

CRESCENTA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

**2700 Foothill Boulevard
La Crescenta, California**

**Agenda for the
Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors
of the Crescenta Valley Water District
to be held on Tuesday, November 12, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.
Posted: Friday, November 8, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.**

This meeting will be conducted in person at the address listed above. Members of the public may also participate virtually by using a touchtone phone. You may select any of the following phone numbers (there are more than one for increased reliability during this time of increased phone traffic)

(669) 900-6833

(346) 248-7799

(929) 205-6099

(253) 215-8782

(301) 715-8592

(312) 626-6799

Then, enter Access Code: 828 6421 3769

Those members of the public who are able to and would like to additionally participate through computer may access the Zoom audio & video conferencing tool available at the following link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82864213769>

If there is a disruption of service, this meeting will continue without remote participation. The remote participation option is provided as a convenience to the public and is not required.

Public comment may be made either by emailing comments ahead of the meeting or by speaking over the phone. Emailed comments will be sent to the Board of Directors prior to the meeting and posted on the District's website. Comments may be sent to customer service, at (818) 248-3925 or customerservice@cvwd.com by 3pm on November 12, 2024.

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 the District by phone or in writing at the above email address. 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.

Any written materials distributed to the Board in connection with this agenda will be made available at the same time for public inspection at the District office located at the above address and posted on the District's website.

Call to Order and Determination of Quorum

Pledge of Allegiance

Adoption of Agenda

Public Comments

At this time, the public shall have an opportunity to comment on any non-agenda item relevant to the subject matter jurisdiction of the Board. This opportunity is non-transferable, and speakers are limited to one three-minute (3) comment. Under the provisions of the Brown Act, the Board is prohibited from taking action on items not listed on the agenda, except under certain circumstances.

Foothill Municipal Water District Report

1. Report on activities at Foothill Municipal Water District.

Consent Calendar

1. Consideration and approval of the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting on October 8, 2024.
2. Ratification of Board Compensation for October 2024.

Action Calendar

The public shall have an opportunity to comment on any action item as each item is considered by the Board. This opportunity is non-transferable, and speakers are limited to one two-minute (2) comment.

1. **Board Governance - Committees** – Discussion regarding Board governance, particularly with respect to committees
2. **In-House Pipeline – Preliminary Cost Savings Analysis**– Discussion regarding a preliminary cost savings analysis of the District's In-House Pipeline pilot program
3. **Vehicle Procurement** – Consideration and motion to authorize the General Manager to procure two vehicles up to an amount of \$85,000.
4. **West San Gabriel Valley Area Plan**– For discussion only.

Information Items

Written Communications to District/Board of Directors

General Manager's Report

Attorney Report

Reports of Committees

- Engineering Committee
- Finance Committee
- Employee Relations Committee
- Policy Committee
- Community Relations/Water Conservation Committee

- Emergency Planning Committee
- Technology Committee
- Ad Hoc Committee - PFAS

Directors' Oral Reports – Reports on issues, meetings, or activities attended by Directors

Board Members' Request for Future Agenda Items

Closed Session

CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS – GOVT CODE SECTION 54957.6

Agency Designated Representative: General Counsel

Unrepresented Employee: General Manager

Adjournment



CRESCENTA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT REGULAR MEETING, BOARD OF DIRECTORS October 8, 2024

Pursuant to the order of the Board of Directors of the Crescenta Valley Water District made at the Regular Meeting on September 24, 2024, a Regular Meeting was held on October 8, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. at the District office at 2700 Foothill Blvd., La Crescenta, California and through audio and video conference. A call-in number was clearly noted on the meeting Agenda, posted in accordance with the Brown Act, with Sharon S. Raghavachary presiding.

At roll call, the following Directors and staff members were present or online:

Directors:

James D. Bodnar
Kerry D. Erickson (arrived at 6:20)
Jeffery W. Johnson (arrived at 6:26)
Sharon S. Raghavachary
Jennifer T. Valdez

Attorney:

Ryan Guiboa

General Manager:

James Lee

**Director of Engineering
and Operations:**

Carla Dillon

**Interim Director of Finance and
Administration:**

Arturo Montes

Staff Members:

Pam Leddy, Administrative Assistant
Adam Sutphin, Senior Management Analyst
Darlene Telles, Operations and Maintenance Manager
Brook Yared, Engineering Manager

Guests:

Frank Colcord, Foothill Municipal Water District
Sanjay Gaur, Water Resources Economics, LLC

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Guiboa opened the meeting by leading the Directors and staff in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

It was moved by Director Bodnar, seconded by Director Valdez, and carried by a 3-0 vote that the Agenda for the Regular Meeting of November 8, 2024, be adopted.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – None

FOOTHILL MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT REPORT – Mr. Colcord announced that FMWD will be holding a landscaping class in conjunction with Glendale Water & Power and Burbank Water & Power on October 25, 2024 at the Community Service Building in Burbank. Mr. Colcord reported that he attended the Colorado River Inspection trip October 5-6, 2024.

GENERAL MANAGER – Mr. Lee announced the anniversaries of Jonathan Russo – 5 years, and Armine Sargsyan – 1 year with Crescenta Valley Water District. Mr. Yared, Ms. Telles, and Mr. Lee shared their appreciation for their critical presence on the team and recognition for their contributions in terms of production and company culture.

CONSENT CALENDAR

It was moved by Director Bodnar, seconded by Director Valdez, and carried by a 3-0 vote to approve the Minutes of the Adjourned Regular Board Meeting held on September 24, 2024, and to ratify the Board Compensation for September 2024, and the disbursements for August 2024 which consisted of:

Payment of demands against the Crescenta Valley Water District on or before August 2024, the same having been approved by the General Manager, and heretofore paid, are to be ratified and approved subject to audit, in the aggregate sum of Two Million, Eight Hundred Thirty-Three Thousand, One Hundred Nine Dollars and Five Cents (\$2,833,109.05), which is composed of the individual items set forth herein.

ACTION CALENDAR

Legal Services Agreement – Mr. Lee introduced Mr. Ryan Guiboa from Best Best & Kreiger LLP as General Counsel. Mr. Lee announced that Lagerlof LLP has provided counsel for the District for over 30 years, and that staff worked with Lagerlof and general counsel to develop an agreement with Lagerlof to continue providing legal services as Senior Legal Counsel. Mr. Lee provided the proposed agreement for reference.

Following discussion:

It was moved by Director Bodnar, seconded by Director Valdez and carried by a 3-0 vote to authorize the General Manager to enter into an agreement with Lagerlof LLP to provide legal counsel services.

Annual Contract for Booster Pump, Well Rehabilitation, and Maintenance Services – Ms. Dillon stated that CVWD partnered with General Pump Company in FY 23/24 with an annual contract to provide services to be proactive with pump maintenance. Ms. Dillon indicated that Well 10 is currently non-operational and requires well rehabilitation along with completion of the rehabilitation of Well 16. Ms.

Dillon provided General Pump Company's proposal which included an estimated annual cost of \$226,317 and an option to include Well 10 estimated annual cost of \$361,683.

Director Johnson arrived at 6:20

Following discussion:

It was moved by Director Valdez, seconded by Director Bodnar and carried by a 4-0 vote to authorize the General Manager to award a contract to General Pump Company to provide services for the rehabilitation of Wells 10 and 16, booster pump maintenance, and emergency services at an estimated initial cost of \$361,683. As well as authorizing the General Manager to engage in emergency services with General Pump Company under this contract up to the amount budgeted for in FY 24/25 without prior Board approval.

INFORMATION ITEMS – CV Weekly dated September 26, 2024 “CVWD Announces Winner in Essay Contest”, CV Weekly dated October 3, 2024 “A Day Without Water Imagined”, Imagine a Day Without Water Picture Collage, and CA Data Collaborative Presentation – October 2, 2024

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS TO DISTRICT – A letter from Beatriz Leighton & family relating to late fees and the quality and frequency of the maintenance services provided by the District.

Director Erickson arrived at 6:26

Water Budget Rate Structure – Mr. Gaur of Water Resources Economics facilitated a follow-up workshop to the September 10, 2024, workshop on the same matter, “Water Budget-Based Rate Study & Wastewater Rate Study”. The workshop recapped the September 10th meeting, provided information on “What is the cost of service”, and placed a focus on funding the pipeline replacement program and water supply reliability and next steps. The Board provided Mr. Gaur with several policy directives needed for WRE to progress to the next stage of analysis: 1) develop a sensitivity analysis for the outdoor irrigable area allotment (90th and 95th percentiles); 2) determination to stay with 3 tiers as opposed to expanding to 4, as the differentiation between operating expenses more appropriately support 3 tiers; 3) determined the appropriateness of adding a surcharge for water supply reliability based on the future focus on water supply; 4) confirmed that it is appropriate to include pipeline replacement costs to be recovered by fixed charges; and 5) develop scenarios based on the balance between bond financing and the capital charge. The Board agreed to hold the next workshop for budget-based rates (Workshop #4) on October 29, 2024, at 7pm.

Public Outreach Discussion – Mr. Lee emphasized the importance of early education to the community and provided various efforts made by CVWD to reach out and serve the community. Mr. Lee provided samples of water quality messaging regarding PFAS and a draft of an inaugural Annual Report, which would be provided to the community. The Annual Report is a response to customer demand a year ago and is meant to be more easily accessible than audited financial statements, providing an accounting of projects delivered, their cost and impact, and other benefits to the community. Mr. Lee commented that the CV Town Council recognizes their role in having an advisory function and providing a forum and a venue for the public to be educated on issues and engage in dialogue. Mr. Lee also shared an updated PFAS message for the community, and the group agreed to incorporate several more updates.

GENERAL MANAGER – Mr. Atwater reported that CVWD has completed the Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR) survey and that no lead was discovered in any of CVWD’s service lines. Mr. Lee reported that “Imagine a Day Without Water” was held at the Judy Tejada Reservoir Site on September 28th and announced that the 7th Annual Chili Cookoff will be held on October 31st at the Glenwood Plant.

ATTORNEY REPORT – Mr. Guiboa reported that SB 937 was signed by Governor Newsom and that it would, for designated residential development projects, as defined, prohibit a local agency from requiring payment of fees or charges on the residential development for the construction of public improvements or facilities until the date of the final inspection or the date the certificate of occupancy is issued. Mr. Guiboa notated that the bill includes an exception for utility service fees.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Engineering & Operations Committee – Director Bodnar reported that the Committee had not met; however, a meeting will be scheduled as needed.

Finance Committee – Director Valdez reported that the Committee had not met; however, a meeting will be scheduled as needed.

Employee Relations Committee – Director Valdez reported that the Committee had not met; however, a meeting will be scheduled as needed.

Policy Committee – Director Bodnar reported that the Committee had not met; however, a meeting will be scheduled as needed.

Community Relations/Water Conservation Committee – Director Valdez reported that the Committee had not met; however, a meeting will be scheduled as needed.

Emergency Planning Committee – Director Bodnar reported that the Committee had not met; however, a meeting will be scheduled as needed.

Executive Committee – Director Johnson reported that the Committee had met on October 3, 2024. A meeting will be scheduled as needed.

Technology Committee – Director Erickson reported that the Committee had not met; however, a meeting will be scheduled as needed.

Ad Hoc PFAS Committee – Director Johnson reported that the Committee had met on October 3, 2024. A meeting will be scheduled as needed.

DIRECTORS’ ORAL REPORTS

Director Bodnar – Reported that he attended the Southern California Water Dialog Meeting on September 25, 2024 to discuss the wildfire crisis, obtaining community financing to help the environment, and a presentation of a company manufacturing a robot to help create fire-line breaks to assist in firefighting.

Director Erickson – No report.

Director Johnson – No report.

Director Raghavachary – Reported that she intends to attend the Department of Water Resources meeting in Pasadena next week. Director Raghavachary also reported the quick response from the Fire Department at a residential fire which occurred in her neighborhood.

Director Valdez – No report.

BOARD MEMBERS REQUESTS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS – Director Johnson asked that the County’s recently issued policy statement on Montrose and La Crescenta and how it fails to address the issues about water supply.

CLOSED SESSION – No reportable action.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business to come before the Board, at 8:00 p.m., the meeting was adjourned to November 12, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.

APPROVED

Sharon S. Raghavachary
President

Arturo Montes
Board Secretary

Director Compensation Report

Oct-24



<u>Name</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Meeting/Event</u> *
Director Bodnar	9/25/2024	Director Education Wildfire Innovations
	9/28/2024	Imagine a Day Without Water
	10/8/2024	Board Meeting
	10/29/2024	Special Board Meeting

Director Erickson	10/8/2024	Board Meeting
	10/29/2024	Special Board Meeting

Director Johnson	10/3/2024	Ad Hoc PFAS
	10/3/2024	Executive Committee**
	10/8/2024	Board Meeting
	10/18/2024	AdHoc PFAS Committee
	10/29/2024	Special Board Meeting

Director Raghavachary	10/3/2024	Ad Hoc PFAS
	10/3/2024	Executive Committee**
	10/8/2024	Board Meeting
	10/10/2024	Conference with GM
	10/17/2024	Employee Relations Committee
	10/18/2024	AdHoc PFAS Committee
	10/21/2024	Community Relations Committee
	10/31/2024	Conference with GM
	10/29/2024	Special Board Meeting

Director Valdez	9/28/2024	Imagine a Day Without Water
	10/08/2024	Board Meeting
	10/17/2024	Employee Relations Committee
	10/21/2024	Community Relations Committee
	10/29/2024	Special Board Meeting

* Compensation of \$125 per meeting

**Compenstaion limited to 1 meeting per day

CRESCENTA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

BOARD OF DIRECTORS - STAFF REPORT

Action Item No. 1
November 12, 2024

To: Honorable President and Members of the Board of Directors
From: James Lee – General Manager
Subject: Board Governance - Committees

ACTION ITEM:

Discussion regarding Board governance, particularly with respect to committees.

BACKGROUND:

Board governance with respect to committees was discussed during the October 3, 2024, Executive Committee meeting. The discussion included consideration for updating the District's committee practices including condensing committees, how committee members are determined, and possible expansion of using ad hoc committees. The Board typically determines committee assignments during the December-January timeframe.

This item is a placeholder for discussion.

RECOMMENDATION:

Discuss Board governance with respect to committees.

Prepared and Submitted by:



James Lee
General Manager

CRESCENTA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

BOARD OF DIRECTORS - STAFF REPORT

Action Item No. 2
November 12, 2024

To: Honorable President and Members of the Board of Directors
From: James Lee – General Manager
Subject: In-House Pipeline – Preliminary Cost Savings Analysis

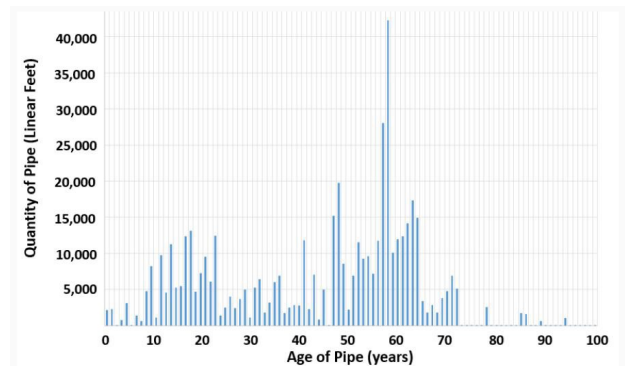
ACTION ITEM:

Discussion regarding a preliminary cost savings analysis of the District's In-House Pipeline pilot program.

BACKGROUND:

In 2019, the District committed to the Infrastructure Funding & Reliability Roadmap. The plan committed to catching up on deferred pipeline maintenance and supporting construction with appropriate funding and reserve levels, beginning with a modest bond issuance paired with a refinancing for savings.

In the years following, which included the pandemic, the District and the industry at large faced an approximate doubling of construction costs within a two to three-year period. With a resolve to honor the Roadmap plan, the District completed a second bond issuance and implemented a charge on the capital charge. While the renewed approach would be able to keep the District on track with the Roadmap plan, maintaining the status quo was viewed by the Board and staff as a costly approach to deploying ratepayer funds.



In May 2023, staff proposed to reduce costs by bringing components of construction such as construction management and inspection in house. This produced cost savings, but those savings were diminished in part by increased staff time. Subsequently, staff proposed an ambitious plan not practiced in the industry, which was to bring all possible aspects of pipeline replacement in house. The Board directed staff to implement a pilot study of five to six in-house jobs to determine the feasibility of in-house pipeline (IHP) on an ongoing basis in the future.

To date, staff has completed four IHP jobs and anticipates completing one more by calendar year end. Invoices have been received for the first three jobs. These jobs, along with the three most recent contractor-based jobs, serve as the primary basis for the preliminary cost savings analysis.

DISCUSSION:

The following discussion details the data, assumptions, and methodology for the analysis, which represent the bases of rigor for a study –

1. In-house costs –
 - a. IHP jobs to date:
 - i. 2700 Fierro Circle – 160 lineal feet (LF)
 - ii. 2600 Upper Terrace – 240 LF

- iii. 4900 El Sereno – 333 LF
- iv. 5000 Humphrey Way – 300 LF (*invoices not yet complete*)
- b. In-house costs represent actual data from invoices from completed jobs and can precisely be relied on.
- c. There are certain assumptions to be made based on intent and information available at this time. For example, as part of the District's 15-month vision as discussed at the May 23, 2024, Board workshop, the District will be pursuing multiple paving contractor relationships (as this cannot be done in house, at least at this time) in order to negotiate rates including bulk rates. Another assumption is the rate at which staff become more efficient over time. The assumptions in the analysis are conservative. For example, the reduced cost for paving is assumed at 5-10% rather than the 15-20% targeted.
- d. Other operational changes leading to future cost savings – While IHP has already demonstrated significant savings, there are anticipated further savings with subsequent IHP jobs. Some categories include:
 - i. Welding – Welding presents a significant expense. Additionally, welding can often lead to change orders. For example, if a welder is scheduled through a vendor and the job cannot proceed because of inclement weather or a supply delay, then the District still need to pay the welder and the cost of that day's mobilization for the contractor. The District sought and recruited an O&M worker with welding experience, meaning the cost and delays are no longer a factor, and this cost will not be reflected in future IHP jobs.
 - ii. Hot tapping – Hot tapping refers to tapping into a new pipeline, and staff is planning to bring this function in house as well.
 - iii. Hauling spoils – Construction produces significant refuse to haul such as dirt and old pipe which takes significant staff time to complete, and staff is considering utilizing a vehicle that will make this process much more efficient.

2. Contractor costs

- a. Three most recent contractor jobs:
 - i. 3200 Alabama / 4700 Cheryl / 3300 Thelma – 1,750 LF (Year 2022)
 - ii. 2600 Orange / 5000 Adobe – 2,550 LF (Year 2023)
 - iii. 3000 Montrose – 1,710 LF (Year 2024)
- b. Contractor costs to date represent actual data from invoices from completed jobs and can precisely be relied on.
- c. There are a number of assumptions that need to be accounted for:
 - i. Adjustment factor for LF per job – Contractors typically provide more attractive pricing for more LF based on economies of scale and project bid size. They typically charge more for smaller jobs. For example, a recent bid for a shorter run approximating an IHP job was \$845/LF, whereas the 2600 Orange job for 2,550 LF was as low as \$550/LF (including in-house costs but no adjustment for pipe diameter and inflation). Staff utilized a combination of averages and judgment along with a conservative approach to develop an average \$/LF for contracted jobs.
 - ii. Adjustment factor for pipe diameter – Pipe size is a cost factor in terms of material cost and installation cost. The pipe sizes for the three recent contractor jobs range from 6" to 12". This data needs to be "normalized" to account for variability in the project pipe diameter. The costs were normalized by dividing the total project cost by the diameter of the pipe laid (in inches), and the length of pipe in feet.

This (\$/in-dia/LF) is a commonly used metric for cost estimating and comparison. Although this provides some standardization of costs, there are additional factors not included such as the number of service connections, meter boxes, hydrants, and valve replacements on a project.

- iii. Escalation factor – The impetus for the IHP discussion was a perceived doubling of construction costs over a two to three-year period based solely on linear feet. The costs need to be normalized for pipe diameter and construction cost index. The California Construction Cost Index, which is based upon Los Angeles and San Francisco building costs produced by Engineering News Record. All project costs were brought into September 2024 dollars by applying the monthly cost index.

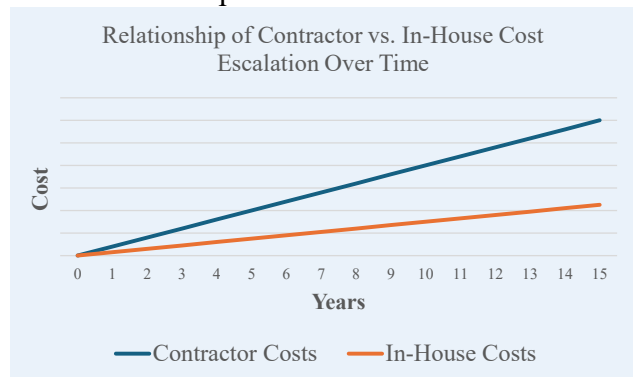
In adjusting for pipe diameter and inflation, the costs for recent contractor jobs in \$/in-dia/LF were \$77, \$63, and \$74. The costs for in-house projects, in \$/in-dia/LF were \$90, \$86, and \$47. While the initial two In-House Pipeline projects were more expensive per inch diameter per linear foot, the trend is improving, which could yield long-term savings for the District.

The following additional discussion points are included as part of the preliminary analysis:

1. Other Indirect Benefits –

- a. Inspection development – Based on staff's current experience level, larger jobs on main thoroughfares such as Rosemont Ave or Honolulu Ave are best left for contractors. The primary reason is safety related to the speed of drivers in these areas. So, inspection is needed for those jobs, but inspection is costly. IHP teaches every O&M worker how to run pipeline jobs. This means that all O&M workers can be deployed to participate in contracted work under the guidance of the Sr. Inspection and Design Specialist who currently conducts in house inspection.
- b. Construction efficiency and knowledge – Management has observed that after having completed IHP jobs, staff are much more knowledgeable than industry and can tackle routine construction jobs such as service lateral replacements or meter manifold installments much more efficiently and with better quality control. While these jobs used to be the standard, they are much simpler than IHP jobs.

2. Savings Trend Over Time – The escalation of contractor costs has consistently outpaced the cost of staff labor over time. That means that there is a reasonable expectation that today's level of savings will continue to grow (net of inflation) into the future.



Next steps include:

1. Complete 1-2 additional IHP jobs for a better average and also to track some cost-saving process improvements discussed above
2. Continue refining numbers and assumptions
3. Continue developing a sustainable plan that considers
 - a. The number of jobs and LF/job to maintain significant annual savings
 - b. Equipment plan

c. Staffing plan

Analysis for the preliminary study is being refined and will be provided during the Board meeting.

Prepared and Submitted by:



James Lee
General Manager

Link: California Construction Cost Index: <https://www.dgs.ca.gov/RES/RESOURCES/Real-Estate-Services-Division-Resources-List-Folder/DGS-California-Construction-Cost-Index-CCCI>

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CRESCENTA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

BOARD OF DIRECTORS - STAFF REPORT

Action Item No. 3

November 12, 2024

To: Honorable President and Members of the Board of Directors
From: Carla Dillon, P.E. – Director of Engineering and Operations
Subject: Vehicle Procurement

ACTION ITEM:

Consideration and motion to authorize the General Manager to procure two vehicles up to an amount of \$85,000.

BACKGROUND:

The California Air Resources Board (CARB) is responsible for implementing a regulation affecting fleets for cities, counties, public utilities, special districts, local agency or district, or a public agency of the State of California, and any department, division, public corporation, or public agency of the State of California. Affected agencies are those that have jurisdiction in California and own, lease, or operate in California, one or more vehicles with a gross vehicle weight rating greater than 8,500 lbs. Affected fleets must ensure, beginning January 1, 2024, that 50 percent of their annual vehicle purchases per calendar year are zero-emissions, and beginning January 1, 2027, that 100 percent of vehicle purchases are zero-emissions.

The District has purchased two internal combustion engines (ICE) vehicles so far in calendar year 2024. In order to comply with this regulation, the District needs to purchase two zero-emission vehicles by the end of 2024.

DISCUSSION:

Within its fleet, CVWD has four vehicles that were planned for retirement according to the fleet asset management schedule in fiscal years 2023 and 2024. Due to budget considerations and ongoing District needs, these vehicles have not yet been retired. Staff now recommends replacing the following vehicle:

1. Unit #44 - 2014 Ford F-150 Supercab 4x2

Replacement of this vehicle will support compliance with CARB regulations and meet current operational needs. Availability and options for zero emission vehicles have improved, and staff anticipates that an electric truck, possibly second-hand, and a small SUV or crossover can be procured before year end.

Staff is in the process of identifying available white vehicles that meet business needs and match the existing fleet. Since the District will not be ordering these but finding available vehicles on lots, it will be necessary to issue a check promptly to hold the vehicle, which is why pre-authorization is being sought.

COST SUMMARY:

Staff is requesting authorization for up to \$85,000, which accounts for the remaining FY 24/25 Capital Outlays budget.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the Board of Directors authorize the General Manager to procure two vehicles for a cost not to exceed \$85,000.

Prepared by:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Carla Dillon", is written over a horizontal line.

Carla Dillon, P.E.

Director of Engineering & Operations

CRESCENTA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

BOARD OF DIRECTORS - STAFF REPORT

Action Item No. 4

November 12, 2024

To: Honorable President and Members of the Board of Directors
From: Carla Dillon, P.E. – Director of Engineering and Operations
Subject: West San Gabriel Valley Area Plan

ACTION ITEM:

For discussion only.

BACKGROUND:

As requested by the Board, staff has prepared an update on the County of Los Angeles' West San Gabriel Valley Area Plan (Area Plan). The County's Area Plan covers nine unincorporated areas (including La Crescenta-Montrose) and is an extension of the General Plan. The purpose of the Area Plan is to enhance, guide, and support the long-term growth, development, and maintenance of these communities. The Area Plan consists of areawide goals and policies on land use, economic development, community character and design, conservation and natural resources, mobility, and parks and recreation. The Area Plan also includes community specific goals and policies for each community or grouping of communities. Zoning and land use policy map changes are also proposed to bring zoning and land use policy into conformance, accommodate growth near major transit stops and along major corridors, preserve natural resources, and implement the Housing Element Rezoning. The Area Plan also includes ordinance amendments to implement the goals and policies of the Area Plan and consists of new areawide regulations and updates to existing standards.

The Housing Element is part of the General Plan. The County is required to have a Housing Element to accommodate its share of regional housing needs, also referred to as Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA). The County has a goal of over 90,000 housing units in its unincorporated areas for the RHNA. Modifications to zoning within the Area Plan allows for higher density housing to meet to the regional housing needs while taking into account the unique characteristics of the area through an Ordinance to regulate development standards.

The purpose of the WSGV Area Plan is to bring the zoning and land use up to date and is unique for each of the nine areas. It also includes a comprehensive land-use analysis incorporating the guiding vision, goals, policies, such as walkability, connectivity, and community vibrancy.

The County held a [workshop](#) at the La Crescenta Library on October 7, 2023. The meeting [slides](#) and [notes](#) are linked for reference. The Area Plan Goals identified in the slides include 1) Diverse, 2) Walkable, 3) Connected, and 4) Conserve & Preserve. In addition, an evaluation of [Park needs](#) was prepared for the area. Additional workshops were held across the West San Gabriel Valley on October 12, October 14, and October 21. A virtual meeting was also held on October 25, 2023 focusing on historic preservation.

On October 14, 2023, a CEQA Scoping was held, and on February 7, 2024 a City/Agency stakeholder meeting was held. In addition to the Area Plan, the project also included an ordinance to update the Los Angeles County Code Title 22 and an Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

On March 30, 2024, an Open House Workshop was held with [slides](#). On July 18, a Notice of Availability Public Meeting was held to discuss environmental issues addressed in the Draft Preliminary EIR. On

September 25, 2024, the public hearing on the Final EIR was scheduled at the Los Angeles County Regional Planning Commission meeting.

The County prepared a template letter to notify property owners if their property was planned for rezoning as part of the Area Plan. The change in zoning allows for development according to the new zoning, if the property owner chooses to redevelop.

The Area Plan allows for higher density housing if and when the property owner chooses to redevelop. At that time, the owner/developer would need to submit plans to CVWD to identify if the water and sewer infrastructure exists for the size of the development.

Prepared by:



Carla Dillon, P.E.

Director of Engineering & Operations

Link(s):

1. <https://planning.lacounty.gov/blog/la-crescenta-montrose-visioning-workshop/>
2. https://planning.lacounty.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/WSGVAP_VisioningWorkshops_LCM.pdf
3. https://planning.lacounty.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/LCM_2023WorkshopNotes_Website.pdf
4. https://lacountyparkneeds.org/wp-content/root/FinalReportAppendixA/StudyArea_014.pdf
5. https://planning.lacounty.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/WSGVAP_2024Workshops_Slides_LCM_web.pdf

Where Did Montrose's Water Come From?

As I noted in two previous columns, 12 years ago when I wrote my book "Montrose" there were three questions that remained unanswered when I submitted the galleys to the publisher. In June of this year, I gave a presentation to the Historical Society of the Crescenta Valley on what I called the "Mysteries of Montrose Origins." This column summarizes my presentation of the second mystery: How did the developers provide water to the new community of Montrose?

We know that solving the "water issue" was a major selling point of their lots because when promoting their new community the developers mentioned it in almost every ad and publicity story. After the "opening day" of Montrose on Feb. 22, 1913 (when they hosted a large free barbecue near the intersection of what is now Verdugo Boulevard and Clifton Way), they put out a promotional booklet with a back cover photo of a huge fountain of water with "tremendous pressure." Since the booklet was labeled "Opening Day" and the cars and people's clothes seemed to match the other photos in the booklet, most historians (me included) had always assumed that this photo was taken on that day and that the fountain of water must have been near the barbecue so the developers could show potential buyers that these lots had water access.

Backing up a little: Frederick Holmes and Robert Walton owned a real estate company in downtown Los Angeles. By at least 1904, they were selling homes in the La Crescenta area. I'm speculating, but I assume that as Robert Walton drove through this area from 1904 to 1907, he wondered why there were no houses in the relatively flat lands. He would have found out there was no easy access to water and individual property owners could not afford to pipe water to their lots. So I'm guessing that Walton said something like, "If I buy these properties and bring water to them, I'll make a fortune."

In many historical accounts (including my own), you'll see this phrase: "Developers Holmes and Walton." But Holmes sold his share of the company to Robert Walton in 1908, the same year the company started buying the empty lots that would become Montrose. Again I'm guessing but perhaps Holmes thought that the project was too risky and wanted out. We know that in the same

year, Walton teamed up with a speculator with a bad reputation named J. Frank Walters. Walton left the name of the company the same, Holmes and Walton, possibly to keep Walters name out of it. (Later when they were naming streets, Walton's last name became Waltonia but the nod to Walters was in naming Florencita after his wife Florence.)

In the buildup toward opening day, there are references to a water "reservoir." I have looked at many photos of early Montrose and wondered where this reservoir was. While I wasn't expecting something as big as the Hollywood Reservoir, I did hope to see something recognizable as a reservoir; however, there was nothing obvious.

By chance, my brother John stumbled on the answer earlier this year when, looking for old photos of his house, he bought a photo album on eBay. Included in the album were a few photos of early Montrose. The prize photo is of Walton and Walters standing in front of that same fountain of water shown in the opening day photo. John was able to determine that the photo was taken not at the barbecue but rather higher up the slope, just west of what is now Ocean View Boulevard and north of what is now Montrose Avenue. And based on a news story, I was able to determine that the photo was taken on the Monday before the opening. This tiny well is the reservoir the developers were referring to. It looks like the diameter is no more than 20 feet and it's impossible to know how deep it was.

I knew the developers piped in the water in from the west but I always thought it came from the San Gabriels. After the presentation, historian Fred Hoeptner showed me a photocopy of part of a map that shows "Montrose Water Works" in the Verdugo Hills. I can't tell what this map is or when it was made or for what purpose. Assuming it's correct, though, and with John's new photo we now know that Walton tunneled water from the Verdugos and piped it to this reservoir in Montrose in order to provide the new landowners with water.

It looks like both ends of this water system were covered over during the construction of the 210 Freeway. If you know otherwise, please let me know.

Robert Newcombe is the author of "Montrose" in the Images of America series of Arcadia books, as well as the co-author (with Mike Lawler) of "La Crescenta" and "La Crescenta: Then and Now." You can reach him at r_newcombe@yahoo.com or stop him early in the morning on his daily walk through Montrose.

Water District Introduces Board Candidates

By CV Weekly on October 17, 2024 · 0 Comments



Water conservation and preparation for drought were issues brought up by candidates for the board of directors of the CVWD.

File photo

By Mary O'KEEFE

Candidates for the board of directors of the Crescenta Valley Water District (CVWD) will be on the ballot Nov. 5. There are three candidates for two available seats. Those who are in the CVWD service area are eligible to vote for these candidates.

CVW reached out to the candidates asking four questions. Below are their responses. They are listed in the same order they will appear on voter's ballot:

1. *What would you like to accomplish during your CVWD term, if elected?*

Alec Hyeler: If elected, my primary goal will be maintaining steady and affordable water rates for the community while ensuring the highest levels of water quality. I want to bring greater transparency to the decision-making process and strengthen the department's long-term planning for water

sustainability. I aim to protect Crescenta Valley's water resources by ensuring that infrastructure investments are proactive and innovative, preparing for future droughts and environmental challenges. Additionally, I'd like to improve communication with ratepayers, increasing the board's social media presence so [ratepayers] feel informed and empowered about water related issues that affect their daily lives and finances.

Sharon Raghavachary: If reelected I will continue the work I've done for the past five years of moving the district forward with replacing our aging infrastructure, ensuring reliable and sustainable sources of water, building beneficial relationships with other agencies as well as state regulators and officials, addressing the challenge of PFAS, while being fiscally responsible. I have learned a lot serving on the board, including my three years as board president, by attending conferences and staying informed to meet all the challenges ahead.

Jennifer Valdez: As a board director, I recognize that any accomplishments are the result of the collective efforts of the CVWD team. I aim to support ongoing initiatives that find innovative ways to save money for the district, like the successful in-house pipeline projects. A primary goal I would love [is] to bring recycled water to Two Strike Park.

2. *What is the biggest challenge facing CVWD in the next year?*

Alec Hyeler: The biggest challenge facing CVWD in the next year will undoubtedly be balancing water affordability with the need for infrastructure upgrades. As the region continues to face unpredictable weather patterns and drought risk, we need to ensure that our water system remains resilient while controlling costs. Additionally, it's vital that we invest in long-term solutions without burdening ratepayers, especially considering rising inflation, which has already impacted everyone's finances. I believe my experience in efficient project management can help achieve this balance, ensuring that we find cost-effective solutions that meet our community's needs without adding further strain on the ratepayers.

Sharon Raghavachary: PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances), which nearly all water suppliers in the country are dealing with. It is a pervasive set of chemicals [that] must be removed from our water to ensure we continue to provide our customers with the cleanest and safest drinking water we possibly can.

Jennifer Valdez: The main challenge facing CVWD is finding innovative and effective ways to supply our community with water while keeping rates affordable. We have achieved success through our in-house pipeline projects, and it's vital to continue pursuing similar creative solutions, seeking grant funding, and exploring local water supply options like recycled water and stormwater capture initiatives. Investing in these projects will enhance our resilience, reduce dependence on imported water, and help ensure a sustainable water future for all residents.

Additionally, we need to continuously evaluate the best strategies to protect our existing groundwater supply by assessing the most appropriate treatment technologies for our district.

3) What threat do you feel climate change poses to the future of the water district? If you do not feel climate change is a threat, please explain why.

Alec Hyeler: Climate change is undeniably one of the greatest threats to the future of our water district. As we've seen with increasing droughts and more extreme weather patterns, our water supply is becoming less predictable. This poses a major challenge for sustainable water availability in our community. Therefore, it's crucial that CVWD continues to invest in water conservation initiatives, sustainable infrastructure, and exploring alternative water sources like recycled water and increased infiltration of stormwater. I believe that proactive planning today will help safeguard our community's water needs tomorrow. Moreover, we should avoid fearmongering and punitive measures, such as lowering rate tier thresholds, as strategies for educating the public about the challenges we face with future water shortages. Instead, we can foster a more constructive dialogue that focuses on collaboration and solutions, empowering the community to take action in managing our water resources effectively.

Sharon Raghavachary: Climate change is real and is absolutely a threat to our district and all other water agencies in Southern California. We have seen the water level drop in our local aquifer here in the Crescenta Valley, which is our major source of water. The Colorado River (Lake Mead and Lake Powell), which is our second source of water, is at its lowest levels in history. These will only become more of a threat over time and the board needs members who can make the right decisions to address this problem.

Jennifer Valdez: Climate change poses a significant threat to our water district by impacting the availability of both local groundwater and the imported water from MWD. Changing weather patterns may lead to more frequent droughts and extreme events, straining our water resources. This reduction not only affects

the supply we can rely on but can affect rates for our community. This is why it's crucial that we continue to look into the feasibility of recycled water and stormwater capture projects and how to manage our groundwater.

4) What do you feel are your most important attributes/qualifications for serving on the CVWD board?

Alec Hyeler: My most important attributes for serving on the CVWD board are my 25 years of experience as an engineer in Fortune 500 companies and my expertise in managing complex projects, budgets and operational efficiency. What sets me apart is that I represent a fresh perspective and the opportunity for change in government, something I believe is vital when facing the evolving challenges of water management. As a longtime resident and ratepayer, I have a personal stake in ensuring reliable, sustainable and affordable water services for our community. My approach will bring a fiscally responsible, forward-thinking vision to the board along with a commitment to transparency and accountability – qualities that are essential for effective governance.

Sharon Raghavachary: My five years of experience on the board and my knowledge of the issues and challenges we face. I served as president of the board during the COVID shutdown and still was able to lead the board through even though we were meeting virtually. I've attended the two most important water conferences in California every year I've been a member of the board. I bring back vital information that aids the board to make its decisions and I also make the important personal connections that benefit the district. Maybe most importantly I've lived in the Crescenta Valley for nearly 25 years, raising my two kids here, and I cherish this special place and will continue to work hard to make sure the district has safe and reliable water now and for future generations who make their home here.

Jennifer Valdez: With over 15 years of experience at LADWP, I bring a strong technical background in water management, including expertise in water recycling, water rights and public outreach. I have a deep passion for serving my community, particularly La Crescenta, which drives me to ensure that every decision I make prioritizes the well-being of our residents. My experience as an elder in my church has equipped me with skills in collaboration and navigating complex issues as part of a team.

My dedication to community service, combined with my commitment to sustainable water supply, makes me a strong candidate for the CVWD board. I am focused on securing a reliable water future for our community now and for generations to come.

More information on the candidates: Alec Hyeler has a campaign Facebook page at Alec Hyeler for CV Water District; Sharon Raghavachary has a campaign Facebook page at Sharon Raghavachary For Crescenta Valley Water District; Jennifer Valdez’s campaign website is www.jtv4cvwd.com.



Water District Introduces Board Candidates added by CV Weekly on October 17, 2024
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Breaking Down Who Votes for CVWD Board

By CV Weekly on October 24, 2024 · 0 Comments

By Mary O'KEEFE

CVW was contacted by residents in the Hermosa Avenue area of Montrose. They had read the CVW article regarding candidates for the Crescenta Valley Water District (CVWD) board who are on this November's ballot. The question they asked was regarding who voted for the candidates

In the article CVW stated, "Those who are in the CVWD service area are eligible to vote for these candidates."

That statement needs a correction and an explanation – which dates back to the annexing of the area by Glendale in 1951.

"When the voters voted to set up the Crescenta Valley Water District, part of what they voted on had to do with the legal boundaries of the district," said a CVWD representative.

The people who vote for CVWD board candidates live within those boundaries but those who live outside the boundaries, though they might still be served by the district, don't vote for the candidates, according to the representative.

The CVWD representative said he understands it is confusing; however, the annexing of areas by Glendale has never been simple.

"After World War II, Metropolitan Water District was formed to bring in water from the Colorado River because the population was growing so much. Residents realized they needed water from the Colorado River. Metropolitan is allowed to sell water to cities or to local governments. So La Crescenta [Montrose] was split down the middle, and the residents on the west side [of the split] voted to annex to Glendale so that they could get metropolitan water from Glendale. The people on the east side of La Crescenta and the town of La Cañada [Flintridge] both voted to form the Foothill Municipal Water District. ... So they get their water from Metropolitan, but it is indirect. It goes from Metropolitan to Foothill to Crescenta Valley Water District," the representative explained.

CVWD was formed about the same time – 1950 – that parts of Montrose-La Crescenta were annexed to Glendale. At that time there were many smaller water companies in the area, including one in the area of Hermosa Avenue; however, the residents near Pine Cone Road, for example, were served by a different company. These private water companies joined the newly formed CVWD so they could access Metropolitan water.

So while legal boundaries are a part of the answer so are water pipelines and which water municipality owns them – Glendale Water & Power or CVWD.

“So the [CV] Water District took those [pipelines] over despite the fact they [were] outside its boundary and [CVWD] furnished water that way,” the representative said.

Which is why some customers pay both GWP and CVWD.

James Lee, CVWD general manager, said the district is aware of this confusing situation and has talked with the City of Glendale in the past about rectifying it.

“Sometimes there are two water mains on the same street – one serves one side [CVWD] and one serves the other [GWP],” he said.

It is this 73-year-old annexation decision/vote that determines which residents vote for CVWD candidates and which do not. This issue has been discussed and debated for years; the best advice for residents who are outside the voting realm of CVWD: speak to Glendale City Council members about being under one umbrella – that of the GWP.

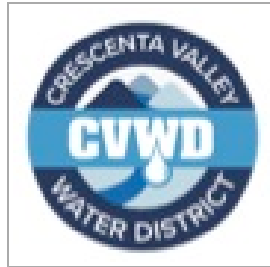


*Breaking Down Who Votes for CVWD Board added by **CV Weekly** on October 24, 2024*

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NEWS FROM THE CV WATER DISTRICT

By CV Weekly on October 31, 2024 · 0 Comments



It was great to celebrate Imagine A Day Without Water a few weekends ago. The mobile water tank in partnership with LA County Fire and Glendale Fire departments will drastically augment firefighting capabilities. Our community and beyond out to Pasadena, Burbank and the northern portions of Los Angeles will benefit from firefighting aircraft to reduce time between air drops, which is critical for fires whose perimeters expand exponentially. We also unveiled a means of efficiently and quickly distributing drinking water at various sites in the event of emergency. And congratulations again to Nicolas Dermardirosian, a senior at CV High, whose piece, "The Last Orange Tree," won the science fiction writing contest.

We're also proud to announce the completion of our first storm water capture project. In partnership with the Arroyos & Foothills Conservancy (parent organization of Friends of the Rosemont Preserve) and LA County Flood Control District, CVWD completed the construction of a 42-foot bioswale that will capture and redirect storm water flowing through the Rosemont Preserve (at the top of Rosemont Avenue past Two Strike Park) into the Goss Canyon debris basin. This nature-based solution will increase groundwater recharge by allowing more time for water to percolate into the soil before entering the County storm channel.

This marks the District closing the loop on one of the more significant points of feedback from a public opinion poll conducted last year. Per that opinion poll, the community called for capturing water that would otherwise flow to the ocean (which makes too much common sense). We are particularly proud to have expedited typical bureaucratic speed bumps and to have employed in-house resources for the construction of the project that could easily have taken years to navigate various agencies and cost hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Appreciation goes out to the regional partnership coalition and to Jonathan Russo, construction crew lead, who led team members Ruben Hernandez, David Escalera, Cesar Velasquez and Rafael Alas Lopez in the field.

Storm water capture represents one element of a future water supply portfolio including groundwater, recycled water and trading and storing water across the region. These projects and pipeline and other infrastructure rehabilitations represent significant fixed costs. We are preparing a financial plan to support a safe and secure future, including a transition to collect more revenues on the fixed service charge (meter charge). Water and wastewater utilities are made available 24/7 and are thus a service. And predictable revenues support long-term planning resilient to forces beyond our control, such as climate and regulations. We planned for a year of no rate increases in the face of significant inflation (current year). And where we would typically begin the outreach process in April (of next year), we are beginning the process half a year earlier to provide ample opportunity for involvement. Please stay tuned for a detailed schedule of town halls so you can plan in advance to participate. We will also be approaching community organizations directly to make sure we're doing everything possible to reach folks.

In closing, please join me in welcoming our new System Operations and Telemetry Manager Gabriel Gomez. He will be responsible for the production and treatment of water and the instrumentation that monitors it 24/7. Mr. Gomez brings extensive experience, having critically evaluated numerous distribution systems for efficiencies and operational resiliency, and I believe the District and our community are fortunate to have his talent and experience on board. We also welcomed two interns, Fredrick Rana and Davit Tumanyan. You may remember that we've set an ambitious goal of completing advanced metering infrastructure (AMI) by next June so you can track water usage on your phone to save water or identify any leaks immediately. Mr. Rana and Mr. Tumanyan will assist with both the field and technical aspects of AMI integration with the system.

Thank you as always for taking the time to read and for continuing the dialogue.

James Lee, General Manager
CVWD



NEWS FROM THE CV WATER DISTRICT <<< JAMES LEE, GENERAL MANAGER added
by CV Weekly on October 31, 2024

View all posts by CV Weekly →

Lead and Copper E-Mail Blast 10/28/24



LEAD SERVICE LINE INVENTORY REPORT



The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued regulations for protections against lead in drinking water, an issue that has been prominent in water systems across the nation.



After conducting a review of historical records and field investigations, CVWD has confirmed that there are no lead service lines in its distribution system. This includes both privately-owned and customer-owned service lines.

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS OR WOULD LIKE MORE INFORMATION:



CALL US



VISIT OUR WEBSITE



VISIT OUR OFFICE

(818) 248-3925

WWW.CVWD.COM

2700 FOOTHILL BLVD
LA CRESCENTA, CA 91214

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CALIFORNIA-NEVADA SECTION AWWA

SPRING/SUMMER 2024

WATER AGENCIES

Innovators in Supplying
Firefighting Helicopters

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

Cohesive
Communities

Resiliency
Adaptation

The Pathfinder

Water Agencies

Innovators in Supplying Firefighting Helicopters

By Bill Ward

It used to be that a typical water agency relationship with the fire department was installing and maintaining dependable, pressurized fire hydrants.

In California, that mission has expanded and put water agencies on the frontlines of supplying firefighting helicopters. This expanded role highlights how they help protect their communities, customers, water infrastructure, and agency revenues.

The ever-growing threat of wildfire, made more dangerous by the expansion of dwellings within the wildland urban interface, has made the work

of the water agencies even more difficult. Fire season is now much longer and the more frequent and devastating mega fires are burning down entire communities, infrastructure, watersheds and destroying millions of acres every year.

This year was no exception and has gotten off to a fast start. What has forever changed is the commitment made by AWWA member agencies, that previously only ensured water supply for fire engines for ground-based firefighting efforts, to increasingly providing water for aerial firefighting efforts as well. Most affected are those agencies that are within or adjacent to brush

or forest wildland. These areas are referred to as the wildland urban interface or WUI for short.

This robust partnership with fire departments is expanding to establish secure and accessible open water supplies or "dip sites" for the thirsty aerial firefighting helicopters. The dip sites are proving to be an integral part of successful WUI firefighting efforts. During a media event dedicating a new dip site for the Orange County Fire Authority (OCFA), Chief Brian Fennessey put it succinctly, "You can't fight fire without water."

This change affects the smaller, rural and remote water agencies that may not be as well funded. Many of the communities they support have dangerous, single road evacuation routes. An example of this is the Camp Fire where



85 evacuees lost their lives and 90% of the homes in the town of Paradise burned down. A pre-placed dip site can save lives near communities that lack a nearby open water source such as a lake or reservoir. Since the helicopter is typically first on-scene their response can slow the rate of fire spread and intensity giving ground crews time to respond up the remote roads.

AGENCY COLLABORATION

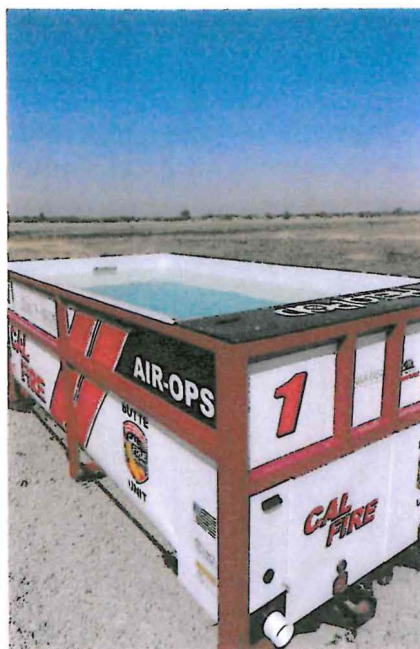
There are multiple ways water agencies can collaborate and seek funding to establish helicopter dip tank sites. The first example is the Santa Clarita Valley Water District (SCVWD) which hosts and provides the water for the busiest and the most used dip site in all of Southern California. It is placed within the E.G. Jerry Gladbach Water Treatment Plant located in Santa Clarita.

When Los Angeles County Fire (LACoFD) purchased eight HeloPod® units, which is a premier multi-featured rigid steel dip tank, SCVWD agreed to place one unit at their site.

"We worked with HeloPod to enhance the LACoFD unit with upgrades of a standard pre-positioned water dip site that includes an automatic fill valve, float system and airgap," said Mike Alvord, the Director of Operations and Maintenance for SCVWD.

He noted SCVWD and the fire department have collaborated for many years. When told this is the busiest dip site in SoCal, Mike replied, "We know it's used often, but didn't know this is the busiest. That is interesting. It's cool and sad at the same time."

Other busy HeloPod units include LACoFD's unit located on the grounds of the Aqua Dulce Airport. The most used dip tank in all of California this year is the



CAL FIRE unit at Chico Airport. It's being used on the Park Fire which is now the fourth largest fire in California history.

The Los Angeles Water and Power (LADWP) purchased two HeloPod units for the Los Angeles City Fire Department. Additionally, California Water Service provided a \$38,000 grant to LACoFD to purchase a water dip tank that was placed in Rancho Palos Verdes. The Orange County Board of Supervisors provided \$100,000 to Orange County Fire Authority (OCFA) to purchase two units. Both Santa Margarita WD and Moulton Niguel WD performed hot taps into their systems and extended a hydrant from the street to the unit. By the end of September, 42 water dip sites will be in service across four states.

In April, the Vallecitos Water District (VWD) finalized pre-positioning the very first HeloPod Dip Tank with a fill valve controlled by their SCADA system. The project involved multiple collaborators. It started when San Marcos Fire was provided a dip tank with an automatic filling valve by CAL FIRE. Then, San Marcos approached VWD to host

a unit adjacent to a large water storage tank with initial funding of \$50,000 from the San Diego Board of Supervisors. The average cost of an automatic filling water dip site with night ops is approximately \$60,000 per unit.

This October, three new water dip sites will be put into service, one will be a second OCFA dip site in Aliso Viejo. The other two units are heading to the Crescenta Valley Water District (CVWD) in LA County.

"Safeguarding life and property are the most critical aspects of fulfilling our mission as a public water and wastewater utility," said James Lee, CVWD's General Manager. "Providing ample and reliable water supply for firefighting efforts represents a radically common-sense approach to protecting our community. While the Los Angeles County Fire regional plan called for one water dip site in our area, we committed to two for additional resilience. The marginal cost of a secondary tank is well worth the peace of mind that ample and reliable water supply can be counted on."

LARGER HELICOPTERS

Both CAL FIRE and County Fire Departments have invested hundreds of millions of dollars in supersized aerial firefighting helicopters. They have also increased the number of private helicopters under contract for the fire season. It's not just the increased number of aircraft, but it is the way they have supersized the helicopters to fight the fires.

Not so many years ago, the largest





helicopter water tank carried 125 to 350 gallons. Then everything changed when LA County Fire adopted the iconic yellow, black and white FireHawk® that is recognized all over the world. The copter can carry 1,000 gallons of water in a single load.

Most fill their tanks while hovering mid-air using a special hose with a pump built in or a "snorkel". This allows them to take on up to 20% more water than ground filling. Sources say the entire process is four times faster compared to landing the aircraft and "ground filling".

The effectiveness of these multi-million dollar aircraft is still dependent on how close the water supply is to the fire. The closer the water source or dip site to the community, the faster the turnaround time allowing more gallons of water to be dropped on the fire per hour. In the fire service there is a category called Very Large Helitankers (VLHT). This includes aerial assets such as the Skycrane that can hold 2,600 gallons and the twin blade

military helicopters such as the CH-47 Chinook that can drop up to 3,000 gallons per load.

"These larger aircraft can pull large amounts of water, therefore, we need good relationships with water agencies to work with for access to water," said LA County Fire Assistant Chief Patrick Sprengel. "The HeloPod allows them to have a dip site in areas they otherwise couldn't."

ALWAYS READY

Initial attack is crucial in slowing or stopping a fire before it can establish itself and grow. Seasonally and during drought conditions, a vast number of open water sources dry up and are unavailable. With more homes and communities being built within wildland and forests, communities and water





agencies are responding by investing in preparedness.

In many cases this includes pre-positioning water dip sites for the initial attack. A perfect example of this is Laguna Beach Fire Department's water dip site pre-positioned in November 2020. The Coastal Fire broke out in May 2022 in neighboring Laguna Niguel. When Laguna Beach Mayor Sue Kempf learned their city was the primary dip site for the fire she noted, "This underscores the need for more dip sites strategically placed around town."

Laguna Beach's dip site was used 135 times over a day and a half by two helicopters to extinguish the spot fires and embers in the canyon between the two cities.

Water agencies need to protect their infrastructure, watersheds and revenues. Losing a pumping

station is costly, but during a wildfire it is catastrophic and diminishes firefighting capabilities and efforts. A watershed with burn scars can cause erosion and mudslides which fills water ways and costs millions of dollars to re-habilitate. The personal loss and financial devastation when your customers lose a home or business is a multi-year process to rebuild financially and emotionally.

About the Author

Bill Ward is the co-owner and vice president at PumpPodUSA, the manufacturer of the HeloPod mobile helicopter dip tank and the DRAFTS unit training apparatus:

Examples of the different types and recent funding received for establishing Helopod dip sites:

- The Los Angeles County Fire Department went to their "Fire Department Foundation" for the funding for their initial eight units.

- Riverside County CSA and Board of Supervisors approved \$157,000 of funding to Pine Cove Water in Idyllwild and Riverside County Fire to purchase two water dip sites and tactical transport trailer.

- The San Geronio Pass Water Agency secured a \$1,800,000 grant from Riverside Supervisor Dr. Yxstian Gutierrez to Install six units.

- Yorba Linda WD secured a \$500,000 grant from the USFS for one unit.

- The Orange County Board of Supervisors provided Orange Co. Fire Authority \$100,000 to purchase two units with automatic fill valve, float, airgap and night ops lighting.

- City of San Marcos and Vallecitos WD received \$50,000 toward installation of a unit from San Diego Board of Supervisors.

- California Water Service provided a \$38,000 grant to LA County Fire Department to purchase a unit.

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October 9, 2024

Ms. Sharon S. Raghavachary
Board President
Crescenta Valley Water District
2700 Foothill Blvd., La Crescenta, CA 91214.

✓ CC: Ms. Jennifer T. Valdez, Director

Dear Ms. Raghavachary:

I urge you, as Directors of the CVWD to provide information to voters so that they can make informed decisions regarding the November 5th election. My husband and I have completed our ballots but were able to vote for only one member of the CVWD Board because you, as candidates, did not answer the questionnaires featured on Ballotpedia and Vote411.

Before voting, we want to know, in the candidate's own words, their priorities, values, and plans as well as their accomplishments. As you both, as current Directors, did not supply this info nor create campaign websites, we had the barest biographical information. At least, Mr. Hyeler created a Facebook campaign page, so we voted for him.

As a note, candidates for all other offices that we voted for provided information so that we could vote with confidence.

Please put yourself in the position of the voter. We have the civic duty to vote for the person we consider best for the job. This puts a responsibility on the candidates to provide voters with information about themselves. As you have not yet fulfilled this responsibility, it suggests that perhaps in other ways you also don't fulfill your responsibilities. At the least, you are making it appear that you don't respect us as the voting public. Perhaps, as incumbents, you consider that we should just re-elect you? Is this how democracy should work?

My husband and I have already voted. But many others have not. I urge you to provide information so that voters can do their job properly and our democracy can work properly.

Sincerely,



Alexandra Hopkins

CRESCENTA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

General Manager Report

GM Report

November 12, 2024

To: Honorable President and Members of the Board of Directors
From: James Lee, General Manager
Subject: General Manager Report

General Manager's Report Topics:

- 7th Annual Chili Cookoff – October 31st – neighboring agencies joined: Foothill Municipal Water District; La Canada Irrigation District; Rubio Canon Land and Water; Los Angeles County Public Works; Glendale Fire
- Stormwater Project – Bioswale at the Rosemont Preserve
- System Operations & Telemetry Manager – Welcome Gabriel Gomez

STAFFING

1 employee has a work anniversary in November: Adam Sutphin – 5 years.

As of November 7th, the District has gone 319 days without a lost time incident.

GENERAL MANAGER ACTIVITIES

Meetings:

Managers Meeting(s)	- Oct 10 th ; Oct 17 th ; Oct 24 th ; Oct 31 st
Leadership Academy (<i>internal</i>)	- Oct 10 th ; Oct 24 th ; Nov 7 th
Safety Lunch Celebration	- October 9 th
Metropolitan Water District	- October 10 th
Golden State Water Company	- October 11 th
Glendale Fire Department	- October 11 th
CV Town Council Pancake Breakfast	- October 12 th
Glendale WP / Foothill MWD – Recycled Water	- October 14 th
CA Data Collaborative Executive Committee	- October 14 th
All-Hands Staff Meeting / Great ShakeOut	- October 17 th
Employee Relations Committee	- October 17 th
Ad Hoc PFAS Committee	- October 18 th
Community Relations Committee	- October 21 st
Leadership Circle: 5 th Meeting	- October 29 th
Chili Cookoff for Staff and Neighboring Agencies	- October 31 st
CSDA Special District Leadership Program	- November 3 rd -6 th
Los Angeles-Glendale Water Reclamation Plant	- November 7 th

Submitted by:



James Lee
General Manager

Field Maintenance and Operations Report

October 2024

0

Water Main Repairs

15

Water Service

Repairs: 7 Replacements: 8

2

After Hours Leaks/Repairs

18,200'

Sewer Maintenance

Clean: 2,471' Inspect: 12,401' Reports: 0

- **Field Maintenance Projects**

- * Rosemont Preserve – Bioswale

- * D-23-143 – 4036 Rosemont – Meter Manifold (6) & fire service

- **Operations Report**

- * PRV maintenance – Distribution system

- * Hach analyzer service – Distribution system

- * Glenwood – Chlorination equipment maintenance

- **Electrical/Telemetry**

- * Mills – VFD maintenance

- * Generator – annual maintenance

- **Facilities Maintenance**

- * Roof Repairs – Mills and Glenwood

- * Mills – Fence negotiation

- **Wastewater**

- * Lift Station Visits: 4 (De-rag pumps, check valves)

Field Maintenance and Operations Report

October 2024

Days without a lost-time incident: **318**

130+

Water Quality Samples w/ additional
PFAS monitoring samples

97

Valves

Replace: 0 Exercise: 97 Install: 0

0

Fire Hydrant Maintenance

Rebuild: 0 Install: 0 Inspect: 0

20

Water Meter Replacement

$\frac{3}{4}$ " : 0, 1" : 1, 1.5" : 20, 2" : 1, 3" : 0, 4" : 0

- **Training/Cross Training**

- * Backhoe
 - Ruben H

- **Events**

- * PWAG Picnic
- * Chili Cook-Off

- **New Certification**

- * None to report

- **Safety**

- * SSO – ERP trailer
 - Glenwood

Engineering Report

November 12, 2024
Staff Report

To: Honorable President and Members of the Board of Directors
From: Carla Dillon, P.E., Director of Engineering and Operations
Subject: Engineering Report – October 2024

Water Production Report

- October 2024 – Water production –55%/45% split – 116.5 MG for the month
- October 2024 – Average use – 13% more than 2023 and 15.1% more than 5-year average

Rainfall Update

- 0.00” for October 2024
- Rainfall Total for WY 2024/25 – 0.00”

Engineering Update

Capital Improvement Projects

- Roofing Project
 - Completed re-roofing at Administration, repairs at Glenwood and Mills PS
- Pipeline Replacement
 - Planning project delivery alternatives
 - Held meetings with possible contractors
- Rehabilitation of Wells 16 and 10
 - Proceeding with contract execution and field work implementation
- Ramsdell Mixing Station/Pressure Reducing Station
 - Above ground PRVs Constructed
 - Materials on order for In-house repairs
- 2600 & 2700 Blocks of Orange Ave (E-1046)
 - Project closeout

Groundwater Update

- Wells 11 and 2 currently offline due to PFAS issues
- Well 10 offline due to motor failure

Engineering - General

- Seeking services of alternate CAD specialist as services were no longer through the contract awarded to Project Partners by Board in August 2024.

Developer Projects

- There are sixteen total open developer projects. Tier 2 and Tier 3 jobs are highlighted below:
- 3037/3043 Foothill – Pending payment of materials, selection of a contractor, and faithful performance bond.
- 2747 Fierro Circle – Pending approval from LA County or neighbors of the private street for the installation of a new water service.
- 4036 Rosemont Ave – Completed installation of six new water services and a fire service. Pending final payment from the developer for the final cost of the installation.
- 4802 Rosemont Ave – Pending payment for the installation of a new water service.
- 2420 Rockdell St – New water service installed; pending final payment from the developer.

CRESCENTA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

WATER PRODUCTION REPORT

October 1 - October 31, 2024

Well Production:	57,775,560	Gals		
GWP Production:	4,790,000	Gals		
Gravity Production:	1,391,939	Gals	% GW	55%
FMWD:	52,553,822	Gals		
City of Glendale:	1,055	Gals	% Import	45%
TOTAL:	116,512,376	Gals		
	357.56	ac-ft		

Glenwood Nitrate Water
Reclamation Plant:*

0

*Included in Well Production

WATER DEMAND COMPARISON

Time Period	Average Daily Usage (gals)	Current Period Change
October 1 - October 31, 2024	3,715,681	
October 1 - October 31, 2023	3,287,078	13.0%
5-yr Average - October 2019 - 2023	3,228,387	15.1%

RAINFALL: October 1 - 31, 2024 0.00"

Season-To-Date: 0.00"

2024/25 Fiscal Year Water Production			WY 24/25 - Groundwater Production Water Rights		GWP (Well 16) Water Production - 2024		Purchased Water Production Tier 2 Allocation - 2024	
Month	Actual Total Water Production (ac-ft)	Budgeted Total Water Production (ac-ft)	Month	Month	Month	Well Production (ac-ft)	Month	Imported Water Production (ac-ft)
July	372	375	October	182	January	13	January	79
August	381	385	November		February	13	February	53
September	367	345	December		March	14	March	51
October	358	340	January		April	15	April	74
November		305	February		May	16	May	96
December		275	March		June	15	June	141
January		245	April		July	16	July	165
February		240	May		August	16	August	173
March		260	June		September	14	September	171
April		260	July		October	15	October	161
May		300	August		November		November	
June		320	September		December		December	
Total to Date	1,477	1,105	Total to Date	182	Total to Date	146	Total to Date	1,164
Projected	3,665	3,650	Water Rights	3,294			Tier 2	2,154
% of Projected	40.5%	30.3%	% of Rights	6%			% of Allocation	54%
Remaining	2,173	2,545	Remaining	3,112			Remaining	990

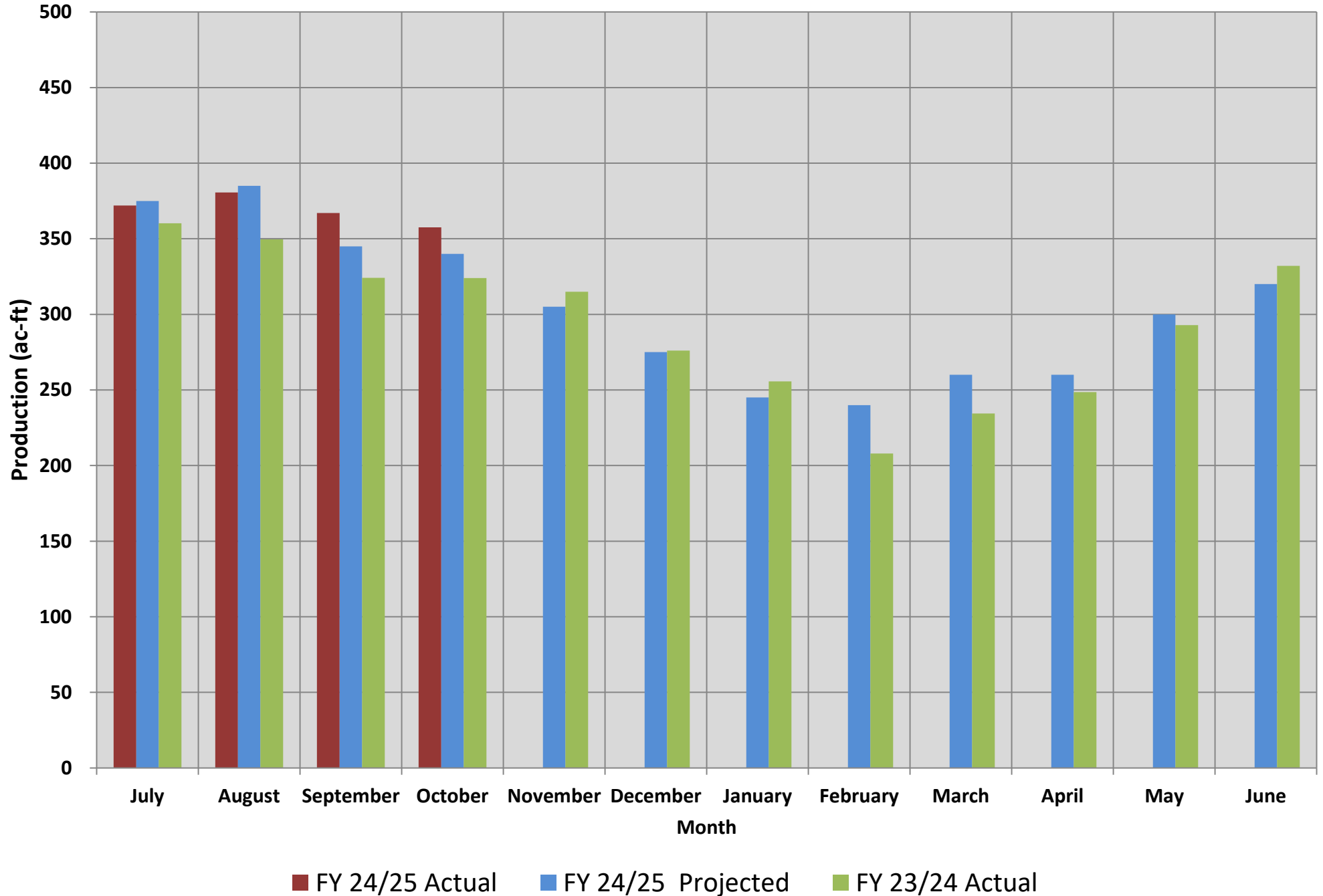
NOTE:

1) Blue Numbers = Estimated Water Production

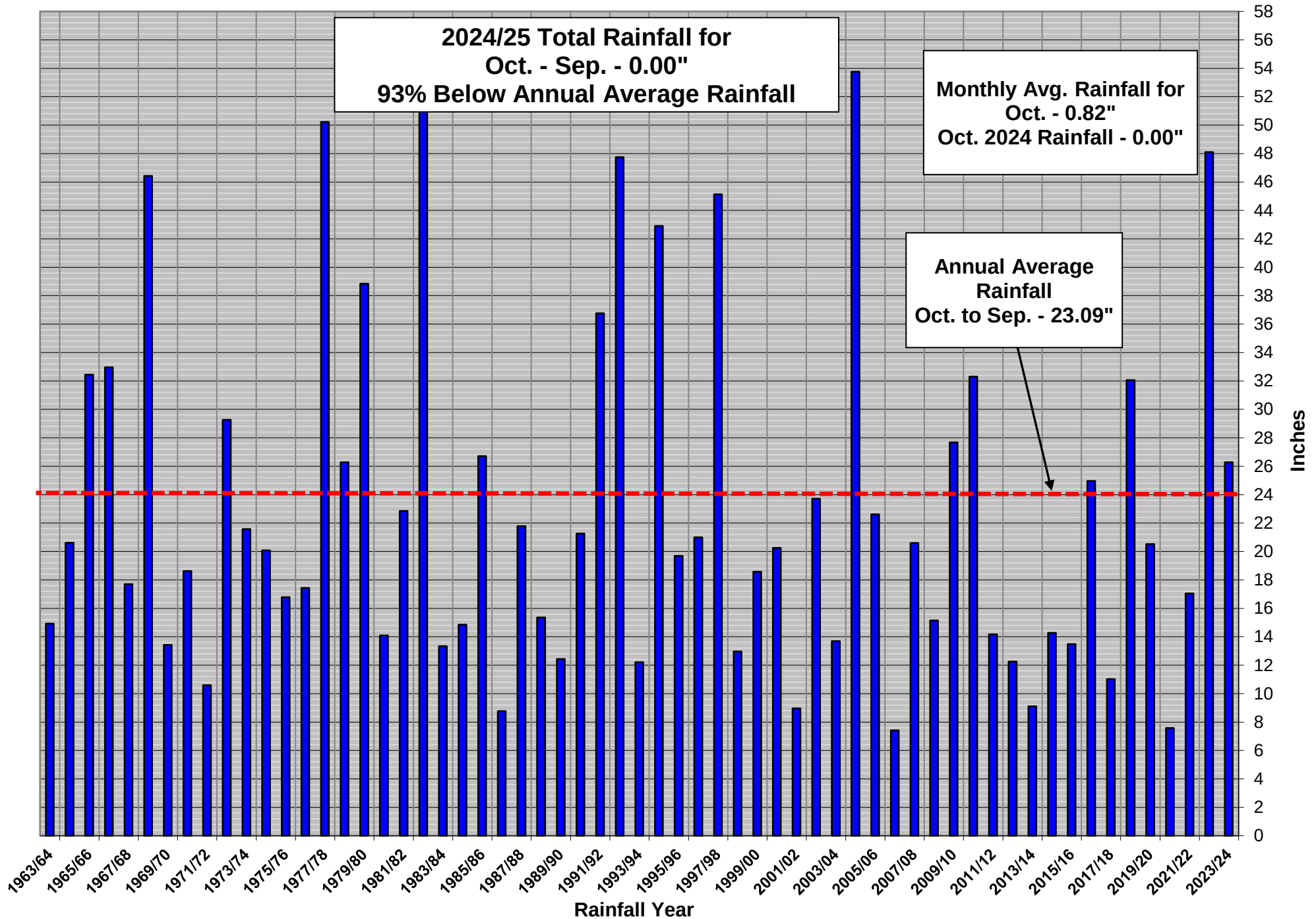
2) Wells 2 & 11 offline due to PFAS blending issues. Well 10 offline due to motor failure

Monthly Water Production:

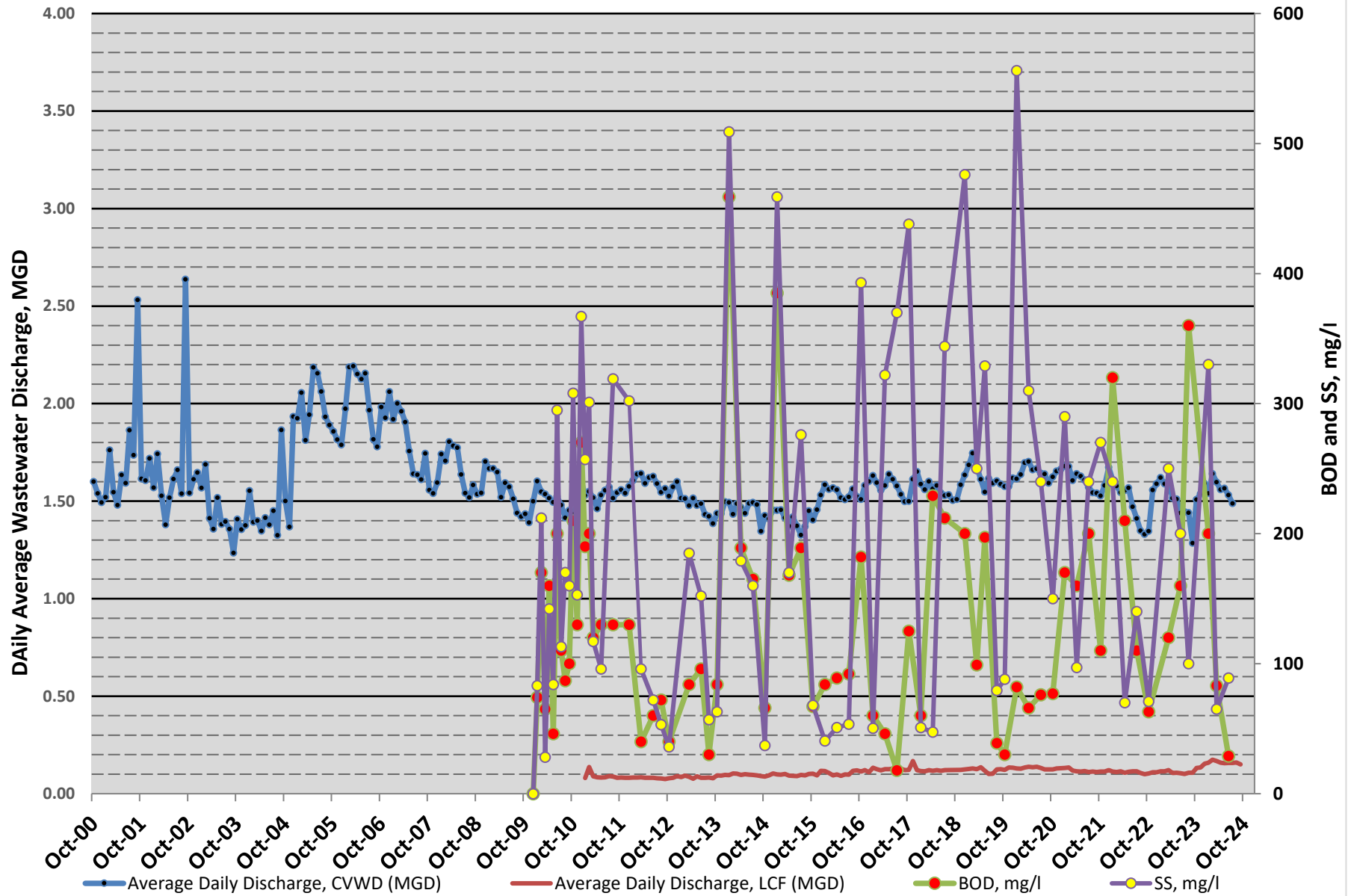
FY 24/25 Actual, FY 24/25 Projected & FY 23/24 Actual



Monthly Rainfall - 1963/64 - 2024/25 (Oct. 1 - Sep. 30)



CVWD Daily Average Wastewater Discharge and Strength
October 1, 2000 - September 30, 2024



CRESCENTA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

2700 FOOTHILL BOULEVARD
LA CRESCENTA, CALIFORNIA

To be held on
October 3, 2024 at 4:00 PM

Agenda for the Meeting of the Executive Committee
of the Crescenta Valley Water District

Posted October 2, 2024 at 4:00 PM

Call to Order

Adoption of Agenda

Action Item(s)

1. Discussion regarding Board Governance
2. Update of 15-month District vision
3. GM evaluation
4. Boardroom renovation

Committee Members' Request for Future Agenda Items

Closed Session - None

Adjournment

CRESCENTA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

**2700 FOOTHILL BOULEVARD
LA CRESCENTA, CALIFORNIA**

**To be held on
October 17, 2024 at 4:30 PM**

**Agenda for the Meeting of the Employee Relations Committee
of the Crescenta Valley Water District**

Posted October 16, 2024 at 4:30 PM

TELECONFERENCING NOTICE

This meeting will be conducted in person at the address listed above. Members of the public may also participate virtually by using a touchtone phone. You may select any of the following phone numbers (there are more than one for increased reliability during this time of increase phone traffic).

(669) 900-6833

(346) 248-7799

(929) 205-6099

(253) 215-8782

(301) 715-8592

(312) 626-6799

Then, enter Access Code: 881 0694 1607

[Pursuant to the above Executive Order, the public may not attend the meeting in person]

Those members of the public who are able to and would like to additionally participate with a computer through videoconference may access the Zoom videoconferencing tool available at the following link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88106941607>

If there is a disruption of service, this meeting will continue without remote participation. The remote participation option is provided a convenience to the public and is not required.

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 the District by phone or in writing at customerservice@cvwd.com. 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.

Call to Order

Adoption of Agenda

Public Comment:

At this time, members of the public shall have an opportunity to address the Committee on items of interest that are within the subject matter jurisdiction of this Committee. This opportunity is non-transferable, and speakers are limited to three (3) minutes each. Under the provisions of the Brown Act, the Board is prohibited from taking action on items not listed on the agenda, except under certain circumstances.

Action Item(s)

The public shall have an opportunity to comment on any action item as each item is considered by the Committee. This opportunity is non-transferrable and speakers are limited to one two-minute (2) comment each.

1. Discussion regarding proposed departmental restructure and associated job descriptions.
2. Discussion regarding proposed redistribution of cost savings.

Committee Members' Request for Future Agenda Items

Adjournment

CRESCENTA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

2700 FOOTHILL BOULEVARD
LA CRESCENTA, CALIFORNIA

Agenda for the
Meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee
Of the Crescenta Valley Water District
To be held on
October 18, 2024 at 3:00 PM

Call to Order

Action Calendar

Committee Members' Request for Future Agenda Items

Adjournment

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CRESCENTA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

2700 FOOTHILL BOULEVARD
LA CRESCENTA, CALIFORNIA

To be held on
October 21, 2024 at 4:30 PM

Agenda for the Meeting of the Community Relations Committee
of the Crescenta Valley Water District

Posted October 18, 2024 at 4:30 PM

TELECONFERENCING NOTICE

This meeting will be conducted in person at the address listed above. Members of the public may also participate virtually by using a touchtone phone. You may select any of the following phone numbers (there are more than one for increased reliability during this time of increase phone traffic).

(669) 900-6833
(253) 215-8782

(346) 248-7799
(301) 715-8592

(929) 205-6099
(312) 626-6799

Then, enter Access Code: 88681889786

Those members of the public who are able to and would like to additionally participate with a computer through videoconference may access the Zoom videoconferencing tool available at the following link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88681889786>

If there is a disruption of service, this meeting will continue without remote participation. The remote participation option is provided a convenience to the public and is not required.

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Call to Order

Adoption of Agenda

Public Comment:

At this time, members of the public shall have an opportunity to address the Committee on items of interest that are within the subject matter jurisdiction of this Committee. This opportunity is non-transferable, and speakers are limited to three (3) minutes each. Under the provisions of the Brown Act, the Board is prohibited from taking action on items not listed on the agenda, except under certain circumstances.

Action Item(s)

The public shall have an opportunity to comment on any action item as each item is considered by the Committee. This opportunity is non-transferrable and speakers are limited to one two-minute (2) comment each.

1. Discussion on public outreach regarding the rate study, PFAS, and associated items.

Committee Members' Request for Future Agenda Items

Adjournment