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

NOVEMBER 9, 2026
9:30 A.M.

Attend in Person or Join by Teleconference:
https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1653784455?pwd=S34gowSSyb1SiTVmcaooFw8Y3rSgWO.1
Webinar ID: 165 378 4455 Passcode: 701333
Tel: (669) 254-5252

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 development of an ASR program for the Montecito Groundwater Basin

B. Consider potential Smart Rebate for Water Pressure Regulator

C. Update on the COMB Sheffield Tunnel Rehab Project

D. Update on Reservoir Seismic Retrofit and Replacement Project (ASADRA)

E. Update on FEMA Project Approvals and Reimbursements

* F. Customer Relations and Public Information Update

4. ITEMS FOR A FUTURE AGENDA

5. 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

** Indicates attachment included for this item*

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 November 6, 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-A

DATE: AUGUST 9, 2026

TO: OPERATIONS AND CUSTOMER RELATIONS COMMITTEE

FROM: GENERAL MANAGER/GROUNDWATER SPECIALIST

SUBJECT: UPDATE ON DEVELOPMENT OF AN ASR PROGRAM FOR THE MONTECITO GROUNDWATER BASIN

RECOMMENDATION:

Information Only

BACKGROUND:

The District has been actively exploring an Aquifer Storage and Recovery Program in the Montecito Basin over the past several years to bolster local drought resilience. The *Montecito Aquifer Storage and Recovery Feasibility (ASR) Study,* prepared by GSI Water Solutions, was completed in May 2025. The study found injection in the Montecito Basin is feasible at four existing District potable wells with estimated injection rates of 72-96 acre feet (AF) per year for a single well program and 216-300 AF per year for a four well program.

Development of the Montecito ASR program requires an application for a pilot injection well permit from the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB). The pilot injection well would occur at the District's Paden 2 well since it has the highest potential injection rates of 6-8 AF per month (72-96 AF per year). The application must include a technical report prepared by a licensed geologist. For this reason, in July 2026 the District contracted with Pueblo Water Resources Inc. (Pueblo) to assist the District with developing the application materials. The application must fully describe the project including the hydrogeologic setting, design flow rates, water quality constituents and concentrations, drawings, and a degradation analysis.

DISCUSSION

The ASR Feasibility Study provided an initial estimation of the potential injection capacity for the Paden 2 well of 45 to 65 gallons per minute (gpm), which was appropriate for the high-level screening performed as part of the Study. However, the injection capacity of an ASR well depends on a variety of site-specific factors that were not considered in the initial estimate. In Fall 2026, Pueblo and District staff reviewed regional and site-specific data for the development of a Site Specific Injection Capacity Analysis (Analysis). This analysis is intended to refine the estimated injection capacity for the Paden 2 well.

A draft Analysis has been reviewed by District staff. The Analysis evaluates several factors that can limit injection and production rates of ASR wells. These include:

- Available Draw up: Non-pressurized and Pressurized
- Well Response to Injection
- Backflushing Capacity
- Downhole Velocity
- Aquifer Responses to ASR
    - Hydrofracturing
    - Offsite Impacts Limits (nearby wells and other effects)

The results of the Analysis are shown in Table 1. Paden 2 is estimated to have a long-term injection capacity ranging between approximately 45 to 70 gpm, depending on water-level conditions. The Well Response to Injection capacity criterion represents the primary constraint under high water-level conditions and the Hydrofracturing Potential criterion represents the primary constraint under low water-level conditions. This aligns with the initial estimate of the potential injection capacity GSI developed in the ASR Feasibility Study.

Table 1: Injection Capacity vs. Constraint

SWL[1] (ft bgs)	Injection Capacity (gpm) vs. Constraint					
	Well Response		Back-flushing	Downhole Velocity	Hydro-fracuring	Offsite Impacts
	Non-Pressurized	Pressurized				
50	**45**	107	162	204	53	151
100	89	152	102		**67**	305

Notes:

1 - Static Water Level (SWL)

Primary limiting factors shown in **bold** type.

SCHEDULE:

Pueblo is currently preparing a proposed Work Plan to be used for the permitting of the Pilot well and construction and testing phases. With completion of the Analysis, preparation of the permit application may begin, with submission to the RWQCB as soon as Spring 2027. The RWQCB timeline for permit application reviews is 6 months. During the State's review period, work on Phase 2 of the project could be performed including preparation of construction plans and specifications, and bidding, whereby positioning the District for implementation of the ASR pilot test program, potentially as early as Early 2028.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Update on Development of an ASR Program for the Montecito Groundwater Basin - Presentation

Montecito Water District

Agenda Item 3-A
Update on Development of an ASR Program for the Montecito Groundwater Basin

Regular Meeting of the Operations and Customer Relations Committee
November 9, 2026

Purpose

- Development of an Aquifer Storage and Recovery Program (ASR)
  - **Phase 1: Pilot injection well**
    - Requires an application for a pilot injection well permit
      - Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB)
    - Testing and Reporting
  - Phase 2: Expand program to additional MWD wells (~3 wells)

- Utilize study results of Montecito ASR Feasibility Study (GSI-2025)
  - Paden 2 well Recommended as initial pilot injection well
    - Highest potential injection rates

Background

- Montecito ASR Feasibility Study (GSI-2025)
  - Identified existing MWD wells suitable for ASR retrofitting
  - High-level Cost/benefit analysis
  - Provided first-approximation estimates of injection
    - Paden 2 estimate injection rate: 45 – 65 gpm

Paden 2 Well





Background

- Contracted with Pueblo Water Resources for Pilot Test Project
  - Phase 1: Permitting
    - Included in FY2027 Budget ($80,000)
    - Site Specific ASR Capacity Analysis – **Final Draft Complete**
    - ASR Pilot Test Work Plan – **Under development**
    - RWQCB Permitting
  - Phase 2: Construction
    - Scope, budget, schedule based on Phase 1 findings
    - Plans, Specs, Bidding
    - ASR Pilot Test Implementation
    - Data Analysis and Reporting

Injection Capacity Analysis

- Purpose: Refine Site Specific Capacity for ASR at Paden 2
  - Informs:
    - Pilot Test Work Plan
    - RWQCB Permit Application
- Data Reviewed
  - Regional and Site hydrogeology
  - Drilling and Well Construction
  - Well Performance
  - Water Levels
  - Aquifer Properties (e.g. transmissivity)

Paden 2 ASR Injection Capacity Analysis

- Analyzed several **factors** to determine maximum injection and production rates
  - Available Draw up (Non-pressurized and Pressurized)
  - Well Response to Injection
  - Backflushing Capacity
  - Downhole Velocity
  - Aquifer Response to ASR
    - Hydrofracturing
    - Offsite Impacts Limits
- All methods dependent on static groundwater levels (SWL)
  - Analysis estimates assumed high and low SWL (50’ bgs – 100’ bgs)

Paden 2 ASR Injection Capacity Analysis Results

- Analysis Results
  - Low end: 45 gpm (50’ bgs – SWL)
  - High end: 67 gpm (100’ bgs – SWL)
- Similar to GSI first approximation: 45-65 gpm

SWL[1] (ft bgs)	Injection Capacity (gpm) vs. Constraint					
	Well Response		Back-flushing	Downhole Velocity	Hydro-fracuring	Offsite Impacts
	Non-Pressurized	Pressurized				
50	**45**	107	162	204	53	151
100	89	152	102		**67**	305

Notes:

1 - Static Water Level (SWL)

Primary limiting factors shown in **bold** type.

Work Plan Overview

- Evaluate:
  - Need for and location of monitoring well(s)
  - Well rehabilitation/cleaning required to prepare the well
- Identify:
  - Modifications to Pump/Motor/Discharge head
  - Above-ground facility improvements
- Develop:
  - ASR pilot test program
  - Sampling and Analysis Plan (SAP)
  - ASR pilot test schedule

Proposed Permitting Approach

- Water Quality Control Plan for Central Coastal Basin
  - Montecito Basin not included and therefore has no established Water Quality Objectives
  - Plan often limits injection amounts based on water quality
    - Boron, Sulfate

Parameter	Units	Median Groundwater Quality Objectives			Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level	Source Water						Groundwater				
						Cater TP	Bella Vista TP	Santa Barbara Desal	January 2025 Sample[1]	February 2025 Sample[2]	March 2025 Sample[3]	Amapola	Ennisbrook 2	Ennisbrook 5	Paden	Basinwide[4]
		Goleta	*Santa Barbara*	*Carpinteria*		Average	Average	Average				Average	Average	Average	Average	Average
Sulfate	mg/L	250	150	150	250 - 500	276	213	3	263	234	244	227	209	245	135	268
Boron	mg/L	0.2	0.2	0.2	-	0.4	ND	0.8	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1

Notes:

1) Collected from MWD Distribution System - Blend of 55% cater and 45% Bella Vista TP.

2) Collected from MWD Distribution System - Blend of 54% cater and 46% Bella Vista TP.

3) Collected from MWD Distribution System - Blend of 70% cater and 30% Bella Vista TP.

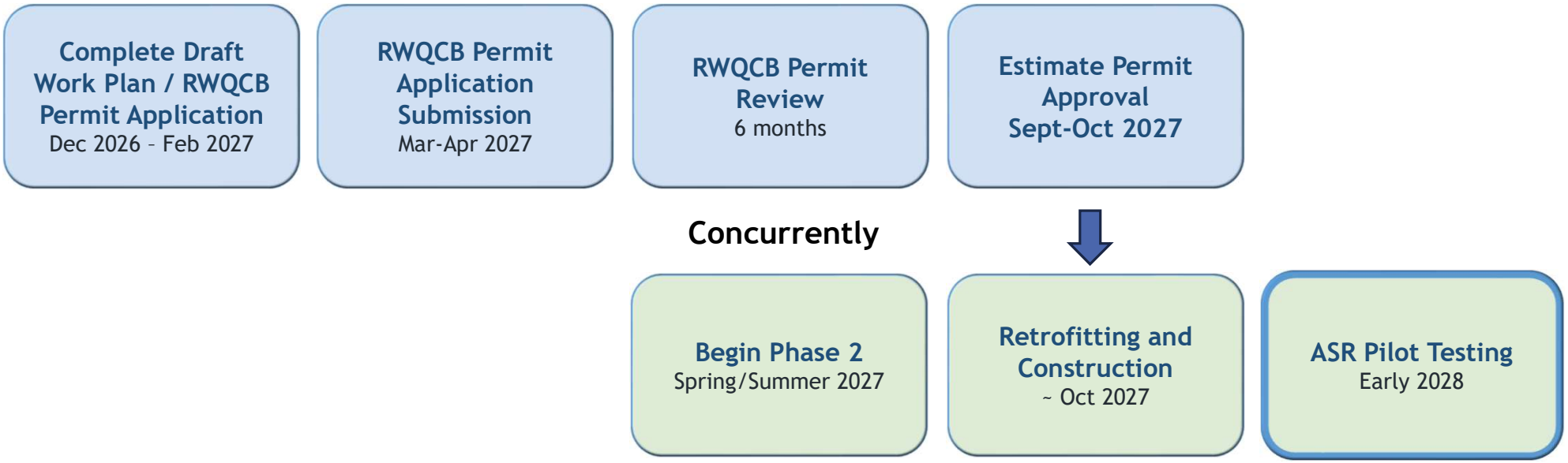
4) Excludes data from shallow wells and data prior to 2000

Proposed Permitting Approach

- Proceed with understanding that Montecito Basin has no set Objectives

- Key Points:
  - Plan to injection treated, potable water, meeting drinking water standards
    - Monitoring well(s) required near pilot well
  - No established water quality objectives for the Basin

Schedule / Next Steps



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MONTECITO WATER DISTRICT
MEMORANDUM

SECTION: **3-F**

DATE: **NOVEMBER 9, 2026**

TO: **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

FROM: **PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER**

SUBJECT: **CUSTOMER RELATIONS AND PUBLIC INFORMATION UPDATE**

RECOMMENDATION:

Information only.

DISCUSSION:

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". District outreach methods include e-News, bill inserts, bill messages, press releases, website updates, articles, social media posts, advertisements, presentations to community organizations, and participation in events. Daily customer contact is an essential District role conducted by an informed and responsive customer service team and staff.

In addition to outgoing information, incoming public information is vital to the functioning of the District. Timely relay of relevant community news and safety updates is ongoing to staff, the Board, and to the wider community as appropriate. Current pertinent topics include the historically strong El Niño weather pattern and seasonal water efficiency. Activity this month includes:

- **Bill insert / flyer** (Attachment 1) Distributed to customers and posted to web site includes numerous updates including information on the District's potential sale of partial State Water Project contract interests. The page dedicated to State Water Project on the District web site now contains links to recent press releases and other pertinent information for ease of reference.
- **Montecito Beautification Day** Select staff participation, November 7, 2026,
- **Charitable Donations Collection: November -December** Boxes are located at the District Office for Thanksgiving and December holidays in collaboration with Unity Shoppe and Toys for Tots.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Bill Insert
2. Enews excerpt

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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.

www.montecitowater.com | 805.969.2271 |

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

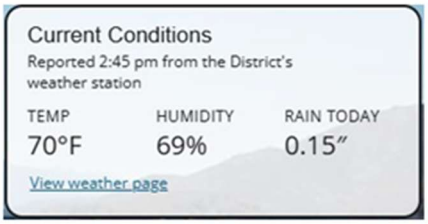
Conservation Visits
montecitowater.com/visit

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.

Excerpt from enews
(sent on 10-30-26)



Happy New Water Year

October 1 - September 30 is known as the Water Year and we're off to a strong start with 4.86 inches in the past 30 days. Current weather conditions are posted on the District's home page, and if you're thirsty for more data, we've got a full page of resources for that, too.

Weather & Rainfall Data Page ››



Budget-in-Brief

A more visual summary of the District's adopted budget showing where funding comes from, where it goes, and top projects lined up for the year.

View Booklet ››



State Water Project Updates

The District is exploring an opportunity to sell about 40% of its State Water Project Contract interests, while retaining about 60%. The goal is to improve water supply reliability and diversification.

Learn More ››



Public Meetings

Five publicly elected Directors serve as the District Board responsible for policies and decision-making. Regular meeting schedules and agendas are online.

Learn More ››

The Latest News

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