



WATER RESOURCES AGENCY

MEMORANDUM

Monterey County

DATE: April 1, 2026

TO: File

FROM: Joseph Klein

SUBJECT: Water Year 2026 Year Type Determination for SVWP Operation

The 2026 water year type was forecast on March 15, 2026 and April 1, 2026. The March 15th forecast, calculated from published provisional USGS mean daily streamflow at the Arroyo Seco near Soledad gage to March 14th, indicated a wet-normal year type. The April 1st forecast which included streamflow data to March 31st is also for a wet-normal year type.

This memorandum describes the method used to forecast water year type, a factor determining each year's operational requirements of the Salinas Valley Water Project (SVWP).

The first step in the process is to rank annual flow for the period of record to establish streamflow breaks that can be used to categorize the current water year as dry, normal, or wet.

The second step is the calculation of an extrapolation factor to convert mean annual flow based on a partial water year record (October 1st, ending March 15 or April 1) to a mean annual flow representing the entire water year.

Step three is the calculation of mean annual streamflow based on provisional mean daily streamflow data up to the forecast date. As specified in the SVWP flow prescription, the water year type is forecast on March 15th and April 1st of each year. Provisional mean annual streamflow is calculated using mean daily streamflow data up to but not including the forecast date. The extrapolation factor is then applied to calculate mean annual streamflow that accounts for flow that will occur between the forecast date and the end of the water year.

The first two steps are based on the published period of record of mean daily streamflow at the Arroyo Seco near Soledad USGS gage. These calculations are completed every year prior to the March 15th forecast, utilizing data through the most recently published complete water year. The publication date for the previous water year typically occurs toward the middle of the following calendar year (for instance streamflow data for water year 2025 will likely be published around the middle of calendar year 2026). The third step utilizes provisional data for the current water year, which is normally available within twenty-four hours of realtime data logging.

These three components are calculated and combined as described below to determine the year type of the current water year. This water year type forecast will determine reservoir operations necessary to meet fisheries requirements for operation of the SVWP.

Calculation of Streamflow Breaks

Prior to January 1st, mean annual flows are calculated and used to develop year type criteria (Table 1). Mean annual flows are ranked in descending order and plotting positions are assigned to each year. The streamflow amounts corresponding to the 25th and 75th percentile are selected as the threshold flows for wet, normal, and dry categories. Normal year types are subcategorized into wet-normal, normal, and dry-normal categories, although March 15th and April 1st year type forecasts will be made to dry, normal, and wet categories. In years when stream flow breaks are updated, they must be submitted in writing to the State Water Resources Control Board by January 1st of the year they are to be used (Amended License for Diversion and Use of Water, Application 16124, Permit 10137, License 7543). Streamflow breaks calculated for use in water year 2026 did not change from those submitted in 2025.

Year type criteria used in water year 2026 were calculated using published mean daily flows from the Arroyo Seco near Soledad USGS stream gage from water years 1902-2024 (Chart 1). The following year type categories are in effect for water year 2026:

Dry:	Mean Annual Flow < 65 cfs
Dry-Normal:	65 cfs <= Mean Annual Flow < 100 cfs
Normal:	100 cfs <= Mean Annual Flow < 144 cfs
Wet-Normal:	144 cfs <= Mean Annual Flow < 260 cfs
Wet:	Mean Annual Flow >= 260 cfs

Calculation of the Forecast Factor

Based on the published period of record of mean daily streamflow at the Arroyo Seco near Soledad USGS gage (122 years at the time of this report) forecast factors have been developed to more accurately calculate mean annual flow on March 15th and April 1st. These forecast factors are re-calculated prior to year type forecasting each March. Based on the long-term average, mean annual flow calculated on March 15th represents 70% of actual mean annual flow for the year. This relationship can be used when forecasting year type as: mean annual for March 15th = 70% x (mean annual for the water year) or mean annual for the water year = mean annual on March 15th / 0.70. The following forecast factors have been created for water year 2026 based on published mean daily data through water year 2024 (Table 2).

Mean Annual for the published period of record:	168 cfs or 100% of the Annual Average
Mean Annual on March 15:	118 cfs or 70% of the Annual Average
Mean Annual on April 1:	136 cfs or 81% of the Annual Average

Calculation of Mean Annual Streamflow on March 15th and April 1st

The current water year type is forecast on March 15th and April 1st of each year. A year type is determined from a forecasted mean annual flow for the water year. This forecast is based on mean daily flow at the Arroyo Seco near Soledad USGS stream gage from the start of the water year to the forecast date, as reported on March 15th and April 1st. Mean daily flows are summed from October 1st through the forecast date and divided by the total number of days in the entire water year. This creates a mean annual flow based on provisional flow that has occurred prior to the forecast date. Table 3 contains provisional mean daily streamflow through March 14, 2026. Table 4 contains provisional mean daily streamflow through March 31, 2026.

Determination of water year type using adjusted streamflow and streamflow breaks

Mean streamflows calculated based on data published March 15th and April 1st are adjusted using the previously mentioned forecast factors. The result is a forecast mean annual streamflow that fits into the dry, normal, or wet year type categories that were developed for the water year. **The adjusted mean annual forecast flow for March 15, 2026 is 164 cfs. The March 15th forecast is for a wet-normal year type. The adjusted mean annual forecast flow on April 1, 2025 is 149 cfs with the forecast for a wet-normal year type remaining in effect.**

Table 1

**Mean Annual Flow by Water Year
Calculated from the Mean Daily Published Period of Record
at the Arroyo Seco near Soledad USGS Stream Gage**

Water Year	Mean Annual Streamlow (cfs)
1902	134.8
1903	144.1
1904	82.3
1905	168.6
1906	282.5
1907	436.5
1908	102.5
1909	329.0
1910	116.5
1911	402.8
1912	50.9
1913	19.6
1914	361.1
1915	288.8
1916	341.0
1917	220.3
1918	100.0
1919	91.7
1920	72.7
1921	115.7
1922	266.2
1923	174.7
1924	22.7
1925	73.8
1926	204.1
1927	236.6
1928	102.4
1929	71.1
1930	64.5
1931	16.7
1932	189.1
1933	26.8
1934	108.8
1935	127.2
1936	166.0
1937	205.0
1938	447.1
1939	33.2
1940	257.0
1941	525.1
1942	233.8
1943	183.2
1944	122.0

Water Year	Mean Annual Streamlow (cfs)
1945	144.9
1946	109.4
1947	44.1
1948	30.7
1949	71.9
1950	68.5
1951	123.6
1952	288.3
1953	99.5
1954	60.5
1955	56.4
1956	245.0
1957	65.4
1958	402.3
1959	79.4
1960	50.9
1961	22.2
1962	139.1
1963	272.2
1964	49.4
1965	129.8
1966	73.5
1967	302.0
1968	33.0
1969	416.4
1970	130.1
1971	85.5
1972	36.1
1973	318.0
1974	195.6
1975	229.8
1976	15.2
1977	6.7
1978	432.9
1979	164.9
1980	406.0
1981	113.9
1982	350.9
1983	709.2
1984	124.1
1985	61.8
1986	324.2
1987	43.3

Water Year	Mean Annual Streamlow (cfs)
1988	31.8
1989	28.9
1990	19.9
1991	65.9
1992	101.4
1993	296.2
1994	42.7
1995	390.4
1996	173.0
1997	234.3
1998	443.2
1999	96.3
2000	153.2
2001	107.8
2002	74.9
2003	139.5
2004	73.2
2005	310.4
2006	260.2
2007	25.6
2008	116.5
2009	102.5
2010	270.8
2011	271.5
2012	48.2
2013	72.0
2014	16.2
2015	41.2
2016	82.0
2017	401.7
2018	64.8
2019	304.9
2020	82.0
2021	43.5
2022	66.2
2023	472.4
2024	165.4

Chart 1
Arroyo Seco Mean Annual Streamflow (Based on Published Mean Daily Streamflow)
Exceedance Probability for Water Years 1902 through 2024
Defining Year Types: Wet, Wet-Normal, Normal, Dry-Normal, and Dry

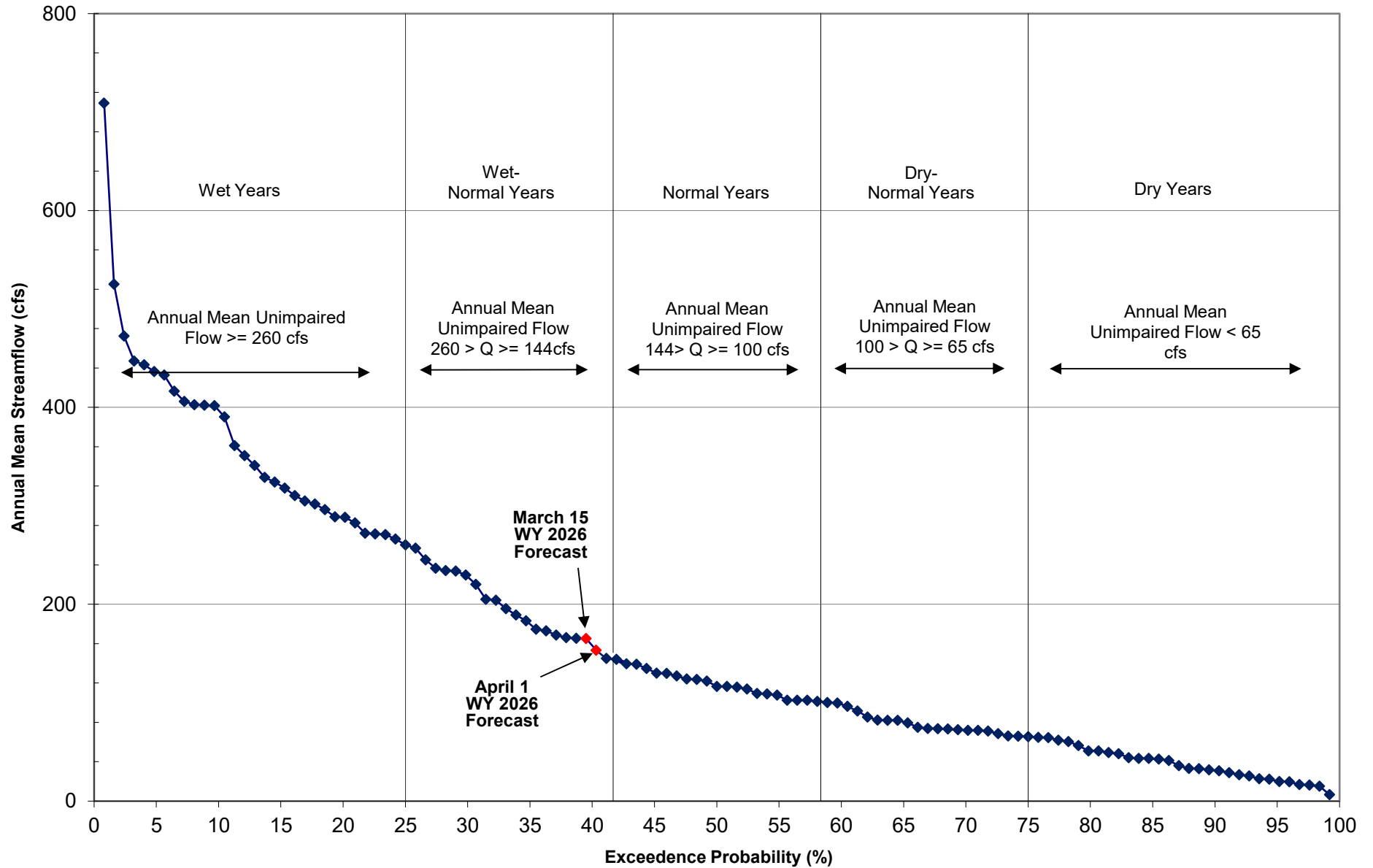


Table 2
Mean Daily Values

Calculated from USGS mean daily streamflow in cfs at the Arroyo Seco near Soledad stream gage

	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP
1	6.3	18.2	88.9	321.8	482.7	512.4	384.3	136.4	57.5	22.8	8.0	4.2
2	5.9	17.4	139.0	282.7	561.8	546.7	352.1	133.3	55.9	22.3	7.8	4.2
3	5.7	17.1	126.4	265.7	588.4	531.0	425.9	128.3	54.3	21.7	7.5	4.2
4	5.7	17.8	115.6	309.0	483.5	568.7	359.7	130.3	55.8	20.7	7.3	4.0
5	5.8	18.7	119.2	311.1	443.2	532.8	370.4	124.2	53.8	20.0	7.2	3.8
6	5.7	22.4	197.3	243.6	469.7	542.8	324.7	116.8	51.1	19.4	6.9	4.0
7	5.5	18.5	105.5	274.1	469.2	555.8	325.0	119.7	49.5	18.6	6.6	3.9
8	5.4	40.4	95.5	304.8	492.8	467.1	365.7	112.2	47.8	18.0	6.5	3.8
9	6.8	47.8	86.1	455.2	648.7	423.4	285.3	107.9	46.4	17.3	6.3	3.9
10	7.2	40.5	138.9	424.8	621.3	605.5	271.1	103.0	45.1	17.0	6.1	3.9
11	10.9	38.4	226.6	378.6	653.9	456.5	321.4	99.1	43.6	16.4	6.1	3.8
12	7.8	33.6	122.0	347.2	577.1	511.2	262.4	96.3	42.3	15.8	6.0	4.1
13	36.7	50.3	110.5	412.9	639.1	465.6	244.0	93.4	41.1	15.3	5.8	4.7
14	47.5	68.7	99.5	537.0	636.3	415.4	241.9	93.6	39.8	14.8	5.6	4.6
15	13.7	53.1	93.0	396.5	607.2	427.7	247.8	90.5	38.5	14.2	5.5	4.2
16	11.3	52.1	116.1	397.5	577.2	432.1	225.4	89.2	37.2	13.8	5.4	4.1
17	11.4	58.9	107.9	496.9	531.0	372.2	209.7	82.9	36.1	13.4	5.3	4.1
18	10.0	85.2	100.6	430.7	543.6	350.6	207.4	80.5	35.0	13.1	5.4	4.2
19	10.3	130.0	93.7	394.7	579.7	371.6	187.2	85.4	33.9	12.6	5.3	7.1
20	12.3	74.2	103.2	349.7	604.3	385.3	177.7	78.6	32.8	12.1	5.3	5.1
21	9.7	53.8	120.9	444.6	636.6	397.9	179.5	75.8	31.7	11.9	5.2	4.7
22	9.2	44.7	218.9	392.7	538.2	454.4	169.7	74.3	30.6	11.6	5.2	4.6
23	9.3	52.5	369.8	359.8	492.8	441.1	162.2	71.2	29.8	11.0	5.1	4.6
24	9.6	50.7	361.5	495.6	579.8	422.5	159.2	68.9	28.8	10.7	4.9	5.6
25	12.5	50.0	251.5	644.1	554.7	420.2	153.8	67.5	27.9	10.3	4.7	5.5
26	13.0	45.9	196.6	559.3	456.1	370.3	149.6	69.8	27.0	10.0	4.7	5.6
27	13.8	42.4	254.7	497.5	482.2	342.1	154.0	75.9	26.3	9.5	4.5	5.3
28	12.2	59.8	240.9	425.1	507.3	356.6	162.5	68.7	25.5	9.3	4.3	5.2
29	12.3	66.8	240.9	411.9	511.6	339.5	149.8	65.8	24.7	9.1	4.3	5.3
30	14.6	86.8	245.5	420.8		343.0	144.6	62.1	23.9	8.7	4.2	5.5
31	13.2		328.9	466.5		381.5		60.2		8.4	4.2	

Mean Annual for the published period of record: 168

Mean Annual Calculated From October 1 to March 15: 118

70% of Annual Average

Mean Annual Calculated from October 1 to April 1: 136

81% of Annual Average

Table 3

**Water Year 2026 Year Type Determination
As Forecast on March 15, 2026**

Calculated from USGS provisional mean daily streamflow in cfs at the Arroyo Seco near Soledad stream gage
USGS provisional mean daily streamflow as captured on 3/15/25, data subject to revision by the USGS

	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP
1	0	3.47	21	959	86.4	344						
2	0	3.32	20.5	712	84	312						
3	0	3.56	20.2	1660	82.5	287						
4	0	3.84	19.6	2210	80.4	263						
5	0	4.12	19.4	1650	78.8	244						
6	0	6.1	19.2	1780	76.8	226						
7	0	9.98	19	1160	75.2	211						
8	0	10.1	18.8	762	73.8	199						
9	0	8.29	18.5	545	72.8	188						
10	0	7.85	18.3	417	74.9	180						
11	0	7.35	18.2	337	369	175						
12	0	7.05	18	284	304	175						
13	0.06	11.1	17.6	242	179	169						
14	2.54	121	17.5	212	152	164						
15	18.4	43.3	17.4	187	141							
16	9.55	59.7	17.4	168	1900							
17	6.23	156	17.2	156	2840							
18	4.62	111	16.8	146	2640							
19	3.47	61.9	17.2	138	1950							
20	2.76	48.7	17.2	131	1460							
21	2.57	48.7	17.3	124	1060							
22	2.73	39.8	17.2	121	834							
23	2.65	34.7	19	116	683							
24	2.86	31.5	142	112	586							
25	3.42	29.2	1510	107	518							
26	3.59	27	1530	103	467							
27	3.11	25.1	544	99.4	419							
28	3.19	23.6	289	96.6	380							
29	3.31	22.5	195	93.5	344							
30	3.13	21.5	155	91.2								
31	3.53		135	88.7								

Mean Annual to Date Calculated on March 15, 2026: 115 cfs
WY 2026 Forecast Mean Annual Calculated on March 15, 2026: 164 cfs

Table 4

**Water Year 2026 Year Type Determination
As Forecast on April 1, 2026**

Calculated from USGS provisional mean daily streamflow in cfs at the Arroyo Seco near Soledad stream gage
USGS provisional mean daily streamflow as captured on 4/1/26, data subject to revision by the USGS

	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP
1	0	3.47	21	959	86.4	344						
2	0	3.32	20.5	712	84	312						
3	0	3.56	20.2	1660	82.5	287						
4	0	3.84	19.6	2210	80.4	263						
5	0	4.12	19.4	1650	78.8	244						
6	0	6.1	19.2	1780	76.8	226						
7	0	9.98	19	1160	75.2	211						
8	0	10.1	18.8	762	73.8	199						
9	0	8.29	18.5	545	72.8	188						
10	0	7.85	18.3	417	74.9	180						
11	0	7.35	18.2	337	369	175						
12	0	7.05	18	284	304	175						
13	0.06	11.1	17.6	242	179	169						
14	2.54	121	17.5	212	152	164						
15	18.4	43.3	17.4	187	141	159						
16	9.55	59.7	17.4	168	1900	153						
17	6.23	156	17.2	156	2840	148						
18	4.62	111	16.8	146	2640	146						
19	3.47	61.9	17.2	138	1950	141						
20	2.76	48.7	17.2	131	1460	137						
21	2.57	48.7	17.3	124	1060	132						
22	2.73	39.8	17.2	121	834	131						
23	2.65	34.7	19	116	683	135						
24	2.86	31.5	142	112	586	137						
25	3.42	29.2	1510	107	518	132						
26	3.59	27	1530	103	467	128						
27	3.11	25.1	544	99.4	419	124						
28	3.19	23.6	289	96.6	380	119						
29	3.31	22.5	195	93.5		116						
30	3.13	21.5	155	91.2		114						
31	3.53		135	88.7		114						

Mean Annual to Date Calculated on April 1, 2026: 121 cfs
WY 2026 Forecast Mean Annual Calculated on April 1, 2026: 149 cfs