



2012 Annual Report: A Year of Partnerships



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

WELCOME

This past year can be summarized with one word: partnerships. The symbiotic relationship between the Water Agency and its partners can be seen through the projects outlined in this year's Annual Report. Our partners span from cities, sister county departments, state and federal government agencies to non-profit community based organizations. It is with these partners that we have been able to successfully build recycled water pipelines, construct a state-of-the-art ultraviolet disinfection system at a wastewater treatment plant and enhance critical habitat for endangered and threatened salmonids – just to name a few. The Water Agency's Board of Directors thanks its partners and community for their support and hard work in helping secure our water resources and environment for future generations. We look forward to another successful year ahead and encourage your continued involvement.



Shirlee Zane, Chair, Board of Directors, Sonoma County Water Agency



Board of Directors (left to right): David Rabbitt, Valerie Brown, Shirlee Zane, Efren Carillo and Mike McGuire



The Water Agency makes it a top priority to form partnerships in order to leverage funding and provide support to our colleague organizations. Whether they are local resource conservation districts, regional organizations, state or federal agencies, non-profit organizations or sister city or county governments, it is our belief that no one entity can successfully protect and preserve our natural resources without the support, guidance and professional knowledge of partners. I am so pleased with the partnerships the Water Agency has joined and helped to form. I am more convinced than ever that this feature distinguishes us and our region, and by rededicating ourselves to work in partnership, we can chart a more successful future.

Day in and day out the Water Agency Board of Directors and staff lead by example. Through its leadership on regional coalitions, such as the newly formed Russian River Watershed Independent Science Review Panel; the North Bay Water Reuse Authority; the North Coast consortium working to prevent the infestation of invasive mussels; the new Sonoma Clean

Power program and so much more, as you will read in this report, they provide the support and direction that allows us to be successful.

As you will also read, our highly skilled team of employees work daily with our water contractors to ensure affordable, high quality drinking water is seamlessly pumped, treated and delivered to 600,000 residents in portions of Sonoma and Marin counties. Wastewater is collected, treated and reused with the cooperation of the agricultural community and critical habitat enhancement projects are only feasible with the partnerships developed with private landowners.

Again we are honored and thankful to serve our community. Your feedback and input on our work is always welcomed by e-mailing us at publicaffairs@scwa.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



Grant Davis, General Manager, Sonoma County Water Agency

TIMELINE OF MILESTONES

Between 1935 and 1945
A series of winter floods caused \$6.1 million in damage in Sonoma County, threatening lives and property. ▶



1937
Sonoma County Board of Supervisors request the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers study the Russian River Basin to develop a comprehensive flood control forecast ▲



1949
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers presents flood control plan to Congress. Plan recommends construction of Coyote Valley Dam (Lake Mendocino) as well as other flood control and water conservation reservoirs in the Russian River watershed (Lake Sonoma). ◀

ABOUT THE SONOMA COUNTY WATER AGENCY

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

WHOLESALE WATER SUPPLY

Main Water Sources | Russian River, Lake Sonoma, and Lake Mendocino

Population Served | Approximately 600,000 residents in portions of Sonoma and Marin counties. Water contractors include the cities of Santa Rosa, Petaluma, Sonoma, Cotati, and Rohnert Park; the Town of Windsor; and the North Marin, Valley of the Moon, and Marin Municipal water districts



2012 Water Agency employee photo



1949

To implement the study, a local government sponsor was required to create an entity with the legal authority to enter into agreements with federal, state and local governments. The Sonoma County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (now known as the Sonoma County Water Agency) was established as an independent special district through the California Legislature with a governing board of directors made up of the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors ▶



1956

First water supply agreement signed with the cities of Santa Rosa, Sonoma, Petaluma, Rohnert Park and Cotati and the Valley of the Moon, Forestville and North Marin water districts

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

SANITATION SERVICES

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

Facilities | Sanitation zones are Airport/Larkfield/Wikiup, Geyserville, Penngrove, and Sea Ranch; county sanitation districts are Occidental, Russian River, Sonoma Valley, and South Park

Population Served | Approximately 22,000 residences and businesses

ENDANGERED SPECIES

Fisheries | The Russian River is home to three fish that are threatened or endangered: coho salmon (endangered), Chinook salmon (threatened), and steelhead trout (threatened).



Coho salmon



Chinook salmon

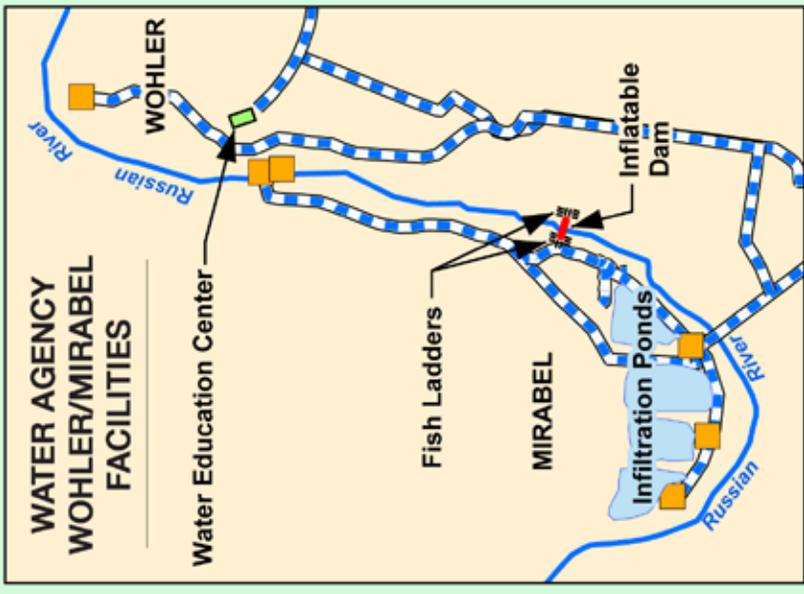
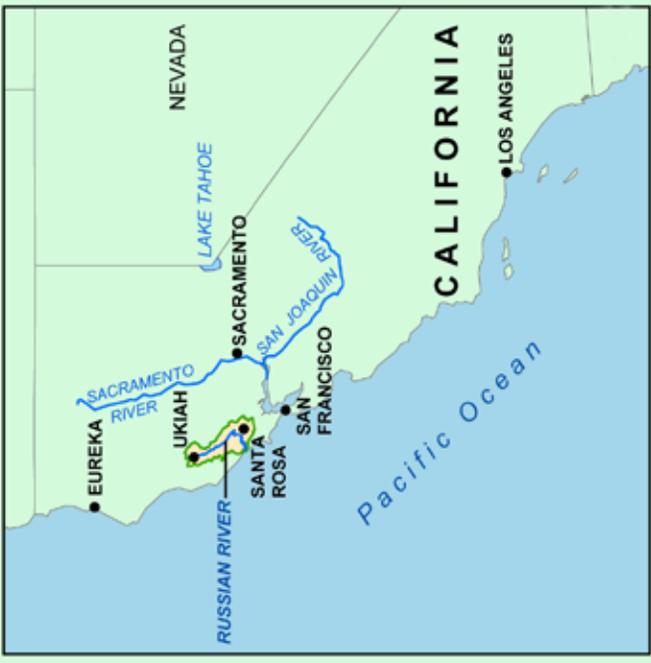


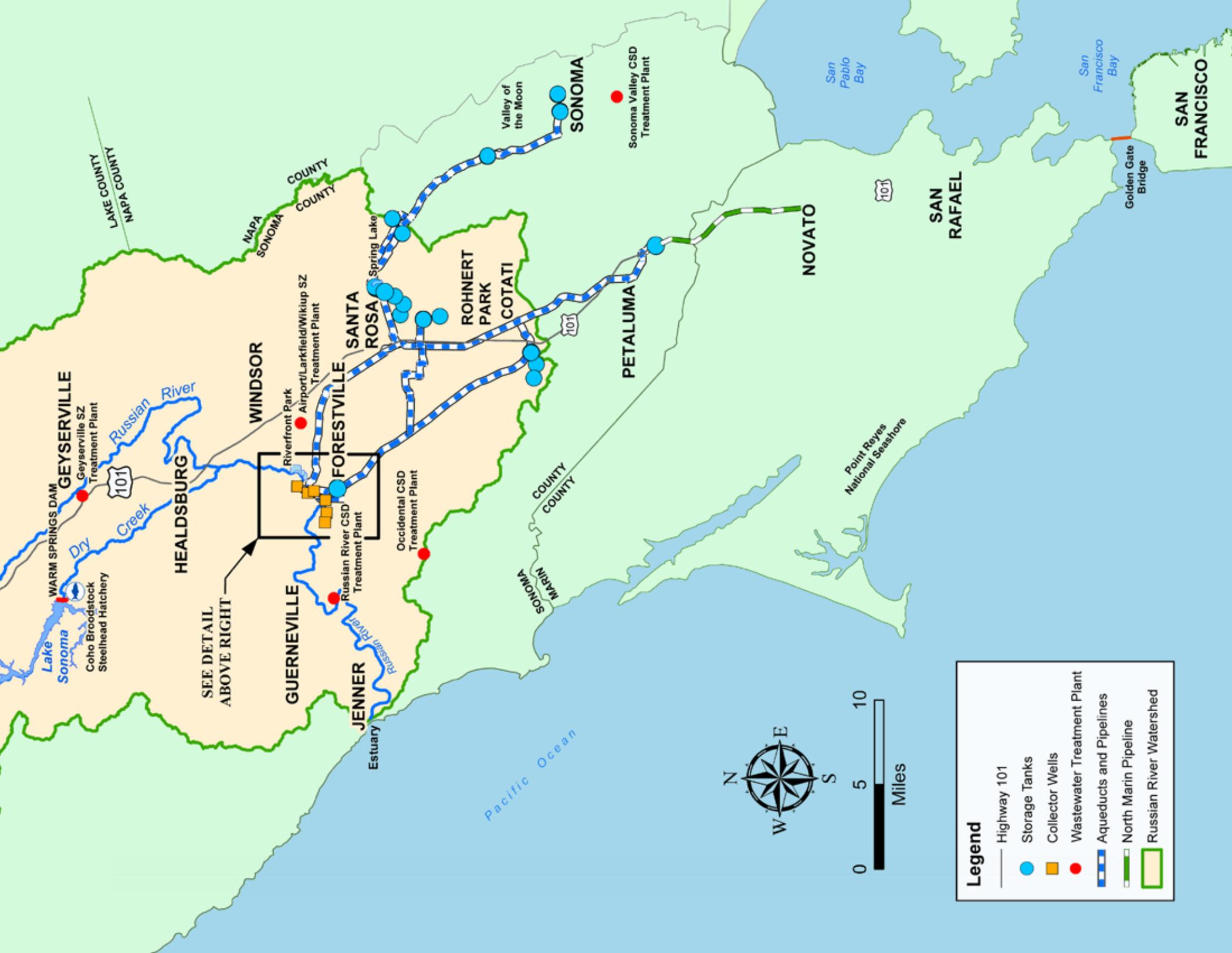
Steelhead Trout



Crews remove sediment from Santa Rosa Creek

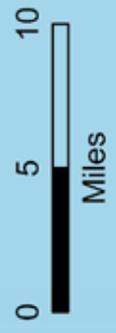
RUSSIAN RIVER WATER TRANSMISSION SYSTEM





Legend

- Highway 101
- Storage Tanks
- Collector Wells
- Wastewater Treatment Plant
- ▬ Aqueducts and Pipelines
- ▬ North Marin Pipeline
- ▭ Russian River Watershed



SEE DETAIL
ABOVE RIGHT

WINDSOR

GUERNEVILLE

FORESTVILLE

JENNER

SANTA ROSA

ROHNERT PARK

MARIN COUNTY

SONOMA COUNTY

PETALUMA

NOVATO

SAN RAFAEL

SONOMA

SAN FRANCISCO

GEYSERVILLE

HEALDSBURG

WARM SPRINGS DAM

Lake Sonoma

LAKE COUNTY

SONOMA COUNTY

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

Pacific Ocean

San Pablo Bay

San Francisco Bay

Golden Gate Bridge

Point Reyes National Seashore

Valley of the Moon

Russian River
Dry Creek

Russian River CSD Treatment Plant

Occidental CSD Treatment Plant

Airport/Larkfield/Wikiup SZ Treatment Plant

Sonoma Valley CSD Treatment Plant

Geyserville SZ Treatment Plant

Coho Broodstock Steelhead Hatchery

Riverfront Park

Spring Lake

101

101

1958

Board of Directors propose creation of nine flood control zones to allow assessment of flood control projects



1959

Coyote Valley Dam completed with storage capacity in Lake Mendocino of 118,000 acre-feet

1959

The first two water collector wells were built along the Russian River near the Wohler Bridge



WATER RESOURCES

MARCH MIRACLE

The beginning of the year brought scant rainfall and plummeting water storage levels in both of the Water Agency’s water supply reservoirs, Lake Sonoma and Lake Mendocino. However, thanks to the “March Miracle” rainfall, Russian River water supply conditions changed from “critical” to “normal” under the Water Agency’s water rights permits and State Water Resources Control Board Decision 1610. Under Decision 1610, issued in 1986, a water year is declared normal, dry or critical on the first of each month between January and June based on cumulative inflow into Lake Pillsbury, located in Lake County on the Eel River. Water supply levels remained above or at average for the remainder of the year. The Water Agency and its water contractors continued to urge communities to use water efficiently despite the March Miracle.



Water levels at Lake Sonoma were drier than normal prior to the March rainfall

INTEGRATED REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT

The California Department of Water Resources released guidelines and proposal solicitation packages for Round 2 integrated regional water management and stormwater flood management grants. The North Coast and Bay Area regions are eligible to receive up to \$5.4 million and \$20.1 million, respectively, for integrated regional water management grants. Individual applicants can apply for up to \$300 million for each stormwater flood management project, with a total of \$92 million available statewide. The Water Agency submitted grant proposals for recycled water, water efficiency and other projects. Results of the grant funding will be made available in 2013.

FEDERAL AND STATE ADVOCACY

The Water Agency proactively works with elected officials to leverage local projects with state and federal funding to help reduce costs. This year, thanks to U.S. Senators Barbara Boxer and Dianne Feinstein and U.S. Representatives Mike Thompson and Lynn Woolsey, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers received approximately \$3.2 million of additional federal funds to help complete projects required by the Russian River Biological Opinion. The added dollars funded habitat restoration in Dry Creek and improvements to the Russian River coho salmon captive broodstock facility. The funding comes to this region from dollars appropriated by Congress over and above the amount included in the administration budget request for fiscal year 2012.

At the state level, the Water Agency supported Assembly Bill 2443, authored by Assemblymember Das Williams (Santa Barbara), which was signed into law by Governor Jerry Brown. This bill establishes a statewide funding program that will assist local governments and reservoir operators in funding the development and implementation of invasive quagga/zebra mussel prevention programs.

1959

The Santa Rosa aqueduct was built, with delivery of water to the City of Santa Rosa commencing on May 24, 1959. ▶



1962

The Petaluma aqueduct was built, 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

WATER SUPPLY STRATEGIES UPDATE

In 2012, the Water Agency’s Board of Directors received an update of the Water Supply Strategies Action Plan. The Action Plan was developed to increase water supply system reliability, resiliency and efficiency in the face of limited resources, regulatory constraints and climate change uncertainties. The Water Agency updates this Action Plan annually.

The 2012 Action Plan lists activities that have been completed, identifies new activities that support the strategies, and reviews activities that are continuing or have been reprioritized. Highlighted projects include:

- Analysis of impacts of inflatable dam on riverbank filtration. An inflatable dam at Mirabel creates a pool of water that significantly increases the productivity of collector wells. The dam may also temporarily increase sediment in the pool, potentially affecting the riverbank filtration process. If the analysis demonstrates a need, a plan will be developed to increase reliability of these facilities.
- Emergency Response Plan. An up-to-date emergency response plan is critical to the Water Agency’s ability to provide water following an earthquake, fire or other emergency.
- Sonoma County Efficiency Financing (SCEF). This program bundles large energy efficiency projects for local governments and non-profits and provides cost effective financing, ultimately reducing greenhouse gas emissions and energy costs.

STREAM MAINTENANCE PROGRAM

Protecting our streams’ water quality and habitat is an important function of our flood control channels. This year, the Water Agency worked within 50 streams to improve flood control and enhance wildlife habitat, including two localized sediment removal projects, eight large-scale sediment removal projects, 21 Sediment Basin/Instream Basin/Reservoir Inlet clearings, and one bank stabilization and repair project. In total, the sediment projects included removing approximately 18,000 cubic-yards of soil from Gossage Creek, 5,000 cubic-yards from Santa Rosa Creek, 3,000 cubic-yards from Lichau Creek, and 4,000 cubic-yards from the Laguna de Santa Rosa.



Stream maintenance program at work at Adobe Creek

◀ Before

After ▶



1965

The Sonoma aqueduct is completed, providing water to the City of Sonoma and the Valley of the Moon Water District

Late 1960s

Central Sonoma Watershed Project constructed to reduce flooding to Santa Rosa and other communities. Five water diversion structures were constructed, including Spring Lake, a popular Santa Rosa recreational fishing, boating and hiking resource



1969

National Environmental Policy Act, California Porter-Cologne Act signed into law

SONOMA-MARIN SAVING WATER PARTNERSHIP

The Sonoma-Marín Saving Water Partnership continued implementing its regional multi-media public education and outreach program, “Save Our Water.” Local water-saving residents were featured in radio, print and website public service announcements highlighting available water efficiency rebate programs. The Partnership coordinates with the Association of California Water Agencies and the California Department of Water Resources.

The Water Agency and Partnership held its second annual Eco Friendly Garden Tour, which was a huge success with 10 gardens featured throughout Sonoma County and more than 700 visitors. The tour featured local residential gardens that implement water efficient practices, such as the use of drought tolerant plants and low water use irrigation systems.

The 350 Home and Garden Challenge resulted in 2,304 actions to “Grow Food, Save Water, Conserve Energy and Build Community.” There were 626 water actions that included the removal of over 95,000 square feet of thirsty lawn in one weekend during May.



350 Home and Garden Challenge participants



The Slater home featured in the Eco Friendly Garden Tour



Susan Bowdish of Rohnert Park participated in the city’s clothes washer rebate program

UPGRADING WASTEWATER DISINFECTION

The Russian River County Sanitation District completed construction of an ultraviolet (UV) disinfection system; coagulation and flocculation facilities; and other improvements to the District’s treatment plant. The project allows the District to reduce the use of chlorine for disinfection and will reduce the risk of future permit violations for coliform bacteria. The total project cost was \$3.9 million. The project received Clean Water State Revolving Fund financing for a \$1.94 million loan, plus an additional \$1.94 million in funding that will not have to be repaid.



(Right) Russian River ultraviolet disinfection system

1970
California Environmental
Quality Act signed into law



1973
Federal Endangered Species
Act signed into law



1974
Federal Clean Water Act, Safe Drinking
Water Act signed into law



Santa Rosa pipe replacement project

SECURING OUR INFRASTRUCTURE

This year, the Water Agency proactively replaced aging isolation valves. Isolation valves serve as a critical function to shutting down portions of a pipeline to control water flow for maintenance activities or when responding to a disaster. This maintenance was performed under the Water Agency's Local Hazard Mitigation Plan and included the cooperation of water contractors, such as the City of Santa Rosa.

AGING INFRASTRUCTURE TAKES TOLL ON WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM

Aging water infrastructure is a national epidemic and it is no different for the Water Agency's water supply and sanitation systems. A majority of the Water Agency's water supply system, including more than 90 miles of underground pipeline, is over 50 years old and fast approaching its engineered life. For the first time since the Santa Rosa aqueduct was constructed in 1959, Water Agency staff responded to a potable water leak caused by an aging, failed flange connected to a turnout pipe from the aqueduct. The leak was stopped within 48 hours and the flange was replaced.

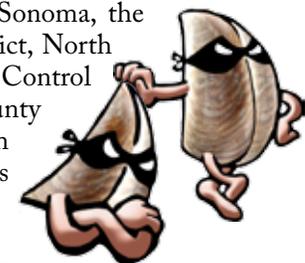


Quagga mussels infest a boat's propeller at Lake Mead

DON'T MOVE A MUSSEL!

The Water Agency, in cooperation with the Eel Russian River Commission and the counties of Humboldt and Mendocino, developed the North Coast Consortium to prevent the spread of invasive quagga and zebra mussels. North Coast waterways are currently mussel free.

The Consortium includes the counties of Humboldt, Mendocino and Sonoma, the Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District, Marin Municipal Water District, North Marin Water District, Sonoma County Water Agency, Russian River Flood Control and Water Conservation Improvement District and the Redwood Valley County Water District. The Consortium developed and approved a regional prevention plan that includes mandatory boat inspection procedures and public awareness best management practices. The Consortium launched a new website www.dontmoveamussel.com and brought Popeye, the mussel-sniffing dog, to perform mussel inspections at Lake Sonoma and Lake Mendocino.



1974

Water Agency hires first environmental specialist to prepare environmental documentation, studies and reports required by law • • ►



1974

The Water Advisory Committee created. Agreement for Water Supply expanded to provide water supplies to water contractors through the year 2000. Expansion included the intertie pipeline from the Russian River to Cotati, additional diversion facilities at the Russian River, an inflatable dam at the diversion site, booster pumps, storage tanks, a hydroelectric plant at Warm Springs Dam and computerized telemetry systems.

LOCAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN UPDATE

Securing our future by investing in our water resources is a critical part of the Water Agency's mission. Disasters are an unknown factor that the Water Agency plans for under its Local Hazard Mitigation Plan. This year, the Water Agency underwent an extensive public review and input process to update its current plan as required under the Federal Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000. The plan identifies with risks posed by natural and manmade disasters and ways to minimize damage from those disasters. Updating the plan ensures the Water Agency's water supply system is adequately prepared for a disaster and is necessary in order to qualify for federal disaster mitigation grant funding.

The Water Agency has received \$1.37 million in FEMA grant funding to help fund pre-disaster mitigation projects including upgrading the Santa Rosa Aqueduct located on the Rodgers Creek fault.

More information about the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan is available at www.sonomacountywater.org/secureourwater.



Portion of aqueduct pipe replacement



New pieces of pipeline designed to deform in the event of a fault rupture

RUSSIAN RIVER WATERSHED INDEPENDENT SCIENCE REVIEW PANEL

The Water Agency's Board of Directors authorized a cooperative agreement with the Mendocino County Russian River Flood Control and Water Conservation District, Russian River Water Conservation Council and the California Land Stewardship Institute to establish an Independent Science Review Panel. The goal of the Panel is to further understand and develop a conceptual model of the Russian River watershed's hydrologic and geohydrologic system. With the information developed by the Panel, local organizations will be able to better coordinate and prioritize water monitoring activities and environmental studies, better leverage limited resources, and increase the region's chances of obtaining state and federal funding for water monitoring and research activities. Independent science review panels are frequently established to help address complex natural resource management issues, and are used in other fields as well.

1975

Marin Municipal Water District signs Water Supply Agreement



1976-79

Severe drought grips the State and local region



1981

The Water Agency launches its Water Conservation Program, including outreach to schools and the landscape industry

GROUNDWATER PLANNING EFFORTS MAKE HEADWAY

Sonoma Valley: Groundwater resources have long played a significant role in the development, growth and sustainability of the Sonoma Valley, with more than half the water demand in a given year met by local groundwater resources. With increasing local demands, assuring sustainable groundwater supplies in the Sonoma Valley may be difficult unless appropriate actions are taken in the near future. In response, a collaborative group of 20 stakeholders, representing varied groundwater interests, has developed a groundwater management plan for the Sonoma Valley. The group, called the Basin Advisory Panel, has representatives from local agriculture, dairies, government, local water purveyors, business, and environmental interests and started meeting in August 2006.

This year, the Basin Advisory Panel accomplished the following:

- Drilled and monitored two 500-foot multi-depth wells with a \$250,000 grant from California Department of Water Resources (DWR)
- Local trained volunteers coordinated the semi-annual measurement of water levels from approximately 140 wells throughout Sonoma Valley
- Developed a monitoring plan and began submittal of groundwater-level data for the California Statewide Groundwater Elevation Monitoring Program
- Providing input on two groundwater recharge studies:
 - o Stormwater Management/Groundwater Recharge Scoping Study and Groundwater Banking Program Feasibility Study
- Presented Water Conservation Awards and provided input on a Salt/Nutrient Management Plan for Sonoma Valley



Drilling of groundwater monitoring wells in Sonoma Valley

Santa Rosa Plain: The Santa Rosa Plain, home to approximately half of the population of Sonoma County, faces growth in population and demand for water. The challenge of increasing demand and other uncertainties necessitates thoughtful management of important groundwater resources. To address these challenges, the Water Agency has convened a Basin Advisory Panel to develop a plan for managing these groundwater resources through a collaborative process. This year, the Basin Advisory Panel has accomplished the following:

- Development of a charter and draft basin management objectives
- Selected the Water Agency as the lead agency and developed a governance proposal for implementation of the Plan
- Began work on a Groundwater Monitoring Program and Water Resource section of the Groundwater Management Plan
- Formed a Technical Advisory Committee
- Conducted constituent briefings on the development of the Plan

1983

Warm Springs Dam is completed with storage capacity in Lake Sonoma of 212,000 acre-feet



1985

First Urban Water Management Plan developed

1986

State Water Resources Control Board issues Decision 1610. Releases from Lake Sonoma and Lake Mendocino revised to accommodate recreation, fish and wildlife, and other beneficial uses of the Russian River

ENVIRONMENT

RUSSIAN RIVER BIOLOGICAL OPINION

The Water Agency is continually planning and implementing provisions required by the Russian River Biological Opinion. This year:

- Construction began on the Dry Creek Demonstration Project. A side channel that will provide refuge for young coho salmon and steelhead trout during the winter was completed on property owned by Quivira Winery and Vineyards.
- Fish migration in Grape Creek was made much easier by the reconstruction of a culvert under a bridge on West Dry Creek Road.
- Work proceeded on the environmental impact report of the Fish Flow Project, which would change summertime flows in the Russian River and Dry Creek.
- Design of the Mirabel Screen and Fish Ladder Replacement Project is nearly completed. A proposal to offset construction costs has been submitted to the California Department of Fish and Game Fishery Restoration Grant Program.

To learn more about the Russian River Biological Opinion visit: www.sonomacountywater.org/rrifr



1993
Water Education
Program launched



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 to prevent flooding

1995
Water Agency launches Fisheries Enhancement Program as part of Natural Resources Section :



RUSSIAN RIVER ENDANGERED SPECIES

The Russian River is home to three fish on the endangered species list: coho salmon, Chinook salmon, and steelhead trout. The Water Agency provides environmental services that improve the native fish resources and habitats of the Russian River watershed through a variety of projects. The Water Agency uses an underwater video-recording system to count Chinook salmon passing through two fish ladders.

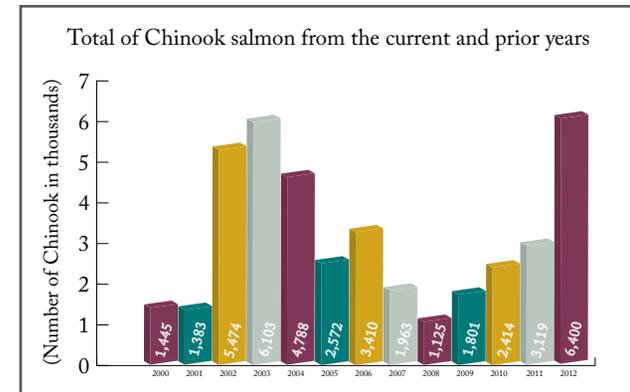
At the time of publication, more than 6,400 Chinook salmon were counted. For a final count, please go to www.sonomacountywater.org/chinook. Below - in numerical order - is a total of Chinook salmon from the current and prior years:



A Chinook swims by an underwater camera at the Mirabel site



Chinook spotted on research dive in the Russian



NEW COHO BROODSTOCK FACILITY UNVEILED

A grand opening was held for a new 25,000 square-foot coho broodstock facility at Warm Springs Dam. The building is one of several improvements made at Lake Sonoma using more than \$10 million in federal economic stimulus funds. The Russian River Coho Salmon Captive Broodstock Program has increased its production of coho salmon from 6,100 fish in 2004 to more than 172,000 in 2011. Biologists noted a large increase in the number of adult, broodstock coho salmon returning from the Pacific in 2011, an indication that the program is contributing to bringing back this historic salmon in the Russian River watershed. The new building houses tanks and equipment used to raise native coho salmon from a genetic broodstock of native fish and will improve quality control in the hatchery and improve rearing conditions for the broodstock.



1996
Began to evaluate the potential for using recycled water in :
...▶



1998
Pacific Coastal Salmonid Conservation and Recovery Initiative begun. To date, more than \$1 billion in federal funding has been secured to provide funding for salmon and steelhead recovery in California, Alaska, Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Nevada.

1998
Water Agency Endangered Species Act Compliance Section created ...▶



CARBON-FREE WATER BY 2015

The Water Agency made strides toward 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 consistently lowered the Water Agency's energy use each year since 2008
- The water transmission system operational efficiency has been improved by 18 percent since 2005
- Total greenhouse gas emissions from electricity use have dropped 97 percent from 2006
- In 2011, more than 90 percent of electricity came from renewable sources (hydroelectric, landfill gas, solar PV)
- The Water Agency was recognized as a Climate Registered Platinum member by the nation's leading verifier of carbon emission inventories, the highest achievement level recognized by the Climate Action Registry. The Water Agency is one of three entities nationwide to receive the recognition



Solar panels at Airport/Larkfield Treatment Plant

SONOMA CLEAN POWER AUTHORITY

Sonoma Clean Power: After 18 months of investigating the feasibility of community choice aggregation in Sonoma County, a draft Implementation Plan (business plan) has been developed and the Sonoma Clean Power Authority was officially formed as a joint powers authority on December 4, 2012. Learn more at www.sonomacountywater.org/cca.



Solar panels at Sonoma Valley County Sanitation District

1998

Water Agency entered 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

1999

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



1999

Adopted a Water Conservation Plan with goal of saving 6,600 acre-feet of water per year



Wind turbine at Geyserville Sanitation District

2005

Administration, Engineering and Environmental Resources and Public Affairs Divisions move into new facility at 404 Aviation Blvd.

2006

Water collector well 6 constructed.



2006

Carbon-Free Water by 2015 Program launches with goal of operating a carbon-free water supply system

2007

First five-year Water Agency strategic plan adopted by the Board of Directors

COMMUNITY

WATER EDUCATION

The Headwaters to Ocean (H2O) watershed education program gained momentum with the acquisition of the 140-acre Rockpile Road property above Lake Sonoma. A shade structure was built and outfitted with picnic tables, and a trail system established on the southern portion of the property. Eighty students from JX Wilson Elementary and 60 students from Mark West Elementary will be piloting this new education program during the 2012–13 school year. During the 2011-12 school year, over 5,800 third and fifth grade students received direct instruction through classroom and field visits; curriculum materials were provided to 19,772 K-12 graders; the Musical Watershed assembly program performed 35 shows at 25 schools with 10,104 students attending; and Kids Scoop News reached another 12,000 students three different times with messages on storm water pollution prevention. A new after school education program was also launched during 2012.



Kids learn why wetlands are important at Hudeman Slough



Youth crews working at Santa Rosa Creek

YOUTH WORKING TO RESTORE HABITAT, LEARN JOB SKILLS

For the fourth year, the Sonoma County Youth Ecology Corps employed youth to clean creeks, restore habitats and learn vital job skills. This year, 200 young people took part in the program and helped restore and improve 12 miles of creeks. The 2012 program was funded by federal Workforce Investment Act and Temporary Aid to Needy Families with matching funds contributed by the Water Agency. Additional contributions were provided by Kaiser Permanente, Sonoma County Agricultural and Open Space District, Sonoma County Regional Parks and the Sonoma County Fish and Wildlife Commission. Friedman's Home Improvement provided deep discounts on the tools used by crew members.

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

Sonoma Valley Groundwater Management Plan approved

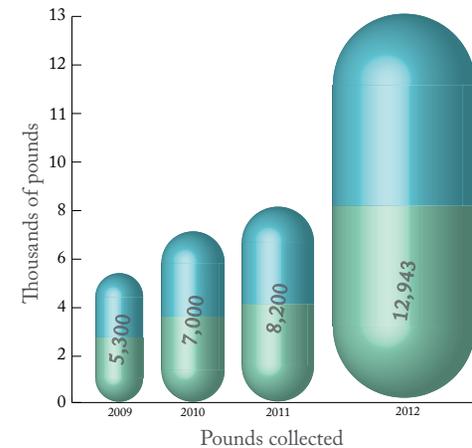
2009

Sonoma County Youth Ecology Corps created



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. This year the program collected over 12,943 pounds of unwanted medical pills by organizing collection events and sponsoring permanent year-round drop-off locations throughout Sonoma County. Find drop-off locations online at www.safemedicinedisposal.org.



“DO YOU LIVE IN A WATERSHED?” PUBLIC EDUCATION TELEVISION SERIES DEBUTS

A new multi-part public education television series called “Do You Live in a Watershed?” debuted on Sonoma County public television station KRCB. The goal of the public education series is to increase community awareness about what a watershed is and how it functions as a part of a dynamic environment; additionally it provides information on how to best protect our watersheds using a variety of pollution prevention strategies. The series, underwritten by the Sonoma County Water Agency, North Bay Watershed Association and Russian River Watershed Association, explores nine North Bay watersheds and the roles they play in our environment and everyday lives. The segments may also be viewed online at www.ourwatershedstories.com.

PUBLIC TOURS OF WATER SUPPLY, SANITATION SERVICES

The Water Agency offered more than a dozen tours to its community to view water supply and sanitation infrastructure. Over 150 people took part in the tours that are part of the Water Agency’s ongoing effort to educate the public about the services it provides, the source of our drinking water, and how wastewater is collected and treated. You can sign up for a tour online at www.sonomacountywater.org/tours.



Public tour at the Water Agency’s water supply facilities

2010
Sonoma
County Energy
Independence
Program launched



2010
First Water Supply
Strategies Action Plan
adopted by Board of
Directors

2010
Sonoma-Marín Saving
Water Partnership created
to regionalize water
efficiency efforts



2011
Board of Directors directs Water
Agency to investigate the formation
of a Community Choice Aggregation
program – also known as Sonoma
Clean Power

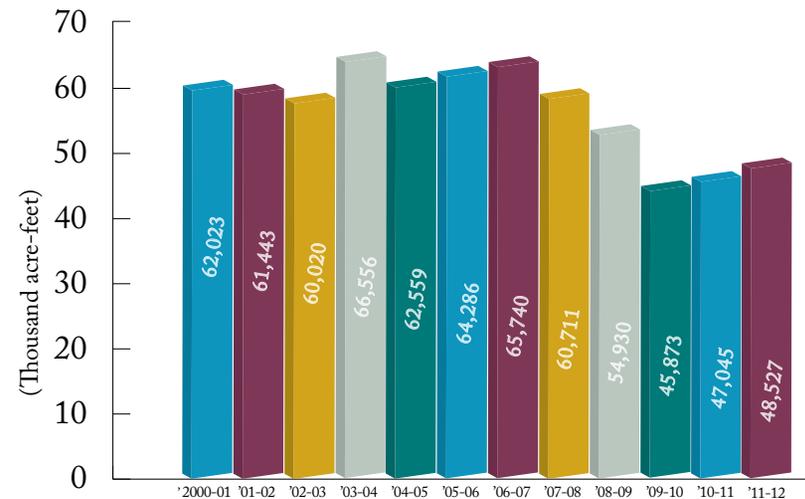
FINANCES

APPROVED 2011/2012 WATER TRANSMISSION BUDGET

A majority of the Water Agency’s revenue comes from the sale of water to its nine water contractors. Wholesale water rates are created by using a calculation outlined under a legal binding agreement between the Water Agency and its water contractors. This document, called the Restructured Agreement for Water Supply, requires the Water Agency to set rates based on budgeted operations and maintenance costs and past water sales.



Total Wholesale Water Delivery to Water Agency contractors:



2011
Initiated Santa Rosa Plain
Groundwater Management Plan

2011
Operations and Maintenance Division relocates to
new facility at 204 Concourse Blvd .



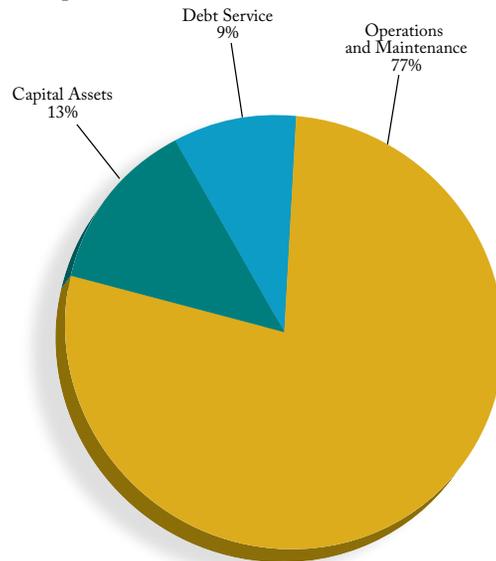
2012
Board of Directors adopt Energy
Policy guiding local and regional
energy-related efforts

BOARD OF DIRECTORS, WATER CONTRACTORS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVE WATER TRANSMISSION BUDGET

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 2012-13 water transmission budget and rates. The proposed budget included a wholesale water rate increase of 5.98 percent for Santa Rosa and Petaluma aqueduct customers and 5.26 percent for Sonoma aqueduct customers.

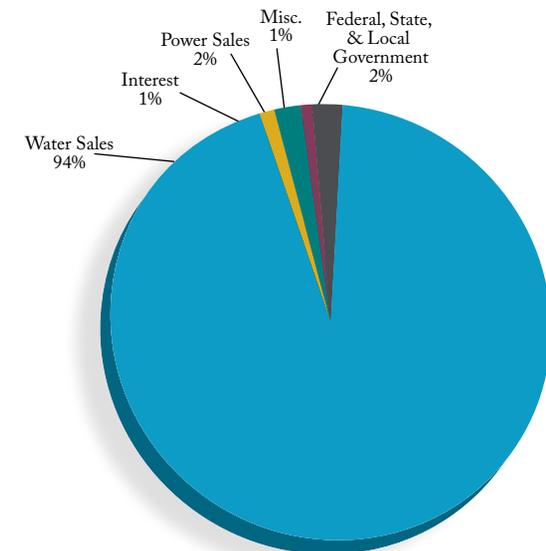
Part of the wholesale rate increase was due to a decrease in water sales volume and increased costs to implement projects required by the Russian River Biological Opinion. Nearly half of the rate increase results from increased charges to build up aqueduct capital project reserves and increases to fund the tier two local supply program, both of which were requested by the contractors. Total rate increases would have been 3.42 percent and 2.95 percent respectively if these voluntary charges were not included. The Water Agency has actually reduced its other operations and maintenance costs by 17.7 percent over the past five years.

Water Transmission Expenditures



Sources of Water Transmission Revenue by Category

Total: \$33.6 million



2012
Sonoma Clean Power Authority and
Sonoma County Efficiency Financing
Programs launched

2012
Dry Creek Demonstration Project
ground-breaking



2012
Second five-year Water Agency strategic
plan adopted by Board of Directors

SANITATION DISTRICTS/ZONES APPROVE RATE INCREASES FOR AGING INFRASTRUCTURE

The Water Agency manages county sanitation and zone wastewater treatment systems throughout Sonoma County, including their operating budgets. The county sanitation district and zone Boards issued Proposition 218 notices for fiscal year 2012-13 rate increases. The rate increases helped pay for ongoing sanitation system upgrades. Sanitation customers approved the rates as follows:

- Geyserville Sanitation Zone 2.0%
- Penngrove Sanitation Zone 8.0%
- Sea Ranch Sanitation Zone 5.0%
- Airport-Larkfield-Wikiup Sanitation Zone 7.5%
- Occidental County Sanitation District 5.0%
- Russian River County Sanitation District 5.0%
- Sonoma Valley County Sanitation District 5.5%
- South Park County Sanitation District 2.0%

Learn more about the sanitation services provided by the Water Agency at www.sonomacountywater.org/sanitation.





Scan the QR code to access our website.



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