

MONTECITO WATER DISTRICT MEMORANDUM

SECTION: 5-A

DATE: APRIL 22, 2025

TO: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

FROM: GENERAL MANAGER

SUBJECT: QUARTERLY WATER SUPPLY UPDATE

RECOMMENDATION:

Information only.

DISCUSSION:

Overview

Despite below-average hydrologic conditions existing locally this winter, the District's 3-year water supply outlook remains favorable, meaning sufficient water supplies are available to meet projected customer needs over the next three water years assuming drought conditions persist. This favorable outlook is attributable to above-average rainfall having been received locally and, in many locations statewide in Water Years (WY) 2023 and 2024, filling and spilling reservoirs, some repeatedly. In contrast, the southern portion of the State, including Santa Barbara County, experienced below-average rainfall conditions over the first half of WY 2025, which began on October 1, 2024, and as a result drought conditions have returned. Locally, rainfall totals through March 31, 2025, are at about 50-60% of average.

The US Drought Monitor indicates a slight lessening of drought conditions statewide through March 2025, with about half of the state in some stage of drought. Drought conditions in Santa Barbara County vary from abnormally dry to severe, with the South Coast and most of the Santa Ynez River watershed being under severe drought conditions (Figure 1).

The District's 3-year water supply outlook continues to indicate adequate water to meet projected customer water demand through Water Year (WY) 2028 without projected water shortages, or the need for imported water (i.e., SWP, supplemental, Semitropic). Total planned (or budgeted) water

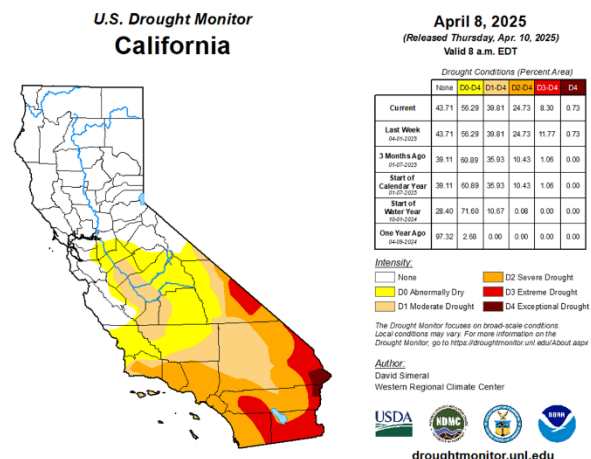


Figure 1: US Drought Monitor Map

production for WY 2025 is 4,321 acre feet (AF), based on the average demand over the prior 5-years. As of March 31, 2025, actual water use is trending at about planned levels or 2% above budget.

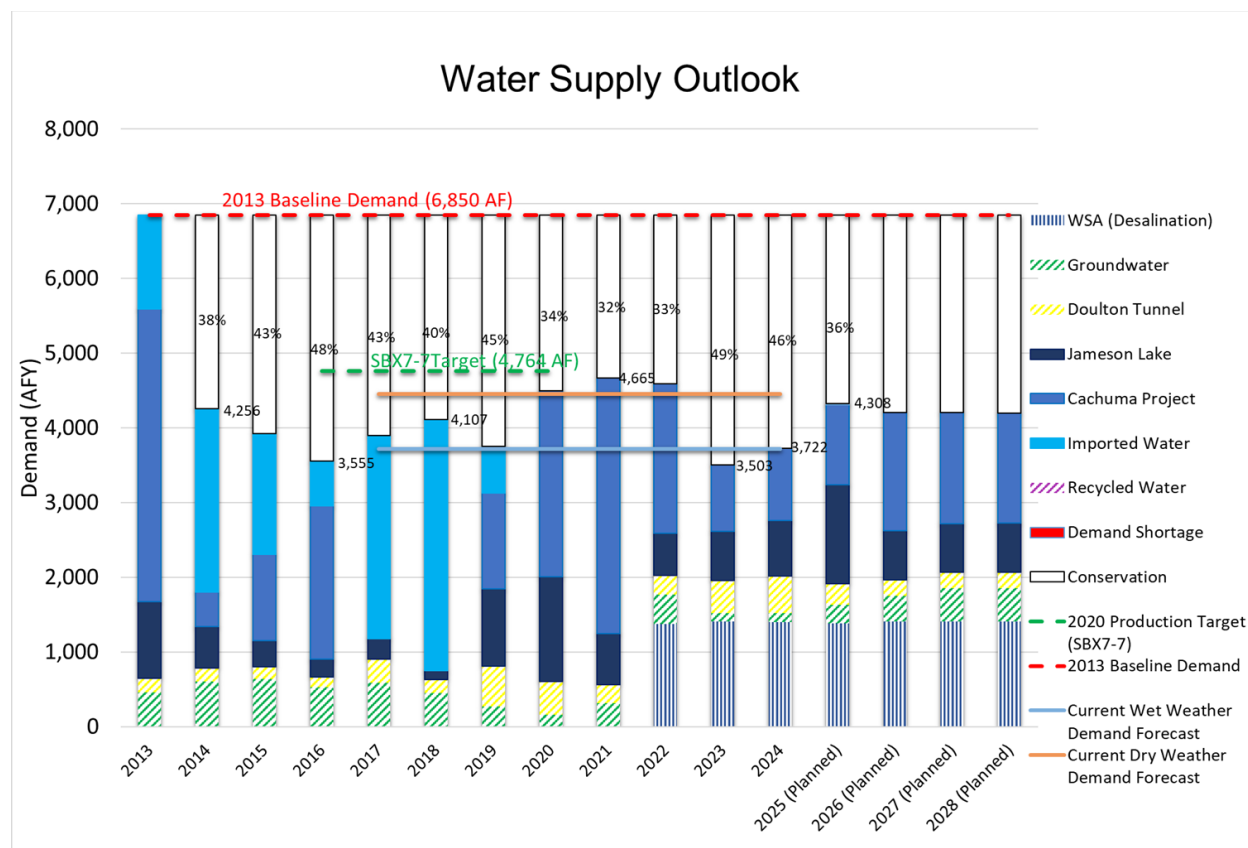


Figure 2: 3-Year Water Supply Outlook

Despite the favorable water supply outlook, efficient water use remains necessary to extend the availability of water supplies and to bolster long-term water supply reliability. Many water use efficiency-related initiatives continue including water use efficiency rebates, property specific water budgets, and utilization of automated metering infrastructure (AMI or smart meters). Additionally, the evaluation of various long-term water supply initiatives continues and includes the need for additional local rainfall independent water supplies, local groundwater banking, and the optimal use of surplus State Water Project supplies.

Update on Water Sources

The **Cachuma Project**, a United States Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) owned and operated surface water reservoir and a critical local surface water supply for the District, reached 100% of current full storage capacity in early 2024. With little to no inflow resulting from the 2024/25 winter, the Cachuma project is at 88.5% of its current full storage capacity as of March 31, 2025. The Cachuma Project has historically supplied about 40% of the District's annual water supply but this has reduced to between 25% and 30% since the acquisition of desalination. This reduction

in reliance on the Cachuma Project enables this critically important supply to be preserved for later use, such as during dry periods or droughts. The District's full Cachuma Project contractual entitlement is 2,651 AF. On October 1, 2024, USBR issued a 100% allocation for WY 2025. Total Cachuma Project water deliveries planned for WY 2025 are 1,111 AF.

As of March 31, 2025, the District's has 4,590 AF of Cachuma Project supplies available, which includes 2,651 AF of current year allocation and 1,939 AF of carryover water (Cachuma Project allocation from a prior water year). Carryover water is at an increased risk of loss to spill due to the elevated lake level. The District's 3-year water supply outlook projects a 100% Cachuma Project allocation through WY 2028 with reduced availability thereafter.

Jameson Lake, another critical local surface water supply for the District, is at 97% of the current full storage capacity (4,587 acre feet) as of March 31, 2025. The 2024/25 winter brought approx. 567 AF of inflow to Jameson Lake, near completely filling the reservoir for the 3rd consecutive year. Jameson Lake is a District-owned and operated facility that serves as a longer-term drought supply with reduced deliveries available over an extended period. Projected annual deliveries are consistent with the District's 2020 modified rule curve for the reservoir, which plans for up to 2,000 acre feet of deliveries when the lake is full, reducing to between 500 to 800 acre feet per year thereafter as the lake level declines. The purpose of increased deliveries when the lake is full is to draw down the level from full to create available storage capacity to capture runoff, if any, in subsequent years. Total planned water deliveries from Jameson Lake for WY 2025 are 1,252 AF. Actual deliveries over the first half of WY 2025 are 37% above planned deliveries at 612 AF. This is primarily due to an adjustment in the water supply strategy for WY 2025 following receipt of inflow this winter, enabling increased deliveries which are needed to draw down the lake level to create available storage capacity for next winter.

Doulton Tunnel is a 2.2-mile tunnel through the Santa Ynez Mountains allowing for the passage of Jameson Lake deliveries to the South Coast for delivery to the District's service area. The tunnel itself experiences water intrusion (water entry from the surrounding soil) which contributes to water deliveries from Jameson Lake. Tunnel intrusion is groundwater and is highly dependent on hydrology. Deliveries have historically ranged from 50 gallons per minute (gpm) to 1,500 gpm, but typically average between 150 gpm to 350 gpm. As of March 31, 2025, tunnel intrusion is trending at about 99 gpm and is expected to continue to gradually decrease due to below-average rainfall conditions. In contrast to the prior two winters, the 2024/25 winter brought below-average rainfall conditions which resulted in no meaningful increase in tunnel intrusion. Planned deliveries from Doulton Tunnel for WY 2025 are 330 AF.

Desalination deliveries began in January 2022, with the District receiving 117.4 AF of water per month from the City of Santa Barbara, in accordance with the September 2020 *Water Supply Agreement* (WSA). These deliveries are made possible by the City's operation of its desalination facility. This local, rainfall independent water supply is nearly 100% reliable and serves as a baseline supply for the District, helping to mitigate the impact of ongoing and future regulatory, environmental, and climatic challenges affecting other water sources. Deliveries, pursuant to the

WSA occur irrespective of hydrologic conditions. Under most circumstances, any portion of the monthly delivery not accepted by the District, such as when demands are low, is lost. The District's 3-year water supply outlook projects regular monthly deliveries of 117.4 AF. Planned deliveries of desalinated water for WY 2025 are 1,409 AF, or approx. 33% of total annual production.

Groundwater serves as an important drought supply for the District. During average or wet conditions, the District rests its potable wells, allowing for increased groundwater basin recovery. During below-average or dry periods, the District increases groundwater production from the basin. The District has six potable and six non-potable active groundwater wells capable of pumping a combined total of approximately 700 acre feet per year (AFY), depending on groundwater levels. The District's 3-year water supply outlook projects groundwater production to be between 100 and 450 AFY through WY 2028, depending on hydrologic conditions. Planned groundwater deliveries for WY 2025 are 220 AF, which is primarily non-potable production.

The **State Water Project (SWP)** is a supplemental surface water source supplying water from Northern California. The District's full Table A entitlement is 3,300 acre feet, which includes a 300 acre foot drought buffer. The Department of Water Resources reviews SWP water availability monthly and releases allocation updates, with the final annual allocation typically released around May 1. As of March 31, 2025, the SWP Table A allocation for 2025 is 40% or 1,320 AF. SWP supplies continue to be surplus to the District's needs and deliveries are not anticipated through WY 2028. The District has a number of options available for managing this supply in 2025 including (a) continuing to store it in SWP San Luis Reservoir, (b) delivering it to the Cachuma Project for continued storage, (c) storing it in the Semitropic Groundwater Banking and Exchange Program, and/or (d) transferring (selling) it to Homer LLC.

The District participates in the **Semitropic Groundwater Banking and Exchange Program**. During average or wet conditions, the District stores surplus SWP water in a groundwater basin located in the Central Valley of California for future use during below average or dry conditions. Participation in this program provides a guaranteed right to withdraw or recover up to 1,500 AFY of District-stored water and store up to 4,500 AF at any time. The District's contract with Semitropic allows for the storage of water in excess of the stored water right of 4,500 AF if Semitropic has available capacity within their groundwater banking program. To date, the Semitropic banking program as a whole is at approximately 50-60% of capacity and has never in its history reached the program storage capacity limit. The District maximized storage of surplus SWP water in Semitropic through the end of 2024. As of March 31, 2025, the District has 5,782 AF of its surplus SWP water stored in Semitropic and available for use. Storing surplus SWP supplies in Semitropic bolsters the District's drought supplies and reduces the risk of its loss due to conditions, such as spill at the SWP San Luis Reservoir. The storage of additional surplus SWP supplies in Semitropic in 2025 will be reassessed by the Board in early- to mid-2025 and will depend on numerous factors including the hydrologic conditions, the final SWP allocation determined by DWR around May 1, and whether the District will be permitted to transfer or sell

its surplus SWP supplies pursuant to its 2024 *Water Management Program Agreement* with Homer LLC.

Customer Water Use (Demand)

Since Fall 2022, customer demand has trended generally below budget, a result of continued cooler, foggy and wetter conditions. While customer demand increased this past November through January due to near historic dry conditions, modest rainfall conditions returned in February lowering customer demands below planned levels once again (see Figure 3). Customer water use over the first half of WY 2025 is 2% above planned levels. Annual budgeted water ‘sales’ align with the 5-year average customer use or approx. 3,950 AF.

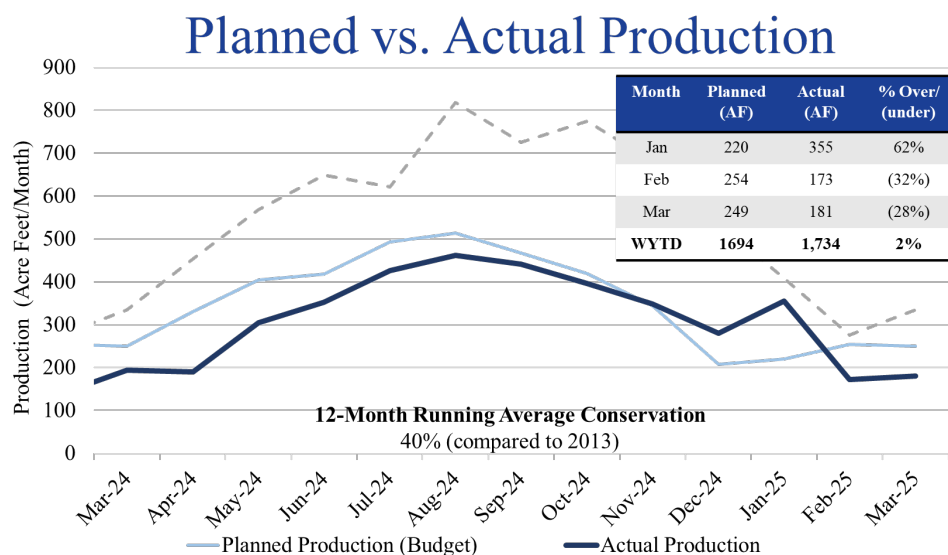


Figure 3: Actual vs. Planned Water Production

In December 2022, the District adopted its first *Water Use Efficiency Plan* (WUEP) which is a long-term plan targeting permanent changes in customer use water, consistent with the State’s goal of *Making Conservation a California Way of Life*. The Plan includes a variety of recommended actions to encourage and help achieve a permanent long-term reduction in water use. Implementation of the WUEP continues with water conservation program such as water efficiency rebates and other actions. More information is available on the District’s website.

In 2018, the California Legislature enacted two key policy bills – Senate Bill 606 (SB 606) and Assembly Bill 1668 (AB 1668) – to implement a new framework for long-term water conservation and drought planning for water suppliers. AB 1668 and SB 606 build on the State’s ongoing efforts *Making Conservation a California Way of Life*, including Senate Bill X7-7, creating a new foundation for long-term improvements in water conservation and drought planning. SB 606 and AB 1668 establish guidelines for efficient water use and a framework for the implementation and oversight of the new standards. Among other provisions, the legislation includes establishing urban water use objectives (UWUO) and long-term standards for efficient water use that apply to urban

retail water suppliers. The UWUO is an estimate of aggregate efficient water use from the previous year based on adopted water use efficiency service area characteristics for that year. All UWUO requirements became effective in 2024, and compliance must be achieved by 2027. An urban supplier that does not meet its UWUO may be required by the State to enact policies and projects that result in a reduction in water use. The District's reporting indicates it is currently in compliance with its UWUO.

Supporting compliance with the UWUO legislation, in October 2022, the District initiated the development of water budgets. A Water Budget is a property-specific monthly water use target that promotes efficient indoor and outdoor water use while preserving existing landscaping and semi-rural atmosphere of the community. Water budgets account for seasonal changes in water use such as irrigation in winter versus summer and provide flexibility to customers to choose how they use water on their property while discouraging water waste and excessive use. The development of water budgets is complete and was rolled out for customer use in early April 2024 on monthly water bills. More details are available on the District's website at <https://www.montecitowater.com/conservation/water-budgets/>.

Water Supply Outlook

Based on available information, including assumed below-average hydrologic conditions in WY 2025 through WY 2028, the District's 3-year water supply outlook indicates adequate water to meet planned customer use without anticipated water shortages or the need for imported water. Despite the favorable water supply condition, efficient water use remains essential to the long-term reliability of the District's water supply. Demand management is necessary to ensure alignment with planned use continues.

Focus continues to be on efficient water use, in particular the implementation of the *2022 Water Use Efficiency Plan* and associated water conservation rebates, property specific water budgets, and utilization of automated metering infrastructure (AMI or smart meters). These actions provide Customers and the District with tools to effectively manage water use, including avoiding water waste and loss.

Additionally, the District continues to evaluate other means of bolstering water supply reliability including the acquisition of new sources of local reliable water supplies and local groundwater banking.

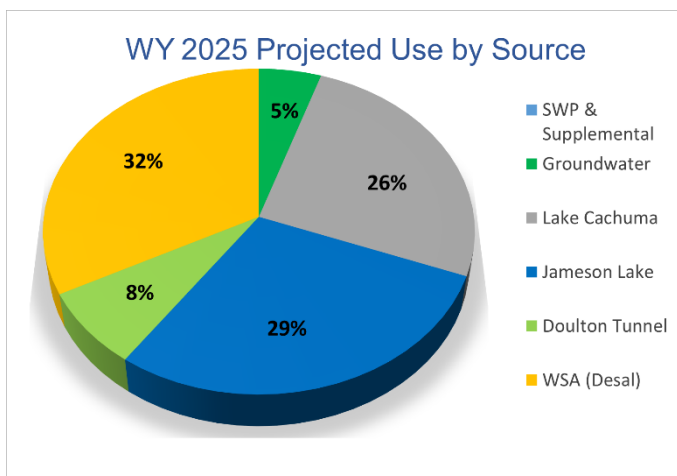
Since 2018, the District has evaluated the feasibility of implementing a **Recycled Water** project. The District's *2023 Enhanced Recycled Water Feasibility Study*, prepared in collaboration with the Montecito Sanitary District (MSD), recommended a regional indirect potable reuse (IPR) project involving multiple special districts and benefiting multiple urban water purveyors and groundwater basins. The project proposed to treat secondary wastewater effluent from the MSD Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP), implement advanced treatment at the MSD WWTP site, and convey purified water south to the Carpinteria Groundwater Basin for injection. The District would recover the injected water either through supply exchanged with the Carpinteria Valley Water District or direct pump back to the District's distribution system. In September 2023, the

District was selected for a \$1M grant through the USBR WaterSmart: Water Recycling and Desalination Planning Program to fund preliminary design (30% design) and environmental review for this project. Unfortunately, capital costs for public works projects have increased significantly since 2021 due to extraordinary inflation and other factors. This has resulted in an estimated 40% increase in the projected cost of the District’s contemplated IPR project. Due to cost increases and a reduction in available State and Federal funding programs, at its March 25, 2024, meeting, the District’s Board of Directors placed the recycled water project on hold until further notice including forgoing the USBR WaterSMART Planning Grant. If additional planning and construction grant funding opportunities become available and/or the anticipated unit cost of advanced treated water decreases making a recycled water project financially viable, the District will consider reinitiating a recycled water project.

In addition, the District continues its evaluation of potentially storing surplus surface water in the Montecito and Carpinteria Groundwater Basins. Separate **Groundwater Banking** evaluations are currently underway and expected to be completed in May 2025.

Primary sources of water supply planned for use to meet customer demands in WY 2025 include the Water Supply Agreement with the City of Santa Barbara (desalination), Jameson Lake and Doulton Tunnel, and the Cachuma Project. Drought supplies including groundwater, and banked water stored in the Semitropic will remain in reserve for future use.

The District continuously evaluates water supply conditions and the need for additional supplement water and/or demand-management measures to ensure water supply availability over a three-year planning period and beyond.



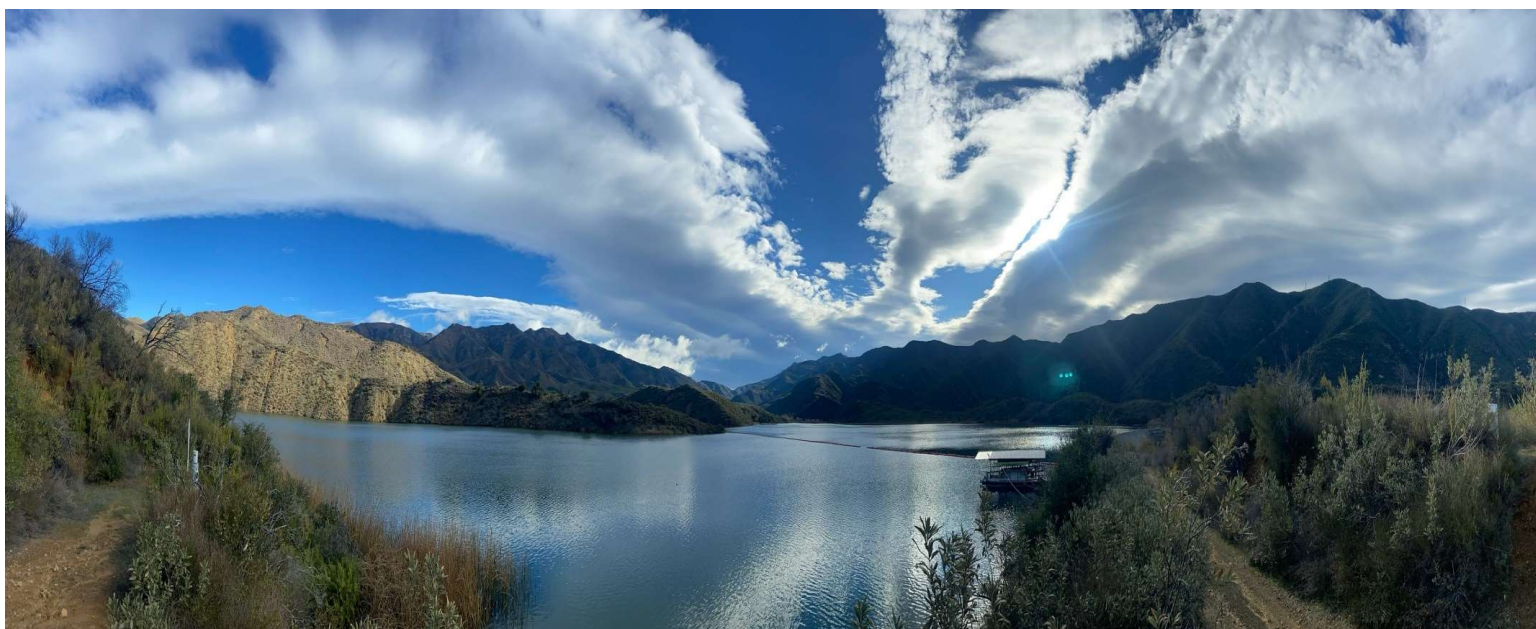
ATTACHMENTS

1. Quarterly Water Supply Update Presentation

Page left intentionally blank.

Item 5-A

Quarterly Water Supply Update

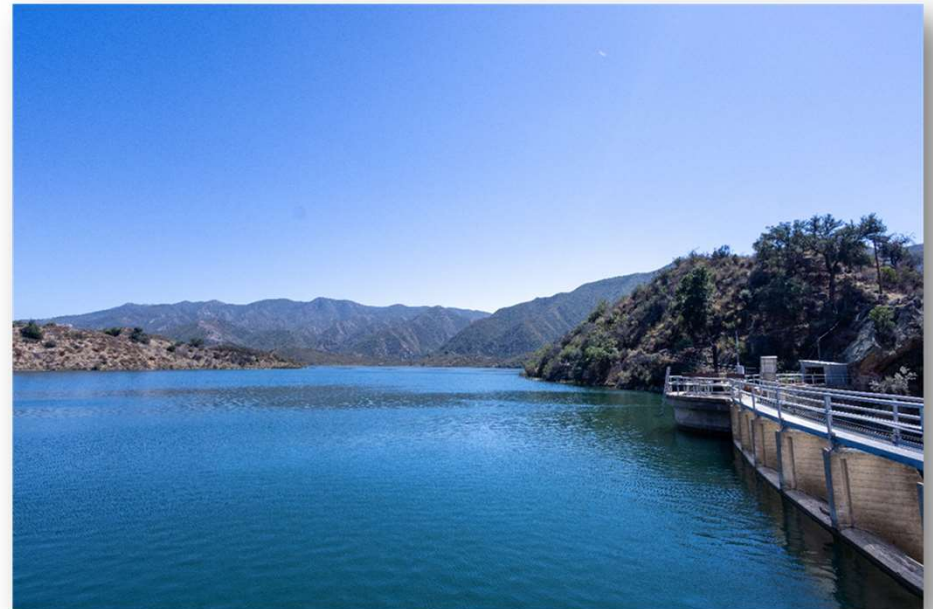


Meeting of the Board of Directors

April 22, 2025

Outline

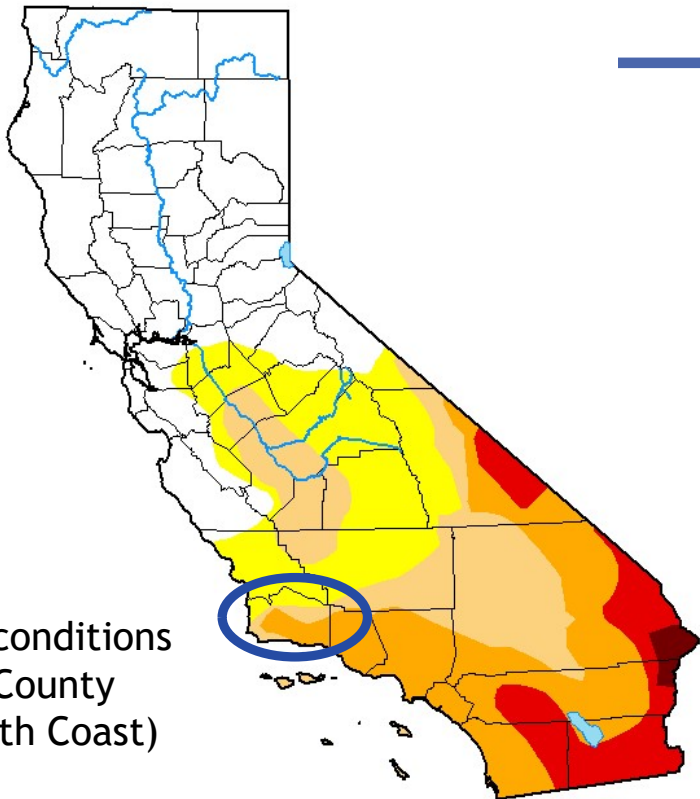
1. Hydrologic Conditions
2. Water Use Trends
3. Water Supply Status
4. Water Supply Outlook
5. Supporting Initiatives





U.S. Drought Monitor
California

April 8, 2025
(Released Thursday, Apr. 10, 2025)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



Ongoing drought conditions
in Santa Barbara County
(40% Severe - South Coast)

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	43.71	56.29	39.81	24.73	8.30	0.73
Last Week 04-01-2025	43.71	56.29	39.81	24.73	11.77	0.73
3 Months Ago 01-07-2025	39.11	60.89	35.93	10.43	1.06	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 01-01-2025	39.11	60.89	35.93	10.43	1.06	0.00
Start of Water Year 10-01-2024	28.40	71.60	10.67	0.08	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago 04-08-2024	97.32	2.68	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Intensity:

None

D0 Abnormally Dry

D1 Moderate Drought

D2 Severe Drought

D3 Extreme Drought

D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

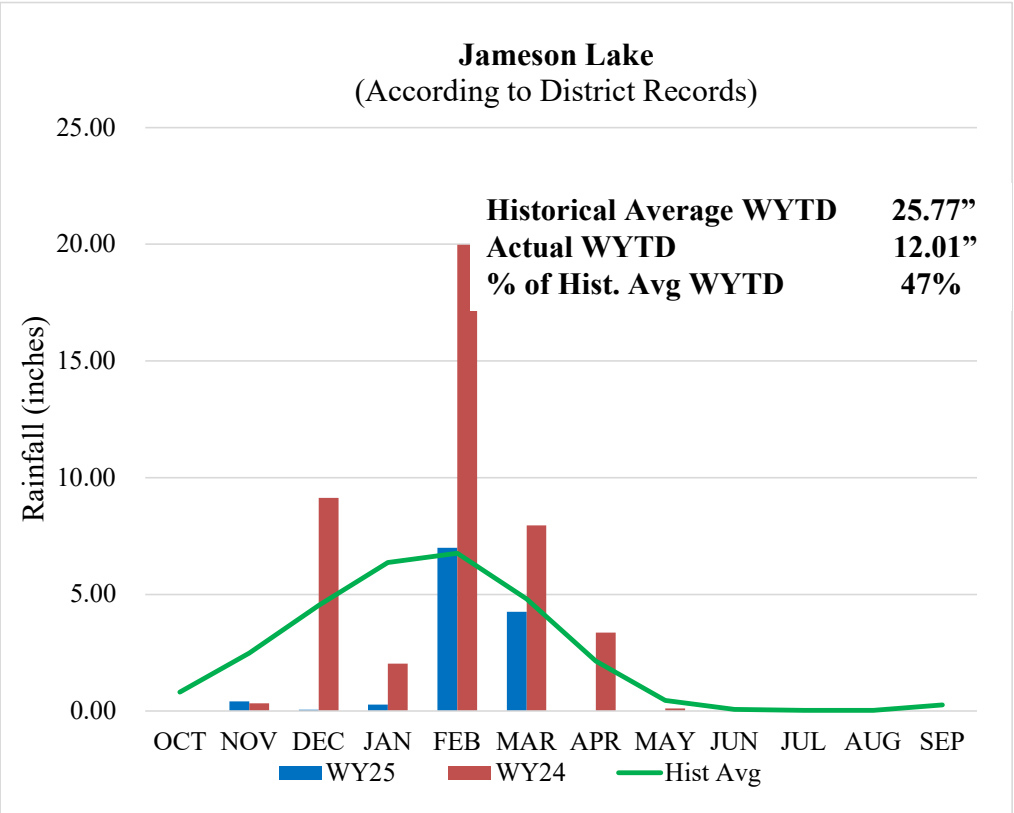
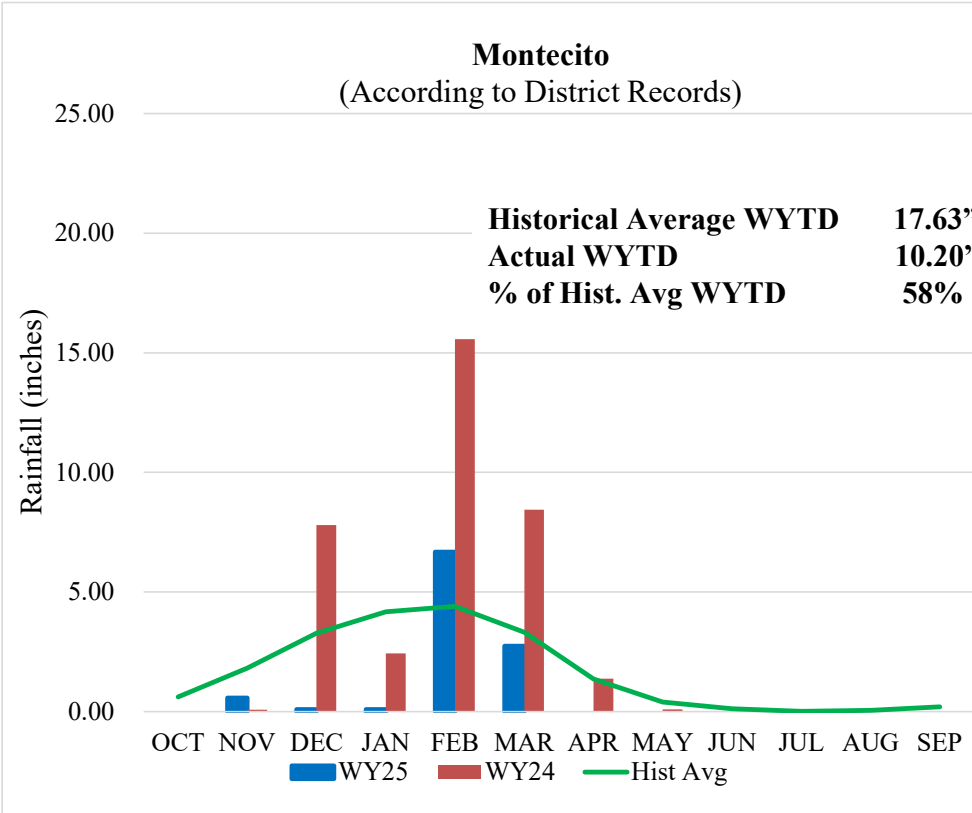
Author:
David Simeral
Western Regional Climate Center



droughtmonitor.unl.edu



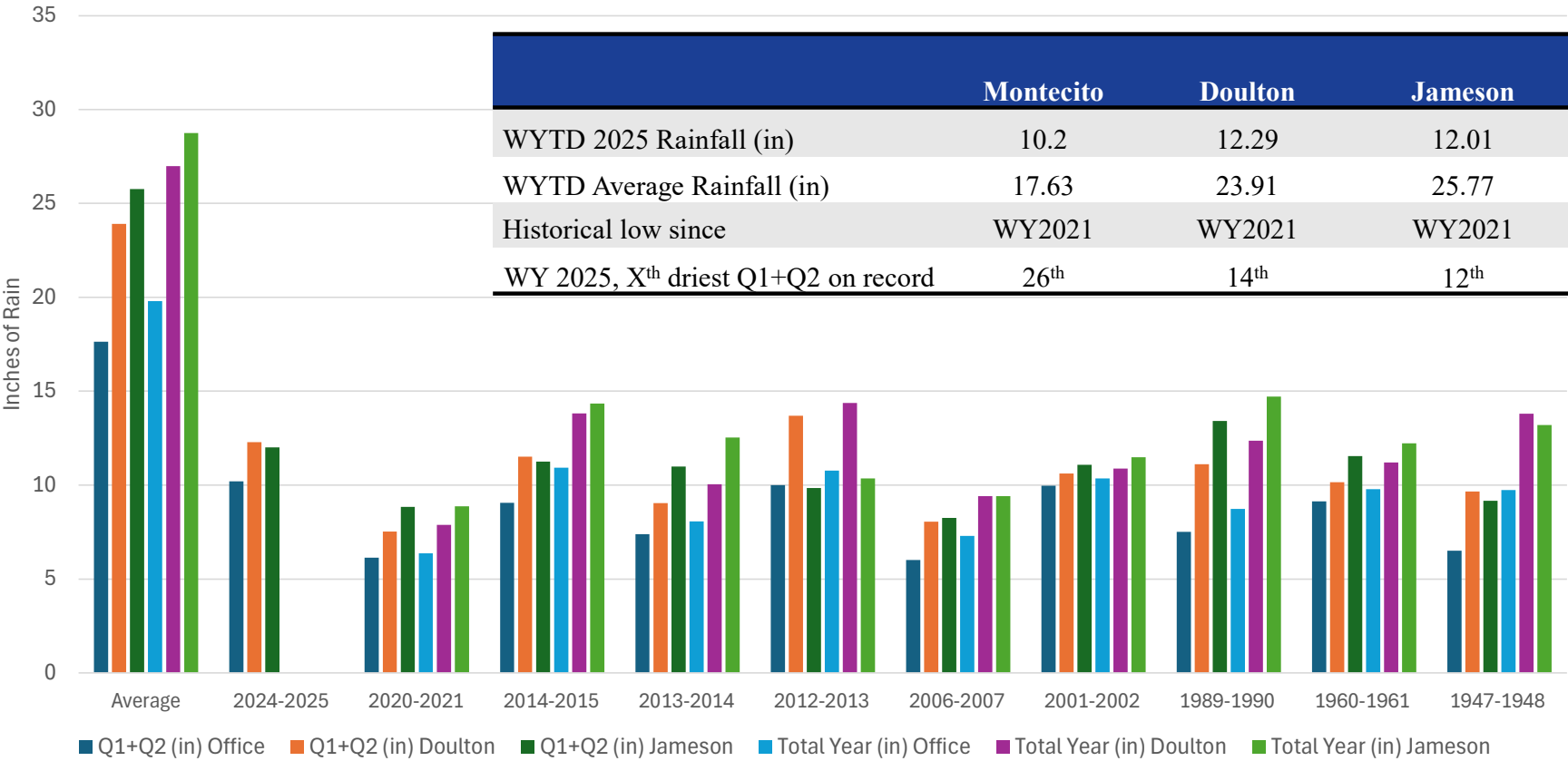
Rainfall





Rainfall

Q1+Q2 Comparison to Prior Drought Years



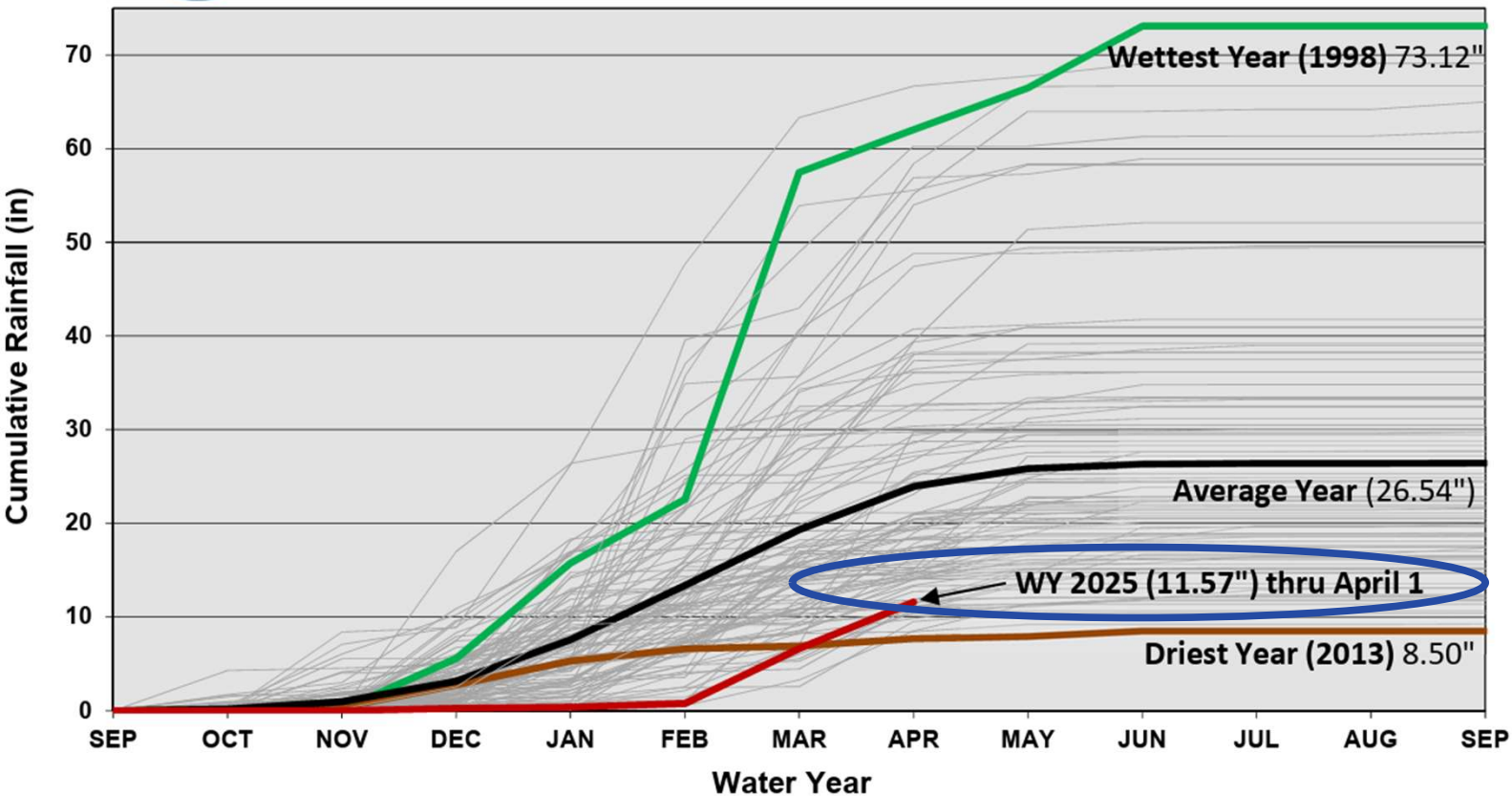


106 Years of Rainfall - Gibraltar Dam

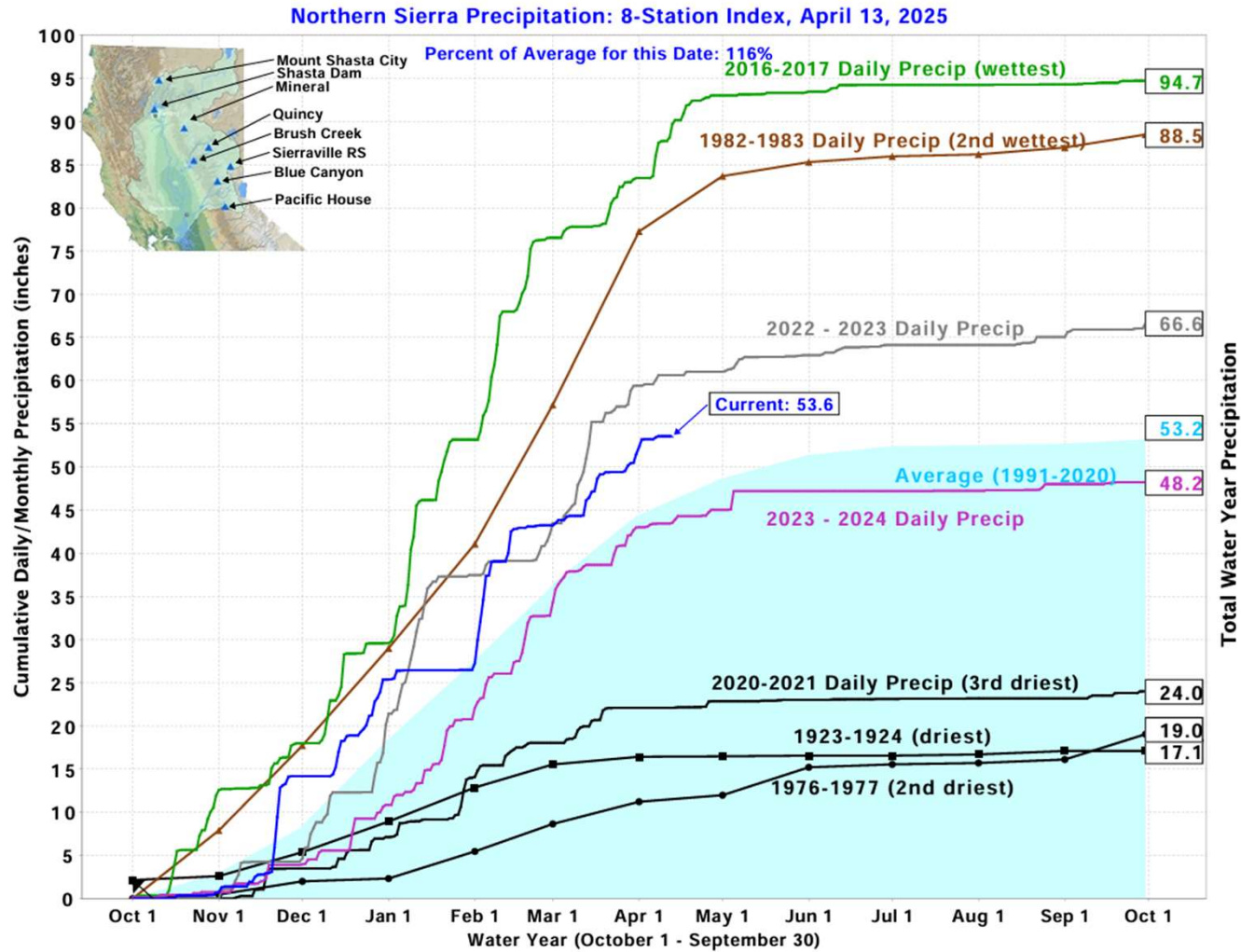
Water Years 1920 - 2025

(WY2025 through April 1, 2025)

Page 3 of 3



HYDROLOGIC CONDITIONS – NORTHERN CALIFORNIA





CURRENT REGIONAL SNOWPACK FROM AUTOMATED SNOW SENSORS

% of April 1 Average / % of Normal for This Date



NORTH	
Data as of April 11, 2025	
Number of Stations Reporting	27
Average snow water equivalent (Inches)	28.8
Percent of April 1 Average (%)	111
Percent of normal for this date (%)	117

CENTRAL	
Data as of April 11, 2025	
Number of Stations Reporting	51
Average snow water equivalent (Inches)	23.8
Percent of April 1 Average (%)	86
Percent of normal for this date (%)	89

SOUTH	
Data as of April 11, 2025	
Number of Stations Reporting	26
Average snow water equivalent (Inches)	16.9
Percent of April 1 Average (%)	75
Percent of normal for this date (%)	79

STATE	
Data as of April 11, 2025	
Number of Stations Reporting	104
Average snow water equivalent (Inches)	23.4
Percent of April 1 Average (%)	90
Percent of normal for this date (%)	94

Statewide Average: 90% / 94%



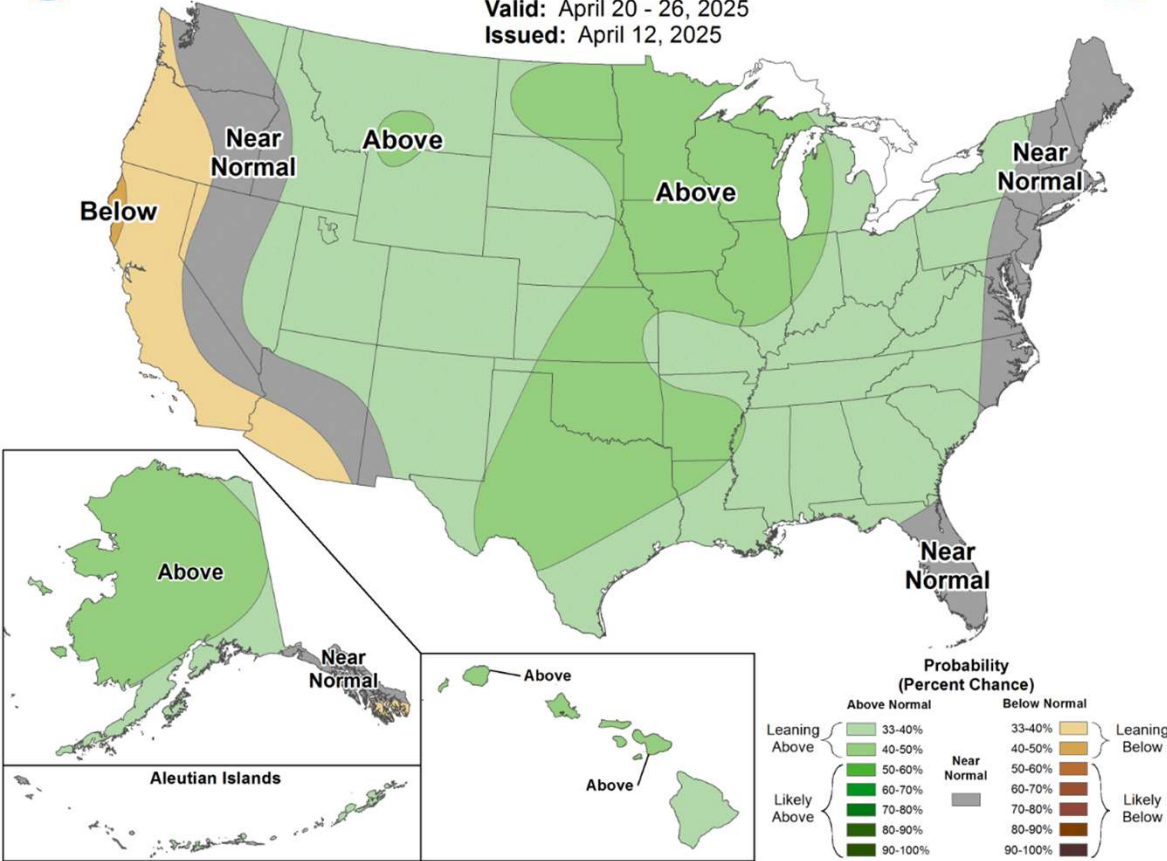
NWS Prediction



8-14 Day Precipitation Outlook

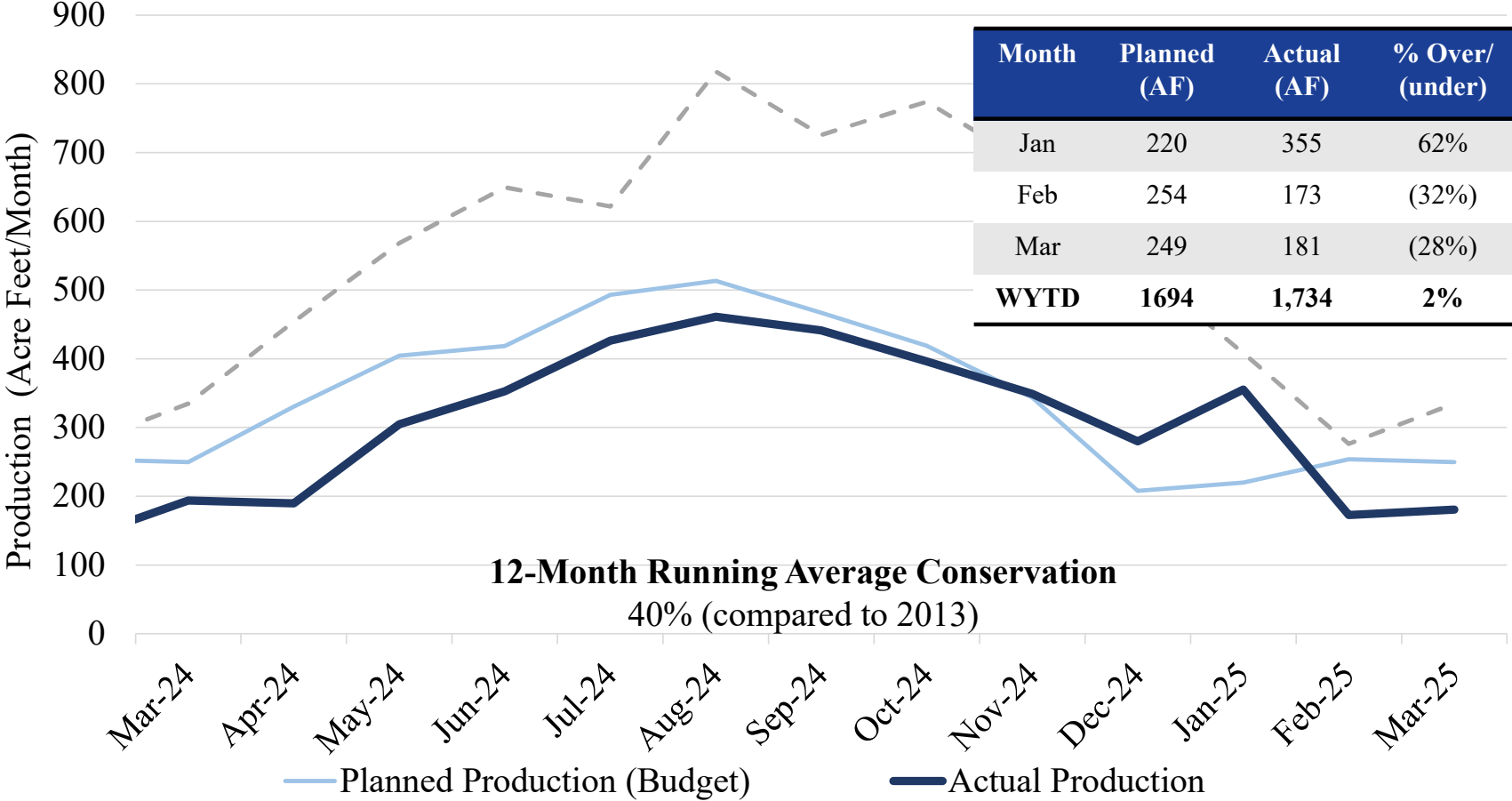


Valid: April 20 - 26, 2025
Issued: April 12, 2025





Planned vs. Actual Production



Cachuma Project

As of March 31, 2025

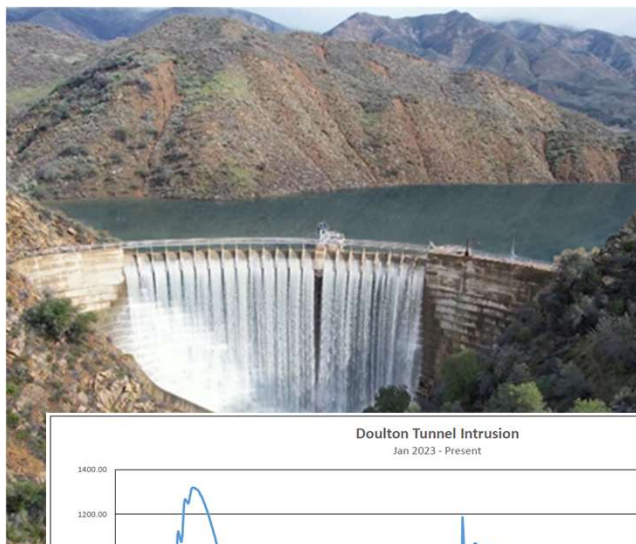
1. 88.5% (170,755 AF*) of full storage capacity
2. Water available in Cachuma
 - WY25 allocation + ID1 Exch. 2,651 AF
 - ID1 Exchange 0 AF
 - Carryover 1,939 AF
 - SWP/Supplemental 0 AF
 - Total 4,590 AF**
3. Carryover water at risk of loss to spill due to near full reservoir condition
4. Projecting 100% allocation thru WY 2028



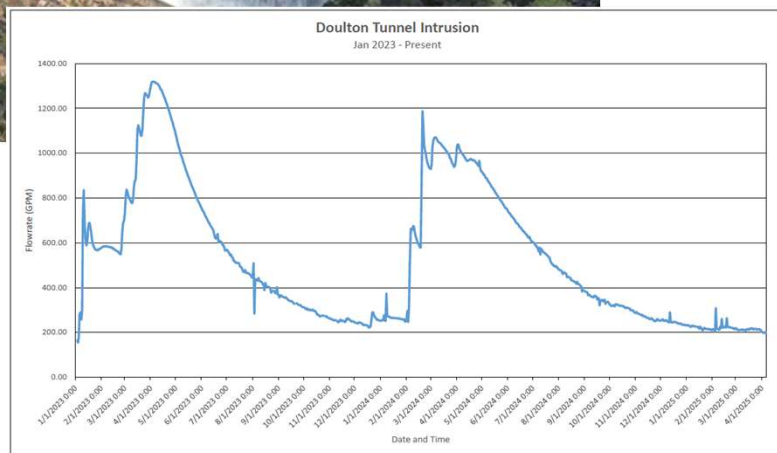
* Data obtained from County of Santa Barbara Flood Control District – *Rainfall and Reservoir Summary*

Jameson Lake

As of March 31, 2025



1. Current storage 4,470 AF (97% of current capacity)
2. 567 AF inflow from winter storms
3. Continue to maximize deliveries
 - Pursuant to modified rule curve
 - Targeting $\pm 1,250$ AF thru end of WY2025
4. Water quality remains excellent; organic loading low
5. Doultou Tunnel Intrusion (199 gpm or 0.9 AFD)



Desalination

As of March 31, 2025

1. 2020 Water Supply Agreement with City of Santa Barbara

- 50-year water supply contact
- Contracted amount 1,430 AFY
- Deliveries occur irrespective of hydrologic conditions
- Deliveries commenced January 1, 2022

2. 117.38 AF delivered monthly

- Monthly deliveries not fully utilized in February 2025 due to low demand (28.9 AF not delivered)

3. City/IDE DBO Contract Amendments

- Amendment #1 (12/10/25) – Strategic Plan Development & Increased Fixed Based Operating Charge
- Amendment #2 (2/4/25) - Strategic Plan Development & Third Intake Pump



*City of Santa Barbara, Charles E. Meyer
Desalination Facility*

Groundwater

As of March 31, 2025

- 1. Basin recovery continues following two consecutive above average wet winters
- 2. Potable wells not in use; allowing for increased basin recharge
- 3. Planned operation of one well; rotate potable wells to ensure operable status, and water quality meets standards
- 4. Evaluation of groundwater injection continues
- 5. Groundwater Management (Montecito GSA)
 - A. GSP adopted in May 2023 and DWR review remains pending
 - B. GSP implementation: well registry, GW monitoring, Annual Reporting
 - C. Upcoming Meetings
 - ✓ Strategic Planning Committee – April 16
 - Finance Committee – April 29
 - Board of Directors – May 6



Paden Well

Imported Water

As of March 31, 2025



1. State Water Project (SWP) Water
 - a. 2025 Table A Allocation 40% (As of March 2025)
 - b. SWP remains surplus; No planned deliveries in 2025
 - c. SWP Water Accounting

• 2025 Table A allocation is 40%	1,320 AF
• Art 56 Carryover Water (as of 1/1/25)	<u>0 AF</u>
Total	1,320 AF
 - d. Approx. 650 AF reserved for ID1 Exchange in 2025
2. Supplemental Water- not needed through WY2028
3. Options for use of 700-800 AF of surplus 2025 SWP Table A water
 - a. Storage in Semitropic (Decision needed in April)
 - b. Sell to Homer pursuant to the 2024 *Water Management Program Agreement* (Decision needed in May)

Stored Water

As of March 31, 2025

Semitropic Groundwater Banking & Exchange Program

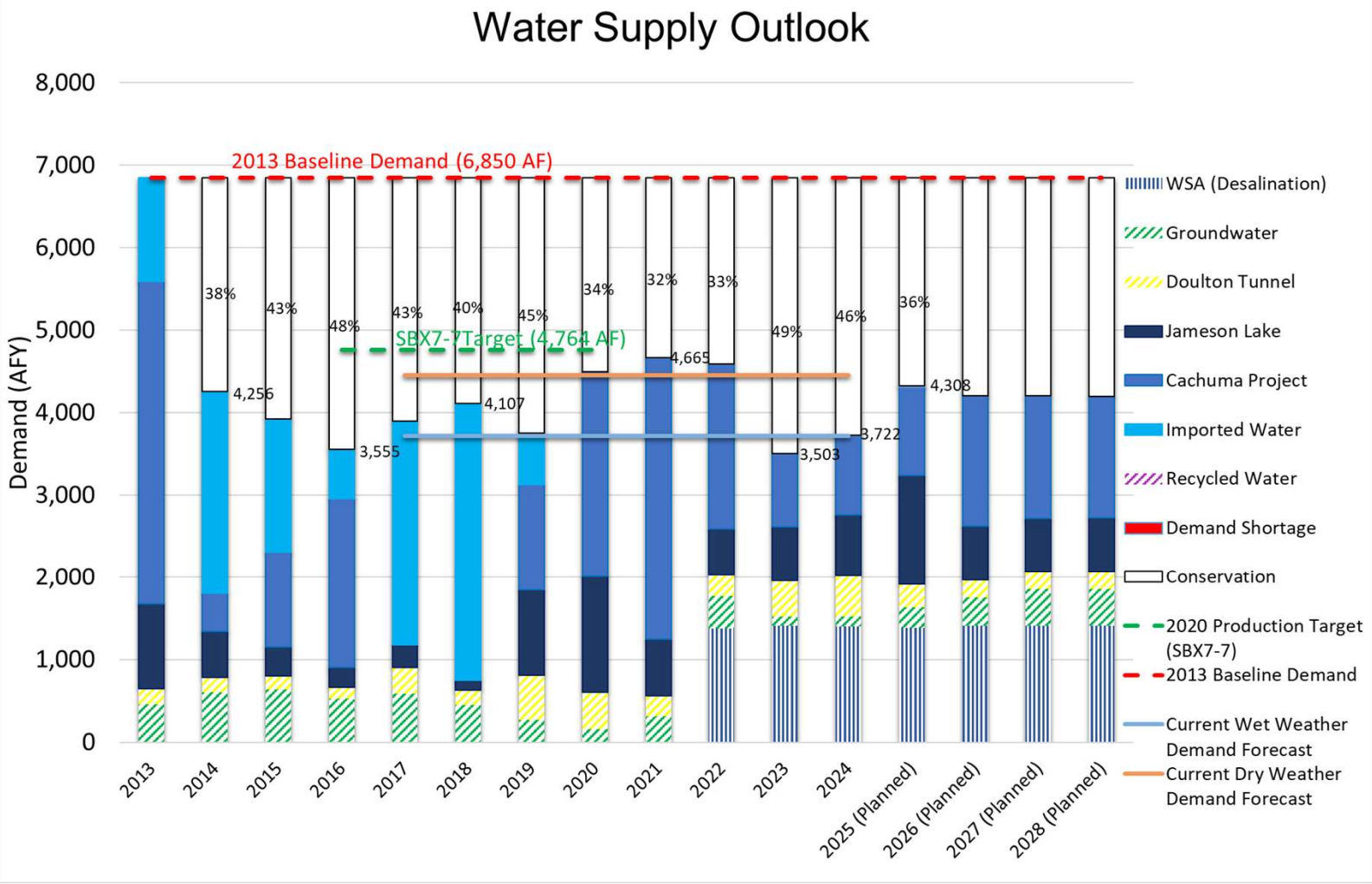
- a. General terms of participation
 - 2nd priority right to bank up to 1,500 AFY
 - 1st priority right to withdraw 1,500 AFY
 - Guaranteed storage up to 3x shares 4,500 AF
 - Storage in excess of 3x shares permitted if Semitropic has unused storage capacity available in the program
- b. Water stored (after 10% leave behind)
 - 2018-2024 5,782 AF
- c. Key Dates
 - (April) Request water to be stored in Semitropic in 2025
 - (May 1) Request water to be returned from Semitropic in 2025
- d. Board to provide direction on storing surplus 2025 SWP Table A water





Water Supply Summary

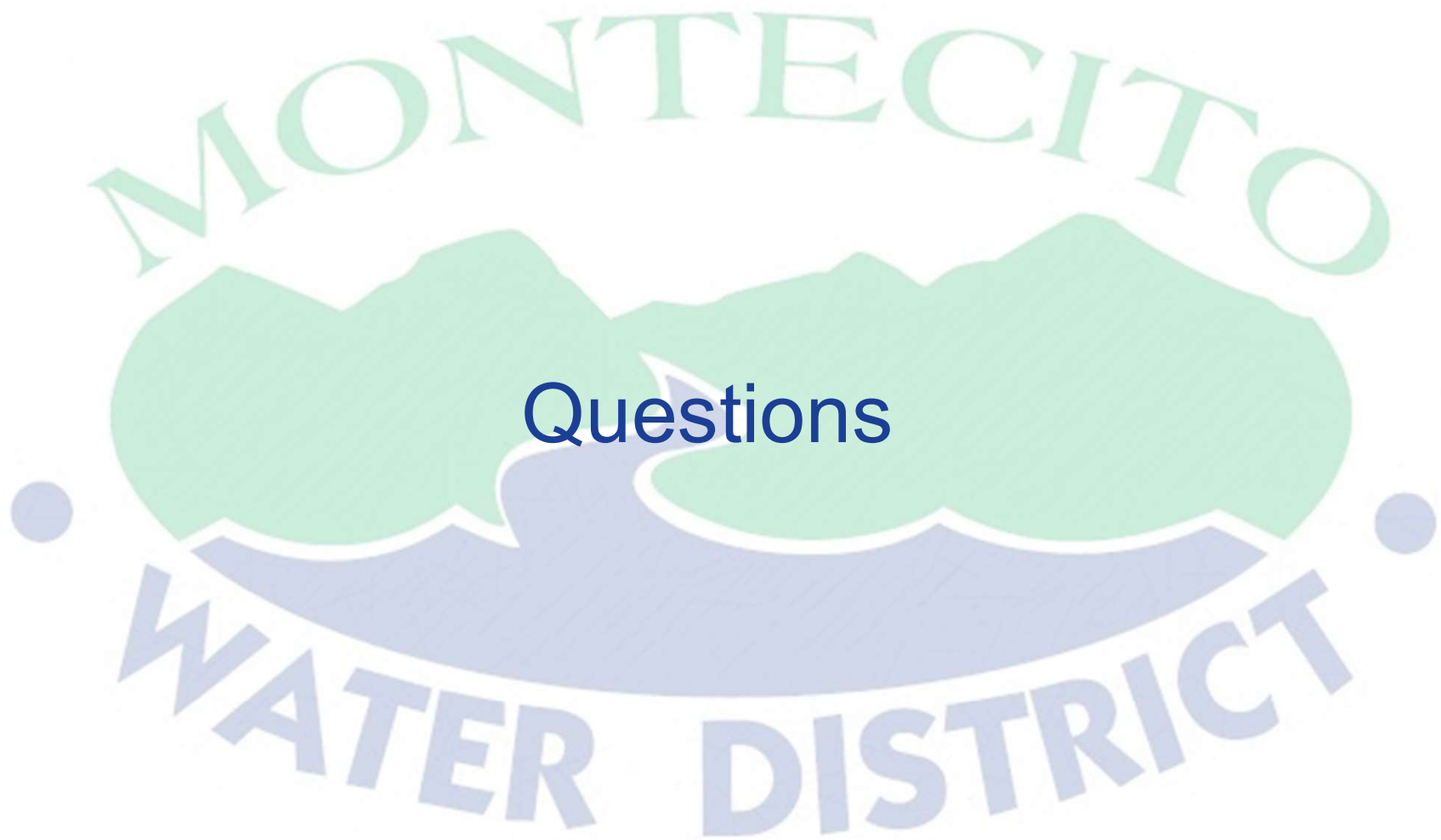
Source	Total Supplies Available as of 03/31/25 (AF)	Total WY25 Planned (AF)	WY25 Planned Production thru 03/31/25 (AF)	WY25 Actual Production thru 03/31/25 (AF)
1. Cachuma Project	4,590	1,111	313	182
2. Jameson Lake	4,470	1,252	446	612
3. Doulton Tunnel Infiltration	26 AF/mo	330	185	215
4. Potable/NP Groundwater	80 AF/mo	220	45	49
5. Imported (SWP /Supplemental Water)	1,320	0	0	0
6. WSA (Desalination)	117.4 AF/mo	1,409	704	675
7. Stored (Semitropic)	5,782	0	0	0
Total		4,321	1693	1,733





Supporting Actions

1. Maximized storage of surplus SWP Table A water in Semitropic thru Dec 31, 2025
2. Consider storing in Semitropic or selling to Homer surplus 2025 SWP Table A water (700-800 AF)
3. Finalizing multi-year transfer agreement between DWR, CCWA and KCWA in connection with the *Water Management Agreement* with Homer
 - Article 75(g) resolutions adopted by MWD and CCWA; County supported/forwarded resolutions to DWR
4. Evaluation of potential storage of surplus supplies in Montecito and Carpinteria Groundwater Basins continues
 - Carpinteria and Montecito Groundwater Basin ASR analyses to Board in May 2025
5. Finalized 2025 *Future Demand and Water Supply Options Report*; prepared by Dr. Steven Bachman
6. Continuing initiatives supporting efficient water use
 - Water use efficiency rebates
 - Water Budgets rolled out on customer water bill in early April 2025
 - New Demonstration Garden nearing construction



Questions