



*Dedicated to
Satisfying our Community's
Water Needs*

**AGENDA
MESA WATER DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Wednesday, November 12, 2025
1965 Placentia Avenue, Costa Mesa, CA 92627
4:30 p.m. Regular Board Meeting**

CALL TO ORDER

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Items Not on the Agenda: Members of the public are invited to address the Board regarding items which are not appearing on the posted agenda. Each speaker shall be limited to three minutes. The Board will set aside 30 minutes for public comments for items not appearing on the posted agenda.

Items on the Agenda: Members of the public shall be permitted to comment on agenda items before action is taken, or after the Board has discussed the item. Each speaker shall be limited to three minutes. The Board will set aside 60 minutes for public comments for items appearing on the posted agenda.

ITEMS TO BE ADDED, REMOVED OR REORDERED ON THE AGENDA

At the discretion of the Board, all items appearing on this agenda, whether or not expressly listed as an Action Item, may be deliberated and may be subject to action by the Board.

CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS:

Approve all matters under the Consent Calendar by one motion unless a Board member, staff or a member of the public requests a separate action.

1. Approve minutes of regular Board meeting of October 8, 2025.
2. Approve minutes of regular Board meeting of October 22, 2025.
3. Approve attendance considerations (additions, changes, deletions).
4. Board Schedule:
 - Conferences, Seminars and Meetings
 - Board Calendar
 - Upcoming Community Outreach Events
5. Acknowledge the delay of the Fiscal Year 2025 Audit and affirm the Fiscal Year 2025 Annual Financial Report will be presented to the Board of Directors in March 2026.
6. Approve a two-year contract renewal with Van Scoyoc Associates, Inc. for an amount not to exceed \$135,000 annually to provide Federal Government Advocacy Consulting Services through December 31, 2027, with up to two additional 1-year renewals available, and authorize execution of the contract.

PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS:

7. ORANGE COUNTY ADVOCACY CONSULTING SERVICES:

Recommendation: Receive the presentation.

8. FISCAL YEAR 2025 ENVIRONMENTAL, HEALTH AND SAFETY PROGRAM AUDIT:

Recommendation: Receive the presentation.

9. CUSTOMER PROJECT – C0681-25-01 – 1400 BRISTOL STREET:

Recommendation: Approve a quitclaim of Mesa Water District's easement for the six-inch distribution line, an easement for access to the new three-inch meter and double check detector assembly, and modification of the easement for the six-inch distribution line and two fire hydrants on the southwest property line located at 1400 Bristol Street.

ACTION ITEMS:

10. HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT PROGRAM:

Recommendation: Authorize the General Manager to accept Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funds, if awarded, for the Mesa Water Reliability Facility Emergency Backup Power Project and commit a Mesa Water District cost share for an amount not to exceed \$960,500 (25 % of total project cost).

11. NEWPORT BEACH INTERAGENCY WATER TRANSFERS:

Recommendation: Authorize the General Manager to approve contracts for an amount not to exceed \$500,000 for the construction, construction management and engineering services necessary to proceed with a new interconnection between Mesa Water District and the City of Newport Beach.

12. TRAVEL AND BUSINESS EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT POLICY:

Recommendation: Adopt Resolution No. 1607 Revising the Travel and Business Expense Reimbursement Policy Superseding Resolution No. 1579.

REPORTS:

13. REPORT OF THE GENERAL MANAGER

14. DIRECTORS' REPORTS AND COMMENTS

INFORMATION ITEMS:

15. ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT ASSESSMENT
16. FISCAL YEAR 2025 ANNUAL REIMBURSEMENT REPORT
17. FEDERAL ADVOCACY UPDATE
18. STATE ADVOCACY UPDATE
19. ORANGE COUNTY ADVOCACY UPDATE
20. DIRECTORS' REPORTS (AB 1234) PER CA GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 53232.3 (D)

CLOSED SESSIONS:

21. CONFERENCE REGARDING CYBER SECURITY PURSUANT TO CALIFORNIA GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54957(A):
The Board will meet in Closed Session regarding cyber security risks and protections.
22. PURSUANT TO CALIFORNIA GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54957.6:
Public Employee Performance Evaluation
Title: General Manager

In compliance with California law and the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need disability-related modifications or accommodations, including auxiliary aids or services in order to participate in the meeting, or if you need the agenda provided in an alternative format, please call the District Secretary at (949) 631-1205. Notification 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable Mesa Water District (Mesa Water®) to make reasonable arrangements to accommodate your requests.

Members of the public desiring to make verbal comments using a translator to present their comments into English shall be provided reasonable time accommodations that are consistent with California law.

Agenda materials that are public records, which have been distributed to a majority of the Mesa Water Board of Directors (Board), will be available for public inspection at the District Boardroom, 1965 Placentia Avenue, Costa Mesa, CA and on Mesa Water's website at www.MesaWater.org. If materials are distributed to the Board less than 72 hours prior or during the meeting, the materials will be available at the time of the meeting.

**ADJOURN TO AN ADJOURNED REGULAR BOARD MEETING SCHEDULED FOR
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2025 AT 2:30 p.m.**



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**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MESA WATER DISTRICT
Wednesday, October 8, 2025
1965 Placentia Avenue, Costa Mesa, CA 92627
4:30 p.m. Regular Board Meeting**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Board of Directors was called to order at 4:30 p.m. by President DePasquale.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Director Bockmiller led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Directors Present

Marice H. DePasquale, President
Shawn Dewane, Vice President (*teleconference*)
Jim Atkinson, Director
Fred R. Bockmiller, P.E., Director
James R. Fisler, Director

Directors Absent

None

Staff Present

Paul E. Shoenberger, P.E., General Manager
Denise Khalifa, Chief Administrative Officer/
District Secretary
Tyler Jernigan, Water Operations Manager/
Acting District Treasurer
Kurt Lind, Business Manager
Andrew D. Wiesner, P.E., District Engineer
Stacy Taylor, Water Policy Manager
Nadia Boutros, Civil Engineer
Anthony Phou, Controller
Kaitlyn Norris, Public Affairs Supervisor
Rob Anslow, General Legal Counsel

Others Present

None

District Secretary Khalifa stated one Mesa Water Director was attending the meeting via teleconference.

For each action, a roll call vote was taken in accordance with California Government Code Section 54953(b)(2) which states, "all votes taken during a teleconferenced meeting shall be by roll call."

PUBLIC COMMENTS

President DePasquale asked for public comments on items not on the agenda.

There was no public present and President DePasquale proceeded with the meeting.

ITEMS TO BE ADDED, REMOVED OR REORDERED ON THE AGENDA

General Manager Shoenberger reported there were no items to be added, removed or reordered on the agenda.

CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS:

Director Bockmiller requested to pull Item 6 for discussion. There were no objections.

1. Approve minutes of regular Board meeting of September 10, 2025.
2. Approve minutes of regular Board meeting of September 24, 2025.
3. Approve attendance considerations (additions, changes, deletions).
4. Board Schedule:
 - Conferences, Seminars and Meetings
 - Board Calendar
 - Upcoming Community Outreach Events
5. Approve an additional \$30,000 for Van Scoyoc Associates, Inc. to conduct expanded advocacy activities on behalf of Mesa Water District in Washington, D.C. as part of the District's Federal Advocacy Program.
6. Award a three-year contract, with the option for two additional one-year renewals, to Ferguson Enterprises, Inc. for \$427,257.45 and a 10% contingency of \$42,725 for a total authorized amount not to exceed \$469,982.45 to secure integrated meter reading software and implementation services, and authorize execution of the contract.
7. Award a contract to AdaptivEdge, LLC for \$96,600 and a 10% contingency of \$9,660 for a total authorized amount not to exceed \$106,260 to provide Microsoft Office 365 Evaluation & Reset Consulting Services, and authorize execution of the contract.

MOTION

Motion by Director Bockmiller, second by Director Atkinson, to approve Items 1 – 5 and 7 of the Consent Calendar. Motion passed 5 – 0, by the following roll call vote:

AYES:	DIRECTORS	Atkinson, Bockmiller, Fisler, Dewane, DePasquale
NOES:	DIRECTORS	None
ABSTAIN:	DIRECTORS	None
ABSENT:	DIRECTORS	None

ITEM 6 - Award a three-year contract, with the option for two additional one-year renewals, to Ferguson Enterprises, Inc. for \$427,257.45 and a 10% contingency of \$42,725 for a total authorized amount not to exceed \$469,982.45 to secure integrated meter reading software and implementation services, and authorize execution of the contract.

Business Manager Lind provided an overview of the project.

Mr. Lind responded to questions from the Board and they thanked him for the information.

MOTION

Motion by Director Bockmiller, second by Director Atkinson, to approve Item 6 of the Consent Calendar. Motion passed 5 – 0, by the following roll call vote:

AYES:	DIRECTORS	Atkinson, Bockmiller, Fisler, Dewane, DePasquale
NOES:	DIRECTORS	None
ABSTAIN:	DIRECTORS	None
ABSENT:	DIRECTORS	None

PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS:

None.

ACTION ITEMS:

8. DIRECT MAILING SERVICES:

MOTION

Motion by Director Bockmiller, second by President DePasquale, to approve a three-year contract, with the option for two additional one-year renewals, with InfoSend, Inc. for an annual amount not to exceed \$140,000 to provide Direct Mailing Services, and authorize execution of the contract. Motion passed 5 – 0, by the following roll call vote:

AYES:	DIRECTORS	Atkinson, Bockmiller, Fisler, Dewane, DePasquale
NOES:	DIRECTORS	None
ABSTAIN:	DIRECTORS	None
ABSENT:	DIRECTORS	None

9. WEBSITE MAINTENANCE CONSULTING SERVICES:

MOTION

Motion by President DePasquale, second by Director Fisler, to approve a contract amendment with 360 GT LLC to extend the term through September 1, 2026 and authorize an additional \$39,600 for a total contract amount not to exceed \$93,780 to provide ongoing website maintenance consulting services, and authorize execution of the contract. Motion passed 5 – 0, by the following roll call vote:

AYES:	DIRECTORS	Atkinson, Bockmiller, Fisler, Dewane, DePasquale
NOES:	DIRECTORS	None
ABSTAIN:	DIRECTORS	None
ABSENT:	DIRECTORS	None

REPORTS:

- 10. REPORT OF THE GENERAL MANAGER
- 11. DIRECTORS' REPORTS AND COMMENTS

INFORMATION ITEMS:

- 12. DIRECTORS' REPORTS (AB 1234) PER CA GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 53232.3 (D)

President DePasquale adjourned the meeting at 5:00 p.m. to a Regular Board Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, October 22, 2025 at 4:30 p.m.

Approved:

Marice H. DePasquale, President

Denise Khalifa, District Secretary

Recording Secretary: Sharon D. Brimer



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**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MESA WATER DISTRICT
Wednesday, October 22, 2025
1965 Placentia Avenue, Costa Mesa, CA 92627
4:30 p.m. Regular Board Meeting**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Board of Directors was called to order at 4:30 p.m. by President DePasquale.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Director Fisler led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Directors Present

Marice H. DePasquale, President
Shawn Dewane, Vice President
Jim Atkinson, Director *(teleconference)*
Fred R. Bockmiller, P.E., Director
James R. Fisler, Director

Directors Absent

None

Staff Present

Paul E. Shoenberger, P.E., General Manager
Denise Khalifa, Chief Administrative Officer/
District Secretary
Tyler Jernigan, Water Operations Manager/
Acting District Treasurer
Kurt Lind, Business Manager
Andrew D. Wiesner, P.E., District Engineer
Stacy Taylor, Water Policy Manager
Anthony Phou, Controller
Karyn Igar, Principal Engineer
Kaitlyn Norris, Public Affairs Supervisor
Rob Anslow, General Legal Counsel

Others Present

Adam Sonenshein, Senior Vice President, FM3 Research
David Spencer, P.E., Pipeline Asset Management Lead, HDR,
Inc.

District Secretary Khalifa stated one Mesa Water Director was attending the meeting via teleconference.

For each action, a roll call vote was taken in accordance with California Government Code Section 54953(b)(2) which states, "all votes taken during a teleconferenced meeting shall be by roll call."

PUBLIC COMMENTS

President DePasquale asked for public comments on items not on the agenda.

There was no public present and President DePasquale proceeded with the meeting.

ITEMS TO BE ADDED, REMOVED OR REORDERED ON THE AGENDA

General Manager Shoenberger reported there were no items to be added, removed or reordered on the agenda.

CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS:

Director Atkinson requested to pull Item 4 for discussion. There were no objections.

1. Receive and file the Developer Project Status Report.
2. Receive and file the Mesa Water and Other Agency Projects Status Report.
3. Receive and file the Water Quality Call Report.
4. Receive and file the Accounts Paid Listing.
5. Receive and file the Monthly Financial Reports.
6. Receive and file the Outreach Update.

MOTION

Motion by Director Bockmiller, second by Vice President Dewane, to approve Items 1 – 3 and 5 – 6 of the Consent Calendar. Motion passed 5 – 0, by the following roll call vote:

AYES:	DIRECTORS	Atkinson, Bockmiller, Fisler, Dewane, DePasquale
NOES:	DIRECTORS	None
ABSTAIN:	DIRECTORS	None
ABSENT:	DIRECTORS	None

ITEM 4 – Receive and file the Accounts Paid Listing.

Controller Phou responded to questions from the Board and they thanked him for the information.

MOTION

Motion by Director Atkinson, second by Director Bockmiller, to approve Item 4 of the Consent Calendar. Motion passed 5 – 0, by the following roll call vote:

AYES:	DIRECTORS	Atkinson, Bockmiller, Fisler, Dewane, DePasquale
NOES:	DIRECTORS	None
ABSTAIN:	DIRECTORS	None
ABSENT:	DIRECTORS	None

PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS:

7. MESA WATER DISTRICT CUSTOMER SURVEY:

Public Affairs Supervisor Norris provided an overview of the topic and introduced FM3 Research Senior Vice President Adam Sonenshein, who proceeded with a presentation that highlighted the following:

- Research Goals
- Survey Methodology
- General Direction of City
- 5-Year Water Supply Reliability
- Water Source Knowledge
- Water Agency Familiarity
- Mesa Water District Identification
- Favorable Opinion Rating
- District Keyword Reviews
- Satisfaction Rating
- Satisfaction Rating Rankings
- Specific Services
- Overall Communication
- Types of Communication
- Importance Ranking
- Favorable Opinion Rating Change
- Conclusions

Mr. Sonenshein responded to questions from the Board and they thanked him for the presentation.

8. PIPELINE INTEGRITY PROGRAM UPDATE:

Principal Engineer Igar introduced HDR, Inc. Pipeline Asset Management Lead David Spencer, P. E. Ms. Igar and Mr. Spencer proceeded with a presentation that highlighted the following:

- Pipeline Integrity Program History
- Rapid Escalation in Pipe Renewal Cost Since COVID
- Resolution No. 1525 Replacement of Assets
- Exposed Pipe Testing
- Updated 100-Year Replacement Cost Curve
- Resolution No. 1525 Replacement of Assets
- Proposed Updates to Resolution No. 1525 Replacement of Assets
- Summary of Proposed Updates to Resolution No. 1525 Replacement of Assets

Discussion ensued amongst the Board.

Ms. Igar and Mr. Spencer responded to questions from the Board and they thanked them for the presentation.

9. RESERVOIRS 1 AND 2 PUMP STATION UPGRADES PROJECT QUARTERLY UPDATE:

Principal Engineer Igar proceeded with a presentation that highlighted the following:

- Reservoir 1 - Site Layout
- Reservoir 1 - Chemical Tanks
- Reservoir 2 - Site Layout
- Reservoir 2 - Mixers
- Reservoir 2 - Chemical Facility
- Reservoir Project Planned vs. Actual

Ms. Igar responded to questions from the Board and they thanked her for the presentation.

RECESS

President DePasquale declared a recess at 5:55 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 6:05 p.m.

10. LOCAL GROUNDWATER SUPPLY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT:

District Engineer Wiesner provided an update on the Local Groundwater Supply Improvement Project.

Mr. Wiesner responded to questions from the Board and they thanked him for the information.

ACTION ITEMS:

None.

REPORTS:

11. REPORT OF THE GENERAL MANAGER:

- September Key Indicators Report

12. DIRECTORS' REPORTS AND COMMENTS

INFORMATION ITEMS:

13. CLAIM OF TOM FISHER

14. FEDERAL ADVOCACY UPDATE

15. STATE ADVOCACY UPDATE

16. ORANGE COUNTY UPDATE

President DePasquale adjourned the meeting at 6:30 p.m. to an Adjourned Regular Board Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, October 28, 2025 at 12:00 p.m.

Approved:

Marice H. DePasquale, President

Denise Khalifa, District Secretary

Recording Secretary: Sharon D. Brimer

Unapproved



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MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Directors
FROM: Denise Khalifa, Chief Administrative Officer
DATE: November 12, 2025
SUBJECT: Attendance at Conferences, Seminars, Meetings and Events

RECOMMENDATION

Approve attendance considerations (additions, changes, deletions).

STRATEGIC PLAN

Goal #1: Provide an abundant, local, reliable and safe water supply.
Goal #2: Perpetually renew and improve our infrastructure.
Goal #3: Be financially responsible and transparent.
Goal #4: Increase public awareness of Mesa Water.
Goal #5: Attract, develop and retain skilled employees.
Goal #6: Provide excellent customer service.
Goal #7: Actively participate in regional and statewide water issues.
Goal #8: Practice continual business improvement.

PRIOR BOARD ACTION/DISCUSSION

At its October 23, 2024 meeting, the Board of Directors (Board) adopted Ordinance No. 36 Director Compensation and Expense Reimbursement which authorizes attendance at conferences, seminars, meetings and events.

At its June 11, 2025 meeting, the Board approved the Fiscal Year 2026 attendance at conferences, seminars, meetings and events, with modifications.

At its July 23, 2025 meeting, the Board approved attendance at conferences, seminars, meetings and events for eight additional organizations.

DISCUSSION

During the discussion of this item, if any, the Board may choose to delete any item from the list and/or may choose to add additional conferences, seminars, meetings or events for approval, subject to available budget or additional appropriation.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

None.

ATTACHMENTS

None.

2025 CONFERENCES, SEMINARS AND MEETINGS:

December 2 - 4, 2025	
ACWA JPIA Fall Conference	<i>Atkinson, Bockmiller, DePasquale</i>
Anaheim, CA	
December 16 - 18, 2025	
Colorado River Water Users Association Conference	<i>Atkinson</i>
Las Vegas, NV	

2026 CONFERENCES, SEMINARS AND MEETINGS:

January 26, 2026	
CMUA Annual Capitol Day	
Sacramento, CA	
February 11, 2026	
ACWA Legislative Symposium	
Sacramento, CA	
February 11 - 13, 2026	
CalDesal Legislative Advocacy Day & Annual Conference	<i>DePasquale</i>
Sacramento, CA	
February 18 - 19, 2026	
Annual AGWT - AGWA CA Groundwater Conference	
Ontario, CA	
February 24 - 26, 2026	
ACWA Washington D.C. Conference	<i>Bockmiller</i>
Washington, D.C.	
February 25 - 27, 2026	
Urban Water Institute Spring Conference	<i>Atkinson, DePasquale</i>
Palm Springs, CA	
March 8 - 11, 2026	
WaterReuse Symposium	
Los Angeles, CA	
March 22 - 24, 2026	
CMUA Annual Conference	
Monterey, CA	
April 6 - 9, 2026	
AWWA CA-NV Water Conference of the West	
San Diego, CA	
April 7 - 8, 2026	
CSDA Legislative Days	
Sacramento, CA	
May 5 - 7, 2026	
ACWA JPIA Spring Conference	
Sacramento, CA	

November 2025

November 2025							December 2025						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
2	3	4	5	6	7	1	7	1	2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13	14	8	14	8	9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20	21	15	21	15	16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27	28	22	28	22	23	24	25	26	27
30						29		29	30	31			

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Oct 26	27	28	29	30	31	Nov 1
2	3 8:30am MWDOC Planning and Operations Committee Meeting	4 7:30am ISDOC Executive Committee Meeting 2:00pm UWI Event (700) 6:00pm Costa Mesa City	5 Payday 8:30am Jt. 4:00pm Executive 5:30pm OCWD Board	6 12:00pm OCWD Communications/Legislative Committee (IN PERSON &	7 7:30am WACO Meeting (VIRTUAL)	8
9	10 5:00pm IRWD Board Meeting (In Person and Virtual)	11 District Holiday	12 8:15am LAFCO Meeting 8:30am MWDOC Admin 12:00pm OCWD Water 4:30pm Board Meeting	13 Pay Period Ends 12:00pm OCWD Admin & Finance Committee 5:30pm ACWA Regions	14 9:30am ACWA Regions 8,9 & 10 Water Forum (1800 Von Karman Avenue,	15
16	17	18 7:30am WACO Planning Committee (VIRTUAL) 6:00pm Costa Mesa City Council Meeting (In	19 Payday 8:30am MWDOC Board 3:00pm Costa Mesa 5:30pm OCWD Board	20 8:30am MWDOC Executive Committee (In Person & Virtual)	21 10:00am MCWRA Fall Forum (Auburn, CA)	22
23	24 5:00pm IRWD Board Meeting (In Person and Virtual)	25	26	27 District Holiday Pay Period Ends	28 District Holiday	29
30	Dec 1	2	3	4	5	6

December 2025

December 2025							January 2026						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
7	1	2	3	4	5	6	4	5	6	7	1	2	3
14	8	9	10	11	12	13	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
21	15	16	17	18	19	20	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
28	22	23	24	25	26	27	25	26	27	28	29	30	31

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Nov 30	Dec 1 8:30am MWDOC Planning and Operations Committee Meeting (IN PERSON & VIRTUAL)	2 ACWA Fall Conference (San Diego, CA) 6:00pm Costa Mesa City Council Meeting (In Person & Virtual)	3 Payday 8:30am Jt. MWDOC/MWD 5:30pm OCWD Board	4 12:00pm OCWD Communications/Legislative Committee (IN PERSON & VIRTUAL)	5	6
7	8 12:00pm Executive Committee Meeting (Panian Conference) 5:00pm IRWD Board Meeting (In Person)	9 7:30am ISDOC Executive Committee Meeting (VIRTUAL) 8:00am OCBC Infrastructure	10 8:15am LAFCO Meeting (400 W Civic Center) 8:30am MWDOC Admin 12:00pm OCWD Water 4:30pm Board Meeting	11 Pay Period Ends 12:00pm OCWD Admin & Finance Committee (IN PERSON & VIRTUAL)	12 7:30am R/S from 12/5 - WACO Meeting (VIRTUAL)	13
14	15	16 CRWUA Annual Conference (Las Vegas, NV) 7:30am WACO Planning Committee (VIRTUAL) 6:00pm Costa Mesa City Council Meeting (In Person & Virtual)	17 Payday 8:30am MWDOC Board 3:00pm Costa Mesa 5:30pm OCWD Board	18 8:30am MWDOC Executive Committee (In Person & Virtual)	19	20
21	22 5:00pm IRWD Board Meeting (In Person and Virtual)	23	24 District Holiday	25 District Holiday Pay Period Ends	26	27
28	29	30	31 District Holiday Payday	Jan 1, 26	2	3

January 2026

January 2026							February 2026						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
4	5	6	7	8	2	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
11	12	13	14	15	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
18	19	20	21	22	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
25	26	27	28	29	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
					30	31							

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Dec 28	29	30	31	Jan 1, 26 12:00pm OCWD Communications/Legislative Committee (IN PERSON & VIRTUAL)	2 7:30am WACO Meeting (VIRTUAL)	3
4	5 8:30am MWDOC Planning and Operations Committee Meeting (IN PERSON & VIRTUAL)	6 6:00pm Costa Mesa City Council Meeting (In Person & Virtual)	7 8:30am Jt. MWDOC/MWD 12:00pm Executive Committee Meeting 5:30pm OCWD Board	8 Pay Period Ends 12:00pm OCWD Admin & Finance Committee (IN PERSON & VIRTUAL)	9	10
11	12 5:00pm IRWD Board Meeting (In Person and Virtual) 5:00pm OCWD GWRS Steering Committee	13	14 Payday 8:15am LAFCO Meeting 8:30am MWDOC Admin 12:00pm OCWD Water 4:30pm Board Meeting	15 8:30am MWDOC Executive Committee (In Person & Virtual)	16	17
18	19 District Holiday	20 7:30am WACO Planning Committee (VIRTUAL) 6:00pm Costa Mesa City Council Meeting (In Person & Virtual)	21 8:30am MWDOC Board Meeting (IN PERSON) 3:00pm Costa Mesa Chamber of 5:30pm OCWD Board	22 Pay Period Ends	23	24
25	26 CMUA Annual Capitol Day (Sacramento, CA) 5:00pm IRWD Board Meeting (In Person) 5:30pm WISG Night #1	27	28 Payday 8:30am Jt. MWDOC/OCWD 4:30pm Board Meeting (Boardroom)	29	30	31



UPCOMING COMMUNITY OUTREACH EVENTS

Event	Date & Time	Location
Water Issues Study Group (WISG) Night 1	Monday, January 26, 2026 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.	Mesa Water Education Center 1350 Gisler Avenue Costa Mesa, CA 92626
Water Issues Study Group (WISG) Night 2	Monday, February 9, 2026 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.	Mesa Water Education Center 1350 Gisler Avenue Costa Mesa, CA 92626



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MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Directors
FROM: Anthony Phou, Controller
DATE: November 12, 2025
SUBJECT: Fiscal Year 2025 Audit Update

RECOMMENDATION

Acknowledge the delay of the Fiscal Year 2025 Audit and affirm the Fiscal Year 2025 Annual Financial Report will be presented to the Board of Directors in March 2026.

STRATEGIC PLAN

Goal #3: Be financially responsible and transparent.
Goal #8: Practice continual business improvement.

PRIOR BOARD ACTION/DISCUSSION

None.

DISCUSSION

In accordance with Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) guidelines and Mesa Water District's (Mesa Water®) financial management practices, an independent auditing firm is engaged annually to perform the District's financial audit. Audit preparation typically begins in the summer, with a presentation to the Board of Directors (Board) scheduled for November.

Staffing vacancies and elevated workload within the Financial Services Department have delayed key steps in the audit process, including year-end reconciliations and documentation review. Staff has maintained ongoing communication with the District's independent auditors, Lance, Soll & Lunghard, LLP, and continues to prioritize accuracy and compliance with accounting standards.

To ensure a complete and reliable audit, staff recommends extending the audit completion and Board presentation to March 2026. This extension will allow sufficient time for final reconciliations, internal quality review and auditor testing.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

In Fiscal Year 2025, \$45,000 is budgeted for Auditing Services; \$18,310 has been spent to date.

ATTACHMENTS

None.



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MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Directors
FROM: Stacy Taylor, Water Policy Manager
DATE: November 12, 2025
SUBJECT: Federal Government Advocacy Consulting Services

RECOMMENDATION

Approve a two-year contract renewal with Van Scoyoc Associates, Inc. for an amount not to exceed \$135,000 annually to provide Federal Government Advocacy Consulting Services through December 31, 2027, with up to two additional 1-year renewals available, and authorize execution of the contract.

STRATEGIC PLAN

Goal #1: Provide an abundant, local, reliable and safe water supply.
Goal #2: Perpetually renew and improve our infrastructure.
Goal #3: Be financially responsible and transparent.
Goal #4: Increase public awareness of Mesa Water.
Goal #7: Actively participate in regional and statewide water issues.

PRIOR BOARD ACTION/DISCUSSION

At its November 15, 2022 meeting, the Board of Directors (Board) awarded a one-year contract, following a competitive procurement process, to [Van Scoyoc Associates, Inc. \(VSA\)](#) for \$135,000 to provide Federal Government Advocacy Consulting Services through December 31, 2023.

At its November 8, 2023 meeting, the Board approved a contract renewal with VSA for \$135,000 to provide Federal Government Advocacy services through December 31, 2024.

At its November 13, 2024 meeting, the Board approved a contract renewal with VSA for \$135,000 to provide Federal Government Advocacy services through December 31, 2025.

DISCUSSION

VSA has served as effective Federal Government Advocates for Mesa Water District (Mesa Water®), including, but not limited to, the following activities in 2025:

- Implementing and annually updating the District's Federal Advocacy Plan (Attachment A);
- Collaborating on Federal policy issues with industry agencies/associations (Association of California Water Agencies, Orange County Water District, etc.);
- Ongoing Orange County Federal Delegation communications (correspondence, meetings) with -- and on behalf of -- the District;
- Submitting Mesa Water's top priority projects for Federal Appropriations funding consideration;
- Facilitating the District's advocacy meetings in Washington D.C. with OC Delegation Congress members, staff and key Federal agency staff and Administration appointees; and



- Supporting the successful grant funding agreement of \$250,000 from the United States Bureau of Reclamation for the District's Local groundwater Supply Improvement Project (Local SIP).

Due to another successful year of VSA's Federal Government Advocacy engagement for the District, staff recommends that the Board approve a two-year contract renewal with VSA for an amount not to exceed \$135,000 annually to provide Federal Government Advocacy Consulting Services through December 31, 2027, with up to two additional 1-year renewals available.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

In Fiscal Year 2026, \$450,000 is budgeted for Water Policy Support Services; \$104,430 has been spent to date.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A: Mesa Water's Draft 2026 Federal Advocacy Plan

2026 Federal Advocacy Plan

Vision: To Be a Top Performing Water Agency

Mission: Mesa Water District, a local independent special district, manages its finances and water infrastructure, and advocates water policy, while reliably providing an abundance of clean, safe water to benefit the public's quality of life.

Core Values:

- Health and Safety of the Public and Our Staff
- Excellence
- Philosophy of Abundance
- Perpetual Agency Philosophy

Strategic Goal #7 – “Policy Leadership”: Actively participate in regional and statewide water issues.

Objective: Conduct Federal advocacy to seek funding for Mesa Water's priority projects/programs.

Q1 Tactics: Finalize—Mesa Water's 2026 Federal Advocacy Plan and updates to Mesa Water's 2026 Policy Positions and Policy Platforms; OC Federal Delegation Outreach—correspondence and meetings with members and/or staff (in-person and/or virtual), and update DC contacts list; Seek Federal Funding—finalize list of Mesa Water's priority projects and programs for funding, determine potential project/program-specific opportunities, develop capture strategies via the Congressional appropriations process and suggest priorities to delegation; Industry Collaboration—ACWA DC conference (Feb.), OCWD and NSDC coordination; Advocacy Reporting—VSA @ Mesa Water, monthly memo and bill list, grant opportunities emails, virtual Federal Advocacy team meeting(s), ongoing communications.

Q2 Tactics: Finalize—Mesa Water's 2026 Federal Advocacy in DC PPT; OC Federal Delegation Outreach—Mesa Water Federal Advocacy in DC; Seek Federal Funding—pursue potential project/program-specific opportunities via agency engagements and the Congressional appropriations process; continue Industry Collaboration (ACWA, etc.); Advocacy Reporting—monthly memo and bill list, grant opportunities emails, virtual Federal Advocacy team meeting(s), ongoing communications.

Q3 Tactics: Federal Advocacy—continue Federal Outreach and Industry Collaboration (ACWA, CSDA, etc.), in District meetings with members and/or staff (in-person and/or virtual); Seek Federal Funding—monitor opportunities; Advocacy Reporting—monthly memo and bill list, grant opportunities emails, virtual Federal Advocacy team meeting(s), ongoing communications.

Q4 Tactics: Federal Advocacy—continue Federal Outreach and Industry Collaboration (ACWA, etc.), update Mesa Water's Policy Positions and Platforms, Federal Advocacy Plan and Calendar for 2027; Seek Federal Funding—monitor opportunities and update Priorities List; Advocacy Reporting—monthly memo and bill list, grant opportunities emails, virtual Federal Advocacy team meeting(s), ongoing communications.

Outcome 1: Policy Positions and Platforms, and accompanying advocacy to benefit Mesa Water and its constituents.

Outcome 2: Continue advocacy leadership by positively influencing water policy and other priority policy issues for Mesa Water.

Outcome 3: Conduct funding-related advocacy for Mesa Water's priority projects and programs.

Outcome 4: Increase positive awareness of Mesa Water with water/government/utility industry and non-governmental organizations.



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MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Directors
FROM: Stacy Taylor, Water Policy Manager
DATE: November 12, 2025
SUBJECT: Orange County Advocacy Consulting Services

RECOMMENDATION

Receive the presentation.

STRATEGIC PLAN

Goal #7: Actively participate in regional and statewide water issues.

PRIOR BOARD ACTION/DISCUSSION

At its September 24, 2025 meeting, the Mesa Water District (Mesa Water®) Board of Directors (Board), following a competitive process, awarded a one-year contract to [Venture Strategic](#) to provide Orange County Advocacy Consulting Services for the District.

DISCUSSION

Mesa Water's governmental relations program includes monitoring local and regional political issues and policy-setting authorities (e.g., County of Orange, Orange County Local Agency Formation Commission). At the Board's November 12, 2025 meeting, Mesa Water's Orange County Advocacy consultant, Venture Strategic, will provide the Board a brief introductory presentation.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

None.

ATTACHMENTS

None.



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MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Directors
FROM: Kurt Lind, Business Manager
DATE: November 12, 2025
SUBJECT: Fiscal Year 2025 Environmental, Health and Safety Program Audit

RECOMMENDATION

Receive the presentation.

STRATEGIC PLAN

Goal #1: Provide an abundant, local, reliable and safe water supply.
Goal #3: Be financially responsible and transparent.
Goal #8: Practice continual business improvement.

PRIOR BOARD ACTION/DISCUSSION

None.

BACKGROUND

In 2012, Mesa Water District (Mesa Water®) contracted with Environmental & Occupational Risk Management, Inc. (EORM), now BSI Group (BSI), to review Mesa Water's existing Environmental, Health and Safety Program (EHS Program) and to provide a gap analysis report. Based on that report, a scope of work was developed to enhance Mesa Water's EHS policies and programs. BSI then provided EHS services to ensure the implementation of program improvements, assist in establishing an annual audit process, and provide EHS program support.

In December 2023, Mesa Water - through a competitive selection process - contracted with Citadel Environmental as a third-party auditor to conduct the Annual EHS Program Audit. This service ensures Mesa Water's EHS Program remains strong through an independent performance review.

EHS Program Audits have been completed annually over the past thirteen years to measure the strength and progress of Mesa Water's EHS Program. The intent is to establish a continuous improvement process and to perform an annual review to allow for long-term monitoring of success and identification of challenges related to Mesa Water's EHS Program.

DISCUSSION

Mesa Water's EHS Program was audited in August of 2025 and consisted of documentation review, interviews with employees, and field observations. Mesa Water continues to perform at a high level. Staff have demonstrated consistent performance and continue to deliver strong results. This high-level consistency is the key result that Mesa Water desired when creating, implementing, supporting and auditing the EHS Program. Mesa Water is establishing a true "safety culture" that ensures that safety is on the mind of every employee every time they do work. Safety awareness significantly reduces safety-related risk.



Staff will provide the Board of Directors the overall EHS Program score and summary in a presentation at their November 12, 2025 meeting.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

In Fiscal Year 2025, \$23,684 is budgeted for the EHS Program Audit; \$18,947 has been spent to date.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A: Environmental, Health and Safety Program Scorecard



CITADEL EHS

assess • resolve • strengthen

Appendix A

Environmental, Health and Safety Program Scorecard

Environmental, Health and Safety Program Scorecard - Summary

Key Element	Score												
	2012	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Injury and Illness Prevention Program	50%	83%	100%	100%	100%	83%	83%	100%	100%	83%	83%	67%	67%
Confined Space Program	50%	83%	83%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	83%	83%	83%	100%	100%
Hazard Communication Program	0%	83%	100%	83%	83%	100%	100%	83%	83%	83%	100%	83%	100%
Emergency Action Plan	25%	92%	92%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Control of Hazardous Energy Procedure	0%	67%	75%	83%	100%	100%	67%	100%	100%	100%	75%	83%	67%
Arc Flash and Electrical Safety Program	0%	67%	100%	92%	92%	75%	100%	100%	83%	83%	100%	100%	100%
Accident Investigation	58%	83%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Hazardous Waste and DOT Program	0%	67%	75%	58%	58%	67%	100%	83%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Heat Illness Prevention Program	0%	83%	100%	100%	83%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	83%

Environmental, Health and Safety Program Scorecard - Summary

Key Element	Score												
	2012	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Fall Protection Program	0%	8%	42%	100%	100%	83%	83%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Fire Prevention Plan	75%	83%	67%	83%	100%	83%	100%	100%	75%	83%	83%	100%	100%
Forklift Operations	83%	83%	100%	83%	83%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Overhead Crane Operations	67%	67%	100%	100%	83%	83%	100%	83%	83%	100%	100%	83%	83%
Slings and Hoisting Equipment	58%	67%	100%	100%	100%	83%	100%	83%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Bloodborne Pathogens Procedure	0%	100%	75%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Alcohol and Controlled Substances Program	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Asbestos Containing Materials Program	75%	83%	83%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Excavation and Trench Safety Program	67%	75%	100%	92%	58%	83%	100%	83%	83%	83%	83%	100%	100%

Environmental, Health and Safety Program Scorecard - Summary

Key Element	Score												
	2012	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Personal Protective Equipment Program	42%	83%	75%	83%	100%	83%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	83%
Physical Inspections of Facilities and Grounds Program	75%	83%	83%	100%	100%	83%	83%	83%	83%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Respiratory Protection Program	50%	100%	100%	83%	100%	100%	100%	83%	83%	83%	100%	100%	100%
Hearing Conservation Program	50%	83%	92%	83%	100%	83%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Hazardous Materials Business Plan	42%	83%	100%	83%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure	0%	50%	67%	83%	100%	100%	100%	83%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Overall Score	39%	77%	87%	89%	92%	91%	97%	94%	94%	95%	96%	96%	95%

Scoring:

Red: 0 - 59%

Green: 60% - 89%

Gold: 90% - 100%

Note: Scoring is weighted, written program and training each account for 25% of the overall score, execution of procedures in routine operations are worth 50% of the overall score.



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MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Directors
FROM: Andrew D. Wiesner, P.E., District Engineer
DATE: November 12, 2025
SUBJECT: Customer Project – C0681-25-01 – 1400 Bristol Street

RECOMMENDATION

Approve a quitclaim of Mesa Water District's easement for the six-inch distribution line, an easement for access to the new three-inch meter and double check detector assembly, and modification of the easement for the six-inch distribution line and two fire hydrants on the southwest property line located at 1400 Bristol Street.

STRATEGIC PLAN

Goal #1: Provide an abundant, local, reliable and safe water supply.
Goal #2: Perpetually renew and improve our infrastructure.
Goal #6: Provide excellent customer service.

PRIOR BOARD ACTION

At its August 13, 2025 meeting, the Board of Directors (Board) approved staff's recommendation to abandon the six-inch line at 1400 Bristol Street and reinstall all services according to Mesa Water's current standards.

DISCUSSION

Mesa Water District (Mesa Water®) owns and operates a six-inch mainline that is routed northeast across the property located at 1400 Bristol Street. The Bristol Street Atlas Map (Attachment A) shows the existing route of the six-inch line through the property. The pipeline is routed through the middle of the property and, towards the southwest property line, is routed between two of the motel buildings.

On May 27, 2025, a contractor working at Customer Project C0681-25-01 damaged the six-inch line. The contractor had not contacted Dig Alert prior to starting the excavation and demolition at the site. Mesa Water staff responded, repaired the line and returned it to service. The District will recover the costs of the repair from the contractor.

Following the repair, staff investigated options for the six-inch line routed through the property and determined that abandoning the six-inch line, quitclaiming the easement, and bringing all services to the Public Right of Way per Mesa Water's current standards was the best approach for the final design of Customer Project C0681-25-01.

Through Mesa Water's customer project permitting process, staff has worked with the developer, City of Costa Mesa, and Costa Mesa Fire & Rescue to develop the final Water Improvement Plan. As part of the plan, all services will be installed in the Public Right of Way per Mesa Water standards, and the existing six-inch line routed through the property will be a dedicated private



fire system. Additionally, one fire hydrant will become part of the private fire system and the two fire hydrants located on the southwest property line will remain in their current location and part of Mesa Water's system. The proposed water improvements and easement modifications are shown on Attachment B.

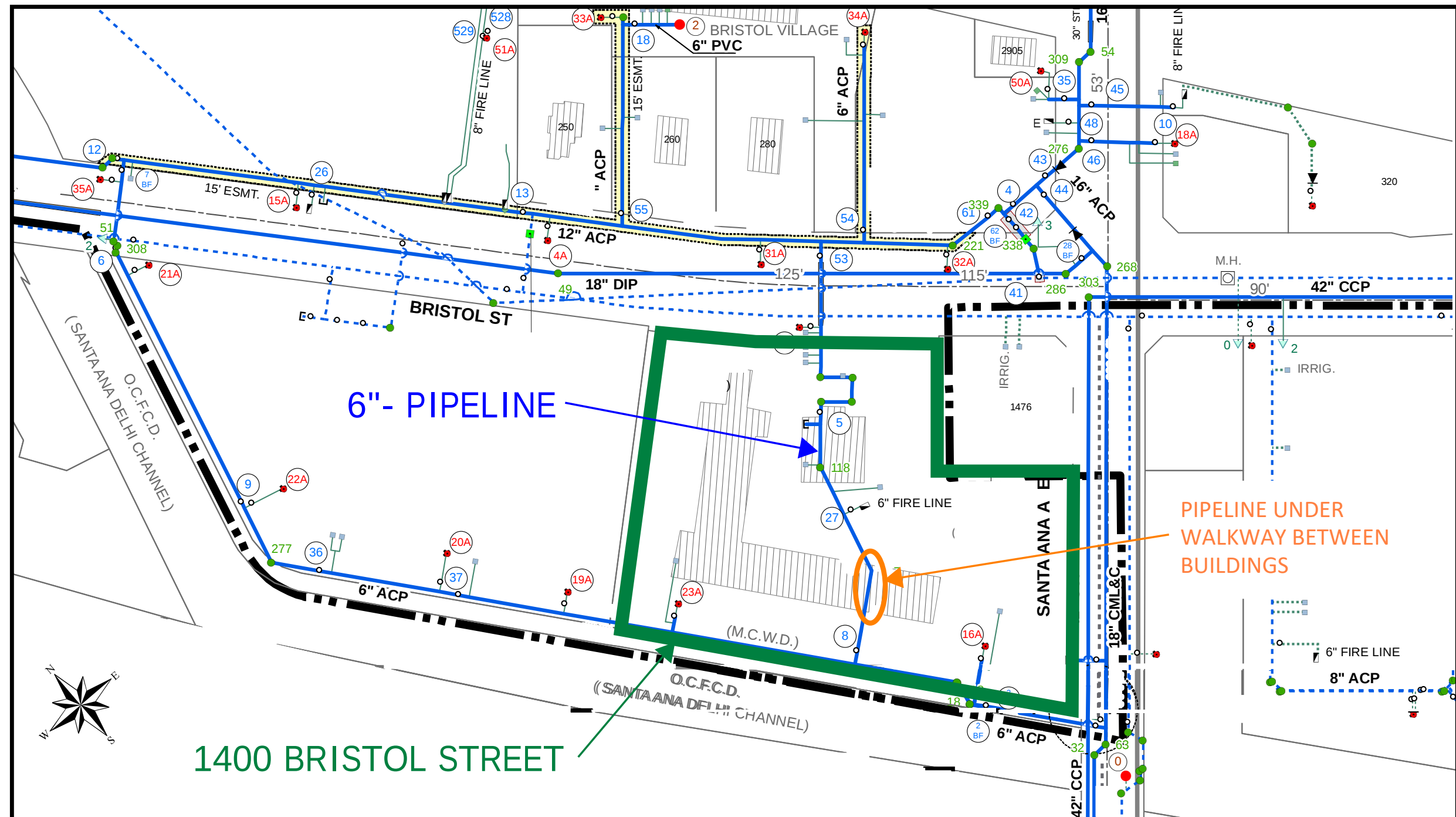
FINANCIAL IMPACT

There would be no financial impact to Mesa Water; all costs shall be borne by the property owner.

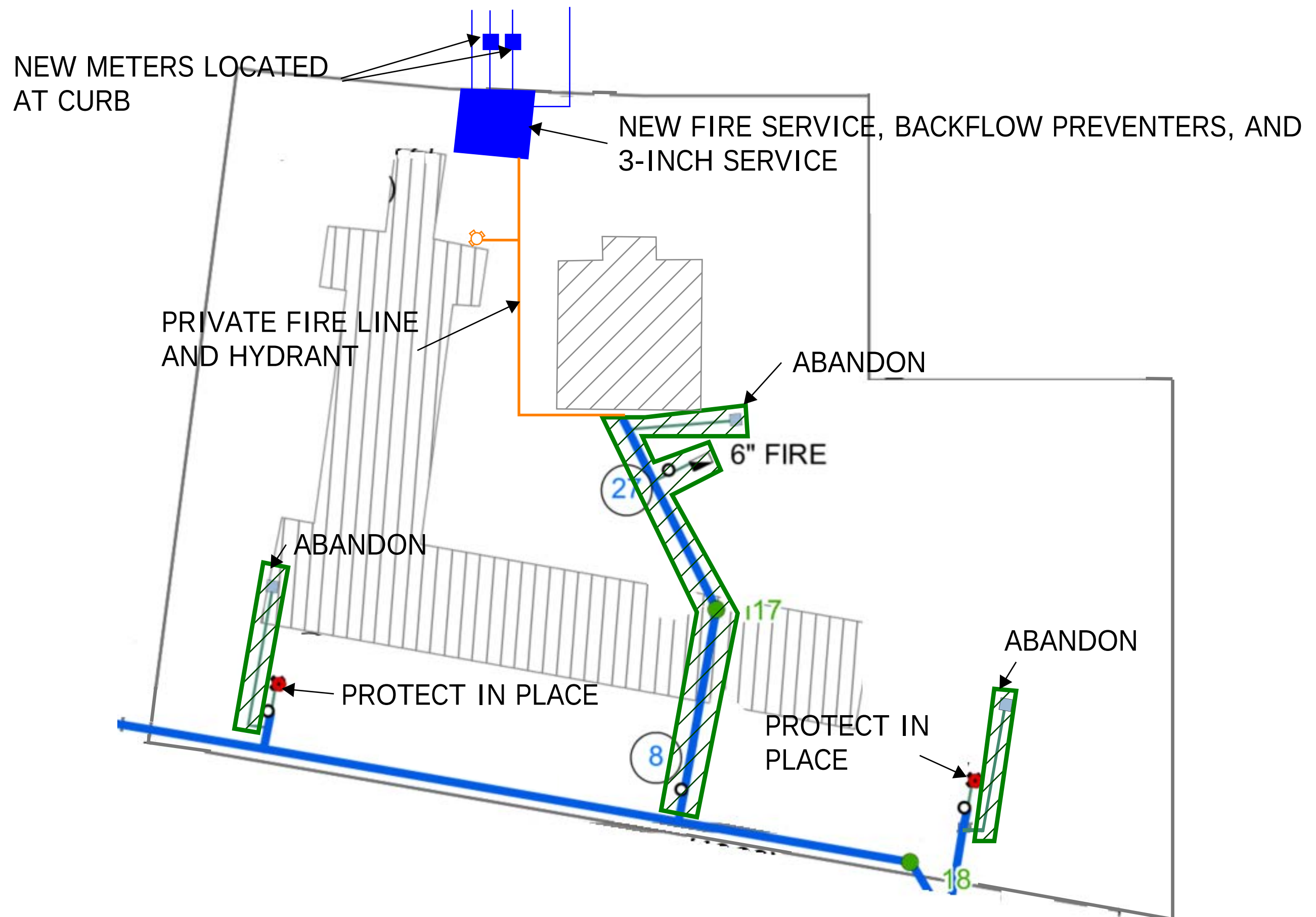
ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A: 1400 Bristol Street Atlas Map

Attachment B: 1400 Bristol Street Water Improvement Plan



ATTACHMENT A - 1400 BRISTOL STREET ATLAS MAP



ATTACHMENT B - 1400 BRISTOL STREET WATER IMPROVEMENT PLAN



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MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Directors
FROM: Andrew D. Wiesner, P.E., District Engineer
DATE: November 12, 2025
SUBJECT: Hazard Mitigation Grant Program

RECOMMENDATION

Authorize the General Manager to accept Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funds, if awarded, for the Mesa Water Reliability Facility Emergency Backup Power Project and commit a Mesa Water District cost share for an amount not to exceed \$960,500 (25% of total project cost).

STRATEGIC PLAN

Goal #1: Provide an abundant, local, reliable and safe water supply.
Goal #2: Perpetually renew and improve our infrastructure.
Goal #3: Be financially responsible and transparent.
Goal #7: Actively participate in regional and statewide water issues.

PRIOR BOARD ACTION/DISCUSSION

None.

DISCUSSION

The Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) is a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) program administered in California by the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES). The HMGP provides reimbursement grants — 75% federal/25% local — for projects that reduce risk from natural hazards. Cal OES solicits and reviews subapplications from eligible entities and, if a project is selected, submits the State's application to FEMA during the State's spring submission window, which includes Mesa Water District's (Mesa Water®) subapplication. FEMA then makes the final decision regarding awarding funds.

Mesa Water submitted an HMGP subapplication to Cal OES in September 2025. Cal OES is conducting a technical review and coordinating any requests for information. Per Cal OES guidance, grant awards may occur in 2027–2028. If awarded, the project will install two 500-kilowatt (kW) standby diesel generators at the Mesa Water Reliability Facility (MWRF) High Lift Pump Station. The dual-generator configuration will maintain continuous pumping from the onsite 1.25-million-gallon reservoir during grid outages.

Staff requests the Board of Directors (Board) authorize the General Manager to accept Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funds, if awarded, for the MWRF Emergency Backup Power Project and commit a Mesa Water District cost share for an amount not to exceed \$960,500 (25% of total project cost). The MWRF project will only proceed upon award.



FINANCIAL IMPACT

In Fiscal Year (FY) 2026, there is no financial impact regarding this matter.

If awarded, the total project cost is estimated at \$3,842,000. The anticipated 75% federal share is \$2,881,500 and Mesa Water's 25% match of \$960,500 would be requested in the FY 2028 proposed budget. The HMGP is reimbursement-based; Mesa Water would front eligible costs and seek reimbursement thereafter. Per HMGP terms, grant funds cannot be used for ongoing Operation and Maintenance (O&M); they apply to construction only.

ATTACHMENTS

None.



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MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Directors
FROM: Andrew D. Wiesner, P.E., District Engineer
DATE: November 12, 2025
SUBJECT: Newport Beach Interagency Water Transfers

RECOMMENDATION

Authorize the General Manager to approve contracts for an amount not to exceed \$500,000 for the construction, construction management and engineering services necessary to proceed with a new interconnection between Mesa Water District and the City of Newport Beach.

STRATEGIC PLAN

Goal #1: Provide an abundant, local, reliable and safe water supply.
Goal #2: Perpetually renew and improve our infrastructure.
Goal #3: Be financially responsible and transparent.
Goal #4: Increase public awareness of Mesa Water.
Goal #7: Actively participate in regional and statewide water issues.

PRIOR BOARD ACTION/DISCUSSION

At its April 3, 2025 workshop, the Board of Directors (Board) directed the General Manager to negotiate a contract with MKN & Associates (MKN) for an amount not to exceed \$46,691 to conduct a feasibility study for interagency water transfer from Mesa Water District (Mesa Water®) to the City of Newport Beach (Newport Beach).

At its September 10, 2025 meeting, the Board authorized the General Manager to proceed, up to his signing authority, with MKN for the Newport Beach Interagency Water Transfer cost estimate for design and construction.

DISCUSSION

Mesa Water is working with Newport Beach to construct a new interconnection that would enable water transfers between the two agencies. This project builds on the findings of the Interagency Water Transfer Feasibility Study completed by MKN in September 2025, which confirmed both the hydraulic and financial feasibility of supplying water to Newport Beach using existing Mesa Water infrastructure.

Following completion of the feasibility study, Mesa Water initiated design efforts with MKN, which are currently underway. Several potential interconnection locations are being evaluated, and the final site will be selected based on construction cost, permitting and regulatory requirements, and overall hydraulic feasibility.

Newport Beach has expressed strong interest in establishing the interconnection to support upcoming well rehabilitation activities and to enhance regional supply reliability. The proposed facility will include a short pipeline segment, flow meter, pressure-sustaining valve and



appurtenances housed within a precast vault. The connection will allow Newport Beach to receive local groundwater from Mesa Water's system to offset imported water purchases and provide operational flexibility during well downtime.

Orange County Water District (OCWD) has indicated that Newport Beach would be considered a customer of Mesa Water for the purpose of this transfer and has no objection to the proposed arrangement. Mesa Water has also made initial contact with the City of Costa Mesa regarding encroachment permitting and coordination within the public right-of-way, as well as with the California Division of Drinking Water (DDW) regarding water–sewer separation requirements and the potential need for a variance.

Authorizing the General Manager to approve contracts for an amount not to exceed \$500,000 for construction and engineering services during construction will allow the project to proceed efficiently once the design is finalized.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

In Fiscal Year 2026, no funds were budgeted for Newport Beach Interagency Water Transfers; requested funds would come from Cash on Hand.

ATTACHMENTS

None.



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MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Directors
FROM: Anthony Phou, Controller
DATE: November 12, 2025
SUBJECT: Travel and Business Expense Reimbursement Policy

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt Resolution No. 1607 Revising the Travel and Business Expense Reimbursement Policy Superseding Resolution No. 1579.

The Executive Committee reviewed this item at its October 21, 2025 meeting and recommends Board approval.

STRATEGIC PLAN

Goal #3: Be financially responsible and transparent.

PRIOR BOARD ACTION/DISCUSSION

At its April 12, 2023 meeting, the Board of Directors (Board) adopted Resolution No. 1579 Revising the Travel and Business Expense Reimbursement Policy Superseding Resolution No. 1552. Key updates included revisions related to the Maximum Per Diem Allowance, eligible expenses and receipts.

At its April 10, 2024 meeting, the Board received an Information Item regarding the Travel and Business Expense Reimbursement Policy; no changes were made.

DISCUSSION

Mesa Water District (Mesa Water®) last updated the Travel and Business Expense Reimbursement Policy in April 2023. After recommending no changes in 2024, staff's review this year resulted in several revisions to enhance the District's financial transparency and accountability to ratepayers. These updates also aim to streamline administrative processes and support timely reimbursements. Additionally, the proposed changes are intended to align the policy with the requirements of California Government Code Section 53232.2. A summary of the key revisions is provided below:

- Section 3 has been revised to replace the reference to 'Members of the Finance Committee' with 'Two Members of the Board';
- The Chief Financial Officer or Designee will hold discretion and final approval authority over all Mesa Water expense reimbursements;
- A provision has been included stipulating that requests for expense reimbursement must be completed and submitted to the Financial Services Department within 30 days of the expense being paid or incurred;

- Expenses under \$75 without a receipt must now be supported by a Missing Receipt Form;
- All meal reimbursements will require a receipt and must include the business purpose and names of all attendees;
- Directors and employees should request separate receipts for non-reimbursable expenses whenever feasible;
- Clarifying the policy allowing an additional \$100 per guest per day only applies if paying for a non-Mesa Water Director/employee;
- Added an option allowing reimbursement for additional legroom or premium economy seat fees on flights exceeding three hours in duration;
- If the group rate is unavailable, the Director or employee shall secure comparable lodging consistent with this policy. Should comparable lodging not be used, reimbursement will be limited to the comparable group rate;
- Formatting and grammatical errors; and
- Updated some procedural processes regarding the submittal for reimbursement.

Staff reviewed several factors related to travel expenses such as lodging, meals and incidental costs and did not see a significant cost increase in the past twelve months. As a result, the maximum daily per diem of \$850 remains appropriate for travel and business expenses. Staff will review the policy again in twelve months and evaluate if an adjustment is needed at that time.

LEGAL REVIEW

Mesa Water's Legal Counsel – Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud & Romo – has reviewed the draft resolution and made minor grammatical and proper term changes.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Travel and business expense costs are budgeted each fiscal year, per department.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A: Draft Resolution No. 1607

Attachment B: Resolution No. 1579, Redline

RESOLUTION NO. 1607

RESOLUTION OF THE MESA WATER DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS REVISING THE TRAVEL AND BUSINESS EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT POLICY SUPERSEDING RESOLUTION NO. 1579

WHEREAS, Mesa Water District (Mesa Water® or District) is a county water district organized and operating pursuant to the laws of the State of California (State or California); and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors (Board or Directors) of Mesa Water desires to revise its policy for the reimbursement of travel and business expenses made by Directors and Mesa Water employees; and

WHEREAS, effective January 1, 2006, Government Code Section 53232.1(b) requires that local public agencies adopt a written policy specifying reimbursement amounts for expenses such as meals, transportation and lodging; and

WHEREAS, the Board desires to adopt an updated written policy to satisfy State requirements and to provide guidance to Directors and Mesa Water employees regarding such requirements and procedures.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE MESA WATER DISTRICT DOES HEREBY RESOLVE, DETERMINE, AND ORDER AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. This Resolution establishes a policy for the reimbursement of travel and business expenses made by Directors and Mesa Water employees as set forth in Attachment A, which is attached hereto and made a part hereof by this reference (Policy).

Section 2. This Resolution is intended to (i) comply with the requirements of California Government Code Sections 53232.2 and 53232.3, (ii) supplement the definition of actual and necessary expenses for purposes of compliance with State law relating to permissible uses of public resources, and (iii) supplement the definition of necessary and reasonable expenses for purposes of federal and State income tax laws.

Section 3. Two members of the Board will review and approve all expense reimbursements submitted by Directors and the General Manager. The Chief Financial Officer (CFO) or designee has final approval of all Mesa Water expense reimbursements. An expense reimbursement form must be completed and submitted to the Financial Services Department within 30

days after an expense is paid or incurred.

Section 4. This Resolution supersedes Resolution No. 1579 and supersedes all prior Board actions and management policies and procedures regarding reimbursement of travel and business expenses made by Directors and Mesa Water employees.

Section 5. This Resolution shall be reviewed by the Board at least once a year.

Section 6. This Resolution shall take effect upon adoption by the Board.

ADOPTED, SIGNED and APPROVED this 12th day of November 2025 by a roll call vote.

AYES: DIRECTORS:
NOES: DIRECTORS:
ABSTAIN: DIRECTORS:
ABSENT: DIRECTORS:

Marice H. DePasquale
President, Board of Directors

Denise Khalifa
District Secretary

RESOLUTION NO. 1607

ATTACHMENT A

**RESOLUTION OF THE
MESA WATER DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS
REVISING THE TRAVEL AND
BUSINESS EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT POLICY
SUPERSEDING RESOLUTION NO. 1579**

Travel and Business
Expense Reimbursement Policy

Mesa Water District Travel and Business Expense Reimbursement Policy

1. **Maximum Per Diem Allowance** – Mesa Water District (Mesa Water®) shall reimburse all eligible expenses incurred while on District business, in accordance with this Policy, in an amount not to exceed \$850 per day, unless a greater amount is approved by the Board or General Manager due to special circumstances. Registration and transportation reimbursement, including mileage, shall not be counted as part of the per diem allowance. Expenses paid in advance are ineligible for reimbursement until the expense has actually occurred.
2. **Receipts** – Consistent with Internal Revenue Service Regulations §1.274-5, *Substantiation Requirements*, receipts for expenditures are required for lodging while away from home and any other expenditure of \$75 or more, except, for transportation charges, receipts will not be required if not readily available. For any expenses under \$75 that do not have a receipt, except for transportation charges when a receipt is not readily available, a missing receipt form must be submitted by the Director or Mesa Water employee (employee). To be reimbursed for meals, a receipt is required, no matter the amount. All presented receipts must state the business matter and list the attendees.
3. **Eligible Expenses** – In order to obtain reimbursement for eligible expenses, an Expense Reimbursement Form, Attachment B, must be completed and submitted to the Financial Services Department. Directors and employees shall receive reimbursement for actual, necessary and reasonable (the CFO or designee has the discretion to determine what is actual, necessary and reasonable) expenses, including but not limited to meals, transportation, lodging, and other incidental expenses, incurred while on District business, as follows:
 - Meals: Reimbursement for meals (Director/Director, Director/employee or employee/employee) is authorized when pertinent District business requires timely resolution and mealtime affords the most convenient manner to address agency business away from the normal workplace. Reimbursement for meals shall be for a reasonable amount, plus tip not to exceed 20%. Meal reimbursements will be calculated as food cost plus regional tax, then times a 20% tip.

Wherever possible, the Director/employee will make every effort to request separate receipts when ordering non-reimbursable expenses or when dining with additional non-business attendees.

In the event that a Director or employee is also paying the cost of meals for a non-Mesa Water Director/employee in connection with the conduct of District business, in accordance with this policy, a maximum amount of

\$100 per guest per day shall be authorized in addition to the maximum daily per diem of \$850.

- Transportation (personal vehicle): Reimbursement for travel by personal vehicle for a total distance of 2,000 miles or less shall be for actual mileage driven at then-current Internal Revenue Service standard mileage reimbursement rate, from point of departure to destination and return. Reimbursement for travel by personal vehicle for a total distance of 2,001 miles or more shall be, the lesser amount of:

- 1) mileage reimbursement for actual mileage driven to point of destination and return, or
- 2) the normal cost of fully refundable round-trip airfare, plus reasonable ground transportation that would otherwise have been required.

Mileage: Reimbursement rate per mile for use of personal vehicle (excluding employees who receive a monthly vehicle allowance) while on official District business, will be automatically adjusted to the then-current Internal Revenue Service standard mileage rate.

Any mileage reimbursement request over 15 miles must include map backup. This Policy designates the de minimis use threshold for mileage as 15 miles or less per trip; any trip considered de minimis in nature does not require map backup.

- Transportation (by air): Reimbursement for travel by air shall be for the normal cost of fully refundable round-trip airfare, plus reasonable ground transportation, as well as the inclusion of all in-air expenses such as seat selection, Wi-Fi, baggage, meals, etc. Additional legroom seats or premium economy fees will be reimbursed for total travel that exceeds three (3) hours in length or to accommodate special travel needs. Air transportation should be arranged as early as possible to take advantage of reduced fares for early reservations. The General Manager may approve certain travel enhancements such as upgraded programs on a case-by-case basis. Directors and employees shall use government and group rates offered by a provider of transportation services, when available.
- Transportation (other ground): Reimbursement for taxi, rideshare, rail, bus or other reasonable ground transportation shall be for the actual cost plus tip not to exceed 20% and applicable taxes.
- Transportation (rental car): Reimbursement shall be for the actual cost of the rental car, plus gasoline costs and necessary insurance. If a rental car is used in lieu of personal vehicle, the amount shall be equal or less than the normal cost of a fully reimbursable round-trip airfare, , plus reasonable

ground transportation that would otherwise have been required. Directors and employees shall use government and group rates offered by a provider of transportation services, when available.

- Parking: Reimbursement authorized for actual cost.
- Toll Charges: Reimbursement authorized for actual cost.
- Hotel Lodging: Lodging costs for conferences and similar activities shall not exceed the maximum group rate published by the conference or activity sponsor, provided that lodging at the group rate is available to the Director or employee at the time of booking. If the group rate is not available, the Director/employee shall use comparable lodging that is consistent with this Policy. If comparable lodging is not used, the comparable rate will be reimbursed. Directors and employees shall use government and group rates offered by a provider of lodging services, when available. Reimbursement not to exceed single room rate plus tax.

For out-of-county or out-of-State business travel that is conducted on more than one day, the Director/employee will have the option of securing one night's lodging, at both the front-end and back-end of the trip, to also include additional costs such as parking, meals, mileage, rental car, etc. Expenses incurred outside the specified time frame are not reimbursable, except for transportation-related costs, unless previously approved by the Board or General Manager under special circumstances.

For out-of-county business travel that requires multiple nonconsecutive days, if Director/employee are eligible to claim lodging for the first and last evenings of an out-of-county trip, they are also eligible to claim lodging for any evenings that fall in between the first and last evenings of the trip.

- Telephone/Internet Expenses: Reimbursement (authorized at actual cost) of all reasonable and necessary telephone expenses to conduct District business, including Internet services, while traveling on District business. If telephone/internet expenses are incurred for a flight, the expenses should be line itemed on the expense form under "Transportation". If telephone/internet expenses are incurred at the hotel, the expenses should be line itemed under "Hotel Lodging". If telephone/internet expenses are incurred outside of "Transportation" and "Hotel Lodging", the expense should be line itemed under "Other".
- Baggage Handling: Reimbursement authorized for actual cost. If a Director or Mesa Water employee is not able to procure a receipt for baggage handling, a missing receipt form must be submitted.

- Registration Fees: Reimbursement authorized for actual cost.
4. **Ineligible Expenses** – Personal items, laundry, entertainment, alcoholic beverages, and spouse/companion expenses are not eligible for reimbursement.
 5. **Reimbursement from Outside Source** – Directors/employees receiving reimbursement from an outside source for travel on Mesa Water time shall forward such reimbursement to the Financial Services Department for handling and deposit, if they intend on submitting a claim to Mesa Water or use its resources to travel. Directors/employees shall then be entitled to submit a claim for actual, ordinary, and necessary expenses for meals, transportation, lodging, and incidental expenses, subject to the conditions set forth in this Policy.
 6. **Authorization** –
 - All travel outside of Orange County by employees, but within the State of California, requires advance authorization by the General Manager, department manager or his/her designee.
 - All out-of-State travel by employees requires advance written authorization by the General Manager.
 - All out-of-State travel by the General Manager requires authorization by the Board.
 - Authorization for travel by current members of the Board is subject to the guidelines established by the Board.
 7. **Cancellations** – Arrangements for transportation, lodging or registration fees that have cancellation or change penalties shall be carefully monitored by the requesting department. If the cancellation/change occurs due to a personal request or obligations of the Director/employee, they will be required to pay the corresponding penalty, except when the Board of Directors, General Manager, or department manager determines that the reason for the absence was legitimate and authorized.

RESOLUTION NO. 1607

ATTACHMENT B

**RESOLUTION OF THE
MESA WATER DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS
REVISING THE TRAVEL AND
BUSINESS EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT POLICY
SUPERSEDING RESOLUTION NO. 1579**

Expense Reimbursement Form



YEAR | MESA WATER DISTRICT
EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT FORM

Name _____ Date(s) _____ GL Acct# _____
Event _____ City _____ State _____

Item	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Total Expenses
Hotel Lodging								
Meals								
Transportation								
Mileage: 0.70 ¢ X Actual Miles								
Taxi/Rideshare								
Parking/Toll Charges								
Other: _____								
Registration Fees								
TOTALS								

Total Expenses (attach receipts) _____

Subtract Expenses Paid (e.g., by District credit card, Petty Cash, etc.) _____

Amount Due _____

I attest that this expense claim is an accurate account of funds spent which were incurred by me for Mesa Water® business purposes.

Signature

Date

RESOLUTION NO. ~~16071579~~

RESOLUTION OF THE
MESA WATER DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS
REVISING THE TRAVEL AND
BUSINESS EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT POLICY
SUPERSEDING RESOLUTION NO. 15~~7952~~

WHEREAS, Mesa Water District (Mesa Water® or District) is a county water district organized and operating pursuant to the laws of the State of California (State or California); and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors (Board or Directors) of Mesa Water desires to revise its policy for the reimbursement of travel and business expenses made by Directors and Mesa Water employees; and

WHEREAS, effective January 1, 2006, Government Code Section 53232.1(b) requires that local public agencies adopt a written policy specifying reimbursement amounts for expenses such as meals, transportation, and lodging; and

WHEREAS, the Board desires to adopt an updated written policy to satisfy State requirements and to provide guidance to Directors and Mesa Water employees regarding such requirements and procedures.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE MESA WATER DISTRICT DOES HEREBY RESOLVE, DETERMINE, AND ORDER AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. This Resolution establishes a policy for the reimbursement of travel and business expenses made by Directors and Mesa Water employees as set forth in Attachment A, which is attached hereto and made a part hereof by this reference (Policy).

Section 2. This Resolution is intended to (i) comply with the requirements of California Government Code Sections 53232.2 and 53232.3, (ii) supplement the definition of actual and necessary expenses for purposes of compliance with State law relating to permissible uses of public resources, and (iii) supplement the definition of necessary and reasonable expenses for purposes of federal and State income tax laws.

Section 3. ~~Two m~~Members of the ~~Board Finance Committee~~ will review and approve all expense reimbursements submitted by Directors and the General Manager. The ~~Chief~~ Financial ~~Officer (CFO) or designee~~Services Department has final approval of all Mesa Water expense reimbursements, ~~for Mesa Water employees. An expense reimbursement form must be completed and~~

submitted to the Financial Services Department within 30 days after an expense is paid or incurred.

Section 4. This Resolution supersedes Resolution No. 15~~79~~~~52~~ and supersedes all prior Board actions and management policies and procedures regarding reimbursement of travel and business expenses made by Directors and Mesa Water employees.

Section 5. This Resolution shall be reviewed by the Board at least once a year.

Section 6. This Resolution shall take effect upon adoption by the Board.

ADOPTED, SIGNED~~;~~ and APPROVED this 12th day of ~~November~~~~April~~ 202~~5~~~~3~~ by a roll call vote.

AYES:	DIRECTORS:	Atkinson, Bockmiller, Fidler, DePasquale, Dewane
NOES:	DIRECTORS:	
ABSTAIN:	DIRECTORS:	
ABSENT:	DIRECTORS:	

~~Marice H. DePasquale~~~~Shawn Dewane~~
President, Board of Directors

Denise ~~Khalifa~~~~Garcia~~
District Secretary

RESOLUTION NO. ~~16071579~~

ATTACHMENT A

RESOLUTION OF THE
MESA WATER DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS
REVISING THE TRAVEL AND
BUSINESS EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT POLICY
SUPERSEDING RESOLUTION NO. 15~~7952~~

Travel and Business
Expense Reimbursement Policy

Mesa Water District Travel and Business Expense Reimbursement Policy

1. **Maximum Per Diem Allowance** – Mesa Water District (Mesa Water®) shall reimburse all eligible expenses incurred while on District business, in accordance with this Policy, in an amount not to exceed \$850 per day, unless a greater amount is approved by the Board or General Manager due to special circumstances. Registration and transportation reimbursement, including mileage, shall not be counted as part of the per diem allowance. Expenses paid in advance are ineligible for reimbursement until the expense has actually occurred.
2. **Receipts** – Consistent with Internal Revenue Service Regulations §1.274-5, *Substantiation Requirements*, receipts for expenditures are required for lodging while away from home and any other expenditure expenses of \$75 or more, except, for transportation charges, receipts will not be required if not readily available. For any expenses under \$75 that do not have a receipt, except for transportation charges when a receipt is not readily available, a missing receipt form must be submitted by ,—and the Director or Mesa Water employee (employee). To be reimbursed for meals, a receipt is required, no matter the amount. All presented receipts must state the business matter and list the attendees. ~~is required to maintain an account book diary, statement of expense or similar record to substantiate expenses under \$75. In order to obtain reimbursement for eligible expenses, an Expense Reimbursement Form, Attachment B, must be completed and submitted to the Finance Department.~~
3. **Eligible Expenses** – In order to obtain reimbursement for eligible expenses, an Expense Reimbursement Form, Attachment B, must be completed and submitted to the Financial Services Department. Directors and employees shall receive reimbursement for actual, necessary, and reasonable (the CFO or designee has the discretion to determine what is actual, necessary and reasonable) expenses, including but not limited to meals, transportation, lodging, and other incidental expenses, incurred while on District business, as follows:
 - Meals: Reimbursement for meals (Director/Director, Director/employee or employee/employee) is authorized when pertinent District business requires timely resolution and mealtime affords the most convenient manner to address agency business away from the normal workplace. Reimbursement for meals shall be for a reasonable amount, plus tip not to exceed 20%. Meal reimbursements will be calculated as food cost plus regional tax, then times a 20% tip.
 - Wherever possible, the Director/employee will make every effort to request separate receipts when ordering non-reimbursable expenses or when dining with additional non-business attendees.

In the event that a Director or employee is also paying the cost of meals for a non-Mesa Water Director/employee~~others~~ in connection with the conduct of District business, in accordance with this policy, a maximum amount of \$100 per guest per day shall be authorized in addition to the maximum daily per diem of \$850.

- Transportation (personal vehicle): Reimbursement for travel by ~~a~~ personal vehicle for a total distance of 2,000 miles or less shall be for actual mileage driven at then-current Internal Revenue Service standard mileage reimbursement rate, from point of departure to destination and return. Reimbursement for travel by personal vehicle for a total distance of 2,001 miles or more shall be, the lesser amount of:

- - 1) mileage reimbursement for actual mileage driven to point of destination and return, or
 - 2) the normal cost of fully refundable round-trip airfare ~~to the airport nearest the destination~~, plus reasonable ground transportation that would otherwise have been required.

Mileage: Reimbursement rate per mile for use of personal vehicle (excluding employees who receive a monthly vehicle allowance) while on official District business, will be automatically adjusted to the then-current Internal Revenue Service standard mileage rate.

Any mileage reimbursement request over 15 miles must include map backup. This Policy designates the de minimis use threshold for mileage as 15 miles or less per trip; any trip considered de minimis in nature does not require map backup.

- Transportation (by air): Reimbursement for travel by air shall be for the normal cost of fully refundable round-trip airfare ~~to the nearest airport~~, plus reasonable ground transportation, as well as the inclusion of all in-air expenses such as seat selection, Wi-Fi, baggage, meals, etc. Additional legroom seats or premium economy fees will be reimbursed for total travel that exceeds three (3) hours in length or to accommodate special travel needs. Air transportation should be arranged as early as possible to take advantage of reduced fares for early reservations. The General Manager may approve certain travel enhancements such as upgraded programs on a case-by-case basis. Directors and employees shall use government and group rates offered by a provider of transportation services, when available.
- Transportation (other ground): Reimbursement for taxi, rideshare, rail, bus, or other reasonable ground transportation shall be for the actual cost plus tip not to exceed 20% and applicable taxes.

- Transportation (rental car): Reimbursement shall be for the actual cost of the rental car, plus gasoline costs and necessary insurance. If a rental car is used in lieu of personal vehicle, the amount shall be equal or less than the normal cost of a fully reimbursable round-trip airfare, to the airport nearest the destination, plus reasonable ground transportation that would otherwise have been required. Directors and employees shall use government and group rates offered by a provider of transportation services, when available.
- Parking: Reimbursement authorized for actual cost.
- Toll Charges: Reimbursement authorized for actual cost.
- Hotel Lodging: Lodging costs for conferences and similar activities shall not exceed the maximum group rate published by the conference or activity sponsor, provided that lodging at the group rate is available to the Director or employee at the time of booking. If the group rate is not available, the Director/employee shall use comparable lodging that is consistent with this Policy. If comparable lodging is not used, the comparable rate will be reimbursed. Directors and employees shall use government and group rates offered by a provider of lodging services, when available. Reimbursement not to exceed single room rate plus tax.
- For out-of-county or out-of-State business travel that is conducted on more than one day, the Director/employee will have the option of securing one night's lodging at both the front-end and back-end of the trip. to also include additional costs such as parking, meals, mileage, rental car, etc. Expenses incurred outside the specified time frame are not reimbursable, except for transportation-related costs, unless previously approved by the Board or General Manager under special circumstances.

For out-of-county business travel that requires multiple nonconsecutive days, if Director/employee are eligible to claim lodging for the first and last evenings of an out-of-county trip, they are also eligible to claim lodging for any evenings that fall in between the first and last evenings of the trip.

- Telephone/Internet Expenses: Reimbursement (authorized at actual cost) of all reasonable and necessary telephone expenses to conduct District business, including Internet services, while traveling on District business. If telephone/internet expenses are incurred for a flight, the expenses should be line itemed on the expense form under "Transportation". If telephone/internet expenses are incurred at the hotel, the expenses should be line itemed under "Hotel Lodging". If telephone/internet expenses are incurred outside of "Transportation" and "Hotel Lodging", the expense should be line itemed under "Other".

- Baggage Handling: Reimbursement authorized for actual cost. If a Director or Mesa Water employee is not able to procure a receipt for baggage handling, a missing receipt form must be submitted.
 - Registration Fees: Reimbursement authorized for actual cost.
4. **Ineligible Expenses** – Personal items, laundry, entertainment, alcoholic beverages, and spouse/companion expenses are not eligible for reimbursement.
5. **Reimbursement from Outside Source** – Directors/employees receiving reimbursement from an outside source for travel on Mesa Water time shall forward such reimbursement to the Financial Services Department for handling and deposit, if they intend on submitting a claim to Mesa Water or use its resources to travel. Directors/employees shall then be entitled to submit a claim for actual, ordinary, and necessary expenses for meals, transportation, lodging, and incidental expenses, subject to the conditions set forth in this Policy.
6. **Authorization** –
- All travel outside of Orange County by employees, but within the State of California, requires advance authorization by the General Manager, department manager or his/her designee.
 - All out-of-State travel by employees requires advance written authorization by the General Manager.
 - All out-of-State travel by the General Manager requires authorization by the Board.
 - Authorization for travel by current members of the Board is subject to the guidelines established by the Board.
7. **Cancellations** – Arrangements for transportation, lodging or registration fees that have cancellation or change penalties shall be carefully monitored by the requesting department. If the cancellation/change occurs due to a personal request or obligations of the Director/employee, they will be required to pay the corresponding penalty, except when the Board of Directors, General Manager, or department manager determines that the reason for the absence was legitimate and authorized.

RESOLUTION NO. ~~1579~~ 1607

ATTACHMENT B

RESOLUTION OF THE
MESA WATER DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS
REVISING THE TRAVEL AND
BUSINESS EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT POLICY
SUPERSEDING RESOLUTION NO. 15~~79~~52

Expense Reimbursement Form



YEAR | MESA WATER DISTRICT
EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT FORM

Name _____ Date(s) _____ GL Acct# _____

Event _____ City _____ State _____

Item	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Total Expenses
Meals								
Transportation								
Mileage: 0.____ X Actual Miles								
Taxi/Rideshare								
Parking/Toll Charges								
Hotel Lodging								
Telephone/Internet								
Miscellaneous								
Other								
Registration Fees								
TOTALS								

Total Expenses (attach receipts) _____

Subtract Expenses Paid (e.g., by District credit card, Petty Cash, etc.) _____

Amount Due _____

*I attest that this expense claim is an accurate account of funds spent
which were incurred by me for Mesa Water® business purposes.*

Signature

Date



YEAR | MESA WATER DISTRICT
EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT FORM

Name _____ Date(s) _____ GL Acct# _____

Event _____ City _____ State _____

Item	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Total Expenses
Hotel Lodging								
Meals								
Transportation								
Mileage: 0.70 ¢ X Actual Miles								
Taxi/Rideshare								
Parking/Toll Charges								
Other: _____								
Registration Fees								
TOTALS								

Total Expenses (attach receipts) _____

Subtract Expenses Paid (e.g., by District credit card, Petty Cash, etc.) _____

Amount Due _____

I attest that this expense claim is an accurate account of funds spent which were incurred by me for Mesa Water® business purposes.

Signature Date

REPORTS:

13. REPORT OF THE GENERAL MANAGER

REPORTS:

14. DIRECTORS' REPORTS AND COMMENTS



*Dedicated to
Satisfying our Community's
Water Needs*

MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Directors
FROM: Kurt Lind, Business Manager
DATE: November 12, 2025
SUBJECT: Engineering Department Assessment

RECOMMENDATION

This item is provided for information.

STRATEGIC PLAN

Goal #2: Perpetually renew and improve our infrastructure.

Goal #3: Be financially responsible and transparent.

Goal #6: Provide excellent customer service.

Goal #8: Practice continual business improvement.

PRIOR BOARD ACTION/DISCUSSION

At its March 19, 2024 meeting, the Board of Directors (Board) adopted Resolution No. 1591 Formalizing the Business Improvement Process.

At its June 11, 2025 meeting, the Board adopted the Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 Strategic Plan, including the addition of a new Strategic Goal - 8: *Practice continual business improvement.*

BACKGROUND

In 2013, the Board first approved the Business Evaluation Project, the purpose of which was to investigate and document Mesa Water District's (Mesa Water®) current organizational operations and identify opportunities to improve various business processes, including organizational structure, labor usage, technology utilization needs, work management, effectiveness and efficacy.

Between 2014 and 2024, staff diligently worked to expand and institutionalize the Business Improvement Process, including implementing the Board's direction to establish new systems, upgrade existing automated tools to increase accountability, and conduct annual audits of various departments, including a District-wide Performance Audit.

In March of 2024, the Board adopted Resolution No. 1591 directing staff to conduct seven annual audits and formalizing the process that includes allowing Mesa Water to assess each department's effectiveness, and to discover opportunities to improve the District's business operations. Each year, in a six-year rotation, one department will be the focus of an in-depth Department Assessment. This assessment will entail retaining a third-party independent consultant to conduct a review of that year's selected department, processes and software to ensure they are up to date, efficient, effective, cost-conscious and beneficial to the ratepayers.

DISCUSSION

Mesa Water recently engaged in a competitive selection process for qualified firms to provide consulting services to evaluate the business processes for Mesa Water's Engineering Department. This project meets Objective B of Strategic Goal #8 and involves engaging a consultant to assess current business processes, identify inefficiencies, and recommend improvements to enhance operational efficiency, workflow and alignment with strategic goals. The assessment draws from document reviews, staff interviews, process analysis and software assessments, culminating in actionable recommendations and an implementation plan.

The scope is structured into seven sequential tasks with specific deliverables and timelines from the Notice to Proceed (NTP):

Task 1: Project Kickoff (within 15 days): Conduct a kickoff meeting to outline objectives, schedule and communication; brainstorm methodology; and provide meeting minutes.

Task 2: Information Discovery (within 45 days): Review existing reports, organizational structure and departmental functions; submit requests for additional information to prepare for interviews.

Task 3: Department Interviews (within 90 days): Develop an interview plan, conduct at least 15 interviews (minimum 30 hours) with key staff to understand processes and integrations; summarize findings in a Business Process Memo (BPM).

Task 4: Identification of Major Business Processes (within 150 days): Analyze and prioritize processes using impact and functional indicators; validate top 10 processes through data reviews, job shadowing (minimum 40 hours), cross-department comparisons and workflow documentation; include results in the BPM.

Task 5: Review Major Business Software Applications (within 175 days): Assess key IT systems (e.g., Cogsdale, Great Plains, MaintStar, ESRI GIS, Wonderware SCADA) supporting top processes, including data workflows and reliance on general tools like MS Office; document findings in the BPM.

Task 6: Final Report (within 225 days): Develop draft recommendations for process improvements, including benefits, costs, staffing changes, and timelines; present to the project team, incorporate feedback and deliver a final report with presentations.

Task 7: Implementation Plan (within 265 days): Create a detailed "playbook" for recommendations, prioritizing them (high/medium/low), categorizing by type (policy, technology, organization, evaluation) and including schedules, timelines and estimated costs.

The BPM serves as a key interim deliverable compiling findings from Tasks 2-5, with reviews and presentations built in for feedback. The contract term is ten months. The completed project will provide Mesa Water with the following benefits:



Benefits of the Project

The project aims to optimize Mesa Water's Engineering Department by identifying and improving major business processes, leading to:

- Reduced labor time and costs
- Enhanced workflow efficiency
- Better integration of technology and software
- Staffing alignment with strategic initiatives

The project has the potential to result in cost savings, improved resource allocation, increased productivity and long-term organizational effectiveness through systematic implementation of recommendations.

At a future meeting, staff will provide the Board a recommendation for a professional consulting service to perform a Department Assessment for Mesa Water's Engineering Department.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

In Fiscal Year 2026, \$100,000 was budgeted for department assessments; no funds have been spent to date.

ATTACHMENTS

None.



*Dedicated to
Satisfying our Community's
Water Needs*

MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Directors
FROM: Anthony Phou, Controller
DATE: November 12, 2025
SUBJECT: Fiscal Year 2025 Annual Reimbursement Report

RECOMMENDATION

Receive and file the Fiscal Year 2025 Annual Reimbursement Report (California Government Code Section 53065.5) for the period of July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025.

STRATEGIC PLAN

Goal #3: Be financially responsible and transparent.

PRIOR BOARD ACTION/DISCUSSION

None.

DISCUSSION

California Government Code Section 53065.5 requires all Special Districts to disclose any reimbursements of one hundred dollars (\$100) or more for each individual charge for services or products received paid to Board of Directors and staff within the preceding fiscal year. The individual charge can include, but is not limited to: tuition, certification or license reimbursement; meals, lodging and transportation reimbursement; or registration fees reimbursement. The disclosure requirement is fulfilled by including the reimbursement information in a document published or printed at least annually and shall be made available for public inspection.

Staff has reviewed all Director and employee reimbursements for the time period of July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025 (Fiscal Year 2025) and has identified those reimbursements where a single item met or exceeded the \$100 threshold. The annual reimbursement report is attached.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

None.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A: Fiscal Year 2025 Annual Reimbursement Report

FISCAL YEAR 2025 ANNUAL REIMBURSEMENT REPORT

PER CA GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 53065.5

NAME	DATE	BUSINESS PURPOSE	AMOUNT
MARWAN KHALIFA	7/3/2024	CONFERENCE	477.69
MARICE DEPASQUALE	7/3/2024	CONFERENCE	3,658.41
MARWAN KHALIFA	7/17/2024	EMPLOYEE MEETING	263.93
KYLE BARKER	7/31/2024	EDUCATION	1,357.85
KYLE BARKER	8/14/2024	EDUCATION	1,343.25
SHAWN DEWANE	8/14/2024	CONFERENCE	4,400.47
WENDY KOVACEVIC	8/28/2024	OFFICE SUPPLIES	132.58
MARWAN KHALIFA	8/28/2024	CONFERENCE	150.00
KAYING LEE	8/28/2024	CERTIFICATION	155.00
KURT LIND	9/11/2024	CONFERENCE	198.32
JAMES FISLER	9/11/2024	INTERNET/FAX	259.96
DENISE KHALIFA	9/11/2024	CONFERENCE	1,156.36
KYLE BARKER	9/11/2024	EDUCATION	1,248.75
MARWAN KHALIFA	9/11/2024	CONFERENCE	1,270.21
MARICE DEPASQUALE	9/25/2024	CONFERENCE	691.72
KYLE BARKER	10/9/2024	EDUCATION	1,466.31
KAYING LEE	10/23/2024	CERTIFICATION	105.00
MARWAN KHALIFA	10/23/2024	CERTIFICATION	280.00
JAMES ATKINSON	10/23/2024	CONFERENCE	1,778.93
MARICE DEPASQUALE	10/23/2024	CONFERENCE	2,196.69
KYLE BARKER	11/6/2024	EDUCATION	1,323.00
KARYN IGAR	11/20/2024	CONFERENCE	1,534.48
DENISE KHALIFA	12/4/2024	OFFICE SUPPLIES	100.00
KURT LIND	12/4/2024	OFFICE SUPPLIES	150.00
MARWAN KHALIFA	12/4/2024	EMPLOYEE MEETING	154.51
JAMES FISLER	12/4/2024	INTERNET/FAX	199.97
KEVIN HANSON	12/4/2024	SAFETY BOOTS	389.85
JUAN HERNANDEZ	12/18/2024	CERTIFICATION	105.00
FRED BOCKMILLER	12/18/2024	INTERNET/FAX	931.06
MARWAN KHALIFA	12/18/2024	CONFERENCE	1,791.37
KIRK FILEK	12/24/2024	SAFETY BOOTS	170.94
FRED BOCKMILLER	12/31/2024	CONFERENCE	114.05
KAITLYN NORRIS	12/31/2024	MILEAGE	158.79
JAMES FISLER	12/31/2024	MILEAGE	180.90
JAMES ATKINSON	12/31/2024	CONFERENCE	443.73
MARICE DEPASQUALE	12/31/2024	CONFERENCE	490.12
JAMES FISLER	1/15/2025	INTERNET/FAX	282.97

FISCAL YEAR 2025 ANNUAL REIMBURSEMENT REPORT

PER CA GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 53065.5

NAME	DATE	BUSINESS PURPOSE	AMOUNT
DENISE KHALIFA	1/15/2025	CONFERENCE	508.42
KYLE BARKER	1/15/2025	EDUCATION	1,371.49
STRYDER HUFF	1/29/2025	SAFETY BOOTS	373.33
MARWAN KHALIFA	1/29/2025	EMPLOYEE MEETING	491.35
SHAWN DEWANE	1/29/2025	CONFERENCE	2,251.70
MARWAN KHALIFA	2/12/2025	MEETINGS	176.52
KYLE BARKER	2/12/2025	EDUCATION	1,552.98
DENISE KHALIFA	2/26/2025	EMPLOYEE MEETING	268.00
MARWAN KHALIFA	2/26/2025	CONFERENCE	683.96
MARICE DEPASQUALE	2/26/2025	COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT	4,099.49
MARICE DEPASQUALE	2/26/2025	CONFERENCE	983.50
KAYING LEE	3/12/2025	CERTIFICATION	100.00
ALEXANDER GARCIA	3/26/2025	SAFETY BOOTS	186.95
JAMES ATKINSON	3/26/2025	INTERNET/FAX	248.35
MARICE DEPASQUALE	3/26/2025	CONFERENCE	616.62
SHAWN DEWANE	4/9/2025	CONFERENCE	1,120.89
KYLE BARKER	4/9/2025	EDUCATION	1,353.44
BRIAN KRUEGER	4/23/2025	SAFETY BOOTS	113.52
MIGUEL RANGEL	4/23/2025	SAFETY BOOTS	129.30
CAMILLE SHEHADEH	4/23/2025	CERTIFICATION	250.00
FRITZ PETROPOULOS	4/23/2025	CERTIFICATION	280.00
SHAWN DEWANE	4/23/2025	MEETINGS	343.75
JAMES FISLER	4/23/2025	INTERNET/FAX	328.93
JAMES FISLER	4/23/2025	MILEAGE	63.00
MIGUEL RANGEL	5/7/2025	CERTIFICATION	180.00
KIRK FILEK	5/7/2025	SAFETY BOOTS	203.03
TREVOR HAGEN	5/7/2025	EDUCATION	1,114.14
KYLE BARKER	5/21/2025	EDUCATION	1,484.89
FRED BOCKMILLER	6/4/2025	CONFERENCE	365.05
SHAWN DEWANE	6/4/2025	CONFERENCE	1,464.51
			53,819.28



*Dedicated to
Satisfying our Community's
Water Needs*

MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Directors
FROM: Stacy Taylor, Water Policy Manager
DATE: November 12, 2025
SUBJECT: Federal Advocacy Update

RECOMMENDATION

Receive and file the Federal Advocacy Update.

STRATEGIC PLAN

Goal #7: Actively participate in regional and statewide water issues.

PRIOR BOARD ACTION/DISCUSSION

This item is provided monthly at a Mesa Water District (Mesa Water®) Board of Directors meeting.

DISCUSSION

Attached are the Federal Advocacy Report and the list of Federal legislation that Mesa Water is tracking.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

In Fiscal Year 2026, \$450,000 is budgeted for Water Policy Support Services; \$104,430 has been spent to date.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A: Federal Advocacy Report
Attachment B: Federal Legislation Tracker



To: Mesa Water District
From: Van Scoyoc Associates (VSA); Geoff Bowman, Pete Evich, Jessica Flewallen
Date: November 4, 2025
Subject: November 2025 Report

Federal Government Shutdown Update

In the days leading up to the government shutdown activity within both chambers of Congress and the White House intensified. On September 22nd, President Trump initially agreed to meet with Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) and House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries (D-NY) to negotiate a deal. By the next morning, however, he cancelled, reportedly after pressure from Speaker Mike Johnson (R-LA) and Senate Majority Leader John Thune (R-SD). The President later declared he would only meet with Democrats if they first agreed to his principles.

After the House passed its Republican-led continuing resolution (CR), on September 16th, Senate Democrats introduced their own version. On September 25th, the Senate rejected both proposals, the Democratic CR by a vote of 47–45 and the House’s Republican CR by a vote of 44–48, with neither reaching the 60 votes needed to pass. The House then announced it would cancel votes scheduled for September 29th and 30th, effectively leaving town before the fiscal year ends.

On September 24th, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) issued guidance to federal agencies not only to prepare standard furlough plans, to separate essential from non-essential staff, but also to draft Reduction in Force (RIF) plans. This has been interpreted by some as a political maneuver aimed at pressuring Democrats to support the Republican House-passed continuing resolution (CR). The guidance takes an unprecedented step, as RIF notices go beyond temporary furloughs, potentially signaling long-term job cuts.

On October 1st, the government went into a shutdown following an inability for Congress to either pass all 12 appropriations bills or a CR to give themselves more time. As a result, a reported 750,000 of workers across all federal departments and agencies have been furloughed. RIF notices are also starting to be distributed to federal employees, with a reported 4,200 facing layoffs.

Both Republicans and Democrats continue to disagree on how to tackle major topics, like healthcare, and are still working to come to an agreement on a CR. As of November 4th, approximately 1.4 million federal civilian employees have now missed full paychecks, with many seeing their first missed payments around October 24th, 2025. This figure includes both furloughed workers and those classified as “essential” who continue to work without pay. Although, after concerns of the military missing a paycheck on October 31st, the OMB pulled \$5.3

billion in funds from three different financial accounts, including a military spending account within the One Big Beautiful Bill, to ensure they were paid on time.

The Senate has remained in session during the shutdown and has voted 13 times on competing Democratic and Republican CRs, with both failing to reach the 60-vote threshold needed to end debate and move to final passage. Senators did reach an agreement on October 9th on the stalled annual National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), passing the measure by a vote of 70-20.

November 4th marks day 35 of the shutdown, making it equal length to the shutdown that occurred during President Trump's first term, the longest shutdown in U.S. history.

VSA will keep Mesa Water District apprised as more information becomes available.

EPA Releases Resources to Strengthen Cyber Resilience

On October 23rd, the EPA released new and updated planning resources to help protect water systems and strengthen cyber resilience. The following four resources were either updated or newly created: the [Emergency Response Plan \(ERP\) Guide for Wastewater Utilities](#) was updated to provide utilities with information to assist in preparation for potential incidents that threaten life, property, or the environment; a [Template for Developing an Incident Response Plan](#) was created to aid in the development of a Cybersecurity Incident Response Plan; two new Incident Action Checklists ([Source Water Contamination Incident Action Checklist](#) and [Distribution System Contamination Incident Action Checklist](#)) were developed to help drinking water utilities "prepare for, respond to, and recover from specific emergencies such as wildfires, power outages, floods, and cybersecurity incidents"; and a [Cyber Security Procurement Checklist](#) was developed to help utilities incorporate cybersecurity into their procurement process of vendors and manufacturers.

California to Develop New Emissions Rules by 2027

On October 28th, the California Air Resources Board (CARB) launched the [Drive Forward Light-duty Vehicle Program](#) to "to reduce criteria air pollutant, greenhouse gas, and toxic emissions consistent with State and federal law." This action follows Governor Gavin Newsome's [Executive Order](#) directing CARB to begin developing new vehicle regulations after the prior sales mandates for were revoked. The following day, CARB Chair Lauren Sanchez stated there are plans to rethink the 2035 deadline for phasing out new gas car sales and transitioning to electric vehicles and plug-in hybrids as part of the rulemaking. Sanchez believes the target "remains a very ambitious goal" that will be a "very active area of discussion going forward."

CARB officials have expressed concerns that without emissions regulations the State could face sanctions which would impact highway funding, considering California leads the nation in pollutants such as smog-forming nitrogen oxides.

CARB is accepting written public comments on the rulemaking until Nov. 21st and plans to hold its next workshop later this year or in spring 2026. CARB has also stated the agency plans to

release its initial staff report in fall or winter 2026 before bringing a proposal to board members in summer 2027.

Fix Our Forests Act Passes Out of Committee

On October 21st, the Fix Our Forests Act ([S.1462](#)) passed out of the Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Committee with bipartisan support. If passed into law, the bill will give the Department of Agriculture a more expansive ability to declare emergency situations on federal land to provide faster forest work while tightening the window for objection from the public.

Douglass Troutman Receives Committee Approval for EPA Office of Toxic Substances

On October 29th, seven presidential nominees for energy and water agencies went in front of the Senate Environmental and Public Works Committee, moving one step closer to confirmation if approved by the committee. Six of the seven nominees up for confirmation were approved by the committee.

Among these six was Douglas Troutman, nominated as the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Assistant Administrator for Toxic Substances. Otherwise known as the Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention, the office is responsible for regulating pesticides and chemical uses, including per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). Troutman was formerly the general counsel and senior vice president of government affairs for the American Cleaning Institute (ACI). ACI functions as the trade association for the cleaning product supply chain, representing producers of household, industrial, and institutional cleaning products, their ingredients and finished packaging; oleochemical producers; and chemical distributors to the cleaning product industry.

Sustainable Chemical Company Releases Water Index Report

On October 14th, Kemira, a global chemical company that provides sustainable chemical solutions for water-intensive industries, released the [Kemira Water Index 2025](#) outlining a worldwide view of the state of water resources and showing weaknesses in water resilience and consumer preparedness. From 14,000 respondents across 11 countries, including the U.S., the results showed that only 14% of respondents are willing to pay more for water quality yet 91% have concerns about climate change-related issues in their region and 36% do not monitor their water usage. 22% of respondents in the U.S. consider concerns of PFAS to be their biggest fear regarding water contamination while 40% and 31% named viruses and chlorine, respectively, as their biggest concern.

OMB Announces Funding Pause for \$11 billion in Corps of Engineers Projects

On October 17th, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Russ Vought [posted on X](#) stating "The Corps will be immediately pausing over \$11 billion in lower-priority projects and considering them for cancellation, including projects in New York, San Francisco, Boston, and Baltimore. More information to come from the Army Corps of Engineers." It is speculated these areas are being targeted because they have democratic representation, with one source reporting that President Trump said programs favored by Democrats are being

targeted and “they’re never going to come back, in many cases.” No official announcement has been made by the Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) or OMB on the pause.

On October 27th, Sen. Patty Murray (D-WA) and Rep. Marcy Kaptur (D-OH) sent a [letter](#) to USACE leaders, questioning the administration’s decision to freeze the project funds. Kaptur and Murray stated Vought is “recklessly threatening communities’ safety and treating the American people as pawns in his political games.” Murray and Kaptur demanded that OMB unpause the frozen projects and “restore them to their previous operational status” while asking for details about which projects were affected and how.

On October 31st, Ranking Member of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure (T&I) Rick Larsen (D-WA), Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment Frederica Wilson (D-FL) and every Democratic member of the T&I Committee sent a [letter](#) to officials at the USACE. The letter stated, “This Administration’s comfort for halting projects approved by Congress is an aggressive power grab that should concern every American, and will increase project costs, threaten infrastructure jobs, and harm communities across the country,” and requested details of which projects are being impacted. The letter also requested an explanation for how this move will help the USACE achieve its mission.

VSA will keep Mesa Water District apprised as more information becomes available.

SUPPORT

Water Conservation Rebate Tax Parity Act ([H.R.1871](#), [S.857](#)) Rep. Jared Huffman (D-CA), Sen. John Curtis (R-UT)

Status: House - 03/05/2025 Referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means.

Senate - 03/05/2025 Referred to the Committee on Finance.

Summary: This legislation will amend federal tax law to ensure homeowners do not have to pay income tax when they receive rebates from water utilities for water conservation and water runoff management improvements.

Special District Fairness & Accessibility Act ([H.R.2766](#)) Rep. Pat Fallon (R-TX)

Status: House - 04/09/2025 Referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

Summary: This bill will require special districts to be recognized as local government and be eligible for federal funding.

Low-Income Household Assistance Water Program (LIHWAP) Establishment Act ([H.R.4733](#)) Rep. Eric Sorensen (D-IL)

Status: House - 07/23/2025 Referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and the Committee on Energy and Commerce

Summary: This bill will direct the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to make permanent the Low-Income Household Assistance Water Program (LIHWAP). This bill will allow HHS to award grants to eligible entities to provide funds to public water systems to assist low-income households in paying for drinking water or wastewater services.

Water Infrastructure Modernization Act (WIMA) ([S.2388](#)) Sen. Ruben Gallego (D-AZ)

Status: Senate - 07/23/2025 Referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

Summary: This bill will provide \$50 million in grant funding for community water systems to purchase and implement new water technologies, including those that can identify water loss, examine pipe integrity, detect leaks, prepare for severe weather, innovate water storage systems, and more.

Water Cybersecurity Enhancement Act of 2025 ([S.1549](#)) Sen. Ruben Gallego (D-AZ)

Status: Senate - 05/01/2025 Referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

Summary: This bill will extend and expand the Drinking Water Infrastructure Risk and Resilience Program and provide technical assistance and grants to community water systems for training and guidance regarding protecting from and responding to cyberattacks.

WATCH

Regulations from the Executive in Need of Scrutiny (REINS) Act ([H.R. 142](#)) Rep. Kat Cammack (R-FL)

Status: House - 01/03/2025 Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on Rules, and the Budget

Summary: This bill will aim to increase accountability and transparency in the federal regulatory process by requiring that any new "major rule" proposed by federal agencies receive approval from both the House and Senate before taking effect.

To eliminate federal funding for the failed California High-Speed Rail project ([H.R. 213](#)) Rep. Kevin Kiley (R-CA)

Status: House - 01/07/2025 Referred to the House Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials.

Summary: This bill will prohibit the use of Federal financial assistance for the California High-Speed Rail development project in the State of California.

Colorado River Basin System Conservation Extension Act ([H.R. 231](#)) Rep. Harriet Hageman (R-WY)

Status: House - 02/12/2025 Ordered to be Reported (Amended) by Unanimous Consent.

Summary: This bill will reauthorize the Colorado River System Conservation Pilot Program through fiscal year 2026.

Preserving Choice in Vehicle Purchase Act ([H.R.346](#)) Rep. John Joyce (R-PA)

Status: House - 01/13/2025 Referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.

Summary: This bill will block the U.S. Environmental Agency from giving California a waiver to "limit the sale or use of new motor vehicles with internal combustion engines." It would do so by modifying the waiver process under the Clean Air Act related to state emission control standards for new motor vehicles.

Providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Environmental Protection Agency relating to "National Primary Drinking Water Regulations for Lead and Copper: Improvements (LCRI) ([H.J. Res. 18](#)) Rep. Gary Palmer (R-AL)

Status: House - 01/13/2025 Referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.

Summary: This joint resolution nullifies the rule titled National Primary Drinking Water Regulations for Lead and Copper: Improvements (LCRI), which was submitted by the Environmental Protection Agency on October 30, 2024.

Every Drop Counts Act ([H.R. 338](#)) Rep. Jim Costa (D-CA)

Status: House - 01/13/2025 Referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources

Summary: This bill will expand the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law's Small Storage Program by making it easier for groundwater projects to qualify for funding, increase the amount of water they can store, and stabilize underground aquifers.

Fix Our Forests Act ([H.R.471](#), [S.1462](#)) Rep. Bruce Westerman (R-AR), Sen. John Curtis (R-UT)

Status: House – 01/23/2025 Passed in house 279 - 141

Senate - 03/06/2025 Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry. Hearings held.

Summary: This bill simplifies and expedites environmental reviews for forest management projects, promotes federal, state, tribal, and local collaboration, and deters frivolous litigation that delays essential projects.

Stop the Delta Tunnel Act ([H.R.1311](#)) Rep. Josh Harder (D-CA)

Status: House - 02/13/2025 Referred to the Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment.

Summary: This bill will prohibit the Army Corps of Engineers from issuing a federal permit necessary for the State of California to build the Delta Conveyance Project, commonly known as the Delta Tunnel.

Critical Infrastructure Manufacturing Feasibility Act ([H.R.1721](#)) Rep. Mariannette Miller-Meeks (R-IA)

Status: Senate - 04/29/2025 Received in the Senate and Referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Summary: This bill will direct the Secretary of Commerce to conduct a study on the feasibility of manufacturing more critical infrastructure goods in the United States, with a focus on identifying rural communities best suited to support domestic production.

Headwaters Protection Act of 2025 ([H.R.605](#)) Rep. Jim Costa (D-CA)

Status: House - 02/28/2025 Referred to the Subcommittee on Conservation, Research, and Biotechnology

Summary: This bill reauthorizes the Water Source Protection Program (WSPP) at \$30 million annually from 2024-2028, expands the list of eligible lands and entities, lowers the non-federal match requirement for smaller private sector companies, and reduces bureaucratic hurdles for existing Watershed Restoration Action Plans.

Colorado River Basin System Conservation Extension Act ([S.154](#)) Sen. John Hickenlooper (D-CO)

Status: Senate – 06/16/2025 Passed in Senate.

House – 06/23/2025 Held at the desk.

Summary: This bill will amend the Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2015, to reauthorize the Colorado River System conservation pilot program.

Improving Atmospheric River Forecasts Act ([S.322](#), [H.R.4302](#)) Sen. Alex Padilla (D-CA)

Status: Senate – 01/29/2025 Referred to Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

House - 07/07/2025 Referred to the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

Summary: This bill will require the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to establish a forecast improvement program within the National Weather Service.

Wildfire Emergency Act of 2025 ([S.350](#)) Sen. Alex Padilla (D-CA)

Status: Senate - 07/17/2025 Referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

Summary: This bill will direct the Secretary of Agriculture to select and implement these projects, focusing on reducing the threat of destructive wildfires and assisting communities in increasing their resilience.

Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program Amendment Act of 2025 ([H.R.831](#)) Rep. Ken Calvert (R-CA)

Status: House - 09/15/2025 Placed on the Union calendar no.234

Summary: This bill will establish an interest-bearing account for the non-Federal contributions to the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program. This will ensure that state contributions to conservation projects in the Lower Colorado River Basin are able to earn interest and grow before being allocated.

Emergency Wildfire Fighting Technology Act ([H.R.836](#)) Rep. David Valadao (R-CA)

Status: House – 02/05/2025 Passed in House

Senate - 02/06/2025 Referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

Summary: This bill will require the U.S. Forest Service and the Department of the Interior to jointly evaluate the use of the Container Aerial Firefighting System to mitigate and suppress wildfires

Disaster Resiliency and Coverage Act of 2025 ([H.R.1105](#)) Rep. Mike Thompson (D-CA)

Status: House - 02/06/2025 Referred to the Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management.

Summary: This bill will provide homeowners in disaster-prone regions with broad incentives to harden their properties against wildfires and other risks.

Water Systems PFAS Liability Protection Act ([H.R.1267](#)) Rep. Marie Gluesenkamp Perez (D-WA)

Status: House - 02/12/2025 Referred to the Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment.

Summary: This bill exempts specified water management entities from liability under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA) for releases of certain perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substances, commonly referred to as PFAS.

Aquatic Biodiversity Preservation Act of 2025 ([H.R. 1332](#)) Rep. Dave Min (D-CA)

Status: House - 02/13/2025 Referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources.

Summary: This bill will establish a program within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to collect data on at-risk, aquatic species.

Midnight Rules Relief Act ([H.R.77](#), [S.164](#)) Rep. Andy Biggs (R-AZ), Sen. Ron Johnson (R-WI)

Status: House – 02/12/2025 Passed in House by the Yeas and Nays: 212 - 208

Senate - 02/13/2025 Referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Summary: This bill will allow lawmakers to roll back multiple federal regulations in one Congressional Review Act resolution, as currently CRA resolutions can only address one rule at a time.

Coastal Commission Accountability Act ([H.R. 1874](#)) Rep. Kevin Kiley (R-CA)

Status: House - 03/05/2025 Referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources.

Summary: This bill will amend the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) to expedite important coastal activities, including national security initiatives, critical infrastructure development, and disaster mitigation and recovery efforts.

Federally Integrated Species Health (FISH) Act ([H.R.1894](#)) Rep. Ken Calvert (R-CA)

Status: House - 03/06/2025 Referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources.

Summary: This bill will eliminate the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries' oversight role in regulating salmon and other fish under the Endangered Species Act and designate the Fish and Wildlife Life Service (FWS) as the sole regulatory authority.

Promoting Efficient Review for Modern Infrastructure Today (PERMIT) Act ([H.R.2093](#), [H.R.3898](#)) Rep. Ken Calvert (R-CA), Rep. Mike Collins (R-GA)

Status: House - 03/14/2025 Referred to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

Summary: This bill will reform the Clean Water Act to streamline permitting, reduce regulatory delays, provide greater certainty for developers, and redefine "navigable waters."

Protect the West Act of 2025 ([S.670](#)/[H.R.1459](#)) Sen. Michael Bennet (D-CO), Rep. Jason Crow (D-CO)

Status: Senate - 02/20/2025 Referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.
House - 03/20/2025 Referred to the Subcommittee on Conservation, Research, and Biotechnology

Summary: This bill will provide an investment of \$60 billion to establish an Outdoor Restoration Fund for restoration and resilience projects across the West.

Preventing Our Next Natural Disaster Act ([H.R.403](#)) Rep. Eric Swalwell (D-CA)

Status: House - 01/15/2025 Referred to the Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management

Summary: This bill will modify the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) grant program to increase FEMA's Disaster Relief fund and increases funding accessibility for community planning, environmental justice communities, and impoverished communities.

Ending Major Borderland Environmental Ruin from Wildfires (EMBER) Act ([H.R.2026](#)) Rep. Ken Calvert (R-CA)

Status: House - 04/04/2025 Referred to the Subcommittee on Forestry and Horticulture.

Summary: This bill will ensure better assessment, prevention, and help for communities to manage wildfires. It focuses on modernizing wildfire policies, bolstering resilience, and enhancing restoration efforts.

Endangered Species Act (ESA) Amendments Act ([H.R.1897](#)) Rep. Bruce Westerman (R-AR)

Status: House - 03/25/2025 Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife and Fisheries Hearings Held

Summary: This bill will amend the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to improve conservation of resources and wildlife, protect endangered species, and streamline permitting.

Urban Waters Federal Partnership Act ([H.R.2401](#)) Rep. Greg Stanton (D-AZ)

Status: House - 03/27/2025 Referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and to the Committees on Natural Resources, and Appropriations.

Summary: This bill will formally authorize the Urban Waters Federal Partnership Program, which supports improvements to waterways and urban renewal.

Water Intelligence, Security, and Cyber (Water ISAC) Threat Protection Act ([H.R. 2344/S. 1118](#)) Rep. Jan Schakowsky (D-IL), Sen. Ed Markey (D-MA)

Status: House - 03/25/2025 Referred to the Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment.

Senate - 03/25/2025 Referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

Summary: This bill will increase drinking water and wastewater system threat preparedness and resilience by directing the EPA to establish a program to offset costs to water systems and increase support.

Providing for congressional disapproval of a rule published by the Fish and Wildlife Service relating to “Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants” ([H.J.Res.78](#)) Rep. Doug LaMalfa (R-CA)

Status: House - 05/01/2025 Passed with a voice vote of 216 - 195

Senate - 05/05/2025 Received in the Senate.

Summary: This bill provides congressional disapproval for a rule from the Fish and Wildlife Service which lists the San Francisco Bay-Delta distinct population segment (DPS) of longfin smelt as an endangered species under the Endangered Species Act

Water Risk and Resilience Reorganization ([H.R.2594](#)) Rep. Eric Crawford (R-AR)

Status: House - 04/02/2025 Referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

Summary: This bill will establish a Water Risk and Resilience Organization to support modifications and implementation for water systems to meet risk and resilience requirements.

Forest Service Accountability Act ([H.R.1762](#), [S.1061](#)) Rep. Ryan Zinke (R-MT), Sen. Mike Lee (R-UT)

Status: House - 03/28/2025 Referred to the Subcommittee on Forestry and Horticulture.
Senate - 03/13/2025 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
Summary: This bill will make the Chief of the Forest Service a Presidentially appointed position

Safeguard American Voter Eligibility (SAVE) Act ([H.R.22](#)) Rep. Chip Roy (R-TX)

Status: House – 04/10/2025 Passed by the Yeas and Nays: 220 – 208
Senate - 04/10/2025 Received in the Senate

Summary: This bill will amend the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 to people provide proof of citizenship when registering to vote in a federal election. The documents for proof of citizenship include a passport, REAL ID, birth certificate, or a military ID.

Restoring WIFIA Eligibility Act ([H.R.3035](#), [S.1760](#)) Rep. Jim Costa (D-CA), Sen. John Curtis (R-UT)

Status: House - 04/28/2025 Referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and the Committee on Energy and Commerce.
Senate - 05/14/2025 Referred to the Committee on the Budget.
Summary: This bill will amend the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act of 2014 (WIFIA) to clarify that federally-owned infrastructure projects managed by non-federal entities are eligible for WIFIA funding.

Help Hoover Dam Act ([S.1570](#)) Sen. Catherine Cortez Masto (D-NV)

Status: Senate - 05/01/2025 Referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.
Summary: This bill will preserve Hoover Dam as an affordable energy source and strengthen the Southwest’s electrical grid by giving the Bureau of Reclamation the authority to use “stranded funds” currently in the Colorado River Dam Fund to pay for operation, maintenance, and replacement projects at Hoover Dam.

Investing In Our Communities Act ([H.R.1255](#)) Rep. David Kustoff (R-TN)

Status: House - 02/12/2025 Referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means.
Summary: This bill will restore tax-exempt advance refunding for municipal bonds so state and local governments can more efficiently invest in projects throughout their communities.

Technical Fix for the State Response to Contaminants Program ([S.1324](#)) Sen. Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH)

Status: Senate - 04/08/2025 Referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.
Summary: This bill will provide flexibility for states to use funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law for PFAS in small and disadvantaged communities to assist private well owners.

Wastewater Infrastructure Pollution Prevention and Environmental Safety (WIPPES) Act ([S.1092](#)/[H.R.2269](#)) Sen. Jeff Merkley (D-OR), Rep. Lisa McClain (R-MI)

Status: Senate - 09/19/2025 Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 166.

House – 06/23/2025 Passed the House by voice vote.

Summary: This bill will require products with significant potential to be flushed to be labeled with “Do Not Flush” notices to protect pipe infrastructure.

Modification of the Aquifer Recharge Flexibility Act ([H.R.331](#), [S.1254](#)) Rep. Russ Fulcher (R-ID)

Status: House – 05/13/2025 Passed the House.

Senate - 05/14/2025 Received in the Senate and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Summary: This bill will allow holders of existing right-of-way grants to use them for aquifer recharge without needing additional authorization from the Secretary of the Interior.

To provide technical and financial assistance for groundwater recharge, aquifer storage, and water source substitution projects ([H.R.337](#)) Rep. Jim Costa (D-CA)

Status: House - 01/13/2025 Referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources.

Summary: This bill will modify the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act to allow unobligated funds for groundwater recharge projects, aquifer storage and recovery projects, and water source substitution for aquifer protection projects.

Agriculture Export Promotion Act of 2025 ([H.R.1086](#)) Rep. Dan Newhouse (R-WA)

Status: House - 02/06/2025 Referred to the House Committee on Agriculture.

Summary: This bill will extend and increase funding for the Market Access Program (MAP) and Foreign Market Development (FMD) Program through Fiscal Year 2029.

Fair Access to Agriculture Disaster Programs Act ([H.R.2156](#)/[S.984](#)) Rep. Jimmy Panetta (D-CA), Sen. Alex Padilla

Status: House - 04/04/2025 Referred to the Subcommittee on General Farm Commodities, Risk Management, and Credit.

Senate - 03/12/2025 Referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

Summary: This bill will expand eligibility for USDA disaster assistance programs by waiving gross income limitations.

Advancing Water Reuse Act ([H.R.2940](#)) Rep. Darin LaHood (R-IL)

Status: House - 04/17/2025 Referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means.

Summary: This bill will catalyze the use of recycled water by manufacturers, data centers, and other industrial entities.

Disaster Related Extension of Deadlines Act ([H.R.1491](#)/[S.1438](#)) Rep. Gregory Murphy (R-NC), Sen. Raphael Warnock (D-GA)

Status: House – 04/01/2025 Passed the House.

Senate – 04/10/2025 Referred to the Committee on Finance.

Summary: This bill will ensure that natural disaster victims have sufficient time to claim tax refunds and credits, even when their filing deadlines are extended due to a disaster.

Proven Forest Management Act of 2025 ([H.R.179](#)) Rep. Tom McClintock (R-CA)

Status: House - 07/23/2025 Ordered to be Reported in the Nature of a Substitute by the Yeas and Nays: 24 - 15

Summary: This bill will expand forest management practices that have proven successful in reducing wildfire risks and promoting forest health, improving forest resiliency.

Filing Relief for Natural Disasters Act ([H.R.517/S.132](#)) Rep. David Kustoff (R-TN), Sen. Catherine Cortez Masto (D-NV)

Status: 7/24/2025 Became law

Summary: This bill will grant the IRS the authority to postpone federal tax filing deadlines for taxpayers affected by state-declared disasters and states of emergency.

FEMA Independence Act ([H.R. 2308](#)) Rep. Jared Moskowitz (D-FL)

Status: House - 03/24/2025 Referred to the Subcommittee on Emergency Management and Technology.

Summary: This bill will remove FEMA from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and restore it as an independent, Cabinet-level agency.

Water Affordability, Transparency, Equity, and Reliability (WATER) Act of 2023 ([S.1730](#)) Sen. Bernard Sanders (I-VT)

Status: Senate - 05/13/2025 Referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

Summary: This bill will assist communities in securing access to clean and reliable drinking water. This bill also contains provisions to combat PFAS and provide grants for low-income communities struggling with unaffordable water bills.

Veterans Exposed to Toxic PFAS Act ([H.R.3639](#)) Rep. Michael Lawler (R-NY)

Status: House - 05/29/2025 Referred to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Summary: This bill provides eligibility for Department of Veterans Affairs hospital care and medical services to veterans and their family members (including those in utero) who have specified conditions and resided at a military installation where individuals were exposed to perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances, commonly known as PFAS.

National Prescribed Fire Act of 2025 ([H.R.3889](#)) Rep. Kim Schrier (D-WA)

Status: House - 06/10/2025 Referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committees on Agriculture, and Energy and Commerce,

Summary: This bill will increase funding for Forest Service and DOI for prescribed burns, establish a program for implementation of prescribed burns, establish a program for workforce

development, and facilitate coordination between land managers and air quality agencies to alter prescribed burn practices to reduce catastrophic smoke events in the summer.

PFAS National Drinking Water Standard Act of 2025 ([H.R.4168](#)) Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA)

Status: House - 06/26/2025 Referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.

Summary: This bill will codify the EPA's final PFAS National Primary Drinking Water Regulation, establishing enforceable maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) for six of the most hazardous PFAS chemicals, including PFOA and PFOS, in public drinking water systems.

WILTR Act of 2025 ([H.R.4181](#)) Rep. Darrell Issa (R-CA)

Status: House - 06/26/2025 Referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means.

Summary: This bill will incentivize wildfire prevention infrastructure and landowner preparedness through targeted tax relief.

The Healthy Drinking Water Affordability Act (Healthy H2O Act) ([H.R.4721](#)) Rep. David Rouzer (R-NC)

Status: House - 07/23/2025 Referred to the House Committee on Agriculture.

Summary: This bill will provide grants through the U.S. Department of Agriculture for water quality testing and to purchase and install point-of-entry water filtration systems to remove contaminants from drinking water.

Snow Water Supply Forecasting Program Reauthorization Act of 2025 ([S.2437](#)) Sen. John Hickenlooper (D-CO)

Status: Senate - 07/24/2025 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Summary: This bill will reauthorize the Bureau of Reclamation's Snow Water Supply Forecasting Program which provides grants to advance emerging snow monitoring technology that improve water supply predictions.

Fixing Emergency Management for Americans (FEMA) Act ([H.R.4669](#)) Rep. Sam Graves (R-MO)

Status: House - 09/03/2025 Ordered to be Reported (Amended) by the Yeas and Nays: 57 - 3

Summary: This bill will authorize and improve the Federal Emergency Management Agency and reform Federal disaster mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery.

Water Infrastructure Resiliency Act ([H.R.5513](#)) Rep. Vince Fong (R-CA)

Status: House - 09/20/2025 Referred to the Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment.

Summary: This bill will clarify eligible uses under the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) to include modern software tools for the modernization of infrastructure.

Water Infrastructure Resilience and Sustainability Act ([H.R.5566](#)) Rep. Salud Carbajal (D-CA)

Status: House - 09/26/2025 Referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

Summary: This bill will fund upgrades to drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater infrastructure to make them more resilient against threats by reauthorizing the following programs: Drinking Water System Infrastructure Resilience and Sustainability Program, Midsize and Large Drinking Water System Infrastructure Resilience and Sustainability Program, and the Clean Water Infrastructure Resiliency and Sustainability Program.



*Dedicated to
Satisfying our Community's
Water Needs*

MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Directors
FROM: Stacy Taylor, Water Policy Manager
DATE: November 12, 2025
SUBJECT: State Advocacy Update

RECOMMENDATION

Receive and file the State Advocacy Update.

STRATEGIC PLAN

Goal #7: Actively participate in regional and statewide water issues.

PRIOR BOARD ACTION/DISCUSSION

This item is provided monthly at a Mesa Water District (Mesa Water®) Board of Directors meeting.

DISCUSSION

Attached is the State Advocacy Report that Mesa Water is tracking.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

In Fiscal Year 2026, \$450,000 is budgeted for Water Policy Support Services; \$104,430 has been spent to date.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A: State Advocacy Report



November 4, 2025

To: Mesa Water District

From: Dennis Albiani and Adam Quiñonez, California Advocates

Subject: November 2025 Monthly Report

As previously reported, on October 13 Governor Newsom finished reviewing the 917 bills that were on his desk. During this time the Governor signed 794 bills and vetoed 123.

Over the last several weeks California's political apparatus has been almost solely focused on Proposition 50. Prop 50 would amend the state constitution to transfer congressional redistricting authority from the independent Citizens Redistricting Commission to the Legislature for the 2026, 2028, and 2030 election cycles. After the 2030 Census, the commission would resume control of the process. The measure does not affect state legislative or Board of Equalization boundaries.

Supporters, including Governor Gavin Newsom, the California Democratic Party, and several labor unions. The "Yes on 50" campaign has reported roughly \$90 million in contributions, including major funding from the George Soros Fund for Policy Reform and national Democratic political committees.

Opponents include the California Republican Party, redistricting-reform advocates, and business donors led by Charles Munger Jr., who has contributed more than \$30 million to the opposition campaign. They contend the measure would reverse voter-approved reforms intended to keep politics out of redistricting.

Analyses from CalMatters, UCLA, and the Legislative Analyst's Office indicate that if Prop 50 passes, newly drawn maps could make several Republican-held congressional districts more competitive, particularly in:

- CA-1 (LaMalfa)
- CA-3 (Kiley)
- CA-22 (Valadao)
- CA-41 (Calvert)
- CA-48 (Issa)

These five seats are widely viewed as potentially shifting toward Democrats under new district boundaries, though the outcome would depend on voter turnout and candidate dynamics in 2026. While this report is being provided on election day, it is still too early to anticipate the outcome. Recent polling has shown approximately 54% support for Prop 50.

Key Bills

The Legislature will reconvene on January 5, 2026, and the bill introduction deadline will be February 20, 2026. California Advocates will report on key legislation in the January 2026 report.

Regulatory and Administrative Actions

New and Revised Notification and Response Levels

On October 29, the State Water Board issued New and Revised Drinking Water Notification and Response Levels for perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS), perfluorohexane sulfonic acid (PFHxS), and perfluorohexanoic acid (PFHxA). Under state law, water agencies must respond accordingly to timely notify and treat the source of contamination. More information on these newly lowered response and notification levels can be found at the [Board's Drinking Water Notification website](#).

Bay-Delta Plan Update

ACWA and a number of water agencies will be testifying in support of the Proposed Voluntary Agreement for the Tuolumne River. On September 19, the State Water Board released a Notice of Opportunity for Public Comment and Notice of Public Workshop on the Draft Scientific Basis Report Supplement for Consideration of Potential Updates to the Bay-Delta Plan to Incorporate a Proposed Voluntary Agreement for the Tuolumne River. The State Water Board is accepting public comments on the Draft Scientific Basis Report Supplement for the Tuolumne River Voluntary Agreement Proposal which is a prerequisite before the State Water Board can consider potential updates to the Bay-Delta Plan.

- Public workshop: November 5 at 9:00 am
- Public comments due: November 7 at 12:00 pm

Advanced Clean Fleets Regulation

On September 25, the California Air Resources Board (CARB) adopted a resolution to amend the Advanced Clean Fleets regulation (ACF). The resolution: extends the 50 percent Zero Emission Vehicle (ZEV) Purchase Schedule until 2030 and allow small fleets and those located in designated counties to continue to wait until 2030 before they need to purchase any ZEVs at all, adopts the proposed 45-day changes, and directs CARB staff to continue working with local government entities on additional concerns with exemption pathway to be addressed in a future comment period later this year prerequisite before the State Water Board can consider potential updates to the Bay-Delta Plan.

- Public workshop: November 5 at 9:00 am
- Public comments due: November 7 at 12:00 pm

California Water Accounting, Tracking, and Reporting System

On October 7, the State Water Board launched a new water rights data system, CalWATRS. The State Water Board is hosting a virtual public workshop on [CalWATRS](#) where staff will demonstrate the system's key features and answer questions.

- Virtual workshop: November 12 at 1:00 pm

California Advocates, Inc. Activity Report

- California Advocates/ACWA/California Water Association priorities discussion.

- California Advocates and ACWA meeting regarding potential ACWA sponsored Low Income Rate Assistance proposal.
- Follow-up meeting request submitted to Assemblymember Petrie-Norris to discuss AB 514 date TBD.
- Water advocates meeting regarding upcoming legislative year and groundwater recharge advocacy.
- Wildfire liability proposal discussion with ACWA and California Water Association.
- Attended ACWA Proposition 4 Funding workgroup.

Important Dates and Deadlines for 2025-2026

November

November 4 – California Statewide Special Election

November 7 – ACWA SLC Planning Meeting

December

December 2-4 – ACWA Fall Conference

January

January 5 – Legislature Reconvenes



*Dedicated to
Satisfying our Community's
Water Needs*

MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Directors
FROM: Stacy Taylor, Water Policy Manager
DATE: November 12, 2025
SUBJECT: Orange County Advocacy Update

RECOMMENDATION

Receive and file the Orange County Advocacy Update.

STRATEGIC PLAN

Goal #7: Actively participate in regional and statewide water issues.

PRIOR BOARD ACTION/DISCUSSION

This item is provided monthly at a Mesa Water District (Mesa Water®) Board of Directors meeting.

DISCUSSION

Mesa Water's governmental relations program includes monitoring local and regional political issues and policy-setting authorities (e.g., County of Orange, Orange County Local Agency Formation Commission). Attached is the Orange County Advocacy Report, and at the Board's November 12, 2025 meeting, Mesa Water's Orange County Advocacy consultant, Venture Strategic, will provide a verbal report on any actionable, relevant and/or timely issues.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

In Fiscal Year 2026, \$450,000 is budgeted for Water Policy Support Services; \$104,430 has been spent to date.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A: Orange County Advocacy Report



THE COUNTY OF ORANGE REPORT (OCTOBER 2025)

Prepared for Mesa Water District by Venture Strategic

COUNTY OF ORANGE UPDATES

County Legal Payouts Reach \$258 Million Over Four Years

Supervisors reviewed a report detailing \$258 million in legal settlements and payouts over the past four years, including costs related to the Airport Fire and other incidents. The payouts underscore rising liabilities for the county, prompting discussions on risk management strategies.

Board Considers Ordinance on Illegal Encampments

The Board of Supervisors conducted the first reading of a proposed ordinance to implement additional regulations on illegal encampments and camping on public property, including areas managed by the Orange County Flood Control District. The second reading and potential adoption are scheduled for November 4, 2025.

Supervisors Advance Audit of Over \$4 Billion Following Andrew Do Scandal

The Orange County Board of Supervisors approved measures to audit more than \$4 billion in public funds amid the fallout from former Supervisor Andrew Do's guilty plea. This decision aims to enhance transparency and accountability in county spending. The board's action follows calls for independent oversight of discretionary funds, and the scope of the audit is still to be determined.

CalOptima Releases Ad Hoc Report on Former Board Member Andrew Do

CalOptima Health released findings from an internal ad hoc report examining actions by former board member Andrew Do, amid allegations of misconduct related to an attempted acquisition of a Tuscan property. The report found no wrongdoing or kickback scheme, and recommended enhanced governance protocols for the agency, which serves over 900,000 Orange County residents.

District Attorney Faces Potential New Trial Over Retaliation Claims

Orange County's District Attorney Todd Spitzer could face another trial related to allegations of employee retaliation. The case stems from a 2023 lawsuit and involves claims of wrongful termination. In June, a jury ordered a \$3 million payout for a separate retaliation claim.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT UPDATES

Costa Mesa Progresses on Fairview Developmental Center Redevelopment

The City of Costa Mesa and state officials advanced plans for redeveloping the former Fairview Developmental Center site. The state broke ground last week on a new emergency operations



facility, and the City Council is reviewing plans for the construction of thousands of new homes, retail, and open space.

Costa Mesa Hosts Town Hall on Homelessness Solutions

Costa Mesa held a town hall forum on October 15 to discuss progress in addressing homelessness, including resident concerns about encampments and support services. City officials outlined ongoing initiatives, such as expanded outreach and housing programs, and gathered community feedback for future planning.

Costa Mesa Appoints New Fire Chief Leadership

Costa Mesa Fire Chief announced the appointment of a new Battalion Chief and Fire Marshal/Assistant Chief to strengthen department operations. The moves aim to enhance emergency response capabilities amid growing regional challenges like wildfires.

Nitrous Oxide Retail Ban Approved in Newport Beach, Proposed in Costa Mesa

The Newport Beach City Council unanimously approved an ordinance banning the retail sale of nitrous oxide (NOX), building on a countywide ban led by Supervisor Katrina Foley earlier in 2025. Costa Mesa City Council unanimously gave first reading to a similar ordinance.

Newport Beach Group Submits Signatures for Housing Initiative

A Newport Beach residents' group collected over 8,000 signatures to attempt to qualify a ballot initiative requiring voter approval for state-mandated housing developments. The measure aims to give locals more input on growth and density. Once the necessary number of signatures are validated by the November 17 deadline, the City Council will decide whether to adopt the initiative outright or place it on the ballot.

Newport Beach City Council Approves First Wave Pool

The Newport Beach City Council unanimously approved plans for Orange County's first public wave pool as part of a recreational development project. The facility will replace part of the Newport Beach golf course, with construction anticipated to begin in 2026.

Tustin Plans Redevelopment of Historic Site Post-Hangar Fire Cleanup

Tustin officials outlined redevelopment options for a historic site as the U.S. Navy completed cleanup from the hangar fire. Proposals include mixed-use development with emphasis on sustainable infrastructure. Community input sessions are scheduled for November 2025.



ECONOMIC AND INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATES

Southern California Inflation Reaches 16-Month High

Inflation in Southern California climbed to a 16-month peak in October, driven by rising costs in housing, energy, and goods. At the same time, the Federal Reserve recently announced another round of interest rate cuts.

Large Sinkhole in Orange Linked to Water Main Break

A significant sinkhole formed in the City of Orange following a water main break, disrupting traffic and requiring emergency repairs. The incident highlighted aging infrastructure vulnerabilities in the region. Restoration efforts were completed by mid-October, with no reported injuries.

POLITICAL UPDATES

Poll Shows Hilton, Porter Leading in 2026 Governor's Race

A recent Emerson College [poll](#) showed Steve Hilton (16%) and Kamala Harris (15%) leading early in the 2026 California gubernatorial race, followed by Chad Bianco (11%), Xavier Becerra (5%), Antonio Villaraigosa (5%), and all others at less than 4%. 39% remain undecided. A different [poll](#) from CBS news that asked which candidate the respondent was “considering” had Alex Padilla in the lead (38% considering), followed by Porter (27% considering), Becerra (22% considering), Villaraigosa (21% considering), Hilton (19% considering), Rick Caruso (18% considering), Bianco (16% considering), and Ben Yee (15% considering).

Polls Indicate Strong Support for Prop 50 Redistricting Measure

The same Emerson College poll showed that California's Proposition 50, a redistricting reform measure on the November 4, 2025, special election ballot, is likely to pass, with 57% of likely voters supporting and 27% opposing. The Public Policy Institute of California's latest poll also shows 56% of voters would vote yes on Prop 50, while only 43% would vote no. Another poll from Berkeley's Institute of Governmental Studies shows an even larger gap, with 60% saying yes on Prop 50 and only 38% saying no.

DIRECTORS' REPORTS (AB 1234) PER CA GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 53232.3(D)

In accordance with CA Government Code 53232.3(d), the following report identifies the meetings for which Mesa Water Directors received expense reimbursement.

Jim Atkinson

Meetings Attended

Reimbursement Date:	Description, Date
N/A	

Fred R. Bockmiller, P.E.

Meetings Attended

Reimbursement Date:	Description, Date
10/30/25	Meeting re: Water Issues, 9/13
10/30/25	Meeting with General Manager, 9/22
10/30/25	Mesa Water District Employee Event, 10/7
10/30/25	Leadership Tomorrow Event, 10/16

Marice H. DePasquale

Meetings Attended

Reimbursement Date:	Description, Date
10/30/25	CalDesal Meeting, 10/15
10/30/25	Southern California Water Coalition Meeting, 10/23

Shawn Dewane

Meetings Attended

Reimbursement Date:	Description, Date
10/30/25	Mesa Water Education Center Event, 10/3
10/30/25	Pacific Research Institute Event, 10/4
10/30/25	Meeting with Director, 10/14
10/30/25	Southern California Water Coalition Meeting, 10/23

James R. Fisler

Meetings Attended

Reimbursement Date:	Description, Date
10/30/25	Placentia Library District Board Meeting, 9/22
10/30/25	Capistrano Bay Community Services District Meeting, 9/30
10/30/25	Buena Park Library District Board Meeting, 10/7
10/30/25	Rossmoor Community Services District Board Meeting, 10/14

CLOSED SESSION:

21. CONFERENCE REGARDING CYBER SECURITY PURSUANT TO CALIFORNIA GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54957(a):
The Board will meet in Closed Session regarding cyber security risks and protections.

CLOSED SESSION:

22. PURSUANT TO CALIFORNIA GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54957.6:
Public Employee Performance Evaluation
Title: General Manager