



SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY
**FLOOD CONTROL & WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

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KRIS BALAJI
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

ADVISORY WATER COMMISSION

June 19, 2019, 1:00 p.m.

Public Health Conference Room, 1601 E. Hazelton Avenue, Stockton, California

AGENDA

- I. Roll Call
- II. Approve Minutes for the Meeting of April 17, 2019
- III. Discussion/Action Items:
 - A. Local Sales Tax Measure Development Insights, Andy Chesley, SJCOG
 - B. Flood Conveyance and Levee Maintenance Assessment District (See Attached) – Kim Floyd, Kim Floyd Communications
 - C. Integrated Regional Water Management Governance MOU Development (See Attached) – Katie Cole, Woodard Curran
 - D. SJAFCA Update, Chris Elias
 - E. Standing Updates:
 1. Sacramento – San Joaquin Delta
 2. Sustainable Groundwater Management Act – SGMA
 3. Flood Management and Water Resources Activities
- IV. Informational Items (See Attached):
 - A. May 28, 2019 – Bay Area News Group article “Seeking more water, Silicon Valley eyes Central Valley Farmland”
 - B. February 18, 2019 – Ca Department of Fish & Wildlife; “Nutria Eradication Efforts Moving Ahead in Delta”
 - C. June 7, 2019 – Manteca Bulletin article, “Manteca used lowest amount of groundwater in 16 years during May”
- V. Public Comment: *Please limit comments to three minutes.*

(Continued on next page)

ADVISORY WATER COMMISSION

June 19, 2019, 1:00 p.m.

AGENDA

(Continued)

VI. Commissioners' Comments:

VII. Adjournment:

Next Regular Meeting
July 17, 2019, 1:00 p.m.
Public Health Conference Room

Commission may make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors on any listed item.

If you need disability-related modification or accommodation in order to participate in this meeting, please contact the Water Resources Staff at (209) 468-3089 at least 48 hours prior to the start of the meeting. Any materials related to items on this agenda distributed to the Commissioners less than 72 hours before the public meeting are available for public inspection at Public Works Dept. Offices located at the following address: 1810 East Hazelton Ave., Stockton, CA 95205. These materials are also available at <http://www.sjwater.org>. Upon request these materials may be made available in an alternative format to persons with disabilities.

**REPORT FOR THE MEETING OF
THE ADVISORY WATER COMMISSION OF THE SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY
FLOOD CONTROL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
April 17, 2019**

The regular meeting of the Advisory Water Commission of the San Joaquin County Flood Control and Water Conservation District was held on Wednesday, April 17, 2019, beginning at 1:00 p.m., at Public Health Services, 1601 E. Hazelton Avenue, Stockton, California.

I. Roll Call

Present were Commissioners Nomellini, Torres-O'Callahan, de Graaf, Starr, Winn, Herrick, Holbrook, Hartmann, Meyers, Neudeck; Alternates Richle, Reyna-Hiestand; Secretary Nakagawa, Alternate Vice Chair Henneberry-Schermesser and Chairman McGurk.

Others present are listed on the Attendance Sheet. The Commission had a quorum.

II. Approval of Minutes for the February 20, 2019 Meeting

Motion and second to approve the minutes of February 20, 2019 (Neudeck/Meyers).

Unanimously approved.

SCHEDULED ITEMS

Mr. Tom McGurk, Chairman of the Advisory Water Commission (AWC), led the agenda. Secretary Nakagawa asked to skip to item III.B. because Commissioner Winn had not yet arrived.

III. Discussion / Action Items:

B. Discussion on Integrated Regional Water Management Governance MOU Development – Katie Cole, Woodard Curran

Secretary Nakagawa introduced Katie Cole, representative from Woodard Curran, for a presentation on IRWM. Katie Cole discussed her prior experience which consists of various IRWM planning stages ranging from funding applications to implementation. Katie Cole moved onto the presentation which included an IRWM matrix that covered plans implemented by other agencies throughout the state. The 5 elements of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) were then discussed.

Commissioner Hartmann asked for clarification regarding the previous meeting's motion regarding the creation of a new entity. Secretary Nakagawa reminded the commission of the motion from the February 20th meeting regarding the creation of a new entity. In order to bring more entities onto the body would require an adjustment to the ordinance. Development of an MOU using the AWC was intended to be created so that additional bodies could join the AWC extension. A new entity was not intended to be created, rather an extension of the AWC would be used.

Commissioner Nomellini mentioned a Joint Powers Authority before discussing the need to update the MOU. He also mentioned providing the AWC extension with funding authority. The goal was to prevent the creation of additional entities. It was agreed that this was all consistent with the staff recommendation from the February 20th. Commissioner Holbrook mentioned that the difference is to bring in additional bodies that are not currently a part of the AWC.

Katie Cole continued her presentation and discussed the common elements among the regions listed in the matrix that she provided. Katie Cole pointed out the variety in size and length of the plans that were submitted, ranging from 5 pages to 14 pages. She also discussed the importance of flexibility in the IRWM plan. Katie Cole wanted AWC members to discuss with their respective staff members regarding desired elements to include in the IRWM plan.

Commissioner Holbrook mentioned that his board wants the IRWM group to make actual selections. Katie Cole responded that some groups dictate the funding and mentioned that guidelines from DWR help decide funding decisions.

Secretary Nakagawa reminded the commission of the motion from the February 20th meeting regarding the creation of a new entity. An adjustment to the ordinance or creating of a MOU would be required to create an extension of the AWC. The state requires at least 3 entities with at least 2 that deal with water rights. In order to bring more groups onto the body would require an adjustment to the ordinance. The staff recommendation was for the commission to be allowed to recommend to the Board of Supervisors to fund IRWM related efforts, including updates to the plan and organizing the MOU group.

Commissioner Hartmann asked for a recommendation regarding that type of entity that would be best suited for approving projects. He also stated that he wanted the MOU to be as simple as possible and to allow for an easy "on-ramp" and easy "off-ramp".

Katie Cole mentioned the importance of dealing with non-participating members. She also mentioned other regions who have a scoring process which allows them to rank and eliminate projects. Katie Cole also confirmed that the scoring process, if desired, is set by the group.

Secretary Nakagawa asked for comments to be supplied to his staff or during the May AWC meeting. Commissioner Hartmann asked for a draft version of the MOU to be supplied at the May AWC so that all members have documentation to take to their boards as a starting point. Commissioners Nomellini and Hartmann discussed including diversified groups.

Other project participants don't need to be included in the MOU, but the language of the MOU should require the inclusion for other groups (such as disadvantaged community groups) to be included in projects that affect them.

Secretary Nakagawa confirmed that a shell MOU would be provided for the next meeting so that all members could return to their boards and staffs with information to review.

A. Discussion on Possible Local Sales Tax Measure for Water

Commissioner Hartmann and Commissioner Winn discussed concerns over areas that lack the revenue to fund their own projects. Commissioner Winn asked if the county as a whole would want to create a fund for water at all levels; a fund to provide the county with money for water well into the future. The Measure K sales tax for transportation generates approximately \$50-

\$60 million a year. Measure K is estimated to generate \$4-\$5 billion dollars over its 30 year lifetime.

Chairman McGurk asked if the sales tax was protected so that it couldn't be taken and used for other purposes. Commissioner Winn confirmed that it is protected from the standpoint that it is generated and controlled by the voters. Commissioner Winn discussed the possible sales tax further and let it be known that he presented the sales tax as an option and he is open to other ideas.

Commissioner Hartmann voiced concerns regarding the regressive nature of sales taxes. He stated that he strongly desired a regional approach to the sales tax measure over property based fees.

The difficulty in passing the measure was discussed and the need to make the language regarding the sales tax as specific as possible. Commissioner Torres-O'Callahan mentioned the establishment of a Citizen's Oversight Committee in the City of Lathrop. She mentioned that this committee may have been instrumental in passing the sales tax in Lathrop. She also agreed that explicitly stating the uses of the sales tax and making it as specific as possible would also be very helpful.

Commissioner Reyna-Hiestand mentioned two recent sales tax measures that had been passed by the City of Tracy. She concurred that being as specific as possible about the use of the tax funds was important. The sales tax measures that had passed in Tracy explicitly stated the uses of the tax money. Commissioner Hartmann and Commissioner Reyna-Hiestand discussed the applicability of online purchase sales taxes and stated that it depends on the location of the seller.

Commissioner Winn stated that these types of measures are most successful in a general election. Chairman McGurk asked Secretary Nakagawa how much it would cost to hire consultants for outreach and education efforts regarding the sales tax measure. Secretary Nakagawa responded that a recent effort cost over a million dollars.

Commissioner Winn stressed the importance of deciding how the intricacies of the measure would work. He stated that the commission should be able to come to the decision regarding whether or not the AWC should move forward with the sales tax measure.

Mary Elizabeth with the Sierra Club, which supports disadvantaged communities, agreed with Commissioner Hartmann that the sales tax measure is regressive. The sales tax revenue from truck stops, gas stations, etc. was viewed as helpful, but a small portion overall. Mary Elizabeth also mentioned that Stockton and parts of San Joaquin County are paying some of the highest water rates with a median income of approximately \$44,000 in Stockton.

Secretary Nakagawa stated that consultants would not be hired at this time.

C. Standing Updates

Not discussed due to time, would go well beyond scheduled meeting end time.

1. Sacramento – San Joaquin Delta

2. Sustainable Groundwater Management Act – SGMA (See Attached)

3. Flood Management and Water Resources Activities

a. March 20, 2019 – California Central Valley Flood Control Association 2019 Flood Forum Presentations (See Attached)

D. Informational Items:

A. February 19, 2019 – Email from Jacklyn Shaw; USACE/Pacific Delta Dredging

B. February 18, 2019 – latimes.com; “Brown was obsessed with twin-tunnel vision. Newsom has a more realistic view”

C. February 19, 2019 – nrdc.org; “Dec. 2019 Bay-Delta Agreements Were Only Smoke and Mirrors?”

D. April 3, 2019 – harder.house.gov; “Rep. Harder Statement on State Water Board’s Plan for San Francisco-Delta Estuary Plan”

E. April 5, 2019 – Maven; “Cal Water Fix: Metropolitan Board Worship Compares One-Tunnel Options to Cal Water Fix”

F. Public Comment: Public comments, adopted by the Advisory Water Commission on January 17, 2018, will be limited to 3-minutes, unless extended to the discretion of the Chair.

Mary Elizabeth stated a fraction of the money from the tax revenue should go to the governing body and a fraction to regional projects. Mary Elizabeth also brought up the fact that she had a difficult time finding an alternate for the governing body and including broader representation. Commissioner Nomellini asked if Mary Elizabeth had a recommendation for an alternate representative.

G. Commissioner’s Comments:

No comments given.

Next Regular Meeting: May 15, 2019 at 1:00 p.m.
Public Health Conference Room

VII. Adjournment: 3:01 P.M.

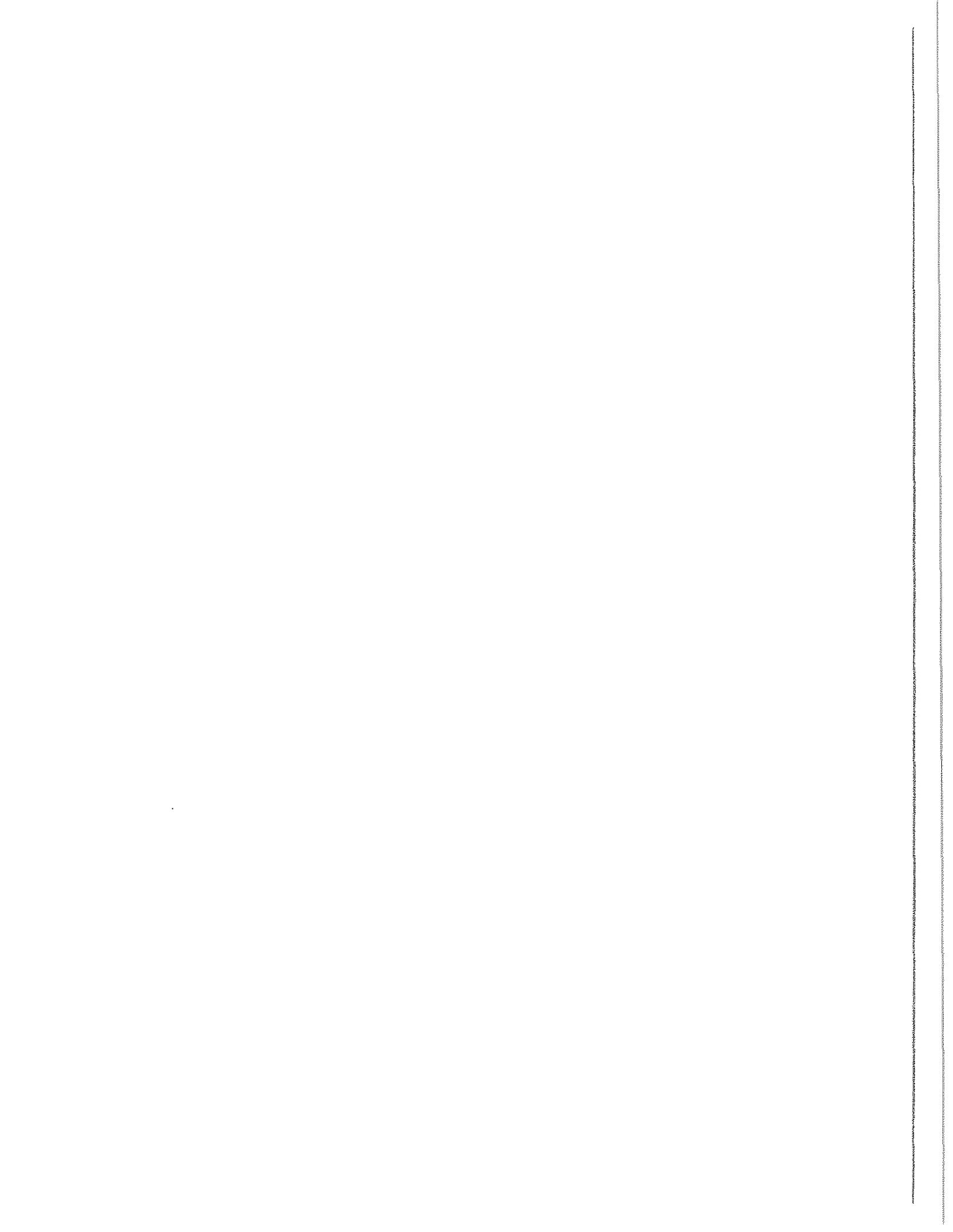
2019 ADVISORY WATER COMMISSION ROSTER, ROLL CALL & VOTE SHEET

(5 members necessary for quorum)

AGENCY	REP	TERM	ALT	TERM	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
					16	20	20	17	15	19	17	21	18	16	20	18
CDWA	Nomellini, Dante J.	12/10/19	Nomellini, John Dante, Jr.	12/10/19	X	X		X								
CSJWCD	Roberts, Reid	12/11/18	Thompson, Grant	12/11/18		X										
City of Escalon	Murken, Walter	02/24/20	Alves, Edward B.	02/24/20												
City of Lathrop	Torres-O'Callahan, Jenniefer	12/12/18	Lazard, Diane	12/12/18		X		X								
City of Lodi	Swimley, Jr., Charlie	02/21/21	Richle, Andrew	02/21/21	X	X		X								
City of Manteca	Moorhead, Debby	03/13/19	Houghton, Mark	03/13/19		X										
City of Ripon	de Graaf, Daniel	06/27/21	Restuccia, Mike	06/27/21		X		X								
City of Stockton	Andrade, Jesús	03/13/19	Wright, Dan	03/13/19		X										
City of Tracy	Sharma, Kul	01/15/19	Reyna-Hiestand, Stephanie	01/15/19	X	X		X								
NSJWCD	Starr, Charlie	12/10/19	Valente, Joe	12/10/19	X	X		X								
OID	Doornenbal, Herman	01/26/16	Alpers, Jack Deceased	01/26/16												
BOS	Sup. Winn, Chuck	12/31/18	Sup. Miller, Kathy	12/31/18	X	X		X								
SDWA	Herrick, John	01/25/20	VACANT	01/26/16	X	X		X								
SSJID	Holbrook, John	01/17/21	Kuil, Dale	01/17/21	X	X		X								
SW County	Weisenberger, David	09/26/18	VACANT													
WID	Christensen, Anders	12/12/18	Heberle, Doug	12/12/18	X	X										
Enviro/Fish/Wildlife Org	Salazar Jr., Joe	03/13/19	N/A													
Urban Flood Control RD	Hartmann, George	08/19/19	N/A		X	X		X								
Urban Flood Control RD	Meyers, Drew	08/19/19	N/A		X	X		X								
General Bus Com	VACANT		N/A													
Bldg & Constr Industry	Neudeck, Christopher	08/19/19	N/A		X	X		X								
SECRETARY	Nakagawa, Brandon	N/A	N/A		X	X		X								
VICE CHAIR At-Large Rep	AT LARGE REP Price, Willard	01/16/19	AT-LARGE ALT Annette Henneberry Schermesser	01/15/19	X	X		X								
CHAIRMAN	SEWD McGurk, Thomas	12/10/19	SEWD Sanguinetti, Paul	12/10/19	X	X		X								
STOP HERE ON ROLL CALL																
CA Water Service Co	Freeman, John (Ex-officio)	PERM														

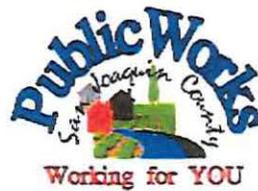
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 C a n c e l l e d
 F l o o d
 F o r u m

ATTACHMENT
III. B





Greatness grows here.



San Joaquin County Flood Control and Water Conservation District

Flood Conveyance and Levee Maintenance Assessment District

June 19, 2019

Today's Presentation

- **Informational Update Only**
 - Brief Background
 - Updated Funding Sources and Needs
 - Proposed Benefit Assessment Approach
 - Resulting Rates
 - Process and Timing

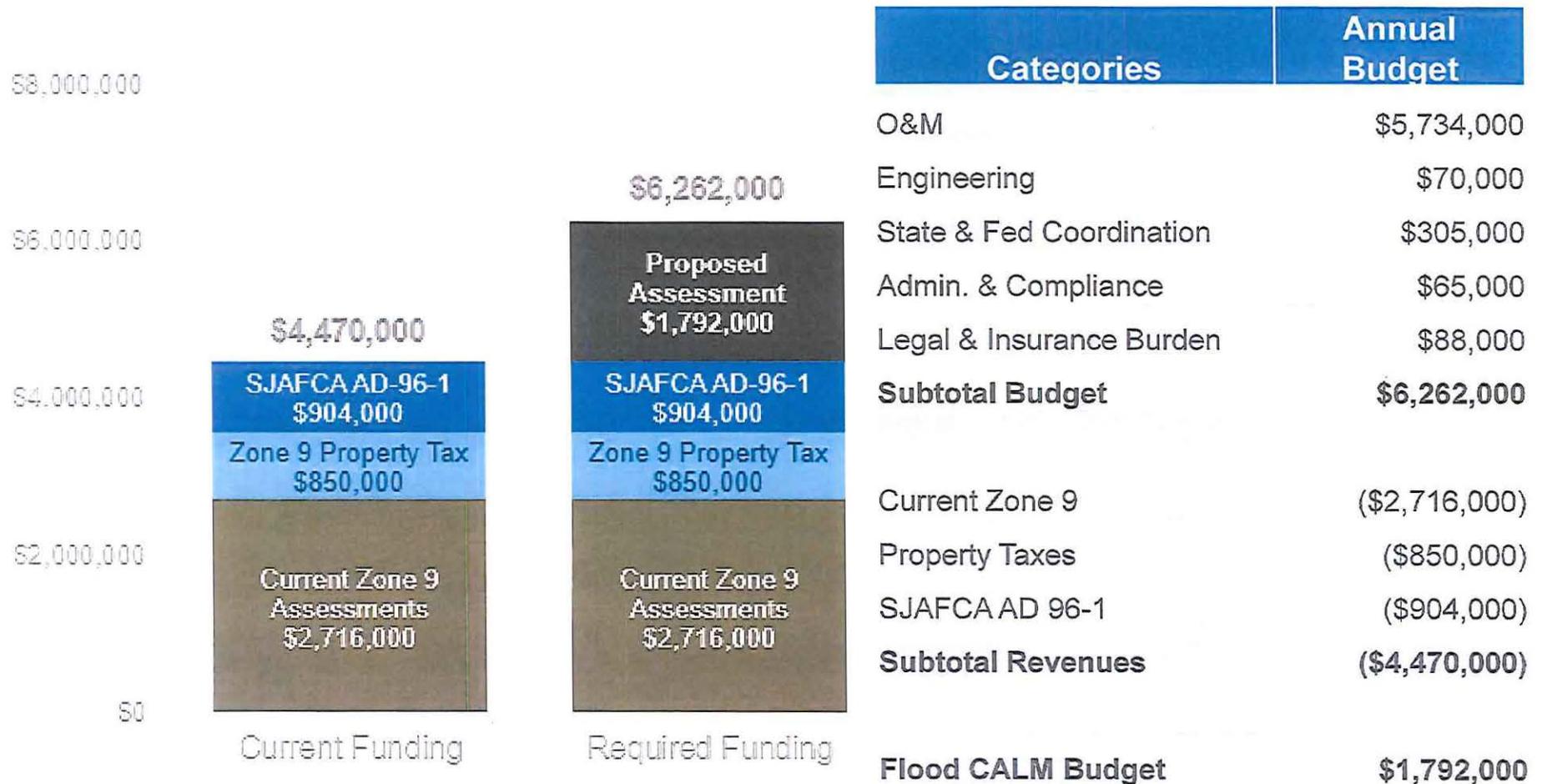
Background

- **SJC Public Works Channel Maintenance Division currently operates and maintains:**
 - 119 miles of Project Channels
 - 112 Miles of Project Levees
 - 153 miles of Non-Project Channels, as resources allow
 - 3 Miles of Non-Project Levees

(Maintenance funded by revenues from San Joaquin County Flood Control and Water Conservation District Zone 9 and SJAFCA AD 96-1)

Services improve public safety and support economic sustainability.

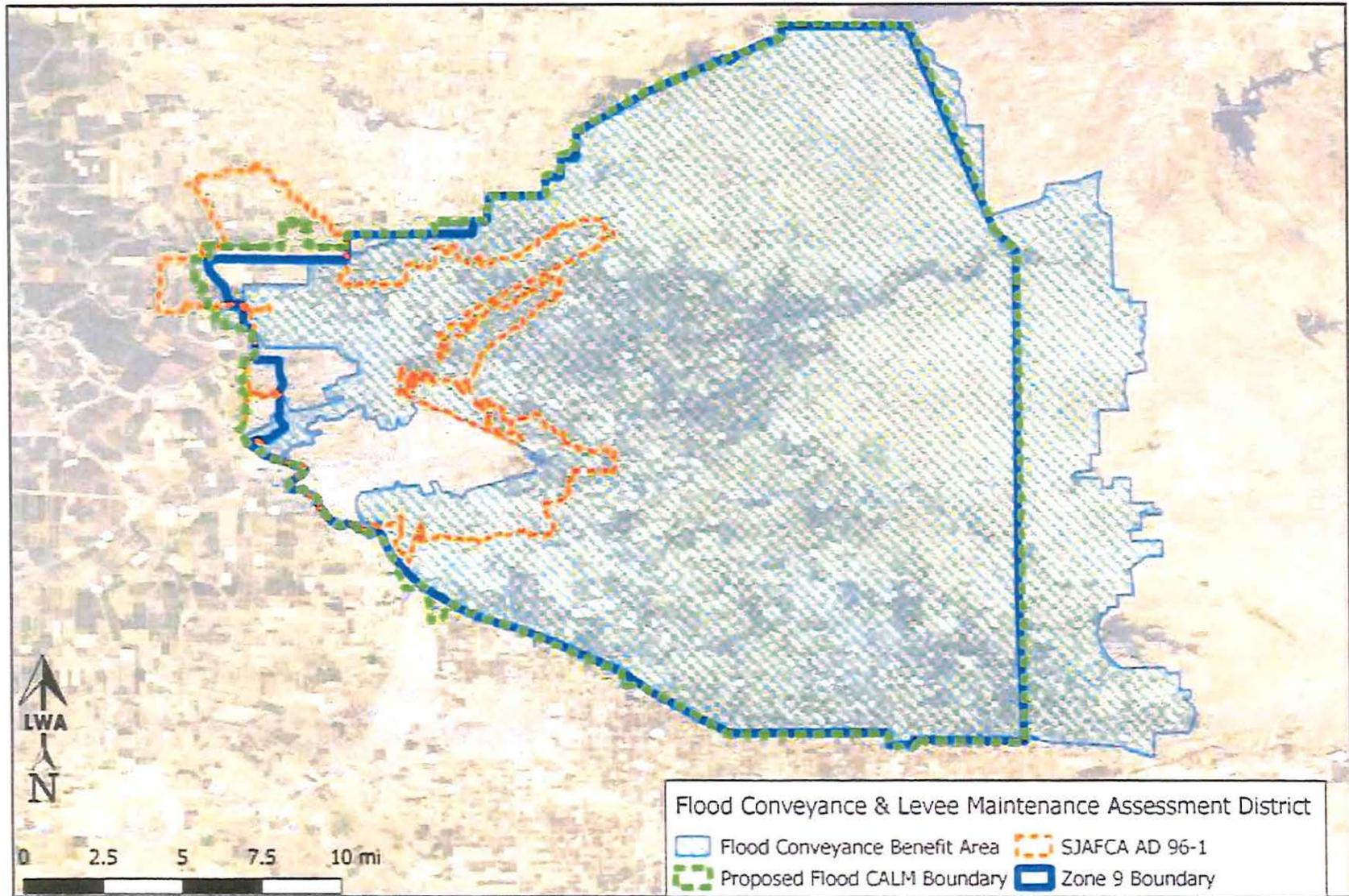
Funding Needs



Proposed Benefit Assessment

- **Flood Control and Levee Maintenance (Flood CALM) Assessment District**
- **Approach**
 - Evaluation of Additional Funding Need to Maintain Project Levees and Channels
 - Evaluation of avoided Flooding from Project Levees (Levee Maintenance Benefit), and
 - Evaluation of Flood Conveyance through Project Channels (Channel Maintenance Benefit)

Proposed Flood CALM Boundary



Assessment Methodology

- **Levee O&M Benefit**
 - Benefit based on avoided damages to:
 - *Land & Structures*
- **Flood Conveyance Benefit**
 - Benefit based on:
 - *Runoff (Runoff Coefficient & Parcel Size)*
 - *Relative length and effort to maintain the Channel conveying Flood Water*
- **Benefit apportioned based on property characteristics (includes location)**

Levee Operations & Maintenance

Land & Structure Damage

- **Property's risk of and severity of flooding?** → **Depth of Flooding from Breach and Length of Levee Breached (for all Levee Breach Scenarios)**
- **What type of property and structure(s)?** → **Land Use Category
Structure Use Category**
- **How big is the property/ structure(s)?** → **Property Size
Average Structure Size by Land Use Type**
- **How much damage would result from flooding?** → **Land Damage Rate
Structure Damage Rate**

Channel Operations & Maintenance

Conveyance of Flood Water

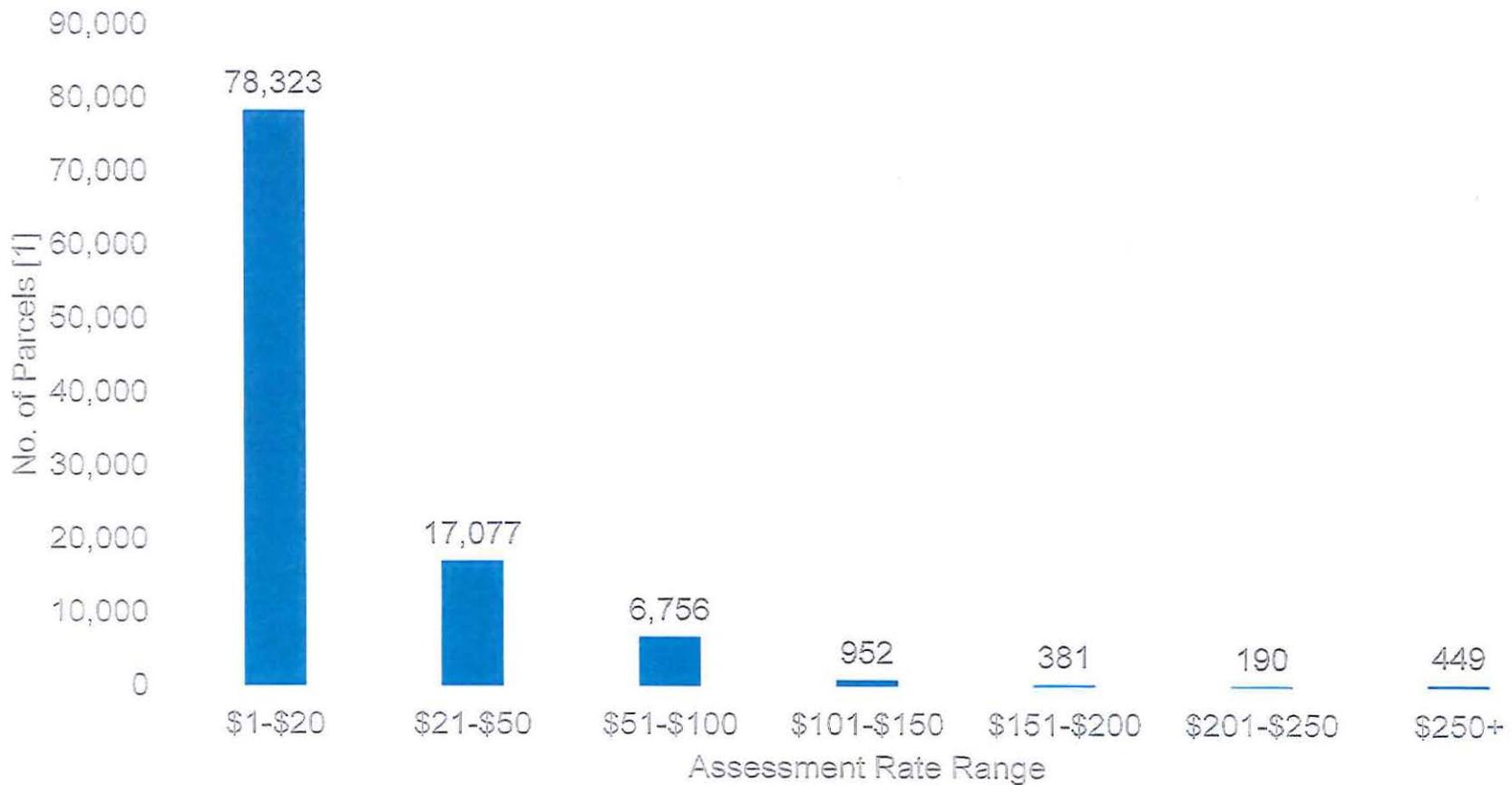
- **How is the property used?** → **Land Use Category**
- **How much stormwater is generated?** → **Parcel Size & Relative Runoff Factor**
- **Where does the water go?** → **“Rolling Ball Analysis”**
Length of Project Channel (based on location) and Relative Channel Maintenance Factor (Size of channel & whether leveed or un-leveed)

Benefit Apportionment & Assessment Rate

- **Cost to Provide Special Benefits is equal to the Budget for Flood CALM**
 - Total Budget of \$1,792,000
- **Cost is Apportioned to Total Benefit Units**
 - Total Benefits Units = (Levee O&M Benefits x Equalization Factor) + Flood Conveyance Benefits
 - Equalization Factor between Levee O&M and Flood Conveyance
 - Benefits need to reflect relative level of benefit and effort between Levee O&M and Conveyance. County has determined a **3:1 ratio between Levee O&M and Flood Conveyance services.**
 - Also need to adjust for difference in the magnitude of benefit units between Levee and Flood Conveyance

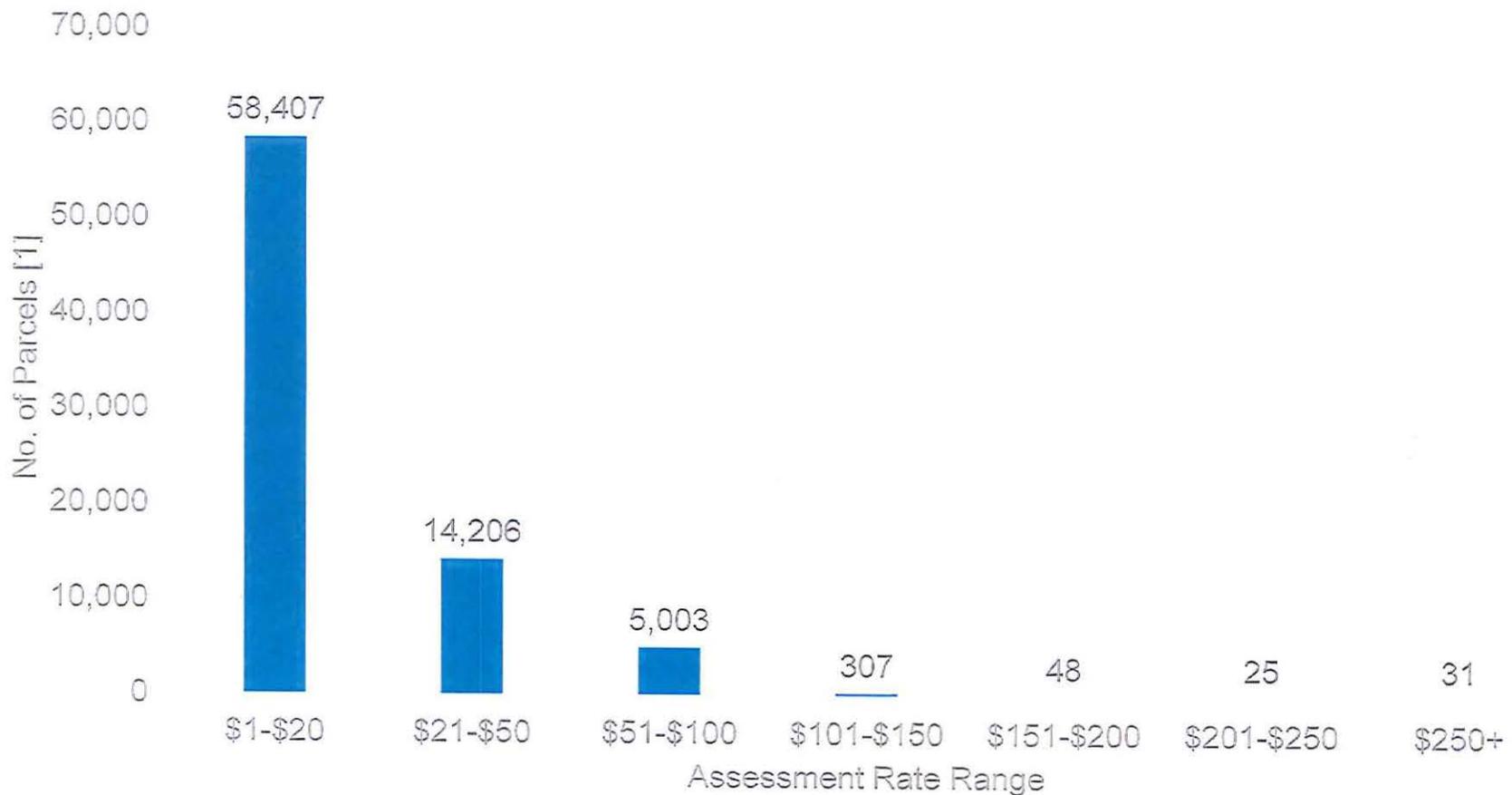
Proposed Benefit Assessment - Sample Rates

Assessment Land Use – (All)



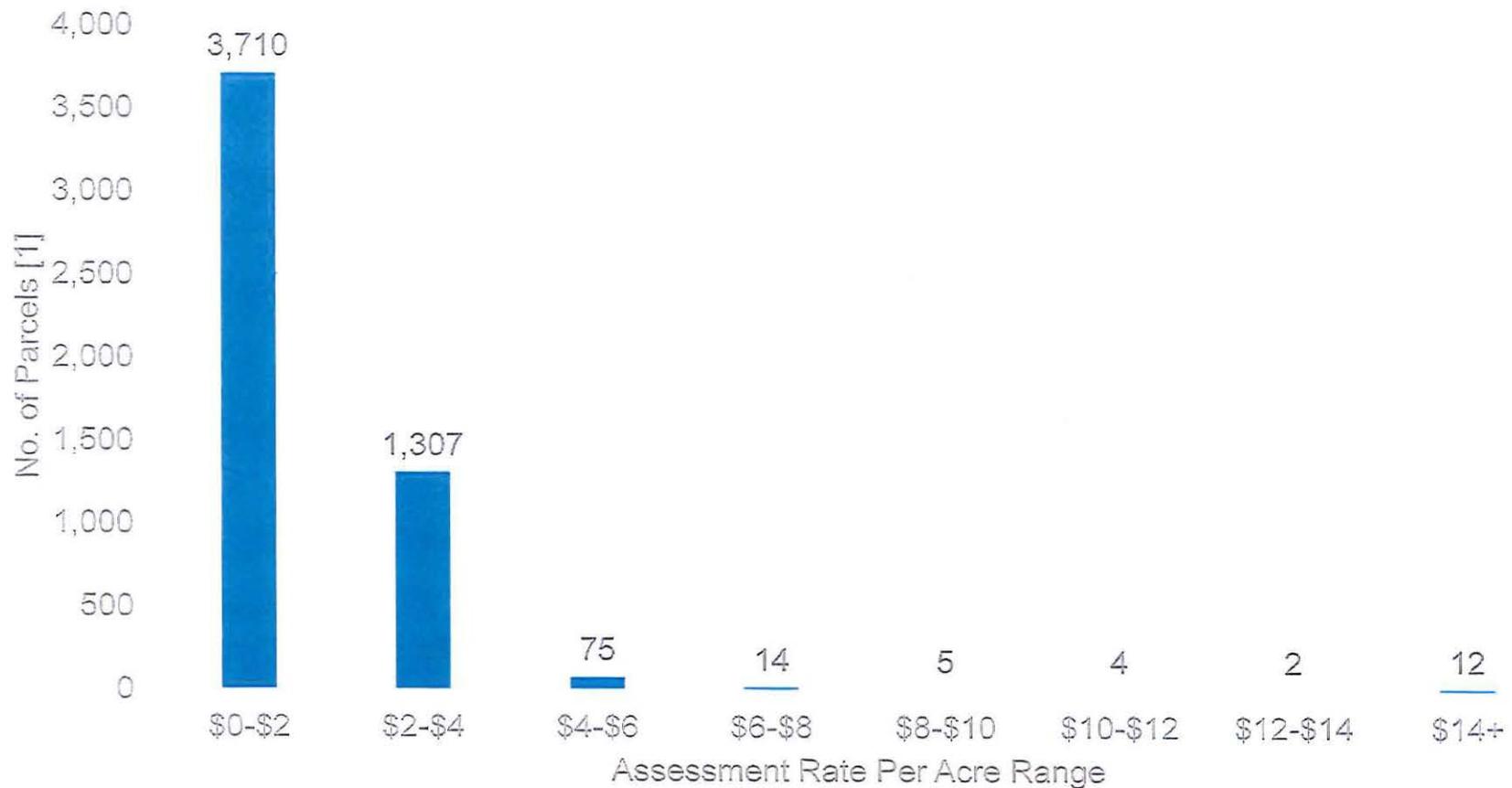
Proposed Benefit Assessment - Sample Rates

Assessment Land Use – (Single Family Residential)



Proposed Benefit Assessment - Sample Rates

Agricultural Assessment by Acre



Flood CALM & Existing Assessments

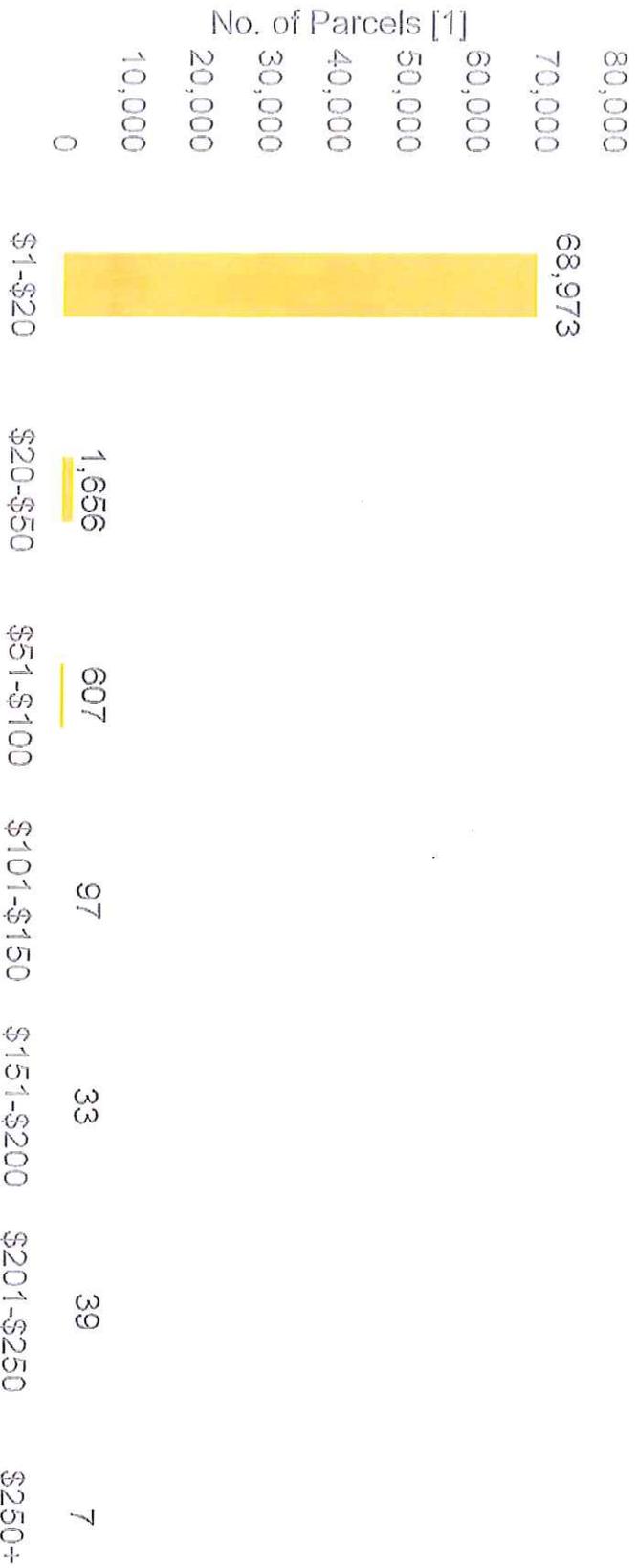
- **The Flood CALM Assessment District would overlay existing assessments including:**
 - Zone 9 Assessment
 - SJAFCA Assessment AD 96-1
 - SJAFCA Smith Canal Area Assessment District
- **The following analyses show the spread of each of these existing assessments and the proposed Flood CALM Assessment on those parcels currently paying**

Zone 9 and Flood CALM

Proposed Flood CALM Rates

Range	\$1-\$20	\$20-\$50	\$51-\$100	\$101-\$150	\$151-\$200	\$201-\$250	\$250+
Avg	\$11.73	\$19.78	\$21.36	\$31.50	\$46.13	\$33.18	\$18.40

Zone 9 Assessment Distribution – Single Family Residential

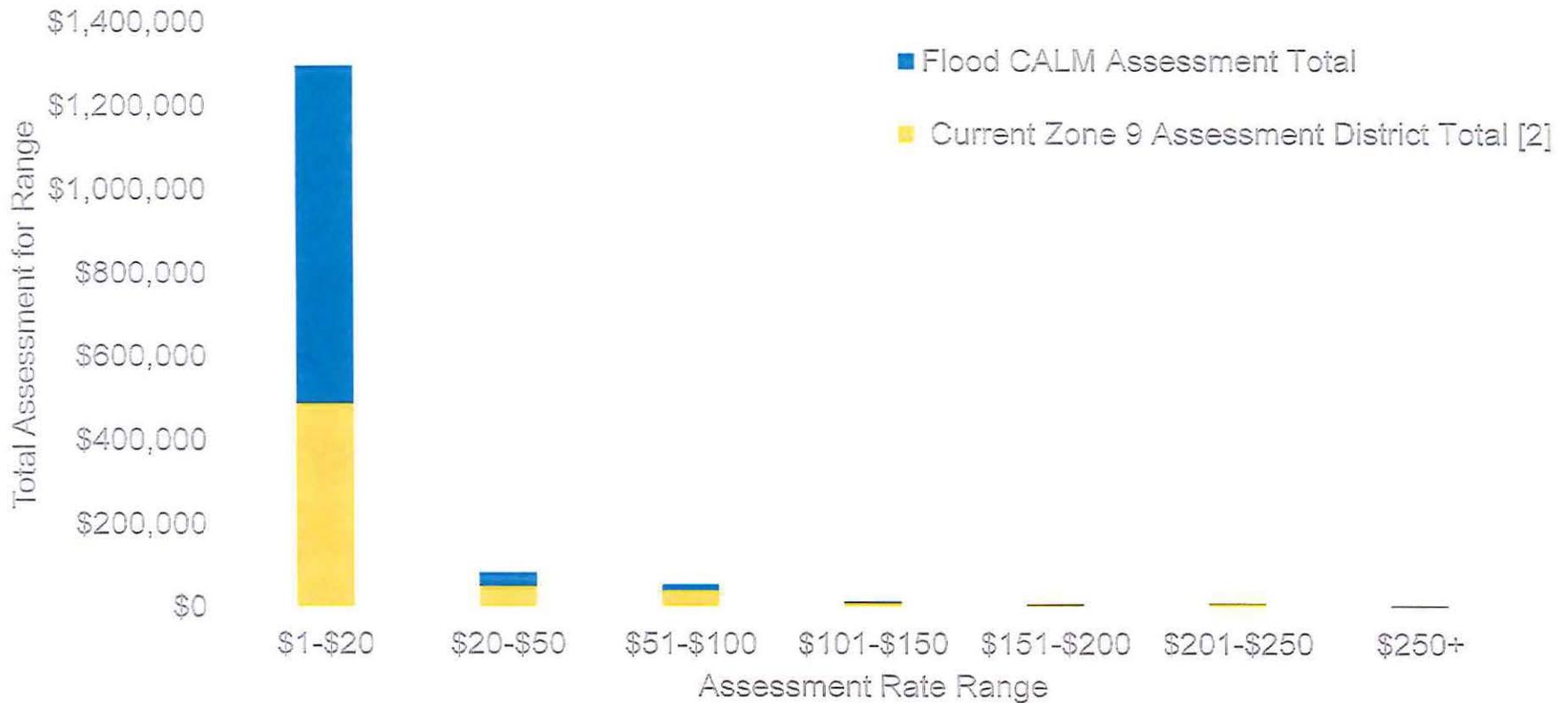


[1] Number of Parcels in Existing Zone 9 Assessment

Assessment Rate Range

Zone 9 and Flood CALM

Total Annual Assessment Revenue Comparison – Single Family Residential



[2] Assessment revenue generated by Current Zone 9 for Flood CALM Parcels is grouped by the assessment rate range for Zone 9.

SJAFCA AD 96-1 and Flood CALM

Proposed Flood CALM Rates

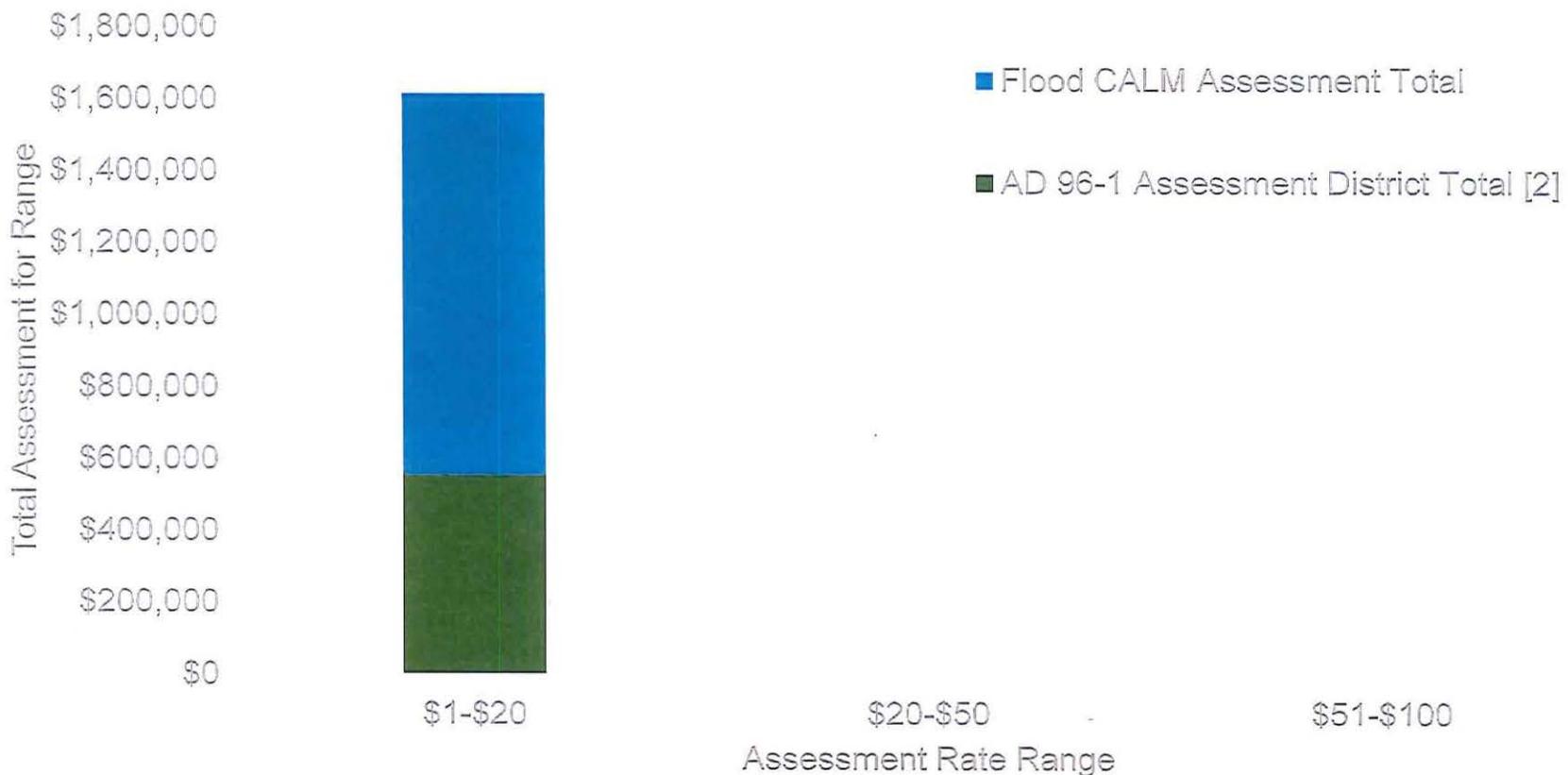
Range	\$1-\$20	\$20-\$50	\$51-\$100
Avg	\$14.57	\$36.89	\$1.42

SJAFCA AD 96-1 Assessment Distribution – Single Family Residential



SJAFCA AD 96-1 and Flood CALM

Total Annual Assessment Revenue Comparison – Single Family Residential



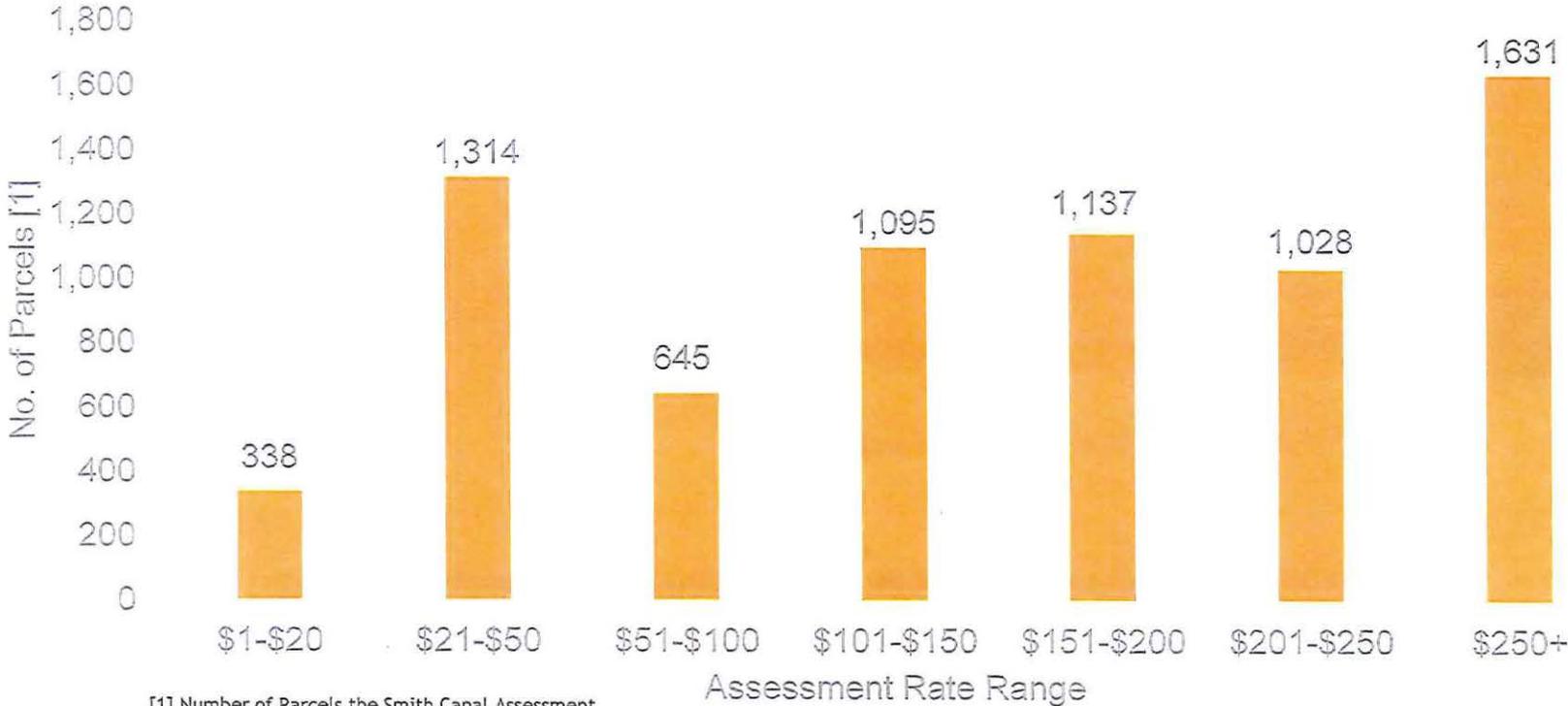
[2] Assessment revenue generated by AD 96-1 for CALM Parcels is grouped by the assessment rate range for the AD 96-1 assessment.

Smith Canal and Flood CALM

Proposed Flood CALM Rates

Range	\$1-\$20	\$20-\$50	\$51-\$100	\$101-\$150	\$151-\$200	\$201-\$250	\$250+
Avg	\$7.14	\$18.79	\$32.15	\$35.21	\$41.57	\$50.77	\$64.34

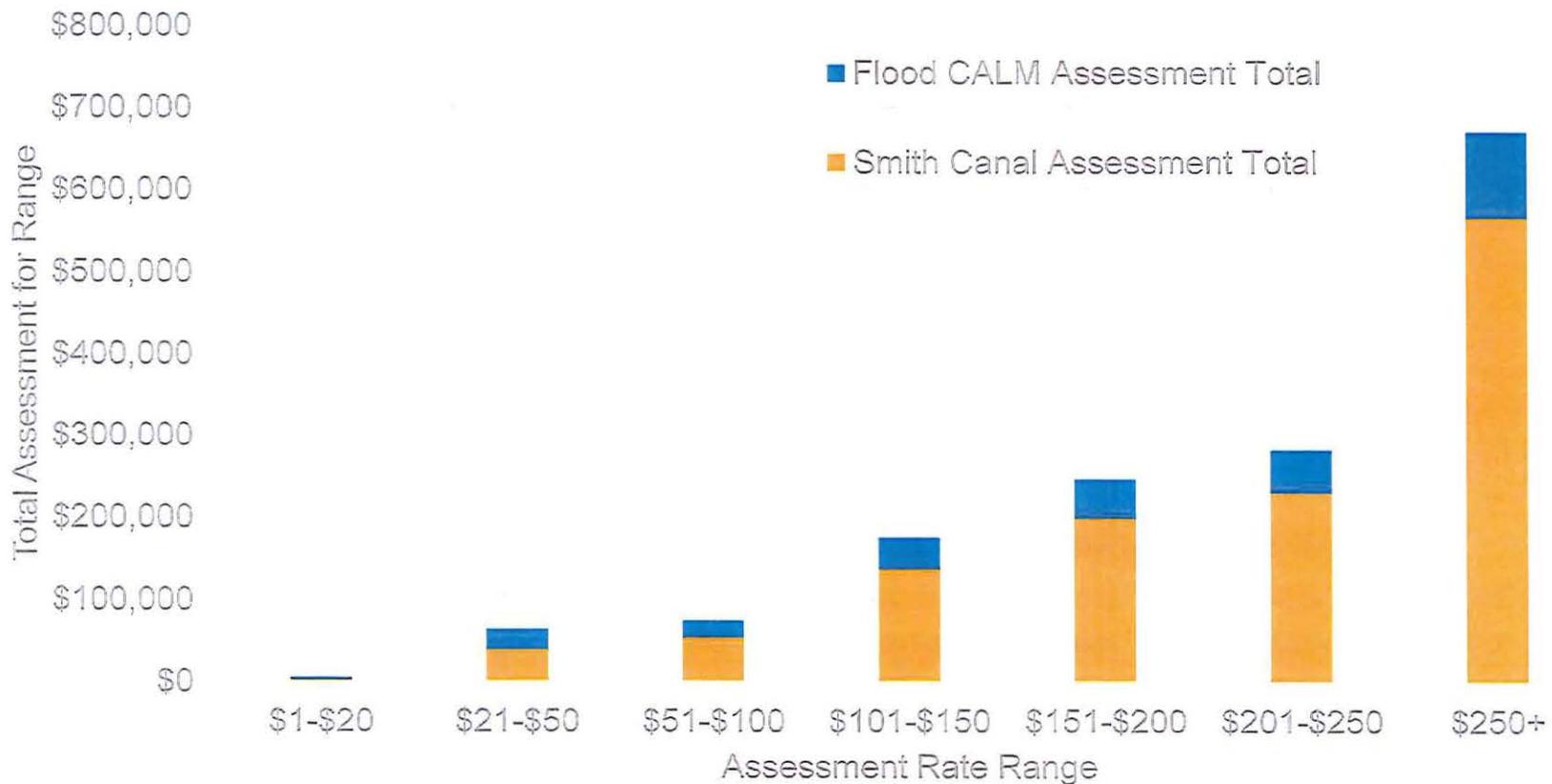
Smith Canal Assessment Distribution – Single Family Residential



[1] Number of Parcels the Smith Canal Assessment

Smith Canal and Flood CALM

Total Assessment Revenue Comparison – Single Family Residential



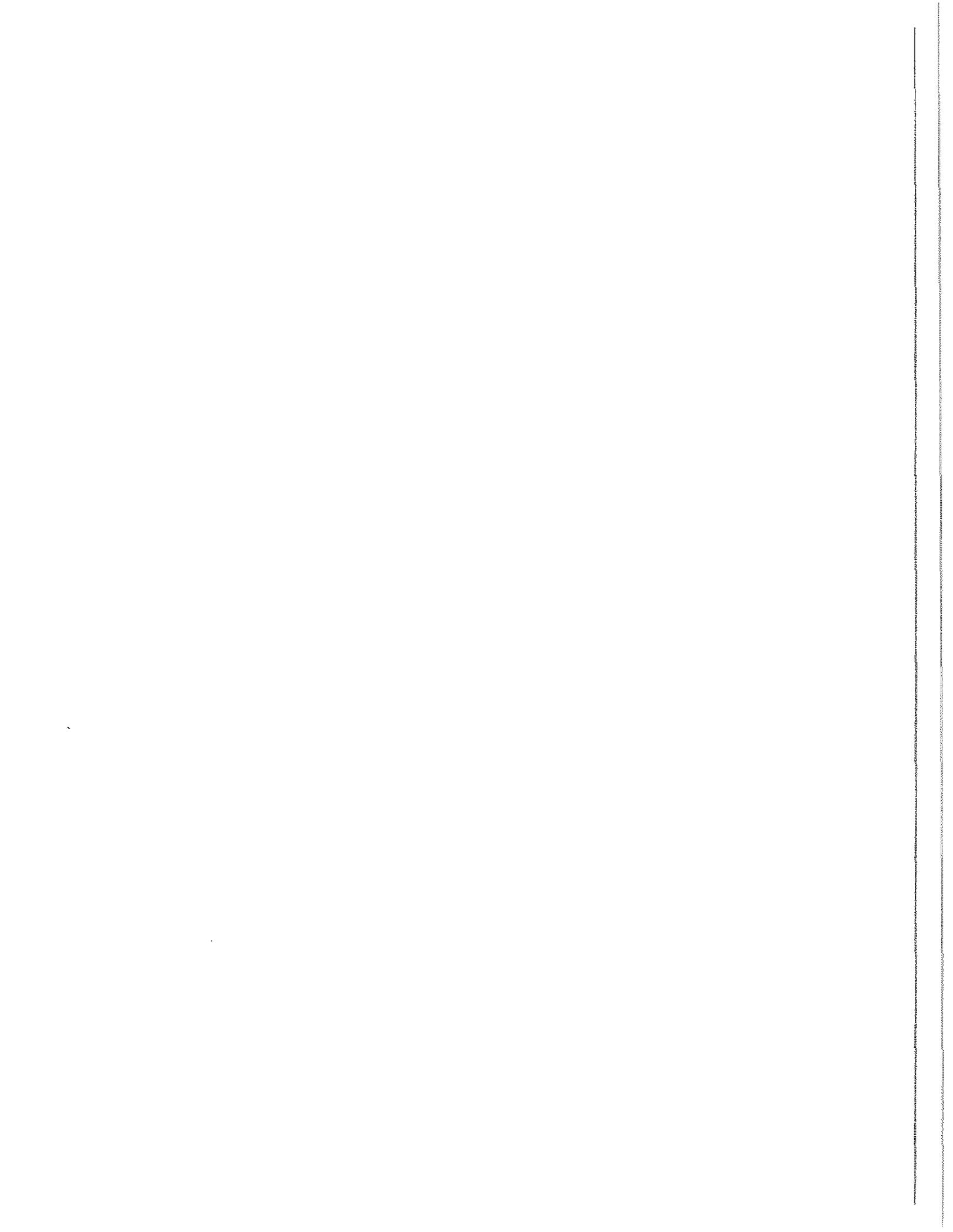
[2] Assessment revenue generated by Smith Canal Flood for CALM Parcels is grouped by the assessment rate range for Smith Canal.

Tentative Schedule

Advisory Water Commission Information Briefing	June 19
Advisory Water Commission Presentation (Request Recommendation to BOS)	July 17
SJAFCA Board Informational Briefing	July 18
BOS Meeting (Approval of Preliminary ER, Set Public Hearing, Call for Balloting)	September 10
Balloting Period	October 4 – November 19
BOS Public Hearing / Call for Tabulation	November 19
Ballot Tabulation	November 19 - 26
Report to BOS / Potential Action	December 10

Questions?

ATTACHMENT
III. C





GREATER SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY (GSJC) IRWM

GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE – DRAFT MOU

19 June 2019



Agenda

- Introduction and Work to Date (3 Mins)
- Meeting Purpose & Goals (2 Mins)
- MOU Matrix (15 Mins)
- Next Steps (5 Mins)

Introduction & Work to Date

- IRWM Roadmap Document completed in Q1 facilitated getting policy direction from leadership
- At April meeting, reviewed example Governance MOUs and discussed potential MOU elements for GSJC IRWM Region

Staff Direction Recommendations



1. Participate on behalf of the Greater San Joaquin County IRWM Region in discussions with other groups in the San Joaquin River Funding Region.
2. Proceed with development of a new governance structure for a revitalized Greater San Joaquin County IRWM Region which includes DAC representatives.
3. Develop a framework, approach, and work plan for a 2019 IRWM Plan Update.
4. Recommend to the Board of Supervisors that funding be provided from Zone 2 to reboot IRWM efforts.

Meeting Purpose & Goals

- Purpose:
 - *Review elements of draft MOU for GSJC Region*
- Goals:
 - *Understand elements of draft MOU*
 - *Collect initial feedback on draft MOU*

Draft Governance MOU

- Sections/Elements

1. *Purpose & Goals: why are we doing this*
2. *Non-binding Nature: participation is non-binding*
3. *Membership: what types of entities can join*
4. *Representation: designating a lead representative and alternate*
5. *Joining & Leaving: process for doing so*
6. *Decision-Making: charter to be developed at the first meeting*
7. *Financing: how Plan update and grant application will be funded*

Draft Governance MOU, cont.

- Joining & Leaving
 - *Feedback at May meeting was to have an easy “on/off” ramp*
 - *Any entity that would like to join notifies the Coordinating Committee and signs the MOU*
 - *To leave, the entity notifies the Coordinating Committee, at which point they will no longer be a member*



Draft Governance MOU, cont.

■ Financing

- *To be eligible for funding through many other state programs, regions must have an IRWM Plan that conforms to the most recent guidelines*
- *SJ County will fund the Plan update to conform to the 2016 Guidelines*
- *SJ County will provide initial funding for a consultant to prepare grant applications, but the cost will only be shared by those entities with projects included in the grant application*



Next Steps

- Homework:
 - *Discuss draft MOU with your leadership and staff*
 - *Coordinate with Glenn about comments*
- July 17th Advisory Water Commission Meeting:
 - *Discuss feedback on draft MOU language*

ATTACHMENT
IV. A



Seeking more water, Silicon Valley eyes Central Valley farmland

Santa Clara Valley Water District negotiating to buy 5,257-acre ranch in Merced County as groundwater bank



The Santa Clara Valley Water District was in negotiations on May 28, 2019 to purchase the 5,272-acre 4-S Ranch in western Merced County as a possible groundwater bank. The remote property is located about 15 miles northeast of Los Banos. (Google maps)

By **PAUL ROGERS** | progers@bayareanewsgroup.com | Bay Area News Group
PUBLISHED: May 28, 2019 at 5:02 pm | UPDATED: May 29, 2019 at 4:53 am

The largest water agency in Silicon Valley has been secretly negotiating to purchase a sprawling cattle ranch in Merced County that sits atop billions of gallons of groundwater, a move that could create a promising new water source — or spark a political battle between the Bay Area and Central Valley farmers.

The Santa Clara Valley Water District, based in San Jose, is in talks with the owners of the 4-S Ranch, a 5,257-acre property located about 15 miles northeast of Los Banos, for what would be a multi-million-dollar deal to create a huge underground water reserve.

ADVERTISING

The plan, however, is likely stir anxieties and controversy from farmers, who for generations in California have been wary of selling or transferring water out of their local areas for fear it could mean the decline of farming, especially if they had to compete with wealthy, more populated urban areas.

The proposed sale appeared on the agenda of the water district's closed session board meeting Tuesday evening, just before the board's public meeting. But only the property's parcel numbers, not the owners or the proposed use, were listed as an item, described as a discussion of "price and terms of payment for acquiring."

Linda LeZotte, chairwoman of the board for the water district, a government agency that provides drinking water and flood control to 2 million residents in Santa Clara County, said Tuesday that she could not discuss specifics, but that the district is looking to buy the property as a possible location for a new groundwater bank.

Groundwater banks are like underground reservoirs. Water agencies put water into them during wet years, and draw water out through wells in dry years.



LeZotte said the district is working to create as many opportunities as it can to boost its water supply, particularly during droughts. She noted that the district was awarded a state grant last year to fund nearly half the cost of a proposed \$1 billion new reservoir the district hopes to build near Pacheco Pass, and that it has ongoing projects to boost conservation, recycled water and other water sources.

“We have to look at everything to make sure we have water available in dry years,” LeZotte said.

Buying a Central Valley ranch for its water, however, risks turning into a political minefield. Environmentalists said Tuesday that secrecy is a major issue.

“I’m concerned that the water district, which is a public agency, is doing backroom deals related to water supply that have not been discussed with the public and don’t appear to fit in with anything else that they have said in the past they plan to do,” said Katja Irvin, Conservation Committee co-chair of the Sierra Club’s Loma Prieta Chapter, based in Palo Alto.

A groundwater banking project “might make sense,” Irvin said. “But there’s been no daylight. Nobody knows anything. This isn’t early steps. When you are going into purchase negotiations you are pretty far down the road.”

LeZotte said that a purchase agreement was not going to happen Tuesday. Although board members are discussing potential prices and other details — like how to move the water into Santa Clara County, she said — there will be a public hearing and opportunity for public input before any purchase is finalized, if talks even get that far.

The property already has seen controversy in the past over its water supply.

In 2014, during California’s historic five-year drought, Steve Sloan, the owner of the 4-S Ranch and Stephen Smith, the owner of SHS Ranch, an adjacent property, proposed to sell up to 92,000 acre feet of water — enough for nearly half a million people’s needs for a year — to other farmers for a price estimated at \$46 million over a four-year period. Many of those growers were located in neighboring Stanislaus County.

That plan set off a firestorm of protest from other farmers and political leaders in Merced County. They worried that if too much water was pumped out from under the two ranches, it would lower the water table and cause the wells of neighboring farmers to go dry.

“Growers throughout Merced County are scrambling for water and we have to protect what we have here,” Bob Weimer, who grows sweet potatoes, peaches, walnuts and almonds in Merced County told the Merced Sun-Star in 2014.

In the end, a smaller sale for 26,000 acre feet of water over a two-year period — roughly the amount that the Lexington Reservoir near Los Gatos holds when full — went through.

But the incident caused the Merced County Board of Supervisors to pass a local ordinance that requires a county permit for most future transfers of groundwater outside the county. Sloan, the 4-S Ranch owner, could not be reached for comment Tuesday.

On Tuesday, farm leaders in Merced County said they were just becoming aware of a possible sale of the ranch and its implications for their water supply.

“We will remain watchful as the conversations on this particular purchase continues,” said Breanne Ramos, executive director of the Merced County Farm Bureau.

LeZotte said that she hopes an agreement can be worked out that all sides find acceptable. One option would be for the Santa Clara Valley Water District to agree to take out no more water than it puts into the groundwater aquifers, she said, so it doesn’t draw down the water table.

“I would not want to participate in something to the detriment of another region,” she said. “I wouldn’t be comfortable participating in that.”

Complicating matters, the Merced County groundwater basin is classified by the state Department of Water Resources as one of 21 “critically over-drafted” groundwater areas in California, and one of 48 basins considered “high priority” for recharging and restoring.

For generations, farmers all across California have been wary of selling their water outside their home areas, said Jay Lund, a professor of civil and environmental engineering at UC Davis. The concern dates back to the 1920s, when Los Angeles water officials formed fake cattle companies, bought up water land in the Owens Valley on the California-Nevada border, and shipped the water to Los Angeles.

“It’s one of those eternal things,” Lund said. “If you are one of the neighbors of the people selling the land, you are worried they are selling water you need for a drought. And if you are the county supervisors, you are probably worried that if they sell their water they might fallow land, and that means less tax revenue coming in, and less employment opportunity, especially in these rural counties.”

But, Lund said, a compromise potentially could be worked out in which the Santa Clara Valley Water District helps restore the groundwater in the area as part of a deal.

“Depending on how you do it,” he said, “you could cause a lot of trouble or you could cause a lot of good.”

ATTACHMENT
IV. B

Nutria Eradication Efforts Moving Ahead In Delta



Updated: May 29, 2019, 8:32 a.m.

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) was recently awarded \$8.5 million in funding over three years by the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy to expand its nutria eradication operations.

The funding was awarded in a competitive process as part of the Delta Conservancy's Proposition 1 Ecosystem Restoration and Water Quality Grant Program. The money complements state funding anticipated in Gov. Gavin Newsom's 2019-20 budget, which together will establish a dedicated Nutria Eradication Program within CDFW and vastly expand field operations across the entire area of infestation.

The grant funding represents the second, significant award from the Delta Conservancy. In 2018, the Delta Conservancy awarded CDFW \$1.2 million over three years that, along with grants from the Wildlife Conservation Board and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's State Wildlife Grant Program, largely enabled CDFW's eradication efforts to get off the ground.

To date, CDFW has prioritized detection and eradication efforts in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta in order to limit the invasive rodents' spread and impact on California's most important water resource and the heart of the state's water delivery and infrastructure.

In mid-May, CDFW confirmed via trail camera video the first nutria detected in Stockton. This is the northernmost nutria detected to date and is approximately 16 river miles north of the nearest known nutria population near Manteca, where CDFW and its partners have been actively trapping. The Stockton detection is within the heart of the Delta. CDFW immediately responded with trapping in the area, redirecting additional resources to the Delta, and surveying for upstream source populations.

Since first discovering nutria in Merced County in 2017, CDFW and its partner agencies have taken or confirmed the take of 510 nutria in five counties – 430 from Merced County, 65 from San Joaquin County, 12 from Stanislaus County, two from Mariposa County and one from Fresno County. Nutria have also been confirmed in Tuolumne County.

Nutria, which are native to South America, have established populations in more than a dozen states, including Oregon, Washington, Texas, Louisiana, and the Delmarva Peninsula region of Maryland, Delaware and Virginia.

In California, nutria pose a significant threat as an agricultural pest, a destroyer of critical wetlands needed by native wildlife, and a public safety risk as their destructive burrowing jeopardizes the state's water delivery and flood control infrastructure. CDFW is working with both the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the California Department of Food and Agriculture to eradicate nutria from the state.

Any suspected nutria sightings should be reported immediately to CDFW's toll-free public reporting hotline at (866) 440-9530. The e-mail address to report sightings is invasives@wildlife.ca.gov. CDFW's nutria eradication webpage at wildlife.ca.gov/nutria offers references for identifying nutria and distinguishing nutria from other similar aquatic animals.

ATTACHMENT IV. C



Manteca used lowest amount of groundwater in 16 years during May



DENNIS WYATT

Manteca Bulletin

Updated: June 7, 2019, 1:54 a.m.

A much wetter than normal May coupled with conservation is credited with Manteca using the least amount of groundwater last month since 2003.

Water from the South San Joaquin Irrigation District surface water treatment plant provided 70 percent of the 380 million gallons used citywide in May. The other 30 percent came from groundwater.

"That is a largely a result of wet weather and continued conservation by the residents," Public Works Director Mark Houghton noted. "Now as the weather warms up we would encourage residents to continue to monitor their irrigation and conserve where possible."

Manteca's water rules

The stricter water rules that were adopted for Manteca residents and businesses four years ago and are still in effect are as follows:

No irrigation is allowed during or within 48 hours following measurable rainfall as defined by storms that generate run-off or puddles.

No watering is allowed on Monday or any day between noon and 6 p.m. Watering for even addresses is on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday while odd addresses can water on Wednesday, Friday, and Sunday.

No water will be allowed on any day at any time for washing off sidewalks, driveways, patios, parking lots or other exterior non-landscaped areas without a permit obtained from the Manteca Public Works Department office at the Civic Center.

No water will be allowed to flow into a gutter or other drainage area for longer than 5 minutes. All water leaks or malfunctions in plumbing or irrigation systems must be fixed with 24 hours.

Penalties include a written notice on the first violation, a \$100 fine with applicable fees on the second violation that may be waived by attending a water conservation workshop, a \$200 fine and applicable fees on the third violation; and \$500 fines for each and every subsequent violation plus applicable fees.