

Personnel:

The Agency is currently working on 3 positions: 1) active recruitment for the Maintenance Manager, with interviews being recently held, 2) reviewing/updating the Job Analysis for an upcoming Water Resources Engineer recruitment, and 3) an internship opportunity this summer in the hydrology section.

Dam Safety Funding – Historical Benefits Analysis Update:

The Agency is proceeding with the development of a funding strategy to support our dam safety and operations activities. Two approaches are currently being considered. One is performance of a nexus study to evaluate and identify the regulatory requirements and associated costs of our dam ownership. The other is development of a funding mechanism to support needed dam safety and capital improvement projects. In 1998, the Agency issued a report, the Salinas Valley Historical Benefits Analysis (HBA), which has long been looked to as a basis for the allocation of dam related costs. In 2021, the Agency prepared an Engineer's Report aimed at establishing an additional assessment methodology to address needed dam safety and capital improvement projects; however, that report and proposed new funding mechanism was not adopted, in part due to criticism of the outdated HBA, which had not been updated to consider projects developed by the Agency subsequent to its original 1998 release. As part of planning for the Interlake Tunnel Project (ITP), the Agency committed to prepare a draft Engineer's Report. Cognizant of earlier criticism regarding the outdated HBA, the Agency utilized available Department of Water Resources grant funds to update the HBA to help inform the draft ITP Engineer's Report, as well as others that may be considered in the future for dam projects.

On April 2nd, Agency staff and consultants presented the [draft Historical Benefits Analysis update to the Planning Committee](#). The update is comprised of two documents, a hydrologic and an economic analysis, and considers all components of the Agency's current water supply projects. The hydrologic analysis relies significantly on the United States Geological Survey's hydrologic model of the Salinas Valley, which has now been fully published and made available to the public. The Agency understands the great stakeholder interest in the HBA update and supporting technical tools and analyses and intends to hold a workshop in early July to receive questions and comments regarding the HBA update, after which, the Agency will evaluate status and determine next steps.

Initial feedback regarding the HBA update include:

- Can the benefits of different projects be quantitatively separated?
- Can the benefits of the Salinas Valley Water Project be more clearly articulated in the report?
- Can a table be developed to summarize the calculated difference between the "with" and "without" scenarios for each ESU, and include a simple explanation of the interpreted benefits?
- Can a table be developed to summarize the both the hydrologic and economic benefits by ESU?
- How does the hydrologic model account for horizontal recharge from the south to the north? Is there an estimate of quantity?

Monterey One Water Reconciliation Process:

Staff from the Agency and M1W have been working to finalize revisions to the financial sections of the 2015 Amended and Restated Water Recycling Agreement. The current schedule for formal review and approval of the revised draft follows:

- May 2nd WRA Finance Committee
- May 9th M1W Budget and Personnel Committee
- May 19th WRA Board of Directors
- June 2nd M1W Board of Directors
- June 17th WRA Board of Supervisors

Association of California Water Agencies:

ACWA is leading a coalition of water, wastewater and other local government entities in opposition to California Senate Bill 601. They are soliciting their members to join. The Agency has been working with the County's advocacy team on this issue and, on April 14th, the County of Monterey took an "oppose" position and sent a letter (attached) to State Senator Allen, the lead bill sponsor. I intend the Agency join the Coalition and send a similar letter.

The ACWA spring conference will be in Monterey this coming May 13th through the 15th. More information can be found at: <https://www.acwa.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/SC25-Brochure.pdf> After the conference, the Agency will host a tour of CSIP for the ACWA federal and state legislative teams.

Regulatory/Legislative Activities:

The Agency has been working with the County's advocacy team to prepare and submit federal funding requests to Representatives Lofgren and Panetta and Senators Padilla and Schiff to support three proposed projects: the San Antonio Dam Low-Level Outlet Works Rehabilitation Project; the Nacimiento Lake Drive Repaving Project; and the Reclamation Ditch Restoration Project. Examples of the request forms for each project are attached. I want to express my deep appreciation to Senator John Laird, Assemblymember Dawn Addis, City of Salinas Mayor Dennis Donohue, Nacimiento Water Project Commission Chairperson Grigger Jones, and San Luis Obispo County Fire Department Fire Chief John Owens for their support of our requests.

Other:

At long last, the Salinas Valley Hydrologic Models have been published by the USGS. As of April 16, 2025, the model files, supporting data, and associated Scientific Investigation Reports for the Salinas Valley Integrated Hydrologic Model (SVIHM) and Salinas Valley Operational Model (SVOM) are available to the public. These models have been used by the Agency to support the Interlake Tunnel and HCP projects; they have also been used by the County of Monterey and Salinas Valley Basin GSA. A link to the website where all of the files can be accessed is available on the Agency's homepage under News/Announcements:

[New Data on Salinas Valley Hydrology | U.S. Geological Survey](#)