

# **Agenda**

## **Sacramento Suburban Water District Water Banking Committee Meeting**

3701 Marconi Avenue  
Sacramento, CA 95821

Wednesday, March 27, 2024  
4:00 p.m.

**This meeting will be conducted both in-person in the Sacramento Suburban Water District's Boardroom at the address above, and by videoconference and teleconference using the information provided below. The public is invited to listen, observe, and provide comments during the meeting by any method provided. The Chairperson will call for public comment on each agenda item at the appropriate time and all votes will be taken by roll call. If a member of the public chooses to participate in this public meeting via videoconference and/or teleconference, please see the instructions below.**

**For members of the public interested in viewing and having the ability to comment at the public meeting via Zoom, an internet enabled computer equipped with a microphone and speaker or a mobile device with a data plan is required. Use of a webcam is optional. You also may call in to the meeting using teleconference without video. Please use the following login information for videoconferencing or teleconferencing:**

**Join the meeting from a computer, tablet or smartphone:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88564309976?pwd=OFNLYWY1Wi9xaXFHRjFlY0WHQxQT09>

**Meeting ID: 885 6430 9976**

**Password: 055875**

**You can also dial in using your phone: 1 (669) 900-6833**

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Zoom uses encryption of data during Zoom meetings. The two Agencies use a secure password to restrict access to scheduled meetings. The meeting host has control of content sharing, recording, and chat.

**Please mute your line.**

Where appropriate or deemed necessary, the Committee may take action on any item listed on the agenda, including items listed as information items. Public documents relating to any open session item listed on this agenda that are distributed to all or a majority of the members of the Committee less than 72 hours before the meeting are available for public inspection at each Agency's Administrative Offices.

The public may address the Committee concerning an agenda item either before or during the Committee’s consideration of that agenda item. Persons who wish to comment on either agenda or non-agenda items should fill out a Comment Card and give it to either one of the General Managers. The Chairperson will call for comments at the appropriate time. Comments will be subject to reasonable time limits (3 minutes).

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you have a disability, and you need a disability-related modification or accommodation to participate in this meeting, then please contact Sacramento Suburban Water District Human Resources at 916.679.3972. Requests must be made as early as possible, and at least one full business day before the start of the meeting.

**Call to Order**

**Roll Call**

**Public Comment**

This is an opportunity for the public to comment on non-agenda items within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Committee. Comments are limited to 3 minutes.

**Consent Items**

The Committee will be asked to approve all Consent Items at one time without discussion. Consent Items are expected to be routine and non-controversial. If any Committee member, staff, or interested person requests that an item be removed from the Consent Items, it will be considered with the Items for Discussion and/or Action.

1. **Draft Minutes of the October 30, 2023, Water Banking Committee Meeting**  
*Recommendation: Approve the Draft Minutes of the October 30, 2023, Water Banking Committee Meeting.*

**Items for Discussion and/or Action**

2. **Sacramento Regional Water Bank**  
*Recommendation: Receive report from staff and recommend to the full Board designating Sacramento Suburban Water District a Groundwater Reliant agency by consent at the April 22, 2024, regular Board meeting.*

**Adjournment**

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**Upcoming Meetings:**

Monday, April 22, 2024, at 6:00 p.m., Special Board Meeting  
Monday, April 29, 2024, at 4:00 p.m., Special Board Workshop

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I certify that the foregoing agenda for the March 27, 2024, meeting of the Sacramento Suburban Water District was posted by March 22, 2024, in a publicly-accessible location at the Sacramento Suburban Water District office, 3701 Marconi Avenue, Sacramento, California, and was made available to the public during normal business hours.

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Dan York  
General Manager/Secretary  
Sacramento Suburban Water District



## Water Banking Committee

### Agenda Item: 1

**Date:** March 27, 2024

**Subject:** Draft Minutes of the October 30, 2023, Water Banking Committee Meeting

**Staff Contact:** Dan York, General Manager

**Recommended Committee Action:**

Approve the Draft Minutes of the October 30, 2023, Water Banking Committee Meeting.

**Attachment:**

1 – Draft Minutes of the October 30, 2023, Water Banking Committee Meeting.

Attachment 1

**Minutes**

**Sacramento Suburban Water District  
Water Banking Committee Meeting**

Monday, October 30, 2023

**Location:**

3701 Marconi Avenue, Sacramento, CA 95821, and Audio Conference at 1-669-900-6833, and Video Conference using Zoom at Meeting Id #897 2248 3591

**Call to Order – Videoconference/Audioconference Meeting**

Chair Thomas called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m.

**Roll Call**

Directors Present: Kevin Thomas and Robert Wichert.

Directors Absent: None.

Staff Present: General Manager Dan York, Assistant General Manager Matt Underwood, and Heather Hernandez-Fort.

Public Present: Trevor Joseph, Jay Boatwright, Paul Helliker, Greg Zlotnick, Dave Jones, and Craig Locke.

**Announcements**

None.

**Public Comment**

None.

**Consent Items**

- 1. Draft Minutes of the February 17, 2021, Ad Hoc Water Banking and Transfer Committee Meeting**

The committee approved the minutes of the February 17, 2023, meeting.

AYES:	Thomas and Wichert.	ABSTAINED:	
NOES:		RECUSED:	
ABSENT:			

**Items for Discussion and/or Action**

- 2. Sacramento Regional Water Bank**

Assistant General Manager Matt Underwood summarized the staff report and introduced Trevor Joseph (Mr. Joseph), Manager of Technical Services with the Regional Water Authority, who presented the Power Point Presentation and answered clarifying questions.

Director Wichert asked several clarifying questions and requested to see the Water Accounting Framework document.

Mr. Joseph expressed he would send him the document.

Director Wichert requested to see a complete schedule and budget.

Mr. Joseph expressed he could send him the schedule and budget as well.

Director Wichert requested to have a presentation at the November regular Board meeting.

**Adjournment**

Chair Thomas adjourned the meeting at 4:36 p.m.

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Dan York  
General Manager/Secretary  
Sacramento Suburban Water District



## Agenda Item: 2

**Date:** March 27, 2024

**Subject:** Sacramento Regional Water Bank

**Staff Contact:** Matt Underwood, Assistant General Manager

### **Recommended Committee Action:**

Receive report from staff and recommend to the full Board designating Sacramento Suburban Water District a Groundwater Reliant agency by consent at the April 22, 2024, regular Board meeting.

### **Background:**

To enhance the long-term viability of the Sacramento region’s communities, businesses, and families, certain water purveyors have committed to a collaborative effort to start up a program to assess the need to better adapt the regional water supply system to climate change and drought. The focus at this time is on expanding conjunctive use to increase the resilience of the region’s water supplies to meet needs – in short by creating a 21<sup>st</sup>-century water system. This program is known as the Sacramento Regional Water Bank (Water Bank).

The Water Bank is a multi-agency partnership that allows participating local water agencies to expand their conjunctive use by making greater use of the expansive natural reservoir (the aquifer) under the Sacramento region for storing water during wet times for use during dry times.

Staff presented the Water Bank at the October 30, 2023, Water Banking Committee meeting, and at the November 20, 2023, regular Board meeting.

The Water Bank Program Committee is currently working on developing a Water Accounting System (WAS). Defining a baseline (conditions absent the Water Bank operations) is a requirement for proper accounting of Water Bank recharge and recovery. Each agency is required to submit agency-specific assumptions for Water Bank baseline and operations. The key component in establishing the agency baseline is to designate if the agency is 1) “Surface Water Reliant”, 2) “Groundwater Reliant”, or 3) “Surface Water and Groundwater Joint Use”.

### **Summary:**

Sacramento Suburban Water District (SSWD) is by regulation 100% reliant on groundwater to ensure continuous supply to its customers. SSWD has no surface water rights, only contract entitlements for surface water. In addition, the availability of surface water to SSWD has a history of being intermittent and unpredictable. Therefore, SSWD must maintain groundwater production capacity necessary to meet 100% of its customers’ needs.

By enhancing the Sacramento region's utilization of conjunctive use through the Water Bank program the predicted health of the aquifer is improved with the benefit to SSWD of its groundwater supply becoming more resilient and therefore more reliable.

**Discussion:**

**A. WATER SUPPLY**

Groundwater

**Rights** - SSWD has established rights to pump groundwater to supply the entire needs of District customers in any one year and has exercised this right since its inception. Under California law, SSWD is not required to obtain a permit or other approval from any agency to establish its right to pump this groundwater supply. SSWD's groundwater wells and storage facilities are capable of producing 100% of SSWD's annual water demand.

**Permitting** - As a municipal pumper, SSWD may extract and serve groundwater anywhere within its service area, or outside of it. SSWD has 71 operable wells that are permitted through the State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water (DDW). SSWD is required to comply with all applicable federal, local, and state water quality and drinking water standards.

**SGA and SGMA** - SSWD pumps from the North American Sub-basin (NASb), which is jointly managed on behalf of SSWD and other municipal pumpers by the Sacramento Groundwater Authority (SGA) under a Groundwater Management Plan adopted consistent with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). SSWD works with other groundwater pumpers in the basin to sustainably manage groundwater supply consistent with SGMA.

Surface Water

**Rights** - SSWD has no surface water rights.

**Contracts** - SSWD has two contractual entitlements to surface water, one from the City of Sacramento (City) and one from the Placer County Water Agency (PCWA).

**Use** - SSWD periodically uses surface water in-lieu of groundwater pumping during permissive water year types and in portions of the SSWD service area when it provides benefits to SSWD customers or aids in meeting other local/regional objectives.

**Arcade Water District and City of Sacramento** - One of SSWD's two predecessor agencies, Arcade Water District (AWD), entered into an agreement with the City to reserve a water supply for AWD's service area within the City's American River Place of Use. That agreement committed a portion of the City's surface water supplies for future use by AWD, subject to annual payments. After SSWD was formed in 2002, it continued AWD's payments to the City for the American River Place of Use water supply and AWD's planning and design of facilities that would enable SSWD to receive treated water from the City's E.A. Fairbairn water treatment plant.



In 2004, SSWD and the City entered into a Wholesale Water Supply Agreement under which the City agreed to supply up to 20 million gallons per day (mgd) of treated surface water to SSWD under the former AWD entitlement. The Agreement contains two significant limitations.

- SSWD may only use City treated surface water in the American River Place of Use, which covers most, but not all, of SSWD’s South Service Area and none of SSWD’s North Service Area.
- SSWD may only obtain City treated surface water when flows in the American River exceed the “Hodge Flow Limitations”. This generally means that City treated surface water is only available in the wetter water years.

**Northridge Water District and Placer County Water Agency** - In 2000, SSWD’s other predecessor agency, Northridge Water District (NWD), entered into an agreement to purchase water from PCWA. When SSWD was formed in 2002, it assumed this agreement. The agreement provides that SSWD would buy surface water from PCWA at an increasing volume each year until the maximum contract amount of 29,000 acre-feet per year was reached in 2014, and then maintain this level through the expiration of the agreement in 2025.

2018 - The agreement was amended in 2018 to extend its term through 2045. This permitted SSWD to secure a Long-Term Warren Act Contract for the same term (i.e., through 2025) from the Bureau of Reclamation to wheel PCWA water supplies through Folsom Reservoir to the San Juan Water District (SJWD) for treatment by SJWD and then delivery to SSWD through the Cooperative Transmission Pipeline.

2020 - The PCWA agreement was further amended in 2020 to further reduce SSWD’s annual “take or pay” obligation from 12,000 acre-feet to 8,000 acre-feet, with the provision that if PCWA can make additional water available to SSWD in any year, SSWD has the right to take up to 21,000 acre-feet of additional water in that year.

Limitations - The PCWA entitlement has limitations.

- American River Flows
  - PCWA may not deliver water to SSWD in any year when the March through November unimpaired inflow into Folsom Reservoir is less than 1,600,000 acre-feet.
  - However, notwithstanding the foregoing, PCWA may deliver water to SSWD in the following December through February provided water is being released from Folsom Reservoir for purposes of flood protection.
- PCWA Needs
  - The agreement is subject to cutback if PCWA needs any portion of the SSWD entitlement to serve PCWA customers in Placer County, or to meet PCWA’s Middle Fork Project power generation obligations to PG&E.
- SSWD Use
  - SSWD Customers – SSWD may only use the PCWA water in PCWA’s expanded Place of Use which covers only a portion of SSWD’s North Service Area.

- Sale and Transfer - SSWD may sell or transfer any portion of its available PCWA entitlement within PCWA's expanded Place of Use (e.g., to the California American Water Company).

## B. CONJUNCTIVE USE PROGRAM

As one of the original signatories of the Water Forum Agreement, SSWD has operated an active Conjunctive Use Program since 1998. Under this program, SSWD supplies imported treated surface water to its customers under its City and its PCWA contractual entitlements in lieu of providing pumped groundwater. This reduces SSWD's need to extract groundwater which in turn allows SSWD's groundwater supplies to be replenished through natural groundwater recharge. This operation is referred to as "in-lieu recharge."

SSWD's groundwater wells are located in the NASb which is part of the Sacramento Valley Groundwater Basin. While groundwater levels normally fluctuate (rise and fall) in response to hydrologic conditions, groundwater levels in the NASb have declined over the 50 years prior to the millennium at an average rate of approximately 1.5 to 2.0 feet per year. There is a regional consensus that this decline was largely the result of excessive groundwater pumping.

Throughout the history of SSWD, investments in a Conjunctive Use Program have had a significant effect on bolstering groundwater supplies in the region. By supplementing its supplies with surface water when it is available during wetter years, SSWD's groundwater pumping was reduced, thereby allowing for more groundwater (aquifer) recharge.

## C. CONJUNCTIVE USE RESULTS

### Water Banking

- SSWD's in-lieu recharge program has contributed to the regional banking of over 400,000 acre-feet of groundwater since 1998.
- SSWD has banked in excess of 245,000 acre-feet of groundwater to improve supply reliability since 2003.
- SSWD files annual reports with the State Water Resources Control Board to document its banked water. These efforts have been recognized and substantiated by the State of California - Department of Water Resources data and reporting.

### Aquifer Recovery

- Since 2003, groundwater levels have stabilized in the portion of the NASb from which SSWD pumps water. This was the result, in large part, of an increase in SSWD's in-lieu recharge practice (i.e., increased surface water purchases by SSWD when available) and enhanced conservation practices on the part of SSWD's customers spurred by SSWD's various education and incentive programs.
- Groundwater level recovery, combined with absence of a robust aquifer storage (i.e., groundwater recharge) effort in the area, underscore the general effectiveness of conjunctive use programs (in-lieu recharge programs) and groundwater banking efforts.

- As demonstrated in the Sacramento Valley Groundwater Level chart (Attachment 1), this water supply management strategy reversed the historical trend of groundwater level decline by reducing groundwater pumping to allow the aquifer to naturally stabilize and then begin to recharge.

#### D. WATER BANK

As mentioned above, the Water Bank's goal is increased resilience of the region's water supplies through expanded use of conjunctive use. The Water Bank is a multi-agency partnership that allows participating local water agencies to make greater use of the expansive natural reservoir (the aquifer) under the Sacramento region for storing water during wet times for use during dry times.

SSWD is a major contributor to the development of the Water Bank. The Water Bank is anticipated to be completed in 2025 and will greatly enhance SSWD and other participating water agency's ability to expand conjunctive use operations in the NASb and South American Subbasins (SASb). The goal of the Water Bank is to expand conjunctive use throughout the region to:

1. Improve long-term regional reliability and provide statewide water supply opportunities when possible; and
2. Support healthy ecosystem function on the lower American River.

#### E. REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS

SSWD is required to maintain capability to provide 100% of customer needs through its own groundwater pumping capacity. Relevant regulatory requirements are provided below.

##### SSWD's Water Supply Permit (01-09-05-PER-011)

- Section 1.2:  
*"The District's well system will be used to provide groundwater to meet customers' needs."*
- Section 1.3:  
*"Purchased surface waters are used by SSWD for conjunctive use. Conjunctive use is meant to offset groundwater usage thus decreasing overdraft and further depletion of the groundwater basin."*

##### California Code of Regulations

- Section 64554(a), Article 2, Chapter 16, Division 4, Title 22:  
*"At all times, a public water system's water source(s) shall have the capacity to meet the system's maximum day demand (MDD)."*

The availability of surface water supplies to SSWD from the Lower American River (via the City in the SSA) and from Folsom Lake (via PCWA in the NSA) are dependent on minimum flow criteria. Because there are flow criteria, and because flows are naturally irregular (i.e., not predictable), SSWD is therefore required to meet Maximum Day Demand (MDD) (and Peak

Hourly Demand (PHD)) exclusively with firm (unencumbered) groundwater supplies (and with storage capacity for PHD) and precludes including surface water supplies. This cements SSWD's status as a groundwater only-reliant public water system.

SSWD has sufficient groundwater source and storage capacity to meet both MDD and PHD. As a participating signatory to the Water Forum Agreement, utilizing surface water when available demonstrates SSWD's commitment to environmental stewardship and to maintaining regional groundwater supply resilience through groundwater banking.

**Fiscal Impact:**

SSWD has invested considerable resources in a Conjunctive Use water supply system and in Water Banking in efforts to first ameliorate declining groundwater levels, and later to work to arrest them, in the groundwater basin beneath its service area.

For example, from 2003 to 2023 SSWD purchased approximately 222,000 acre-feet of surface water at a cost of approximately \$38.0 million. SSWD and its former individual agencies, NWD and AWD, have invested approximately \$28.9 million on North Service Area surface water facilities and entitlements and approximately \$25.9 million on South Service Area surface water facilities and entitlements. This is a total capital investment of \$54.8 million, and a total surface water investment of \$92.8 million, over twenty years.

**Strategic Plan Alignment:**

- Goal A: Provide a High-Quality Reliable Water Supply by Ensuring it is Sustainable, Clean and Safe
- Goal B: Optimize Operational and Organizational Efficiencies
- Goal C: Ensure Fiscal Responsibility and Affordable Rates
- Goal D: Maintain Excellent Customer Service

**Attachment:**

1. Sacramento Valley Groundwater Level chart

# Groundwater Levels, Well 10N05E14Q002M Sacramento Valley (Sacramento County)

