
Labor Negotiation
Agency Designated Representative: Brad Neufeld, Labor Counsel
Unrepresented Employee: Amber Boone, General Manager

8. OTHER MATTERS

Determine the need to take action on the following item(s) introduced by the General Manager, which arose after the posted agenda. [Adoption of this action requires a two-thirds vote of the Board, or if less than two-thirds are present, a unanimous vote.]

9. ADJOURNMENT

THE NEXT SOCWA BOARD MEETING
August 13, 2026

NOTICE OF CANCELLATION
OF THE
SOUTH ORANGE COUNTY WASTEWATER AUTHORITY
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
FINANCE COMMITTEE
July 21, 2026
10:30 a.m.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Regular Meeting of the South Orange County Wastewater Authority Finance Committee scheduled to be held on July 21, 2026, at 10:30 a.m. at the SOCWA Administrative Office located at 34156 Del Obispo Street, Dana Point, California, has been canceled. The next Finance Committee meeting is scheduled for **August 18, 2026**, at 10:30 a.m..

I hereby certify that the foregoing Notice was personally emailed, faxed, or mailed to each member of the Finance Committee.

I hereby certify that the foregoing Notice was posted at the usual agenda posting location of the South Orange County Wastewater Authority (SOCWA) and at www.socwa.com.

Dated this 11th day of June 2026.



Lynda May, Assistant Secretary
SOUTH ORANGE COUNTY WASTEWATER AUTHORITY

NOTICE OF CANCELLATION
OF THE
SOUTH ORANGE COUNTY WASTEWATER AUTHORITY
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
ENGINEERING COMMITTEE

July 16, 2026

8:30 a.m.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Regular Meeting of the South Orange County Wastewater Authority Engineering Committee to be held on July 16, 2026, at 8:30 a.m. at the SOCWA Administrative Office located at 34156 Del Obispo Street, Dana Point, California, has been canceled. The next Engineering Committee meeting is scheduled for **August 20, 2026**, at 8:30 a.m..

I hereby certify that the foregoing Notice was personally emailed, faxed, or mailed to each member of the Engineering Committee.

I hereby certify that the foregoing Notice was posted at the South Orange County Wastewater Authority (SOCWA) 's usual agenda posting location and at www.socwa.com.

Dated this 29th day of June 2026.



Lynda May, Assistant Secretary
SOUTH ORANGE COUNTY WASTEWATER AUTHORITY

WORKSHOP MEETING OF THE
MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT OF ORANGE COUNTY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS WITH METROPOLITAN DIRECTORS
18700 Ward Street, Conference Room 101, Fountain Valley, California
July 1, 2026, 8:30 a.m.

Teleconference Sites:
17420 Walnut Street, Fountain Valley, CA 92708
25652 Paseo De La Paz, San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675

This meeting will be held in person at 18700 Ward Street, Fountain Valley, California, 92708 (Conference Room 101). As a convenience for the public, the meeting may also be accessed by Zoom Webinar and will be available by either computer or telephone audio as indicated below. Because this is an in-person meeting and the Zoom component is not required, but rather is being offered as a convenience, if there are any technical issues during the meeting, this meeting will continue and will not be suspended.

Computer Audio: You can join the Zoom meeting by clicking on the following link:
<https://zoom.us/j/8828665300>

Telephone Audio: (669) 900 9128
Webinar ID: 882 866 5300#

AGENDA

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

PUBLIC COMMENTS

At this time members of the public will be given an opportunity to address the Board concerning items within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Board. Members of the public may also address the Board about a particular Agenda item at the time it is considered by the Board and before action is taken.

The Board requests, but does not require, that members of the public who want to address the Board complete a voluntary "Request to be Heard" form available from the Board Secretary prior to the meeting.

ITEMS RECEIVED TOO LATE TO BE AGENDIZED

Determine need and take action to agendize item(s), which arose subsequent to the posting of the Agenda. (ROLL CALL VOTE: Adoption of this recommendation requires a two-thirds vote of the Board members present or, if less than two-thirds of the Board members are present a unanimous vote).

ITEMS DISTRIBUTED TO THE BOARD LESS THAN 72 HOURS PRIOR TO THE MEETING

Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957.5, non-exempt public records that relate to open session agenda items and are distributed to a majority of the Board less than 72 hours prior to the meeting will be available for public inspection in the lobby of the District's business office located at 18700 Ward Street, Fountain Valley, California 92708, during regular business hours. When practical, these public records will also be made available on the District's Internet Website, accessible at <http://www.mwdoc.com>.

NEXT RESOLUTION NO. 2177

PRESENTATION ITEM

1. OVERVIEW OF KEY METROPOLITAN PROJECTS IDENTIFIED IN THE CLIMATE ADAPTATION MASTER PLAN FOR WATER (CAMP4W) PROCESS

Recommendation: Receive and file the presentation.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

2. LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES

- a. Federal Legislative Report (Natural Resource Results)
- b. State Legislative Report (West Coast Advisors)
- c. Legal and Regulatory Report (Ackerman)
- d. County Legislative Report (Whittingham)
- e. MWDOC Legislative Matrix
- f. Metropolitan Legislative Matrix

Recommendation: Review and discuss the information presented.

3. QUESTIONS OR INPUT ON METROPOLITAN ISSUES FROM THE MEMBER AGENCIES/METROPOLITAN DIRECTOR REPORTS REGARDING METROPOLITAN COMMITTEE PARTICIPATION

Recommendation: Receive input and discuss the information presented.

INFORMATION ITEMS

4. SENATE BILL (SB) 72 IMPLEMENTATION - MODERNIZING CALIFORNIA'S WATER PLAN

5. METROPOLITAN ITEMS CRITICAL TO ORANGE COUNTY

- a. Metropolitan's Finances
- b. Metropolitan's Water Supply Condition Update
- c. Metropolitan's Water Quality Update
- d. Colorado River Issues
- e. Delta Conveyance Activities and State Water Project Issues

6. METROPOLITAN BOARD AGENDA DISCUSSION ITEMS

- a. Summary regarding June Metropolitan Board Meeting
- b. Review items of significance for the Metropolitan Board Agenda

ADJOURNMENT

Note: Accommodations for the Disabled. Any person may make a request for a disability-related modification or accommodation needed for that person to be able to participate in the public meeting by contacting Angela Crespi, District Secretary, at (714) 963-3058, or writing to Municipal Water District of Orange County at 18700 Ward Street, Unit B, Fountain Valley, CA 92708. Requests must specify the nature of the disability and the type of accommodation requested. A telephone number or other contact information should be included so that District staff may discuss appropriate arrangements. Persons requesting a disability-related accommodation should make the request with adequate time before the meeting for the District to provide the requested accommodation.

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT OF ORANGE COUNTY

Jointly with the

PLANNING & OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

18700 Ward Street, Conference Room 101, Fountain Valley, CA 92708

July 6, 2026, 8:30 a.m.

Teleconference Sites:

17420 Walnut Street, Fountain Valley, CA 92708

25652 Paseo De La Paz, San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675

This meeting will be held in person at 18700 Ward Street, Fountain Valley, California, 92708 (Conference Room 101). As a convenience for the public, the meeting may also be accessed by Zoom Webinar and will be available by either computer or telephone audio as indicated below. Because this is an in-person meeting and the Zoom component is not required, but rather is being offered as a convenience, if there are any technical issues during the meeting, this meeting will continue and will not be suspended.

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Telephone Audio: (669) 900 9128
Webinar ID: 882 866 5300#

P&O Committee:

Director Seckel, Chair

Director McVicker

Director Yoo Schneider

Staff: H. De La Torre, M. Baum-Haley,
A. Crespi, C. Busslinger, V. Osborn,
K. Pham

Ex Officio Member: President Dick

MWDOC Committee meetings are noticed and held as joint meetings of the Committee and the entire Board of Directors, and all members of the Board of Directors may attend and participate in the discussion. Each Committee has designated Committee members, and other members of the Board are designated alternate committee members. If less than a quorum of the full Board is in attendance, the Board meeting will be adjourned for lack of a quorum and the meeting will proceed as a meeting of the Committee with those Committee members and alternate members in attendance acting as the Committee.

ROLL CALL

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Public comments on agenda items and items under the jurisdiction of the Committee should be made at this time.

ITEMS RECEIVED TOO LATE TO BE AGENDIZED

Determine need and take action to agendize item(s), which arose subsequent to the posting of the Agenda. (Requires a unanimous vote of the Committee).

ITEMS DISTRIBUTED TO THE BOARD LESS THAN 72 HOURS PRIOR TO THE MEETING

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DISCUSSION ITEM

1. 75TH ANNIVERSARY TIME CAPSULE

ACTION ITEM

2. APPROVAL OF ON-CALL TECHNICAL AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICES LIST OF PRE-QUALIFIED CONSULTANTS

INFORMATION ITEMS

3. WATER POLICY FORUM RECAP
4. ORANGE COUNTY WATER SUMMIT UPDATE
5. QUARTERLY K-12 CHOICE SCHOOL PROGRAMS UPDATE
6. PUBLIC AFFAIRS HIGHLIGHTS
7. DEPARTMENT ACTIVITIES REPORTS
 - a. Ongoing MWDOC Reliability and Engineering/Planning Projects
 - b. WEROC
 - c. Water Use Efficiency Projects
 - d. Public and Government Affairs
8. REVIEW OF ISSUES RELATED TO PLANNING OR ENGINEERING PROJECTS, WEROC, WATER USE EFFICIENCY, FACILITY AND EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE, WATER STORAGE, WATER QUALITY, CONJUNCTIVE USE PROGRAMS, EDUCATION, PUBLIC AFFAIRS PROGRAMS AND EVENTS, PUBLIC INFORMATION PROJECTS, PUBLIC INFORMATION CONSULTANTS, DISTRICT FACILITIES, AND MEMBER AGENCY RELATIONS

ADJOURNMENT

NOTE: At the discretion of the Committee, all items appearing on this agenda, whether or not expressly listed for action, may be deliberated, and may be subject to action by the Committee. On those items designated for Board action, the Committee reviews the items and makes a recommendation for final action to the full Board of Directors; final action will be taken by the Board of Directors. Agendas for Committee and Board meetings may be obtained from the District Secretary. Members of the public are advised that the Board consideration process includes consideration of each agenda item by one or more Committees indicated on the Board Action Sheet. Attendance at Committee meetings and the Board meeting considering an item consequently is advised.

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MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT OF ORANGE COUNTY

Jointly with the

ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE COMMITTEE

18700 Ward Street, Conference Room 101, Fountain Valley, CA 92708

July 8, 2026, 8:30 a.m.

Teleconference Sites:

17420 Walnut Street, Fountain Valley, CA 92708

25652 Paseo De La Paz, San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675

This meeting will be held in person at 18700 Ward Street, Fountain Valley, California, 92708 (Conference Room 101). As a convenience for the public, the meeting may also be accessed by Zoom Webinar and will be available by either computer or telephone audio as indicated below. Because this is an in-person meeting and the Zoom component is not required, but rather is being offered as a convenience, if there are any technical issues during the meeting, this meeting will continue and will not be suspended.

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Telephone Audio: (669) 900 9128
Webinar ID: 882 866 5300#

A&F Committee:

Director Thomas, Chair
Director Nederhood
Director Crane

Staff: H. De La Torre, M. Baum-Haley,
A. Crespi, C. Harris, H. Chumpitazi,
K. Pham

Ex Officio Member: President Dick

MWDOC Committee meetings are noticed and held as joint meetings of the Committee and the entire Board of Directors and all members of the Board of Directors may attend and participate in the discussion. Each Committee has designated Committee members, and other members of the Board are designated alternate committee members. If less than a quorum of the full Board is in attendance, the Board meeting will be adjourned for lack of a quorum and the meeting will proceed as a meeting of the Committee with those Committee members and alternate members in attendance acting as the Committee.

ROLL CALL

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Public comments on agenda items and items under the jurisdiction of the Committee should be made at this time.

ITEMS RECEIVED TOO LATE TO BE AGENDIZED

Determine need and take action to agendize item(s), which arose subsequent to the posting of the Agenda. (Requires a unanimous vote of the Committee).

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PROPOSED BOARD CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS

1. TREASURER'S REPORT
 - a. Revenue/Cash Receipt Report – June 2026
 - b. Disbursement Approval Report for the month of July 2026
 - c. Disbursement Ratification Report for the month of June 2026
 - d. GM Approved Disbursement Report for the month of June 2026
 - e. Consolidated Summary of Cash and Investment – May 2026
 - f. OPEB and Pension Trust Fund statement
2. FINANCIAL REPORT
 - a. Combined Financial Statements and Budget Comparative for the Period Ending May 31, 2026

ACTION ITEMS

3. MWDOC PARTICIPATION IN CRISTO REY ORANGE COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL CORPORATE WORK STUDY PROGRAM FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026-27
4. CALIFORNIA SPECIAL DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION – SOUTHERN NETWORK, SEAT C
5. ADOPT A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE 457(b) DEFERRED COMPENSATION PLAN DOCUMENT

INFORMATION ITEMS

6. GENERAL MANAGER AUTHORIZED AGREEMENTS
7. EXTENSION OF AGREEMENT WITH HASHTAG PINPOINT FOR STRATEGIC DIGITAL COMMUNICATION SERVICES
8. DEPARTMENT ACTIVITIES REPORTS
 - a. Administration
 - b. Finance and Information Technology
9. MONTHLY WATER SALES DATA

OTHER ITEMS

10. REVIEW ISSUES REGARDING DISTRICT ORGANIZATION, PERSONNEL MATTERS, EMPLOYEE BENEFITS FINANCE, AND INSURANCE

ADJOURNMENT

NOTE: At the discretion of the Committee, all items appearing on this agenda, whether or not expressly listed for action, may be deliberated, and may be subject to action by the Committee. On those items designated for Board action, the Committee reviews the items and makes a recommendation for final action to the full Board of Directors; final action will be taken by the Board of Directors. Agendas for Committee and Board meetings may be obtained

from the District Secretary. Members of the public are advised that the Board consideration process includes consideration of each agenda item by one or more Committees indicated on the Board Action Sheet. Attendance at Committee meetings and the Board meeting considering an item consequently is advised.

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REGULAR MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT OF ORANGE COUNTY
18700 Ward Street, Boardroom, Fountain Valley, California
July 15, 2026, 8:30 a.m.

Teleconference Sites:
17420 Walnut Street, Fountain Valley, CA 92708
400 Squaw Creek Road, Olympic Valley, CA 96146

This meeting will be held in person at 18700 Ward Street, Fountain Valley, California, 92708 (Boardroom). As a convenience for the public, the meeting may also be accessed by Zoom Webinar and will be available by either computer or telephone audio as indicated below. Because this is an in-person meeting and the Zoom component is not required, but rather is being offered as a convenience, if there are any technical issues during the meeting, this meeting will continue and will not be suspended.

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<https://zoom.us/j/8828665300>

Telephone Audio: (669) 900 9128
Webinar ID: 882 866 5300#

AGENDA

MOMENT OF SILENCE

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

PUBLIC COMMENTS

At this time, members of the public will be given an opportunity to address the Board concerning items within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Board. Members of the public may also address the Board about a particular Agenda item at the time it is considered by the Board and before action is taken. If the item is on the Consent Calendar, please inform the Board Secretary before action is taken on the Consent Calendar and the item will be removed for separate consideration.

The Board requests, but does not require, that members of the public who want to address the Board complete a voluntary "Request to be Heard" form available from the Board Secretary prior to the meeting.

ITEMS RECEIVED TOO LATE TO BE AGENDIZED

Determine need and take action to agendize items(s) which arose subsequent to the posting of the Agenda. (ROLL CALL VOTE: Adoption of this recommendation requires a two-thirds vote of the Board members present, or, if less than two-thirds of the Board members are present, a unanimous vote of those members present.)

ITEMS DISTRIBUTED TO THE BOARD LESS THAN 72 HOURS PRIOR TO THE MEETING

Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957.5, non-exempt public records that relate to open session agenda items and are distributed to a majority of the Board less than 72 hours prior to the meeting will be available for public inspection in the lobby of the District's business office located at 18700 Ward Street, Fountain Valley, California 92708, during regular business hours. When practical, these public records will also be made available on the District's website, accessible at <http://www.mwdoc.com>.

NEXT RESOLUTION NO. 2177

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

CONSENT CALENDAR (Items 1 to 6)

All matters under the Consent Calendar will be approved by one motion unless a Board member requests separate action on a specific item.

1. MINUTES

- a. June 1, 2026 Planning & Operations Committee Meeting
- b. June 3, 2026 Joint Workshop Board Meeting
- c. June 10, 2026 Administration & Finance Committee Meeting
- d. June 17, 2026 Regular Board Meeting
- e. June 18, 2026 Executive Committee Meeting

Recommendation: Approve as presented.

2. TREASURER'S REPORTS

- a. MWDOC Revenue/Cash Receipt Register as of June 30, 2026
- b. Disbursement Registers (June/July)

Recommendation: Ratify and approve as presented.

- c. Summary of Cash and Investment and Portfolio Master Summary Report (Cash and Investment report) as of May 31, 2026
- d. PARS Monthly Statement (OPEB Trust)

Recommendation: Receive and file as presented

3. FINANCIAL REPORT

- a. Combined Financial Statements and Budget Comparative for the Period Ending May 31, 2026

Recommendation: Receive and file as presented.

4. APPROVAL OF ON-CALL TECHNICAL AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICES LIST OF PRE-QUALIFIED CONSULTANTS

Recommendation: Approve the list of pre-qualified consultants for on-call technical and professional services to support Reliability Planning & Engineering, Emergency Management, Water Use Efficiency, and Administration.

5. MWDOC PARTICIPATION IN CRISTO REY ORANGE COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL CORPORATE WORK STUDY PROGRAM FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026-27

Recommendation: Approve participation in the Cristo Rey Orange County High School's Corporate Work Study Program for Fiscal Year 2026-27 and authorize the General Manager to execute an agreement; and appropriate \$13,673 in reserve funds to the adopted budget to cover one student for the 10-month 2026-27 school period.

6. CALIFORNIA SPECIAL DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION – SOUTHERN NETWORK, SEAT C

Recommendation: Authorize staff to cast the District's ballot for Trabuco Canyon Water District Director John Horst in the California Special Districts Association Board of Directors Election – Southern Network, Seat C.

End of Consent Calendar

ACTION ITEM

7. ADOPT A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE 457(b) DEFERRED COMPENSATION PLAN DOCUMENT

Recommendation: Adopt a resolution approving the restatement of the Municipal Water District of Orange County 457(b) Deferred Compensation Plan.

INFORMATION CALENDAR (All matters under the Information Calendar will be Received/Filed as presented following any discussion that may occur)

8. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT (ORAL AND WRITTEN)

Recommendation: Receive and file report(s) as presented.

9. MWDOC GENERAL INFORMATION ITEMS

- a. Board of Directors - Reports re: Conferences and Meetings
- b. Requests for Future Agenda Topic

Recommendation: Receive and file as presented.

CLOSED SESSION ITEMS

10. DISCUSSION OF POTENTIAL CYBERSECURITY THREATS TO PUBLIC SERVICES OR FACILITIES

Consultation with the General Manager and other appropriate staff
Pursuant To Government Code Section 54957

11. PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

Title: General Manager

RECONVENE FROM CLOSED SESSION

12. ANNOUNCEMENT FROM CLOSED SESSION

ADJOURNMENT

Note: Accommodations for the Disabled. Any person may make a request for a disability-related modification or accommodation needed for that person to be able to participate in the public meeting by contacting Angela Crespi, District Secretary, at (714) 963-3058, or writing to Municipal Water District of Orange County 18700 Ward Street, Unit B, Fountain Valley, CA 92708. Requests must specify the nature of the disability and the type of accommodation requested. A telephone number or other contact information should be included so that District staff may discuss appropriate arrangements. Persons requesting a disability-related accommodation should make the request with adequate time before the meeting for the District to provide the requested accommodation.

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT OF ORANGE COUNTY**

**Jointly with the
PLANNING & OPERATIONS COMMITTEE**

**18700 Ward Street, Conference Room 101, Fountain Valley, CA 92708
June 1, 2026 – 8:30 a.m. to 10:06 a.m.**

The meeting was in-person at the Municipal Water District of Orange County's (MWDOC) Conference Room 101 and included attendance via the Zoom Webinar application.

P&O Committee

Karl W. Seckel, Chair
Bob McVicker
Megan Yoo Schneider

MWDOC Directors

Al Nederhood
Larry Dick
Randall Crane
Jeffery M. Thomas (absent)

MWDOC MET Directors

Linda Ackerman
Dennis Erdman

Staff

Harvey De La Torre, General Manager
Melissa Baum-Haley, Assistant General Manager
Angela Crespi, District Secretary
Vicki Osborn, Director of Emergency Management/
WEROC
Heather Baez, Director of Government Affairs
Cathy Harris, Director of HR/Administration
Damon Micalizzi, Director of Public Affairs
Jennifer Wicks, Communications Manager
Rachel Davis, Water Loss Control Programs
Manager
Kathy Pham, Assistant Board Secretary
Sarina Sriboonlue, Principal Engineer
Rachel Waite-Harvey, Water Use Efficiency
Programs Supervisor

Also Present

Dick Ackerman
Vu Chu
Kathryn Freshley
Mike Gaskins
Kay Havens
Wyatt McClean
Mark Monin
Sherri Seitz
Doug Reinhart
Peer Swan
Paul Weghorst
Keith Van Der Maaten
Jim Atkinson
Donald Froelich
Laura Rocha
Sherry Wanninger
Charles Luas
Saundra Jacobs
Greg Mills
Brad Reese

Ackerman Consulting
El Toro Water District
El Toro Water District
El Toro Water District
El Toro Water District
El Toro Water District
El Toro Water District
El Toro Water District
El Toro Water District
Irvine Ranch Water District
Irvine Ranch Water District
Irvine Ranch Water District
Laguna Beach County Water District
Mesa Water District
Moulton Niguel Water District
Moulton Niguel Water District
Moulton Niguel Water District
Orchard Dale Water District
Santa Margarita Water District
Serrano Water District
Serrano Water District

Jennifer Lopez
Michael Perea
Brett Barbre
Chuck Gibson

South Coast Water District
Trabuco Canyon Water District
Yorba Linda Water District

Chairperson Seckel called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

ROLL CALL

District Secretary Angela Crespi conducted a roll call of the Planning & Operations Committee members. Committee members Directors Seckel, McVicker, and Yoo Schneider were present. Directors Nederhood, Dick, and Crane were also present.

TELECONFERENCE SITE

Director Yoo Schneider participated via teleconference location (all agenda requirements pursuant to the Ralph M. Brown Act requirements were complied with).

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

ITEMS RECEIVED TOO LATE TO BE AGENDIZED

No items were received.

ITEMS DISTRIBUTED TO THE BOARD LESS THAN 72 HOURS PRIOR TO THE MEETING

No items were distributed to the Board of Directors (Board) less than 72 hours prior to the meeting.

PRESENTATION ITEM

1. ANNUAL WATER SUPPLY AND DEMAND ASSESSMENT

Senior Water Resources Analyst Kevin Hostert provided a presentation detailing the purpose of the annual water supply and demand assessment and the framework used to develop it. He reviewed the reporting requirements, including which agencies are mandated to submit assessments. Mr. Hostert also explained MWDOC's methodology for calculating water demand and available supplies, presented the Fiscal Year 2026-27 water shortage outlook, and summarized the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California's (Metropolitan) estimated water supply conditions.

The Board discussed the definition and application of the hot-dry index and how it influences demand forecasting. Questions were raised concerning Metropolitan's Intentionally Created Surplus (ICS) storage capacity, including the current limits on access and any operational constraints that may apply. The Board further reviewed the five-year average of the Orange County Water District's Basin Production Percentage (BPP) and discussed how that average affects long-term planning. The Board also inquired about the market penetration of irrigation

sprinklers and their usage patterns.

The Board thanked Mr. Hostert for his presentation.

2. WATER USE EFFICIENCY DATABASE MODERNIZATION INITIATIVE

Water Resources Data Management Analyst Cassidy Harding presented on the project's purpose to reconfigure, modernize, and expand the Water Use Efficiency (WUE) data infrastructure. She reviewed the background of the existing WUE database, key challenges associated with the current system, the project goals, and the approach to redesigning the platform. The presentation also covered anticipated outcomes of the updated system, improvements to data reliability, opportunities to leverage the California Data Collaborative membership, and next steps.

The Board discussed the benefits of working with the California Data Collaborative, including cost savings and long-term data integration efforts. The Board also addressed support for Member Agencies, retention of pre-2010 records, the frequency of repeat indoor and outdoor program customers, and the handling of outliers and duplicate applications. Additional discussion included partnering with new home builders for indoor rebates and opportunities to utilize Geographic Information System (GIS) data.

The Board thanked Ms. Harding for her presentation.

INFORMATION ITEMS

3. AMENDMENT TO AGREEMENT WITH DROPLET TECHNOLOGIES FOR THE WEB-BASED REBATE PROCESSING PLATFORM

The Board discussed the timing and transition cost to the new platform. Staff elaborated on the efforts and unforeseen circumstances.

4. PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP/GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

Assistant General Manager Melissa Baum-Haley provided an overview of the item and noted that staff are exploring outside grant opportunities to support Water Loss Control and Water Use Efficiency programs.

5. PUBLIC AFFAIRS HIGHLIGHTS

6. DEPARTMENT ACTIVITIES REPORTS

- a. Ongoing MWDOC Reliability and Engineering/Planning Projects
- b. WEROC
- c. Water Use Efficiency Projects
- d. Public and Government Affairs

General Manager Harvey De La Torre reported that, as part of the 75th anniversary video series, he shared a video highlighting Water Loss Control Programs, produced in partnership with the Member Agencies.

The Board acknowledged and thanked the staff featured in the video series for their contributions. The Board also requested a timeline for the proposed fuel program.

General Manager Harvey De La Torre informed the Board about the Water Emergency Response Organization of Orange County's (WEROC) involvement in responding to the recent chemical leak in Garden Grove. Director of Emergency Management/WEROC Vicki Osborn provided the Board with a debrief on the incident and the actions taken.

7. REVIEW OF ISSUES RELATED TO PLANNING OR ENGINEERING PROJECTS, WEROC, WATER USE EFFICIENCY, FACILITY AND EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE, WATER STORAGE, WATER QUALITY, CONJUNCTIVE USE PROGRAMS, EDUCATION, PUBLIC AFFAIRS PROGRAMS AND EVENTS, PUBLIC INFORMATION PROJECTS, PUBLIC INFORMATION CONSULTANTS, DISTRICT FACILITIES, AND MEMBER AGENCY RELATIONS

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chairperson Seckel adjourned the meeting at 10:06 a.m.

Angela Crespi
District Secretary



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Director

Harvey F. De La Torre
General Manager

MEMBER AGENCIES

City of Brea
City of Buena Park
East Orange County Water District
El Toro Water District
Emerald Bay Service District
City of Fountain Valley
City of Garden Grove
Golden State Water Co.
City of Huntington Beach
Irvine Ranch Water District
Laguna Beach County Water
District
City of La Habra
City of La Palma
Mesa Water District
Moulton Niguel Water District
City of Newport Beach
City of Orange
Orange County Water District
City of San Clemente
Santa Margarita Water District
City of Seal Beach
Serrano Water District
South Coast Water District
Trabuco Canyon Water District
City of Tustin
City of Westminster
Yorba Linda Water District

**NOTICE OF CANCELLATION
JOINT PLANNING COMMITTEE WITH THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS*
OF THE MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT OF ORANGE COUNTY
AND ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT**

Date Posted
July 16, 2026

The Joint Planning Committee with the Board of Directors* of the Municipal Water District of Orange County and Orange County Water District scheduled to be held on Wednesday, July 22, 2026 at 8:30 a.m. in Conference Room 101 at 18700 Ward Street, Fountain Valley, California, is hereby canceled.

Angela Crespi
District Secretary

NOTICE OF ADJOURNMENT**LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION OF
ORANGE COUNTY****REGULAR MEETING AGENDA****Wednesday, July 8, 2026
8:15 a.m.****County Administration North (CAN)
First Floor Multipurpose Room 101
400 W. Civic Center Drive, Santa Ana, CA 92701**

The Local Agency Formation Commission of Orange County will not conduct its Regular Meeting on July 8, 2026. The next scheduled meeting of the Commission will take place on Wednesday, August 12, 2026, commencing at 8:15 a.m. at the County Administrative North (CAN), First Floor Multipurpose Room 101, 400 W. Civic Center Dr., Santa Ana, CA 92701.

For more information or questions, you may contact Luis Tapia, Executive Officer, at (714) 640-5100 or by email at ltapia@oclafco.org.

Posted: June 12, 2026



Executive Committee Meeting

Tuesday, July 7, 2026
7:30 a.m.

Mailing Address

18700 Ward Street, Unit B
Fountain Valley, CA 92708

Meeting Location

MWDOC/OCWD
18700 Ward Street
Fountain Valley, CA 92708

(714) 963-3058
(714) 964-5930 fax

www.isdoc.net

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://mwdoc.zoom.us/j/83420776167>

Dial by your location
669 900 9128 US (San Jose)
877 853 5247 US Toll-free
888 788 0099 US Toll-free

Executive Committee

President
Hon. Bob McVicker
*Municipal Water District of
Orange County*

1st Vice President
Vacant

2nd Vice President
Hon. Marilyn Thoms
East Orange County Water District

3rd Vice President
Hon. Al Nederhood
*Municipal Water District of
Orange County*

Secretary
Vacant

Treasurer
Hon. Sandra Jacobs
Santa Margarita Water District

Immediate Past President
Hon. Greg Mills
Serrano Water District

Staff Administration

Heather Baez
*Municipal Water District of
Orange County*

Katie Vincent
*Municipal Water District of
Orange County*

AGENDA

- **Welcome**
- **Approval of Minutes**
 - Approval of Minutes: June 2, 2026
- **Public Comments on items not on the agenda**
- **New Business**
 - ISDOC Election 2027-2028
- **Old Business**
- **Treasurer's Report – Director Sandra Jacobs**
 - Report on accounts
- **CSDA Report – Chris Palmer**
 - Receive, discuss, and file the CSDA Report
- **LAFCO Report – Director Jim Fisler**
 - Receive, discuss, and file the LAFCO report

- **ACWA Report – Director Sandra Jacobs**
 - Receive, discuss, and file the ACWA report
- **OCCOG Report – Director Mike Scheafer**
 - Receive, discuss, and file the OCCOG report
- **California Association of Sanitation Agencies (CASA) Report – SOCWA Representative**
 - Receive, discuss, and file the CASA report
- **Subcommittee Reports**
 - Programs – Heather Baez
 - Membership – Director Thoms
 - Legislative – Director Nederhood
- **Adjourn**



Water Advisory Committee of Orange County (WACO) Virtual Meeting

**Friday, July 10, 2026
7:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.**

Zoom Registration:

[Click here to register](#)

Officers

Chair

Hon. Greg Mills

Serrano Water District

Vice Chair

Hon. Karl Seckel

Municipal Water District of Orange County

Staff Contacts

Medha Paliwal / Crystal Nettles

Orange County Water District (OCWD)

(714) 378-3200

www.ocwd.com/news-events/events/waco

Heather Baez / Tina Dubuque

Municipal Water District of Orange County

(MWDOC)

(714) 963-3058

www.mwdoc.com/waco

AGENDA

Welcome

- Greg Mills, Serrano Water District

Reports

- Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MET)
- Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA)

Program

Drought, Collaboration, and the Future of Infrastructure in the West – an
Update from the Family Farm Alliance on the Western Water Policy

Speaker:

Samantha (Sam) R. Barncastle

Executive Director, Family Farm Alliance and Managing Attorney,
Barncastle Law Firm

Agency Announcements

Adjourn

Next WACO Meeting

Friday, August 7, 2026 at 7:30 a.m. via Zoom

Next WACO Planning Committee Meeting

Tuesday, July 21, 2026 at 7:30 a.m. via Zoom

**DATES TO REMEMBER
JULY/AUGUST 2026**

1. Jul 23 – 12:00 p.m. – SOCAG meeting
2. Jul 24 – DISTRICT OFFICE CLOSED
3. Jul 30 – 11:30 a.m. – ISDOC Quarterly Luncheon
4. Jul 31 – 12:00 p.m. – Pres/VP/GM meeting
5. Aug 3 – 8:30 a.m. – MWDOC P&O Committee meeting
6. Aug 4 – 7:30 a.m. – ISDOC Executive meeting
7. Aug 4 -7 – CASA Conference; Napa
8. Aug 5 – 8:30 a.m. – MWDOC Met Directors meeting
9. Aug 7 – DISTRICT OFFICE CLOSED
10. Aug 7 – 7:30 a.m. – WACO meeting
11. Aug 11 – 10:00 a.m. – RRC meeting
12. Aug 12 – 8:15 a.m. – LAFCO meeting
13. Aug 12 – 8:30 a.m. – MWDOC Admin/Fin Committee meeting
14. Aug 13 – 8:30 a.m. – SOCWA Board meeting
15. Aug 13 – 11:30 a.m. – CAG meeting
16. Aug 14 – 12:00 p.m. – Pres/VP/GM meeting
17. Aug 17 – 10:00 a.m. – Agenda Review Meeting
18. Aug 18 – 10:30 a.m. – SOCWA Finance meeting
19. Aug 19-21 – UWI Annual Conference; San Diego
20. Aug 19 – 8:30 a.m. – MWDOC Board meeting
21. Aug 19 – 11:30 a.m. – OCWA meeting
22. Aug 20 – 8:30 a.m. – SOCWA Engineering meeting
23. Aug 20 – 11:30 a.m. – OC WateReuse meeting
24. Aug 21 – DISTRICT OFFICE CLOSED
25. Aug 24-26 – WateReuse Annual Conference; San Francisco
26. Aug 24-27 – CSDA Annual Conference; Palm Desert
27. Aug 24 – 7:30 a.m. – Regular Finance and Engineering meeting
28. Aug 27 – 7:30 a.m. – Regular Board meeting
29. Aug 28 – 12:00 p.m. – Pres/VP/GM meeting

EL TORO WATER DISTRICT
Glossary of Water Terms

Accumulated overdraft: The amount of water necessary to be replaced in the intake area of the groundwater basin to prevent the landward movement of ocean water into the fresh groundwater body.

Acre-foot, AF: A common water industry unit of measurement. An acre-foot is 325,851 gallons, or the amount of water needed to cover one acre with water one foot deep. An acre-foot serves annual needs of two typical California families.

ACWA: Association of California Water Agencies. A statewide group based in Sacramento that actively lobbies State and Federal Government on water issues.

Advanced treatment: Additional treatment processes used to clean wastewater even further following primary and secondary treatment. Also known as tertiary treatment.

AFY: Acre-foot per year.

Alluvium: A stratified bed of sand, gravel, silt, and clay deposited by flowing water.

AMP: Allen McCulloch pipeline. Major pipeline transporting treated water to water districts between Yorba Linda, where it starts to El Toro Water District reservoir, where it terminates.

Annexation: The inclusion of land within a government agency's jurisdiction.

Annual overdraft: The quantity by which the production of water from the groundwater supplies during the water year exceeds the natural replenishment of such groundwater supplies during the same water year.

Aqueduct: A man-made canal or pipeline used to transport water.

Aquifer: An underground geologic formation of rock, soil or sediment that is naturally saturated with water; an aquifer stores groundwater.

Arid: Dry; deserts are arid places. Semi-arid places are almost as dry as a desert.

Artesian: An aquifer in which the water is under sufficient pressure to cause it to rise above the bottom of the overlying confining bed, if the opportunity is provided.

Artificial recharge: The addition of surface water to a groundwater reservoir by human activity, such as putting surface water into recharge basins. (See also: groundwater recharge and recharge basin.)

AWWA: American Water Works Association. Nationwide group of public and private water purveyors and related industrial suppliers.

Base flow: The portion of river surface flow which remains after deduction of storm flow and/or purchased imported water.

Bay-Delta: The Sacramento-San Joaquin Bay-Delta is a unique natural resource of local, state and national significance. The Delta is home to more than 500,000 people; contains 500,000 acres of agriculture; provides habitat for 700 native plant and animal species; provides water for more than 25 million Californians and 3 million acres of agriculture; is traversed by energy, communications and transportation facilities vital to the economic health of California; and supports a \$400 billion economy.

BIA: Building Industry Association

Biofouling: The formation of bacteria film (biofilm) on fragile reverse osmosis membrane surfaces.

Biosolids: Solid organic matter recovered from a sewage treatment process and used especially as fertilizer.

BMP: Best Management Practice. An engineered structure or management activity, or combination of these, that eliminates or reduces adverse environmental effects.

Brackish water: A mixture of freshwater and saltwater

Brown Act: Ralph M. Brown Act enacted by the State legislature governing all meetings of legislative bodies. Also known as Open Meeting Requirements.

Canal: A ditch used to move water from one location to another.

CASA: California Association of Sanitation Agencies. The sanitation equivalent of ACWA concerned solely with issues affecting the treatment and disposal of solid waste and wastewater.

CEQA: California Environmental Quality Act.

CERCLA: Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act. This federal law establishes the Superfund program for hazardous waste sites. It provides the legal basis for the United States EPA to regulate and clean up hazardous waste sites, and if appropriate, to seek financial compensation from entities responsible for the site.

CFS: Cubic feet per second.

Chloramines: A mixture of ammonia and chlorine used to purify water.

Clarify: To make clear or pure by separation and elimination of suspended solid material.

Coagulation: The clumping together of solids so they can more easily be settled out or filtered out of water. A chemical called aluminum sulfate (alum) is generally used to aid coagulation in water treatment and reclamation.

Coastkeepers: A non-profit organization dedicated to the protection and preservation of the marine habitats and watersheds of Orange County through programs of education, restoration, enforcement and advocacy.

Colored Water: Groundwater extracted from the basin that is unsuitable for domestic use without treatment due to high color and odor exceeding drinking water standards.

Condensation: The process of water vapor (gas) changing into liquid water. An example of condensation can be seen in the tiny water droplets that form on the outside of a glass of iced tea as warmer air touches the cooler glass.

Confined aquifer: An aquifer that is bound above and below by dense layers of rock and contains water under pressure.

Conjunctive use: Storing imported water in a local aquifer, in conjunction with groundwater, for later retrieval and use.

Contaminate: To make unclean or impure by the addition of harmful substances.

CPCFA: California Pollution Control Financing Authority. State agency providing funds for wastewater reclamation projects.

Crisis:

1. A: The turning point for better or worse B. a paroxysmal attack of pain, distress, or disordered function C. an emotionally significant event or radical change of status in a person's life < a midlife crisis>
2. The decisive moment (as in a literary plot)
3. A: An unstable or crucial time or state of affairs in which a decisive change is impending; especially one with the distinct possibility of a highly undesirable outcome < a financial crisis> B. a situation that has reached a critical phase

CTP: Coastal Treatment Plant

CWPCA: California Water Pollution Control Association. A 7000-member non-profit educational organization dedicated to water pollution control.

Dam: A barrier built across a river or stream to hold water.

Decompose: To separate into simpler compounds, substances or elements.

Deep percolation: The percolation of surface water through the ground beyond the lower limit of the root zone of plants into a groundwater aquifer.

Degraded water: Water within the groundwater basin that, in one characteristic or another, does not meet primary drinking water standards.

Delta: Where the rivers empty; an outlet from land to ocean, also where the rivers deposit sediment they carry forming landforms.

Delta Vision: Delta Vision is intended to identify a strategy for managing the Sacramento- San Joaquin Delta as a sustainable ecosystem that would continue to support environmental and economic functions that are critical to the people of California.

Demineralize: To reduce the concentrations of minerals from water by ion exchange, distillation, electro-dialysis, or reverse osmosis.

De-nitrification: The physical process of removing nitrate from water through reverse osmosis, microfiltration, or other means.

Desalting (or desalination): Removing salts from salt water by evaporation or distillation. Specific treatment process, such as reverse osmosis or multi-stage flash distillation, to demineralize seawater or brackish (saline) waters for reuse. Also, sometimes used in wastewater treatment to remove salts other pollutants.

Desilting: The physical process of removing suspended particles from water.

Dilute: To lessen the amount of a substance in water by adding more water

Disinfection: Water treatment which destroys potentially harmful bacteria.

Drainage basin: The area of land from which water drains into a river, for example, the Sacramento River Basin, in which all land area drains into the Sacramento River. Also called catchment area, watershed, or river basin.

Drought: A prolonged period of below- average precipitation.

DPHS: California Department of Public Health Services. Regulates public water systems; oversees water recycling projects; permits water treatment devices; certifies drinking water treatment and distribution operators; supports and promotes water system security; provides support for small water systems and for improving technical, managerial, and financial (TMF) capacity; provides funding opportunities for water system improvements.

DVL: Diamond Valley Lake. Metropolitan's major reservoir near Hemet, in southwestern Riverside County.

DWR: California Department of Water Resources. Guides development/management of California's water resources; owns/operates State Water Project and other water facilities.

Endangered Species: A species of animal or plant threatened with extinction.

Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA): The most wide-ranging of the dozens of United States environmental laws passed in the 1970's. As stated in section 2 of the act, it was designed to protect critically imperiled species from extinction as a "consequence of economic growth and development untended by adequate concern and conservation.

Ecosystem: Where living and non-living things interact (coexist) in order to survive.

Effluent: Wastewater or other liquid, partially or completely treated or in its natural state, flowing from a treatment plant.

Evaporation: The process that changes water (liquid) into water vapor (gas).

Estuary: Where fresh water meets salt water.

Evapotranspiration: The quantity of water transpired (given off), retained in plant tissues, and evaporated from plant tissues and surrounding soil surface. Quantitatively, it is expressed in terms of depth of water per unit area during a specified period of time.

FCH: Federal Clearing House – Environmental Review/Processing

FEMA: Federal Emergency Management Agency

Filtration: The process of allowing water to pass through layers of a porous material such as sand, gravel or charcoal to trap solid particles. Filtration occurs in nature when rain water soaks into the ground and it passes through hundreds of feet of sand and gravel. This same natural process of filtration is duplicated in water and wastewater treatment plants, generally using sand and coal as the filter media.

Flocculation: A chemical process involving addition of a coagulant to assist in the removal of turbidity in water.

Forebay: A reservoir or pond situated at the intake of a pumping plant or power plant to stabilize water level; also, a portion of a groundwater basin where large quantities of surface water can recharge the basin through infiltration.

Gray water reuse: Reuse, generally without treatment, of domestic type wastewater for toilet flushing, garden irrigation and other non-potable uses. Excludes water from toilets, kitchen sinks, dishwashers, or water used for washing diapers.

Green Acres Project (GAP): A 7.5 million gallons per day (MGD) water reclamation project that serves tertiary treated recycled water to irrigation and industrial users in Costa Mesa, Fountain Valley, Huntington Beach, Newport Beach, and Santa Ana.

God Squad: A seven-member committee that is officially called the “Endangered Species Committee”. Members consist of Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of the Army, the Chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers, the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and one individual from the affected state. The squad was established in 1978 by an amendment to the 1973 Endangered Species Act (ESA). It has only been called into action three times to deal with proposed federal agency actions that have been determined to cause “jeopardy” to any listed species.

Groundwater: Water that has percolated into natural, underground aquifers; water in the ground, not water puddled on the ground.

Groundwater basin: A groundwater reservoir defined by the overlying land surface and the underlying aquifers that contain water stored in the reservoir. Boundaries of success-ively deeper aquifers may differ and make it difficult to define the limits of the basin.

Groundwater mining: The withdrawal of water from an aquifer in excess of recharge over a period of time. If continued, the underground supply would eventually be exhausted or the water table could drop below economically feasible pumping lifts.

Groundwater overdraft: The condition of a groundwater basin in which the amount of water withdrawn by pumping exceeds the amount of water that recharges the basin over a period of years during which water supply conditions approximate average.

Groundwater recharge: The action of increasing groundwater storage by natural conditions or by human activity. See also: Artificial recharge.

Ground water replenishment system (GWRS): A joint project of the Orange County Water District and the Orange County Sanitation District that will provide up to 1000,000 acre-feet of reclaimed water annually. The high-quality water will be used to expand an existing underground seawater intrusion barrier and to replenish the groundwater basin underlying north and central Orange County.

Groundwater table: The upper surface of the zone of saturation (all pores of subsoil filled with water), except where the surface is formed by an impermeable body.

GPM: Gallons per minute.

Ground Water Replenishment System (GWRS): Orange County Water District's state of the art, highly advanced, waste-water treatment facility.

Hydrologic balance: An accounting of all water inflow to, water outflow from, and changes in water storage within a hydrologic unit over a specified period.

Hydrologic cycle: The process of water constantly circulating from the ocean, to the atmosphere, to the earth in a form of precipitation, and finally returning to the ocean.

Imported water: Water that has originated from one hydrologic region and is transferred to another hydrologic region.

Inflatable rubber dams: Designed to replace temporary sand levees that wash out during heavy storm flow, the dams hold back high-volume river flows and divert the water into the off-river system for percolation.

Influent: Water or wastewater entering a treatment plant, or a particular stage of the treatment process.

Irrigation: Applying water to crops, lawns or other plants using pumps, pipes, hoses, sprinklers, etc.

JPIA: Joint Powers Insurance Authority. A group of water agencies providing self-insurance to member of the ACWA.

LAI: Local Agency Investment Fund. Statewide pool of surplus public agency money managed by state treasurer.

Leach: to remove components from the soil by the action of water trickling through.

MAF: Million-acre feet.

MCL: Maximum contaminant level set by EPA for a regulated substance in drinking water. According to health agencies, the maximum amount of a substance that can be present in water that's safe to drink and which looks, tastes and smells good.

MET: Metropolitan Water District of Southern California.

MGD: Million gallons per day.

Microfiltration: A physical separation process where tiny, hollow filaments members separate particles from water.

Microorganism: An animal or plant of microscopic size.

MWD: Metropolitan Water District of Southern California.

MWDOC: Municipal Water District of Orange County. Intermediate wholesaler between MWD and 27-member agencies including ETWD.

Non-point source pollution: Pollution that is so general or covers such a wide area that no single, localized source of the pollution can be identified.

NPDES: National Pollution Discharge Elimination System

OCBD: Orange County Business Council

OCEMA: Orange County Environmental Management Agency

OCWD: Orange County Water District

Opportunity:

1. A favorable juncture of circumstances
2. A good chance for advancement or progress

Organism: Any individual form of life, such as a plant, animal or bacterium

PCM: Professional Community Management, Inc. Property Management company providing services to Laguna Woods Village and other homeowners associations.

Perched groundwater: Groundwater supported by a zone of material of low permeability located above an underlying main body of groundwater with which it is not hydrostatically connected.

Percolation: The downward movement of water through the soil of alluvium to the groundwater table

Permeability: The capability of soil or other geologic formations to transmit water

Point source: A specific site from which waste or polluted water is discharged into a water body, the source of which is identified. See also: non-point source.

Potable water: Suitable and safe for drinking

PPB: Parts per billion

Precipitation: Water from the atmosphere that falls to the ground as a liquid (rain) or a solid (snow, sleet, hail).

Primary treated water: First major treatment in a wastewater treatment facility, usually sedimentation but not biological oxidation.

Primary treatment: Removing solids and floating matter from wastewater using screening, skimming and sedimentation (settling by gravity).

Prior appropriation doctrine: Allocates water rights to the first party who diverts water from its natural source and applies the water to beneficial use. If at some point the first appropriator fails to use the water beneficially, another person may appropriate the water and gain rights to the water. The central principle is beneficial use, not land ownership.

Pumping Plant: A facility that lifts water up and over hills.

Recharge: The physical process where water naturally percolates or sinks into a groundwater basin.

Recharge basin: A surface facility, often a large pond, used to increase the infiltration of surface water into a groundwater basin.

Reclaimed wastewater: Wastewater that becomes suitable for a specific beneficial use as a result of treatment. See also: wastewater reclamation.

Reclamation project: A project where water is obtained from a sanitary district or system and which undergoes additional treatment for a variety of uses, including landscape irrigation, industrial uses, and groundwater recharge.

Recycling: A type of reuse, usually involving running a supply of water through a closed system again and again. Legislation in 1991 legally equates the term “recycled water” to reclaimed water.

Reservoir: A place where water is stored until it is needed. A reservoir can be an open lake or an enclosed storage tank.

Reverse osmosis: (RO) A method of removing salts or other ions from water by forcing water through a semi-permeable membrane.

RFP: Request for Proposal

Riparian: Of or on the banks of a stream, river, or other body of water.

RO: Reverse osmosis. See the listing under “reverse osmosis.”

R-O-W: Right-of-way

Runoff: Liquid water that travels over the surface of the Earth, moving downward due to gravity. Runoff is one way in which water that falls as precipitation returns to the ocean.

RWQCB: Regional Water Quality Control Board. State agency regulating discharge and use of recycled water.

Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA): The Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) was originally passed by Congress in 1974 to protect public health by regulating the nation's public drinking water supply. The law was amended in 1986 and 1996 and requires many actions to protect drinking water and its sources: rivers, lakes reservoirs, springs, and ground water wells. (SDWA does not regulate private wells which serve fewer than 25 individuals.) SDWA authorizes the United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) to set national health-based standards for drinking water to protect against both naturally-occurring and man-made contaminants that may be found in drinking water. US EPA, states, and water systems work together to make sure that these standards are met.

Safe yield: The maximum quantity of water that can be withdrawn from a groundwater basin over a long period of time without developing a condition of overdraft, sometimes referred to as sustained yield.

SAFRA: Santa Ana River Flood Protection Agency

Salinity: Generally, the concentration of mineral salts dissolved in water. Salinity may be measured by weight (total dissolved solids – TDS), electrical conductivity, or osmotic pressure. Where seawater is known to be the major source of salt, salinity is often used to refer to the concentration of chlorides in the water.

SAWPA: Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority.

SCADA: Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition

SCAP: Southern California Alliance of Publicity. Newly formed group of public agencies seeking reasonable regulation of sewer industry.

SCH: State Clearing House – Environmental Review/Processing

Seasonal Storage: A three-part program offered by Metropolitan Water District of Southern California:

STSS (Short Term Seasonal Storage): financially encourages agencies with local groundwater production capabilities to produce a higher percentage of their demand in the summer from their local groundwater supplies, thus shifting a portion of their demand on the MWD system from the summer to winter;

LTSS (Long Term Seasonal Storage): Financially encourages retail agencies to take and store additional amounts of MWD water above their normal annual demands for later use; Replenishment Water provides less expensive interruptible water that is generally available and used to increase the operating yield of groundwater basins.

Seawater intrusion: The movement of salt water into a body of fresh water. It can occur in either surface water or groundwater basins.

Seawater barrier: A physical facility or method of operation designed to prevent the intrusion of salt water into a body of freshwater.

Secondary treatment: The biological portion of wastewater treatment which uses the activated sludge process to further clean wastewater after primary treatment. Generally, a level of treatment that produces 85 percent removal efficiencies for biological oxygen demand and suspended solids. Usually carried out through the use of trickling filters or by the activated sludge process.

Sedimentation: The settling of solids in a body of water using gravity.

Settle: To clarify water by causing impurities/solid material to sink to a container's bottom.

Sewer: The system of pipes that carries wastewater from homes and businesses to a treatment plant or reclamation plant. Sewers are separate from storm drains, which is a system of drains and pipes that carry rain water from urban streets back to the ocean. Overwatering your yard can also cause water to run into the streets and into storm drains. Storm drain water is not treated before it is discharged.

SigAlert: Any unplanned event that causes the closing of one lane of traffic for 30 minutes or more, as opposed to a planned event, like the road construction, which is planned.

SJBA: San Juan Basin Authority

Sludge: The solids that remain after wastewater treatment. This material is separated from the cleaned water, treated and composted into fertilizer. Also called biosolids.

SOCWA: South Orange County Wastewater Authority. Regional Joint Powers Authority form for collection and treatment of sewerage (previously known as AWMA/SERRA/SOCRA). SOCWA member agencies:

- CSC – City of San Clemente
- CSJC – City of San Juan Capistrano
- CLB – City of Laguna Beach
- ETWD – El Toro Water District
- EBSD – Emerald Bay Service District
- IRWD – Irvine Ranch Water District
- MNWD – Moulton Niguel Water District
- SCWD – South Coast Water District
- SMWD – Santa Margarita Water District
- TCWD – Trabuco Canyon Water District

SRE: State Revolving Fund

Storm Drain: The system of pipes that carries rain water from urban streets back to the ocean. Overwatering your yard can also cause water to run into the streets and into storm drains. Storm drain water is not treated before it is discharged. Storm drains are separate from sewers, which is a separate system of pipes to carry wastewater from homes and businesses to a treatment plant or reclamation plant for cleaning.

Storm flow: Surface flow originating from precipitation and run-off which has not percolated to an underground basin.

SWP: State Water Project. An aqueduct system that delivers water from Northern California to central and Southern California.

SWRCB: State Water Resources Control Board

TDS: Total dissolved solids. A quantitative measure of the residual minerals dissolved in water that remain after evaporation of a solution. Usually expressed in milligrams per liter.

Tertiary treatment: The treatment of wastewater beyond the secondary or biological stage. Normally implies the removal of nutrients, such as phosphorous and nitrogen, and a high percentage of suspended solids.

THM: Trihalomethanes. Any of several synthetic organic compounds formed when chlorine or bromine combine with organic materials in water.

TMA: Too many acronyms.

TMDL: Total maximum daily load; a quantitative assessment of water quality problems, contributing sources, and load reductions or control actions needed to restore and protect bodies of water.

Transpiration: The process in which plant tissues give off water vapor to the atmosphere as an essential physiological process.

Turbidity: Thick of opaque with matter in suspension; muddy water

Ultraviolet light disinfection: A disinfection method for water that has received either secondary or tertiary treatment used as an alternative to chlorination.

VE: Value Engineering

VOC: Volatile organic compound; a chemical compound that evaporates readily at room temperature and contains carbon.

Wastewater: Water that has been previously used by a municipality, industry or agriculture and has suffered a loss of quality as a result.

Water Cycle: The continuous process of surface water (puddles, lakes, oceans) evaporating from the sun's heat to become water vapor (gas) in the atmosphere. Water condenses into clouds and then falls back to earth as rain or snow (precipitation). Some precipitation soaks into the ground (percolation) to replenish groundwater supplies in underground aquifers.

Water rights: A legally protected right to take possession of water occurring in a natural waterway and to divert that water for beneficial use.

Water-use Efficiency: The water requirements of a particular device, fixture, appliance, process, piece of equipment, or activity.

Water year (USGS): The period between October 1st of one calendar year to September 30th of the following calendar year.

Watermaster: A court appointed person(s) that has specific responsibilities to carry out court decisions pertaining to a river system or watershed.

Water Reclamation: The treatment of wastewater to make it suitable for a beneficial reuse, such as landscape irrigation. Also called water recycling.

Watershed: The total land area that from which water drains or flows to a river, stream, lake or other body of water.

Water table: The top level of water stored underground.

WEF: Water Environment Federation. Formerly – Water Pollution Control Federation (WPCF). International trade group advising members of sewage treatment techniques and their effect on the environment.

Weir box: A device to measure/control surface water flows in streams or between ponds.

Wellhead treatment: Water quality treatment of water being produced at the well site.

Wetland: Any area in which the water table stands near, at, or above the land surface for a portion of the year. Wetlands are characterized by plants adapted to wet soil conditions.

Xeriscape: Landscaping that requires minimal water.