



REGULAR MEETING
of the
OPERATIONS & CUSTOMER RELATIONS COMMITTEE
MONTECITO WATER DISTRICT
583 SAN YSIDRO ROAD, MONTECITO, CALIFORNIA

MONDAY, APRIL 20, 2026
9:30 A.M.

Attend in Person or Join by Teleconference:

<https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1601378403?pwd=pjxHzgcImrwYBHfNaM03bcdNeqE6u.1>

Meeting ID: 160 137 8403 Passcode: 597 048

Tel: (669) 900-6833

AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER, DETERMINATION OF COMMITTEE QUORUM

2. PUBLIC FORUM

NOTE: This portion of the agenda may be utilized by any person to address the Operations & Customer Relations Committee on any matter within the jurisdiction of the Committee. No consideration or discussion shall be undertaken by Committee members at this time on any item not appearing on this agenda except as permitted by the Ralph M. Brown Act. Discussion items receiving recommendations by the Committee, and/or items requiring action will be placed on the agenda of a future meeting of the Montecito Water District Board of Directors.

3. ITEMS FOR COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION

A. Update on the ASADRA Terminal Reservoir Seismic Retrofit Project

* B. Proposed Consulting Contracts for bid phase services for the ASADRA Romero Reservoir Retrofit Project

* C. Review of Fiscal Year 2027 Proposed Capital Improvement Projects and Other Key Operations Initiatives

D. Update on FEMA Project Approvals and Reimbursements

* E. Customer Relations and Public Information Update

4. CLOSED SESSION

A. CLOSED SESSION: Pursuant to Government Code §54959.8 Conference with Real Property Negotiators

* *Indicates attachment included for this item*

Property: District Surplus Property
Agency Negotiator: Adam Kanold, Assistant General Manager / Engineering
Manager
Negotiating Parties: Surplus Land Act Letter of Interest Submitted
Under Negotiation: Price and Terms of Payment

5. ITEMS FOR A FUTURE AGENDA

6. ADJOURNMENT

Montecito Water District conducts its meetings in-person in accordance with the Brown Act and also provides alternative methods of participation which permit members of the public to observe and address public meetings telephonically and/or electronically. These methods of participation can be accessed through the internet link provided at the top of this agenda.

This agenda was posted on the District website, and at the Montecito Water District outside display case at 9:30 a.m. on April 17, 2026. The Americans with Disabilities Act provides that no qualified individual with a disability shall be excluded from participation in, or denied the benefits of, the District's programs, services, or activities because of any disability. If you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the District Office at 805-969-2271. Notification at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to the meeting will enable the District to make appropriate arrangements.

Agendas, agenda packets, and additional materials related to an item on this agenda submitted to the Committee after distribution of the agenda packet are available on the District website.

**MONTECITO WATER DISTRICT
MEMORANDUM**

SECTION: 3-B

DATE: APRIL 20, 2026

TO: OPERATIONS AND CUSTOMER RELATIONS COMMITTEE

FROM: ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER

**SUBJECT: PROPOSED PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACTS FOR THE
ROMERO RESERVOIR SEISMIC RETROFIT AND REPLACEMENT
PROJECT (ASADRA)**

RECOMMENDATION:

1. That the Operations and Customer Relations Committee recommend the Board of Directors authorize the General Manager to execute a professional services contract with Water System Consulting for Construction Management Services for the Romero Reservoir Seismic Retrofit and Replacement Project for a not-to-exceed amount of \$28,800 as part of the ASADRA Reservoir Seismic Retrofit and Replacement Project.
2. That the Operations and Customer Relations Committee recommend the Board of Directors authorize the General Manager to execute a professional services contract with Wood Rodgers for Project Management Services for the Romero Reservoir Seismic Retrofit and Replacement Project for a not-to-exceed amount of \$21,502 as part of the ASADRA Reservoir Seismic Retrofit and Replacement Project.

BACKGROUND:

The District entered into an agreement with the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) in 2024 to secure \$35M in funding (30% principal forgiveness and 70% at a 0% loan for 30 years) for replacement or retrofit of 8 District water storage reservoirs through the Additional Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Act (ASADRA) funding program. Resolution No. 2290, adopted by the Board of Directors on November 19, 2024, authorized the acceptance of the ASADRA funding and implementation of the Project. Upon completion, the Project will retrofit or replace eight reservoirs to ensure they can resist prescriptive seismic loading based on current design standards. The Project construction schedule spans six years due to operational limitations involving having reservoirs offline simultaneously. No more than two reservoirs can be out of service at the same time. The latest construction schedule is shown in the figure below.

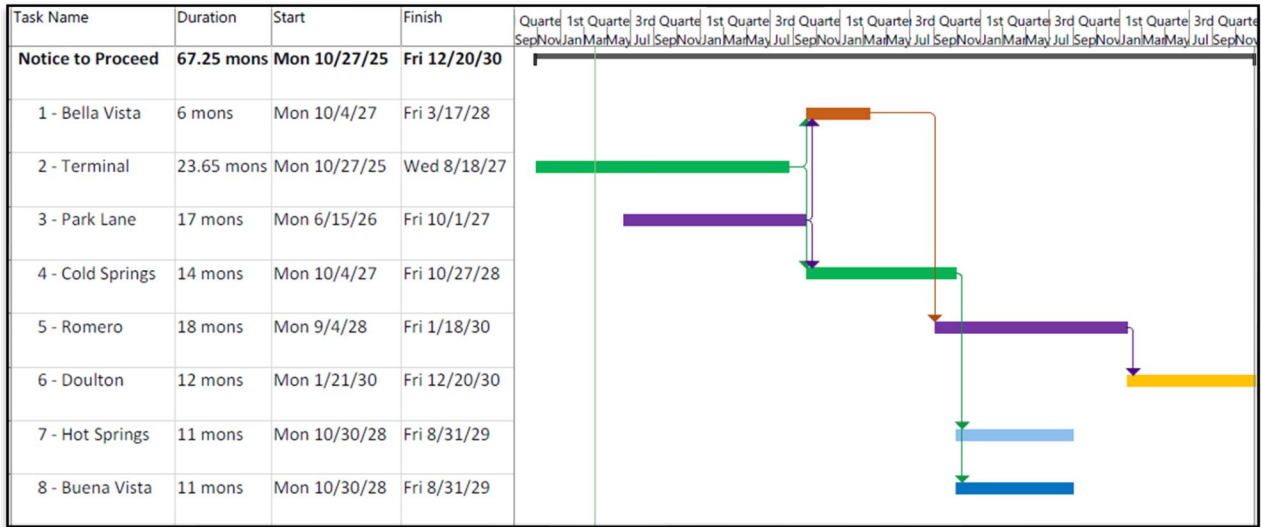


Figure 1 – ASADRA Construction Schedule

DISCUSSION:

Terminal Reservoir began construction in December 2025 and will be completed by mid-2027. The Park Lane Reservoir construction contract was awarded in June 2025 and is expected to begin construction in Summer 2026 subject to resolution of an access easement dispute. In consideration of the access challenges and continued indefinite delay, in early 2026, the Board directed the start of bid document preparation for the Romero Reservoir. This positions the District well to pivot away from the Park Lane Reservoir Project and on to Romero Reservoir if necessary to keep the overall ASADRA project progressing.

Engineer of Record

Tetra Tech is the engineer of record for all eight reservoir projects. The original Tetra Tech contract included bid phase and construction phase support; therefore, no additional scope or fee is needed for engineering design services. Tetra Tech is on schedule to complete the preparation of the Romero Reservoir drawings and specifications by the end of April 2026.

Project Management Services

The District is contracted with Wood Rodgers for Project Management services for the ASADRA Project. Wood Rodgers serves as an extension of District staff to assist with day-to-day management of project activities. Similar to the Terminal and Park Lane Reservoir projects, project management services are needed during the bid phase of the Romero Reservoir project. These services include developing and compiling contract documents which are significant for ASADRA funded projects, and assisting with design plan review, coordination of project meetings, and coordination with the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB). The cost for Wood Rodgers to perform Project Management services is being authorized on a reservoir-by-reservoir basis. Wood Rodgers’ proposed cost for Project Management services during the bid phase for the Romero Reservoir project is \$28,800, as shown in Attachment 1. Based on Wood Rodgers’

performance to date on the Terminal and Park Lane Reservoir projects, Staff recommend the Board of Directors authorize a Professional Services Contract with Wood Rodgers as described above in an amount not-to-exceed \$28,800.

Construction Management Services

The District is contracted with Water Systems Consulting (WSC) for construction management services for the ASADRA Project. Similar to the Terminal and Park Lane Reservoir projects, construction management services are needed during the bid phase of the Romero Reservoir project. These services include constructability reviews and a detailed review of contractor bids. The cost for WSC's Project Management services are being authorized on a reservoir-by-reservoir basis.. The proposed cost for WSC to provide construction management services during the bid phase for the Romero Reservoir Project is \$21,502. The bid phase support fee is within the expected range of costs. Based on WSC's performance to date on the Terminal and Park Lane Reservoir projects, Staff recommend approval of a Professional Services Contract with WSC as described above for an amount not-to-exceed \$21,502.

SCHEDULE:

The Romero Reservoir design drawings and specifications will be complete by the end of April 2026. If contracts are awarded to Wood Rodgers and WSC, project management and construction management services will begin immediately with a goal of completing bid document preparation by the end of May 2026.

FISCAL IMPACT:

These costs are included in the ASADRA Funding Agreement and are within the expected range of costs.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Wood Rodgers Proposal for Project Management / Owner's Agent Services for Romero Reservoir
2. Water Systems Consulting Proposal for Pre-Construction Services for Romero Reservoir

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WOOD RODGERS

April 2, 2026

Via Email: akanold@montecitowater.com

Mr. Adam Kanold, P.E.
Asst. General Manager / Engineering Manager
Montecito Water District
583 San Ysidro Road
Montecito, California 93108

Subject: Montecito Water District – Reservoir Seismic Retrofit & Replacement Project |
Project Management / Owner’s Agent Services for Romero Reservoir (P136)

Dear Mr. Kanold,

Per your request, Wood Rodgers, Inc. (Wood Rodgers) is providing the Montecito Water District (District) with this proposal to provide project management and owner’s agent services for the Reservoir Seismic Retrofit & Replacement Project for Romero Reservoir (Project).

Wood Rodgers will provide support to the District for the following scope of work items for which effort is anticipated to advance the project from the pre-bid to awarding phase.

Scope of Services

The following Scope of Services has been developed based on our understanding of the Project and discussions with District staff. This Scope assumes that our Team will provide Project Management / Owner’s Agent services in support of the District for the contract pre-bid and awarding phase of the Project as described herein.

The Project consists of the seismic retrofit of the District’s Romero Reservoir. Wood Rodgers will act as an extension of District staff to manage the day-to-day progress of the Project and will provide oversight of the various consultants contracted by the District. Wood Rodgers will also facilitate coordination with other stakeholders as needed. Below is a summary of the major tasks to be executed by Wood Rodgers as a part of this Project.

Task 1: Pre-Bid and Bid Phase Services for Romero Reservoir (P136)

Under this task Wood Rodgers will provide assistance during the pre-bid, bidding and awarding phases of the project. Tasks may include coordination with the Design Engineer of Record, review of the plans and technical specifications to ensure conformance with District standards, review and editing of the front end specifications, assistance with issuing the contract for bid, bid evaluations, participation in District Operations Committee and Board meetings, coordination with District staff as well as coordination with other District consultants to assist and facilitate in advancing the project during the bidding and awarding of the construction contract. This task may also include coordination with the SWRCB for funding related activities.

Fee

The Project fee will be in an amount not to exceed \$28,800 and will be billed on a time and materials basis in accordance with the attached Fee Schedule.

Respectfully Submitted,



Karl F. Meier, PE
Principal – Water Resources
kmeier@woodrogers.com
(619) 819.9222

EXHIBIT "B"



WOOD RODGERS

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA FEE SCHEDULE

CLASSIFICATION	STANDARD RATE
Principal Engineer/Geologist/Surveyor/Planner/GIS/LA* II	\$365
Principal Engineer/Geologist/Surveyor/Planner/GIS/LA* I	\$320
Senior Engineer/Geologist/Surveyor/Planner/GIS/LA* II	\$295
Senior Engineer/Geologist/Surveyor/Planner/GIS/LA* I	\$285
Project Engineer/Geologist/Surveyor/Planner/GIS/LA* II	\$270
Project Engineer/Geologist/Surveyor/Planner/GIS/LA* I	\$255
Engineer/Geologist/Surveyor/Planner/GIS/LA* II	\$240
Engineer/Geologist/Surveyor/Planner/GIS/LA* I	\$225
Assistant Engineer/Geologist/Surveyor/Planner/GIS/LA*	\$180
Designer	\$120
Senior CAD Technician/Graphics Designer II	\$225
Senior CAD Technician/Graphics Designer I	\$205
CAD Technician/Graphics Designer	\$180
Project Coordinator	\$195
Administrative Assistant	\$170
Senior Field Technician I	\$190
Field Technician II	\$170
Field Technician I	\$150
Consultants, Outside Services, Materials & Direct Charges	Cost Plus 10%
Overtime Work, Expert Witness Testimony and Preparation	Rate Plus 50%

*LA = Landscape Architect

Blueprints, reproductions, and outside graphic services will be charged at vendor invoice. Auto mileage will be charged at the IRS standard rate when incurred.

Fee Schedule subject to change January 1, 2027 and annually thereafter.

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Proposal for Pre-Construction Services for the Romero Reservoir Retrofit Project

April 10, 2026

Montecito Water District

Adam Kanold
Asst. General Manager/
Engineering Manager
583 San Ysidro Road
Montecito, CA 93108

WSC San Luis Obispo

805 Aerovista Place
Suite 201
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

Chris Malejan

P: (805) 221-7766
E: cmalejan@wsc-inc.com

Justin Pickard

P: (805) 221-7788
E: jpickard@wsc-inc.com

Dear Adam,

WSC is pleased to present this proposal to assist with the final bid preparation and support the bid phase for the Romero Reservoir Retrofit Project (Project). This Project is an important next phase of Montecito Water District's (District) larger Reservoir Retrofit and Replacement Project, which will leverage state funding to improve the resilience and reliability of the District's water storage infrastructure. Romero Reservoir is a 0.94-MG rectangular, hopper bottom style water storage reservoir, measuring 240 feet long by 63 feet wide. The scope of the Project includes reinforcing the existing perimeter wall and replacement of the existing steel roof with a reinforced concrete deck.

Before issuing the bid advertisement, the District desires a constructability review of the Romero Reservoir design plans and specifications. WSC will apply lessons learned through the competitive bidding process on the District's other reservoir projects, as well as lessons learned through the initial construction of the Terminal Reservoir to help inform the review.

WSC understands that the design engineer, Tetra Tech, will have plans and specifications completed by April 27th for review. The District expects to either issue the Romero Reservoir bid documents in late May, or defer issuance until reservoir construction timing is optimal. WSC will provide review comments within two weeks of receiving the plans and specifications.

WSC's detailed scope of service to meet these objectives is provided on the next page. A breakdown of hours and budget is provided on the last page of this proposal.

We appreciate the opportunity to help serve the District and benefit the community with this important project. Feel free to contact us with any questions or feedback.

Sincerely,

Water Systems Consulting, Inc.

Chris Malejan
Project Manager

Justin Pickard
Principal

Scope of Work

Task 1 Project Management

1.1 Project Administration

- Set up project in internal management system.
- Prepare monthly progress reports to be submitted with each invoice.

Deliverables: Monthly progress reports and invoices.

Assumptions: Three-month duration for pre-construction phase.

Task 2 Pre-Construction Services

2.1 Construction Document Review

- Review the Romero Reservoir plans and technical specifications, and other associated project documents for constructability, cost savings, risk identification, and clarity. Conduct a review meeting to discuss findings from the review.
- Perform a site visit to identify other potential issues and risk items not identifiable from the plans, including site access. Travel date will be constrained to a date/time that aligns with other work.

2.2 Bid Phase Services

- Provide services during the project bidding phase, including conducting the pre-bid conference and site walk, providing bid tabulations and review of bid results.
- Conduct targeted outreach to potential construction contractors and major subcontractors.

Deliverables:

- (1) Constructability review comments as an annotated PDF.
- (2) Pre-bid presentation/agenda in Microsoft PowerPoint.
- (3) Bid Tabulation/Results in Microsoft Excel.

Assumptions:

- (1) Only minor changes to the front ends and technical specifications are anticipated based on lessons learned from prior projects. WSC does not anticipate a thorough re-review of the specifications. Review of the engineer's opinion of probable cost is not included in the scope of work.
- (2) WSC will not proceed with Task 2.2 without authorization from the District.
- (3) Addenda prepared by others.
- (4) Technical questions from contractors during the bid phase will be addressed by the Engineer of Record.

- (5) Engineer of Record to prepare revised specifications and drawings as necessary for inclusion in addenda.
- (6) Resolution of potential bid protests not included.
- (7) Three-month duration of pre-construction phase.

Cost Proposal

Task No. Task Description	WSC								ALL FIRMS
	Principal in Charge	Project Manager	Resident Engineer	Project Administrator	WSC Labor Hours	WSC Labor Fee	Expenses	WSC Fee	Total Fee
	Justin Pickard	Chris Malejan	Blake Coffey						
<i>Billing rates, \$/hr</i>	<i>\$370</i>	<i>\$313</i>	<i>\$230</i>	<i>\$186</i>					
0 Project Management									
0.1 Project Administration	1		4	4	9	\$ 2,034	\$ -	\$ 2,034	\$ 2,034
SUBTOTAL	1	0	4	4	9	\$ 2,034	\$ -	\$ 2,034	\$ 2,034
1 Preconstruction Services									
1.1 Construction Document Review		20	26		46	\$ 12,240	\$ 145	\$ 12,385	\$ 12,385
1.2 Bid-Phase Services		6	22		28	\$ 6,938	\$ 145	\$ 7,083	\$ 7,083
SUBTOTAL	0	26	48	0	74	\$ 19,178	\$ 290	\$ 19,468	\$ 19,468
COLUMN TOTALS	1	26	52	4	83	\$ 21,212	\$ 290	\$ 21,502	\$ 21,502

10% mark-up on direct expenses; 15% mark-up for sub-contracted services
Mileage will be reimbursed at the prevailing federal mileage reimbursement rate in effect at the time of travel
Rates are subject to revision as of January 1 each year.

**MONTECITO WATER DISTRICT
MEMORANDUM**

SECTION: 3-C

DATE: APRIL 20, 2026

TO: OPERATIONS AND CUSTOMER RELATIONS COMMITTEE

FROM: ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER & GENERAL MANAGER

SUBJECT: DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2027 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

RECOMMENDATION:

Informational.

DISCUSSION:

Staff are preparing the draft Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 budget, which includes capital improvement projects (CIP). The preliminary list of CIP for FY 2027 is provided in Table 1. This proposed list has been developed using the District’s 10-year Capital Improvement Program, which is informed by the *2024 Asset Management Plan* and consistent with ongoing District initiatives.

The preliminary FY 2027 CIP includes equipment, water main replacements, reservoir projects, pumping, wells, valves and treatment plant projects, and extraordinary projects including Alder Creek Flume and the Highline Repair at Bella Vista. While the District’s typical annual expenditures for water main replacement projects total approximately \$3-4M, similar planned expenditures for FY 2027 total approximately \$7M due to “catch up” on the project backlog caused by cash flow issues in 2024 and 2025. The draft budget also proposes to include an unplanned project at Bella Vista Treatment Plant to adjust the pH of the raw water to reduce the calcification potential. This project is still under development and costs shown are preliminary.

The extraordinary projects, i.e. Alder Creek Flume and Highline Repair Project, are funded near entirely by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The Terminal and Park Lane Reservoir projects are fully funded through the ASADRA program. The associated FEMA reimbursements and ASADRA loan disbursements are incorporated as revenues in the draft FY 2027 budget.

The estimated cost of the proposed FY 2027 CIP has been updated to represent the current cost of equipment and material procurement and capital construction activities. These estimated costs are aligned with the District’s ongoing *2024 Water Rate Study* for FY 2027. The proposed FY 2027 CIP is subject to the availability of funding to be determined through the FY 2027 Budget development process.

Table 1 – Preliminary FY 2027 Capital Improvement Projects

Description	Proposed Budget
Equipment	\$ 415,000
F017 Service Truck (Distribution)	\$ 75,000
F019 Service Truck (Distribution)	\$ 75,000
F022 Service Truck (Distribution)	\$ 75,000
F010 Standby Truck (Treatment)	\$ 50,000
H004 Dump Truck (Distribution)	\$ 140,000
Pipelines	\$ 8,120,000
Cold Springs Water Main Replacement Project	\$ 180,000
Highline Replacement Project Phase 1	\$ 150,000
East Valley, Ladera and Lambert Water Main Replacements	\$ 3,780,000
Fairway, Butterfly, High, & Miramonte Water Main Replacements	\$ 3,450,000
US101 Water Main Installation at Danielson and Miramar	\$ 460,000
Fire Hydrant Replacements	\$ 100,000
Reservoirs	\$ 10,087,850
ASADRA Park Lane Reservoir Replacement Project	\$ 4,754,750
ASADRA Terminal Reservoir Replacement Project	\$ 5,333,100
Pumping, Wells, Valves, and Treatment Plants	\$ 1,210,000
Bella Vista & Doulton Treatment Plant Acid Addition	\$ 600,000
Bella Vista Reservoir Blower Improvements	\$ 60,000
Ortega Pump Station Backup Generator Replacement	\$ 180,000
Coyote Road Pressure Regulator Installation	\$ 90,000
Toro Canyon Pressure Regulator Vault Upgrade	\$ 70,000
Pressure Regulator Vault Lid Replacements	\$ 160,000
Doulton Treatment Plant Roof Addition	\$ 50,000
Extraordinary	\$ 4,380,000
FEMA Alder Creek Flume Reconstruction	\$ 3,100,000
FEMA Highline Repair Project	\$ 1,280,000
TOTAL	\$ 24,212,850

Staff are seeking Committee feedback on the preliminary FY 2027 CIP project list. Committee feedback will be incorporated into the proposed CIP project list to be included in the draft FY 2027 budget for Board review at its budget workshop scheduled for May 19, 2026.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Presentation slides – Review of Proposed FY 2027 Capital Improvement Projects



Montecito Water District

Agenda Item 3-C Review of Proposed Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 Capital Improvement Projects

Regular Meeting of the Operations & Customer Relations Committee
April 20, 2026

Capital Improvement Project Budget

- CIP list for FY 2027 Budget based on the updated 10-year Capital Improvement Plan informed by the *2024 Asset Management Plan*
- Planned CIP is consistent with the *2022 Strategic Plan* and *2024 Asset Management Plan*
- Estimated total cost is consistent with the *2025 Water Rate Study*
- FY 2027 CIP includes four projects anticipated to be near fully funded using grants and/or loans (FEMA & ASADRA)
- Planned CIP could change subject to availability of FY 2027 funds
- Seeking feedback on the preliminary FY2027 CIP project list

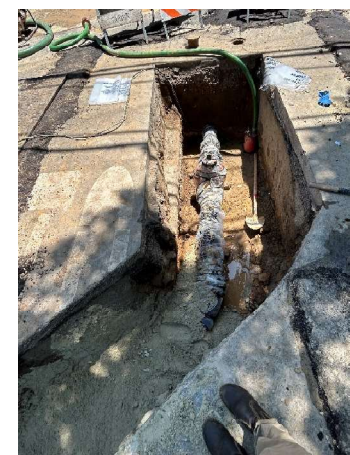
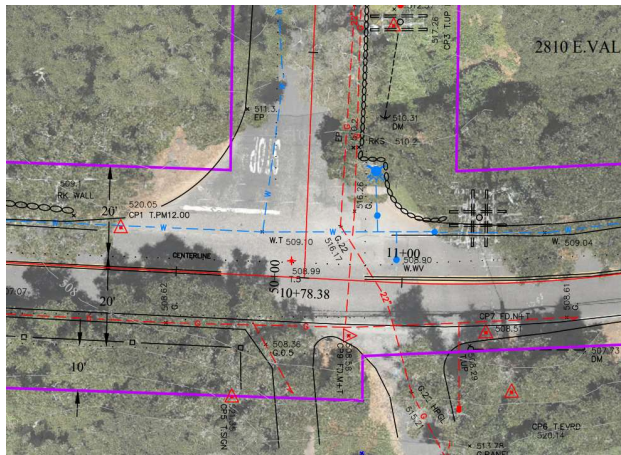
FY 2027 Equipment

Description	Proposed Budget
Equipment	\$ 415,000
F017 Service Truck (Distribution) (2019 Chevy 2500, 55k miles)	\$ 75,000
F019 Service Truck (Distribution) (2020 Chevy 2500, 36k miles, rusted body/bed)	\$ 75,000
F022 Service Truck (Distribution) (2021 Chevy 2500, 32k miles)	\$ 75,000
F010 Standby Truck (Treatment) (2011 Chevy 1500, 132k miles)	\$ 50,000
H004 Dump Truck (Distribution) (2003 International, 1,800+ engine hours)	\$ 140,000



FY 2027 Projects

Description	Proposed Budget
Pipelines	\$ 8,120,000
Cold Springs Water Main Replacement Project (1920s pipe)	\$ 180,000
Highline Replacement Project Phase 1 (Design)	\$ 150,000
East Valley, Ladera and Lambert Water Main Replacements (1920s pipe)	\$ 3,780,000
Fairway, Butterfly, High, & Miramonte Water Main Replacements (1920s/50s pipe)	\$ 3,450,000
US101 Water Main Installations at Danielson and Miramar	\$ 460,000
Fire Hydrant Replacements	\$ 100,000



FY 2027 Projects

Description	Proposed Budget
Reservoirs	\$ 10,087,850
ASADRA Park Lane Reservoir Seismic Retrofit and Replacement Project	\$ 4,754,750
ASADRA Terminal Reservoir Seismic Retrofit and Replacement Project	\$ 5,333,100



FY 2027 Projects

Description	Proposed Budget
Pumping, Wells, Valves, and Treatment Plants	\$ 1,210,000
Bella Vista & Douulton Treatment Plant Acid Addition	\$ 600,000
Bella Vista Reservoir Blower Improvements	\$ 60,000
Ortega Pump Station Backup Generator Replacement	\$ 180,000
Coyote Road Pressure Regulator Installation	\$ 90,000
Toro Canyon Pressure Regulator Vault Upgrade	\$ 70,000
Pressure Regulator Vault Lid Replacements	\$ 160,000
Douulton Treatment Plant Roof Addition	\$ 50,000



FY 2027 Projects

Description	Proposed Budget
Extraordinary	\$ 4,380,000
FEMA Alder Creek Flume Reconstruction	\$ 3,100,000
FEMA Highline Repair Project	\$ 1,280,000





FY 2027 Project Summary

Description	Proposed Budget
Equipment	\$ 415,000
Pipelines	\$ 8,120,000
Reservoirs	\$ 10,087,850
Pumping, Wells, Valves, and Treatment Plants	\$ 1,210,000
Extraordinary	\$ 4,380,000
TOTAL	\$ 24,487,850

Notes:

1. Total FY 2027 CIP Budget, excluding FEMA/ASADRA funded projects is \$9,745,000
2. Higher than 2024 Rate Study (\$5,166,508) due to project backlog

**MONTECITO WATER DISTRICT
MEMORANDUM**

SECTION: 3-E

DATE: APRIL 20, 2026

TO: OPERATIONS AND CUSTOMER RELATIONS COMMITTEE

FROM: PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER

SUBJECT: CUSTOMER RELATIONS AND PUBLIC INFORMATION UPDATE

RECOMMENDATION:

Information only.

DISCUSSION:

District outreach methods include e-News, bill inserts, bill messages, press releases, website updates, articles, social media posts, advertisements, regular updates in meeting presentations to community organizations, and participation in events. Communications are consistent with the District's 2022 5-Year Strategic Plan and regional and State initiatives including "Water Conservation is a California Way of Life". Recent initiatives include:

Fire Resilience The District's prioritization of fire resiliency projects has been well documented in presentations at public Committee and Board meetings, circulated in a bill insert, and published in the Montecito Journal's Water Column. (Attachment 1) Additional outreach on these efforts is ongoing.

Demonstration Garden The project in front of the office progresses with some rain delays and completion is expected later this spring. (www.montecitowater.com/garden)

Annual Waterwise Garden Recognition Contest In partnership with RWEF* the District participates in the annual Waterwise Garden Recognition Contest celebrating Santa Barbara County's most beautiful and water-efficient landscapes. Applications are now available at WaterWiseSB.org/GardenContest with complete contest rules and will be accepted until April 30th, 2026. (Attachment 2)

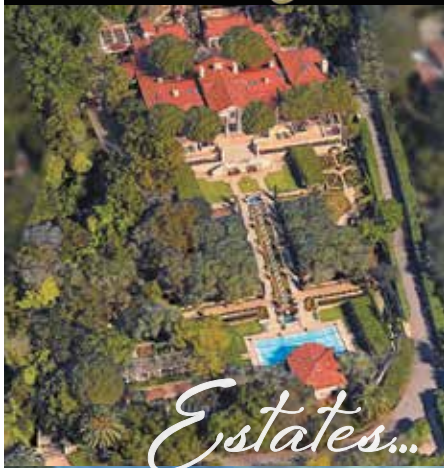
* Montecito Water District is a member in the Regional Water Efficiency Program of Santa Barbara County (RWEF) which is comprised of the Santa Barbara County Water Agency and 15 local water purveyors in Santa Barbara County (members) to form a regional partnership.

ATTACHMENTS:

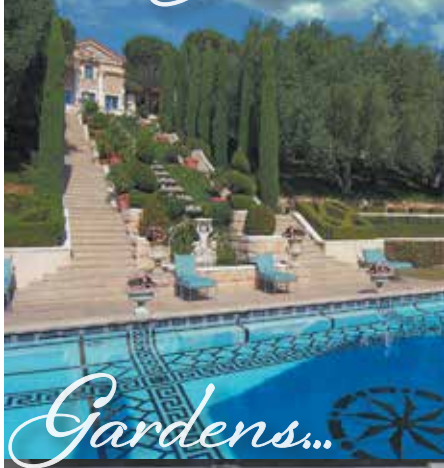
1. Attachment 1: The Water Column, Montecito Journal March 26, 2026
2. Attachment 2: Advertisement, Annual Waterwise Garden Recognition Contest

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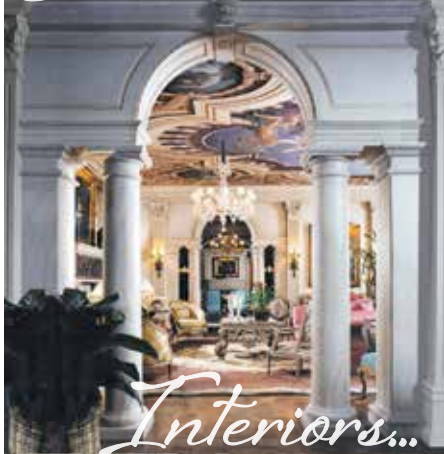
**BRYANT
DESIGN
STUDIO**
C. Arthur Bryant



Estates...



Gardens...



Interiors...

*Celebrating our
40th year of
timeless classical
design*

bryantdesignstudio.com
805-969-4880

The Water Column

Improving Resilience Across the District

by *Laura Camp*

Fire protection is a top priority for Montecito Water District (MWD) as part of its commitment to supplying water to meet this community's needs every day. MWD remains ready and prepared to provide water for fighting fires across Montecito and Summerland and is focused on ongoing projects to improve resilience.

- *Water Supply is Abundant and Reservoirs are Full:* MWD's robust and diversified water portfolio ensures water supplies are readily accessible in local storage, rain or shine. Regional and district reservoirs can hold more than 20 million gallons. Additionally, real-time production capability from combined water sources is as much as 15 million gallons daily. As a point of reference, peak summer demand on a hot day is about six million gallons for the entire district. In an emergency, MWD has the capacity to produce and supply more than five times this demand.

- *Record-setting Rainfall:* More than 25 inches of rainfall since the start of October 2025 has replenished summer use, filling and spilling both Jameson

and Cachuma lakes. The water supply outlook is excellent.

Infrastructure is in Service, Operational, and Continuously Monitored

District assets include extensive pipeline systems, reservoirs, pumps, emergency generators, and 880 public fire hydrants district-wide that are maintained regularly in collaboration with Montecito and Carpinteria-Summerland Fire Departments. Comprehensive modeling and field testing ensure that the water system complies with fire flow requirements. Backup power generators are in place, maintained, and regularly exercised at important infrastructure locations, e.g. pump stations, treatment plants, and MWD headquarters. These generators are designed to activate automatically upon power failure, averting water service interruptions.

- *Building Hardening & Defensible Space Improvements:* Eight critical MWD facilities including the office, multiple pump stations, and reservoirs were freshly evaluated in coordination with Montecito Fire Department to



MWD staff replacing an aging hydrant, one of more than 880 public fire hydrants district-wide (courtesy photo)

assess our infrastructure's resiliency to wildfire impacts. Extensive structure hardening work was completed over the past year including replacing a roof, repairing roof flashing, installing wire mesh vents and gutter screens, and clearing gutters. Efforts to improve our facilities' defensible space included trimming trees, and removing leaf litter, vegetation and tree limbs within 10 feet of building perimeters for enhanced fire protection.

- *Hydrant Additions, Replacements, and Maintenance:* With input from

Water Column Page 36 ▶



Spring cleaning? Defensible Space Improvements at MWD facilities include trimming trees, clearing vegetation, and removing leaf litter. (courtesy photo)



Community safety is a collective effort (courtesy photo)

Montecito Fire Department, four new hydrants were added at critical MWD facilities including Terminal Pump Station, Romero Pump Station, Picay Hydropower Facility, and East Valley Pump Station. Golden Gate Avenue in Summerland also gained a new hydrant. Across the district, three aging hydrants were replaced and five more are scheduled for replacement in March 2026. Functional maintenance on all hydrants is conducted by MWD staff over a three-year cycle. Hydrant maps, flow test results, and maintenance records are all shared with Montecito Fire Department.

- Montecito Water District and Montecito Fire Department jointly complete the Public Protection Classification survey and are rated by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) every five years. In 2023, Montecito Fire Department improved to a 2/2X rating. When rating an agency, the ISO considers needed fire flows, emergency communications, water supply, location of fire hydrants, department staffing levels, training, location of fire stations, community risk reduction, outreach and fire prevention efforts. ISO ratings range from 1 to 10, with 1 being the highest score an agency can earn. *This latest rating makes Montecito Fire one of just over 1,900 fire departments in the United States, and one in 173 in California, to achieve a 2/2x rating.*

Staff & Partnerships

A dedicated team of certified and trained professionals carefully monitors the water system and current

conditions, including weather events, taking precautions as needed. For example, when forecasts indicate increased fire risk, reservoir levels are adjusted to increase local water storage and availability. Staff are prepared to respond quickly, at all times of day, and have equipment and resources to make timely repairs if needed.

- MWD staff are assigned to Montecito Fire Department Incident Command Post (ICP) during incidents for enhanced communication and coordination.

- Montecito Water District communicates regularly with Montecito Fire Department, Carpinteria-Summerland Fire Department, and additional regional partners for the safety of this community.

- Updated Modeling for Wildfire Scenarios and System Hydraulics for Residential Structure Fires: MWD engineering staff and consultants completed updated modeling of wildfire scenarios in coordination with Montecito Fire Department and analyzed fire flows at all hydrants across the district to ensure adequate fire flow per residential structure fire flow rates.

Community-Wide Resilience

Through planning and actions, MWD constantly improves its practices using lessons learned from local and regional fire history. Above are specific examples of how special collaboration over the past year between Montecito Water District and our neighboring fire departments accelerated improvements with a focus on community protection and improving fire resiliency. Perhaps you'll be inspired to do some spring cleaning of your own?

While we make every effort to provide robust, resilient, and redundant water service, it is important to note that public water systems may not be sufficient under all conditions. Urban systems are built to supply water for fighting fires in residential areas of limited scale and may become stressed in large-scale, fast-moving wildfire scenarios. Community safety is a collective effort – please stay alert and take every precaution to stay safe. 🍷

Laura Camp is the Public Information Officer for the Montecito Water District



A River Runs Through It captured the imagination of fingerlings everywhere

"They're all coming to honor Tom, who is 92 years old," said **John Grace**, a board member of Santa Barbara Flyfishers who has produced the annual events. "It's going to be way deeper than just another event, or a screening of a movie that you can stream (no pun intended) any time you want. The panelists are all really excited to be here."

Grace was a fly fisher back in Connecticut even before the movie came out, but he's followed firsthand the film's impact.

"There was such a surge in popularity, which led to economic growth, including a new magazine and a media boom," he said. "It created a considerable cultural shift, including a new form of meditative escape that goes beyond the sport. You've got to be one with the fish to be successful. It also created a huge uptick in awareness of the environment. And it also changed the demographic of the sport, bringing in youth and women who were taken by the beauty and serenity of fishing on a river. Women are the fastest growing segment of the sport, particularly here."

For the past several years the festival events have burnished the Santa Barbara Flyfishers' public profile, drawing attention to the association's ongoing offerings. These include free instruction in technique, both on dry land at an area park and on the shores of Rincon, where fly fishers cast for fish found in the shallow waters. There are also fundamental classes offered twice a year in the spring and the fall.

"The club's going crazy, almost out of control," Grace said. "It's because we're teaching new people who want to learn. I've been shocked at how many people have an interest in fly fishing, almost a passion, but *didn't know we existed*. Now, they're coming out of the woodwork."

As to why the movie remains popular, Grace had some ideas to share.

"The panel is going to be answering that, and I can't wait to hear what they'll say. But I believe it's because it unlocked things in people's brains, the beauty of the spectacular photography of fly casting itself, which was magical, changing how we saw streams and rivers. And also because it opens a conversation about conservation."

Grace can go on and on about fly fishing, one of his life's great passions, and part of the reason he and his wife moved to Montecito in 2019. While proximity to the grandchildren in SoCal might have been a bigger reason, fishing in Western waters was a huge draw, too.

"Fly fishing is a whole different thing out here," he said. "Joining Santa Barbara Flyfishers was the first thing I did when we got here."

"There are lots of local spots to practice the sport without heading to Montana or even the Sierras for major mountain streams. The Santa Ynez River is just right over the hill (on the 154) where you can fish most of the year. It's pretty remote back there and it's wonderful. Avid fishermen like me love to go after Corbina, which come up from Peru most of the year. They're really hard to catch because the fish only in the last two inches of surf when a wave comes in before they surf back out. They're hard to find, which makes the challenge so great."

On March 31, however, fly fishing central in Santa Barbara will be at the Lobero, a bit like a modification of the most important line from the movie: "Eventually, all things merge into one, and a river runs through it."

All proceeds from "An Evening with Tom Skerritt and Friends to Discuss the Movie that Changed Fly Fishing: *A River Runs Through It*" will directly support Santa Barbara Flyfishers' conservation initiatives, youth education programs, and their generational commitment to "Save Santa Barbara Steelhead." 🍷

Visit www.Lobero.org or <https://sbflyfishers.org>.

Steven Libowitz has covered a plethora of topics for the Journal since 1997, and now leads our extensive arts and entertainment coverage



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