

ANSWERING COMMUNITY CONCERNS

State Water: Partial Sale Opportunity

To bolster water supply diversification and dependability, Montecito Water District's Board of Directors is advancing an opportunity to permanently sell a portion of the District's interests in the State Water Project. Actions taken over the past decade (desalination, sustainable groundwater management, groundwater bank storage, and more) have permanently reduced the District's need for State Water. Water supply planning is multi-faceted and projects like these are years in the making.

Here is a summary of key points:

- With this proposed sale, the District would **keep more than half** of its rights to available water and conveyance through the State Water Project.
- State Water has not been used to meet customer demands since 2019, and its projected use in the future, even under severe drought conditions, is limited.
- State Water deliveries are highly variable, yet participation costs the District more than $5 million every year, even if we don't receive a drop of water.
- State Water allocations are lowest in drought years, so when our other sources are more likely to be depleted we can't depend on State Water to be available.
- The goal is to sell a portion of a costly asset in order to reinvest in solutions that will better serve our community's needs.
- Divesting a portion of the contract will provide funds for initiatives such as obtaining more locally controlled water supplies and / or accelerating infrastructure improvements so the District can continue to increase water portfolio diversity and reliability.
- This project is in the beginning stages and will take time to complete. Customer interest is always welcome.

Our Water Supply is Diverse

Security, Flexibility, Reliability.
For a more resilient community.

Groundwater Wells
LOCAL SOURCE, SINCE 1921
Montecito Groundwater Basin, managed under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act.

Jameson Lake & Doulton Tunnel
LOCAL SOURCE, SINCE 1930
District-owned reservoir and conveyance tunnel.

Cachuma Project *(Lake Cachuma)*
LOCAL SOURCE, SINCE 1958
Federal Bureau of Reclamation entitlement, delivered via the South Coast Conduit.

State Water Project
IMPORTED SOURCE, SINCE 1997
California's Department of Water Resources runs this user-financed water storage and delivery system throughout the State.

Stored Water
NON-LOCAL SUPPLY, SINCE 2017
The District saves surplus wet-year water in Semitropic's Groundwater Storage Bank for later use.

Ocean Desalination
LOCAL SOURCE, SINCE 2022
50-Year Partnership in the City of Santa Barbara's Charles E. Meyer Desalination plant.

Conservation
LOCAL SOURCE
Not dependent on rainfall. The less water used, the less water needed.
Efficient use reduces costs.

Learn more about the State Water Project

Scan for Website

We Serve the Public

Presentations, discussions, and public comment from recent meetings are readily available on our web site. We've also posted more content in articles and a summary of questions and answers online. For this topic or other topics that interest you, we encourage you to view agendas and watch or attend future meetings. We want to hear from our customers, and we want customers to hear from us. Please contact us directly with any questions.

Winning Collaborations

PUBLIC SAFETY IS TOP PRIORITY



The Montecito Fire Department has established two new temporary firefighter housing locations on Montecito Water District properties for use during periods of elevated fire risk and other significant weather events. The sites are equipped with fire hydrants and located on the east and west ends of Montecito Fire Department's jurisdiction.

"By proactively positioning firefighters at these two locations on the far ends of our district, we can greatly reduce the time it takes to arrive on scene of a vegetation fire in remote wildland areas where our fire risk is the highest. We are exceedingly grateful to the Montecito Water District for coordinating with us on this project. It's just one example of the great partnership we have and our willingness to work together for the community's benefit."

- Montecito Fire Chief

Scan to read the full story ››



On behalf of Montecito Water District, Board President Brian Goebel receives a firefighter's bell as a symbol of appreciation from Montecito Fire Chief Brian Fallon and Division Chief Anthony Hudley.

Curious about this year's budget and planned Capital Projects? See the new summary online for Fiscal Year 2027.

BUDGET IN BRIEF

Customer water efficiency toolkit

Rebates
montecitowater.com/rebates

Water Budgets
montecitowater.com/waterbudgets

Demonstration Garden
montecitowater.com/garden

Smart Meters
montecitowater.com/smart

Conservation Visits
montecitowater.com/visit

Are You Rain Ready?

Learn about storm preparedness and sign up for safety alerts online at **READYSBC.ORG**

The District has local weather conditions and links to more resources on our website.