

SONOMA
C O U N T Y
W A T E R



A G E N C Y



SECURING OUR FUTURE
BY INVESTING IN OUR
WATER RESOURCES
ENVIRONMENT
and
COMMUNITY

about

the sonoma county water agency

ORGANIZATION & GOVERNANCE

WHOLESALE WATER SUPPLY

FLOOD PROTECTION

SANITATION SERVICES

GROUNDWATER

ENVIRONMENT

COMMUNITY

ENERGY





leadership



Organization & Governance

AUTHORITY

Act of California Legislature, 1949

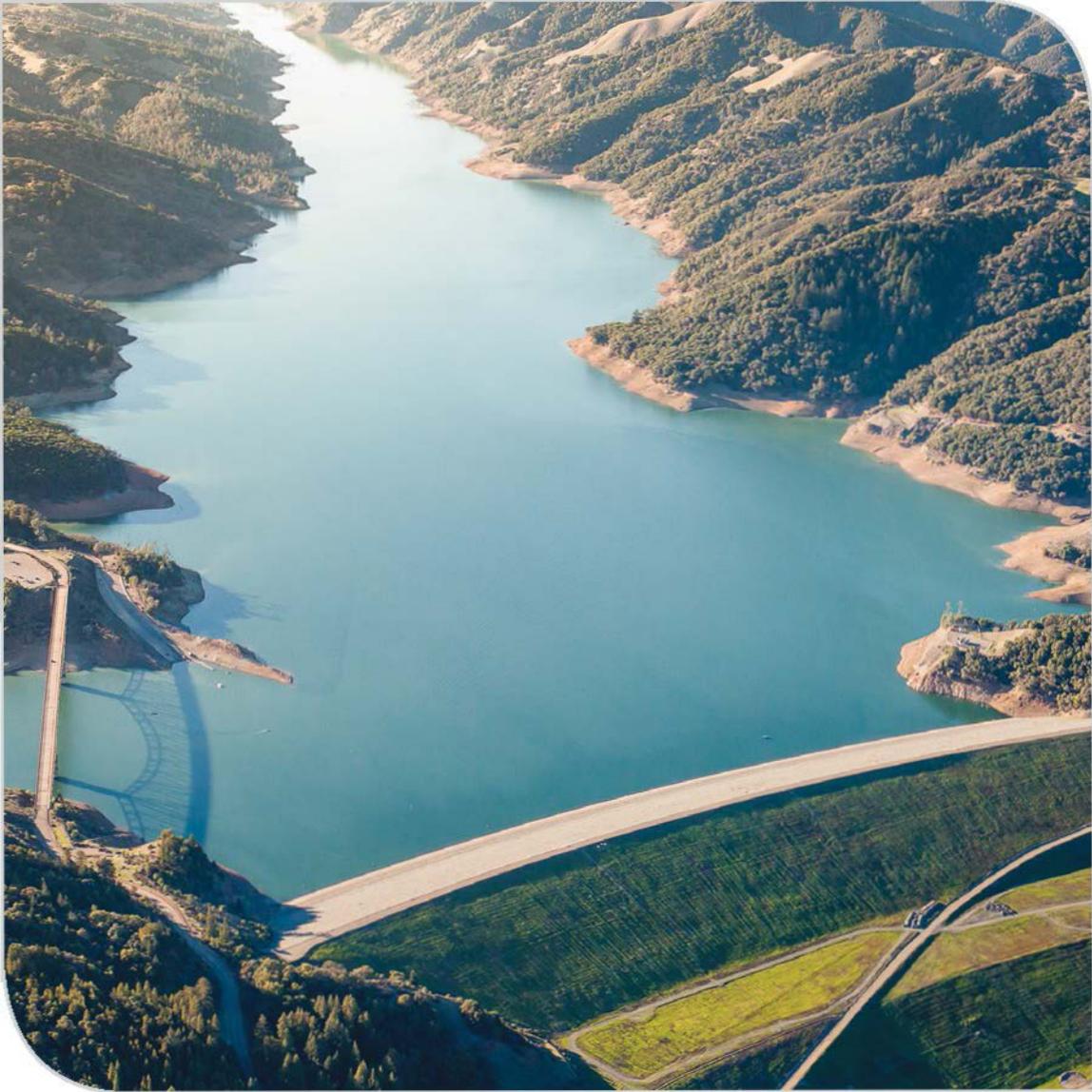
MISSION

To effectively manage the water resources in our care for the benefit of people and the environment through resource and environmental stewardship, technical innovation, and responsible fiscal management

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Sonoma County Board of Supervisors acts as the Water Agency's Board of Directors

Left: Grant Davis, General Manager



An aerial photograph of a river valley. In the foreground, a large dam structure spans across a river. The river flows through a valley with steep, forested hills on either side. In the background, there are rolling hills with some agricultural fields. The word "precious" is overlaid in large, white, lowercase letters across the top of the image.

precious

Wholesale water supply

MAIN WATER SOURCES

- Russian River
- Lake Sonoma
- Lake Mendocino

POPULATION SERVED

Approximately 600,000 residents in portions of Sonoma and Marin counties. Water contractors include:

- Santa Rosa
- Petaluma
- Sonoma
- Cotati
- Rohnert Park
- Town of Windsor
- North Marin Water District
- Valley of the Moon Water District
- Marin Municipal Water District

Left: Lake Sonoma

Flood control & stream maintenance services

FLOOD CONTROL WORKS

Coyote Valley Dam (Lake Mendocino), Warm Springs Dam (Lake Sonoma), Central Sonoma Watershed Project, and Laguna de Santa Rosa

CENTRAL SONOMA WATERSHED PROJECT FACILITIES

Santa Rosa Creek Reservoir, Matanzas Creek Reservoir, Piner Creek Reservoir, Brush Creek Middle Fork Reservoir, and Spring Creek Reservoir

LAGUNA DE SANTA ROSA

Natural tributary to the Russian River that stores approximately 80,000 acre-feet of water during peak floods

STREAM MAINTENANCE

Maintain 75 miles of flood control channels and have easements for maintenance on 150 miles of creeks

Right: Native plantings along Dry Creek



habitat



recycled

Sanitation services

In 1995 the Water Agency assumed responsibility from the County of Sonoma for managing the county sanitation zones and districts, which provide wastewater collection, treatment, recycled-water distribution, and disposal services. County sanitation districts are separate legal entities operated under contract with the Water Agency, and sanitation zones are owned by the Water Agency.

FACILITIES

Occidental, Russian River, Sonoma Valley, and South Park Sanitation Districts. Airport/Larkfield/Wikiup, Geyserville, Penngrove, and Sea Ranch sanitation zones

POPULATION SERVED

Approximately 22,000 residences and businesses

Left: Recycled water pond in Sonoma Valley

Environment

RUSSIAN RIVER BIOLOGICAL OPINION

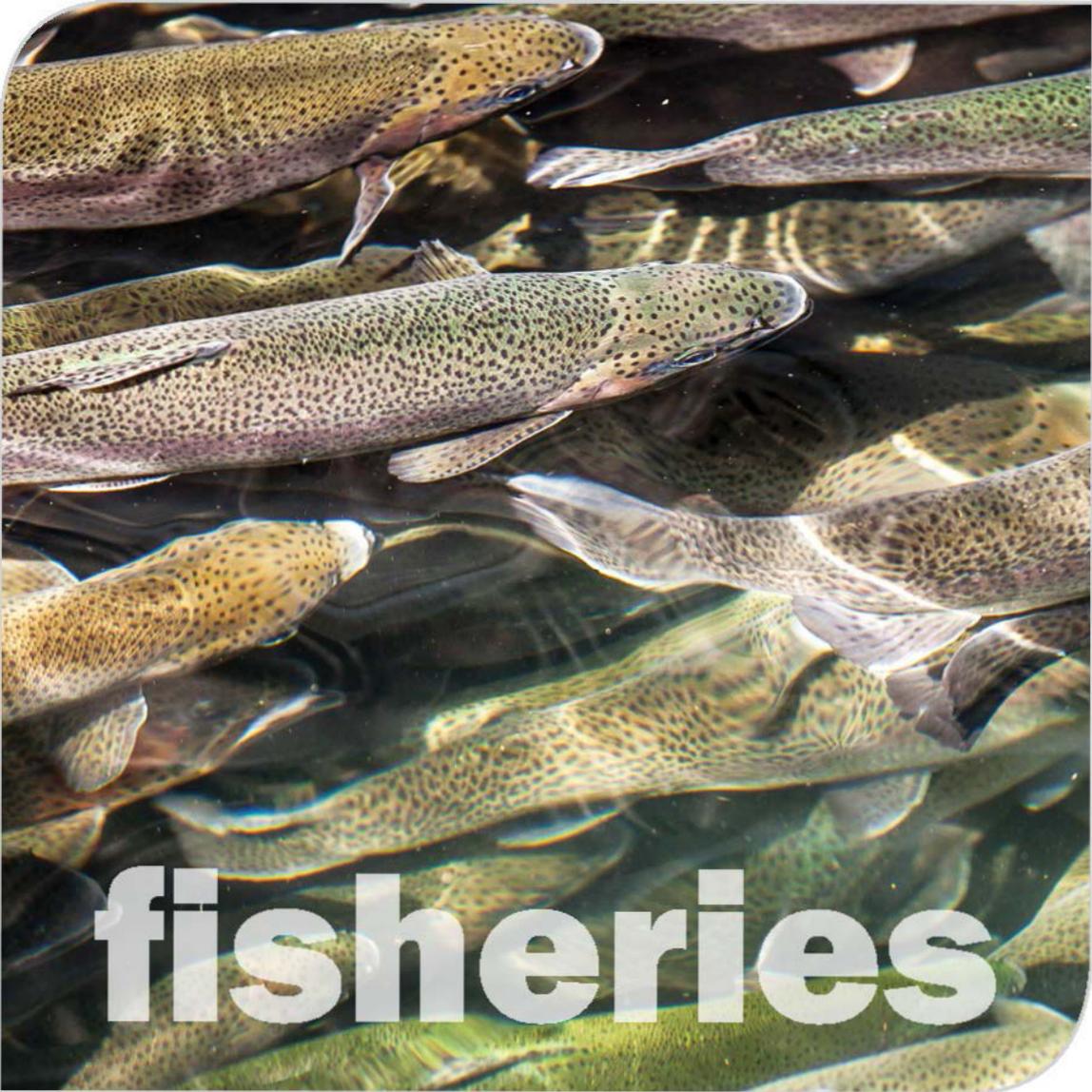
The Russian River Biological Opinion is a federally mandated 15-year blueprint to help save endangered fish and ensure our water supply. Construction of the first mile of habitat enhancement in Dry Creek began in 2013; thousands of tons of gravel were excavated and hundreds of redwood logs were placed to create hiding places for young coho and steelhead trout.

RUSSIAN RIVER ENDANGERED SPECIES

The Russian River is home to three fish that are threatened or endangered under the federal Endangered Species Act: coho salmon (endangered), Chinook salmon (threatened), and steelhead trout (threatened). The Water Agency is committed to improving the native fish resources and habitats of the Russian River watershed through a variety of projects including habitat restoration, water quality improvement, and fish lifecycle monitoring.

Right: Steelhead Salmon





fisheries





Carbon-free water by 2015

The Water Agency made its goal of carbon-free water by 2015 – a carbon neutral energy supply by 2015 to power our water supply system:

- Ongoing conservation efforts have lowered the Water Agency's total energy use by 29 percent since 2005.
- The water transmission system operational efficiency has been improved by 15 percent since 2005.
- Total greenhouse gas emissions from electricity use have dropped 98 percent from 2006.
- In 2012, more than 95 percent of the Water Agency's electricity came from carbon free and renewable sources such as hydroelectric, landfill gas, and solar photovoltaic sources.

The Water Agency was recognized as a Platinum member by the nation's leading verifier of carbon emission inventories, the highest achievement level recognized by the Climate Action Registry.

Right: Wind turbine at the Geyserville County Sanitation District



A photograph of a white wind turbine in a rural landscape. The turbine is in the foreground, with its blades blurred from motion. Behind it is a dense forest of evergreen trees on a hillside. To the right, there are utility poles and power lines. A small house is visible in the bottom right corner. The word "clean" is overlaid in large, white, lowercase letters across the center of the image.

clean

A group of about ten people, mostly men, are working in a field. They are wearing bright yellow-green safety vests over their work clothes. Some are carrying plants in pots. They appear to be engaged in a field activity, possibly planting or maintenance. The background features a dense line of trees, some with autumn-colored leaves, and a vineyard with rows of grapevines under a clear blue sky. The word "engage" is overlaid in large white letters across the center of the image.

engage

Community

THE WATER EDUCATION PROGRAM • Dedicated to helping educators teach students the value of water as an important natural resource, the Water Education team reaches thousands of students every year. Students are encouraged to use water wisely and make environmentally sustainable choices to help secure a reliable source of fresh water.

SONOMA COUNTY YOUTH ECOLOGY CORPS

The Water Agency's stream maintenance program requires aggressive pruning, limbing, and vegetation removal over many miles of flood control channels. Because this work can only be performed during the summer and early fall of each year, the Water Agency has searched for ways to make short-term expansions of the stream maintenance crews dedicated to these activities. In 2009, with federal economic stimulus funds, the Water Agency, Sonoma County Human Services Department, and Workforce Investment Board partnered to create the Sonoma County Youth Ecology Corps (SCYEC). Crews of young people spend eight weeks during the summer maintaining creeks, building trails in parks, cleaning beaches and on other projects to benefit the environment and the community. The program serves many at-risk youths, who receive a paycheck, a support system and an opportunity to learn new skills, while engaging in their community.

Left: Youth crews work as a team to complete daily tasks



public

Community

SOCIAL MEDIA • The Sonoma County Water Agency's Strategic Communications Plan has expanded to now include online media and social networks. The goal of utilizing these online services is to increase our outreach to include a wider segment of our customers. We want our customers to better understand who we are and what we do, and be able to stay up to date on Water Agency topics and events regardless of what online service they use. We also want to make it easy for our customers to share our message with their own social networks. You can view our videos on YouTube, like us on Facebook, follow us on Twitter, engage on Instagram and learn more about our social media outreach at www.sonomacountywater.org/social.

SAFE MEDICINE DISPOSAL PROGRAM • Keeping pharmaceuticals out of our waterways is the goal of the Safe Medicine Disposal Program. The Water Agency, in cooperation with the Sonoma Valley and Russian River County Sanitation Districts, City of Santa Rosa, and Russian River Watershed Association operate the year-round collection program. Find drop-off locations online at www.safemedicinedisposal.org.

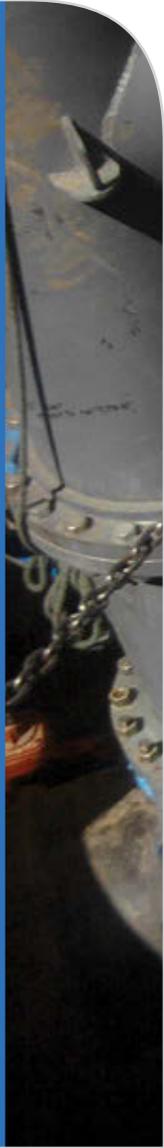
PUBLIC TOURS • The Water Agency offers seven tours for the community including Spanish tours, to view energy and sustainability projects, water supply, and sanitation infrastructure. Tours are part of the Water Agency's ongoing effort to educate the public about the services it provides, the source of our drinking water, energy and sustainability projects, and how wastewater is collected and treated. View tours dates online at www.sonomacountywater.org/tours.

Left: Water supply tours in Spanish educate the public on where their water comes from

Finance

WATER TRANSMISSION BUDGET • A majority of the Water Agency's revenue comes from the sale of water to its nine water contractors throughout Sonoma and Marin Counties. Wholesale water rates are developed collaboratively under the Restructured Agreement for Water Supply between the Water Agency and its water contractors. These rates are based on budgeted costs divided by historical water sales.

Right: Aqueduct crew members replace a mainline valve on the Santa Rosa aqueduct



budget

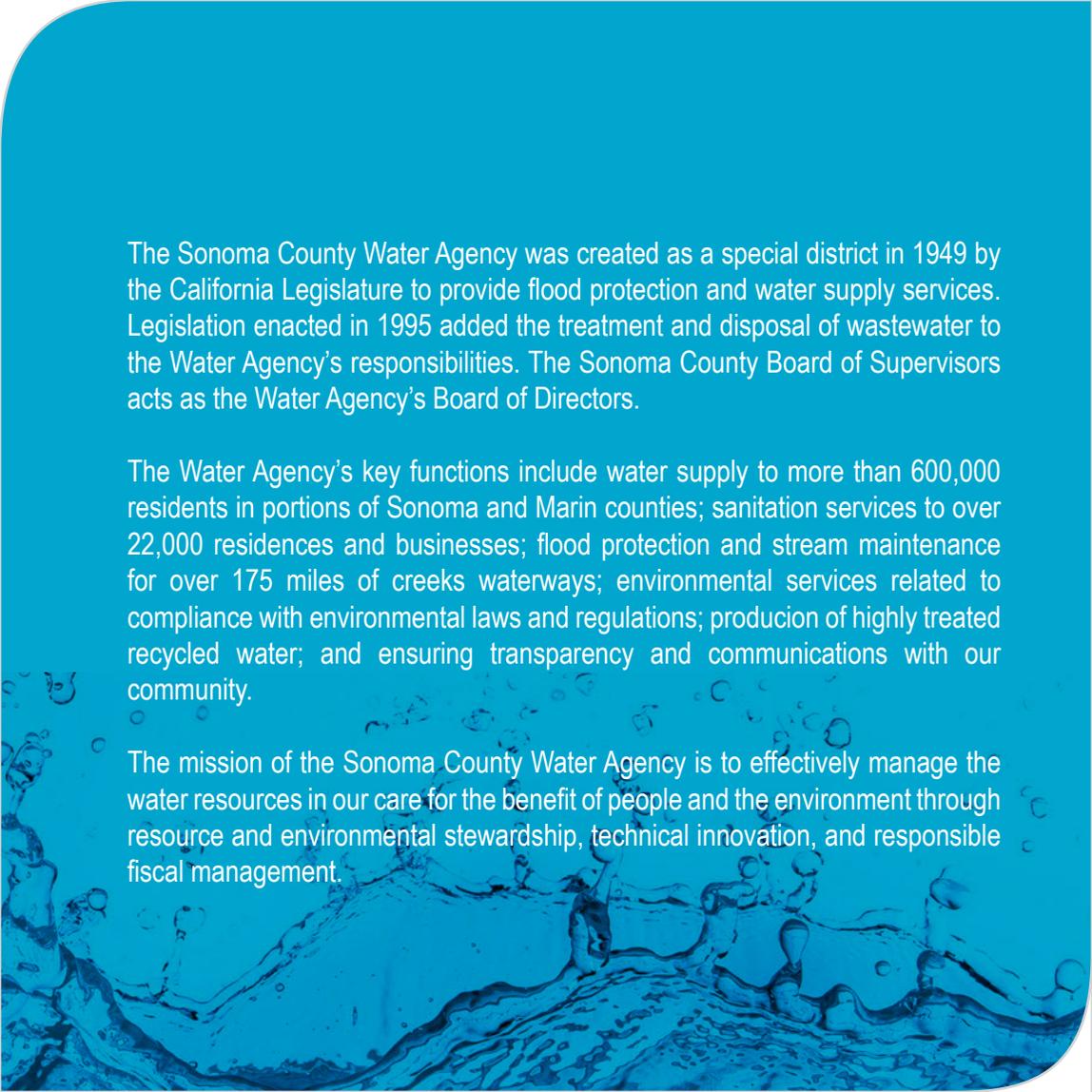








proud to
serve our
community
since 1949

The background is a solid blue color. At the bottom of the page, there is a detailed graphic of water splashing, with various droplets and ripples in shades of blue and white, creating a dynamic and fresh appearance.

The Sonoma County Water Agency was created as a special district in 1949 by the California Legislature to provide flood protection and water supply services. Legislation enacted in 1995 added the treatment and disposal of wastewater to the Water Agency's responsibilities. The Sonoma County Board of Supervisors acts as the Water Agency's Board of Directors.

The Water Agency's key functions include water supply to more than 600,000 residents in portions of Sonoma and Marin counties; sanitation services to over 22,000 residences and businesses; flood protection and stream maintenance for over 175 miles of creeks waterways; environmental services related to compliance with environmental laws and regulations; production of highly treated recycled water; and ensuring transparency and communications with our community.

The mission of the Sonoma County Water Agency is to effectively manage the water resources in our care for the benefit of people and the environment through resource and environmental stewardship, technical innovation, and responsible fiscal management.

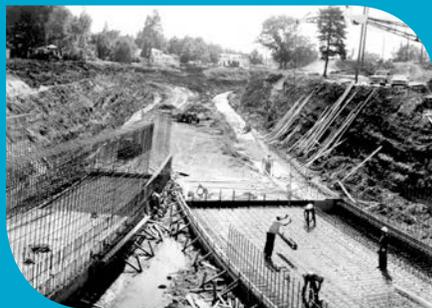


SERVING
SONOMA COUNTY
SINCE 1949



1949

The Sonoma County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, now known as the Sonoma County Water Agency, is established as an independent special district through the California Legislature.





1959

1959 TO EARLY 1960s

Nine flood control zones are created throughout the county to allow funding and implementation of flood control projects. The Water Agency ultimately takes on the maintenance of flood control channels and creeks.

Coyote Valley Dam is completed by the US Army Corps of Engineers, creating Lake Mendocino. The dam captures runoff from 105 square miles and has a total water capacity of 117,300 acre-feet.

The first two water collector wells known as Ranney-type wells are constructed along the Russian River just above the Wohler Bridge.

The 15 mile Santa Rosa Aqueduct is completed, with delivery of water to the City of Santa Rosa beginning on May 24, 1959.

1960-69



1962

The 18-mile Petaluma Aqueduct is completed providing water to the cities of Petaluma, Rohnert Park and Cotati, and the North Marin Water District.

The Forestville Aqueduct provides water to the Forestville Water District.

1965

The 16 mile Sonoma Aqueduct is completed, along with the Sonoma Booster Station, and the Annadel, Eldridge and Sonoma tanks, providing water to the City of Sonoma and the Valley of the Moon Water District.



LATE 1960s

Central Sonoma Watershed Project is constructed to reduce flooding in Santa Rosa and other communities. The project includes five flood control water diversion/detention facilities.

1969

National Environmental Policy Act and the California Porter-Cologne Act signed into law.





1970-79

1970

California Environmental Quality Act signed into law.

1973

Federal Endangered Species Act signed into law.

1974

Federal Clean Water Act and the Safe Drinking Water Act signed into law.

1976-1977

Major drought occurs in California and Russian River basin in particular. Strong water conservation measures implemented throughout the Water Agency service area.

MID 70s TO EARLY 80s

Completion of Collectors 3,4,5 and river diversion system.

1980-89



1981

Water Conservation Program is launched, including outreach to schools and the landscape industry.



1983

Warm Springs Dam is completed creating Lake Sonoma; water storage begins in 1984. Total storage is 381,000 acre-feet.



1986

State Water Resources Control Board issues Decision 1610. Releases from Lakes Sonoma and Mendocino revised so Russian River flows accommodate recreation, fish and wildlife.





1990-99

1995

County government restructure results in the Water Agency assuming responsibility for managing 11 county sanitation zones and districts and for breaching the sandbar at the mouth of the Russian River.

1998

Pacific Coastal Salmonid Conservation and Recovery Initiative begins, securing more than \$1 billion in federal funding for salmon and steelhead recovery in six states including California.

1998

Water Agency enters into a Section 7 Consultation with the National Marine Fisheries Service and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to evaluate water supply and flood protection impacts on listed salmonid species in the Russian River watershed.

LATE 1990s

Coho salmon listed as endangered and Chinook salmon and steelhead threatened under the Federal Endangered Species Act.





2000-10

2006

Water collector well 6 constructed.

2008

National Marine Fisheries Service releases the Russian River Biological Opinion – beginning a 15-year effort to help restore and protect steelhead and coho salmon.

2009

Water Agency increases public visibility through earned media campaigns as well as establishing a social media presence.



2009

Sonoma County Energy Independence Program launched.



 @sonomacountywater

 @SCWA

 @sonomacountywater

2010-14

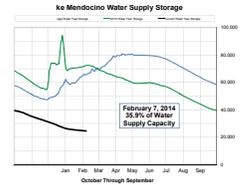
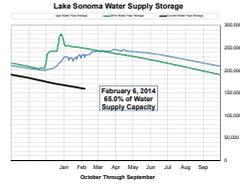
2011
Feasibility study on Sonoma Clean Power completed. Launch in 2014.

2012
Dry Creek Demonstration Project ground-breaking.

2013
Reclamation facilities expand and Napa Sonoma Salt Marsh Pipeline completed.

2013-2014
Governor declares drought emergency.

2014
Water Agency achieves Carbon-Free Water by 2015 with goal of operating a carbon-free water supply system.







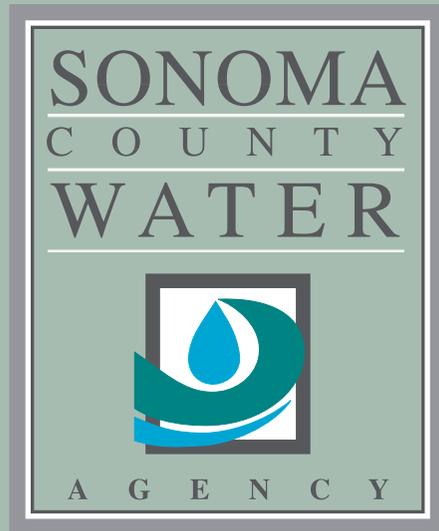
CELEBRATING



**SECURING OUR FUTURE BY
INVESTING IN OUR WATER
RESOURCES, ENVIRONMENT
AND COMMUNITY.**

2014

Year in review





Lake Mendocino February 2014

Chair

Letter from the Chair of the Board

With 2013 being the lowest rain year in recorded history, the Sonoma County Water Agency started off 2014 with Lake Mendocino, one of its two major water supply reservoirs, only 36 percent full. By reducing releases from the lake, and asking downstream water users to conserve, the Water Agency saw lake levels stabilize and then, finally, increase with a December atmospheric river. Like more than 80 percent of California, through the fall of 2014, the Water Agency's service area remained in a drought. Major progress was made on two projects to help secure the region's water supply. After years of planning and working with 11 private landowners, the Water Agency completed the first mile of the six-mile Dry Creek habitat enhancement project. In addition, work began on the Mirabel Fish Passage Improvement Project at the Water Agency's diversion facilities near Forestville. Required by the Russian River Biological Opinion, this multi-component project will allow the Water Agency to continue using its diversion facilities and will make it easier for fish to navigate the inflatable dam while providing an opportunity for school children to see Chinook, steelhead and coho migrating.

At the state and federal level, the drought reminded elected officials of water supply needs. The Water Agency's Board of Directors actively engaged with the Legislature and Congress, ensuring that local needs were met during the passage of Proposition 1, the Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014, the historic state Sustainable Groundwater Management Act and the federal Water Resources Reform and Development Act. Together, these measures will help us build upon and improve our water supply system while enhancing the ecosystem. This Water Agency's Board appreciates the support and cooperation of our stakeholders to help make these projects possible. We are honored to serve our community and look forward to continuing this public service.

David Rabbitt, Chair, Board of Directors, Sonoma County Water Agency



Board of Directors (left to right): Susan Gorin, Efrén Carrillo,
David Rabbitt, Shirlee Zane, and Mike McGuire

Letter from the General Manager

In 1949 the Sonoma County Flood Control and Water Conservation District was created as a special district by the California Legislature to provide flood protection and water supply services to a mostly agricultural, yet growing urban service area within Sonoma County. Our community successfully received federal support from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to construct flood control reservoirs, now known as Lake Mendocino and Lake Sonoma, and the District served, and continues to serve, as the local sponsor for both federal projects. That was 65 years ago and since then we have grown to become the Sonoma County Water Agency. Thanks to the leadership and vision of our Board of Directors, and skill and talent of our professional staff, our roles and responsibilities have grown considerably to include wastewater collection, treatment and reuse; development of a first-class Carbon Free Water by 2015 energy sustainability initiative; and legislative outreach efforts resulting in billions of federal and state dollars invested in salmon habitat recovery. Day in and out, our staff maintains a series of pipelines and equipment that provides the highest quality drinking water to more than 600,000 residents in portions of Sonoma and Marin counties. Our staff is dedicated to restoring and protecting habitat for endangered and threatened species of salmon and trout in the Russian River watershed. I would like to thank the hard work and commitment of all the current and former staff and Board members of the Water Agency. Their knowledge, creative thinking and willingness to serve our community has culminated in the Water Agency we have today. Thank you for your contributions, which will make a difference tomorrow and into the future. We remain dedicated to serving our community and securing our future by investing in our water resources, community and environment.

Grant Davis, General Manager, Sonoma County Water Agency



Celebrating Congress' passage of the Water Resources Development Act of 2014 which authorized the Biological Opinion. (Left to right) David Gubin, Dennis Rodoni, Efrén Carrillo, Mike Thompson, Jared Huffman, Susan Gorin, David Rabbitt, Grant Davis

Water supply

drought on

DROUGHT • A three-year drought continued to grip the state and the Water Agency's service area. Water storage levels in Lake Mendocino, and groundwater took the brunt of the drought's wrath. The Water Agency successfully saved over 15,000 acre-feet of water in Lake Mendocino, nearly half of its total water storage during the fall, by reducing in-stream flow requirements in the upper Russian River through a Temporary Urgency Change Order issued by the State Water Resources Control Board. The Water Agency supported the Sonoma-Marín Saving Water Partnership's annual water conservation campaign, "There's a drought on. Turn the water off." This effort included a special public outreach event called the drought drive-up which distributed over 5,000 drought tool kits to the community. Drought tool kits included water-efficient shower heads, hose nozzles, toilet leak detection tablets, and more. The Water Agency's contractors responded positively to mandatory statewide water use restrictions ordered by the Governor and the State Water Board. The contractors continue to meet conservation goals outlined under the State's 20x2020 water conservation regulations. The Water Agency continues to implement and develop innovative drought-busting initiatives such as atmospheric river research to improve reservoir operations.

RUSSIAN RIVER DROUGHT RELIEF PROGRAM RECEIVES IRWMP FUNDING
To help Russian River communities save over 40 million gallons of Lake Mendocino water per year, a coalition of local government agencies, water suppliers and cities from northern Sonoma and Mendocino County joined together to create the Russian River Drought Relief Program. The program offers eligible residents the opportunity to replace older, water guzzling toilets with new, water-efficient toilets. Residents will also be paid to remove their grass and replace it with drought tolerant landscapes. The program received over \$1 million from Proposition 84 drought funding through the North Coast Integrated Regional Water Management Plan. For more information, visit; www.sonomacountywater.org/drought

The official dishwasher
of 2014.



There's a Drought On. Turn the Water Off.

WaterOff.org

Sonoma-Marin Saving Water Partnership Outreach Campaign

planning

Water supply

MAINTAINING OUR INFRASTRUCTURE • The Water Agency manages and maintains infrastructure for critical operations such as supplying water and providing sanitation needs for the communities we serve. A great deal of planning and maintenance must take place to protect against natural disasters, produce greater efficiency, and to comply with regulations. Some of the 2014 infrastructure projects included:

MIRABEL SEISMIC UPGRADE • In 2014, construction began and was completed on a project to help ensure the Russian River Diversion Structure (RDS) located near Forestville can survive a 7.0 magnitude earthquake. The RDS is a critical part of the Russian River water supply system which provides naturally filtered drinking water to approximately 600,000 people in portions of Sonoma and Marin counties. The improvements required the construction of stone columns ranging from 30 feet to 80 feet deep. The columns densify the soils, reducing the risks of liquefaction and lateral spread during an earthquake.

MIRABEL FISH PASSAGE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT • A second project at RDS was also started in 2014. The Russian River Biological Opinion found that the RDS's fish screens could harm small fish, including young endangered coho salmon and threatened steelhead and Chinook salmon. In order to comply with the Biological Opinion and continue operating its system, the Water Agency is installing a new fish screen. An improved fish ladder and a viewing gallery are being installed at the same time as the fish screen. The fish ladder will improve passage conditions for adult and juvenile salmon moving up or downstream, and will allow for more native species to use the ladder for migration. The viewing gallery will allow school children and public tour groups to view fish migration. The project should be complete in Fall 2015.



Temporary Russian River coffer dam upstream of Mirabel fish ladder upgrade site

basin

Water supply

NEW GROUNDWATER LEGISLATION • In September 2014 the Governor signed new statewide groundwater legislation effective January 1, 2015. The new legislation requires medium priority basins, which in the region include the Santa Rosa Plain, Petaluma, Sonoma Valley, and Ukiah Valley, to adopt a groundwater management plan within the next five to seven years, otherwise the State may intervene.

GROUNDWATER PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION EFFORTS

Groundwater makes up a small percentage of the water supplied by the Water Agency, but is the primary source of water for people and businesses in many parts of the county not served by the Water Agency's water transmission system.

SANTA ROSA PLAIN GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

This year the Sonoma County Water Agency Board of Directors adopted the Groundwater Management Plan for the Santa Rosa Plain. One of the first actions of the plan is to better characterize groundwater conditions by increasing streamflow measurements and developing a voluntary groundwater level monitoring program. This data will be used to prioritize groundwater sustainability projects and programs, such as rural water use efficiency programs and groundwater recharge projects.

SONOMA VALLEY GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

In 2014, an agreement was completed with the California Department of Water Resources and initial planning for a program that includes the construction of monitoring wells to evaluate the feasibility of aquifer recharge. Construction activities associated with the project are scheduled for early 2015.

PETALUMA VALLEY • In the summer of 2014, the U.S. Geological Survey began a study of the Petaluma Valley groundwater basin with funding from the USGS, Water Agency and City of Petaluma. The objective of the three year study is to develop an updated assessment of the hydrogeology, geochemistry, and geology of the Petaluma Valley.



Santa Rosa Creek

native

Flood control

STREAM MAINTENANCE PROGRAM • Water Agency maintenance crews completed 21 sediment removal projects which includes sections of the following creeks and flood control facilities: Colgan Creek; Forestview Creek; Hinebaugh Creek; Copeland Creek; South Fork Copeland Creek; Starr Creek; Steele Creek; Cook Creek; Brush Creek Reservoir; Matanzas Creek Reservoir; Spring Lake; Santa Rosa Creek Diversion; McDowell Creek; Washington Creek; Adobe Creek; and Nathanson Creek.

The crews also conducted vegetation maintenance on over 40 creeks and flood control channels. This work included willow thinning and invasive species removal, with the long-term goal of promoting growth of a native riparian canopy that will provide flood protection benefits and create habitat while reducing maintenance costs over time.

Water Agency staff worked alongside crew members from the Sonoma County Youth Ecology Corps to accomplish much of this work. SCYEC crews were provided from The Center for Social and Environmental Stewardship and Conservation Corps North Bay.

In addition to the routine maintenance work, the Water Agency is currently working on the Lower Adobe Creek Habitat Enhancement and Restoration Project. Partial funding for this two-year project is provided through a Caltrans grant program.

The Water Agency is also partnering with Conservation Corp North Bay and United Anglers of Casa Grande High School in Petaluma. The project consists of removal of invasive plants and subsequent restoration and enhancement of approximately ½ mile of Adobe Creek between Lakeville Highway to the Shollenberger Preserve in Petaluma. This work will provide habitat for threatened Steelhead while improving the canopy development for 6.6 acres of riparian corridor. Work to date on this project includes invasive plant removal, survey and preliminary design.



Stream Maintenance crews plant willows sprigs along Dry Creek

legislation

Government Affairs Program

FEDERAL AFFAIRS • President Obama signed into law the Water Resources Reform and Development Act which included language authorizing the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to help complete environmental enhancement work in Dry Creek as a part of the Russian River Biological Opinion. The law also included direction for the Corps to assist with invasive mussel prevention efforts.

STATE AFFAIRS • The Northern and Coastal Water Bond Coalition, led by the Water Agency, successfully ensured that the needs of rural and coastal communities were included in Proposition 1, the 2014 water bond, with funding for regional programs and water conservation, recycled water, groundwater and stormwater projects. In addition, the Water Agency actively engaged in efforts to develop the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act. This historic legislation provides local agencies the power to manage groundwater to help prevent depletion of this critical resource.



Aerial view of Dry Creek restoration work

Community

public

WATER EDUCATION • During the 2013-2014 school year, over 8,000 students received direct instruction through classroom and field visits. Curriculum materials were provided to 823 classrooms, reaching almost 24,000 students. The Kids Scoop News reached another 14,000 students three different times over the course of the school year. Two workshops were held for teachers, a Project WET (Water Education for Teachers) and an Aquatic WILD / Steelhead in the Classroom workshop. The Russian River Watershed Association's High School Video Contest received 26 entries and the winning entry was featured in four local movie theaters throughout the summer. Also piloted was a new Write with Might Book Contest with 14 middle school classes.

In November a groundbreaking ceremony was held in honor of the Water Agency's new Westside Water Education Facility. Located on the west side of the Wohler Bridge adjacent to Maxwell Grove, this new building will house the Water Agency's award winning Water Education Program, will be used as a location to hold teacher workshops and as a starting location for community tours of the Water Agency's Water Transmission System.

SONOMA COUNTY YOUTH ECOLOGY CORPS • In 2014 SCYEC completed its sixth summer with 200 young people participating. The four crews that worked for the Water Agency maintained 22 miles of streams. Since its inception, nearly 1,300 young people have been employed through the program, helping maintain nearly 75 miles of creeks.

PUBLIC TOURS • The Water Agency offered nine tours for the community, to view energy and sustainability projects, water supply, and sanitation infrastructure. Many of these tours were offered in English and Spanish. Over 150 people attended tours as a part of the Water Agency's ongoing effort to educate the public about the services it provides. You can sign up for a tour online at www.sonomacountywater.org/tours.

FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM: #SOCOWATER • We are now posting pictures of hot issues and projects as they happen, such as photos of the drought, pipeline projects, migrating fish, and more.



Water Education Westside Facility groundbreaking ceremony

Grants Program

funds

Over the past five years, the Water Agency has been awarded more than \$34 million in grant funds for both capital projects and research studies. The charts below and on back show grants awarded in 2014. The Water Agency continues to seek federal and state grants and other sources of funding to help offset costs and reduce rate increases to our customers.

FEDERAL GRANTS RECEIVED IN 2014

WATER AGENCY PROJECT	GRANTOR	GRANT PROGRAM	GRANT FUNDS	MATCH FUNDS
Water Transmission Isolation Valves Replacement Project	Federal Emergency Management Agency	Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant Program	\$1,930,181	\$643,394
Local Hazard Mitigation Plan for Sonoma Valley County Sanitation District	Federal Emergency Management Agency	Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant Program	75,000	25,000
Russian River Habitat Blueprint Program	U.S. Department of Commerce	NOAA Habitat Focus Area	690,000	274,000
Ford Focus Electric Vehicles	U.S. Department of Transportation	Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program	106,966	123,500
		Total	\$2,802,147	\$1,065,894

STATE GRANTS RECEIVED IN 2014

WATER AGENCY PROJECT	GRANTOR	GRANT PROGRAM	GRANT FUNDS	MATCH FUNDS
City Watersheds of Sonoma Valley, Phase 1	California Department of Water Resources	Prop 1E Stormwater Flood Management IRWMP	1,891,822	2,558,178
Lower Adobe Creek Habitat Restoration Program	California Department of Transportation	CA Env. Enhancement & Mitigation Grant Program	145,671	166,529
Sonoma Valley CSD 5th St. East/ McGill Rd Recycled Water Project	California Department of Water Resources	Prop 84 Round 2 Implementation – Bay Area IRWMP	1,020,000	1,540,000
Bay Area Regional Water Conservation & Education Program	California Department of Water Resources	Prop 84 Round 2 Implementation – Bay Area IRWMP	202,500	191,863
Russian River Drought Relief Program	California Department of Water Resources	Prop 84 Emergency Drought Round – North Coast IRWMP	635,000	1,685,000
Bay Area Drought Relief and Water Conservation Project	California Department of Water Resources	Prop 84 Emergency Drought Round – Bay Area IRWMP	535,000	480,500
* Integrated Regional Water Management Plan		Total	\$4,429,993	\$6,622,070

LOCAL GRANTS RECEIVED IN 2014

Steelhead in the Classroom Equipment for Educators	Sonoma County Agricultural Commissioner's Office	Sonoma County Fish and Wildlife Commission Grant Program	5,500	8,820
		Total	5,500	8,820
		Grand Total	\$7,237,640	\$7,696,784

wastewater

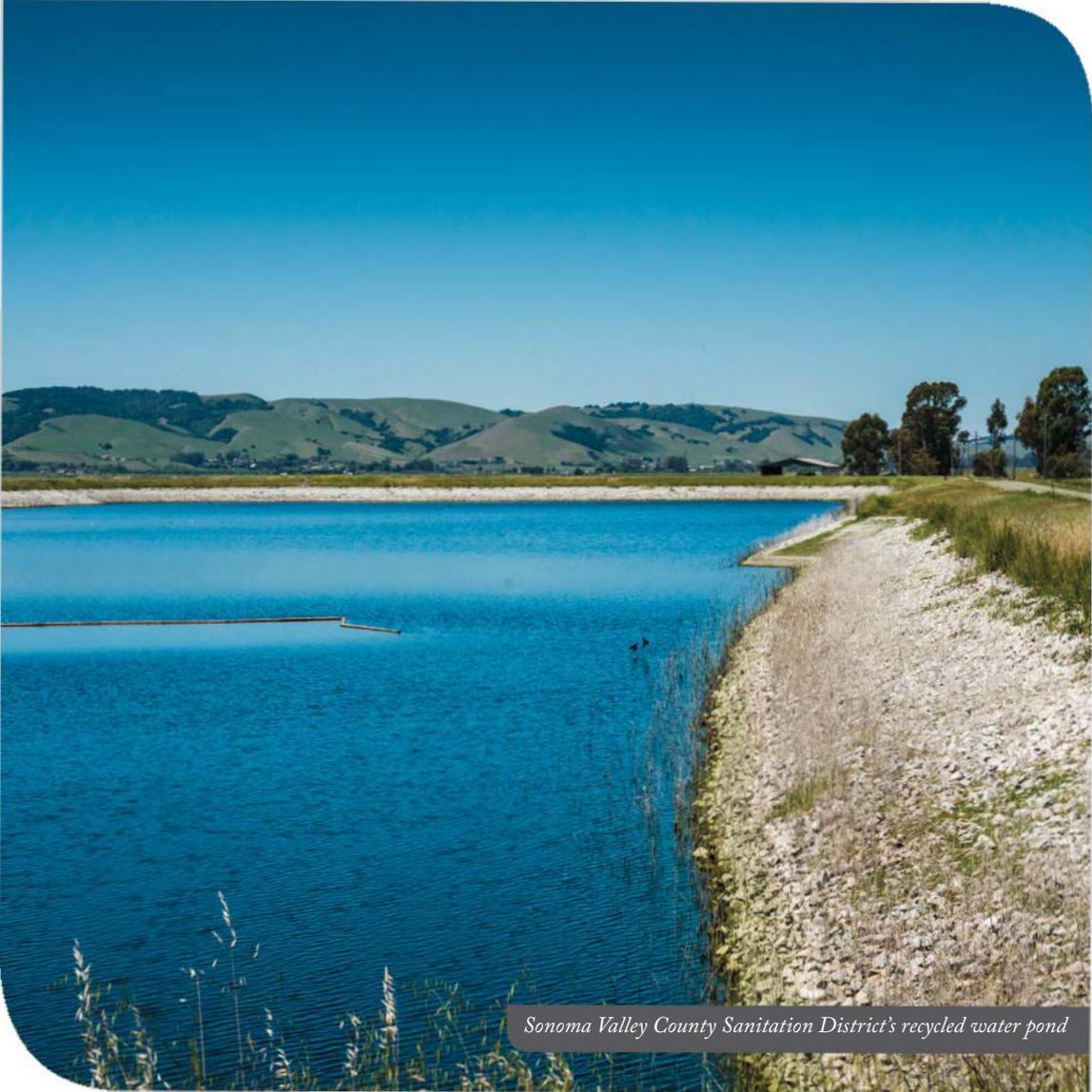
Sanitation

SANITATION DISTRICTS/ZONES APPROVE RATE INCREASES

The Water Agency manages wastewater treatment systems throughout Sonoma County, including their operating budgets. The Boards for these systems issued Proposition 218 notices for fiscal year 2014-15 rate increases. The rate increases helped pay for ongoing sanitation system upgrades. Sanitation rate increases as follows:

Geyserville Sanitation Zone	3.0%
Penngrove Sanitation Zone	1.0%
Sea Ranch Sanitation Zone	3.3%
Airport-Larkfield-Wikiup Sanitation Zone	6.0%
Occidental County Sanitation District	6.5%
Russian River County Sanitation District	3.5%
Sonoma Valley County Sanitation District	5.0%
South Park County Sanitation District	2.5%

Learn more about the sanitation services provided by the Water Agency and view the biannual newsletters for each district online at www.sonomacountywater.org/sanitation



Sonoma Valley County Sanitation District's recycled water pond

rates

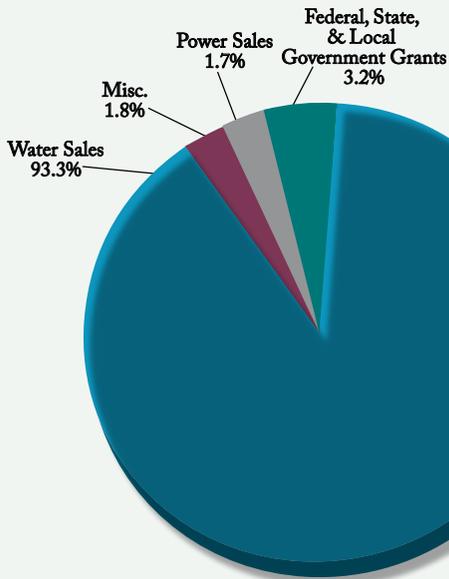
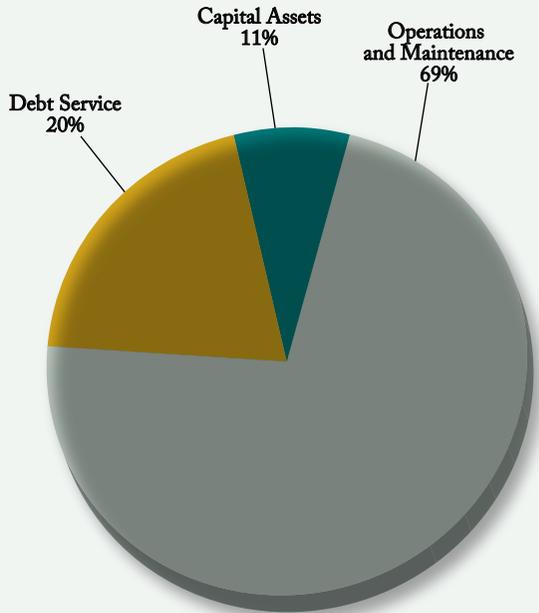
Water transmission budget

WATER TRANSMISSION BUDGET APPROVED

Representatives of the Water Agency's wholesale water customers, known as the Water Advisory Committee, unanimously recommended approval of the Water Agency's fiscal year 2014-15 water transmission budget and rates. The proposed budget included a wholesale water rate increase of 3.60 percent for Santa Rosa and Petaluma aqueduct customers and 3.19 percent for Sonoma aqueduct customers. The rates will result in a 1 to 2 percent increase for households and businesses, or an average additional cost to households of 80 cents per day or \$.002 per gallon. The Water Agency reduced water delivery projections in FY 14/15 due to the unprecedented drought and used \$6.6 million in reserves to minimize the impact this would have on rates.

Part of the wholesale rate increase was due to increased costs to implement projects required by the Russian River Biological Opinion and to implement other capital improvement projects. More than half of the rate increase results from increased charges to build up aqueduct capital project reserves and to fund the tier two local supply program, both of which were requested by the contractors. Total rate increases would have been 1.05% for Santa Rosa and Petaluma aqueduct customers and 0.85% for Sonoma aqueduct customers if these voluntary charges were not included.

WATER TRANSMISSION EXPENDITURES →



← WATER TRANSMISSION REVENUE