



**REGULAR MEETING
OF THE
CACHUMA OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE BOARD**

**Monday, May 18, 2026
1:00 P.M.**

HOW TO OBSERVE THE MEETING

Join by Teleconference or Attend in Person

COMB follows Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and local public health guidelines with respect to COVID-19 protocols and masking requirements, based on local conditions and needs. COMB will have available masks for use during public meetings.

Members of the public may observe the meeting electronically as set forth below.

Join via Video Conference:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84860295148?pwd=LkodrIAApbxBXp7Cup4Cbfavx3fqgk.1>

Passcode:550418

Join via Teleconference:

US +1 669 900 6833 Webinar ID: 848 6029 5148 Passcode: 550418

HOW TO MAKE A PUBLIC COMMENT

Any member of the public may address the Board on any subject within the jurisdiction of the Board of Directors. The total time for this item will be limited by the President of the Board. The Board is not responsible for the content or accuracy of statements made by members of the public. No action will be taken by the Board on any Public Comment item.

In person: Those observing the meeting in person may make comments during designated public comment periods.

By Video: Those observing the meeting by video may make comments during designated public comment periods using the “raise hand” feature. Commenters will be required to unmute their respective microphone when providing comments.

By Telephone: Those observing the meeting by telephone may make comments during the designated public comment periods by pressing *9 on the key pad to indicate such interest. Commenters will be prompted to press *6 to unmute their respective telephone when called upon to speak.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to review agenda materials or participate in this meeting, please contact the Cachuma Operation and Maintenance Board office at (805) 687-4011 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting to enable the Board to make reasonable arrangements.

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**REGULAR MEETING
OF THE CACHUMA OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE BOARD**
held at
**3301 Laurel Canyon Road
Santa Barbara, CA 93105**

Monday, May 18, 2026

1:00 PM

AGENDA

NOTICE: This Meeting shall be conducted in-person and through remote access as authorized and in accordance with Government Code section 54953, AB 361 and AB 2449.

1. **CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL**
2. **PUBLIC COMMENT** (*Public may address the Board on any subject matter within the Board's jurisdiction. See "Notice to the Public" below.*)
3. **CONSENT AGENDA** (*All items on the Consent Agenda are considered to be routine and will be approved or rejected in a single motion. Any item placed on the Consent Agenda may be removed and placed on the Regular Agenda for discussion and possible action upon the request of any Board Member.*)
Action: Recommend approval of Consent Agenda by motion and roll call vote of the Board
 - a. Minutes of April 27, 2026 Regular Board Meeting
 - b. Investment of Funds
 - Financial Reports
 - Investment Reports
 - c. Review of Paid Claims
4. **VERBAL REPORTS FROM BOARD COMMITTEES**
Receive verbal information regarding the following committee meetings:
 - Administrative Committee Meeting – May 6, 2026
5. **RESOLUTION NO. 823 - PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2026-27 ANNUAL OPERATING BUDGET**
Action: Receive a presentation on the Proposed Fiscal Year 2026-27 Annual Operating Budget and provide direction to staff, including adopting Resolution No. 823 approving the Budget
6. **GENERAL MANAGER REPORT**
Receive information from the General Manager on topics pertaining to COMB, including but not limited to the following:
 - Administration
 - U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
 - Virtual Meetings
 - Staff Training

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7. **ENGINEER'S REPORT**

Receive information from the COMB Engineer, including but not limited to the following:

- Climate Conditions and Lake Elevation
- Winter Storm Damage Repairs/Reimbursement
- System and Watershed Sanitary Survey
- Infrastructure Improvement Projects Update

8. **OPERATIONS DIVISION REPORT**

Receive information regarding the Operations Division, including but not limited to the following:

- Lake Cachuma Operations
- Operation and Maintenance Activities

9. **FISHERIES DIVISION REPORT**

Receive information from the Fisheries Division Manager, including, but not limited to the following:

- LSYR Steelhead Monitoring Elements
- Surcharge Water Accounting
- Reporting/Outreach/Training

10. **PROGRESS REPORT ON LAKE CACHUMA OAK TREE PROGRAM**

Receive information regarding the Lake Cachuma Oak Tree Program including, but not limited to the following:

- Maintenance and Monitoring

11. **MONTHLY CACHUMA PROJECT REPORTS**

Receive information regarding the Cachuma Project, including but not limited to the following:

- a. Cachuma Water Reports
- b. Cachuma Reservoir Current Conditions
- c. Lake Cachuma Quagga Survey

12. **DIRECTORS' REQUESTS FOR AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETING**

13. **[CLOSED SESSION]: CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL**

- a. [Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(2)]
Potential Litigation (Potential Exposure)

14. **RECONVENE INTO OPEN SESSION**

[Government Code Section 54957.7]

Disclosure of actions taken in closed session, as applicable

[Government Code Section 54957.1]

13a. Potential Litigation (Potential Exposure)

15. **MEETING SCHEDULE**

- **Regular Board Meeting – June 22, 2026 at 1:00 PM**
- **Board Packages available on COMB website www.cachuma-board.org**

16. **COMB ADJOURNMENT**

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NOTICE TO PUBLIC

Posting of Agenda: This agenda was posted at COMB's offices, located at 3301 Laurel Canyon Road, Santa Barbara, California, 93105 and on COMB's website, in accordance with Government Code Section 54954.2. The agenda contains a brief general description of each item to be considered by the Governing Board. The Board reserves the right to modify the order in which agenda items are heard. Copies of staff reports or other written documents relating to each item of business are on file at the COMB offices and are available for public inspection during normal business hours. A person with a question concerning any of the agenda items may call COMB's General Manager at (805) 687-4011.

Written materials: In accordance with Government Code Section 54957.5, written materials relating to an item on this agenda which are distributed to the Governing Board less than 72 hours (for a regular meeting) or 24 hours (for a special meeting) will be made available for public inspection at the COMB offices during normal business hours. The written materials may also be posted on COMB's website subject to staff's ability to post the documents before the scheduled meeting.

Public Comment: Any member of the public may address the Board on any subject within the jurisdiction of the Board. The total time for this item will be limited by the President of the Board. The Board is not responsible for the content or accuracy of statements made by members of the public. No action will be taken by the Board on any Public Comment item.

Americans with Disabilities Act: In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to review agenda materials or participate in this meeting, please contact the Cachuma Operation and Maintenance Board office at (805) 687-4011 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting to enable the Board to make reasonable arrangements.

Note: If you challenge in court any of the Board's decisions related to the listed agenda items you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at any public hearing described in this notice or in written correspondence to the Governing Board prior to the public hearing.

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**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
OF THE CACHUMA OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE BOARD**
held at
**3301 Laurel Canyon Road
Santa Barbara, CA 93105**

**Monday, April 27, 2026
1:00 PM**

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors was called to order by President Sneddon at 1:00 PM.

Directors Present:

Patrick O'Connor, Carpinteria Valley Water District
Kristen Sneddon, City of Santa Barbara
Lauren Hanson, Goleta Water District
Cori Hayman, Montecito Water District *

**Director Hayman's arrival was slightly delayed*

General Counsel Present:

William Carter - Musick, Peeler, Garrett, LLP

Staff Present:

Janet Gingras, General Manager
Edward Lyons, Administrative Manager / CFO
Tim Robinson, Fisheries Division Manager
Joel Degner, Engineer/Ops Division Manager

Shane King, Ops Supervisor/Chief Distribution Operator
Elijah Papan, Water Resources Analyst II
Rosey Bishop, Administrative Assistant II
Dorothy Turner, Administrative Assistant II

Others Present:

Dakota Corey, City of Santa Barbara
Dana Hoffenberg, City of Santa Barbara

Matt Young, County of Santa Barbara
Michael, Member of the Public

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

3. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Minutes of March 23, 2026 Regular Board Meeting
- b. Investment of Funds
 - Financial Reports
 - Investment Reports
- c. Review of Paid Claims

Ms. Gingras introduced the Consent Agenda, referring the Board to the Minutes to be approved.

Director O'Connor motioned to approve Item 3.a. of the Consent Agenda followed by a second from Director Hanson. The motion passed with a vote of 5 in favor and one absentee vote.

Ayes: Hanson, O'Connor, Sneddon
Nays:
Absent: Hayman
Abstain:

Ms. Gingras then invited Mr. Lyons to speak to the Financial Statements and Paid Claims. Mr. Lyons summarized revenues received and discussed paid claims, including but not limited to, remittances to MCR Technologies, Caltrol, Performance Pipeline Technology, USGS, Western Land Surveys and Reclamation. He fielded questions from the Board.

Director O'Connor provided the motion to approve Items 3.b and 3.c. of the Consent Agenda. Director Hanson seconded and the motion carried with a vote of six in favor.

Ayes: Hayman, Hanson, O'Connor, Sneddon
Nays:
Absent:
Abstain:

4. VERBAL REPORTS FROM BOARD COMMITTEES

- Operations Committee Meeting – April 13, 2026

President Sneddon reviewed the Operations Committee meeting and noted that the committee forwarded both action items to the Board for adoption or approval. Both are to be heard during this meeting.

5. FINANCIAL REVIEW – 3rd QUARTER FISCAL YEAR 2025-26

Mr. Lyons shared a slide presentation for his financial review of the third quarter of Fiscal Year 2025-26. He summarized the first nine months of the fiscal year and then reviewed revenues collected. Moving on to the division reports, and taking each division separately, Mr. Lyons compared actual expenses to the divisions' budgets, with explanation for any variances that exceeded the Year-to-Date apportioned budget. He provided a forecast of projected expenditures versus budget for the final quarter of the fiscal year. Finally, Mr. Lyons reviewed the status of the administrative deliverables. He fielded observations and questions from the Board.

6. RESOLUTION NO. 822 - PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR(S) 2027-2031 INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Mr. Degner shared his 2027-2031 Infrastructure Improvement Plan (IIP) slide presentation. He discussed the process and purpose of the plan and how it helps to inform and prioritize work plans and budget. Mr. Degner reviewed each of the projects and their projected costs by anticipated year of installation, emphasizing that the Board is not approving any expenditures. He fielded questions from the Board.

Director O'Connor motioned to adopt Resolution 822, approving the plan, followed by Director Hayman's second. The motion carried with a vote of six in favor.

Ayes: Hayman, Hanson, O'Connor, Sneddon
Nays:
Absent:
Abstain:

7. SHEFFIELD TUNNEL EAST PORTAL ISOLATION VALVE DESIGN WORK – FLOWERS AND ASSOCIATES, INC.

Mr. Degner once again shared a slide presentation, this time illustrating the necessary isolation valve work at the Sheffield East portal. He advised that this requested design work is first step in the overall Sheffield Tunnel rehabilitation. Mr. Degner fielded questions and discussion throughout his presentation.

Director O'Connor motioned to approve the design work and Director Hayman seconded the motion. The motion carried with a vote of six in favor.

Ayes: Hayman, Hanson, O'Connor, Sneddon

Nays:

Absent:

Abstain:

8. SHEFFIELD CONTROL STATION REHABILITATION PROJECT – PHASE 2 MATERIALS PURCHASE

Mr. Degner presented the proposal to purchase a meter and valve for the Sheffield Control Station project. In response to a question regarding where the cost for the materials falls within the current year budget, he advised that COMB would pay for the materials out of the 2026-27 budget. He noted that the lead time to receive the meter and valve is quite long, hence the placement of the order now would be imperative to the timing of the installation. The Board questioned whether unused funds from this fiscal year's budget could be committed to this purchase and carried forward. Staff will research this option.

Director Hayman made a motion to approve the purchase of the materials. Director O'Connor seconded the motion which carried with a vote of six in favor.

Ayes: Hayman, Hanson, O'Connor, Sneddon

Nays:

Absent:

Abstain:

9. GENERAL MANAGER REPORT

- Administration
- Divisional Accomplishments / Internal Goals

Ms. Gingras presented the General Manager report with a review of the contracts she had executed in the previous fiscal quarter. She provided a review of the current O&M contract negotiations and finished with a list of staff accomplishments and goals.

10. ENGINEER'S REPORT

- Climate Conditions and Lake Elevation
- Winter Storm Damage Repairs/Reimbursement
- Water Quality Update
- Infrastructure Improvement Projects Update

Mr. Degner introduced the Engineer's report and noted that the majority of the report had been covered in his earlier presentations. With respect to water quality sampling, he reported that total organic content in the reservoir, while it rose slightly a while ago, has now dropped back to very low levels. President

Sneddon advised that Mr. Degner look into potential water quality grant funds through the Fire Safe Council.

11. OPERATIONS DIVISION REPORT

- Lake Cachuma Operations
- Operation and Maintenance Activities

Mr. King presented the Operations Division report. Staff is wrapping up fiscal year end contracted work. He noted that recent security modifications at Lauro Reservoir appear to be successful. As well, Mr. King advised that further work was needed to inspect the Glen Anne and Ortega reservoirs' toe drains. Staff activities included installation of a level transducer at Ortega reservoir, work with the SCADA consultant and a lighting project on campus. Finally, Mr. King noted that a plumbing contractor had been hired to clear and repair the North Portal's blocked septic system and renovate the North Portal restroom.

12. FISHERIES DIVISION REPORT

- LSYR Steelhead Monitoring Elements
- Surcharge Water Accounting
- Reporting/Outreach/Training

To accommodate his schedule, Mr. Robinson presented the Fisheries Division report after agenda item No.8. He reported that target flows continue to be met as Reclamation ramps down its releases. He noted the lagoon remains open, allowing smolts and spawn to make their way to the sea. Mr. Robinson provided statistics on the recently ended trapping season. Staff is monitoring several unhatched redds and continues with other normal BiOp monitoring. As well, Mr. Robinson offered updates on grant status, COMB participation in the Biological Assessment Ad Hoc committee and recent outreach efforts.

13. PROGRESS REPORT ON LAKE CACHUMA OAK TREE PROGRAM

- Maintenance and Monitoring

Mr. Robinson reported that the oak tree inventory continues, as well as staff's removal of deer cages. The trees are doing well. Mr. Robinson also noted that the financial statements and annual report for the Oak Tree program are under way in anticipation of the annual Oak Tree Committee meeting.

14. MONTHLY CACHUMA PROJECT REPORTS

- a. Cachuma Water Reports
- b. Cachuma Reservoir Current Conditions
- c. Lake Cachuma Quagga Survey

Other than alluding to the extended Bradbury release that ended on March 20, 2026, Ms. Gingras mentioned nothing of note with respect to the Cachuma Project reports.

15. DIRECTORS' REQUESTS FOR AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETING

Directors O'Connor, Hayman and President Sneddon requested that COMB present the Sheffield Tunnel Rehabilitation project before their respective Boards and commissions.

17. [CLOSED SESSION]: CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL

- a. [Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(2)]
Potential Litigation (Potential Exposure)

The Board adjourned to Closed Session at 3:08 PM.

18. [CLOSED SESSION]: ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REVIEW

- a. [Government Code Section 54957(b)(1)] Title: General Manager

19. [CLOSED SESSION]: CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS

- a. [Government Code Section 54957.6(a)]
Agency designated representatives: Board President
Unrepresented Employee: General Manager

20. RECONVENE INTO OPEN SESSION

- [Government Code Section 54957.7]
Disclosure of actions taken in closed session, as applicable
[Government Code Section 54957.1]

16a. Potential Litigation (Potential Exposure)

17a. Annual Performance Review – General Manager

18a. Conference with Labor Negotiators

The Board reconvened the Open Session at 5:17 PM. Mr. Carter stated there was no reportable action for Item 16.a.

He reported, with respect to Item 17.a., that the directors conducted a performance review of General Manager, Janet Gingras.

With respect to Item 18.a., Mr. Carter advised that the directors offered General Manager Gingras a higher compensation and agreed to enter into a new three-year employment agreement with General Manager Gingras.

21. MODIFICATION TO GENERAL MANAGER’S EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT

Director O’Connor made a motion to approve the Board’s compensation offer and three-year employment agreement offer made to General Manager Gingras. Director Hayman seconded the motion which carried unanimously with a vote of six in favor.

Ayes: Hayman, Hanson, O’Connor, Sneddon

Nays:

Absent:

Abstain:

22. MEETING SCHEDULE

- **Regular Board Meeting – May 18, 2026 at 1:00 PM (Third Monday)**
- **Board Packages available on COMB website www.cachuma-board.org**

24. COMB ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Gingras, Secretary of the Board

	<i>Approved</i>
√	<i>Unapproved</i>

APPROVED:

Kristen W. Sneddon, President of the Board

**Cachuma Operation & Maintenance Board
Statement of Net Position**

As of April 30, 2026
UNAUDITED FINANCIALS

April 30, 2026

ASSETS

Current Assets

Checking/Savings

Trust Funds

1210 · Warren Act Trust Fund

\$ 47,584.54

1220 · Renewal Fund

69,241.86

Total Trust Funds

\$ 116,826.40

1050 · General Fund

87,333.17

1100 · Revolving Fund

424,408.89

Total Checking/Savings

628,568.46

Accounts Receivable

1301 · Accounts Receivable

1,570.00

1320 · Quarterly Assessments Receivable

1,373,132.00

Total Accounts Receivable

1,374,702.00

Other Current Assets

1200 · LAIF

1,246,423.24

1010 · Petty Cash

500.00

1303 · Bradbury SOD Act Assessments Receivable

243,910.99

1304 · Lauro Dam SOD Assessments Receivable

36,857.68

1400 · Prepaid Insurance

16,794.72

Total Other Current Assets

1,544,486.63

Total Current Assets

3,547,757.09

Fixed Assets

1500 · Vehicles

979,000.81

1505 · Office Furniture & Equipment

228,057.03

1510 · Mobile Offices

424,910.38

1515 · Field Equipment

872,485.33

1520 · Building Improvements

62,263.00

1524 · Infrastructure

9,209,556.69

1550 · Accumulated Depreciation

(2,507,786.69)

Total Fixed Assets

9,268,486.55

Other Assets

1910 · Long Term Bradbury SOD Act Assessments Receivable

3,128,787.07

1920 · Long Term Lauro SOD Act Assessments Receivable

598,136.76

1922 · Deferred Outflow of Resources (GASB 68)

900,790.00

1923 · Deferred Outflow (GASB 75)

435,105.00

Total Other Assets

5,062,818.83

TOTAL ASSETS

\$ 17,879,062.47

**Cachuma Operation & Maintenance Board
Statement of Net Position**

As of April 30, 2026
UNAUDITED FINANCIALS

April 30, 2026

LIABILITIES & NET POSITION

Liabilities

Current Liabilities

Accounts Payable

2200 · Accounts Payable \$ 77,519.22

Total Accounts Payable 77,519.22

Other Current Liabilities

2505 · Accrued Wages 62,660.66

2550 · Compensated Absences 133,542.44

2561 · Bradbury Dam SOD Act 243,910.99

2563 · Lauro Dam SOD Act 36,857.68

2565 · Accrued Interest SOD Act 21,213.00

2590 · Deferred Revenue 116,826.40

2596 · OPEB Liability 128,000.00

Total Other Current Liabilities 743,010.99

Total Current Liabilities 820,530.39

Long Term Liabilities

2615 · Long Term Compensated Absences 216,451.00

2602 · LT SOD Act Liability-Bradbury 3,128,777.07

2603 · Long Term SOD Act Liability - Lauro 598,136.76

2604 · OPEB Long Term Liability 2,704,638.00

2610 · Net Pension Liability (GASB 68) 2,709,761.00

2611 · Deferred Inflow of Resources (GASB 68) 26,677.00

2612 · Deferred Inflow of Resources (GASB 75) 1,325,905.00

Total Long Term Liabilities 10,710,345.83

Total Liabilities 11,530,876.22

Net Position

3000 · Opening Balance Net Position (5,056,708.89)

3901 · Retained Net Assets 9,268,487.00

Net Surplus / Deficit 2,136,408.14

Total Net Position 6,348,186.25

TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET POSITION \$ **17,879,062.47**

Cachuma Operation & Maintenance Board
Statement of Revenues and Expenditures - Unaudited
 Budget vs. Actuals July 2025 - June 2026

	Fisheries				Operations				TOTAL			
	Jul '25 - Apr 26	Budget	\$ Over / (Under) Budget	% of Budget	Jul '25 - Apr 26	Budget	\$ Over / (Under) Budget	% of Budget	Jul '25 - Apr 26	Budget	\$ Over / (Under) Budget	% of Budget
	Revenue											
3000 REVENUE												
3001 · O&M Budget (Qtrly Assessments) ⁽¹⁾	\$ 1,372,331.00	\$ 1,372,330.00	\$ 1.00	100.0%	\$ 4,609,599.00	\$ 5,054,601.00	\$ (445,002.00)	91.2%	\$ 5,981,930.00	\$ 6,426,931.00	\$ (445,001.00)	93.08%
3006 · Warren Act	15,007.00	15,007.00	0.00	100.0%	0.00				15,007.00	15,007.00	0.00	100.0%
3007 · Renewal Fund	175,997.14	244,239.00	-68,241.86	72.06%	0.00				175,997.14	244,239.00	-68,241.86	72.06%
3010 · Interest Income	0.00				51,328.96	0.00	51,328.96	100.0%	51,328.96	0.00	51,328.96	100.0%
3014 · Non-Member Agency Revenue	19,819.00	0.00	19,819.00	100.0%	0.00				19,819.00	0.00	19,819.00	100.0%
3020 · Misc Income	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%	19,334.26	20,000.00	-665.74	96.67%	19,334.26	20,000.00	-665.74	96.67%
3021 · Grant Income	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%	476.00	154,000.00	-153,524.00	0.31%	476.00	154,000.00	-153,524.00	0.31%
3035 · Cachuma Project Betterment Fund	100,000.00	100,000.00	0.00	100.0%	0.00				100,000.00	100,000.00	0.00	100.0%
3047 · FEMA - 2023 Winter Storms	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%	0.00	800,000.00	-800,000.00	0.0%	0.00	800,000.00	-800,000.00	0.0%
3049 · FEMA - 2024 Winter Storms	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%	215,010.57	495,000.00	-279,989.43	43.44%	215,010.57	495,000.00	-279,989.43	43.44%
3090 · Proceeds - Disp of Fixed Asset ⁽²⁾	0.00				63,788.30	0.00	63,788.30	100.0%	63,788.30	0.00	63,788.30	100.0%
Total 3000 REVENUE	\$ 1,683,154.14	\$ 1,731,576.00	\$ (48,421.86)	97.2%	\$ 4,959,537.09	\$ 6,523,601.00	\$ (1,564,063.91)	76.03%	\$ 6,642,691.23	\$ 8,255,177.00	\$ (1,612,485.77)	80.47%
Expense												
3100 · LABOR - OPERATIONS	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.0%	\$ 1,072,082.62	\$ 1,382,999.00	\$ (310,916.38)	77.52%	\$ 1,072,082.62	\$ 1,382,999.00	\$ (310,916.38)	77.52%
3200 VEH & EQUIPMENT												
3201 · Vehicle/Equip Mtce	0.00				38,629.92	50,000.00	-11,370.08	77.26%	38,629.92	50,000.00	-11,370.08	77.26%
3202 · Fixed Capital ⁽³⁾	0.00				248,760.69	206,000.00	42,760.69	120.76%	248,760.69	206,000.00	42,760.69	120.76%
3203 · Equipment Rental	0.00				23,458.21	40,000.00	-16,541.79	58.65%	23,458.21	40,000.00	-16,541.79	58.65%
3204 · Miscellaneous	0.00				2,057.09	10,000.00	-7,942.91	20.57%	2,057.09	10,000.00	-7,942.91	20.57%
Total 3200 VEH & EQUIPMENT	0.00				312,905.91	306,000.00	6,905.91	102.26%	312,905.91	306,000.00	6,905.91	102.26%
3300 · CONTRACT LABOR												
3301 · Conduit, Meter, Valve & Misc	0.00				30,062.93	35,000.00	-4,937.07	85.89%	30,062.93	35,000.00	-4,937.07	85.89%
3302 · Buildings & Roads	0.00				13,771.71	50,000.00	-36,228.29	27.54%	13,771.71	50,000.00	-36,228.29	27.54%
3303 · Reservoirs	0.00				51,867.08	70,000.00	-18,132.92	74.1%	51,867.08	70,000.00	-18,132.92	74.1%
3304 · Engineering, Misc Services	0.00				0.00	50,000.00	-50,000.00	0.0%	0.00	50,000.00	-50,000.00	0.0%
Total 3300 · CONTRACT LABOR	0.00				95,701.72	205,000.00	-109,298.28	46.68%	95,701.72	205,000.00	-109,298.28	46.68%
3400 · MATERIALS & SUPPLIES												
3401 · Conduit, Meter, Valve & Misc	0.00				56,683.09	82,500.00	-25,816.91	68.71%	56,683.09	82,500.00	-25,816.91	68.71%
3402 · Buildings & Roads	0.00				4,791.07	20,500.00	-15,708.93	23.37%	4,791.07	20,500.00	-15,708.93	23.37%
3403 · Reservoirs	0.00				21,709.14	10,500.00	11,209.14	206.75%	21,709.14	10,500.00	11,209.14	206.75%
Total 3400 · MATERIALS & SUPPLIES	0.00				83,183.30	113,500.00	-30,316.70	73.29%	83,183.30	113,500.00	-30,316.70	73.29%
3500 · OTHER EXPENSES												
3501 · Utilities	0.00				4,605.96	7,000.00	-2,394.04	65.8%	4,605.96	7,000.00	-2,394.04	65.8%
3502 · Uniforms	0.00				5,753.44	7,500.00	-1,746.56	76.71%	5,753.44	7,500.00	-1,746.56	76.71%
3503 · Communications	0.00				11,902.10	16,000.00	-4,097.90	74.39%	11,902.10	16,000.00	-4,097.90	74.39%
3504 · USA & Other Services	0.00				4,164.75	8,000.00	-3,835.25	52.06%	4,164.75	8,000.00	-3,835.25	52.06%
3505 · Miscellaneous	0.00				11,102.49	12,000.00	-897.51	92.52%	11,102.49	12,000.00	-897.51	92.52%

Cachuma Operation & Maintenance Board
Statement of Revenues and Expenditures - Unaudited
 Budget vs. Actuals July 2025 - June 2026

	Fisheries				Operations				TOTAL			
	Jul '25 - Apr 26	Budget	\$ Over / (Under) Budget	% of Budget	Jul '25 - Apr 26	Budget	\$ Over / (Under) Budget	% of Budget	Jul '25 - Apr 26	Budget	\$ Over / (Under) Budget	% of Budget
	3506 · Training	0.00				2,572.75	3,000.00	-427.25	85.76%	2,572.75	3,000.00	-427.25
3507 · Permits	0.00				23,514.82	25,000.00	-1,485.18	94.06%	23,514.82	25,000.00	-1,485.18	94.06%
Total 3500 · OTHER EXPENSES	0.00				63,616.31	78,500.00	-14,883.69	81.04%	63,616.31	78,500.00	-14,883.69	81.04%
4100 · LABOR - FISHERIES	744,491.61	908,841.00	-164,349.39	81.92%	0.00				744,491.61	908,841.00	-164,349.39	81.92%
4200 · VEHICLES & EQUIP - FISHERIES												
4270 · Vehicle/Equip Mtce	21,763.30	30,000.00	-8,236.70	72.54%	0.00				21,763.30	30,000.00	-8,236.70	72.54%
4280 · Fixed Capital	1,173.73	20,000.00	-18,826.27	5.87%	0.00				1,173.73	20,000.00	-18,826.27	5.87%
4290 · Miscellaneous	0.00	2,500.00	-2,500.00	0.0%	0.00				0.00	2,500.00	-2,500.00	0.0%
Total 4200 · VEHICLES & EQUIP - FISHERIES	22,937.03	52,500.00	-29,562.97	43.69%	0.00				22,937.03	52,500.00	-29,562.97	43.69%
4220 · CONTRACT LABOR - FISHERIES												
4221 · Meters & Valves	1,720.11	3,000.00	-1,279.89	57.34%	0.00				1,720.11	3,000.00	-1,279.89	57.34%
4222 · Fish Projects Maintenance	4,951.02	15,000.00	-10,048.98	33.01%	0.00				4,951.02	15,000.00	-10,048.98	33.01%
Total 4220 · CONTRACT LABOR - FISHERIES	6,671.13	18,000.00	-11,328.87	37.06%	0.00				6,671.13	18,000.00	-11,328.87	37.06%
4300 · MATERIALS/SUPPLIES - FISHERIES												
4390 · Miscellaneous	7,147.95	8,250.00	-1,102.05	86.64%	0.00				7,147.95	8,250.00	-1,102.05	86.64%
Total 4300 · MATERIALS/SUPPLIES - FISHERIES	7,147.95	8,250.00	-1,102.05	86.64%	0.00				7,147.95	8,250.00	-1,102.05	86.64%
4500 · OTHER EXPENSES - FISHERIES												
4502 · Uniforms	5,632.22	5,000.00	632.22	112.64%	0.00				5,632.22	5,000.00	632.22	112.64%
4503 · Permits	1,079.00	8,000.00	-6,921.00	13.49%	0.00				1,079.00	8,000.00	-6,921.00	13.49%
Total 4500 · OTHER EXPENSES - FISHERIES	6,711.22	13,000.00	-6,288.78	51.63%	0.00				6,711.22	13,000.00	-6,288.78	51.63%
4999 · GENERAL & ADMINISTRATIVE												
5000 · Director Fees	0.00				6,568.25	12,400.00	-5,831.75	52.97%	6,568.25	12,400.00	-5,831.75	52.97%
5001 · Director Mileage	0.00				345.36	600.00	-254.64	57.56%	345.36	600.00	-254.64	57.56%
5100 · Legal	0.00				19,471.50	75,000.00	-55,528.50	25.96%	19,471.50	75,000.00	-55,528.50	25.96%
5101 · Audit	0.00				23,380.50	22,750.00	630.50	102.77%	23,380.50	22,750.00	630.50	102.77%
5150 · Unemployment Tax	0.00				0.00	5,000.00	-5,000.00	0.0%	0.00	5,000.00	-5,000.00	0.0%
5200 · Liability Insurance	0.00				70,592.27	55,100.00	15,492.27	128.12%	70,592.27	55,100.00	15,492.27	128.12%
5310 · Postage/Office Exp	0.00				6,983.14	6,000.00	983.14	116.39%	6,983.14	6,000.00	983.14	116.39%
5311 · Office Equip/Leases	0.00				7,045.62	13,440.00	-6,394.38	52.42%	7,045.62	13,440.00	-6,394.38	52.42%
5312 · Misc Admin Expenses	0.00				11,130.72	11,000.00	130.72	101.19%	11,130.72	11,000.00	130.72	101.19%
5313 · Communications	0.00				6,623.45	9,500.00	-2,876.55	69.72%	6,623.45	9,500.00	-2,876.55	69.72%
5314 · Utilities	0.00				9,973.24	9,737.00	236.24	102.43%	9,973.24	9,737.00	236.24	102.43%
5315 · Membership Dues	0.00				12,398.90	11,700.00	698.90	105.97%	12,398.90	11,700.00	698.90	105.97%
5316 · Admin Fixed Assets	0.00				1,855.55	12,000.00	-10,144.45	15.46%	1,855.55	12,000.00	-10,144.45	15.46%
5318 · Computer Consultant	0.00				23,807.50	35,000.00	-11,192.50	68.02%	23,807.50	35,000.00	-11,192.50	68.02%
5325 · Emp Training/Subscriptions	0.00				9.75	2,000.00	-1,990.25	0.49%	9.75	2,000.00	-1,990.25	0.49%

Cachuma Operation & Maintenance Board
Statement of Revenues and Expenditures - Unaudited
 Budget vs. Actuals July 2025 - June 2026

	Fisheries				Operations				TOTAL			
	Jul '25 - Apr 26	Budget	\$ Over / (Under)		Jul '25 - Apr 26	Budget	\$ Over / (Under)		Jul '25 - Apr 26	Budget	\$ Over / (Under)	
			Budget	% of Budget			Budget	% of Budget			Budget	% of Budget
5330 · Admin Travel	0.00				1,733.04	3,500.00	-1,766.96	49.52%	1,733.04	3,500.00	-1,766.96	49.52%
5331 · Public Information	0.00				1,902.69	3,500.00	-1,597.31	54.36%	1,902.69	3,500.00	-1,597.31	54.36%
Total 4999 · GENERAL & ADMINISTRATIVE	0.00				203,821.48	288,227.00	-84,405.52	70.72%	203,821.48	288,227.00	-84,405.52	70.72%
5299 · ADMIN LABOR	0.00				649,939.41	769,375.00	-119,435.59	84.48%	649,939.41	769,375.00	-119,435.59	84.48%
5400 · GENERAL & ADMIN - FISHERIES												
5407 · Legal - FD	6,671.00	25,000.00	-18,329.00	26.68%	0.00				6,671.00	25,000.00	-18,329.00	26.68%
5410 · Postage / Office Supplies	3,721.24	4,000.00	-278.76	93.03%	0.00				3,721.24	4,000.00	-278.76	93.03%
5411 · Office Equipment / Leases	3,793.73	8,533.00	-4,739.27	44.46%	0.00				3,793.73	8,533.00	-4,739.27	44.46%
5412 · Misc. Admin Expense	5,823.91	7,500.00	-1,676.09	77.65%	0.00				5,823.91	7,500.00	-1,676.09	77.65%
5413 · Communications	3,566.52	4,455.00	-888.48	80.06%	0.00				3,566.52	4,455.00	-888.48	80.06%
5414 · Utilities	5,370.20	5,243.00	127.20	102.43%	0.00				5,370.20	5,243.00	127.20	102.43%
5415 · Membership Dues	7,505.70	7,200.00	305.70	104.25%	0.00				7,505.70	7,200.00	305.70	104.25%
5416 · Admin Fixed Assets	999.14	5,000.00	-4,000.86	19.98%	0.00				999.14	5,000.00	-4,000.86	19.98%
5418 · Computer Consultant	12,819.43	20,000.00	-7,180.57	64.1%	0.00				12,819.43	20,000.00	-7,180.57	64.1%
5425 · Employee Education/Subsription	5.25	2,500.00	-2,494.75	0.21%	0.00				5.25	2,500.00	-2,494.75	0.21%
5426 · Director Fees	3,536.75	6,700.00	-3,163.25	52.79%	0.00				3,536.75	6,700.00	-3,163.25	52.79%
5427 · Director Mileage	185.95	300.00	-114.05	61.98%	0.00				185.95	300.00	-114.05	61.98%
5430 · Travel	2,715.32	4,000.00	-1,284.68	67.88%	0.00				2,715.32	4,000.00	-1,284.68	67.88%
5431 · Public Information	1,024.60	1,500.00	-475.40	68.31%	0.00				1,024.60	1,500.00	-475.40	68.31%
5441 · Audit	12,589.50	12,250.00	339.50	102.77%	0.00				12,589.50	12,250.00	339.50	102.77%
5443 · Liab & Property Ins	38,011.22	29,800.00	8,211.22	127.55%	0.00				38,011.22	29,800.00	8,211.22	127.55%
Total 5400 · GENERAL & ADMIN - FISHERIES	108,339.46	143,981.00	-35,641.54	75.25%	0.00				108,339.46	143,981.00	-35,641.54	75.25%
5499 · ADMIN LABOR-FISHERIES	284,537.53	342,004.00	-57,466.47	83.2%	0.00				284,537.53	342,004.00	-57,466.47	83.2%
5510 · Integrated Reg. Water Mgt Plan	0.00				454.01	5,000.00	-4,545.99	9.08%	454.01	5,000.00	-4,545.99	9.08%
6199 · SPECIAL PROJECTS												
6097 · GIS and Mapping	0.00				6,077.50	10,000.00	-3,922.50	60.78%	6,077.50	10,000.00	-3,922.50	60.78%
6100 · Watershed Sanitary Survey	0.00				16,695.00	75,000.00	-58,305.00	22.26%	16,695.00	75,000.00	-58,305.00	22.26%
6105 · ROW Management Program	0.00				16,769.00	20,000.00	-3,231.00	83.85%	16,769.00	20,000.00	-3,231.00	83.85%
6110 · SCADA Improvements & Support	0.00				13,314.08	35,000.00	-21,685.92	38.04%	13,314.08	35,000.00	-21,685.92	38.04%
6115 · COMB Blding Improvemnts & Maint	0.00				44,159.45	80,000.00	-35,840.55	55.2%	44,159.45	80,000.00	-35,840.55	55.2%
6126 · 2024 Winter Storm Repairs	0.00				42,920.87	600,000.00	-557,079.13	7.15%	42,920.87	600,000.00	-557,079.13	7.15%
6138 · Water Quality & Sediment Mgmt	0.00				31,522.10	40,000.00	-8,477.90	78.81%	31,522.10	40,000.00	-8,477.90	78.81%
Total 6199 · SPECIAL PROJECTS	0.00				171,458.00	860,000.00	-688,542.00	19.94%	171,458.00	860,000.00	-688,542.00	19.94%
6000 · INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT PROJ												
6043 · Lauro Res Intake Design& Repair	0.00				65,646.50	75,000.00	-9,353.50	87.53%	65,646.50	75,000.00	-9,353.50	87.53%
6045 · Critical Access Rd Maint & Rep	0.00				38,690.00	50,000.00	-11,310.00	77.38%	38,690.00	50,000.00	-11,310.00	77.38%
6072 · Tecolote Tunnel Weep Hole Resto ⁽⁴⁾	0.00				0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0% #	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
6075 · Multi-Site Renwble Energy Resil	0.00				0.00	125,000.00	-125,000.00	0.0%	0.00	125,000.00	-125,000.00	0.0%
6096 · Lower Reach BlowOff AVAR Valve ⁽⁵⁾	0.00				0.00	40,000.00	-40,000.00	0.0%	0.00	40,000.00	-40,000.00	0.0%
6102 · Lauro Bypass Channel Road Imprv	0.00				0.00	1,245,000.00	-1,245,000.00	0.0%	0.00	1,245,000.00	-1,245,000.00	0.0%

Cachuma Operation & Maintenance Board
Statement of Revenues and Expenditures - Unaudited
 Budget vs. Actuals July 2025 - June 2026

	Fisheries				Operations				TOTAL			
	Jul '25 - Apr 26	Budget	\$ Over / (Under)		Jul '25 - Apr 26	Budget	\$ Over / (Under)		Jul '25 - Apr 26	Budget	\$ Over / (Under)	
			Budget	% of Budget			Budget	% of Budget			Budget	% of Budget
6107 · North Portal Elevator Mod	0.00				0.00	100,000.00	-100,000.00	0.0%	0.00	100,000.00	-100,000.00	0.0%
6123 · Sheffield Tunnel Insp/Eval SCC	0.00				54,485.25	130,000.00	-75,514.75	41.91%	54,485.25	130,000.00	-75,514.75	41.91%
6128 · Lauro Outlet Wrks Tunnel Safety	0.00				33,471.52	125,000.00	-91,528.48	26.78%	33,471.52	125,000.00	-91,528.48	26.78%
6133 · Meter Replacement Project	0.00				37,269.65	100,000.00	-62,730.35	37.27%	37,269.65	100,000.00	-62,730.35	37.27%
6134 · N.P. IT/Control Bldg Seismic	0.00				0.00	150,000.00	-150,000.00	0.0%	0.00	150,000.00	-150,000.00	0.0%
6139 · Tecolote Tunn Concrete Deterior (6)	0.00				0.00	50,000.00	-50,000.00	0.0%	0.00	50,000.00	-50,000.00	0.0%
6140 · Critical Control Valve Replcmnt	0.00				303,097.38	325,000.00	-21,902.62	93.26%	303,097.38	325,000.00	-21,902.62	93.26%
Total 6000 · INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT PROJ	0.00				532,660.30	2,515,000.00	-1,982,339.70	21.18%	532,660.30	2,515,000.00	-1,982,339.70	21.18%
6200 · PROGRAM SUPPORT SERVICES												
6201 · BO/FMP Implementation (7)	19,141.52	20,000.00	-858.48	95.71%	0.00				19,141.52	20,000.00	-858.48	95.71%
6202 · GIS and Mapping	3,302.50	10,000.00	-6,697.50	33.03%	0.00				3,302.50	10,000.00	-6,697.50	33.03%
6205 · USGS Stream Gauge Program	81,662.50	110,000.00	-28,337.50	74.24%	0.00				81,662.50	110,000.00	-28,337.50	74.24%
Total 6200 · PROGRAM SUPPORT SERVICES	104,106.52	140,000.00	-35,893.48	74.36%	0.00				104,106.52	140,000.00	-35,893.48	74.36%
6300 · HABITAT IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS												
6321 · El Jaro Creek Cross Creek Ranch (7) (8)	28,896.25	65,000.00	-36,103.75	44.46%	0.00				28,896.25	65,000.00	-36,103.75	44.46%
6207 · Oak Tree Restoration Program	221.35	5,000.00	-4,778.65	4.43%	0.00				221.35	5,000.00	-4,778.65	4.43%
6303 · Tributary Projects Support	6,399.98	10,000.00	-3,600.02	64.0%	0.00				6,399.98	10,000.00	-3,600.02	64.0%
6320 · Hilton Creek Habitat Improvement (8)	0.00	25,000.00	-25,000.00	0.0%	0.00				0.00	25,000.00	-25,000.00	0.0%
Total 6300 · HABITAT IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS	35,517.58	105,000.00	-69,482.42	33.83%	0.00				35,517.58	105,000.00	-69,482.42	33.83%
Total Expense	\$ 1,320,460.03	\$ 1,731,576.00	\$ (411,115.97)	76.26%	\$ 3,185,823.06	\$ 6,523,601.00	\$ (3,337,777.94)	48.84%	\$ 4,506,283.09	\$ 8,255,177.00	\$ (3,748,893.91)	54.59%
Net Surplus / (Deficit)	\$ 362,694.11	\$ -	\$ 362,694.11	100.0%	\$ 1,773,714.03	\$ -	\$ 1,773,714.03	100.0%	\$ 2,136,408.14	\$ -	\$ 2,136,408.14	100.0%

- (1) O&M Budget assesemnts (Ops) reflect a credit adjustment of \$445K for the net cost of the Lauro Reservoir Bypass Channel Improvement project pending a FEMA/CalOES notice of funding approval.
- (2) Proceeds - Disposal of Fixed Asset includes sale of 2007 F350 Truck sold at auction (\$11.3K) and insurance/salvage proceeds from 2025 Chevy Silverado (\$52.5K) totalled in accident.
- (3) Vehicle and Equipment (Ops) includes purchase of John Deere 333 P-Tier Track Loader with trailer (\$132.5K), 2025 Chevy Silverado (\$48.5K), and 2026 Chevy Silverado (\$52.9k) (as replacement for totalled vehicle)
- (4) Includes a budget transfer in the amount of \$100,000 from Account #6072 - Tecolote Tunnel Weep Hole Restoration to Account #6140 - Critical Control Valve Replacement. Approved by the COMB Board of Directors on September 22, 2025
- (5) Includes a budget transfer in the amount of \$50,000 from Account #6096 - SCC Structure Rehabilitation to Account #6140 - Critical Control Valve Replacement. Approved by the COMB Board of Directors on September 22, 2025
- (6) Includes a budget transfer in the amount of \$100,000 from Account #6139 - Tecolote Tunnel Concrete Deterioration to Account #6140 - Critical Control Valve Replacement. Approved by the COMB Board of Directors on September 22, 2025
- (7) Includes a budget transfer in the amount of \$25,000 from Account #6201 - BO/FMP Implementation to Account #6321 El Jaro Creek-Cross Creek Ranch Habitat Enhancement
- (8) Includes a budget transfer in the amount of \$40,000 from Account #6320 Hilton Creek Habitat Enhancement to Account #6321 El Jaro Creek-Cross Creek Ranch Habitat Enhancement

CACHUMA OPERATION & MAINTENANCE BOARD

BOARD MEMORANDUM

Date:	May 18, 2026
Submitted by:	Janet Gingras

SUBJECT: Investment Report – April 30, 2026

RECOMMENDATION

The Board of Directors receive and file the Cachuma Operation & Maintenance Board Investment Report as of April 30, 2026.

DISCUSSION

Cash and investment programs are maintained in accordance with California Government Code Section 53600 et seq. and COMB's adopted investment policy. These policies ensure proper control and safeguards are maintained throughout the financial transaction process. Pursuant to State law, the COMB Board adopts a detailed investment policy through a Board resolution on an annual basis.

Reports on COMB's investment portfolio and cash position are developed and presented to the COMB Board on a monthly basis, in conformity with the California Government Code.

Unrestricted Cash

Unrestricted cash exceeding current operating needs is invested in LAIF to generate interest income. The average effective yield rate, as of April 2026, is reported at 3.81%.

See Table 1 below for a summary of balances held in unrestricted accounts.

Table 1			
Unrestricted Reserve Funds			
Local Agency Investment Fund (LAIF)			
	3/31/2026	\$	1,598,887.44
(+) Deposits/Credits			15,455.57
(-) Checks/Withdrawals			(371,000.00)
Statement Balance	4/30/2026	\$	1,243,343.01

Restricted Cash

The Cachuma Project Warren Act Trust Fund (Trust Fund) and Cachuma Project Master Contract Renewal Fund (Renewal Fund) are two separate funds that have been established through contracts with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation). The Trust Fund and the Renewal Fund require annual and five-year plans which are used to inform the Funds Committee in making decisions on expenditures for betterment of the Cachuma Project.

See Table 2 below for a summary of balances held in restricted accounts.

Table 2			
Restricted Reserve Funds			
American Riviera Bank			
Renewal Account			
Previous Balance	3/31/2026	\$	98,266.13
(+) Deposits/Credits			-
(-) Checks/Withdrawals			(29,024.27)
Statement Balance	4/30/2026	\$	69,241.86
American Riviera Bank			
Warren Act Trust Fund			
Previous Balance	3/31/2026	\$	47,584.54
(+) Deposits/Credits			-
(-) Checks/Withdrawals			-
Statement Balance	4/30/2026	\$	47,584.54

STATEMENT

The above statement of investment activity for the month of April 2026, complies with legal requirements for investment policy of government agencies, AB 1073. I hereby certify that it constitutes a complete and accurate summary of all American Riviera Bank and LAIF investments of this agency for the period indicated.



 Secretary

Cachuma Operation & Maintenance Board
Paid Claims
As of April 30, 2026

Date	Num	Name	Memo	Amount
04/06/2026	32666	ACWA-Joint Powers Insurance Authority	Workers Compensation Program 01/01/2026-03/31/2026	-13,124.21
04/06/2026	32667	Aqua-Flo Supply	Supplies (Ops)	-24.88
04/06/2026	32668	Association of Ca Water Agencies/JPIA	May 2026 Health Benefits Premium	-34,402.80
04/06/2026	32669	AT&T	Long Distance Service March 2026	-42.84
04/06/2026	32670	Channel City Lumber	Supplies (Ops)	-244.89
04/06/2026	32671	City of Santa-Barbara	Trash, Recycling, & Green Waste March 2026	-509.64
04/06/2026	32672	Coastal Copy, Inc.	Copier Maintenance - Kyocera Taskalfas 2554ci & 6054ci	-320.21
04/06/2026	32673	Core and Main, LP	Two Submersible Pumps (Ops)	-1,525.96
04/06/2026	32674	Cox Communications Santa Barbara	Business Internet April 2026	-234.65
04/06/2026	32675	Culligan of Ventura County	Operations Safety	-123.00
04/06/2026	32676	Cushman Contracting Corp.	Lauro Outlet Works Tunnel Safety Improvements - Pipeline Coating (Ops)	-14,276.16
04/06/2026	32677	ECHO Communications	Message Service March 2026	-114.00
04/06/2026	32678	Emerson LLLP	Equipment - Level & Flow Transmitter (Ops)	-1,976.88
04/06/2026	32679	Eric Krebs Automotive	2024 Ford - F550 Super Duty - Routine Service (Ops)	-349.04
04/06/2026	32680	Federal Express	Shipping (Admin)	-58.57
04/06/2026	32681	Frontier Communications	Phone Service - Main Office Land Lines	-278.89
04/06/2026	32682	Frontier Communications	Phone Service - North Portal	-83.82
04/06/2026	32683	Linde Gas & Equipment Inc.	Compressed Gas (Ops)	-273.06
04/06/2026	32684	Marborg Industries	Portable Facilities - Outlying Stations	-530.61
04/06/2026	32685	O'Connor Pest Control	Exterminator Services - COMB Headquarters, North Portal, & Glen Anne Outlet Works	-503.49
04/06/2026	32686	Rayne of Santa Barbara Inc	May RO Rental	-38.00
04/06/2026	32687	Southern California Edison	Electricity - Main Office & Outlying Stations	-1,751.60
04/06/2026	32688	Underground Service Alert of So. Calif.	Ticket Charges & Database Fee	-293.80
04/06/2026	32689	WEX Fleet Universal	Fleet Fuel (Ops & Fisheries)	-4,742.43
04/06/2026	32690	Zac Gonzalez Landscaping & Tree Care	Landscape Maintenance March 2026	-480.00
04/14/2026	32691	ACWA/Joint Powers Insurance Authority	Property Insurance 04/01/2026-03/31/2027	-18,780.39
04/14/2026	32692	ACWA/Joint Powers Insurance Authority	Excess Crime 04/01/2026-03/31/2027	-790.00
04/14/2026	32693	Aseva	Phone Service - Main Office	-767.50
04/14/2026	32694	Aspect Engineering Group	SCADA Improvements & Support (Ops)	-2,128.75
04/14/2026	32695	County of Santa--Barbara	Waste Disposal Fee (Ops)	-179.81
04/14/2026	32696	County of Santa Barbara Hall of Records	ROW Management Program - Official Records Copies (Ops)	-234.00
04/14/2026	32697	Eric Krebs Automotive	2005 Ford - F550 Super Duty - Repairs (Ops)	-1,530.95
04/14/2026	32698	Foster & Foster Actuaries & Consultants	Preparation of Actuarial Valuation GASB 75	-1,755.00
04/14/2026	32699	GEI Consultants Inc.	Lauro Reservoir Intake Assessment / Repair Project- Engineering Support (Ops)	-1,987.00
04/14/2026	32700	Jim Vreeland Ford	2018 F-150 - Repairs (Fisheries)	-2,403.46
04/14/2026	32701	LoopUp, LLC	Conference Calls March 2026	-26.62
04/14/2026	32702	O'Connor Pest Control	Rodent Exclusion Warranty	-279.00
04/14/2026	32703	Quill Corporation	Supplies (Ops & Fisheries)	-59.15
04/14/2026	32704	Stewart's & Selzer Plumbing	North Portal Control Station Septic System Repairs (Ops)	-1,220.00
04/14/2026	32705	Trenchalk Network Services, Inc.	Network Support (Ops & Fisheries)	-3,637.02
04/14/2026	32706	Verizon Wireless	Operations Cell Phones & iPads (Ops)	-457.08
04/14/2026	32707	Verizon Wireless	Cellular Service - Wireless Modems (Ops)	-304.56
04/17/2026		COMB-Petty Cash	Reimburse Petty Cash March 2026	-470.42
04/20/2026	32708	Applied EarthWorks, Inc.	Critical Control Valve Replacement - Cultural Resources Inventory (Ops)	-100.78
04/20/2026	32709	E.H. Wachs	Valve Exerciser & Telescopic Valve Key (Ops)	-12,770.25
04/20/2026	32710	Eurofins Drinking Water and Wastewater W.	Cachuma Water Quality Testing (Ops)	-1,178.30
04/20/2026	32711	Flowers & Associates, Inc.	On-Call Engineering - Professional Engineering Services (Ops)	-2,383.75
04/20/2026	32712	Flowers & Associates, Inc.	Sheffield Tunnel Pipeline Repair Project - Professional Engineering Services (Ops)	-1,691.25
04/20/2026	32713	Landers Roofing Co.	COMB Board Room Roof Installation & Dry Rot Repair	-15,533.75
04/20/2026	32714	Securitas Technology Corp	Security System Monitoring Service - 05/01/2026 through 07/31/2026	-184.08
04/20/2026	32715	The Gas Company	Natural Gas - Main Office	-26.78
04/20/2026	32716	United States Geological Survey	USGS Quarterly Joint Funding Agreement 01/01/2026-03/31/2026	-27,682.50
04/27/2026	32717	American Riviera Bank - Card Service	Staff Uniforms, Office & Field Supplies (Ops & Fisheries)	-3,911.80
04/27/2026	32718	Applied EarthWorks, Inc.	Cultural Resources Survey - Glenn Anne Turnout Rd, Lauro Reservoir & COMB Solar Project	-443.73
04/27/2026	32719	Cushman Contracting Corp.	EPFP Pumping System - Pay Req 144	-3,500.00
04/27/2026	32720	Eric Krebs Automotive	2019 Ford - F150 XL - Routine Service & Replace Brake Pads and Engine Knock Sensor (Ops)	-3,310.25
04/27/2026	32721	J&C Services	Office Cleaning Service - Weekly (03/13, 03/20, 03/27, & 04/03/2026)	-1,230.00
04/27/2026	32722	Marborg Industries	Portable Facilities - Outlying Stations	-530.61
04/27/2026	32723	O'Connor Pest Control	Exterminator Services - North Portal	-145.00
04/27/2026	32724	O'Reilly Automotive, Inc.	Supplies (Ops)	-139.88

Cachuma Operation & Maintenance Board

Paid Claims

As of April 30, 2026

Date	Num	Name	Memo	Amount
04/27/2026	32725	Prober Land Surveying	El Jaro Cross Creek Ranch Fish Passage - Topographic Survey (Fisheries)	-9,850.00
04/27/2026	32726	Staples Business Credit	Supplies (Ops & Fisheries)	-814.41
04/27/2026	32727	Stewart's & Selzer Plumbing	North Portal Control Station Septic System Repairs (Ops)	-1,975.00
04/27/2026	32728	Sunbelt Rentals, Inc.	Equipment Rental (Ops)	-363.08
04/27/2026	32729	Tierra Contracting, Inc.	Critical Control Valve Replacement - Sheffield Control Station Improvement Project Phase I (Ops)	-79,716.55
04/27/2026	32730	Wells Fargo Vendor Fin Serv	Copier Lease - Kyocera Taskalfa 2554ci & 6054ci	-451.34
				<u>-281,247.23</u>
				<u>-281,247.23</u>

APPROVALS

CACHUMA OPERATION & MAINTENANCE BOARD

Administrative Committee Meeting

held at

**3301 Laurel Canyon Road
Santa Barbara CA 93105**

Wednesday, May 6, 2026

10:00 AM

AGENDA

Chair: Director Hanson

Member: Director O'Connor

NOTICE: This Meeting shall be conducted in-person and through remote access as authorized and in accordance with Government Code section 54953, AB 361 and AB 2449.

1. Call to Order
2. Public Comment (*Public may address the Committee on any subject matter on the agenda and within the Committee's jurisdiction*)
3. Proposed Draft Fiscal Year 2026-27 Annual Operating Budget (*for information and possible recommendation*)
4. Adjournment

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Public Comment: The public is welcome to attend and observe the meeting. A public comment period will be included at the meeting where any member of the public may address the Committee on any subject within the Committee's jurisdiction. The total time for this item will be limited by the Chair.

Americans with Disabilities Act: In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact Cachuma Operation & Maintenance Board (COMB) at 687-4011 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting to enable staff to make reasonable arrangements.

[This Agenda was posted at COMB offices, 3301 Laurel Canyon Road, Santa Barbara, CA and Noticed and Delivered in Accordance with Section 54954.1 and .2 of the Government Code.]

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CACHUMA OPERATION & MAINTENANCE BOARD

BOARD MEMORANDUM

Date:	May 18, 2026
Submitted by:	Edward Lyons
Approved by:	Janet Gingras

SUBJECT: Resolution No. 823 - Proposed Fiscal Year (FY) 2026-27 Annual Operating Budget

RECOMMENDATION:

The Board of Directors receive a presentation on the COMB Proposed FY 2026-27 Annual Operating Budget and provide direction to staff, as appropriate, including adopting Resolution No. 823 approving the Budget.

BACKGROUND:

Each year, the Board of Directors approves the COMB Annual Operating Budget (Budget) for the following fiscal year, which runs from July 1 through June 30. The Budget provides a framework for effecting policy directives, executing operational plans, and implementing infrastructure improvement projects necessary to operate and maintain the Cachuma Project Transferred Project Works. In addition, the Budget establishes the direction for the near term and, to the extent decisions have continuing implications, it establishes a long-term course as well. The Budget also supports the work associated with implementation of the Fish Management Plan and the 2000 Cachuma Project Biological Opinion.

At the beginning of the annual budget planning cycle, COMB staff prepares estimated budget projections and presents a draft Operating Budget to the General Managers and technical staff of the COMB Member Agencies. Staff incorporates any comments received into the proposed operating budget prior to submission to the COMB Administrative Committee.

Following review by the Administrative Committee, COMB staff conducts a public budget workshop with the COMB Board to review the operating budget, the proposed upcoming infrastructure and habitat improvement projects, and any revenue and expenditure assumptions and projections contained therein.

Depending on the quantity or nature of comments received during the budget workshop, the proposed budget may be sent back to committee for further consideration or brought back to the Board at its next meeting, as revised, for adoption.

SUMMARY:

Presented for review and discussion is the COMB Proposed FY 2026-27 Annual Operating Budget. The proposed budget reflects projected operating expenses for the Operations Division, the Fisheries Division as well as General and Administrative expenses. These projected expenditures have been refined through development of divisional annual work plans, the Board adopted Five-Year (2027-2031) Infrastructure Improvement Plan and required implementation activities associated with the 2000 Biological Opinion and WRO 2019-0148 as requested by Reclamation.

As reflected in Table 1, the COMB Gross Operating Budget for FY 2026-27, excluding offsetting revenues, is \$9.0M as compared to the FY 2025-26 Operating Budget of \$8.3M, which reflects an increase of \$776.3K (9.4%).

Table 1: COMB Operating Budget

COMB OPERATING BUDGET				
SALARIES & BENEFITS	FY 2025-26	FY 2026-27	Change (\$)	Change (%)
Operations Division	\$ 1,382,999	\$ 1,434,453	\$ 51,455	3.7%
Fisheries Division	908,841	985,031	\$ 76,189	8.4%
Administration	1,111,380	1,169,794	\$ 58,414	5.3%
TOTAL	\$ 3,403,220	\$ 3,589,278	\$ 186,058	5.5%
OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE EXPENSES				
Operations Division	\$ 703,000	\$ 630,700	\$ (72,300)	-10.3%
Fisheries Division	91,750	143,500	\$ 51,750	56.4%
TOTAL	\$ 794,750	\$ 774,200	\$ (20,550)	-2.6%
GENERAL & ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES				
Operation Division	\$ 293,227	\$ 315,490	\$ 22,263	7.6%
Fisheries Division	143,981	151,534	\$ 7,554	5.2%
TOTAL	\$ 437,207	\$ 467,024	\$ 29,817	6.8%
Total Operating Budget	\$ 4,635,177	\$ 4,830,502	\$ 195,325	4.2%
INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT, HABITAT IMPROVEMENT & SPECIAL PROJECTS				
Operations Division				
Infrastructure Improvement Projects	\$ 2,515,000	\$ 3,730,000	\$ 1,215,000	48.3%
Special Projects	860,000	191,000	\$ (669,000)	-77.8%
TOTAL	3,375,000	3,921,000	\$ 546,000	16.2%
Fisheries Division				
Habitat Improvement Projects	\$ 105,000	\$ 110,000	\$ 5,000	4.8%
Program Support Services	\$ 140,000	\$ 170,000	\$ 30,000	21.4%
TOTAL	245,000	280,000	\$ 35,000	14.3%
TOTAL GROSS OPERATING BUDGET	\$ 8,255,177	\$ 9,031,502	\$ 776,325	9.4%
Projected Offsetting Revenues	\$ (1,828,246)	\$ (2,258,849)		
TOTAL NET OPERATING BUDGET	\$ 6,426,931	\$ 6,772,653	\$ 345,722	5.4%

The following items describe the net change from the previous fiscal year:

Table 2: Change from Previous Year

Amount	Description
\$186.1K	Salaries and Benefits - An increase of \$186.5K (5.5%) which includes staffing of fifteen full-time and two fulltime equivalent (FTE) seasonal employees, step increases, a 2.89% COLA adjustment, a 3.9% health benefits premium increase and an 11.1% increase in CalPERS obligation and unfunded liability.
(\$20.6K)	Operations and Maintenance Expenses - A decrease of \$20.6K (2.6%) which is attributed to a decrease in Ops fixed capital of \$106K and is offset by an increase in contract labor of \$25K and Fisheries fixed capital of \$50K.
\$29.8K	General and Administrative Expenses (excluding administrative salaries) - An increase of \$29.8K (6.8%) is attributed to an increase in general liability insurance costs as well as a slight increase in audit expense, utilities, membership dues and miscellaneous office expense.
\$546K	Infrastructure Improvement Projects and Special Projects – An increase of \$546K (16.2%) See pages 65-78 for information on upcoming scheduled projects.
\$35K	Habitat Improvement Projects and Program Support Services – An increase of \$35.0K (14.3%). See pages 86-89 for information on upcoming scheduled projects.
\$776.3K	Net Change

The COMB Net Operating Budget, including offsetting revenues for FY 2026-27, is \$6.8M and is compared to FY 2025-26 of \$6.4M, which is an increase of \$345.7K (5.4%). COMB is actively engaged to identify other sources of funding opportunities to lessen the financial burden on its Member Agencies.

COMB Managed Revenues

In addition to the annual Operating Budget, COMB collects and manages various other assessments considered as pass-through revenues and charges. COMB has the authority, granted by various agreements, for administering the provisions, collection and payment of these revenues including the USBR Entitlement Obligation (USBR Water Rates), the Bradbury and Lauro Safety of Dams (SOD) Repayment Obligations, and the State Water Resource Control Board Water Rights Fee. COMB is also responsible for managing various federal, state and local grant revenues, as well as, various restricted trust fund accounts.

For FY 2026-27, the total projected managed revenue is \$10.4M and is compared to the FY 2025-26 total projected managed revenue of \$9.3M as shown in Table 3.

Table 3: Projected Obligation by Cachuma Project Member Unit

CATEGORY	Projected Obligation by Cachuma Project Member Unit - FY 2026-27						FY 2025-26
	GWD	City of SB	CVWD	MWD	SYRWCD ID No. 1	Totals	
COMB Gross Operating Budget (Billed Quarterly)	\$ 3,650,261	\$ 3,241,432	\$ 1,101,624	\$ 1,038,185	\$ -	\$ 9,031,502	\$ 8,255,177
USBR Water Rates (Due Oct 1 st)	870,000	772,560	262,560	247,440	247,440	2,400,000	2,200,000
Lauro Reservoir Intake Assessment/Repair (March/April)	-	301,350	99,325	99,325	-	500,000	-
Bradbury SOD Act (Due Oct 1st)	94,847	84,224	28,624	26,976	26,976	261,647	261,647
Cachuma Project Renewal Fund (Due Oct 1st)	87,228	77,458	26,325	24,809	24,809	240,628	244,239
Lauro SOD Act (Due Oct 1st)	19,159	17,013	5,782	5,449	-	47,404	47,404
SWRCB Water Rights Fee (Billed Dec/Jan)	31,920	28,340	9,630	9,080	8,380	87,350	87,350
DDW D3 Permit Fee (Billed Dec/Jan)	-	12,047	4,094	3,859	-	20,000	20,000
2000 BiOp / Oak Tree Reimbursement (Billed Quarterly)	-	-	-	-	35,191	35,191	20,000
Total Gross Obligation	\$4,753,415	\$4,534,425	\$1,537,964	\$1,455,122	\$342,796	\$12,623,722	\$11,115,817
Less Offsetting Revenues:							
FEMA Assistance	\$ (323,336)	\$ (287,122)	\$ (97,581)	\$ (91,961)	\$ -	\$ (800,000)	\$ (1,295,000)
Grant Income	(234,014)	(207,805)	(70,624)	(66,557)	-	(579,000)	(154,000)
Lauro Reservoir Intake Offset - SC JPA	(202,085)	(179,451)	(60,988)	(57,476)	-	(500,000)	-
Warren Act Trust Fund	(7,769)	(6,898)	(2,344)	(2,209)	-	(19,221)	(15,007)
Renewal Fund	(97,255)	(86,362)	(29,351)	(27,661)	-	(240,628)	(244,239)
DDW Permit Fee	(8,083)	(7,178)	(2,440)	(2,299)	-	(20,000)	(20,000)
County Betterment Fund	(40,417)	(35,890)	(12,198)	(11,495)	-	(100,000)	(100,000)
Total Offsetting Revenue	(\$912,959)	(\$810,707)	(\$275,525)	(\$259,658)	\$ -	(\$2,258,849)	\$ (1,828,246)
Sub Total Projected Net Obligation	\$ 3,840,457	\$ 3,723,718	\$ 1,262,439	\$ 1,195,464	\$ 342,796	\$ 10,364,873	\$ 9,287,571
Memo:							
FY 2025-26	\$ 3,605,285	\$ 3,213,535	\$ 1,092,141	\$ 1,029,253	\$ 347,357	\$ 9,287,571	
Increase/Decrease (\$)	\$ 235,172	\$ 510,182	\$ 170,298	\$ 166,211	\$ (4,561)	\$ 1,077,302	
Increase/Decrease (%)	6.5%	15.9%	15.6%	16.1%	(1.3%)	11.6%	

COMMITTEE STATUS:

The Administrative Committee reviewed the COMB Proposed Draft FY 2026-27 Annual Operating Budget and forwards it to the Board for presentation and consideration, including adopting Resolution No. 823 approving the Budget.

LIST OF EXHIBITS:

- 1) Resolution No. 823
- 2) Proposed FY 2026-27 Operating Budget

RESOLUTION NO. 823

**RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE
CACHUMA OPERATION & MAINTENANCE BOARD ADOPTING THE
ANNUAL OPERATING BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2027**

WHEREAS, the Cachuma Operation & Maintenance Board (“COMB”) is a joint powers authority and public entity, organized and existing in the County of Santa Barbara in accordance with Government Code Section 6500 et seq., and operating pursuant to the 1996 Amended and Restated Agreement for the Establishment of a Board of Control to Operate and Maintain the Cachuma Project - Cachuma Operation And Maintenance Board, dated May 23, 1996 (“Amended and Restated Agreement”), as amended by an Amendment to the Amended and Restated Agreement made effective September 16, 2003; and as amended by the Second Amendment to the 1996 Amended and Restated Agreement made effective November 20, 2018 (collectively the “Joint Powers Agreement”); and

WHEREAS, the Member Agencies of COMB are the Goleta Water District, the City of Santa Barbara, the Montecito Water District, and Carpinteria Valley Water District; and

WHEREAS, COMB operates and maintains Cachuma Project facilities pursuant to a Transfer of Operation and Maintenance Contract with the United States Bureau of Reclamation, including the South Coast Conduit (SCC) and appurtenances. The SCC is a critical piece of infrastructure that provides for the conveyance of Cachuma Project water and State Project water to 250,000 residents on the South Coast of Santa Barbara County; and

WHEREAS, COMB staff developed the Fiscal Year (FY) 2026-27 Annual Operating Budget using zero-based budgeting methodology, which unlike traditional incremental budgeting, employs a detailed examination of expenditures wherein only the necessary budget amount for each line item is presented for discussion; and

WHEREAS, COMB staff presented the FY 2026-27 Draft Operating Budget to the General Managers and technical staff of the Member Agencies for review and incorporated comments and suggestions prior to it being presented to the Administrative Committee for review; and

WHEREAS, on May 6, 2026, the COMB Administrative Committee reviewed the FY 2026-27 Draft Annual Operating Budget and, after providing comments, forwarded it to the COMB Governing Board for review and consideration; and

WHEREAS, on May 18, 2026, the Governing Board was provided an overview of the FY 2026-27 Proposed Annual Operating Budget, with assurances that it was based on Board priorities, demonstrates fiscal accountability, and ensures future financial sustainability; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of COMB to approve and adopt the COMB FY 2026-27 Annual Operating Budget for sound financial operation of COMB.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BOARD OF COMB AS FOLLOWS:

1. The Governing Board finds and determines that the facts set forth in the above recitals and in the documents referenced herein are true and correct.
2. The Governing Board approves and adopts, with consideration of any modifications made at the time of adoption, the COMB FY 2026-27 Annual Operating Budget ending June 30, 2027.
3. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED by the Governing Board of the Cachuma Operation and Maintenance Board, this 18th day of May 2026, by the following roll call vote:

Ayes:
Nays:
Abstain:
Absent:

APPROVED:

President of the Governing Board

ATTEST:

Secretary of the Governing Board

Fiscal Year 2026-27 Annual Operating Budget



Adopted: May 18, 2026



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Our Mission

*To provide a reliable source of water to our Member Agencies
in an efficient and cost-effective manner
for the betterment of our community*



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**Cachuma Operation and
Maintenance Board**

Board of Directors

Name	Title	Member Agency
Kristen Sneddon	President	City of Santa Barbara
Cori Hayman	Vice President	Montecito Water District
Lauren Hanson	Director	Goleta Water District
Patrick O'Connor	Director	Carpinteria Valley Water District

General Manager

Janet L. Gingras

Staff Contributors

Edward Lyons, Administrative Manager, CFO

Joel Degner, Engineer / Operations Division Manager

Tim Robinson, Fisheries Division Manager

Elijah Papen, Water Resources Analyst

Dorothy Turner, Administrative Assistant II

Rosey Bishop, Administrative Assistant II

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COMB AT A GLANCE

Form of government	Joint Powers Authority
Date of organization	January 1, 1957
Number of full-time staff	15
Lake Cachuma maximum storage (acre feet)	192,978
Lake Cachuma spillway elevation (feet)	753
Tecolote Tunnel (miles)	6
South Coast Conduit (SCC) pipeline (miles)	26
SCC design capacity	45 million gallons per day
Number of reservoirs	4
Number of structures maintained	220
Number of meters maintained	28

COMB MEMBER AGENCIES

COMB Member Agency	COMB Board Representation
Goleta Water District	2 Votes
City of Santa Barbara	2 Votes
Carpinteria Valley Water District	1 Vote
Montecito Water District	1 Vote
Total	6 Votes

CACHUMA PROJECT WATER ENTITLEMENT

Cachuma Project Member Unit	Entitlement (%)	Entitlement (AFY)
Goleta Water District	36.25%	9,322
City of Santa Barbara	32.19%	8,277
Carpinteria Valley Water District	10.94%	2,813
Montecito Water District	10.31%	2,651
SYR Water Conservation District, ID No. 1	10.31%	2,651
Total	100.00%	25,714

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General Manager's Message

The COMB Fiscal Year (FY) 2026-27 Operating Budget (Budget) provides the foundation for implementing critical infrastructure improvement projects necessary to operate and maintain the Cachuma Transferred Project Works. In addition, the Budget supports the work associated with implementation of the Lower Santa Ynez River Fish Management Plan and the 2000 Cachuma Project Biological Opinion. The Budget document provides detailed information about the Cachuma Operation & Maintenance Board (COMB) revenue and expenditure forecast for the coming year and addresses the main points and major decisions made in compiling the Budget. The Budget provides the financial plan required to implement our mission and will enable staff to utilize the resources needed to achieve our goals.

Adoption of the Budget is one of the most important actions taken by the Board of Directors. The Budget is COMB's financial work plan, translated into expenditures and supported by revenues. It establishes the direction for the near term and, to the extent the decisions have continuing implications, it establishes a long-term course as well. The Budget is a projection of revenues and expenditures needed for operation, maintenance, administration, infrastructure and habitat improvements associated with providing an essential water supply to our Member Agencies.

Year in Review

The COMB Operating Budget funded the highest priority projects and activities necessary to achieve our goals while keeping expenditures as low as possible. Some of the notable highlights over the last year are:

- Completed safety improvements at the Lauro Tunnel Access House, including installation of a new door, landing, ladder, and retaining wall to improve access and reduce engulfment hazards; also installed a water-resistant hardline communication system and a floor-mounted davit hoist for confined space rescue.
- Emptied and cleaned the Carpinteria Reservoir; replaced two failed 20-inch check valves and one frozen 20-inch valve and coordinated beneficial reuse of approximately one million gallons of remaining water with a neighboring landowner.
- Assisted the Bureau of Reclamation with replacement of a failed 10-inch outlet works valve at Bradbury Dam, including procurement coordination and contract support for valve calibration.
- Repaired a road slump along Glen Annie Turnout Road caused by 2024 winter storms; restored the slope and implemented drainage improvements to prevent future damage.
- Procured a new compact loader with an EPA Final Tier 4 engine, replacing a 20-year-old unit limited by emissions constraints.
- Conducted video inspections of the Lauro Dam spillway conduit, Lauro Reservoir storm drain and Lauro fault drain.

- Performed pilot meter accuracy testing for Montecito Water District meters to support improved annual water auditing performance.
- Procured large valves, meters, and spools for rehabilitation of Sheffield Control Station to improve pipeline capacity and operational isolation during shutdown.
- Assisted CDFW in fish rescue and relocation efforts at Quiota Creek Crossing starting in May through July of 2025 and successfully rescued/relocated 4,069 O. mykiss.

A complete list of accomplishments can be found on [pages 15-22](#) of this document.

Short Term Factors Influencing Budget Decisions

The objective of the Budget is to preserve the current level of service to our Member Agencies, the community and our external stakeholders. Conservative but realistic projection of revenues and expenditures helps ensure availability of resources to meet budgeted obligations. Significant fiscal and operational challenges continue to face our Member Agencies who will fund COMB in FY 2026-27.

- The Cachuma Project was completed in the early 1950s. A large portion of the facility and appurtenant structures are original (installed when the Project was constructed). COMB management and staff have developed a 5-year Infrastructure Improvement Plan (IIP) to provide a methodology for the COMB Board to make cost effective capital improvement decisions. The IIP is organized and structured to identify and prioritize rehabilitation projects necessary to protect, improve and sustain a reliable source of water conveyed from the Cachuma Project to the South Coast communities of Santa Barbara County. Further details are provided on [pages 65-75](#).
- The 2023 and 2024 winter storm events and subsequent debris flows caused damage to South Coast Conduit (SCC) appurtenant structures and facilities along the south coast. COMB is working with personnel from FEMA/CalOES to document the damages and is actively pursuing federal disaster relief and hazard mitigation funding as well as other revenues to offset these repair costs.
- The U.S. economy began to stabilize in 2025 following the inflationary pressures of prior years. However, as we look ahead, geopolitical instability, particularly the ongoing conflict in the Middle East, poses a renewed source of economic uncertainty. Elevated diesel and gasoline prices are expected to increase costs across construction, transportation, and materials delivery and will continue to place additional pressure on COMB and our Members Agencies. Further details are provided on [pages 13-14](#).
- The California State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) approved Water Rights Order 2019-0148 for the Cachuma Project (the Order) on September 17, 2019. The Order requires Reclamation, as permit holder, to abide by specific terms as outlined in the Order. The implementation of these terms, in addition to the potential issuance of a new Biological Opinion, may result in future budgetary impacts to the COMB Member Agencies as they comply with the terms of the Order and the new Biological Opinion.

From the beginning of this budget process, we scrutinized our budget planning assumptions, established prudent financial targets and set priorities with careful consideration. COMB has worked aggressively to maintain costs in all areas of the budget by improving operating efficiencies and effectively utilizing internal resources to achieve our objectives.

COMB also evaluated and selected current year infrastructure improvements and special projects based on the following criteria as outlined in the Board approved Five-Year Infrastructure Improvement Plan: water supply reliability, risk, critical need, safety and service disruption. Projects may vary by year depending on external and uncontrolled factors such as ongoing drought conditions, lake elevation and natural disasters. Further details are provided on [pages 65-75](#).

In alignment with Board adopted policies, COMB staff shares a commitment to continued diligence in everyday work production and performance and recognizes the important obligation charged to COMB in support of our Member Agencies and external stakeholders.

The Overall Budget Summary and Assumptions

As reflected in Table 1, the COMB Gross Operating Budget for FY 2026-27, excluding offsetting revenues, is \$9.0M as compared to the FY 2025-26 Operating Budget of \$8.3M, which reflects an increase of \$776.3K (9.4%).

Table 1

Category	Budget FY 2025-26	Budget FY 2026-27	Change (\$)	Change (%)
Salaries and Benefits	\$3,403,220	\$3,589,278	\$186,058	5.5%
Operation & Maintenance Expenses	794,750	774,200	(20,550)	(2.6%)
General & Administrative Expenses	437,207	467,024	29,817	6.8%
Sub Total	\$4,635,177	\$4,830,502	\$195,325	4.2%
Infrastructure Improvements Projects	3,375,000	3,921,000	546,000	16.2%
Habitat Improvement Projects	245,000	280,000	35,000	14.3%
Sub Total	\$3,620,000	\$4,201,000	\$581,000	16.0%
Total Gross Operating Budget	\$8,255,177	\$9,031,502	\$776,325	9.4%

The net change from the previous fiscal year is described in Table 2 below.

Table 2

Amount	Description
\$186.1K	<u>Salaries and Benefits</u> - An increase of \$186.5K (5.5%) which includes staffing of fifteen full-time and two fulltime equivalent (FTE) seasonal employees, step increases, a 2.89% COLA adjustment, a 3.9% health benefits premium increase and an 11.1% increase in CalPERS obligation and unfunded liability.
(\$20.6K)	<u>Operations and Maintenance Expenses</u> - A decrease of \$20.6K (2.6%) which is attributed to a decrease in Ops fixed capital of \$106K and is offset by an increase in contract labor of \$25K and Fisheries fixed capital of \$50K.
\$29.8K	<u>General and Administrative Expenses (excluding administrative salaries)</u> - An increase of \$29.8K (6.8%) is attributed to an increase in general liability insurance costs as well as a slight increase in audit expense, utilities, membership dues and miscellaneous office expense.
\$546K	<u>Infrastructure Improvement Projects and Special Projects</u> - An increase of \$546K (16.2%) See pages 65-78 for information on upcoming scheduled projects.
\$35K	<u>Habitat Improvement Projects and Program Support Services</u> - An increase of \$35.0K (14.3%). See pages 86-89 for information on upcoming scheduled projects.
\$776.3K	Net Change

The COMB Net Operating Budget, including offsetting revenues for FY 2026-27, is \$6.8M and is compared to FY 2025-26 of \$6.4M, which is an increase of \$345.7K (5.4%). COMB is actively engaged in identifying other sources of funding opportunities to lessen the financial burden on its Member Agencies.

Table 3

Category	Budget FY 2025-26	Budget FY 2026-27	Change (\$)	Change (%)
Total Gross Operating Budget	\$8,255,177	\$9,031,502	\$776,821	9.4%
Less: Projected Offsetting Revenues	1,828,246	2,258,849	430,603	23.6%
Total Net Operating Budget	\$6,426,931	\$6,773,149	\$345,722	5.4%

In this dynamic financial environment, monitoring the budget and responding to changes or unanticipated events is a continuously evolving process. COMB will continue to report financial activity in a timely and transparent manner to the Board and Member Agencies. Cost management will remain a key objective in consideration of ongoing pressures on water rates and financial reserves at the Member Agency level. COMB is committed to sustaining a sound financial position that ensures the ability to identify and resolve future challenges.

Projected Obligation by Cachuma Project Member Units

The COMB Operating Budget and pass-through revenues and charges are funded by assessments from the Cachuma Project Member Units. Amounts are allocated based on various contractual agreements or approved methodologies. The projected obligation for FY 2026-27 is reflected in Table 4.

Table 4

CATEGORY	Projected Obligation by Cachuma Project Member Unit - FY 2026-27						Totals	FY 2025-26
	GWD	City of SB	CVWD	MWD	SYRWCD ID No. 1			
COMB Gross Operating Budget (Billed Quarterly)	\$ 3,650,261	\$ 3,241,432	\$ 1,101,624	\$ 1,038,185	\$ -	\$ 9,031,502	\$ 8,255,177	
USBR Water Rates ⁽¹⁾ (Due Oct 1 st)	870,000	772,560	262,560	247,440	247,440	2,400,000	2,200,000	
Lauro Reservoir Intake Assessment/Repair ⁽²⁾ (March/April)	-	301,350	99,325	99,325	-	500,000	-	
Bradbury SOD Act ⁽³⁾ (Due Oct 1st)	94,847	84,224	28,624	26,976	26,976	261,647	261,647	
Cachuma Project Renewal Fund ⁽⁴⁾ (Due Oct 1st)	87,228	77,458	26,325	24,809	24,809	240,628	244,239	
Lauro SOD Act ⁽³⁾ (Due Oct 1st)	19,159	17,013	5,782	5,449	-	47,404	47,404	
SWRCB Water Rights Fee ⁽⁵⁾ (Billed Dec/Jan)	31,920	28,340	9,630	9,080	8,380	87,350	87,350	
DDW D3 Permit Fee ⁽⁶⁾ (Billed Dec/Jan)	-	12,047	4,094	3,859	-	20,000	20,000	
2000 BiOp / Oak Tree Reimbursement (Billed Quarterly)	-	-	-	-	35,191	20,000	20,000	
Total Gross Obligation	\$4,753,415	\$4,534,425	\$1,537,964	\$1,455,122	\$342,796	\$12,608,531	\$11,115,817	
Less Offsetting Revenues:								
FEMA Assistance	\$ (323,336)	\$ (287,122)	\$ (97,581)	\$ (91,961)	\$ -	\$ (800,000)	\$ (1,295,000)	
Grant Income	(234,014)	(207,805)	(70,624)	(66,557)	-	(579,000)	(154,000)	
Lauro Reservoir Intake Offset - SC JPA	(202,085)	(179,451)	(60,988)	(57,476)	-	(500,000)	-	
Warren Act Trust Fund	(7,769)	(6,898)	(2,344)	(2,209)	-	(19,221)	(15,007)	
Renewal Fund	(97,255)	(86,362)	(29,351)	(27,661)	-	(240,628)	(244,239)	
DDW Permit Fee	(8,083)	(7,178)	(2,440)	(2,299)	-	(20,000)	(20,000)	
County Betterment Fund	(40,417)	(35,890)	(12,198)	(11,495)	-	(100,000)	(100,000)	
Total Offsetting Revenue	(\$912,959)	(\$810,707)	(\$275,525)	(\$259,658)	\$ -	(\$2,258,849)	\$ (1,828,246)	
Sub Total Projected Net Obligation	\$ 3,840,457	\$ 3,723,718	\$ 1,262,439	\$ 1,195,464	\$ 342,796	\$ 10,349,682	\$ 9,287,571	
Memo:								
FY 2025-26	\$ 3,605,285	\$ 3,213,535	\$ 1,092,141	\$ 1,029,253	\$ 347,357	\$ 9,287,571		
Increase/Decrease (\$)	\$ 235,172	\$ 510,182	\$ 170,298	\$ 166,211	\$ (4,561)	\$ 1,062,111		
Increase/Decrease (%)	6.5%	15.9%	15.6%	16.1%	(1.3%)	11.4%		

Notes:

1. USBR passthrough costs – based on WY 2025-26 obligation amount.
2. Lauro Reservoir Intake Assessment/Repair allocated to City of SB, CVWD and MWD based on Cater JPA agreement.
3. Pursuant to Safety of Dams repayment contract.
4. Based on \$10 per AF of water made available by the Cachuma Project and adjusted by amounts deposited into the Warren Act Trust Fund.
5. State Board of Equalization pass-through cost – based on actual amount paid during FY 2024-25.
6. Division of Drinking Water D3 Permit Fee (City of SB, MWD and CVWD, only)
7. Pursuant to the terms and conditions of the Separation Agreement, ID No. 1 was deemed no longer a Member Agency of COMB and had departed from the COMB JPA Agreement as of May 27, 2016. ID No. 1 continues to be a member of the Cachuma Project which carries certain benefits and obligations associated with the Project as outlined in various agreements. Payments received from ID No. 1 for certain COMB BiOp and Oak Tree related expenditures vary by year and will be returned to the COMB Member Agencies upon collection.

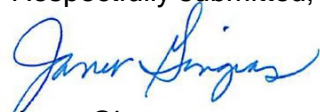
Awards and Acknowledgements

The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) presented a Distinguished Budget Presentation Award to COMB for its Annual Budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025. This was the sixth year that COMB applied for and achieved this prestigious recognition. To receive this award, a governmental unit must publish a document that meets program criteria as a policy document, a financial plan, an operations guide and as a communications device. This award is valid for a period of one year only. We believe our current budget document continues to conform to the program requirements and we are submitting it to the GFOA to determine its eligibility for another award.

Closing

The preparation of this Budget would not have been possible without the skill, effort and dedication of the COMB Division Managers and the entire staff of the Administration Division. I wish to thank staff for their assistance in providing the data necessary to prepare this Budget. Recognition is also given to the COMB Board of Directors for their unfailing support in maintaining the highest standards of professionalism in governance of the Cachuma Operation and Maintenance Board. I am pleased to present this Budget to the Board of Directors for formal adoption.

Respectfully submitted,



Janet Gingras
General Manager



GOVERNMENT FINANCE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

*Distinguished
Budget Presentation
Award*

PRESENTED TO

**Cachuma Operation and Maintenance Board
California**

For the Fiscal Year Beginning

June 01, 2025

Christopher P. Morill

Executive Director

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SECTION I – COMB OVERVIEW

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HISTORY OF COMB

The Cachuma Project was constructed in the early 1950s by the United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation or USBR) under contract with the Santa Barbara County Water Agency on behalf of the Cachuma Project Member Units.

The Cachuma Project Member Units (Member Units) are the Carpinteria Valley Water District, Goleta Water District, Montecito Water District, City of Santa Barbara and the Santa Ynez River Water



Conservation District, Improvement District No. 1. The Member Units entered into contracts with the Santa Barbara County Water Agency for the purpose of receiving water from the Cachuma Project for the use and benefit of the Member Units. Over the past sixty years, the Project has been the principal water supply for the Upper Santa Ynez Valley and the South Coast communities, delivering an average of approximately 25,000 acre-feet per year.

On January 1, 1957, the Cachuma Operation & Maintenance Board (COMB) was formed as a Joint Powers Authority (JPA) through an agreement organized by the Cachuma Project Member Units pursuant to the provisions of Articles 1, 2 and 4 of Chapter 5, Division 7, Title 1 of the California Government Code. The resulting JPA agreement was entered into by the Member Units, who, in doing so, became Member Agencies of COMB, in order to provide for the joint exercise of powers by those Member Agencies for the rights to, the facilities of, and the operation, maintenance and use of the Reclamation's project known as the "Cachuma Project." These rights and powers included the storage, treatment, transport and appurtenant facilities and all necessary tangible and intangible property and rights. Under the JPA Agreement, COMB also has the authority to finance the costs for the capture, development, treatment, storage, transport and delivery of water.

COMB's organizational structure originally consisted of the six (6) Cachuma Project beneficiaries: the Carpinteria County Water District, Goleta Water District, Montecito Water District, the City of Santa Barbara, Summerland Water District and Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District (Parent District).

In 1993, the Parent District assigned its rights and obligations under Contract No. 175r-1802 (Water Repayment Contract between USBR and Santa Barbara County) to Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, Improvement District No. 1 (ID No. 1). In 1995, the Summerland Water District and Montecito Water District combined with Montecito Water District as successor in interest.

HISTORY OF COMB (CONTINUED)

In 2016, the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, Improvement District No. 1 (ID No. 1) notified the COMB Board of its stated intent to withdraw from the Agreement. A Separation Agreement was entered into by ID No. 1, COMB and the remaining COMB Member Agencies and was approved by all parties effective August 28, 2018. Pursuant to the terms and conditions of the Separation Agreement, ID No. 1 was deemed no longer a Member Agency of COMB and had departed from the COMB JPA Agreement as of May 27, 2016. ID No. 1 continues to be a member of the Cachuma Project, which carries certain benefits and obligations associated with the Project as outlined in various agreements.

Today, the organization is comprised of four Cachuma Project Member Units, known collectively as COMB’s Member Agencies: the Carpinteria Valley Water District, the Goleta Water District, the Montecito Water District and the City of Santa Barbara.

The Governing Board is composed of one publicly elected representative member from each of the governing bodies and is appointed by appropriate action of each governing board to serve on the COMB Board. The appointed Board members are authorized to carry out the provisions of the JPA agreement and any other agreement entered into by the Governing Board. The Board of Directors is responsible for setting policy on matters such as fiscal management and financial planning, Board administration, infrastructure improvements and long-range planning documents.

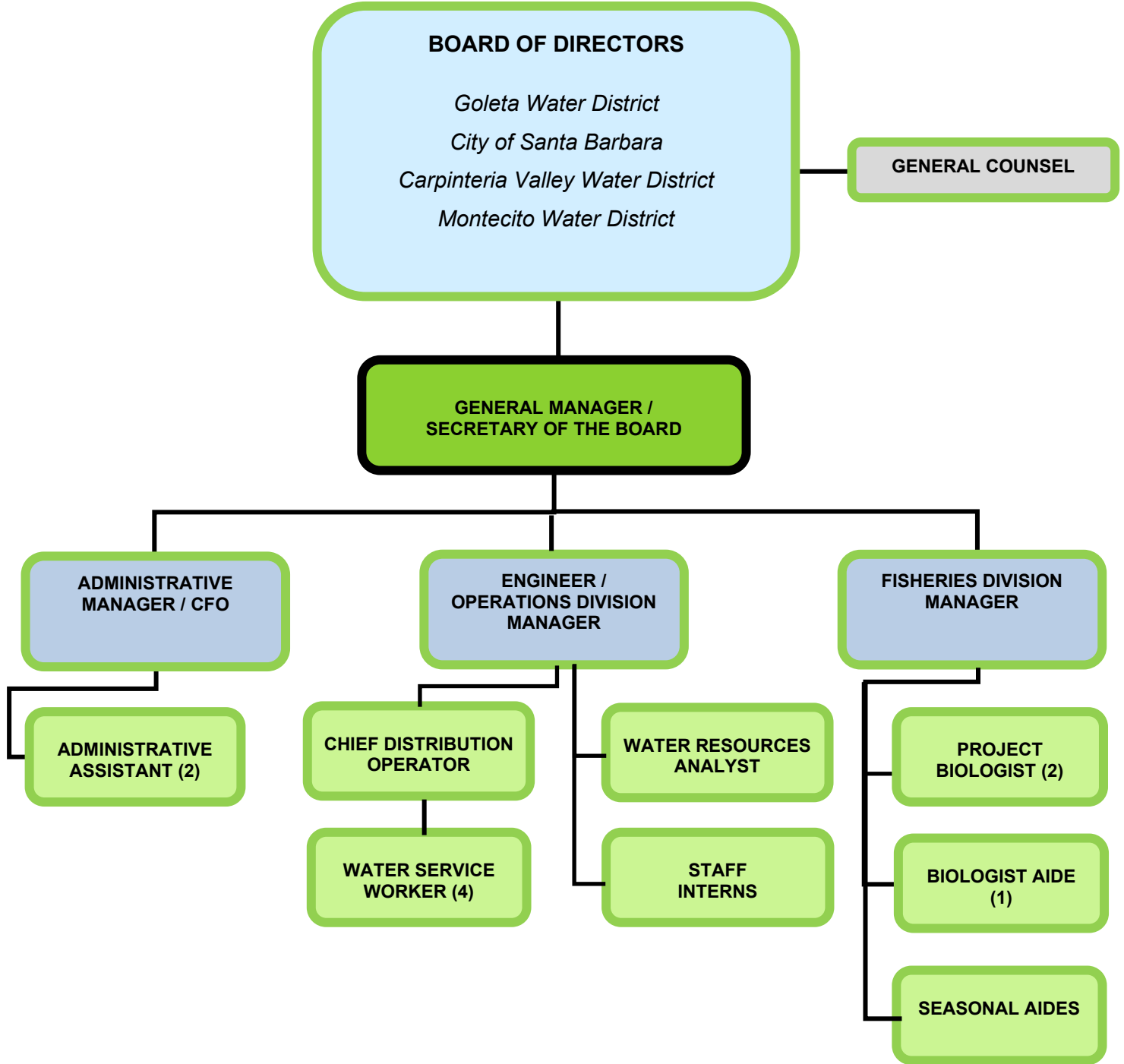
Day-to-day operations are carried out by the General Manager who serves at the pleasure of the Board. The General Manager oversees a staff of fifteen full-time employees including division managers, certified distribution operators, senior biology staff, a water resource analyst and administrative personnel. Figure 1.1 on the following page provides an overview of the COMB Organizational Structure.



Lake Cachuma Bradbury Dam

COMB ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

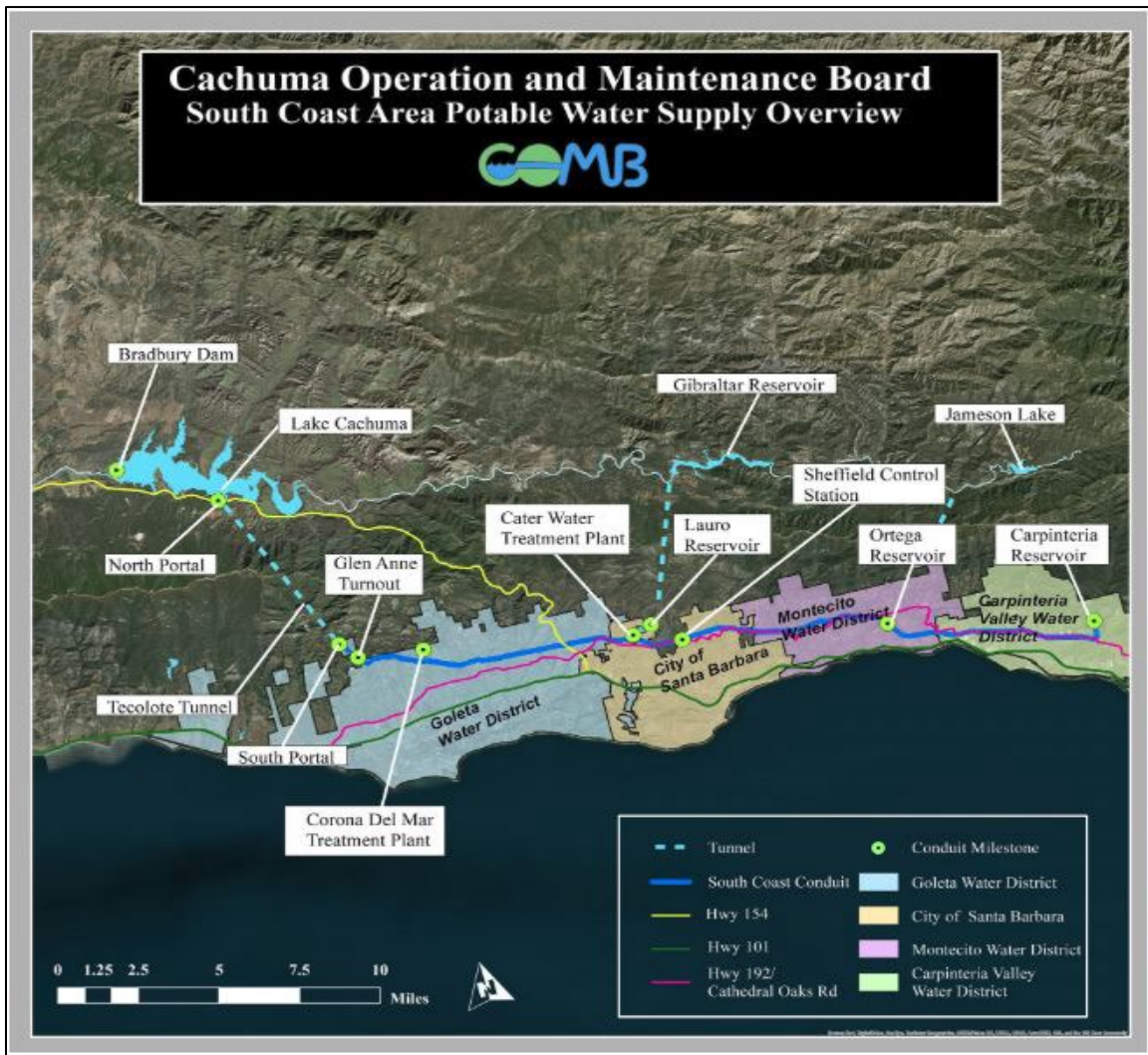
Figure 1.1 –COMB Organizational Structure



CACHUMA PROJECT FACILITIES MAP

Lake Cachuma and Bradbury Dam are located on the Santa Ynez River approximately 25 miles northwest of Santa Barbara. Water from Lake Cachuma is conveyed to the COMB Member Agencies through the Tecolote Tunnel intake tower at the east end of the reservoir. The Tecolote Tunnel extends 6.4 miles through the Santa Ynez Mountains from Lake Cachuma to the headworks of the South Coast Conduit. The South Coast Conduit system is a high-pressure concrete pipeline that extends over 26 miles from the Tecolote Tunnel outlet to the Carpinteria area and includes four regulating reservoirs and various appurtenant structures. Figure 1.2 below provides an overview of the Cachuma Project Facilities Map.

Figure 1.2 – Cachuma Project Facilities Map



TRANSFERRED PROJECT WORKS CONTRACT

On February 24, 1956, Reclamation, the original Member Units and the Agency entered into a contract which provided for the transfer of Operation and Maintenance (O&M) of the Transferred Project works to the Original Member Units. The O & M contract has been amended by amendatory contracts since that time, one of which was executed with COMB as the contractor. In March 2003, Reclamation entered into a new contract with the Cachuma Operation and Maintenance Board for the operation and care of the transferred project works including the Tecolote Tunnel and the South Coast Conduit system. The contract remained in effect through September 30, 2020. COMB initiated the contract renewal process with Reclamation during fiscal year 2019-20. On September 28, 2020, Reclamation and COMB executed a three-year amendatory contract to allow for the completion of a long-term agreement. In 2023, a second amendatory contract was executed for an additional three-year period through September 2026. COMB has initiated the contract renewal process with Reclamation for a third amendatory contract. Completion of the contract renewal is expected to run parallel with the Master Contract renewal process currently underway between Reclamation, the Santa Barbara County Water Agency and the Cachuma Project Member Units.

COMB is responsible for diversion of water to the South Coast through the Tecolote Tunnel and operation and maintenance of the South Coast Conduit pipeline, flow control valves, meters and instrumentation at control stations and turnouts along the South Coast Conduit and at four regulating reservoirs. COMB coordinates closely with the Bureau of Reclamation and Member Agencies' staff to ensure that water supplies meet daily demands.



Lauro Control Station Valve Exercise

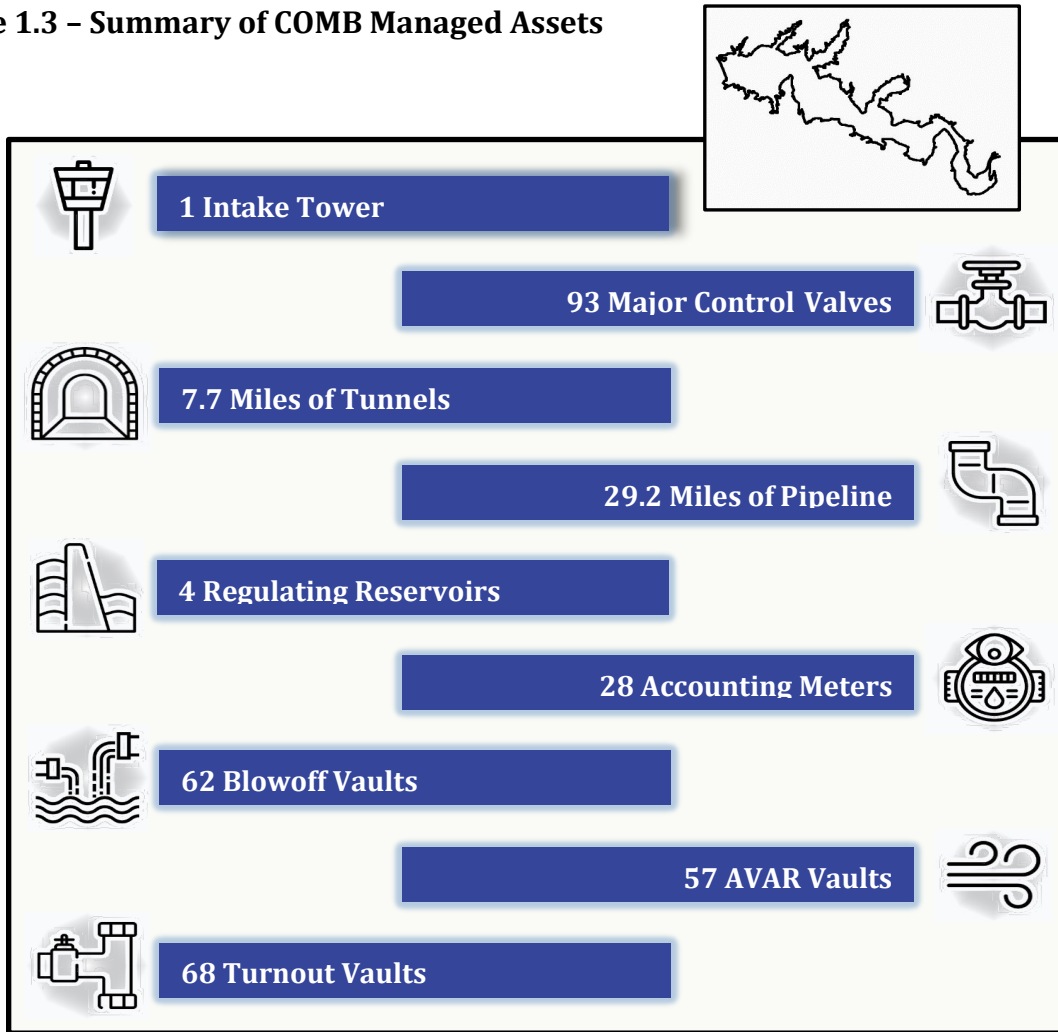
COMB staff reads meters, accounts for Project water deliveries monthly and performs repairs and preventative maintenance on Project facilities and equipment. COMB safeguards Project lands and rights-of-way on the South Coast as the contractor for Reclamation. COMB is responsible for issuing Project water production and use reports, operations reports, fisheries reports and financial and investment reports which track operation and maintenance expenditures.

COMB MANAGED ASSETS

COMB, through the Transferred Project Works contract, is responsible for operating and maintaining the USBR facilities. COMB operates and maintains the Cachuma Project critical infrastructure assets, which include the North Portal, Tecolote Tunnel, South Coast Conduit, Sheffield Tunnel and Glen Anne, Lauro, Ortega and Carpinteria Reservoir locations.

A comprehensive inventory was assembled for COMB assets using the Gutteridge, Haskins & Davey (GHD) asset management tool available through the EPA website. The GHD method allows for organizing a hierarchy of assets, which can be characterized by asset class, original cost, replacement cost, effective life, probability of failure and renewal strategy (abandon, maintain, repair, replace), among other inputs. It is useful for viewing assets and their current conditions in a single location, while identifying assets or categories of assets that will need near or long-term work. Figure 1.3 provides a summary of COMB Managed Assets.

Figure 1.3 – Summary of COMB Managed Assets



COMB MANAGED ASSETS (CONTINUED)**Intake Tower**

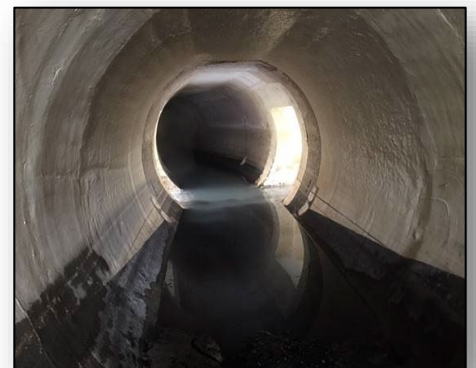
COMB operates and maintains the North Portal Intake Tower, which diverts water from Lake Cachuma into the Tecolote Tunnel and through the South Coast Conduit (SCC) for delivery to COMB Member Agencies. The vertical intake tower was built by the U. S. Bureau of Reclamation during construction of the Cachuma Project and stands 120 feet tall. The intake tower is located approximately mid-reservoir and contains five slide gates, each at varying levels on the pentagonal-shaped tower. The slide gates are used to manage the conveyance of water from the lake at various elevations depending on lake conditions.

**Valves**

COMB operates and maintains over 93 large control valves and slide gates located within gate chambers, control stations and dam inlet-outlet works. Most of the large control valves measure 30 inches or more in diameter. The large control valves are located throughout the system and allow distribution or service area isolation when maintenance on the system is required. COMB performs annual maintenance to ensure their operability.

**Tunnels**

COMB maintains four separate tunnels covering over 7.7 miles throughout the Cachuma Project system. The tunnels vary in length, with the most significant being the 6.4-mile Tecolote Tunnel, which provides water conveyance from Lake Cachuma through the Santa Ynez Mountains to the South Coast Conduit where it is delivered to the water districts. The horseshoe shaped, concrete walled tunnels were built by Reclamation during the creation and installation of the Cachuma Project.



COMB MANAGED ASSETS (CONTINUED)**Pipeline**

COMB operates and maintains over 29.2 miles of concrete conveyance pipeline throughout the system. The primary pipeline is referred to as the South Coast Conduit (SCC) and is composed of over 9.5 miles of 48-inch diameter reinforced concrete cylinder pipe in the upper reach of the system and 17.0 miles of 27 to 36-inch bar-wrapped concrete cylinder pipe within the lower reach.



The SCC is original except for 330 feet installed as part of a Highway 154 realignment project in 1970, 2,900 feet of welded steel pipe installed in 1980 and approximately 2,000 feet of welded steel pipe installed in the upper reach as part of the Modified Upper Reach Reliability Project (MURRP) in 2012.

In 2022, COMB installed a secured pipeline at the Lake Cachuma Intake Tower. The secured pipeline is a 3600-ft long HDPE pipeline that will be connected to a pumping barge in times of drought to ensure continued water deliveries. The secured pipeline also re-establishes the capability to draft from the original Gate 5 elevation (660') and allow higher quality water when available to be diverted to the Tecolote Tunnel under normal operations.

Reservoirs

COMB operates and maintains four regulating reservoirs, which balance conveyance operations within the south coast area of the Cachuma Project system. Two of the reservoirs are zoned earth-filled embankment dams originally designed and installed by the Bureau of Reclamation. Lauro Dam has a structural height of 137 feet, a crest length of 540 feet and a storage capacity of 518 acre-feet. Seismic safety modifications were completed in 2006, which brought the facility into seismic compliance. Glen Anne Dam, located in the upper reach, is currently non-operational. The two reservoirs located in the lower reach of the system are Ortega Reservoir and Carpinteria Reservoir. They are homogenous earth-filled structures and provide for over 100 acre-feet of storage capacity combined. Both Ortega and Carpinteria Reservoirs have two separate bays divided by a center wall and were covered with aluminum roofs in 2007 and 2005, respectively.

COMB MANAGED ASSETS (CONTINUED)**Meters**

COMB reads and maintains 28 accounting meters throughout the system. Of the 28 meters, 11 are integrated with SCADA to allow remote tracking and historical logging of flow measurements. COMB also tracks pressure and water quality parameters such as turbidity, specific conductance, pH and temperature, using sensors located at the North Portal.

**Structures**

COMB operates and maintains approximately 200 SCC structures throughout the system. This includes 62 blow-off vaults, 57 air-vacuum air-release (AVAR) vaults and 68 turnouts through the peaks and valleys of the SCC system. The purpose of these appurtenant structures is to allow staff access to system components, in order to release/admit air for pipeline protection, release water for maintenance purposes or emergencies and to service internal assembly and/or valves.

**INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT PLAN - FY 2027 - 2031**

In April 2026, the COMB Board adopted the COMB Five-Year Infrastructure Improvement Plan (IIP). The IIP formalizes the strategy for implementation of capital projects and programs needed to carry out the goals and policy objectives of the Board. The IIP is organized and structured to identify and prioritize rehabilitation projects necessary to protect, improve and sustain a reliable source of water conveyed from the Cachuma Project to the South Coast communities of Santa Barbara County.

Projects outlined in the IIP have been identified based on U.S. Bureau of Reclamation inspection recommendations, COMB asset inventory analysis and other staff observations and recommendations. The identification of a project within the five-year plan does not guarantee construction. The initiation of any project requires Board approval for a project to advance to design and ultimately construction. Additionally, the Board of Directors has the ongoing ability to review and revise projects based upon unforeseen conditions, priorities and financial resources. Further details are provided on [pages 111-114](#).

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE BIOLOGICAL OPINION AND FISH MANAGEMENT PLAN

The United States Bureau of Reclamation currently operates and maintains Bradbury Dam and associated water transport and delivery structures, collectively known as the Cachuma Project on and near the Santa Ynez River for the Cachuma Project Member Units. The Santa Ynez River is about 900 square miles in watershed area with Bradbury Dam located approximately 48 miles from the Pacific Ocean.



The National Marine Fisheries Services (NMFS) is the United States federal agency that oversees protection of Southern California steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*, *O. mykiss*). The Cachuma Project Biological Opinion (BO or BiOp) and the Lower Santa Ynez River Fish Management Plan (FMP) were issued in 2000 for implementation of steelhead management actions developed over many years of study by the

Cachuma Project Member Units. The BO addresses the effects of the proposed Cachuma Project operations on steelhead and its designated critical habitat in accordance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973. The goal is to provide physical projects and management strategies that will protect, enhance, restore and create new habitat for spawning and rearing of endangered steelhead, while keeping a balance between fish management, other ecological needs and the delivery of adequate water supplies to customers of local water agencies and groundwater recharge.



On behalf of the U. S. Bureau of Reclamation, COMB is responsible for implementation of the 2000 Biological Opinion and Fish Management Plan related to the Cachuma Project on the Santa Ynez River. These activities include ongoing scientific studies along the river, monitoring and recording changing conditions and implementation of fish passage improvements as outlined in the 2000

Biological Opinion. In addition, a consensus based, long-term Fish Management Program was developed which provides protection for steelhead/rainbow trout downstream of Bradbury Dam through a combination of water releases from Bradbury Dam through the Hilton Creek watering system and the removal or modification of numerous fish passage barriers to steelhead on tributaries to the mainstem Santa Ynez River. By implementing these actions, stakeholders in the Cachuma Project have created significant additional habitat for steelhead within the Santa Ynez River watershed.

DROUGHT RESPONSE AND MANAGEMENT

Efficient use of water has long been a priority within the Cachuma Project Service Area. Water purveyors are dependent on local water supplies and have experienced periodic droughts including 1989-91 and the recent multi-year drought of 2012 - 2019. During a drought period, the COMB Member Agencies dramatically increase their conservation efforts to minimize the impact of water shortages on the community. Drought conditions can last many years. The reductions in Cachuma Project water supplies have a major impact on water supply management for the COMB Member Agencies.

During the drought that began in 2012, COMB was responsible for the implementation of the Emergency Pumping Facility Project (EPFP), which allowed water to be pumped and conveyed during the time when lake levels were extremely low and unable to flow via gravity into the Tecolote Tunnel. After an all-time low of 7% reservoir capacity during 2016, Lake Cachuma rebounded to approximately 73% capacity during the February 2019 storms and subsequent inflows.

In December of 2022, COMB completed the installation of a secured pipeline at Lake Cachuma. The secured pipeline is a 3600-ft long HDPE pipeline that will be connected to a pumping barge in times of drought to ensure continued water deliveries.

The Secured Pipeline Project will improve future deployments of the EPF by 1) reducing the elevation triggers for installing the EPF; (2) eliminating the need to install and remove temporary anchor piles; (3) eliminating the need to store the pipeline near the shore of the lake; and (4) reducing the deployment period from over a year to 120 days. It will also reduce the cost of future EPF deployments and improve the quality of delivered water under normal operations.



*Lake Cachuma Tecolote Tunnel Intake Tower
Secured Pipeline Installation (December 2022)*

DROUGHT RESPONSE AND MANAGEMENT (CONTINUED)

The Secured Pipeline Project will also re-establish the capability to draft from the original Gate 5 elevation (660') and allow higher quality water when available to be diverted to the Tecolote Tunnel under normal operations. COMB was awarded \$4M in grant funding which was applied to construction cost of the Secured Pipeline Project.

During 2023 and 2024, Santa Barbara County experienced back-to-back wet year conditions and extreme stormflow events. During both years, these storms caused flow to occur in the Santa Ynez River, Santa Cruz Creek and other tributaries, raising the elevation in Lake Cachuma to full capacity of 753 feet which resulted in a declaration of surplus water by Reclamation. The last occurrence of a surplus / spill event was in 2011.

Cachuma Lake Intake Tower - Lake Elevation at Different Points in Time

August 2016



February 2019



February 2023



March 2024



DROUGHT RESPONSE AND MANAGEMENT (CONTINUED)**CURRENT RESERVOIR ELEVATION**

As of April 20, 2026, the elevation in Lake Cachuma was 752.55 feet, which equates to 191,580 acre-feet of water (or 99.3% capacity). The COMB Member Agencies continue to face a water supply shortage until such time that their respective groundwater basins have been recharged, and supplemental water obligations are repaid.



North Portal Intake Tower (April 2026)

COMB has developed a lake elevation projection model for forecasting lake elevations and has implemented a regime to request Member Agencies' projected imports and exports on a periodic basis as part of its ongoing planning process. An update is provided to the COMB Board at their regularly scheduled, monthly public meeting.

LOCAL AND NATIONAL ECONOMY

Santa Barbara County is located approximately 100 miles north of Los Angeles and 300 miles south of San Francisco. The mild climate, picturesque coastline, scenic mountains and numerous parks and beaches make Santa Barbara County a popular tourist and recreational area. The County spans over 2,700 square miles and includes an estimated population of 442,000 as of mid-2025.



Santa Barbara County Courthouse

The local economy remains anchored by several key industries, including tourism, agriculture, education, healthcare, and a growing technology sector. Tourism continues to be a primary economic driver, supported by the region's coastline, wine industry, and cultural attractions. Agriculture remains a significant contributor to the local economy, particularly in specialty crops such as wine grapes, avocados, lemons, and strawberries, and accounts for approximately 10% of the County's workforce. Education and healthcare sectors have demonstrated steady growth, while technology and startup activity continue to contribute to regional job creation.

LOCAL AND NATIONAL ECONOMY (CONTINUED)

Labor market conditions remained relatively stable through the end of 2025. Santa Barbara County's unemployment rate was approximately 4.9% in December 2025, compared to 5.5% for the State of California and approximately 4.4% nationally.

The real estate market in Santa Barbara County continued its upward trend. As of December 2025, the countywide median single-family home price was \$1,033,570 as compared to \$1,030,102 and \$996,328 in December 2024 and December 2023, respectively. In the southern portion of Santa Barbara County, the median single-family home price increased to \$2,333,237 in 2025 and compared to \$2,150,000 in December 2024, an 8.5% increase year-over-year. This upward trend reflects sustained demand and limited housing supply, although higher interest rates and affordability constraints have tempered transaction volumes.

At the national level, the U.S. economy began to stabilize in 2025 following the inflationary pressures experienced in prior years. The U.S. annual inflation rate finished at 2.6% for the twelve months ending December 2025, reflecting continued moderation from prior peaks, although inflation remains above the Federal Reserve's long-term target. In response to improving inflation conditions, the Federal Reserve reduced the federal funds rate by a total of approximately 0.75 percentage points during the latter part of 2025. As of early 2026, the federal funds target range is approximately 3.50% to 3.75%, with future policy adjustments expected to remain data dependent.

Looking ahead into 2026, geopolitical instability, in particular the ongoing conflict in the Middle East, presents a renewed source of economic uncertainty. The region plays a critical role in global energy supply, with a significant portion of the world's oil and liquefied natural gas (LNG) transported through key shipping corridors such as the Strait of Hormuz. Disruptions or heightened risk in these areas have contributed to increased volatility in fuel markets and upward pressure on transportation and supply chain costs. Elevated diesel and gasoline prices, in particular, will have an impact on construction, transportation, and materials delivery costs. For public agencies and water utilities, these trends will contribute to continued cost pressures for chemicals, energy, infrastructure materials and contracted services.

The outlook entering 2026 is best characterized as cautiously guarded, as moderating inflation is balanced against ongoing geopolitical risks and cost pressures impacting operations and capital improvement programs. COMB is committed to maintaining costs in all areas of the budget by improving operating efficiencies and effectively utilizing internal resources, when possible, to achieve our objectives.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

During calendar year 2025 and into 2026, COMB continued to focus efforts on water supply reliability, infrastructure improvements, environmental stewardship, policies, financial responsibility and improving workforce capabilities. Outlined below are highlights of accomplishments during this past year.

Engineering and Operations Division

- Operated and maintained the South Coast Conduit system, consisting of 29.2 miles of pipeline, including 124 blow-off and air vent structures, 43 turnout structures, 20 meters, and four regulating reservoirs.
- Coordinated weekly with FEMA and CalOES to document winter storm damages for 2023 (DR-4683) and 2024 (DR-4769).
- Reviewed and processed 1,060 Underground Service Alert tickets, taking appropriate action as necessary.
- Installed a new outlet and valves on the 1-inch surface water line at the North Portal Control Station, enabling line flushing and direct water sample collection from lake diversions.
- Completed safety improvements at the Lauro Tunnel Access House, including installation of a new door, landing, ladder, and retaining wall to improve access and reduce engulfment hazards; also installed a water-resistant hardline communication system and a floor-mounted davit hoist for confined space rescue.
- Repaired a road slump along Glen Annie Turnout Road caused by 2024 winter storms; restored the slope and implemented drainage improvements to prevent future damage.
- Updated COMB’s Emergency Response Plan and certified compliance with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency under the America’s Water Infrastructure Act.
- Reorganized and cleaned the North Portal garage to improve storage and accessibility of critical equipment, including jet flow valve components, log boom materials, fish traps, and historic dam core logs.
- Installed nest diverters on the North Portal Intake Tower and constructed an alternative nesting platform for Lake Cachuma osprey.
- Refurbished the North Portal Intake Tower hoist motor used for fish screen cleaning.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS (CONTINUED)**Engineering and Operations Division (Continued)**

- Procured a new compact loader with an EPA Final Tier 4 engine, replacing a 20-year-old unit limited by emissions constraints.
- Replaced and refurbished open air vent screens and lids at Barker Pass and Parma Park.
- Supported the Division of Drinking Water during a sanitary survey; no major recommendations were issued for water quality protection improvements.
- Emptied and cleaned the Carpinteria Reservoir; replaced two failed 20-inch check valves and one frozen 20-inch valve and coordinated beneficial reuse of approximately 1,000,000 gallons of remaining water with a neighboring landowner.
- Assisted the Bureau of Reclamation with replacement of a failed 10-inch outlet works valve at Bradbury Dam, including procurement coordination and contract support for valve calibration.
- Presented on the Sheffield Tunnel evaluation and repair project at Reclamation’s 2026 Water Management Workshop in Denver.
- Conducted video inspections of the Lauro Dam spillway conduit, Lauro Reservoir storm drain and Lauro fault drain.
- Performed pilot meter accuracy testing for Montecito Water District meters to support improved annual water auditing performance.
- Prepared an updated Infrastructure Improvement Plan covering the 2027–2031 period.
- Completed critical coating and painting maintenance on the Lauro Dam outlet works pipeline.
- Procured large valves, meters, and spools for rehabilitation of Sheffield Control Station to improve pipeline capacity and operational isolation during shutdowns.
- Completed topographic and cultural resource surveys at the Sheffield Tunnel portals to support rehabilitation design.
- Purchased a new Chevy Silverado to support COMB’s on-call staff operations.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS (CONTINUED)**Engineering and Operations Division (Continued)**

- Supported staff development, including passing of the Fundamentals of Engineering (FE) exam by COMB's Water Resources Analyst.
- Migrated COMB's GIS system to ESRI Field Maps and initiated centimeter-grade GPS mapping updates for improved field operations accuracy.
- Enhanced the Lake Cachuma elevation projection model to support water supply and conveyance planning.
- Advanced COMB's internal water accounting model to automate and improve monthly reporting.
- Continued monthly water quality sampling, including buoy maintenance, and coordinated biweekly meetings with regional treatment plants to optimize operations.
- Submitted required regulatory reports to the Division of Drinking Water under the Total Coliform Rule, Surface Treatment Rule, and Disinfection Byproducts Rule with sampling assistance from Member Agency Staff.
- Implemented an integrated pest management program, including pilot testing of ground squirrel control methods.
- Maintained regulatory permits with Caltrans, Department of Industrial Relations, APCD, EPA, and the Regional Water Quality Control Board.
- Monitored construction activities within Reclamation right-of-way to protect South Coast Conduit and related infrastructure.
- Completed routine dam inspections and instrumentation reports (all reservoirs).
- Performed structure maintenance and control station valve exercising as part of the annual Operating Division work plan.
- Removed vegetation at all structure sites to ensure defensible space as required by the Santa Barbara County Fire Marshal.
- Completed weekly inspections of major facilities.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS (CONTINUED)**Fisheries Division**

- Conducted all 2000 Biological Opinion (BiOp) compliance monitoring in the Lower Santa Ynez River (LSYR) basin and its tributaries, including water quality monitoring at Lake Cachuma pursuant to the associated guidance documents, as described in the 2000 BiOp and 2000 Biological Assessment (BA).
- Conducted all monitoring, analyses and reporting as requested by Reclamation in compliance with the State Water Board Order WR 2019-0148.
- Completed the Water Year (WY) 2025 Annual Monitoring Report and Annual Monitoring Summary.
- Transferred all field monitoring data files to Reclamation via the established data portal for WY2025 and files from previous years if there were modifications after a QA/QC process with Reclamation.
- Provided comments on draft sections of the BA as requested by Reclamation for their re-consultation efforts with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS).
- Worked closely with Reclamation upon their request to monitor Hilton Creek and the LSYR mainstem during all required testing, modifications, or operations of Bradbury Dam, the Hilton Creek Watering System and the Hilton Creek Emergency Backup System, to safeguard the fishery downstream of the dam. Provided assistance to Reclamation operations staff. This included stranding surveys during spill ramp-down operations.
- Completed the second of a 2-year gravel augmentation project at Hilton Creek and submitted the Initial Gravel Augmentation Report (mid-project report) on 2/11/26 to Reclamation. The final report will be completed in the summer of 2026.
- Continued to work closely and collaboratively with California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Reclamation, and NMFS on fish rescue/relocation efforts in the LSYR mainstem and its tributaries, as needed and requested, due to dam operations, specifically spill ramp down, tributary habitat enhancement efforts or reduction of stream flow during the dry season.
- Wrote and submitted to Reclamation the WY2024 Spill Ramp-Down Report (9/26/25) which documented the need for fish rescue/relocation efforts.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS (CONTINUED)**Fisheries Division (Continued)**

- Assisted CDFW in fish rescue and relocation efforts at Quiota Creek Crossing starting in May through July of 2025 and successfully rescued/relocated of 4,069 O. mykiss.
- Completed fish scale mounting, photographing, reading and reporting for WY2025 and WY2011 as part of the WY2025 AMS.
- Worked with the COMB Operations Division on monitoring algae, nutrients and water quality in Lake Cachuma throughout the year.
- Monitored and maintained all mitigation oak trees near Lake Cachuma as part of the surcharge operation at the Dam. COMB has planted approximately 5,740 oak trees under this program since its inception in 2005.
- Completed the 2024 Annual Oak Tree Survey and reported the status of the Lake Cachuma Oak Tree Restoration Program with FY25 financials to the Oak Tree Committee and COMB Board.
- Submitted a CDFW-FRGP grant proposal for the Hilton Creek Fish Passage and Habitat Enhancement Project.
- Maintained a rigorous watering, weeding and deer cage removal effort of the mitigation trees in the Lake Cachuma Oak Tree Restoration Program throughout the dry season that has shown positive results in sustaining those trees.
- Reviewed COMB's CDFW 2081(A) MOU and a CDFW Scientific Collection Permit for CESA take coverage for all components of the Fisheries monitoring program.
- Gave a presentation at the 2025 SRF annual fisheries conference in Santa Cruz on O. mykiss population growth after two wet years and water quality tolerances within the Lower Santa Ynez River Basin.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS (CONTINUED)**Administrative Division**

- Awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) for the FY 2023-24 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report.
- Achieved an unmodified (“clean”) audit opinion for FY 2024–25 financial statements.
- Received the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award from the GFOA for the FY 2025-26 COMB Operating Budget.
- Participated in the Santa Barbara County Integrated Regional Water Management Program (IRWMP). The Cooperating Partners of IRWMP meet regularly to promote and practice integrated regional water management strategies. Their goal is to ensure sustainable water uses, reliable water supplies and water quality, environmental stewardship, efficient urban development and protection of agricultural and watershed awareness.
- Coordinated with FEMA and CalOES to secure disaster recovery funding for storm-related damages that resulted from the 2023 and 2024 winter storm events.
- Completed and submitted a funding application under the 2026 Infrastructure Investments Jobs Act. The IJA enacted in 2021 authorizes Reclamation to offer extended repayment of extraordinary maintenance (XM) costs on Reclamation transferred works facilities that would otherwise be due in the year incurred. Project awards will be announced in early 2026.
- Participated in an active threat training course for staff, led by an officer with the Santa Barbara Police Department. The training, held onsite, was designed to enhance situational awareness and preparedness in the event of an active threat scenario in the workplace.
- Participated in a technical session with Reclamation to discuss the process renewing the Cachuma Transferred Project Works Contract. A short-term amendatory contract is expected to be finalized in September 2026 to allow for the completion of a long-term agreement.
- Participated in a technical session with Reclamation to discuss the process of finalizing the Bradbury Dam Safety of Dams contract including any amendments that may be needed. The contract is expected to be finalized in calendar year 2026.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS (CONTINUED)**Administrative Division (Continued)**

- Participated in the Bureau of Reclamation 2024 Contract Compliance Review, on behalf of the Cachuma Project Member Units, COMB and the Santa Barbara County Water Agency. The purpose of the review was to ensure that Contractors' water use, deliveries, and payments are consistent with contract terms.
- Administrative Manager/CFO attended the 2025 Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) Conference and participated in several educational sessions including: 2025 Legislative Update, Capital Planning and Asset Management, Federal Funding Opportunities, Long Range Financial Planning and Information Technology and Cybersecurity Best Practices.
- Administrative Manager / CFO continued to serve on the Finance and Audit Committee of ACWA JPIA. The primary responsibility of the Committee is to put forward recommendations for approval to the Executive Committee with respect to audit, budget and investment policy.
- Administrative Manager / CFO appointed to serve on the ACWA Region 5 Nominating Committee. The primary responsibility of the nominating committee is to pursue and put forward qualified member candidates within their respective region to run for and serve on the region board and participate in regional activities.
- Completed the annual ACWA JPIA Worker's Compensation, Liability and Property Risk Assessment. ACWA JPIA reviewed COMB's Employment Practices, Safety protocols and Heat Illness Prevention Program, ACWA's Risk Control and Risk Transfer Manual and COMB's Workers Compensation and Liability Program experience history.
- Received the President's Special Recognition Award from ACWA. The JPIA recognizes its members that have a loss ratio of 20% or less in the Liability, Property and Worker's Compensation programs. COMB received an award for achieving a low ratio of paid claims and case reserves in the Liability Program.
- Applied for and was approved for incentive rates for COMB, offered through ACWA JPIA's medical insurance program. Employers qualifying with certain program participation requirements will receive a 4% discount on Anthem and Kaiser medical plan premiums. COMB expects to see a reduction in annual expenditures on medical insurance premiums of approximately \$20,000.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS (CONTINUED)**Administrative Division (Continued)**

- Conducted the annual Information Technology (IT) review with COMB’s IT consultant. The purpose of the meeting was to review COMB’s systems, identify updates to system requirements, assess current IT protocols, review data disaster recovery practices, as well as identify potential new security risks.
- Updated various internal operational safety procedures/protocols to maintain a safe and healthy working environment, free from hazards, for all employees including COMB’s Injury and Illness Prevention Plan, Safe Operating Procedures Manual and Heat Illness Prevention Plan.
- Updated COMB’s Personnel Policy and Employee Handbook for labor law updates and changes.

Structure Maintenance (July 2025)



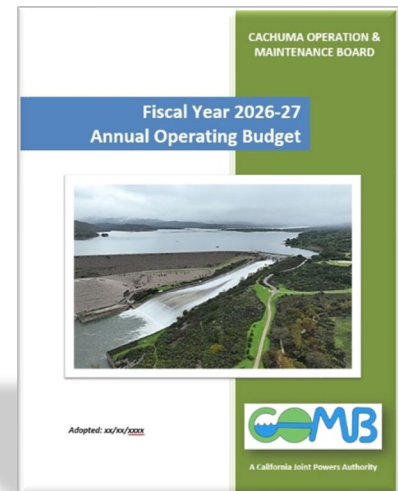
SECTION II – BUDGET OVERVIEW

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COMB ANNUAL OPERATING BUDGET

Each year, the Board of Directors approves the COMB Operating Budget for the following fiscal year that runs from July 1 through June 30.

The development and adoption of an annual budget is based on the Board’s financial and operational policies. Its purpose is to maintain fiscal stability by providing a structural balance between revenues and expenditures and to identify programs of work COMB has pledged to support. In addition, the budget provides the financial resources necessary to achieve or advance management strategies and goals. It serves as a financial road map and communication tool describing programs of work, resource requirements and functions as a guideline in accomplishing our mission in the most efficient, fiscally sustainable manner while ensuring maximum value to our Member Agencies.



The COMB Operating Budget for FY 2026-27 is further detailed in Section IV – COMB Operating Budget starting on [page 40](#).

BUDGET DEVELOPMENT

Basis of Budgeting

For budgetary reporting purposes, COMB uses the modified accrual basis of accounting. Under this method, revenues are recognized when they become measurable and available. “Measurable” means the amount of the transaction can be determined. “Available” means the amount of the transaction can be collectible within the current period, or soon enough thereafter, to be used to pay liabilities of the current period. Expenditures are recognized in the accounting period in which the liability is incurred. Non-cash expense items such as depreciation expense for fixed assets and accrued paid time off are excluded from the budget.

COMB operates under one fund for budgetary purposes. However, the Agency’s various divisions and budget preparation are segregated as follows:

- Operations / Engineering Division
- Fisheries Division

The Administrative Division is included with General and Administrative Expenditures, which are generally allocated between the Operations Division (65%) and Fisheries (35%).

BUDGET DEVELOPMENT

Budget Development

Development of the budget is based on a zero-based budgeting methodology. This methodology employs a detailed examination of expenditures wherein only the necessary budget amount for each line item is presented for discussion. This approach addresses fundamental and prioritized service needs and represents the minimum level of funding needed for effective operations.

At the beginning of the annual budget planning cycle, COMB staff prepare estimated budget projections and present a draft Operating Budget to the General Managers and technical staff of the COMB Member Agencies. Staff incorporate any comments received into the proposed operating budget prior to submission to the COMB Administrative Committee. Following review by the Administrative Committee,

COMB staff then conduct a budget workshop with the COMB Board, at a public meeting, to review the draft operating budget, the proposed upcoming infrastructure and habitat improvement projects and any revenue and expenditure assumptions and projections contained therein.

Depending on the quantity or nature of comments received during the budget workshop, the draft budget may be sent back to the Administrative Committee for further consideration or brought back to the Board at its next meeting, as revised, for adoption.



BUDGET DEVELOPMENT (CONTINUED)**Budget Calendar**

Table 2.1 provides the budget process schedule for FY 2026-27

Table 2.1 – FY 2026-27 Budget Process Schedule

Deliverables	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
Updates to: - Infrastructure Improvement Projects - Habitat Improvement Projects - Projected COMB Managed Revenues - Projected General and Administrative Expenditures - Projected Operating Expenditures	X	X				
Draft Budget Document Developed		X				
Draft Budget Internal Review Process			X			
Member Agency Review Process				X		
Admin Committee Draft Budget Review – Public Meeting				X		
Board Budget Workshop – Public Meeting				X		
Update Draft Budget – Prepare Final Budget					X	
Board Adopts Final Budget – Public Meeting					X	

BUDGET POLICIES**Budget Approval**

The final COMB Operating Budget is approved and adopted by the Board of Directors through a resolution during a scheduled public meeting. Once adopted by the Board, management closely monitors and reports on revenues and expenditures throughout the fiscal year to ensure compliance with the budget, as well as the integrity, transparency and quality of operations.

Balanced Budget

The primary budget objective is to provide the highest possible level of service to COMB's stakeholders and members of the public without impairing COMB's financial condition. COMB will make every effort to keep current expenditures less than current assessments and revenues. Current expenditures are defined as operating expenses, debt payment and infrastructure and habitat improvement projects. COMB will endeavor to operate within the approved budgetary amounts to avoid subsequent assessments of its Member Agencies.

BUDGET POLICIES (CONTINUED)**Outside Funding Sources**

COMB staff actively pursues outside funding sources for all infrastructure improvement projects. Outside funding sources, such as grants, are used to finance only those improvement projects that are consistent with the Five-Year Infrastructure Improvement Project Plans and COMB priorities and whose operating and maintenance costs have been included in future operating budget forecasts. Board policy requires that all grant agreements be considered in Committee and be reviewed and approved by the Board prior to acceptance.

Pass-Through Revenues and Charges

In addition to the annual Operating Budget, COMB collects and manages various other assessments, which are considered pass-through revenues and charges. COMB has been granted the authority, by various agreements, for administering the provision, collection and payment of these revenues, including the USBR Entitlement Obligation (USBR Water Rates), the Bradbury and Lauro Safety of Dams (SOD) Repayment Obligations and the State Water Resources Control Board Water Rights Fee. Since these payments are considered pass-through revenues and charges, they are not recorded as revenue on COMB's financial statements. COMB endeavors to provide sufficient information to its Member Agencies regarding the USBR and other pass-through charges to enable them to gain a full understanding of the charges.

Budgeted Expenditures

As stated in COMB's Procurement Policy, the General Manager has the authority to approve expenditures made for official COMB business up to a maximum of \$50,000, provided such expenditures are within the budget, as adopted by the COMB Board. Purchases of equipment, services, or supplies exceeding \$50,000 are submitted, through the appropriate Committee, to the Board of Directors for review and approval. This expenditure authority limitation does not apply to routine, recurring operational expenses already approved within the annual operating budget, such as salaries, benefits, insurance, legal and IT services.

Emergency expenditures, as defined in COMB's Procurement policy, are subject to approval by the General Manager or designee, who in turn notifies the Board President of actions taken and brings notification to the full Board within 30 days of the expenditure being made. In such an event, a determination is made and considered by the Board if a special assessment is warranted to cover non-budgeted emergency expenditures. Any capital expenditure or form of indebtedness in excess of one million dollars requires unanimous consent by the COMB Board through a board resolution.

BUDGET POLICIES (CONTINUED)**Allocation of General and Administrative Expenses**

General and Administrative expenses include costs for support of all administrative functions of COMB, such as Director fees, legal expenditures, general liability and property insurance, audit fees, temporary/contract labor, utilities, IT and communications, postage and office supplies, training, education and subscriptions and miscellaneous expenses. General and Administrative expenses are generally allocated between Operations Division (65%) and Fisheries Division (35%).

Budget Adjustments / Augmentations

The budget may be adjusted or augmented throughout the year by Board action to accommodate an expenditure that was either unanticipated or indeterminable at the time the annual budget was adopted. This process involves a recommendation by staff to the appropriate Board committee prior to submission to the Board of Directors for consideration. A budget adjustment is defined as the process of reallocating budgeted funds to an alternate account and does not change the overall approved budget amount. A budget augmentation is defined as an increase to the approved budget and the need for additional assessments.

The Board considers the recommendation at a public meeting and approves or rejects such requests by motion and majority vote of the Board. Any budget adjustment or augmentation that increases the cost of a capital expenditure or form of indebtedness in excess of one million dollars requires unanimous consent by the COMB Board through a board resolution.

Member Agency Payment of Assessments

Current operations of COMB are funded by assessment of the Member Agencies, with the assessments based on the Member Agencies' Cachuma Project entitlement percentages. Operating assessments are calculated each year through the Budget process. Member Agencies are billed at the start of each quarter for their allocable amount.

Section 4.2 of Article IV of the COMB JPA outlines the division of Cachuma Project Costs among the Member Agencies. Section 4.2 states: "Parties shall divide and pay the administrative costs, the storage operation and maintenance costs and the conveyance and operations and maintenance costs, including the payment of any loans or obligations incurred by the Cachuma Operation and Maintenance Board pursuant to the provisions of Article I, Section 1.3(h) (iv) and Section 1.3 (i), according to their use of the facilities and their participation in the benefit of the annual yield of the Cachuma Project. Such costs shall be assessed to the parties upon a schedule approved by the Cachuma Operation and Maintenance Board."

BUDGET POLICIES (CONTINUED)**Non-Member Agency Payment Obligations**

Pursuant to the Separation Agreement between COMB and Santa Ynez River Conservation District, ID No. 1 (ID No. 1), starting in Fiscal Year 2017-18 and going forward, certain actual expenditures incurred by COMB will be collected from ID No. 1 through an invoice issued quarterly to it by COMB. In addition, COMB collects payments from ID No. 1 for continuing pass-through obligations pursuant to the terms of the Separation Agreement, dated August 31, 2018.

Unexpended Funds

Unexpended funds occur when assessments (revenues) collected from the Member Agencies through the budget process exceed actual expenditures. Unexpended funds are identified through the audit process and returned to the Member Agencies using one of four methods. These methods include: 1) the issuance of checks made payable to each Member Agency; 2) constructively returning the unexpended funds by reducing future quarterly assessments; 3) carrying forward unexpended funds for work in process; and/or 4) reducing the projected operating budget for the following fiscal year.

The Board of Directors shall take action annually to approve the methodology for return once unexpended funds are identified.

Financial Statement Reporting

Division financial statements are provided to each division manager monthly. Expenditures are reviewed to ensure that actual costs to date do not exceed the adopted budget.

Unaudited financial statements, including a statement of paid claims and an investment report, are received and filed by the Board monthly at a regularly scheduled public meeting.

On a quarterly basis, the Administrative Manager / Chief Financial Officer (CFO) provides a fiscal year-to-date financial review of the unaudited interim financial reports to the Board of Directors, comparing actual expenditures to the budget. Additionally, the General Manager provides a quarterly report of contracts executed pursuant to COMB's Procurement policy.

In compliance with Government Code section 53891(a), COMB submits its annual Financial Transaction Report and annual Government Compensation in California to the State Controller's office for posting on its public website.



SECTION III - COMB MANAGED REVENUES

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COMB MANAGED REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES

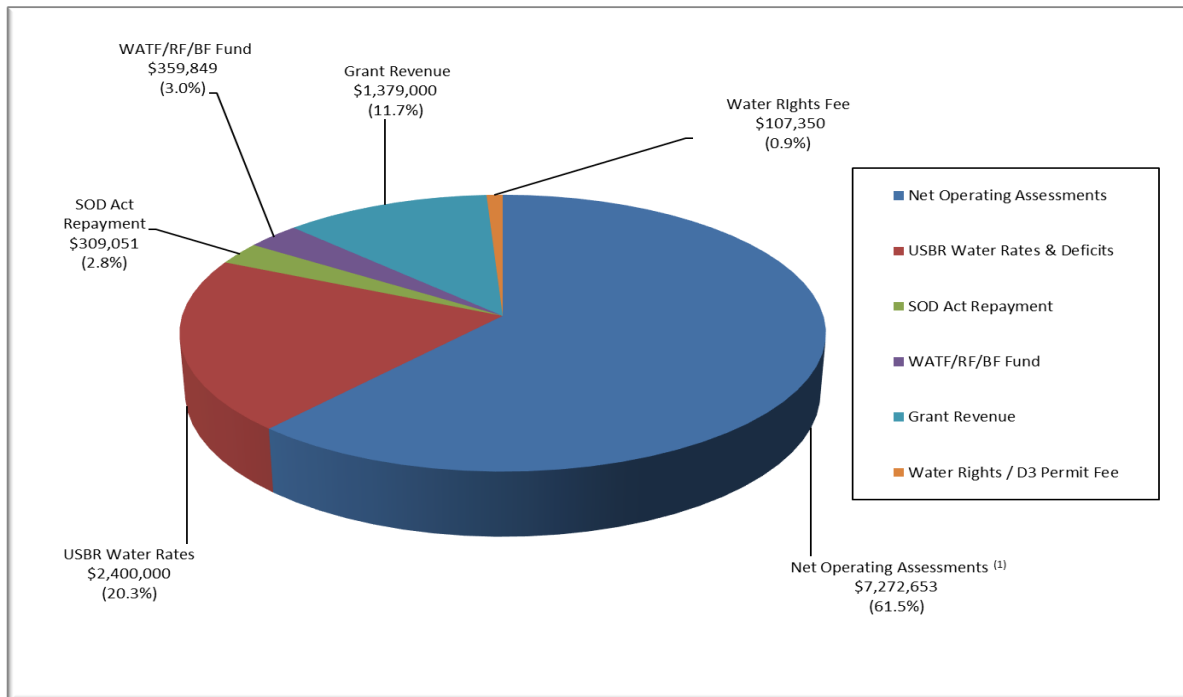
In addition to the annual Operating Budget, COMB collects and manages various other assessments, which are considered pass-through revenues and charges. COMB has been granted the authority, by various agreements, for administering the provisions, collection and payment of these revenues including the following:

- USBR Entitlement Obligation (USBR Water Rates)
- Bradbury Safety of Dams (SOD) Repayment Obligations
- Lauro Safety of Dams (SOD) Repayment Obligations
- State Water Resource Control Board Water Rights Fee

COMB is also responsible for managing various federal, state and local grant revenues, as well as various restricted trust fund accounts to be used for the betterment of the Cachuma Project.

For FY 2026-27, COMB’s projected managed revenues are \$11,827,903 as shown in Figure 3.1 and Table 3.1. The previous ten fiscal years’ COMB Managed Revenues are shown in Table 3.2.

Figure 3.1 – FY 2026-27 COMB Managed Revenue by Source



⁽¹⁾ Net Operating Assessments include \$500K for the Lauro Reservoir Intake Assessment and Repair collected under City of Santa Barbara Cater JPA agreement.

COMB MANAGED REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES (CONTINUED)

Table 3.1 – FY 2026-27 COMB Managed Revenues and Expenditures (1)

Category	FY 2024-25 Actuals	FY 2025-26 Budget	FY 2025-26 Est. Actuals	FY 2026-27 Budget
Revenues:				
COMB Net Operating Budget	\$ 5,389,948	\$ 6,426,931	\$ 5,275,925	\$ 6,772,653
USBR Water Rates/Deficits	2,018,372	2,200,000	2,387,618	2,400,000
FEMA Assistance	272,915	1,295,000	215,011	800,000
Grant Funding	8,847	154,000	476	579,000
Lauro Reservoir Intake Offset - SC JPA	-	-	-	500,000
Warren Act Trust Fund	42,123	15,007	15,007	19,221
Bradbury SOD Act	261,647	261,647	261,647	261,647
Cachuma Project Betterment Fund	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000
SWRCB Water Rights Fee	77,706	79,620	85,647	87,350
Lauro SOD Act	47,404	47,404	47,404	47,404
Renewal Fund	367,449	244,239	244,239	240,628
DDW D3 Permit Fee	20,110	20,000	19,334	20,000
Total Managed Revenues:	\$ 8,606,522	\$ 10,843,848	\$ 8,652,308	\$ 11,827,903
Expenditures:				
Contracts/Agreements				
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation	\$ 2,018,372	\$ 2,200,000	\$ 2,387,618	\$ 2,400,000
Bradbury SOD Act Repayment	261,647	261,647	261,647	261,647
Lauro SOD Act Repayment	47,404	47,404	47,404	47,404
Water Rights Fee	77,706	79,620	85,647	87,350
Subtotal:	\$ 2,405,129	\$ 2,588,671	\$ 2,782,316	\$ 2,796,401
Personnel				
Operations Division	\$ 1,153,832	\$ 1,382,999	\$ 1,313,323	\$ 1,434,453
Fisheries Division	797,368	908,841	883,600	985,031
Administrative Division	1,002,042	1,111,380	1,171,058	1,169,794
Subtotal:	\$ 2,953,242	\$ 3,403,220	\$ 3,367,980	\$ 3,589,278
Operation and Maintenance				
Operations Division	\$ 541,000	\$ 703,000	\$ 666,643	\$ 630,700
Fisheries Division	72,443	91,750	68,635	143,500
Subtotal:	\$ 613,443	\$ 794,750	\$ 735,277	\$ 774,200
General and Administrative				
Operations Division	\$ 200,632	\$ 293,227	\$ 218,546	\$ 315,490
Fisheries Division	113,637	143,981	118,449	151,534
Subtotal:	\$ 314,269	\$ 437,207	\$ 336,994	\$ 467,024
Infrastructure and Improvement Projects				
Infrastructure Improvement Projects	\$ 1,264,785	\$ 2,515,000	\$ 908,139	\$ 3,730,000
Special Projects	457,997	860,000	293,388	191,000
Habitat Improvement Projects	448,070	105,000	96,779	110,000
Program Support Services	149,588	140,000	131,434	170,000
Subtotal:	\$ 2,320,439	\$ 3,620,000	\$ 1,429,740	\$ 4,201,000
Total Expenditures before Debt:	\$ 8,606,522	\$ 10,843,848	\$ 8,652,308	\$ 11,827,903

Footnotes

(1) Consolidated schedule including COMB annual Operating Budget and Contractual Obligations managed by COMB.

(2) COMB Board adopts the annual Operating Budget.

COMB MANAGED REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES (CONTINUED)**Table 3.2 – Previous Ten Fiscal Years’ COMB Managed Revenues (1)**

Fiscal	Net Operating	USBR Water Rates	SOD Act	Grant	WATF/RF/BF ⁽²⁾	Loan Payments	Water Rights/ D3	Total Managed
2017-18	\$ 2,587,215	\$ 1,728,642	\$ 309,051	\$ -	\$ 710,361	\$ 463,450	\$ 48,991	\$ 5,847,710
2018-19 ⁽³⁾	\$ 4,197,066	\$ 3,189,982	\$ 309,051	\$ 1,886,408	\$ 629,521	\$ 463,450	\$ 52,162	\$ 10,727,640
2019-20 ^{(4),(5)}	\$ 4,624,002	\$ 2,312,529	\$ 309,051	\$ 1,461,452	\$ 681,523	\$ 463,450	\$ 60,900	\$ 9,912,907
2020-21	\$ 4,808,442	\$ 1,788,246	\$ 309,051	\$ 180,754	\$ 356,078	\$ 463,450	\$ 64,423	\$ 7,970,444
2021-22	\$ 4,421,917	\$ 1,770,763	\$ 309,051	\$ 15,763	\$ 272,830	\$ 38,621	\$ 70,715	\$ 6,899,660
2022-23 ⁽⁶⁾	\$ 5,349,254	\$ 2,231,608	\$ 309,051	\$ 2,996,640	\$ 228,715	\$ -	\$ 70,715	\$ 11,185,983
2023-24	\$ 4,113,826	\$ 1,907,982	\$ 309,051	\$ 329,608	\$ 461,533	\$ -	\$ 93,774	\$ 7,215,773
2024-25 ⁽⁷⁾	\$ 5,389,948	\$ 2,018,372	\$ 309,051	\$ 281,762	\$ 509,572	\$ -	\$ 97,817	\$ 8,606,522
2025-26 ⁽⁷⁾	\$ 5,275,925	\$ 2,387,618	\$ 309,051	\$ 215,487	\$ 359,246	\$ -	\$ 104,981	\$ 8,652,308
2026-27 ⁽⁸⁾	\$ 7,272,653	\$ 2,400,000	\$ 309,051	\$ 1,379,000	\$ 359,849	\$ -	\$ 107,350	\$ 11,827,903

Notes:

(1) COMB has been granted the authority, by various agreements, to administer the provisions, collection and payment of certain pass-thru revenues including the USBR Entitlement Obligation (USBR Water Rates), the Bradbury and Lauro Safety of Dams (SOD) Repayment Obligations and the State Water Resource Control Board Water Rights Fee. These pass-through revenues are not reflected in COMB's audited financial statements.

(2) WATF/RF/BF = Warrant Act Trust Fund / Renewal Fund / Betterment Fund.

(3) FY 2018-19 USBR Water Rates include (1) an installment payment for Extraordinary O&M Costs (\$420K) related to the replacement of the 30" cone valves on Bradbury Dam (Total Cost - \$1.2M) amortized over a 3-year period, and (2) approximately \$860k of the FY 2015-17 USBR Deficits paid in full by three Cachuma Project Member Units. The remaining Member Units elected to pay their obligation over a 5-year period.

(4) FY 2019-20 USBR Water Rates include (1) 2nd installment payment for Extraordinary O&M Costs (\$420K) - see Footnote 6, and (2) approximately \$200k of the FY 2015-17 USBR Deficits due from two Cachuma Project Member Units which elected to pay their obligation over a 5-year period.

(5) FY 2019-20 Grant Revenue includes funding related to Sycamore Canyon Slope Stabilization FEMA Assistance (\$450k) and California Department of Fish and Wildlife grant funds affiliated with Quiota Creek Project (\$1.01M).

(6) FY 2022-23 Grant Revenue includes funding from the Department of Water Resources Urban and Multi Benefit Drought Relief Program (\$2.25M) and US Bureau of Reclamation WaterSMART Drought Response Program (\$750k). Both grants will be applied to the Lake Cachuma Secured Pipeline project.

(7) FY 2024-25 and FY 2025-26 Grant Revenue includes projected FEMA/CalOES assistance related to FEMA DR-4683-CA 2023 Winter Storm.

(8) FY 2026-27 Net Operating Revenue includes \$500K for the Lauro Reservoir Intake Assessment and Repair collected under City of Santa Barbara Cater JPA agreement.

COMB OPERATING BUDGET

COMB operates under an annual operating budget, which is adopted by the Board of Directors in accordance with established short and long-term financial plans. The COMB Operating budget reflects projected operating expenses for the COMB Operations Division, the Fisheries Division and General and Administrative expenses.

The budget may be amended throughout the year by Board action. The Board considers the request of staff at a public meeting and approves or rejects such requests by motion and majority vote of the Board.

Annual budget revenues are funded by quarterly assessments of COMB Member Agencies and are based on the Member Agencies' proportionate Cachuma Project entitlement percentages. Included in the budget is the cost of personnel and administration, operation and maintenance, fisheries related work and infrastructure improvement projects related to the Cachuma Project storage and conveyance facilities. These facilities include the Tecolote Tunnel, the South Coast Conduit (SCC) and four regulating dams and reservoirs (Glen Annie, Lauro, Ortega and Carpinteria). During the fiscal year 2021-22, COMB conducted and/or completed several special studies and projects using revenue provided by these assessments. These projects included storage of key components of the Emergency Pumping Facility, improvements to the South Coast Conduit and rehabilitation and betterment of control stations, valves and structures.

Table 3.3
COMB Operating Budget Allocation Percentages

Member Unit	COMB Operating Budget Allocation %
Goleta Water District	40.42 %
City of Santa Barbara	35.89 %
Carpinteria Valley WD	12.20 %
Montecito Water District	11.50 %
Total	100.00%

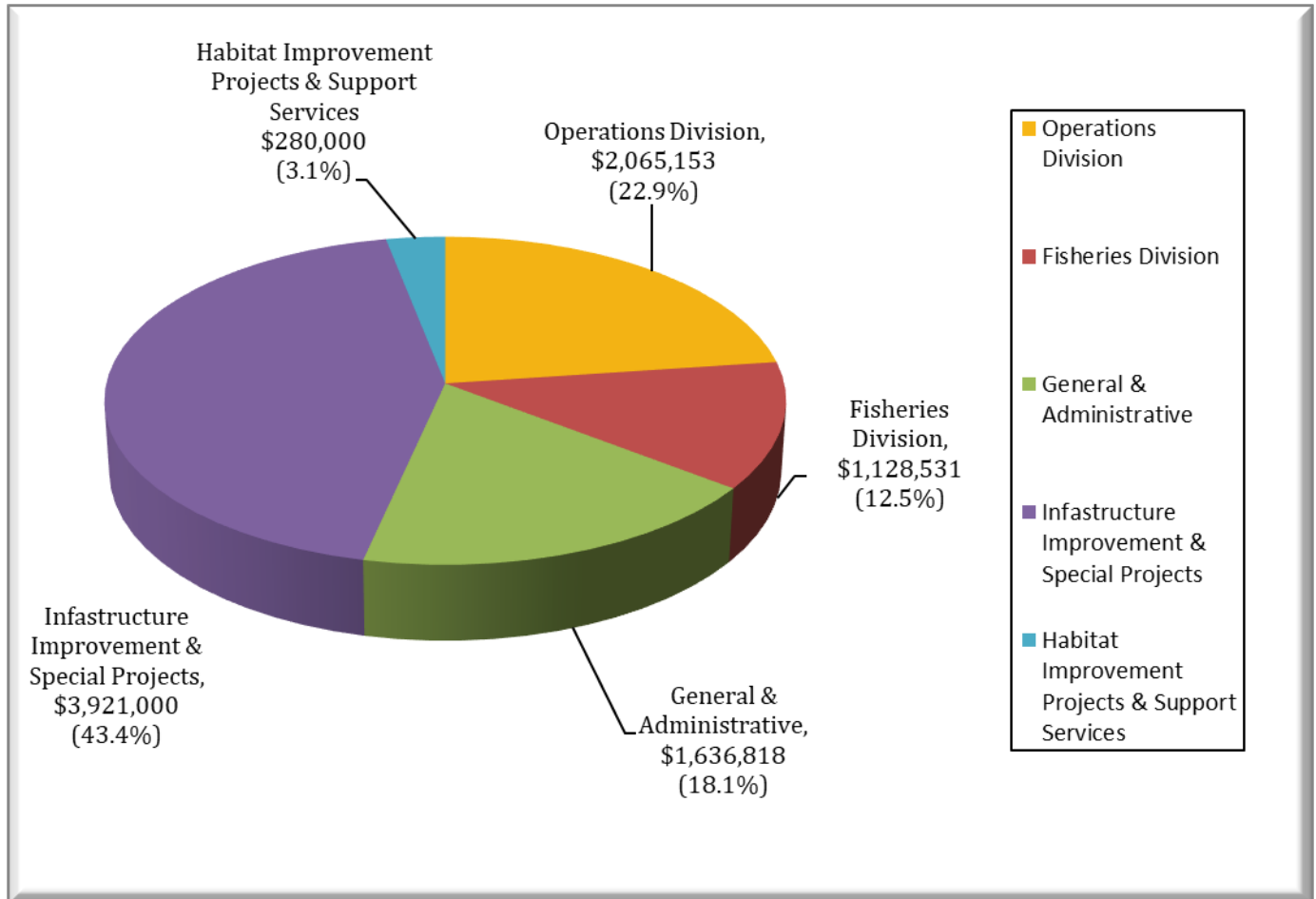
In 2016, the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, Improvement District No. 1 (ID No. 1) notified the COMB Board of its stated intent to withdraw from the COMB Joint Powers Agreement. A Separation Agreement was entered into by ID No. 1, COMB and the remaining COMB Member Agencies and was approved by all parties effective August 28, 2018.

Pursuant to the terms and conditions of the Separation Agreement, ID No. 1 is no longer a Member Agency of COMB and has departed from the COMB JPA Agreement as of May 27, 2016. ID No. 1 continues to be a member of the Cachuma Project, which carries certain benefits and obligations associated with the Project and specific COMB activities as outlined in the Separation Agreement. Payments received from ID No. 1 for certain COMB BiOp and Oak Tree related expenditures, previously assessed to the current COMB Member Agencies, are returned to the COMB Member Agencies upon collection.

COMB OPERATING BUDGET (CONTINUED)

The COMB Gross Operating Budget, not including pass-thru expenditures, for FY 2026-27 is \$9,031,502 and is further broken down by major category as depicted in Figure 3.2.

Figure 3.2 – FY 2026-27 Operating Budget by Division



The primary budgetary objective is to provide the highest possible level of service to the Cachuma Project Members. Continual efforts are made to improve productivity, lower costs and enhance services. COMB staff evaluates and selects infrastructure improvements and special projects based on the following criteria: water supply reliability, risk, critical need, safety and service disruption. Projects may vary by year depending on external and uncontrolled factors such as ongoing drought conditions, lake elevation and natural disasters (i.e., fire, significant rain events, debris flow, etc.).

The COMB gross budget history for the previous ten fiscal years is outlined in Table 3.4 on the following page.

Table 3.4 – Previous Ten Fiscal Years’ Gross Operating Budget History

Fiscal Year	Operations Division O&M	Fisheries Division O&M	General and Admin	Infrastructure Improvement & Special Projects	Habitat Improvement Projects & Support	Total
2017-18	\$1,062,108	\$753,374	\$1,139,848	\$1,020,000	\$1,343,000	\$5,318,330
2018-19	\$1,101,747	\$763,409	\$1,196,679	\$1,842,983	\$2,349,996	\$7,254,814
2019-20	\$1,227,664	\$800,751	\$1,227,664	\$2,045,327	\$1,390,000	\$6,766,977
2020-21	\$1,339,141	\$810,413	\$1,199,967	\$1,630,000	\$185,000	\$5,164,520
2021-22	\$1,402,187	\$867,558	\$1,237,439	\$1,600,050	\$185,000	\$5,292,234
2022-23	\$1,561,326	\$934,164	\$1,288,054	\$6,050,000	\$185,000	\$10,018,544
2023-24	\$1,846,147	\$908,982	\$1,365,659	\$2,670,000	\$197,000	\$6,987,788
2024-25	\$1,935,112	\$958,430	\$1,468,365	\$2,675,000	\$597,000	\$7,633,908
2025-26	\$2,085,999	1,000,591	\$1,548,587	\$3,375,000	\$245,000	\$8,255,177
2026-27	\$2,065,153	\$1,128,531	\$1,636,818	\$3,921,000	\$280,000	\$9,031,502

Unexpended funds are identified through the audit process and returned to the Member Agencies using one of four methods. These methods include: 1) the issuance of checks made payable to each Member Agency; 2) constructively returning the unexpended funds by reducing the Member Agency’s quarterly assessments; 3) carrying forward unexpended funds for work in process; and/or 4) reducing the projected operating budget for the following fiscal year. The Board of Directors shall take action annually to approve the methodology for return once unexpended funds are identified.

USBR WATER RATES

Through Resolution No. 224 and the Water Rates Agreement, COMB is responsible for administering provisions of the Water Rates Agreement for the Cachuma Project. This includes calculating and distributing bills and assessments for water, administering payments from the Cachuma Member Units to the United States pursuant to the provisions of the Master Contract, the Cachuma Member Unit water supply contracts with Santa Barbara County Water Agency and the water rates agreement. COMB is required to make payment directly to the United States to satisfy those agreements.

The water rates are developed annually by the rate-setting branch of Reclamation (Regional Office) located in Sacramento and are based on projected Operating and Maintenance (O&M) costs for the upcoming water year. The South-Central California (Fresno) Area Office is responsible for providing the Regional Office with estimated budgets and projected O&M costs pertaining to the Cachuma Project for formulation of the water rates. The total projected amount for WY 2026-27 is \$2.4M.

USBR WATER RATE DEFICITS

USBR Water Rate Deficits occur due to a deficiency in revenues (USBR projected budget) compared to actual operational and any extraordinary costs for a particular fiscal year.

Reclamation reported an O&M deficit of \$198,618 based on Water Year 2024 results. Reclamation added this amount to the 1st period obligation for WY 2025-26. The WY 2025 surplus/(deficit), when finalized, will be reported with the WY 2026-27 Water Rate calculations during the fall of 2026.

GRANT FUNDING / FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

COMB has developed a grant program by utilizing a team of staff members to write proposals, administer grants and carry out grant contracts.

In 2021, COMB entered into a Cooperative Agreement with Carpinteria Valley Water District (CVWD) proposing a collaborative work effort between CVWD and COMB to repair and rehabilitate aging infrastructure in the lower reach section of the South Coast Conduit and the CVWD distribution system. CVWD proposed to participate financially in rehabilitating SCC laterals in collaboration with COMB by installing two (2) isolation valves on the SCC. This approach would allow improved isolation and enable longer shutdowns to repair and maintain the system in the future or during an emergency. Phase 2 of this project was completed in FY 2024-25.

In July 2022, Congressman Salud Carbajal announced that his office had secured \$500,000 in Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) under the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency grant program. The congressional appropriations bill was signed into law by President Biden in December 2022. Funds from this program will be applied to the Sheffield Tunnel Project during FY 2026-27.

The 2023 and 2024 winter storm events and subsequent debris flows caused damage to South Coast Conduit appurtenant structures and facilities. Shortly thereafter, President Joseph R. Biden, Jr. declared that an emergency exists in the State of California and ordered Federal assistance to supplement State, tribal and local response efforts. COMB is working closely with FEMA/CalOES for federal disaster relief and hazard mitigation funding for damages that resulted from that event.

In September 2024, COMB was awarded a Santa Barbara Air Pollution Control District grant in the amount not-to-exceed \$79,999. Funds from this grant will be applied to the construction of a solar/battery/EV charging station project at COMB's headquarters in support of COMB's Sustainability Plan. The plan is expected to be completed during FY 2026-27.

WARREN ACT TRUST FUND / RENEWAL FUND

The Warren Act Trust Fund is a requirement of the Cachuma Project Warren Act Contract negotiated between the Central Coast Water Authority (CCWA) and the Bureau of Reclamation for delivery and transport of State Water Project water through the Cachuma Project facilities. A 1995 memorandum of understanding executed in conjunction with the Warren Act Contract established a charge of \$43 per acre-foot (AF) (\$58 initially with a \$15 service charge by Reclamation), which is not indexed. Payments are required upon delivery of State Water Project (SWP) water to Cachuma Reservoir. CCWA makes quarterly payments to COMB based on the prior quarter's water deliveries to the lake.

The Renewal Fund is a requirement of the 1995 Renewal Master Contract (Contract No. 175r-1802R between the United States and Santa Barbara County Water Agency) entered into for water conveyance from the Cachuma Project to the five Cachuma Project Member Units. The Member Units are the Carpinteria Valley Water District, the Goleta Water District, the Montecito Water District, the City of Santa Barbara and the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, Improvement District No. 1 (ID No. 1). The Renewal Master Contract requires payment of \$10 per acre-foot of water made available by the Cachuma Project. The Renewal Fund itself is capped at \$257,100, which is related to the current annual operational yield of 25,714 AF. Subject to the limitations of sub article 27(e), the Cachuma Project Member Units shall deposit into the Renewal Fund an amount which, when added to any monies already in the Renewal Fund, is sufficient to pay for activities which are to be undertaken pursuant to the Annual Work Plan for the that Water Year.

For calendar year 2025, total SWP deliveries into the lake were 447 AF, which converts to \$19,221 of Warren Act Trust Fund revenue available for FY 2026-27. Therefore, the preliminary amount to be deposited into the Renewal Fund by the Cachuma Member Units, subject to sub article 27 (e), is projected to be \$240,628 based on the following calculation.

Given:	WATF = \$19,221
	AOY = Annual Operation Yield of 25,714 x \$10 = \$257,100
	RFC (Renewal Fund Calculation) = $[1 - (WATF / \$300,000) \times AOY]$
Then:	RFC = $[1 - (\$19,221 / \$300,000) \times \$257,100]$
	RFC = \$240,628

WARREN ACT TRUST FUND / RENEWAL FUND (CONTINUED)*Warren Act Trust Fund / Renewal Fund Annual Meeting*

The annual meeting of the Cachuma Project Warren Act Trust Fund / Renewal Fund (Funds Committee) occurs in the summer of each year. At the annual meeting, the Funds Committee reviews the Annual and Long-Term Plan prepared as outlined in the Master Renewal Contract document. The participating Committee members discuss and subsequently vote on how to apply the Warren Act Trust Fund / Renewal Fund monies for program expenditures and activities in the upcoming fiscal year.

BRADBURY DAM / LAURO DAM SAFETY OF DAMS (SOD) ACT REPAYMENT CONTRACTS

Under the terms and conditions of a repayment contract executed in 2002, COMB is responsible for payment to the United States for fifteen percent (15%) of the total amount of Safety of Dams (SOD) Act funds expended by the United States for structural stability and related work at Bradbury Dam and Lauro Dam.



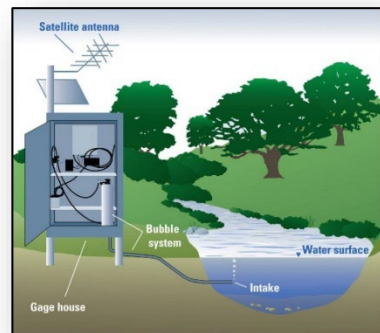
Bradbury Dam: The fifteen percent obligation under the Bradbury SOD contract is \$7,605,739 and is to be repaid by annual payments over a 50-year period. COMB's payment obligation for FY 2026-27 is \$261,647 with assessments collected from the Cachuma Project Member Units in accordance with each Member's Cachuma Project entitlement percentages.



Lauro Dam: The fifteen percent obligation under the Lauro SOD contract is \$1,009,737 and is to be repaid by annual payments over a 50-year period. COMB's payment obligation for FY 2026-27 is \$47,404 and assessments are collected from the COMB Member Agencies in accordance with each Member Agency's pro-rata Cachuma Project entitlement percentages.

BETTERMENT FUND

Article 8 (b) of the Cachuma Project Member Unit contracts with Santa Barbara County Water Agency requires the County Water Agency to provide \$100,000 annually for beneficial purposes consistent with the Water Agency Act and within the Santa Ynez River watershed or the Cachuma Project service area. All decisions relating to the expenditure on such funds must be agreed on by both the County Water Agency and the Cachuma Member Agency Representative, acting by unanimous vote. Consistent with past years, COMB will receive \$100,000 to be used for the Santa Ynez River stream gauge program.



Stream Gauge Station

WATER RIGHTS FEE

Effective January 1, 2004, the Water Code was amended to authorize and require the State Water Board to adopt emergency regulations establishing and revising water rights and water quality certification fees, which are to be deposited in the Water Rights Fund in the State Treasury. Since then, the State Water Board has charged annual water rights fees. The Water Code authorizes the State Water Board to revise the fee schedule each fiscal year as necessary to conform to the revenue levels set forth in the annual Budget Act.

COMB is responsible for the assessment and payment of the water rights fee on behalf of the Cachuma Project Members. Assessments are made according to the Cachuma Project entitlement percentages with all five Member Units being responsible for the Santa Ynez River Permit fees and the four South Coast Member Units being responsible for the Lauro Creek and W. Glen Anne Creek fees. The projected cost for FY 2026-27 is \$87,350.

DRINKING WATER PROGRAM FEE

The South Coast Conduit is divided into two sections: Goleta and Carpinteria. The South Coast Conduit – Goleta Section (SCC – GS) starts at the South Portal of the Tecolote Tunnel and ends at Lauro Reservoir, conveying raw water from Lake Cachuma to Lauro Reservoir. The South Coast Conduit – Carpinteria Section (SCC-CS) starts at Cater Water Treatment Plant and ends at Carpinteria Reservoir, conveying treated water.

Effective February 2022, the SCC-CS became permitted as a D3 wholesaler by the State of California Division of Drinking Water. Costs for this fee are shared by the City of Santa Barbara, Carpinteria Valley Water District and Montecito Water District. The projected cost for FY 2026-27 is \$20,000.

POTENTIAL REVENUE OPPORTUNITIES

Integrated Regional Water Management Program (IRWMP)

Beginning in September 2006, the Santa Barbara County Water Agency has worked with a County-wide group of approximately 29 cooperating partners including cities, special districts, water companies, joint powers authorities and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) to develop the first Integrated Regional Water Management (“IRWM”) Plan (completed in May 2007). The plan was recently updated in 2019 in response to DWR’s 2016 IRWM Guidelines.



The Water Agency acts as the single eligible grant recipient responsible for administration of the IRWM Grants. In accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and sub-grant agreements between the Water Agency and project proponents, the Water Agency functions as a pass-through agency between the State and proponents. The Water Agency is responsible for organizing and forwarding the required project reporting information and claims to the State on behalf of each project proponent. Project proponents are then reimbursed once funding is received from the State.

Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan (MJHMP)

COMB participated in the County of Santa Barbara Office of Emergency Management 2022 update to the MJHMP. COMB as a member of the Mitigation Advisory committee provided input on local hazard management activities and reviewed draft MJHMP components as part of a regional effort to update the MJHMP and annexes.



The purpose of the MJHMP is to identify policies and actions that can be implemented to reduce risk and future losses from disasters. The MJHMP creates a framework for risk-based decision-making to reduce damage to lives, property and local economies by focusing resources on the greatest risks and vulnerabilities. MJHMP adoption allows access to hazard mitigation assistance programs and funding, including Hazard Mitigation Grant Programs, Pre-Disaster Mitigation, Flood Mitigation Assistance and Severe Repetitive Loss Grant Programs.

Other Revenue Sources

COMB staff are actively engaged in identifying other sources of funding opportunities to lessen the financial burden on COMB’s Member Agencies. Other revenue sources include grant funding and low interest debt financing.

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SECTION IV – COMB OPERATING BUDGET

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COMB OPERATING BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

The Operating Budget reflects projected operating expenses for the COMB Operations Division, the Fisheries Division as well as the General and Administrative expenses for FY 2026-27. These projected expenditures have been refined through the development of divisional annual work plans. The Board adopted a Five Year (2027-2031) Infrastructure Improvement Plan and required implementation activities associated with the 2000 Biological Opinion.

Development of the budget was based on a zero-based budgeting methodology. Unlike traditional incremental budgeting, this methodology employs a detailed examination of expenditures wherein only the necessary budget amount for each line item is presented for discussion. This approach addresses the most fundamental and prioritized service needs and represents the minimum level of funding needed for effective operations.

As reflected in Table 4.1, the COMB Gross Operating Budget for FY 2026-27, excluding offsetting revenues, is \$9.0M as compared to the FY 2025-26 Operating Budget of \$8.3M, which reflects an increase of \$776.3K (9.4%).

The net change from the previous fiscal year is described by the following items:

- An increase in total Salaries and Benefits of 186.1K (5.5%), which includes the staffing of fifteen full-time and two full-time equivalents (FTE) seasonal employees, a 2.89% COLA adjustment, step increases, a 3.9% health benefits increase and an 11.1% increase in CalPERS obligation and unfunded liability.
- A decrease in total Operations and Maintenance expenses of \$20.5K (2.6%) which is attributed to a decrease in Ops fixed capital of \$106K and is offset by an increase in contract labor of \$25K and Fisheries fixed capital of \$50K.
- An increase in General and Administrative expenses of \$29.8K (6.8%) which is attributed to an increase in general liability insurance costs as well as a slight increase in audit expense, utilities, membership dues and misc. office expense.
- An increase in the Operations Division Infrastructure Improvement Projects and Special Projects of \$546.0K (16.2%). [See pages 65-78](#) for information on upcoming scheduled projects.
- An increase in Habitat Improvement Projects and Program Support Services of \$35.0K (14.3%). [See pages 86-89](#) for information on upcoming scheduled projects.

The COMB Net Operating Budget, including offsetting revenues for FY 2026-27, is \$6.8M and is compared to FY 2025-26 of \$6.4M, which is an increase of \$345.7K (5.4%).

COMB OPERATING BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS (CONTINUED)

Table 4.1- COMB Operating Budget: Consolidated Overview

COMB OPERATING BUDGET				
SALARIES & BENEFITS	FY 2025-26	FY 2026-27	Change (\$)	Change (%)
Operations Division	\$ 1,382,999	\$ 1,434,453	\$ 51,455	3.7%
Fisheries Division	908,841	985,031	\$ 76,189	8.4%
Administration	1,111,380	1,169,794	\$ 58,414	5.3%
TOTAL	\$ 3,403,220	\$ 3,589,278	\$ 186,058	5.5%
OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE EXPENSES				
Operations Division	\$ 703,000	\$ 630,700	\$ (72,300)	-10.3%
Fisheries Division	91,750	143,500	\$ 51,750	56.4%
TOTAL	\$ 794,750	\$ 774,200	\$ (20,550)	-2.6%
GENERAL & ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES				
Operation Division	\$ 293,227	\$ 315,490	\$ 22,263	7.6%
Fisheries Division	143,981	151,534	\$ 7,554	5.2%
TOTAL	\$ 437,207	\$ 467,024	\$ 29,817	6.8%
Total Operating Budget	\$ 4,635,177	\$ 4,830,502	\$ 195,325	4.2%
INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT, HABITAT IMPROVEMENT & SPECIAL PROJECTS				
Operations Division				
Infrastructure Improvement Projects	\$ 2,515,000	\$ 3,730,000	\$ 1,215,000	48.3%
Special Projects	860,000	191,000	\$ (669,000)	-77.8%
TOTAL	3,375,000	3,921,000	\$ 546,000	16.2%
Fisheries Division				
Habitat Improvement Projects	\$ 105,000	\$ 110,000	\$ 5,000	4.8%
Program Support Services	\$ 140,000	\$ 170,000	\$ 30,000	21.4%
TOTAL	245,000	280,000	\$ 35,000	14.3%
TOTAL GROSS OPERATING BUDGET	\$ 8,255,177	\$ 9,031,502	\$ 776,325	9.4%
Projected Offsetting Revenues	\$ (1,828,246)	\$ (2,258,849)		
TOTAL NET OPERATING BUDGET	\$ 6,426,931	\$ 6,772,653	\$ 345,722	5.4%

COMB OPERATING BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS (CONTINUED)

COMB expenditures are comprised of costs associated with personnel, operations and maintenance, general and administrative and infrastructure and habitat improvement projects.

Staff assignments and project implementation are reviewed by the General Manager and the Division Managers to control costs and to provide the highest possible level of service to the COMB Member Agencies. Projects may vary by year depending on financial and operational constraints. Additionally, external and uncontrolled factors such as ongoing drought conditions, lake elevation and natural disasters (i.e., fire, significant rain events, debris flow, etc.) can have an impact on project implementation.

PERSONNEL

Recruitment, professional development and employee retention are considered key factors by COMB to achieve its short and long-term goals and objectives. The General Manager is responsible for hiring and overseeing a staff of fifteen full time employees including three division managers, certified distribution operators, senior biology staff, water resources analyst and administrative personnel, as outlined in Table 4.2 – Personnel Count Summary.

Table 4.2 – Personnel Count Summary

Position	FTE Count FY 2024-25	FTE Count FY 2025-26	FTE Count FY 2026-27	Change Over FY 2024-25	Change Over FY 2025-26
General Manager	1	1	1	0	0
Administrative Mgr./CFO	1	1	1	0	0
Operations Division Manager	1	1	1	0	0
Chief Distribution Operator	1	1	1	0	0
Water Service Worker	4	4	4	0	0
Fisheries Division Manager	1	1	1	0	0
Senior Biologist	2	2	2	0	0
Biologist Aide	1	1	1	0	0
Water Resources Analyst	1	1	1	0	0
Administrative Assistant	2	2	2	0	0
Total	15	15	15	0	0

There are no projected staffing changes for FY 2026-27.

COMB OPERATING BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS (CONTINUED)**Salaries and Benefits**

As reflected in Table 4.3, total projected salaries and benefits for FY 2026-27 are \$3.6M, which reflects an increase of \$186.1K (5.5%) as compared to FY 2025-26. The budget reflects the current salaries and benefits package for all employees including the General Manager's position.

The budget includes a 2.89% COLA increase for all employees, excluding the General Manager, according to the historical annual calculation that is based on the February Consumer Price Index (CPI) data each year. The calculation is obtained by averaging the prior thirteen months indexes for all urban consumers and comparing that average to the previous year averaged data. The U.S. City and the Los Angeles-Riverside data is averaged together to obtain the percentage COLA for the period.

Health insurance costs for active employees are projected to increase between 5-10% in January 2027 based on preliminary projections from ACWA/JPIA.

COMB participates in the California Public Employees' Retirement System. On January 1, 2013, the Public Employees' Pension Reform Act of 2013 (PEPRA) took effect. PEPRA limited pension benefits offered to new employees and increased the cost sharing between new employees and public employers. All employees hired after January 2013 who are not classified as "classic" members contribute 7.75% of their eligible salary towards the CalPERS retirement premium.

Starting July 1, 2017, all employees hired before July 1, 2017 (and who are "Classic" employees as defined by CalPERS) began contributing toward their employee member contribution under a five-year phased-in method. For fiscal year 2026-27, the classic member contribution rate is set at 7.0%. Additionally, the CALPERS line item reflects an increase in the annual Unfunded Liability obligation as factored under the CALPERS 30-year amortization policy and pursuant to the Public Employee Pension Reform Act of 2013. A copy of the most recent CalPERS valuation report can be found at <https://www.calpers.ca.gov/page/employers/actuarial-resources/public-agency-actuarial-valuation-reports>.

Table 4.3 provides a breakdown of the individual components of the projected Personnel costs for FY 2026-27 as compared to FY 2025-26 and FY 2024-25.

COMB OPERATING BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS (CONTINUED)

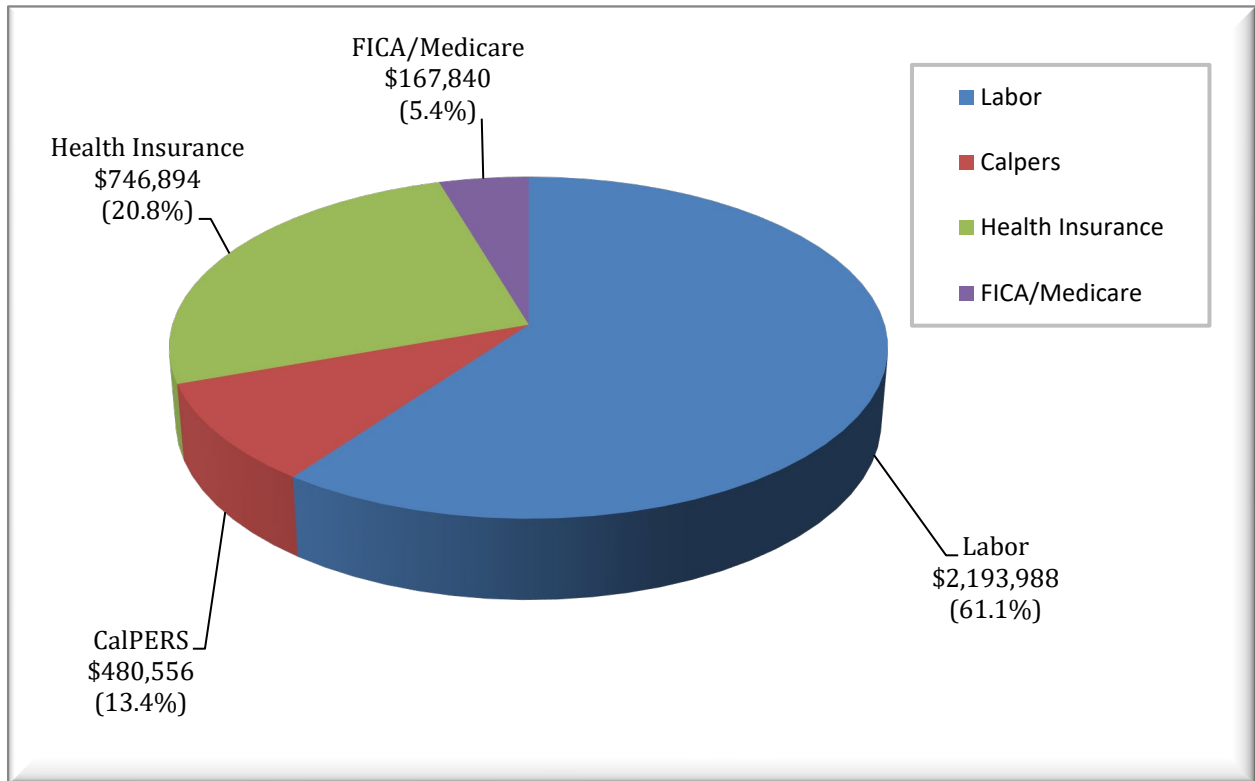
Table 4.3 – FY 2026-27 Budgeted Personnel Costs

Category	Actual FY 2024-25	Budget FY 2025-26	Estimated Actual FY 2025-26	Budget FY 2026-27	Variance Analysis (*)	
					\$ Higher / (Lower)	% Higher / (Lower)
Labor	\$1,895,869	\$2,081,846	\$2,142,188	\$2,193,988	\$112,142	5.4%
CalPERS	382,366	443,264	443,347	480,556	37,293	8.4%
Health Ins / WC	533,398	718,849	656,085	746,894	28,045	3.9%
FICA/Medicare	141,609	159,261	126,360	167,840	8,579	5.4%
Total	\$2,953,242	\$3,403,220	\$3,367,980	\$3,589,278	\$186,058	5.5%

(*) Compares FY 2026-27 Budget to FY 2025-26 Budget.

Figure 4.1 provides a breakdown of the individual components of the projected Personnel costs for FY 2026-27.

Figure 4.1 – FY 2026-27 Personnel Costs by Category



COMB OPERATING BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS (CONTINUED)**Operations and Maintenance Expenses**

COMB Operations are comprised of two divisions: Operations and Fisheries.

Operations Division

COMB's Operations Division is responsible for diversion of water from Lake Cachuma located in the Santa Ynez Valley to the South Coast of Santa Barbara County through the Tecolote Tunnel. In addition, the Operations Division responsibilities include operation and maintenance of the 26-mile South Coast Conduit conveyance pipeline, flow control valves, meters, instrumentation at control stations, turnouts and appurtenant structures along the South Coast Conduit and at four regulating reservoirs.



COMB coordinates closely with the Bureau of Reclamation and Member Agency staff to ensure that water supplies meet daily demands.

Fisheries Division

COMB's Fisheries Division is responsible for implementation of the 2000 Biological Opinion and Fish Management Plan related to the Cachuma Project on the Santa Ynez River in Santa Barbara, California. These activities include ongoing scientific studies along the river, monitoring and recording changing conditions and implementation of fish passage improvements as outlined in the 2000 Biological Opinion. The National Marine Fisheries Services (NMFS) is an agency that oversees protection of Southern California steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*).



Operation and Maintenance expenditures required to support the divisions include Vehicles and Equipment, Contract Labor, Materials and Supplies and Other Expenses. Projects and staff assignments are reviewed by the General Manager to control costs in this category. Table 4.4 includes a brief description of expenditures for each O&M category.

OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE (CONTINUED)**Table 4.4 – Operation and Maintenance Expenditures Descriptions**

Category	Operations	Fisheries
Vehicles and Equipment	Includes funds for the purchase of fixed capital, equipment rental, vehicle and equipment maintenance and fuel costs.	Includes funds for the purchase of fixed capital, equipment rental, vehicle and equipment maintenance and fuel costs.
Contract Labor	Contains funds for outside services and labor that cannot be supported by COMB staff, which may include water quality sampling, elevator repair, tree trimming and removal services, heavy equipment and operators' labor costs for various small projects including meter calibration and meter repair.	Contains funds for outside services/labor to support equipment calibration on flow meters and funds for technical assistance corresponding to the operation, maintenance and performance review of completed fish passage projects.
Materials and Supplies	Covers costs related to the operation and maintenance of the conduit, reservoirs and outlying buildings and roads.	Includes costs for the purchase of items needed for the Fisheries Monitoring Program specifically monitoring for migration, spawning and over-summering such as constructing and repairing fish migration traps and the equipment necessary to conduct snorkel and redds surveys.
Other Expenses	Includes permit fees, utilities, uniforms, hazardous waste disposal, communications, Under-ground Service Alerts, employee training and certifications.	Includes funds to pay for permit fees, uniforms and personal protective gear for the fisheries division employees.

OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE (CONTINUED)

Operation and Maintenance expenditures in FY 2026-27 are projected to total \$774.2K, a 2.6% decrease as compared to FY 2025-26.

Table 4.5 – FY 2026-27 Operation and Maintenance Costs - Consolidated

Category	Actual FY 2024-25	Budget FY 2025-26	Estimated Actual FY 2025-26	Budget FY 2026-27	Variance Analysis (*)	
					\$ Higher/ (Lower)	% Higher/ (Lower)
Vehicles & Equip.	\$285,675	\$358,500	\$317,555	\$302,500	(\$56,000)	-15.6%
Contract Labor	128,526	223,000	217,891	248,000	25,000	11.2%
Materials & Supplies	119,404	121,750	125,384	127,500	5,750	4.7%
Other Expenses	79,838	91,500	73,368	96,200	4,700	5.1%
Total	\$613,443	\$794,750	\$734,198	\$774,200	(\$20,550)	-2.6%

(*) Compares FY 2026-27 Budget to FY 2025-26 Budget.

(**) Includes both Operations and Fisheries Division.

GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE

General and Administrative expenses include costs for support of all administrative functions of COMB such as: Director fees, legal expenditures, general liability and property insurance, audit fees, utilities, IT and communications, postage and office supplies, training, education and subscriptions and miscellaneous expenses. Costs are generally allocated between Operations and Maintenance (65%) and Fisheries Division (35%).



General and Administrative expenditures, excluding administrative labor and benefits, in FY 2026-27 are projected to total \$467.0K, a 6.8% increase as compared to FY 2025-26.

The budget reflects an increase in expenses of \$29.8K (6.8%) related to an increase in general liability insurance costs, as well as a slight increase in audit expense, utilities, membership dues and misc. office expense.

Table 4.6 provides a breakdown of the individual components of the projected General and Administrative costs for FY 2026-27 as compared to FY 2025-26 and FY 2024-25.

GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE (CONTINUED)

Table 4.6 – FY 2026-27 General and Administrative Costs ()**

Category	Actual FY 2024-25	Budget FY 2025-26	Estimated Actual FY 2025-26	Budget FY 2026-27	Variance Analysis (*)	
					\$ Higher / (Lower)	% Higher / (Lower)
Director Fees	\$14,124	\$20,000	\$12,465	\$20,000	\$0	0.0%
Audit	39,911	35,000	34,215	40,000	5,000	14.3%
Legal	27,815	100,000	32,942	100,000	-	0.0%
Unemployment Insurance	28	5,000	-	5,000	-	0.0%
General Liability Insurance	84,171	84,900	89,033	94,000	9,100	10.7%
Postage/Office Supplies	9,401	10,000	12,358	12,000	2,000	20.0%
Office Equip/Leases	12,266	21,972	13,427	21,974	2	0.0%
Misc. Admin Expense	19,963	18,500	21,202	24,900	6,400	34.6%
Communications	11,942	13,955	12,808	13,955	-	0.0%
Utilities	20,070	14,980	19,075	20,245	5,265	35.1%
Membership Dues	18,668	18,900	19,705	20,950	2,050	10.8%
Admin Fixed Assets	10,727	17,000	2,211	17,000	-	0.0%
Computer Consultant	34,551	55,000	51,661	55,000	-	0.0%
Employee Education	-	4,500	-	4,500	-	0.0%
Travel	3,491	7,500	7,254	7,500	-	0.0%
Public Info	5,794	5,000	3,640	5,000	-	0.0%
IRWM	1,345	5,000	5,000	5,000	-	0.0%
Total	\$314,269	\$437,207	\$336,994	\$467,024	\$29,817	6.8%

(*) Compares FY 2026-27 Budget to FY 2025-26 Budget.

(**) Excludes labor



Cachuma Operation and Maintenance Board Meeting Room

INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

Infrastructure planning and investment is critical to the ongoing reliability of the Cachuma Project, its facilities and its distribution system. COMB staff evaluates and selects current year infrastructure improvements and special projects based on the following criteria: water supply reliability, risk, critical need, safety, service disruption and the betterment of the Cachuma Project. Tables 4.7 and 4.8 below are the projects identified for implementation during fiscal year 2026-27. Detailed descriptions of each project can be found on [pages 65-78](#).

Table 4.7 – FY 2026-27 Infrastructure Improvement Projects

Project Name	Fiscal Year 2026-27
Lauro Reservoir Bypass Channel Road Improvement	\$1,320,000
Sheffield Tunnel Evaluation and Repair	750,000
Lauro Reservoir Intake Assessment / Repair	500,000
Critical Control Valve Replacement	200,000
SCC Structure Rehabilitation	170,000
North Portal Intake Tower Seismic Assessment	150,000
Multi-Site Renewable Energy and Resiliency	150,000
Meter Replacement Program	150,000
North Portal Elevator Modification	140,000
Tecolote Tunnel Weep Hole Restoration	100,000
Tecolote Tunnel Concrete Deterioration Investigation	100,000
Sub Total	\$3,730,000

Table 4.8 – FY 2026-27 Operations Division Special Projects

Project Name	Fiscal Year 2026-27
COMB Building Improvements and Maintenance	\$80,000
Water Quality and Sediment Management	\$40,000
SCADA Improvements and Support	\$35,000
ROW Identification Program	\$20,000
GIS and Mapping	\$16,000
Sub Total	\$191,000

HABITAT IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

The Fisheries Division is tasked, through Reclamation's operation of the Cachuma Project, with carrying out the fisheries monitoring, data analysis and tributary enhancement projects as described in the National Marine Fisheries Service's (NMFS) 2000 Biological Opinion. A consensus based, long-term fisheries program has been developed that provides protection for steelhead/rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*, *O. mykiss*) downstream of Bradbury Dam. This is done through a combination of long-term monitoring, water releases from

Bradbury Dam through the Hilton Creek Watering System, Hilton Creek Emergency Backup System and Outlet Works, passage flows to assist migrating steelhead, improved riparian habitat and the removal or modification of numerous fish passage barriers to steelhead on tributaries of the Lower Santa Ynez River. Projects identified for implementation during fiscal year 2026-27 are provided in Table 4.9. Detailed descriptions of each project can be found on [pages 88-89](#).

Table 4.9 – FY 2026-27 Habitat Improvement Projects

Project Name	Fiscal Year 2026-27
Hilton Creek Habitat Improvement Project	\$50,000
El Jaro Creek / Cross Creek Ranch	\$50,000
Tributary Project Support	\$10,000
Sub Total	\$110,000

In summary, the COMB Gross Operating Budget for FY 2026-27 is \$9,031,502. COMB staff are actively engaged in identifying other sources of funding opportunities in an effort to lessen the financial burden on COMB’s Member Agencies. With projected, offsetting revenues of \$2,258,849, the COMB Net Operating Budget for FY 2026-27 totals \$6,772,653.

Table 4.10- COMB Operating Budget Summary

Category	Budget FY 2025-26	Budget FY 2026-27	Variance Analysis (*)	
			\$ Higher / (Lower)	% Higher / (Lower)
Gross Operating Budget	\$8,255,177	\$9,031,502	\$776,325	9.4%
Less: Offsetting Revenue	1,828,246	2,258,849	430,603	233.6%
Net Operating Budget	\$6,426,931	\$6,772,653	\$346,722	5.4%

N/M – Not Meaningful

LIST OF SUPPORTING TABLES:

- 1) Table 4.11 - FY 2026-27 COMB Operating Budget by Division
- 2) Table 4.12 - FY 2026-27 COMB Operating Budget Allocation by Quarter

Table 4.11- COMB Operating Budget: By Division



OPERATIONS DIVISION



Account Number	Account Name	FY 2024-25 Actual	FY 2025-26 Budget	Estimated FY 2025-26 Actual	FY 2026-27 Budget	Variance Analysis (*)	
						\$ Higher / (Lower)	% Change
OPERATION & MAINTENANCE EXPENSES							
SALARIES & BENEFITS							
3100	Labor Operations Staff	\$ 763,007	\$ 876,451	\$ 884,498	\$ 908,971	\$ 32,519	
3155	CalPERS	134,835	163,691	154,233	176,867	13,176	
3150	Health Insurance	176,190	231,986	212,607	233,631	1,645	
3150	Workers Compensation	22,237	43,823	25,247	45,449	1,626	
3160	FICA	57,564	67,049	36,737	69,536	2,488	
TOTAL		\$ 1,153,832	\$ 1,382,999	\$ 1,313,323	\$ 1,434,453	\$ 51,455	3.72%
VEHICLES & EQUIPMENT							
3201	Vehicle/Equip Maintenance	\$ 48,854	\$ 50,000	\$ 45,591	\$ 50,000	\$ -	
3202	Fixed Capital	173,646	206,000	206,202	100,000	(106,000)	
3203	Equipment Rental	5,212	40,000	23,653	40,000	-	
3204	Miscellaneous	10,261	10,000	6,639	10,000	-	
TOTAL		\$ 237,974	\$ 306,000	\$ 282,084	\$ 200,000	\$ (106,000)	-34.64%
CONTRACT LABOR							
3301	Conduit, Meter, Valves	\$ 13,606	\$ 35,000	\$ 33,661	\$ 35,000	\$ -	
3302	Buildings & Roads	24,090	50,000	49,079	50,000	-	
3303	Reservoirs	80,291	70,000	68,480	70,000	-	
3304	Engineering, Misc Services	3,032	50,000	50,000	75,000	25,000	
TOTAL		\$ 121,019	\$ 205,000	\$ 201,220	\$ 230,000	\$ 25,000	12.2%
MATERIALS & SUPPLIES							
3401	Conduit, Meter, Valves	\$ 76,060	\$ 82,500	\$ 80,078	\$ 85,000	\$ 2,500	
3402	Buildings & Roads	16,054	20,500	17,547	21,500	1,000	
3403	Reservoirs	19,276	10,500	17,595	11,000	500	
TOTAL		\$ 111,390	\$ 113,500	\$ 115,220	\$ 117,500	\$ 4,000	3.5%
OTHER EXPENSES							
3501	Utilities	\$ 8,506	\$ 7,000	\$ 5,724	\$ 7,000	\$ -	
3502	Uniforms	5,848	7,500	6,832	7,500	-	
3503	Communications	13,082	16,000	12,926	16,000	-	
3504	USA & Other Services	4,787	8,000	4,616	8,000	-	
3505	Miscellaneous	14,207	12,000	12,515	14,700	2,700	
3506	Training	3,680	3,000	3,769	5,000	2,000	
3507	Permits	20,506	25,000	21,736	25,000	-	
TOTAL		\$ 70,616	\$ 78,500	\$ 68,118	\$ 83,200	\$ 4,700	6.0%
TOTAL O & M EXPENSE		\$ 1,694,832	\$ 2,085,999	\$ 1,979,966	\$ 2,065,153	\$ (20,845)	-1.0%

(*) Compares FY 2026-27 Budget to FY 2025-26 Budget.

Table 4.11 COMB Operating Budget: By Division (Continued)



OPERATIONS DIVISION (CONTINUED)



Account Number	Account Name	FY 2024-25 Actual	Adopted FY 2025-26 Budget	Estimated FY 2025-26 Actual	FY 2026-27 Budget	Variance Analysis (*)	
						\$ Higher / (Lower)	% Change
GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES							
5000	Directors Fees	\$ 9,181	\$ 13,000	\$ 7,716	\$ 13,000	\$ -	
5101	Audit	25,942	22,750	22,240	26,000	3,250	
5100	Legal	15,982	75,000	26,600	75,000	-	
5150	Unemployment Tax	28	5,000	-	5,000	-	
5200	Liability & Property Insurance	54,711	55,100	57,872	61,300	6,200	
5201	Health and Workers' Compensation	183,192	229,073	228,337	242,223	13,150	
5250	CalPERS	94,207	107,940	110,098	117,090	9,150	
5339	FICA & Medicare	26,798	30,725	26,655	32,108	1,383	
5300-5307	Administrative Salaries	390,564	401,637	418,852	419,717	18,080	
5310	Office Expense & Postage	6,093	6,000	7,691	8,000	2,000	
5311	Office Equipment / Leases	7,973	13,440	8,312	13,440	-	
5312	Miscellaneous	12,683	11,000	13,305	15,000	4,000	
5313	Communications	7,580	9,500	7,929	9,500	-	
5314	Utilities	13,046	9,737	11,808	15,000	5,263	
5315	Membership Dues	11,593	11,700	12,269	13,250	1,550	
5316	Admin Fixed Assets	6,973	12,000	1,223	12,000	-	
5318	Computer Consultant	22,458	35,000	31,729	35,000	-	
5325	Employee Education / Training	-	2,000	-	2,000	-	
5330	Admin Travel & Conferences	1,321	3,500	2,600	3,500	-	
5331	Public Information	3,723	3,500	2,253	3,500	-	
TOTAL GENERAL & ADMINISTRATIVE		\$ 894,047	\$ 1,057,602	\$ 997,488	\$ 1,121,628	\$ 64,025	6.1%
SPECIAL G & A EXPENSES							
5510	Integrated Regional Water Mgmt Plan	\$ 1,345	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ -	
TOTAL SPECIAL G & A EXPENSES		\$ 1,345	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ -	0.0%
INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS (IIP) ⁽¹⁾							
6096	SCC Structure Rehabilitation	\$ 17,251	\$ 40,000	\$ 40,000	\$ 170,000	\$ 130,000	
6137	SCC Lower Reach Lateral Structures Phase II	526,133	-	-	-	-	
6137	SCC Lower Reach Lateral Structures Phase III	266,197	-	-	-	-	
6128	Lauro Outlet Works Tunnel Safety Imprv	87,472	125,000	84,970	-	(125,000)	
6107	North Portal Elevator Modification	58,313	100,000	70,000	140,000	40,000	
6102	Lauro Reservoir Bypass Channel Rd Imprv	54,022	1,245,000	36,857	1,320,000	75,000	
6123	Sheffield Tunnel Evaluation and Repair	68,800	130,000	129,298	750,000	620,000	
6072	Tecolote Tunnel Weep Hole Restoration	-	-	-	100,000	100,000	
6045	Critical Access Road Maint and Repair	32,779	50,000	50,000	-	(50,000)	
6043	Lauro Reservoir Intake Assessment/Repair	-	75,000	72,382	500,000	425,000	
6134	North Portal Intake Tower Seismic Assmnt	-	150,000	-	150,000	-	
6074	North Portal Log Boom Replacement	143,192	-	-	-	-	
6075	Multi Site Renewable Energy and Resiliency	10,628	125,000	-	150,000	25,000	
6133	Meter Replacement Program	-	100,000	100,000	150,000	50,000	
6138	Critical Control Valve Replacement	-	325,000	324,633	200,000	(125,000)	
6139	Tecolote Tunnel Concrete Deterioration Inv	-	50,000	-	100,000	50,000	
TOTAL IIP		\$ 1,264,785	\$ 2,515,000	\$ 908,139	\$ 3,730,000	\$ 1,215,000	48.3%
SPECIAL PROJECTS							
6110	SCADA Improvements and Support	\$ 29,427	\$ 35,000	\$ 36,635	\$ 35,000	\$ -	
6115	COMB Bldg Improvements and Maint	29,688	80,000	75,158	80,000	-	
6097	GIS and Mapping	8,765	10,000	11,078	16,000	6,000	
6100	Watershed Sanitary Survey	-	75,000	74,355	-	(75,000)	
6105	ROW Identification Program	11,364	20,000	16,535	20,000	-	
6125	2023 Winter Storm Repairs	12,100	-	-	-	-	
6126	2024 Winter Storm Repairs	341,524	600,000	42,809	-	(600,000)	
6138	Water Quality and Sediment Mgmt	25,129	40,000	36,818	40,000	-	
TOTAL SPECIAL PROJECTS		\$ 457,997	\$ 860,000	\$ 293,388	\$ 191,000	\$ (669,000)	-77.8%
TOTAL IIP and SPECIAL PROJECTS		\$ 1,722,782	\$ 3,375,000	\$ 1,201,527	\$ 3,921,000	\$ 546,000	16.2%
TOTAL OPERATIONS DIVISION BUDGET		\$ 4,313,007	\$ 6,523,601	\$ 4,183,980	\$ 7,112,781	\$ 589,180	9.0%

(*) Compares FY 2026-27 Budget to FY 2025-26 Budget.

Table 4.11 - COMB Operating Budget: By Division (Continued)



FISHERIES DIVISION



Account Number	Account Name	FY 2024-25 Actual	Adopted FY 2025-26 Budget	Estimated FY 2025-26 Actual	FY 2026-27 Budget	Variance Analysis (*)	
						\$ Higher / (Lower)	% Change
OPERATION & MAINTENANCE EXPENSES							
SALARIES & BENEFITS							
4100	Labor Fisheries Staff	\$ 503,406	\$ 515,491	\$ 543,655	\$ 551,299	\$ 35,808	
4114	Labor Seasonal Staff	28,590	72,000	37,427	88,000	16,000	
4151	CalPERS	102,597	113,512	115,644	123,551	10,040	
4150	Health Insurance	107,817	133,521	123,429	141,309	7,788	
4150	Workers Compensation	12,140	29,375	16,881	31,965	2,590	
4152	FICA	42,818	44,943	46,564	48,906	3,963	
TOTAL		\$ 797,368	\$ 908,841	\$ 883,600	\$ 985,031	\$ 76,189	8.4%
VEHICLES & EQUIPMENT							
4270	Vehicle/Equip Maintenance	\$ 31,018	\$ 30,000	\$ 16,297	\$ 30,000	\$ -	
4280	Fixed Capital	15,956	20,000	19,174	70,000	50,000	
4290	Miscellaneous	727	2,500	-	2,500	-	
TOTAL		\$ 47,701	\$ 52,500	\$ 35,471	\$ 102,500	\$ 50,000	95.2%
CONTRACT LABOR							
4221	Instrumentation	\$ 1,034	\$ 3,000	\$ 1,720	\$ 3,000	\$ -	
4222	Project Maintenance	6,473	15,000	14,951	15,000	-	
TOTAL		\$ 7,507	\$ 18,000	\$ 16,671	\$ 18,000	\$ -	0.0%
MATERIALS & SUPPLIES							
4390	Miscellaneous	\$ 8,014	\$ 8,250	\$ 10,164	\$ 10,000	\$ 1,750	
TOTAL		\$ 8,014	\$ 8,250	\$ 10,164	\$ 10,000	\$ 1,750	21.2%
OTHER EXPENSES							
4502	Uniforms	\$ 2,624	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,250	\$ 5,000	\$ -	
4503	Permits	6,597	8,000	1,079	8,000	-	
TOTAL		\$ 9,221	\$ 13,000	\$ 6,329	\$ 13,000	\$ -	0.0%
TOTAL O & M EXPENSE		\$ 869,811	\$ 1,000,591	\$ 952,234	\$ 1,128,531	\$ 127,939	12.8%
GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES							
5426	Directors Fees	\$ 4,943	\$ 7,000	\$ 4,748	\$ 7,000	\$ -	
5407	Legal	11,834	25,000	6,342	25,000	-	
5441	Audit	13,969	12,250	11,975	14,000	1,750	
5443	Liability & Property Insurance	29,460	29,800	31,162	32,700	2,900	
5401	Health and Workers' Compensation	31,822	51,072	49,584	52,317	1,245	
5402	CalPERS	50,727	58,121	63,373	63,048	4,927	
5403	FICA/Medicare	14,429	16,544	16,403	17,289	745	
5404-09	Administrative Salaries	210,302	216,266	257,755	226,001	9,735	
5410	Office Expense & Postage	3,308	4,000	4,666	4,000	-	
5411	Office Equipment / Leases	4,293	8,533	5,115	8,535	2	
5412	Miscellaneous	7,280	7,500	7,897	9,900	2,400	
5413	Communications	4,362	4,455	4,879	4,455	-	
5414	Utilities	7,025	5,243	7,267	5,245	2	
5415	Membership Dues	7,075	7,200	7,436	7,700	500	
5416	Admin Fixed Assets	3,754	5,000	988	5,000	-	
5418	Computer Consultant	12,093	20,000	19,932	20,000	-	
5425	Employee Education / Training	-	2,500	-	2,500	-	
5430	Admin Travel & Conferences	2,170	4,000	4,655	4,000	-	
5431	Public Information	2,072	1,500	1,387	1,500	-	
TOTAL GENERAL & ADMINISTRATIVE		\$ 420,917	\$ 485,985	\$ 505,564	\$ 510,190	\$ 24,205	5.0%

(*) Compares FY 2026-27 Budget to FY 2025-26 Budget.

Table 4.11- COMB Operating Budget: By Division (Continued)



FISHERIES DIVISION (CONTINUED)



Account Number	Account Name	FY 2024-25 Actual	Adopted FY 2025-26 Budget	Estimated FY 2025-26 Actual	FY 2026-27 Budget	Variance Analysis (*)	
						\$ Higher / (Lower)	% Change
PROGRAM SUPPORT SERVICES							
6201	BO/FMP Implementation	\$ 36,768	\$ 20,000	\$ 17,942	\$ 45,000	\$ 25,000	
6202	GIS and Mapping	9,178	10,000	8,303	10,000	-	
6205	USGS Stream Gauge Program	103,643	110,000	105,190	115,000	5,000	
TOTAL PROGRAM SUPPORT SERVICES		\$ 149,588	\$ 140,000	\$ 131,434	\$ 170,000	\$ 30,000	21.4%
HABITAT IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS (HIP) (1)							
6207	Oak Tree Restoration Program	\$ 759	\$ 5,000	\$ 379	\$ -	\$ (5,000)	
6320	Hilton Creek Habitat Improvement	11,984	25,000	25,000	50,000	\$ 25,000	
6321	El Jaro / Cross Creek Ranch	-	65,000	65,000	50,000	\$ (15,000)	
6303	Tributary Project Support	346,689	10,000	6,400	10,000	-	
6304	Tributary Project Enhancement	88,638	0	-	-	-	
TOTAL HABITAT IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS		\$ 448,070	\$ 105,000	\$ 96,779	\$ 110,000	\$ 5,000	4.8%
TOTAL HIP AND PROGRAM SUPPORT SERVICES		\$ 597,657	\$ 245,000	\$ 228,213	\$ 280,000	\$ 35,000	14.3%
TOTAL FISHERIES DIVISION BUDGET		\$ 1,888,386	\$ 1,731,576	\$ 1,686,012	\$ 1,918,721	\$ 187,145	10.8%
TOTAL COMB GROSS OPERATING BUDGET		\$ 6,201,392	\$ 8,255,177	\$ 5,869,992	\$ 9,031,502	\$ 776,325	9.4%
Projected Offsetting Revenues:							
		FY 2024-25 Actual	FY 2025-26 Budget	Estimated FY 2025-26 Actual	FY 2026-27 Budget	Variance Analysis (*)	
						\$ (Higher) / Lower	% Change
	Warren Act Trust Fund (4)	\$ (42,123)	\$ (15,007)	\$ (15,007)	\$ (19,221)	\$ (4,214)	
	Renewal Fund (4)	(367,449)	(244,239)	(244,239)	(240,628)	3,611	
	Renewal Fund Carryover (4)	-	-	-	-	-	
	Santa Barbara County Contribution	(100,000)	(100,000)	(100,000)	(100,000)	-	
	Lauro Reservoir Intake Offset - SC JPA	-	-	-	(500,000)	(500,000)	
	Community Grant Funding - Sheffield	-	-	-	(500,000)	(500,000)	
	Grant Income - Ops	(8,847)	(154,000)	(476)	(79,000)	75,000	
	D3 Permit Pass Thru	(20,110)	(20,000)	(19,334)	(20,000)	-	
	FEMA Assistance	(272,915)	(1,295,000)	(215,011)	(800,000)	495,000	
	Total Offsetting Revenues	\$ (811,444)	\$ (1,828,246)	\$ (594,067)	\$ (2,258,849)	\$ (430,603)	23.6%
TOTAL COMB NET OPERATING BUDGET		\$ 5,389,948	\$ 6,426,931	\$ 5,275,925	\$ 6,772,653	\$ 345,722	5.4%

Disclosures

- (1) Board policy requires all projects to be approved thru Committee and by the Board prior to commencement
- (2) General and Administrative labor costs are generally allocated at 65% Operations Division and 35% Fisheries Division
- (3) Labor costs contain 3.18% COLA increase per annual calculation
- (4) Warren Act Trust Fund and Renewal Fund are special purpose restricted funds

Table 4.12 - Annual COMB Operating Budget

OPERATIONS DIVISION		
Operations Division Budget		
Goleta Water District	40.42%	\$ 2,874,772
City of Santa Barbara	35.89%	\$ 2,552,798
Carpinteria Valley Water District	12.20%	\$ 867,586
Montecito Water District	11.50%	\$ 817,625
Total Operations Division Budget	100.00%	\$ 7,112,781
FISHERIES DIVISION		
Fisheries Division Budget		
Goleta Water District	40.42%	\$ 775,489
City of Santa Barbara	35.89%	\$ 688,634
Carpinteria Valley Water District	12.20%	\$ 234,037
Montecito Water District	11.50%	\$ 220,560
Total Fisheries Division Budget	100.00%	\$ 1,918,721
COMB GROSS OPERATING BUDGET		
Goleta Water District	40.42%	\$ 3,650,261
City of Santa Barbara	35.89%	\$ 3,241,432
Carpinteria Valley Water District	12.20%	\$ 1,101,624
Montecito Water District	11.50%	\$ 1,038,185
Total Gross COMB Operating Budget	100.00%	\$ 9,031,502
OFFSETTING REVENUES		
Goleta Water District	40.42%	\$ (912,959)
City of Santa Barbara	35.89%	\$ (810,707)
Carpinteria Valley Water District	12.20%	\$ (275,525)
Montecito Water District	11.50%	\$ (259,658)
TOTAL	100.00%	\$ (2,258,849)
Total Offsetting Revenues	100.00%	\$ (2,258,849)
TOTAL NET COMB OPERATING BUDGET	100.00%	\$ 6,772,653

Table 4.12 - COMB Operating Budget Allocation by Quarter

For FY 2026-27, COMB adjusted the collection of quarterly assessments based on estimated projected implementation and projected cash outflows.

COMB OPERATING BUDGET QUARTERLY ASSESSMENT		
COMB Operating Budget Quarterly Assessment (July - September, 2026)		
Goleta Water District	40.42%	\$ 772,536
City of Santa Barbara	35.89%	\$ 686,012
Carpinteria Valley Water District	12.20%	\$ 233,146
Montecito Water District	11.50%	\$ 219,720
Subtotal Assessment (July - September, 2026)	100.00%	\$ 1,911,414
COMB Operating Budget Quarterly Assessment (October - December, 2026)		
Goleta Water District	40.42%	\$ 595,369
City of Santa Barbara	35.89%	\$ 528,687
Carpinteria Valley Water District	12.20%	\$ 179,678
Montecito Water District	11.50%	\$ 169,331
Subtotal Assessment (October - December, 2026)	100.00%	\$ 1,473,065
COMB Operating Budget Quarterly Assessment (January - March, 2027)		
Goleta Water District	40.42%	\$ 754,984
City of Santa Barbara	35.89%	\$ 670,425
Carpinteria Valley Water District	12.20%	\$ 227,849
Montecito Water District	11.50%	\$ 214,728
Subtotal Assessment (January - March, 2027)	100.00%	\$ 1,867,986
COMB Operating Budget Quarterly Assessment (April - June, 2027)		
Goleta Water District	40.42%	\$ 614,414
City of Santa Barbara	35.89%	\$ 545,600
Carpinteria Valley Water District	12.20%	\$ 185,426
Montecito Water District	11.50%	\$ 174,748
Subtotal Assessment (April - June, 2027)	100.00%	\$ 1,520,188
TOTAL NET COMB OPERATING BUDGET		
Goleta Water District	40.42%	\$ 2,737,303
City of Santa Barbara	35.89%	\$ 2,430,725
Carpinteria Valley Water District	12.20%	\$ 826,099
Montecito Water District	11.50%	\$ 778,527
TOTAL NET COMB OPERATING BUDGET	100.00%	\$ 6,772,653

Notes:

- General & Administrative Expenses are allocated at 65% Operations Division and 35% Fisheries Division with the exception of Legal Fees, Membership dues, Admin Fixed Assets, Education, Travel, Public Info
- Pursuant to the terms and conditions of the Separation Agreement, ID No. 1 was deemed no longer a Member Agency of COMB and had departed from the COMB JPA Agreement as of May 27, 2016. ID No. 1 continues to be a member of the Cachuma Project which carries certain benefits and obligations associated with the Project as outlined in various agreements. Payments received from the ID No. 1 for certain COMB BiOp and Oak Tree related expenditures will be returned to the COMB Member Agencies upon collection.

COMB OPERATING BUDGET NARRATIVE
OPERATIONS DIVISION: OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE EXPENSES



COMB's Operations Division is responsible for diversion of water from Lake Cachuma located in the Santa Ynez Valley to the South Coast of Santa Barbara County through the Tecolote Tunnel. In addition, the Operations Division responsibilities include the operation and maintenance of the 26-mile South Coast Conduit conveyance pipeline, flow control valves, meters, instrumentation at control stations, turnouts and appurtenant structures along the South Coast Conduit and at four regulating reservoirs.

COMB coordinates closely with the Bureau of Reclamation and COMB Member Agency staff to ensure that water supplies meet daily demands.

Labor (Accounts: 3100 - 3160)	\$ 1,434,453
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Operation and Maintenance labor is the cost for the total salaries and benefits for an Operations Division Manager / Engineer, a Chief Distribution Operator/Operations Supervisor, a Water Resources Analyst and a four-member field crew. The benefits include medical, dental and vision insurance coverage, a \$20,000 life insurance policy per employee, an employee assistance program (EAP) and the Cal-PERS retirement contribution.

Starting July 1, 2017, classic members began paying a portion of the Employer Paid Member Contribution (EPMC) cost. For fiscal year 2026-27, the classic members' contribution rate is set at 7.0%. All employees hired after January 2013 who are not classified as "classic" members will contribute 7.75% of the CalPERS retirement premium from their bi-weekly paycheck.

The health, vision, dental and life insurance programs are selected through ACWA/JPIA. The Workers' Compensation premiums are based on payroll calculated at various percentages depending on the category of each employee (clerical, outside sales and field operations). FICA is a mandatory employer expense. A multiple policy discount has been applied as additional savings to the employee benefits program.

The overall labor line item includes COLA of 2.89% based on the annual calculation.

Totals by Account:

3100 Labor Operations	\$ 908,971
3155 CalPERS	\$ 176,867
3150 Health Insurance	\$ 233,631
3150 Workers Compensation	\$ 45,449
3160 FICA	\$ 69,536
Total	\$ 1,434,453

COMB OPERATING BUDGET NARRATIVE
OPERATIONS DIVISION: OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE EXPENSES



Vehicles and Equipment (Accounts: 3201 - 3204)	\$ 200,000
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The Vehicles and Equipment account is comprised of four sub-accounts which include funds for the purchase of vehicles, fuel, parts, inspections and maintenance of vehicles, equipment and rental of equipment.

Account 3201 includes supplies necessary to operate and maintain vehicles and equipment such as fuel, oil, tires, parts, inspections and labor, etc. This account reflects amounts determined by historical expense data and projected operational needs. Account 3202 contains funds for the purchase of replacement vehicles, equipment or large tools as may be necessary in the fiscal year. Account 3203 includes all rental equipment charges necessary for operation. Account 3204 is utilized for the purchase of small tools, equipment and supplies. These accounts are increased or decreased annually to reflect changes in the price, work plan and number of items to be purchased from these accounts.

Totals by Account:

3201 Vehicle/Equip Maintenance	\$ 50,000
3202 Fixed Capital	\$ 100,000
3203 Equipment Rental	\$ 40,000
3204 Misc.	\$ 10,000
Total	\$ 200,000

Contract Labor (Accounts: 3301 - 3304)	\$ 230,000
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The Contract Labor account contains funds for outside services/labor that cannot be supported by COMB staff which may include water quality sampling, elevator repair, tree trimming and removal services, heavy equipment and operators' labor costs for various small projects, meter calibration and meter repair, etc. The amounts have been distributed between accounts 3301, 3302 and 3303 to reflect the costs accurately. Account 3304 is used to hire consultants as necessary for extraordinary engineering, design, or study projects.

Totals by Account:

3301 Conduit, Meter, Valves	\$ 35,000
3302 Buildings and Roads	\$ 50,000
3303 Reservoirs	\$ 70,000
3304 Engineering Misc.	\$ 75,000
Total	\$ 230,000

COMB OPERATING BUDGET NARRATIVE
OPERATIONS DIVISION: OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE EXPENSES



Materials / Supplies (Accounts: 3401 - 3403)	\$ 117,500
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The Materials and Supplies account covers costs related to operation and maintenance of the conduit, reservoirs and outlying buildings and roads. This account includes funding for gravel, fencing, charts, locks, paint, fire extinguishers, etc.

Totals by Account:

3401 Conduit, Meter, Valves	\$ 85,000
3402 Buildings and Roads	\$ 21,500
3403 Reservoirs	\$ 11,000
Total	\$ 117,500

Other Expenses (Accounts: 3501 - 3506)	\$ 83,200
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The Other Expenses account includes utilities, uniforms, hazardous waste disposal, communications (phones at facilities and cell phones for operations and maintenance), Underground Service Alerts (USA), employee training and certifications. Costs are based on historical actual charges for these services.

Totals by Account:

3501 Utilities	\$ 7,000
3502 Uniforms	\$ 7,500
3503 Communications	\$ 16,000
3504 USA and Other Services	\$ 8,000
3505 Misc.*	\$ 14,700
3506 Training and Certifications	\$ 5,000
3507 Permits	\$ 25,000
Total	\$ 83,200

*Misc. detail: Operations Division non-fixed assets expenses, computer/software/ office supply needs, shipping, refuse/recycle/ waste/non-hazmat material disposal, portable toilets/roll off boxes, operations employment ads/background checks.

Non-fixed assets	\$ 1,000
Operations computer/ Software/office supply needs	\$ 500
Safety / First Aid Supplies	\$ 1,200
Refuse/recycle, etc.	\$ 5,000
Portable toilets/roll offs	\$ 7,000
Total	\$ 14,700

SUBTOTAL OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE EXPENSES	\$ 2,065,153
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**COMB OPERATING BUDGET NARRATIVE
OPERATIONS DIVISION: GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES**



Program Description

The General and Administrative accounts reflect costs for support of all administrative functions of COMB. These include water supply and delivery reports, human resources and risk management, tax, audit, contractual and employment law, salary and benefits, accounting, communications with Federal, State and local agencies and the public on a variety of contractual and informational matters.

Administrative costs are generally allocated between the Operations Division (65%) and the Fisheries Division (35%).

Directors' Fees (Account: 5000)	\$ 13,000
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This account reflects Directors' fees at a rate of \$225.75 per meeting. The Directors will decide future increases by public meeting and change of ordinance. This cost is allocated between the Operations and Fisheries division.

Audit (Account: 5101)	\$ 26,000
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This account reflects costs for the annual COMB financial audit and any other audit service or valuation as required.

Legal (Account: 5100)	\$ 75,000
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This account reflects costs for the COMB general counsel and any litigation expenses.

Unemployment Tax (Account: 5150)	\$ 5,000
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COMB belongs to the California State Unemployment "self-insured" program. Under the program, COMB is not required to pay unemployment premiums. Instead, COMB is required to budget for and pay any unemployment claims that may arise. This account is an estimate.

COMB OPERATING BUDGET NARRATIVE
OPERATIONS DIVISION: GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES



Liability and Property Insurance (Account: 5200)	\$ 61,300
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This account reflects insurance costs for coverage provided by ACWA/JPIA for all general liability, property insurance (buildings, personal property, fixed equipment and catastrophic coverage), crime coverage, employee dishonesty and replacement costs. The general liability premiums are based on a formula that includes annual payroll as well as a three-year loss history of claims. The property insurance premiums are based on value of property in which coverage is provided. The general liability and property insurance line item is an allocated cost between Operations and Fisheries Divisions.

Health and Workers' Compensation (Account: 5201)	\$ 242,223
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This account reflects costs for 65% of all administrative staff health premiums (medical, dental, vision and life) and employee assistance program (EAP), workers' compensation premiums as well as all retiree health premiums. The cost for health premiums is a set premium amount for each employee and their dependents, as well as eligible retirees, depending on qualifying criteria. The health, workers compensation and life insurance programs were negotiated through ACWA/JPIA. Although there have been substantial increases in the past, the premiums have remained competitive throughout the years. This line item includes a projected increase in health premiums that will occur in January 2026.

CalPERS (Account: 5250)	\$117,090
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This account reflects costs for the California Public Employees' Retirement System. The costs are based on 65% of salaries for all COMB administrative staff. The calculation of this account is payroll driven.

COMB pays the employer and a portion of the employee cost for classic members while new hires pay 50% of the normal cost contributions. Starting July 1, 2017, classic members began paying a portion of the employee cost (EPMC). For fiscal year 2025-26, the classic members' contribution rate is set at 7.0%. All employees hired after January 2013 who are not classified as "classic" members will contribute 7.75% of the CalPERS retirement premium from their bi-weekly paycheck.

FICA and Medicare (Account: 5339)	\$ 32,108
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This account reflects 65% of the matching share of social security and Medicare taxes for all administrative employees.

**COMB OPERATING BUDGET NARRATIVE
OPERATIONS DIVISION: GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES**



Administrative Salaries (Account: 5300 - 5307)	\$ 419,717
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This account reflects salaries for the specified positions of General Manager, Administrative Manager/CFO and two administrative staff at 65% apportionment. The salaries for all administrative staff (except the GM) contain a 3.18% cost of living increase. The COLA calculation is based on a melding of both the Los Angeles / Riverside index with the US City average index for a 13-month rolling period. The salary for the General Manager is set by the COMB Board.

Office Expense and Postage (Account 5310)	\$ 8,000
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The Office Expense and Postage account reflects the cost of all office supplies and postage for general and administrative tasks. General and Administrative expenses have been reduced to the lowest level of effective operation.

Office Equipment/Leases (Account: 5311)	\$ 13,440
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The Office Equipment/Leases account includes costs associated with leases and quarterly service agreements for postage machine, copier equipment, accounting/computer software licenses and any maintenance fees.

Miscellaneous Expense (Account: 5312)	\$ 15,000
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This account contains funds necessary for office cleaning, board meeting supplies, outside payroll services, building alarm renewal and miscellaneous expenses. General and Administrative expenses have been reduced to the lowest level of effective operation.

Office Cleaning	\$10,000
Paychex payroll costs	\$ 3,000
Misc. expenses	\$ 2,000
Total	\$15,000

Communications (Account: 5313)	\$ 9,500
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This account contains funds necessary for the telephone service, long distance service, cable internet service, conference call service and cell phone service. General and Administrative expenses have been reduced to the lowest level of effective operation.

COMB OPERATING BUDGET NARRATIVE
OPERATIONS DIVISION: GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES



Utilities (Account: 5314)	\$ 15,000
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This account contains funds necessary to provide utilities to the administrative offices.

Membership Dues (Account: 5315)	\$ 13,250
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This account reflects membership dues for Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA), American Water Works Association (AWWA), California Special Districts Association (CSDA), Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) and subscriptions for professional publications.

Administrative Fixed Assets (Account: 5316)	\$ 12,000
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This fiscal year's fixed assets include the replacement of computers and office furniture as needed.

Computer Consultant (Account: 5318)	\$ 35,000
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This account was established for an outside consulting company that provides monitoring and technical support for all of our information technology and computer related needs.

Employee Education / Training (Account: 5325)	\$ 2,000
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This account was established to provide employees with the ability to obtain professional training, required certifications and for management training purposes. This account also provides for human resources and employee related subscriptions.

Administrative Travel (Account: 5330)	\$ 3,500
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This account reflects actual travel costs for the COMB staff. This account is also used for attendance at conferences by the General Manager and/or staff.

**COMB OPERATING BUDGET NARRATIVE
OPERATIONS DIVISION: GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES**



Public Information (Account: 5331)	\$ 3,500
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This account is available for public information bulletins or newsletters in order to communicate with the community in case of emergencies or environmental impacts on the COMB water distribution system or reservoirs. This account also includes costs to operate and maintain the COMB website.

SUBTOTAL GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES	\$1,121,628
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OPERATIONS DIVISION: SPECIAL GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES

Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (Account: 5510)	\$ 5,000
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This account has been established for COMB to participate in the integrated regional water management plan for Santa Barbara County.

SUBTOTAL SPECIAL GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES	\$ 5,000
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North Portal Intake Tower

**COMB OPERATING BUDGET NARRATIVE
OPERATIONS DIVISION: INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS**



SCC Structure Rehabilitation (Account: 6096)	\$ 170,000
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Background

Blowoff structures exist on all low points of a water distribution system. Blowoffs allow the conduit to be dewatered to conduct necessary maintenance and to perform emergency work. Combination air vacuum air release valves (AVARs) are located at high points along the pipeline and act to automatically expel air and relieve vacuum accumulation in pipes. If air is not adequately expelled, air pockets can constrict flows. If the vacuum is not relieved, serious damage or collapse of the pipeline can occur. Of the sixty-two blowoffs on the SCC – five need to have their valve replaced and/or be rehabilitated and four of fifty-seven AVARs need their valve replaced. Four shutdowns are needed to complete these replacements (F2, F3, F4, and F5).

Need

The remaining original and partially rehabilitated blowoffs need full rehabilitation due to extensive corrosion. The dependability of these components is necessary to allow the system to be dewatered for maintenance and response to an emergency break. Three blowoff structures are original (STA 698+55, 732+72, and 880+05) plus two additional blowoffs requiring replacement of the first valve (STA 804+24 and 902+96). Although all the AVARs are now above grade and coated, there are four (4) AVARs which require a shutdown to replace the first valve at STA 703+00, 755+84, 874+00, and 900+15. Not completing this project could result in an unplanned outage and a major release of water.

Description

The project would require coordination with impacted Member Agencies during the required shutdowns of the SCC. The project consists of replacing manhole covers, blowoff nozzles, gate valves, upper spools, and discharge piping for original blowoffs and replacing first valves for partially rehabilitated structures. The work would be phased over four shutdowns (F2, F3, F4, and F5).



Figure - Inside of Blow-Off Structure

PRIORITY CATEGORY
2. Required to Maintain
Level of Service

ESTIMATED COST
\$320,000

Fiscal Year	Phase	Cost
2027	F3, F4	\$170,000
2028	F2, F5	\$150,000

Environmental / Permitting Considerations: *This project has been identified by the USBR as a Category 2 recommendation. Several shutdowns require releasing water into Southern Steelhead Critical Habitat and are delayed until on-going biological consultation is completed.*

**COMB OPERATING BUDGET NARRATIVE
OPERATIONS DIVISION: INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS**



North Portal Elevator Modification Study / Implementation (Account: 6107)	\$ 140,000
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Background

This study / implementation phase will improve safety and functionality in one of COMB's critical facilities. The North Portal Elevator is the only access point to the jet flow control valve and bypass controlling flow into the Tecolote Tunnel. Routine staff entry into the gate chamber is required to calibrate instrumentation, access valves, and to inspect or make other adjustments as needed. The existing elevator shaft is 8 feet in diameter and 156 feet deep, containing an enclosed elevator car for descension into the gate chamber. In an emergency, entrants need to utilize a small emergency door on the ceiling of the elevator car and ascend 140 feet of ladder rungs up to the surface doors using a full body harness and fall arrest extraction system.

Need

The existing elevator has been a longstanding concern due to its limited escape options and narrow shaft design. The study will consider improved escape features, a secondary escape shaft, installation of modernized extraction systems, exterior stairs to the elevator control room, sealing / grouting to prevent unwanted water entry and electrical malfunction, or other safety improvements as recommended. The overarching need is to modernize the elevator and extraction capabilities in the North Portal, ensuring that in case of an emergency, personnel can swiftly and safely evacuate the gate chamber.

Description

The study is a comprehensive assessment considering design flaws of the existing elevator system. This project will include a detailed analysis of the elevator's limitations and its escape features. A range of potential solutions will be explored, and the best solution will be recommended. Smaller scale common sense safety modifications have begun and will continue to occur. With the lake at higher elevation, increased water intrusion will be slowed using sealants and grouts. An exterior staircase and door will be constructed to facilitate simpler access to the elevator control room instead of the existing ladder and fall-arrest system to the top floor.



Figure - North Portal Elevator Shaft

PRIORITY CATEGORY

1. Regulatory, Legal, or Safety Requirement

ESTIMATED COST

\$1,100,000*

Fiscal Year	Phase	Cost
2027	Study/Sealing/Repairs	\$140,000
2028	Study/Construction	\$400,000
2029	Construction	\$600,000

**Construction costs are highly variable and dependent upon the outcome of the study.*

Environmental / Permitting

Considerations: *There will be OSHA requirements to consider in the development of this study to modify this facility; other environmental, permitting, historic building considerations, and collaboration with Reclamation will be required.*

**COMB OPERATING BUDGET NARRATIVE
OPERATIONS DIVISION: INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS**



Lauro Reservoir Bypass Channel Road Repair (Account: 6102)	\$ 1,320,000
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Background

Lauro Reservoir is the Cachuma Project’s primary balancing reservoir on the South Coast and forebay for Cater Water Treatment Plant. Natural watershed flows upstream of Lauro Reservoir are required by the Division of Drinking Water to be routed around the reservoir for public safety. Watershed flows are captured by Lauro Debris Basin and diverted into a 24" HDPE storm drain, or onto the Lauro Reservoir Bypass Channel during more extreme storm events. In addition to routing emergency overflow, the bypass channel also collects runoff from the surrounding slopes, prevents shallow landslides, and provides vehicle access around the reservoir. Portions of the bypass channel were improved with a concrete road and retaining walls in 2007 and in 2023 after a significant washout.

Need

The need for this project is illustrated through repeated damages and public safety concerns since the 1960s. Damages have occurred in the following years: 1962, 1964, 1965, 1967, 1969, 1973-74, 1977-78, 1980, 1983-85, 1991-92, 1993-94, 1995, 1998, 2000, 2005, and 2023. Damages from excessive storm inputs included slides, washouts, erosion, high turbidity levels, water quality concerns, and the need to take Lauro Reservoir offline for varying periods. These storm events caused disruptions to water supply and quality and necessitated repairs. There remains 800ft of unimproved bypass channel with asphalt and gravel vulnerable to damage.

Description

Includes removal of the current asphalt and gravel sections and installation of a significantly more robust concrete bypass channel with curbs and retaining walls to match previously improved sections. The total length of the improved bypass channel would be approximately 800ft and would include retaining walls to hold back the slope and prevent shallow landslides onto the bypass channel and washouts of the road. The project would complete the bypass channel around Lauro Reservoir and prevent repetitive damages.



Figure - Lauro Reservoir Bypass Channel Washout January 2023 Winter Storms

PRIORITY CATEGORY
3. Addresses Critical Deficiency

ESTIMATED COST
\$1,320,000*

Fiscal Year	Phase	Cost
2027	Construction	\$1,320,000

*The Lauro Reservoir Bypass Channel Road Improvements project schedule depends upon grant funding opportunities. COMB goal of receiving \$800,000 in 404 HMGP funding for the project in FY 2026-27.

Environmental / Permitting Considerations: Environmental and permitting will follow the same procedure as previous installations. FEMA is awaiting Reclamation environmental review/SHPO to be completed before releasing 404 HMGP funding.

**COMB OPERATING BUDGET NARRATIVE
OPERATIONS DIVISION: INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS**



Sheffield Tunnel Evaluation and Repair (Account: 6123)	\$ 750,000
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Background

The Sheffield Tunnel is a concrete tunnel housing the 30” Centrifugal Concrete Pipe (CCP) South Coast Conduit (SCC) that extends 6,100 feet in 12-ft segments between the Sheffield Control Station east of Mission Creek to Parma Park. Within the tunnel, sections of concrete pipe are connected and joined with steel bands, double gaskets, and mortar to maintain the integrity of the pipe collar connections. Water collected within Sheffield Tunnel accumulates and is routed into a creek drop inlet culvert downstream of the west portal of the tunnel.

Need

In 2025, the Sheffield Tunnel was inspected by Reclamation, COMB, and support staff and the condition of each joint was assessed and documented. Some of the joints were found to be deteriorated; 1% with no mortar and the steel joint ring crack or compromised, 4% with mortar separating from the pipe, and 10% with severe cracks or separation of mortar. Reclamation issued a Category 1 to develop and implement a plan to address deficiencies at the pipeline joints in Sheffield Tunnel (note that this changed the Project ID; formerly 2007-2-B). The 6,100-foot tunnel does not have redundancy and any damage to the SCC in this area would cause potential water supply disruptions, significant access challenges for repair work, and environmental damage in the uncontrolled release of water from the pipeline.

Description

The overall plan includes an emergency contingency, Sheffield Control Station improvements, East Portal line valve, hydraulic modeling, conceptual design and alternative study, environmental compliance, financing, and project implementation. Planned for FY 2026 are improvements to the Sheffield Control Station, an east portal line valve installation, and an internal inspection. Several options for the repair have been identified including internal seals, semi-structural liner, HDPE liner/bypass, grouting the tunnel, horizontal directional drilling of new pipe, etc. The best alternative will be considered for construction.



Figure - Sheffield Tunnel and Pipeline

PRIORITY CATEGORY
2. Required to Maintain Level of Service

ESTIMATED COST
\$6,750,000

Fiscal Year	Phase	Cost
2027	Eng/Parts/Const	\$750,000
2028	Construction	\$6,000,000

Environmental / Permitting

Considerations: *This project has been identified by the USBR as a Category 1 recommendation. There are several cultural and environmental considerations to be resolved including O. mykiss critical habitat at Mission Creek.*

**COMB OPERATING BUDGET NARRATIVE
OPERATIONS DIVISION: INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS**



Tecolote Tunnel Weep Hole Restoration (Account: 6072)	\$ 100,000
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Background

Included in the construction of the Tecolote Tunnel were a series of “weep holes” that allow ground water to flow into the tunnel. The weep holes serve two purposes: 1) to relieve the ground water pressure on the outside of the tunnel structure and 2) provide for the importation of usable ground water into the tunnel.

Need

There were 576 2-inch diameter weep holes installed in the Tecolote Tunnel during construction. Many of the weep holes have been subjected to mineral accumulation creating deposits which clog the flow into the tunnel. Hydrogen sulfide has contributed to corrosion of the concrete structure adjacent to the weep holes. The mineral accumulation and corrosion have eliminated or reduced the ability of the weep holes to function, potentially affecting the stability of the structure. The weep holes need to be cleaned to allow proper water drainage into the tunnel to protect the tunnel structure. Clearing out the weep holes will likely increase water production from the Tecolote Tunnel at a very low cost compared to other sources of water in the region.

Description

The project will require a shutdown of the tunnel and all safety precautions necessary for tunnel access due to increased temperatures and geothermal activity, hydrogen sulfide exposure, and confined space issues. Entry would require coordination with Reclamation and specialized safety personnel. An electric tunnel utility vehicle could be used to power specialized hand-held drills and vacuums to clear the hardened mineral deposits and dislodge debris. A pilot program would be conducted in the winter 2026-27 and if flow increases were measured additional effort would be undertaken to drill out the weep holes in subsequent years. Work would be limited to a 2-3 day shutdown during the winter months.




Figure - Clogged Weep hole in Tecolote Tunnel

PRIORITY CATEGORY
4. Evaluates Significant Deficiency

ESTIMATED COST
\$300,000

Fiscal Year	Phase	Cost
2027	Pilot	\$100,000
2028	Construction	\$100,000
2029	Construction	\$100,000

Environmental / Permitting Considerations: *This project has been identified by the USBR as a Category 2 recommendation.*

**COMB OPERATING BUDGET NARRATIVE
OPERATIONS DIVISION: INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS**



Lauro Reservoir Intake Structure Repair (Account: 6043)	\$ 500,000
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Background

The Lauro Reservoir intake structure was modified in 1981 by adding a stainless steel circular intake screen connected to a steel pipe which was inserted in the original concrete intake structure. A ½-inch thick steel circular bearing plate was installed on top of the existing concrete intake structure to cover the opening between the intake structure and vertical pipe and provide structural support. The 2018 dive report prepared by Reclamation states the intake structure is in satisfactory condition with the exception of the bearing plate. The bearing plate was observed to be fully covered with corrosion and rust nodules.

Need

The steel bearing plate on the intake structure has deteriorated because of corrosion and poses an operational risk for both the protection against outside intrusion of elements penetrating through the opening or structural support of the intake pipe and screen. Failure of the intake structure would cause immediate operational challenges in maintaining deliveries to Cater Water Treatment Plant, who treats water for the City of Santa Barbara, Montecito Water District, and Carpinteria Valley Water District through the potable section of the South Coast Conduit.

Description

Engineering services were procured, and the current structure is seismically inadequate, and the consultant is currently drafting plans to replace the intake support structure. A diver or remotely operated underwater vehicle will need to complete an inspection of the intake structure prior to finalization of the replacement plans. The reservoir may need to be lowered to accommodate inspections and repairs.



Figure - Intake Structure Extension to be Placed in Lauro Reservoir April 5, 1981

PRIORITY CATEGORY
3. Addresses Critical Deficiency

ESTIMATED COST
\$500,000*

Fiscal Year	Phase	Cost
2027	Construction	\$500,000

**The cost estimates are preliminary, and draft designs are not complete. Cost assumes intake screen could be reused. However, it may be that the entire structure may need to be replaced which would increase costs significantly.*

This structure was added as part of the Reclamation agreement with the City of Santa Barbara No. 0-07-20-L1582. Based on the agreement, the costs of maintenance are to be compensated by the City of Santa Barbara through the Cater JPA.

Environmental / Permitting Considerations: *This project has been identified by the USBR as a Category 2 recommendation.*

**COMB OPERATING BUDGET NARRATIVE
OPERATIONS DIVISION: INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS**



North Portal Intake Tower Seismic Assessment (Account: 6134)	\$ 150,000
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Background

Water diversions from Lake Cachuma occur from the North Portal Intake Tower facility into the Tecolote Tunnel and the South Coast Conduit for water delivery to the Cachuma Project Member Agencies. The vertical intake tower free-stands 120 feet, is located approximately mid-reservoir, and contains 5 slide gates, each at varying levels on the pentagonal shaped tower. The slide gates are covered with mesh fish screens to prevent fish and debris from entering the tunnel. Water diversions are controlled 800 feet away through a 140-foot shaft to the gate chamber.

Need

The North Portal Intake Tower and Gate Chamber was constructed by the Bureau of Reclamation in the 1950's, at which time the standards for structural design requirements were not as stringent as today's compliance requirements. Structural elements of the intake structure and gate chamber would be examined to determine the general reliability of the tower, and recommendations for upgrades and refurbishments would be provided if needed. The consequence of not completing this project would be uncertainty in structure reliability during a seismic event, which could result in losing ability to deliver water to the South Coast while emergency repairs are made.

Description

This initial phase consists of acquiring consulting services of a qualified structural engineering firm to perform a Seismic Reliability Analysis and Physical Condition Assessment of the North Portal Intake Tower and Gate Chamber. It shall include a report on all findings and propose recommendations for structural rehabilitation to increase and/or ensure continued reliability of the structure in the occurrence of a large seismic event. It should also include recommendations for a temporary pump system from the lake to the gate chamber in the event of earthquake damage. An assessment of the intake tower is easier to perform during low lake levels; however, the lake is currently full and is scheduled to begin in Fiscal Year 2026-27.



Figure - North Portal Intake Tower

**PRIORITY CATEGORY
3. Addresses Critical Deficiency**

**ESTIMATED COST
\$300,000**

Fiscal Year	Phase	Cost
2027	Assessment	\$150,000
2028	Engineering	\$150,000

**A condition assessment of the North Portal Intake Tower is ideally completed when the lake level is low exposing for examination. COMB goal of receiving \$300,000 in seismic funding for the project over fiscal years 2026-27 and 2027-28.*

Environmental / Permitting Considerations: *No regulatory compliance measures are expected for this project as it is an assessment.*

**COMB OPERATING BUDGET NARRATIVE
OPERATIONS DIVISION: INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS**



Multi-Site Renewable Energy and Resiliency (Account: 6075)	\$ 150,000
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Background

On June 27, 2022, the COMB Board of Directors adopted the 2022 Sustainability Plan, which included an initiative to explore alternate sources of renewable energy. Specifically, staff was instructed to explore opportunities for alternative sources of renewable energy (solar, hydroelectric, etc.) to be installed at the COMB office and/or outlying facilities. The design of the Cachuma Project water conveyance system is already remarkably low-energy relying on gravity feed to deliver water throughout the system as opposed to pumps with electrical demand; a modest project could achieve net-zero designation. The primary locations requiring electricity are at the COMB office headquarters (including new EV chargers), the outlying North Portal building near Lake Cachuma, and smaller dispersed locations requiring power for meter boxes and appurtenances.

Need

The envisioned benefit is to incorporate clean energy components into COMB’s energy system, while participating in regional and global efforts towards cleaner air, lower carbon emissions, and conservation of natural resources. Also of interest is the long-term cost savings associated with reduced conventional energy consumption, and increased energy resilience through on-site battery storage. Currently there are generators at the COMB office and North Portal building locations. On-site storage could augment existing back-up systems and provide flexibility in avoiding increased electricity prices during peak hours.

Description

In CY 2026-27, a 40kW ground-mounted photovoltaic array, EV chargers, and battery storage project at the COMB Headquarters is planned, offsetting office and new EV charging infrastructure usage. As part of the project, a new automatic transfer switch would be installed on the primary electric panel as well. The system could be expanded in the future as more electrical vehicles are added to COMB’s fleet.



Figure - Proposed Ground Mount Location West of COMB Headquarters “Chlorine Building”

PRIORITY CATEGORY
6. System Reliability and Improvements

ESTIMATED COST
\$450,000*

Fiscal Year	Phase	Cost
2027	Lauro Solar	\$150,000**

* A grant offer has been accepted in the amount of \$79,000 from SBCAPCD FY 2026-27.

**Installation costs offset by reduced electrical and fuel costs.

Environmental / Permitting Considerations: *MP-620 would be required from Reclamation, and coordination with SB County Fire Department for meeting building setbacks and defensible space standards, as well as coordination with SCE.*

**COMB OPERATING BUDGET NARRATIVE
OPERATIONS DIVISION: INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS**



Meter Replacement Program (Account: 6133)	\$ 150,000
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Background

COMB is responsible for accurate water accounting on behalf of the Cachuma Project Member Agencies to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation monthly. In addition, the State Water Resources Control Board is requiring meter audits at the water district level and may require water audits for wholesale agencies in the future. The process of water accounting entails recording data from twenty-nine meters located along the conveyance system from the North Portal of Lake Cachuma to the Carpinteria Reservoir. COMB monthly performs a mass balance and analysis of water accounting losses as part of its normal accounting procedures.

Need

COMB’s water meters are critical to the water accounting and system operations. Several meters in the system have reached limited-life cycle phase and are likely in need of replacement in the next five years. Not completing the project could impact operations, system water accounting accuracy and jeopardize compliance with Section 64561 of Titles 17 and 22 California Code of Regulations, which states “each water system shall: (b) meter the quantity of water flow from each source and record the total monthly production each month.”

Description

COMB operates several electronic magmeters that are critical to system operations and water accounting that have reached limited-life cycle phase and are likely in need of replacement in the next five years. COMB operates electronic magmeters at Glen Anne Turnout, Goleta West, Ortega Inflow, Ortega Southflow and Boundary which are utilized to manage system operations on a day-to-day basis and for monthly accounting of water use. Replacements would be purchased and installed for the Ortega Inflow, Ortega Southflow and Boundary meters as the most critical, with additional meter replacement locations chosen based on priority.



Figure – Montecito Pump Station Meter

PRIORITY CATEGORY
3. Addresses Critical Deficiency

ESTIMATED COST
\$800,000

Fiscal Year	Phase	Cost
2027	Buy / Install	\$150,000
2028	Buy / Install	\$150,000
2029	Buy / Install	\$100,000
2030	Buy / Install	\$100,000
2031	Buy / Install	\$300,000

Environmental / Permitting

Considerations: Annual water audit reporting may be required for wholesale water agencies in the future as follow-up to SB 606

**COMB OPERATING BUDGET NARRATIVE
OPERATIONS DIVISION: INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS**



Critical Control Valve Replacement (Account: 6138)	\$ 200,000
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Background

A majority of the valves located at control stations along the South Coast Conduit are original and were installed in the 1950s. There are at least 93 large diameter valves in the system, ranging in size from 16 inches to 48 inches. Several of these valves are critical for operations, but many of the valves are obsolete and are not utilized for operations. During previous maintenance work and shutdowns, key valves in the system have been characterized as exhibiting excessive leak-by. This program would replace critical valves in the system at key control station locations.

Need

In-line isolation and control valves are needed to properly operate and maintain the system. Valves with excessive leak-by or poor operability impact system operations. The system is operated differently than originally designed after the installation of the William B. Cater Water Treatment Plant. Many system valves are no longer needed for operations. Obsolete valves and piping are potential points of failure and increase maintenance needs. The consequences of not completing this project include loss of control within control stations and excessive leak-by, which will impact operations during repair work requiring pipeline shutdown.

Description

This project would involve systematic replacement of key control valves in the system with known operational deficiencies. Control station piping would be streamlined to reflect current operations, and obsolete valving would be removed from the control stations. Lauro and Sheffield Control Stations will be prioritized as they have not been recently evaluated and have not had any original valves replaced.



Figure – Lauro Control Station Gate Valve

**PRIORITY CATEGORY
3. Addresses Critical Deficiency**

**ESTIMATED COST
\$1,300,000**

Fiscal Year	Phase	Cost
2027	Sheffield	\$200,000
2028	Lauro	\$200,000
2029	Carp/Lauro	\$300,000
2030	Ortega/Lauro	\$300,000
2031	Misc.	\$300,000

Environmental / Permitting Considerations: *Changes to the South Coast Conduit system to remove obsolete valves and piping would require Bureau of Reclamation review and approval.*

**COMB OPERATING BUDGET NARRATIVE
OPERATIONS DIVISION: INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS**



Tecolote Tunnel Concrete Deterioration Investigation (Account: 6139)	\$ 100,000
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Background

The Tecolote Tunnel was completed in 1956 to divert water from Lake Cachuma to the South Coast Conduit. The tunnel provides water delivery through the mountain to the South Portal. The tunnel structure consists of a modified circular horseshoe shaped cross section constructed of steel encased in 12-24 inches of concrete and operates in open channel flow that is approximately 7 feet inside and is 6.4 miles long with a gradual shallow slope to enable gravity feed. The only ingress and egress are at the North Portal and South Portal. During periodic inspections by the USBR, deteriorations have been observed in the tunnel lining due to long-term exposure to hydrogen sulfide gas.

Need

Hydrogen sulfide gas in the tunnel is believed to have caused the deterioration of the concrete lining of the tunnel. The deterioration occurs from Station 158+00 to 335+40. In areas, the interior concrete surface has peeled in sheets approximately 3/8 of an inch thick and fallen into the invert, creating sediment and the concrete lining is softening into a mushy brown paste. A tunnel collapse could interrupt deliveries for an extended period and would be very technically difficult to repair.

Description

The project requires engineer evaluation of concrete deterioration. These would include accurate internal diameter measurements to estimate concrete losses, concrete core samples with compression tests and petrographic samples to determine the extent and cause of deterioration. 2012-2-Q, which recommends COMB “prepare and implement a repair plan to perform all necessary repairs to address all damaged concrete and remediate the widespread concrete deterioration in the Tecolote Tunnel to restore safe and reliable service of the facility.” The work will likely require a drone to scan the inside of the tunnel and an electric tunnel vehicle with the ability to power concrete coring tools. The work would occur during the next scheduled inspection in winter 2026-27.



Figure - Concrete Lining Deterioration within the Tecolote Tunnel

**PRIORITY CATEGORY
4. Evaluates Significant Deficiency**

**ESTIMATED COST
\$100,000**

Fiscal Year	Phase	Cost
2027	Engineering	\$100,000

Environmental / Permitting Considerations: *This project has been identified by the USBR as a Category 2 recommendation.*

**COMB OPERATING BUDGET NARRATIVE
OPERATIONS DIVISION: SPECIAL PROJECTS**



SCADA Improvement and Support (Account: 6110)	\$ 35,000
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The “Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition” system (SCADA) collects and enables the retrieval of historical data. Information includes flows, reservoir elevations, alarms, communication, turbidity, pH, temperature and valve positions. Additionally, SCADA provides alerts to COMB Operations staff to take corrective action 24/7. For fiscal year 2024-25, costs in this category include ongoing contractor support and any software subscription and licenses.



SCADA Control Panel

COMB Building Improvements and Maintenance (Account: 6115)	\$ 80,000
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COMB Laurel Canyon Office and Yard

This account contains funds for outside services/labor that cannot be supported by COMB staff including building improvements, plumbing and electrical, HVAC repair, landscaping and general maintenance.

GIS and Mapping (Account: 6097)	\$ 16,000
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This line item will support expenses for the licenses that are required to run the software affiliated with the Right-of-way program and other extraneous mapping needs.

**COMB OPERATING BUDGET NARRATIVE
OPERATIONS DIVISION: SPECIAL PROJECTS**



Water Quality and Sediment Management (Account: 6138)	\$ 40,000
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Lake Cachuma is the principal drinking water supply for the South Coast of Santa Barbara County providing surface water supply to the Goleta Water District, City of Santa Barbara, Montecito Water District and Carpinteria Valley Water District. In addition, Lake Cachuma serves as the conduit for state water deliveries to the South Coast. Diversions from the lake are managed by COMB. Upstream of Lake Cachuma are Gibraltar Reservoir, owned by the City of Santa Barbara and Jameson Reservoir, owned by Montecito Water District.



Water Quality Sampling

COMB completed a two-year study in 2020 on behalf of and in coordination with, the COMB Member Agencies for addressing raw surface water quality and sedimentation issues at Lake Cachuma. In 2024 COMB completed an Organic Carbon / Phosphorus Sampling and Source Investigation which refined our understanding of sources and flux rates of carbon, phosphorus and sulfides at Lake Cachuma and provided additional recommendations for consideration.



*Lake Cachuma
Water Quality Monitoring Buoy*

For Fiscal Year 2026-27, COMB plans to continue our regular water quality sampling program at Lake Cachuma. Periodic boron and sulfate sampling will be incorporated at COMB Member Agency request to inform groundwater injection programs. Minor modifications at the North Portal Building allow more frequent sampling of the Secured Pipeline alternate intake site when it is being utilized.

COMB completed initial development of a CE-QUAL water quality model of the lake in 2025 and will continue development and calibration of the model in 2026. Continued sampling of tributary water quality in Fiscal Year 2026-27 will allow COMB to more fully understand inputs to Lake Cachuma and allow greater resolution within the CE-QUAL model. This may be paired with thermograph deployment at tributaries. Anti-fouling field supplies for the monitoring buoy and onboard water quality equipment will be installed to protect the asset from algal colonization associated with long-term deployment.

**COMB OPERATING BUDGET NARRATIVE
OPERATIONS DIVISION: SPECIAL PROJECTS**



Right of Way Identification Program (Account: 6105)	\$ 20,000
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The Right of Way Project (ROW) inventory will centralize information electronically to facilitate landowner communication regarding pending right-of-way work, provide communication with Santa Barbara permitting agencies and enable COMB staff response to right-of-way disruptions and issues more efficiently by utilizing the GIS inventory. Specific tasks of the project include identifying, locating and labeling the pipeline through field mapping in GIS and surveying. Sequentially, as data is developed, landowners will be notified of property easements and of COMB’s South Coast Conduit responsibilities.

SUBTOTAL SPECIAL PROJECTS	\$ 191,000
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SUBTOTAL INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT & SPECIAL PROJECTS	\$ 3,921,000
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TOTAL OPERATIONS DIVISION BUDGET	\$ 7,112,781
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Sheffield Tunnel East Portal

COMB OPERATING BUDGET NARRATIVE
FISHERIES DIVISION: OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE EXPENSES



Program Description

To maintain and support all associated costs of operation and maintenance as they relate to the implementation of the NMFS Biological Opinion and the Lower Santa Ynez River Fish Management Plan.

Labor (Accounts: 4100 - 4152)	\$ 985,031
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The Fisheries Division Labor line reflects labor costs and benefits for a Senior Resource Scientist, a three-member field crew and four part-time seasonal bio-aide positions.

The benefits include medical, dental and vision insurance coverage, a \$20,000 life insurance policy per employee, deferred compensation, matching social security contributions, mandatory workers' compensation coverage, an employee assistance program (EAP), FICA/Medicare and a CalPERS retirement contribution (2% @ 55 formula) Starting July 1, 2017, classic members began paying a portion of the employee cost (EPMC). For FY 2025-26, the classic member's contribution rate is set at 7.0%. All employees hired after January 2013 and who are not classified as "classic" members will contribute 7.75% of the CalPERS retirement premium from their bi-weekly paycheck (2% @ 62 formula). This line item includes a 2.89% COLA based on the annual calculation.

Totals by Account

4100 Labor Biology Crew	\$551,299
4114 Labor Seasonal Crew	\$ 88,000
4151 CalPERS	\$123,551
4150 Health Insurance	\$141,309
4150 Workers Compensation	\$ 31,965
4152 FICA	\$ 48,906
Total	\$985,031



COMB Fisheries Staff

COMB OPERATING BUDGET NARRATIVE
FISHERIES DIVISION: OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE EXPENSES



Vehicles and Equipment (Accounts: 4270 - 4290)	\$ 102,500
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The Vehicles and Equipment section is made up of three accounts which include funds for the purchase of vehicles, fuel, parts, inspections and maintenance of vehicles and equipment.

Account 4270 includes costs necessary to operate vehicles and equipment such as fuel, oil, tires, parts, inspections and labor, etc. This account reflects amounts determined by historical expense data and projected operational needs. Account 4280 contains funds for the purchase or replacement of equipment or large tools as may be necessary in the fiscal year. Account 4290 includes funding for all miscellaneous items affiliated with vehicles or equipment.

These accounts are increased or decreased annually to reflect changes in the price.

Totals by Account:

4270 Vehicles	\$ 30,000
4280 Fixed Capital	\$ 70,000
4290 Miscellaneous	\$ 2,500
Total	\$102,500

Contract Labor (Accounts: 4220 - 4222)	\$ 18,000
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The Contract Labor account contains funds for outside services/labor to support equipment calibration on flow meters and sonde meters and funds for technical assistance corresponding to the operation, maintenance and performance review of completed fish passage projects.

Completed tributary projects at Rancho San Julian, Cross Creek Ranch and Quiota Creek Crossings require annual performance evaluation; licensed fish passage engineers need to conduct the structural evaluation whereas the biological evaluation and report are done by COMB staff.

Totals by Account:

4221 Equip Calibration	\$ 3,000
4222 Project Maintenance	\$15,000
Total	\$18,000

COMB OPERATING BUDGET NARRATIVE
FISHERIES DIVISION: OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE EXPENSES



Materials and Supplies (Account: 4390)	\$ 10,000
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The Materials and Supplies account covers costs for the purchase of materials needed for the Fisheries Monitoring Program, specifically monitoring for migration, spawning and over-summering. This can include constructing and repairing fish migration traps (PVC, netting, plywood, locks, waders, etc.) and the equipment necessary to conduct snorkel (dry suit, masks, snorkels, hoods, gloves, etc.) and redd surveys (waders, clipboards, etc.).

Other Expenses (Account: 4502)	\$ 13,000
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The Other Operating Expenses account includes permit fees and uniform expense for the fisheries employees.

SUBTOTAL OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE EXPENSES	\$ 1,128,531
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Quiota Creek Fish Passage Project

COMB OPERATING NARRATIVE
FISHERIES DIVISION: GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES



Program Description

The General and Administrative accounts reflect costs for support of all fisheries division administrative functions of COMB. The salaries and benefits are divided on a 65% - 35% basis between the Operations Division and the Fisheries Division based on payroll allocations. General and Administrative expenses have been reduced to the lowest level of effective operation for FY 2026-27

Directors Fees (Account: 5426)	\$ 7,000
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This account reflects Directors' fees at a rate of \$225.75 per meeting. The Directors will decide future increases by public meeting and change of ordinance. This cost is allocated between Operations and Fisheries divisions.

Legal (Account: 5407)	\$ 25,000
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This account reflects the costs for General Counsel affiliated with the Fisheries Division program of work, as well as anticipated litigation.

Audit (Account: 5441)	\$ 14,000
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This account reflects costs for a portion of the annual COMB financial audit and any single audit requirements.

Liability and Property Insurance (Account: 5443)	\$ 32,700
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This account reflects a portion of insurance costs for coverage provided by ACWA/JPIA for all general liability and property i.e., buildings, structures, computers, modular furniture, copiers, postage meters, vehicles and replacement costs of all properties belonging to COMB.

Health and Workers Compensation (Account: 5401)	\$ 52,317
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This account reflects costs for 35% of all administrative staff health premiums (medical, dental, vision and life) and employee assistance program (EAP), deferred compensation and workers' compensation premiums. The cost for health premiums is a set premium amount for each employee and their dependents. This line item includes a projected increase in health premiums that will go into effect in January 2026.

COMB OPERATING BUDGET NARRATIVE
FISHERIES DIVISION: GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES



CalPERS (Account: 5402)	\$ 63,048
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This account reflects 35% percent of costs for the California Public Employees' Retirement System for administrative personnel charged to the fisheries division. COMB pays the employer and a portion of the employee cost for classic members and new hires pay 50% of the normal cost contributions. Starting July 1, 2017, classic members began paying a portion of the employee cost (EPMC). For FY 2026-27, the classic member's contribution rate is set at 7.0%. All employees hired after January 2013, who are not classified as "classic" members, contribute 7.75% of the CalPERS retirement premium from their bi-weekly paycheck (2% @ 62 formula).

FICA and Medicare (Account: 5403)	\$ 17,289
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This account reflects 35% of the matching share of social security and Medicare taxes for all administrative employees.

Salaries (Accounts: 5404, 5405, 5408, 5409, 5419)	\$ 226,001
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This account reflects a 35% allocation of salaries for the General Manager, Administrative Manager and two administrative staff positions.

Postage and Office Supplies (Account: 5410)	\$ 4,000
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The Office Expense and Postage account reflects the cost of all office supplies and postage for general and administrative tasks attribute to the fisheries division.

Office Equipment / Leases (Account: 5411)	\$ 8,535
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The Office Equipment / Leases account includes the fisheries division portion of leases and quarterly service agreements for postage machine, copier equipment and any maintenance fees.

Miscellaneous Administrative Expense (Account: 5412)	\$ 9,900
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This account contains funds necessary for office cleaning, Board meeting supplies, Paychex payroll costs, outside copy costs and other minor miscellaneous expenses.

COMB OPERATING BUDGET NARRATIVE
FISHERIES DIVISION: GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES



Communications (Account: 5413)	\$ 4,455
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This account contains funds necessary for the telephone service, long distance service, cable internet service and staff cell phones.

Utilities (Account: 5414)	\$ 5,245
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This account contains funds necessary to provide utilities to the administrative offices affiliated with the fisheries division program of work.

Membership Dues (Account: 5415)	\$ 7,700
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This account reflects costs for membership dues for the American Fisheries Society as well as a portion of ACWA dues as they pertain to the fisheries division employees. This account also covers subscriptions for professional publications.

Administrative Fixed Assets (Account: 5416)	\$ 5,000
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This fiscal year's fixed assets include the purchase of computers according to the replacement schedule and office equipment / furniture as needed.

Computer Consultant (Account: 5418)	\$ 20,000
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This account was established to fund needs for all computer and internal network systems support through outside computer consultant services. It also accommodates purchasing and updating of software licenses.

Employee Education / Subscriptions (Account: 5425)	\$ 2,500
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This account was established to provide employees with the ability to obtain professional training, required certifications and for management training purposes, specifically for in field and office operations and safety and regulatory compliance. This account also provides for employee related subscriptions to professional fisheries organizations.

COMB OPERATING BUDGET NARRATIVE
FISHERIES DIVISION: GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES



Administrative Travel (Account: 5430)	\$ 4,000
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This account provides for actual travel costs for professional conferences, seminars, training and strategy meetings that are attended by the General Manager and/or staff throughout the fiscal year.

Public Information (Account: 5431)	\$ 1,500
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This account is for miscellaneous costs that may arise out of public records act requests, newsletters, webpage support or other public information requirements.

SUBTOTAL GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES	\$ 510,190
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Beaver Dam Survey

COMB OPERATING BUDGET NARRATIVE
FISHERIES DIVISION: PROGRAM SUPPORT SERVICES



Biological Opinion / FMP Implementation (Account: 6201)

\$ 45,000

This line item provides funding for outside consultant support on activities, which include participation in the NFMS Biological Opinion compliance preparation as well as review of technical reports, study plans, participation in coordination and review meetings and conference calls.

BO and WR Order 2019-0148 Compliance Tasks and Support

This task addresses ongoing Cachuma Project Biological Opinion (BO or BiOp) and WR Order 2019-0148 compliance efforts and implementation of the Lower Santa Ynez River Fisheries Monitoring Program (FMP). As needed, consultants will provide technical and analytical support and review of the fisheries monitoring program and any proposed study plans. This may require participation of an advisory group to obtain consensus on the recommendations. A fish passage engineer will review, evaluate and develop technical elements of fisheries related monitoring, fish passage and restoration program elements. In addition, this item includes bio-statistician support and genetic tissue analysis (fish fin clips) conducted by a National Marine Fisheries Service certified geneticist. Activities may involve background research, concept development, content development and production schematics support for the ongoing BO, WR Order 2019-0148 and FMP activities.



AMC and CC Participation and Technical Support

Conference calls preparation and follow-up per call as well as participation in face-to-face meeting of the Adaptive Management Committee (AMC) and Consensus Committee (CC) if necessary. Technical support to COMB in preparing work products for the AMC and the CC as required.

Review of Fisheries Monitoring Reports

Fisheries monitoring reports that are prepared by the Cachuma Project biology staff must be reviewed for compliance measures for terms and conditions presented in the BO and WR Order 2019-0148 including the Annual Monitoring Report and technical memos prepared for Reclamation as well as the AMC, CC or COMB Board. This may include participation in the Science Advisory Committee to discuss comments on the reviewed reports.

COMB OPERATING BUDGET NARRATIVE
FISHERIES DIVISION: PROGRAM SUPPORT SERVICES



GIS and Mapping - 6202	\$ 10,000
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This account provides funds for the purchase and maintenance of the GIS and GPS system components, software (ESRI, AutoCAD, Field Mapplet, MapLogic and Photoshop), hardware, aerial imagery and GIS/GPS technical support.

USGS Stream Gauge Program (Account: 6205)	\$ 115,000
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This line item is to fund the required stream discharge and water quality monitoring on the lower Santa Ynez River and its tributaries in compliance with the NMFS Biological Opinion.

SUBTOTAL PROGRAM SUPPORT SERVICES	\$ 170,000
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Redd Survey – Upper Refugio Reach

COMB OPERATING BUDGET NARRATIVE
FISHERIES DIVISION: HABITAT IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS



Tributary Project Support (Account: 6303)	\$ 10,000
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This line item is to fund technical assistance provided by a fish passage engineer for tasks anticipated to include refinement of monitoring methods and procedures, hydraulic review of fish passage within a stream network, troubleshooting of general operation and maintenance issues and review of miscellaneous technical data and reporting.

Hilton Creek Habitat Improvement (Account: 6320)	\$ 50,000
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The Hilton Creek Fish Passage and Habitat Enhancement Project aims to improve fish movement and habitat quality along a continuously watered stretch of Hilton Creek that is fed by Lake Cachuma. This section of the creek has a steep gradient with exposed bedrock, a cascade chute, high velocities, shallow depths, and limited resting areas—conditions that have worsened following major storm events in 2023 and 2024 that removed important in-stream features. These issues create barriers for endangered Southern California steelhead, limiting access to otherwise suitable spawning and rearing habitat upstream. The project proposes targeted improvements to restore fish passage and maximize the ecological benefits from the consistent water supply.

Engineering and design work led by HDR, supported by detailed topographic surveys, has identified a phased approach to minimize construction impacts over three years. Phase 1 focuses on canyon and trail bedrock sections, Phase 2 addresses a cascade chute, and Phase 3 includes habitat enhancements in key stream reaches.

COMB is pursuing grant funding to offset the cost of this project. Costs for FY 2026-27 include final engineering and design costs. Construction costs would be incorporated in the FY 2027-28 COMB budget.

El Jaro Creek / Cross Creek Ranch (Account: 6321)	\$ 50,000
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The El Jaro Creek Fish Passage and Habitat Enhancement Project builds on a 2009 effort that improved fish passage by installing rock weirs to help juvenile and adult fish navigate a concrete low flow stream crossing. However, severe stormflows in 2023 and 2024 damaged key downstream features, causing erosion, lowering the streambed, and creating a barrier that now exceeds fish passage standards. To restore functionality, the project proposes reconfiguring the existing at-grade weir, adding a new downstream weir, and stabilizing the affected channel to meet regulatory criteria for fish passage and improve habitat for spawning and rearing.

A second component addresses significant bank erosion downstream, where the creek has undercut a 30-foot-high sediment wall and caused major loss of adjacent agricultural land. The plan includes installing rock slope protection, redirecting streamflow away from the bank, and adding a vegetated terrace for long-term stability. Located within designated critical habitat for endangered Southern California steelhead, these improvements aim to restore habitat quality and ensure unimpeded juvenile and adult fish passage in a key watershed connected to the Santa Ynez River.

COMB is pursuing grant funding to offset the cost of this project. Costs for FY 2026-27, pending grant approval, include final project design sufficient to solicit contractor bidding. Construction costs for the project would be incorporated in the FY 2027-28 COMB budget.

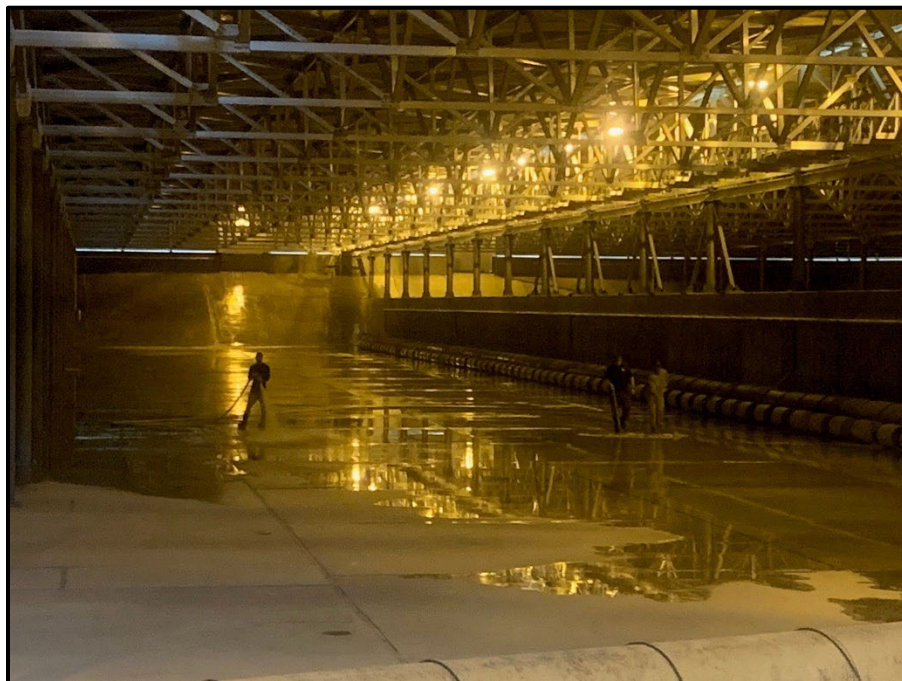
SUBTOTAL HABITAT IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS	\$ 110,000
SUBTOTAL PROG SUPPORT AND HABITAT IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS	\$ 280,000
TOTAL FISHERIES DIVISION BUDGET	\$ 1,918,721



RECAP - TOTAL COMB OPERATING BUDGET
FY 2026-27



COMB OPERATIONS DIVISION	\$7,112,781
COMB FISHERIES DIVISION	<u>\$1,918,721</u>
TOTAL COMB GROSS OPERATING BUDGET	\$9,031,502
LESS: OFFSETTING REVENUES	<u>(2,258,849)</u>
TOTAL COMB NET OPERATING BUDGET	<u>\$6,772,653</u>



Ortega Reservoir

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APPENDIX

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FISCAL OVERSIGHT

COMB GOVERNANCE

As set forth in Section 1.3 of the COMB JPA, COMB is governed by a Board of Directors (Board), which has the authority to conduct the business and policy-making affairs of COMB. All powers of COMB are exercised through the Board. Members of the Board are obligated to uphold both the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of California. Board members are also required to comply with all applicable laws regulating their conduct, including conflict of interest, financial disclosure and open government laws. (California Government Code Section 1360; and Article 20, Section 3 of the California Constitution.)



COMB has five standing committees: the Administrative Committee (financial, personnel and legal matters), the Operations Committee, the Fisheries Committee, the Public Outreach Committee and the Lake Cachuma Oak Tree Committee. Each committee is composed of two Board members and one alternate Board member. Appointments to the committees are made by the President of the Board, typically during the first month of the fiscal year or as necessary. The committees meet with staff on an as-needed basis and review and recommend proposed actions to the Board concerning, among other things, capital improvements, finance and other matters. On occasion, COMB utilizes ad-hoc committees that are temporary in nature.

COMB's General Manager is responsible for overall management of the day-to-day and long-term operations and activities of COMB.

FINANCIAL, ADMINISTRATIVE AND OPERATING POLICIES

The COMB Board establishes policies and resolutions to comply with federal and state law, government code, various Cachuma Project operating and JPA agreements, applicable administrative policies and generally-accepted accounting principles. These policies include:

Board Governance Policy

COMB Board Resolution No. 676, adopted November 26, 2018.

The Board Governance policy sets forth the basic professional and ethical standards to be followed by the COMB Board. The objectives of this Policy are to (1) outline the function, role and responsibility of the Board; (2) provide guidance for dealing with ethical issues; (3) heighten awareness of these ethical issues and values as critical elements in Board members' conduct and governing practices; and (4) support effective and timely decision-making.

FINANCIAL, ADMINISTRATIVE AND OPERATING POLICIES (CONTINUED)**Board Governance Policy (Continued)**

This policy was adopted pursuant to Section 1.7 of the 1996 Amended and Restated Joint Powers Agreement (COMB JPA) for the Establishment of a Board of Control to exercise the powers of the Agreement.

Annual Statement of Investment Policy

COMB Board Resolution No. 689, adopted July 22, 2019.

This policy sets forth guidelines by which surplus funds may be invested. The policy requires that the investment of surplus money of COMB shall be made in securities in accordance with Section 53601 of the Government Code. Investments are made taking into consideration the following factors: the probable income as well as the probable safety of said funds, exercising the judgment and care under the circumstances prevailing, which persons of prudence, discretion and intelligence exercise in the management of their own affairs, not in regard to speculation, but in regard to the permanent disposition of said funds.

This policy requires the Board Secretary to submit a monthly report to the Board in accordance with Section 53646(b) of the Government Code.

Fiscal Policy

COMB Board Resolution No. 674, adopted November 26, 2018 (Revised July 24, 2023).

The purpose of this policy is to identify and outline fiscal policies and guidelines pursuant to federal and state law, government code, various Cachuma Project operating and JPA agreements, applicable administrative policies and generally-accepted accounting principles.

This policy sets forth the basic framework for the overall fiscal management of COMB and provides guidelines for evaluating both current activities and proposals for future programs. This policy further provides a guideline for the administrative and finance staff in planning and directing day-to-day financial affairs and in developing financial recommendations to the COMB Board.

The objective of this policy is to achieve long-term stability and a positive financial condition. An important aspect of the policy is the application of budget and fiscal policies in the context of a long-term financial approach.

The scope of this policy includes accounting, auditing, financial reporting, internal control, operating and capital budgeting, revenue management, cash and investment management, expenditure control, asset management, strategic plans and debt management.

FINANCIAL, ADMINISTRATIVE AND OPERATING POLICIES (CONTINUED)**Procurement Policy**

Adopted by the COMB Board August 27, 2017

The procurement policy sets forth uniform procedures for the procurement of equipment, non-professional and professional services, supplies and formal bidding and contracting for COMB. The objective of a procurement policy is to ensure timely, efficient and cost-effective procurement within the guidelines of good business practices and transparent public policy. Unless stated otherwise, the policy applies to all purchasing actions regardless of funding source and payment method. All procurements shall be reasonable and necessary.

This policy applies to the procurement of equipment, services and supplies using funds authorized for expenditure by the adopted annual budget.

Capital Improvement Planning

Five-Year Infrastructure and Habitat Improvement Plans are developed by COMB staff and used as an internal guideline for forecasting, budgeting and long-term financial planning. COMB staff actively pursues outside funding sources for all Infrastructure Improvement Projects. Outside funding sources, such as grants, are used to finance only those Improvement Projects that are consistent with the Five-Year Infrastructure Improvement Plan and COMB priorities and whose operating and maintenance costs have been included in future operating budget forecasts.

Section 1.3 of Article I of the COMB JPA outlines unanimous consent required for the Cachuma Operation and Maintenance Board to act on certain matters. Section 1.3. (i). states: A decision of the Cachuma Operation and Maintenance Board authorizing a capital expenditure in excess of one million dollars or incurring an indebtedness or obligation in excess of one million dollars shall not be effective unless it has been ratified by a resolution approved by all of the parties.”

COMB staff, with the assistance of external consultants, will conduct a reliability study of its critical infrastructure on a periodic basis, to evaluate its current condition, remaining useful life and future replacement costs. The Bureau of Reclamation technical engineering team also conducts periodic and comprehensive facility reviews every 3 and 6 years, respectively, to assess and document recommendations on the system operating facilities.

Reserve Policy

A reserve account provides resources to ensure sufficient funding is available to meet operating, capital and debt service obligations, comply with legally mandated requirements and to respond to unforeseen events or emergencies.

FINANCIAL, ADMINISTRATIVE AND OPERATING POLICIES (CONTINUED)**Reserve Policy (Continued)**

COMB has traditionally operated without a formalized reserve fund and has utilized COMB quarterly assessments for operational expenditures. In addition, special assessments have been authorized by the Board during extraordinary or unforeseen events.

Debt Policy

COMB is authorized pursuant to Section 6588(C) of the Government Code of the State of California and the COMB 1996 Amended and Restated JPA agreement to issue bonds, notes, letters of credit, or other forms of indebtedness. COMB does not use long-term debt to pay for on-going operations. The use of bonds or other forms of indebtedness is only considered for significant capital and infrastructure improvements.

There is no specific provision within the California Government Code that limits the amount of debt that may be issued by COMB as a Joint Powers Authority. However, indebtedness or obligation in excess of one million dollars shall not be effective unless it has been ratified by a resolution approved by unanimous consent of the COMB Board pursuant to Section 1.3. (h). of Article I of the COMB JPA.

New debt issues and refinancing of existing debt must be analyzed for compatibility within COMB's overall financial planning. The review includes, but is not limited to, cash flow analysis and the maintenance of COMB's bond rating. Annual debt service shall not produce an adverse impact upon future operations.

Annual Audit

An annual audit is performed by an independent public accounting firm with an audit opinion to be included with COMB's published Comprehensive Annual Financial Report. The external auditor presents the COMB Board, on an annual basis, with audited financial statements in accordance with Government Auditing Standards issued by the Comptroller General of the United States and the State Controller's Minimum Audit Requirements for California Special Districts. The external auditor expresses an opinion about whether the financial statements fairly represent the financial position of COMB. The external auditor also evaluates the adequacy of COMB's internal control system, the electronic data processing and, where weaknesses are noted, makes appropriate recommendations for improvements.

The external auditor will further submit a written management letter, which communicates suggested improvements in COMB's financial operations and any deficiencies in internal controls that need to be addressed.

BASIS OF ACCOUNTING

COMB operates as a proprietary fund-type. All proprietary fund-types use a flow of economic resources measurement focus. Under this measurement focus, all assets and liabilities associated with the operation of these funds are included in the Statement of Net Position. Total net position (i.e., fund equity) is segregated into amounts invested in capital and unrestricted net position. Proprietary fund-type operating statements present increases (revenues) and decreases (expenses) in total net position.

All proprietary fund-types utilize the accrual basis of accounting. Under this method, revenues are recognized when earned, regardless of when received, and expenses are recognized at the time the related liabilities are incurred, regardless of when paid.

COMB's accounting policies and procedures are consistent with:

- Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP)
- Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB)
- Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circular A-133 "Audits of States, Local Governments and Non-Profit Organizations" related to federal assistance and federal grant programs.

FUND STRUCTURE

To provide for accountability of public monies in accordance with applicable federal and state law and regulations, various Cachuma Project and JPA agreements and Board policies, the following funds have been established in the Treasury of COMB. COMB operates under one fund for financial statement and budgetary purposes. Because COMB is a pass-through agency, all revenues are equal to the expenditures included in the budget. As such, the overall fund balance is expected to be zero. Unexpended funds are identified through the audit process and returned to the Member Agencies on an annual basis.

General Fund

Receipts from COMB O&M assessments, Cachuma Project pass-through revenues, federal and state grant reimbursements, the Cachuma Project Betterment Fund and miscellaneous income are deposited into the General Fund. Payments from the General Fund are made in accordance with COMB Fiscal Policy (adopted November 26, 2018) and COMB Procurement Policy (adopted August 27, 2017) and include the following items:

- Infrastructure and Habitat Improvement Projects
- Operation and Maintenance Costs
- Administrative Costs
- Loans and Obligations
- Cachuma Project Pass-through Charges
- Transfers to the Revolving Fund

FUND STRUCTURE (CONTINUED)**Revolving Fund**

The Revolving Fund is used to pay employee compensation and payroll related federal, state and local taxes. The fund is replenished through transfers from the General Fund.

Investment Fund

The COMB Board of Directors established a General Fund from which monies may be expended for specific and general operating purposes. From time to time, COMB has on hand in the General Fund monies, which are surplus to COMB's immediate operating needs. The COMB Board determined it to be in the public interest to invest in such surplus funds in a manner which ensures a maximum return consistent with safety on such investments while maintaining the integrity of such surplus funds.

Cash and investment programs are maintained in accordance with California Government Code Section 53600 et seq. to ensure that proper controls and safeguards are maintained. Pursuant to State law, the COMB Board adopts a detailed investment policy through a Board resolution on an annual basis. Reports on COMB's investment portfolio and cash position are presented to the COMB Board monthly at a regularly scheduled public meeting, in conformity with Section 53646(a) of the California Government Code.

Warren Act Trust Fund

The Warren Act Trust Fund is a requirement of the Cachuma Project Warren Act Contract that the Central Coast Water Authority (CCWA) negotiated with the US Bureau of Reclamation for delivery and transport of State Water Project (SWP) water through the Cachuma Project facilities.

A 1995 memorandum of understanding executed between CCWA, Reclamation and the Cachuma Project Authority (CPA) in conjunction with the Warren Act Contract established a charge of \$43 per acre-foot (AF) (\$58 initially with a \$15 service charge by Reclamation), which is not indexed. Payments are required upon delivery of SWP water to Cachuma Reservoir. CCWA makes quarterly payments to COMB (successor agency to CPA) on the prior quarter's water deliveries to the lake. Article 3.a. of the MOU provides that those funds be deposited into the Warren Act Trust Fund.

FUND STRUCTURE (CONTINUED)**Warren Act Trust Fund (Continued)**

Expenditures of the Warren Act Trust Fund revenues, as further detailed in the MOU, are considered restricted and are limited to:

- Environmental Restoration
- Wastewater Reclamation
- Water Conservation
- Cachuma Project Betterment
- Innovative Water Management Techniques

The contract remained in effect through September 2024. CCWA initiated the contract renewal process with Reclamation during fiscal year 2023-24. On September 16, 2024, Reclamation and CCWA executed a three-year amendatory contract to allow for the completion of a long-term agreement.

Renewal Fund

The Renewal Fund is a requirement of the 1995 Renewal Master Contract (executed in 1996 between Reclamation and the Santa Barbara County Water Agency) entered into for water conveyance from the Cachuma Project to the five Cachuma Project Member Units.

The Renewal Master Contract requires the payment of \$10 per AF of water made available by the Cachuma Project during the water year, which runs from October 1 to September 30. The Renewal Fund itself is capped at \$257,100, which is related to the current annual operational yield of 25,714 AF.

Article 27(a) of the Cachuma Project Renewal Master Contract (MCA 27) established the Renewal Fund into which monies are deposited and from which monies are expended. As provided in this Article, the purpose of Renewal Fund is to finance the following activities:

- Mitigation activities associated with the selected alternative identified in the final Cachuma Project Renewal EIS/EIR.
- Activities that may be required of the Contracting Officer by SWRCB orders affecting Project Water Rights.
- Studies described in sub-article 7 (b) which are specific to conducting and preparing studies and reports that are required to be submitted by Reclamation to the SWRCB pursuant to Board WR94-5 paragraph 3, including fisheries studies and other related studies under the continuing jurisdiction of the SWRCB.

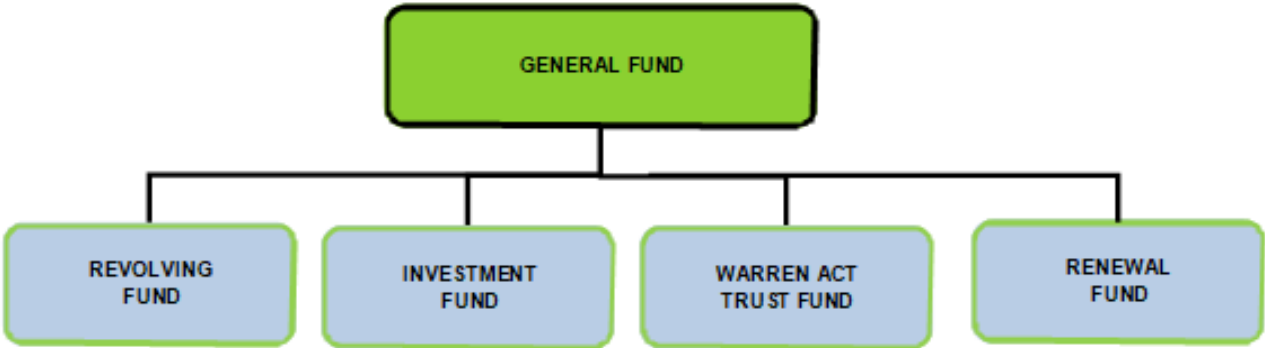
FUND STRUCTURE (CONTINUED)

Renewal Fund (Continued)

- Studies relating to modifications in the Cachuma Project operations pursuant to sub-article 9 (g), including to protect the environment and groundwater quality downstream of Bradbury Dam, conserve Project Water and promote efficient water management.
- Restoration of riparian or other habitat of the Santa Ynez River and its watershed, which has been adversely affected by the Project.
- Activities of Reclamation pursuant to sub-article 27 (i) that are required by law to be the Contractor, those shall be included in the Long-Term Plan and Annual Work Plan and reimbursed by the Renewal Fund.

The 1995 Renewal Master Contract was to expire on September 30, 2020. The Santa Barbara County Water Agency (SBCWA) initiated a contract renewal process with Reclamation during fiscal year 2019-20. On September 22, 2020, Reclamation and SBCWA executed a three-year amendatory contract to allow for the development and completion of a long-term agreement. In 2023, the contract was amended for an additional three-year period through September 2026. SBCWA has initiated the contract renewal process with Reclamation.

Figure 5.1 – COMB Fund Structure



COMB operates under one fund for financial statement and budgetary purposes. Because COMB is a pass-through agency, all revenues are equal to the expenditures included in the budget. As such, the overall fund balance is expected to be zero. Unexpended funds are identified through the audit process and returned to the Member Agencies on an annual basis.

A summary of funds by fund type can be found on the following page.

FUND STRUCTURE (CONTINUED)

Table 5.1 Summary of Funds by Fund Type – FY 2026-27 (1)

Category	General Fund	Warren Act Trust Fund	Renewal Fund	Total
Revenues:				
COMB Net Operating Budget	\$ 6,772,653	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 6,772,653
USBR Water Rates/Deficits	2,400,000	-	-	2,400,000
FEMA Assistance	800,000	-	-	800,000
Grant Funding	579,000	-	-	579,000
Lauro Reservoir Intake Offset - SC JPA	500,000	-	-	500,000
Warren Act Trust Fund	-	19,221	-	19,221
Bradbury SOD Act	261,647	-	-	261,647
Cachuma Project Betterment Fund	100,000	-	-	100,000
SWRCB Water Rights Fee	87,350	-	-	87,350
Lauro SOD Act	47,404	-	-	47,404
Renewal Fund	-	-	240,628	240,628
DDW D3 Permit Fee	20,000	-	-	20,000
Total Managed Revenues:	\$ 11,568,054	\$ 19,221	\$ 240,628	\$ 11,827,903
Expenditures:				
Contracts/Agreements				
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation	\$ 2,400,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,400,000
Bradbury SOD Act Repayment	261,647	-	-	261,647
Lauro SOD Act Repayment	47,404	-	-	47,404
Water Rights Fee	87,350	-	-	87,350
Subtotal:	\$ 2,796,401	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,796,401
Personnel				
Operations Division	\$ 1,434,453	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,434,453
Fisheries Division	840,182	4,221	140,628	985,031
Administrative Division	1,169,794	-	-	1,169,794
Subtotal:	\$ 3,444,429	\$ 4,221	\$ 140,628	\$ 3,589,278
Operation and Maintenance				
Operations Division	\$ 630,700	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 630,700
Fisheries Division	143,500	-	-	143,500
Subtotal:	\$ 774,200	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 774,200
General and Administrative				
Operations Division	\$ 315,490	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 315,490
Fisheries Division	151,534	-	-	151,534
Subtotal:	\$ 467,024	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 467,024
Infrastructure and Improvement Projects				
Infrastructure Improvement Projects	\$ 3,730,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,730,000
Special Projects	176,000	15,000	-	191,000
Habitat Improvement Projects	10,000	-	100,000	110,000
Program Support Services	170,000	-	-	170,000
Subtotal:	\$ 4,086,000	\$ 15,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 4,201,000
Total Expenditures before Debt:	\$ 11,568,054	\$ 19,221	\$ 240,628	\$ 11,827,903

- (1) COMB operates under one fund for financial statement and budgetary purposes. Because COMB is a pass-through agency, all revenues are equal to the expenditures included in the budget. As such, the overall Fund Balance excluding the Warren Act Trust Fund and Renewal Fund is expected to be zero. Unexpended funds are identified through the audit process and returned to the Member Agencies on an annual basis.

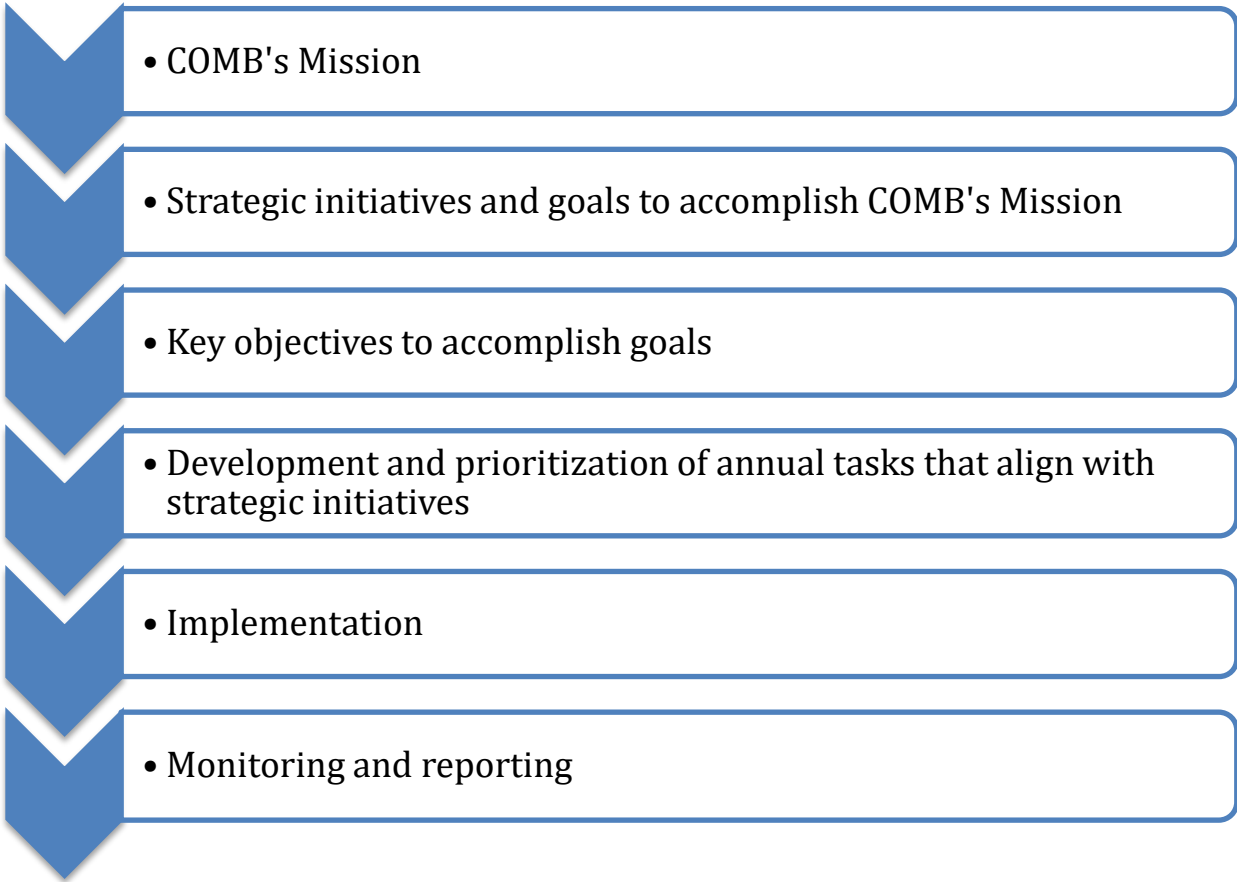
LONG TERM PLANNING

STRATEGIC PLANNING

The Planning Process

Strategic planning is a comprehensive and systematic management tool designed to help organizations assess the current environment, anticipate and respond appropriately to changes in the environment, envision the future, increase effectiveness, develop commitment to the organizations’ mission and achieve consensus on strategies and objectives for achieving that mission. The planning process warrants considerable time and includes thoughtful consideration on components such as identifying critical issues and establishing strategic initiatives, developing broad goals to achieve those initiatives, creating measurable objectives and ultimately implementing the plan.

At the end of 2019, COMB staff developed six internal strategic initiatives as part of the annual budget and long-term financial planning process. Staff took into consideration the following elements in its planning efforts:



STRATEGIC PLANNING (CONTINUED)

Our Policy Statement and Mission

COMB is committed to providing its core services while maintaining a balanced approach to human and environmental needs. Our actions are guided by the COMB mission:

***“To provide a reliable source of water to our Member Agencies
in an efficient and cost-effective manner
for the betterment of our community.”***

Strategic Initiatives

As COMB moves into the next fiscal year, staff is committed to upholding the core values that have shaped its standard of excellence. These six initiatives seek to coordinate with existing COMB plans, policies, programs and action to carry out our mission.



- Initiative 1 - Water Supply Reliability
- Initiative 2 - Distribution Facilities Improvement
- Initiative 3 - Environmental Stewardship and Public Trust Resources
- Initiative 4 - Cost Effectiveness and Value
- Initiative 5 - Organizational Policies and Financial Responsibilities
- Initiative 6 - Foster Leadership and Workforce Capabilities

STRATEGIC PLANNING (CONTINUED)**Initiative 1 Water Supply Reliability**

Goal: Sustain a safe and reliable water supply for our Member Agencies by:

Objectives:

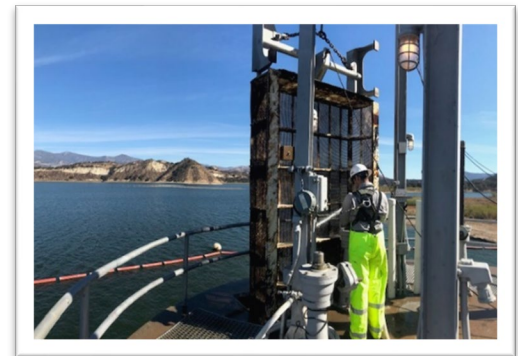
- Protecting and maintaining the water conveyance system.
- Analyzing watershed conditions - watershed stewardship.
- Implementing drought response and resiliency measures.
- Storing and conveying state water imports.
- Monitoring / defending against natural and human-made disasters.

**Initiative 2 Distribution Facilities Improvements**

Goal: Identify, prioritize and implement projects necessary to protect, improve and sustain the Cachuma Project conveyance system and appurtenant structures by:

Objectives:

- Continuing infrastructure improvement planning.
- Developing and updating asset management plan.
- Updating the risk and resiliency plan.
- Improving facilities security and emergency preparedness plans.
- Continuing technological improvements toward operation and maintenance activities.



STRATEGIC PLANNING (CONTINUED)

Initiative 3 Environmental Stewardship and Public Trust Resources

Goal: Monitor and respond to changing climate conditions, develop and implement strategies to support the sustainability of the steelhead trout population and improve fish passage along the Lower Santa Ynez River (LYSR) by:

Objectives:

- Implementing the provisions of the 2000 BiOp and Water Rights (WR) Order 2019-0148.
- Protecting and enhancing steelhead habitats in accordance with the FMP.
- Adhering to environmental regulatory requirements.
- Improving watershed protection.
- Working to mitigate climate crisis effects of COMB operations.



Initiative 4 Cost-Effectiveness and Value

Goal: Maintain and improve the cost-effectiveness and value of COMB services to our Member Agencies by:

Objectives:

- Managing and maintaining infrastructure efficiently.
- Continuing to review and prioritize IIP.
- Investing in system improvements and sustainably efficient equipment for better, more economical results and climate change resiliency.
- Enhancing asset management program.
- Leveraging technology to improve system.



STRATEGIC PLANNING (CONTINUED)**Initiative 5 Organizational Policies and Financial Responsibility**

Goal: Operate within approved policies in a productive, transparent and efficient manner to ensure sound financial stability by:

Objectives:

- Advancing the development of policies and procedures in an ever changing legal and regulatory environment.
- Enhancing the annual financial audit practices and budget document formulation.
- Developing short- and long-term financial plans.
- Adhering to risk transfer practices.
- Leveraging advances in technology.

**Initiative 6 Foster Leadership and Strengthen Workforce Capabilities**

Goal: Promote a safe and positive work environment and provide opportunities for employees to utilize their diverse talents, grow professionally, and prepare for future challenges by:

Objectives:

- Promoting a safe and socially equitable working environment.
- Providing training and continuing education.
- Advanced licensing and certification for staff members.
- Investing in professional growth opportunities.
- Reinforcing employee retention through workplace / leadership practices.



FY 2026-27 GOALS AND PRIORITIES

In January of each year, COMB Division Managers prepare a list of priorities by division and general area of responsibility. This list is reviewed by the General Manager and refined as appropriate. The goals are then presented to the Board of Directors at a regularly scheduled public meeting. Outlined below are key priorities, organized by strategic initiative, to be undertaken during FY 2026-27.

Strategic Initiative 1 – Water Supply Reliability

Goal: Sustain a safe, reliable water supply for our Member Agencies.

- Perform studies and implement modifications to key infrastructure to improve resiliency and safety, including the North Portal Intake Tower seismic assessment, the Tecolote Tunnel concrete deterioration investigation and a safety modification study of the North Portal Elevator.
- Coordinate with Reclamation, Member Agencies, and regional partners on water supply planning, operational coordination, and emergency preparedness efforts.
- Continue monthly water quality sampling, including operation of the Lake Cachuma Evaporation and Water Quality Buoy, and conduct coordinated biweekly meetings with regional treatment plants to optimize operations.
- Continue to update and enhance the Lake Cachuma projection model, monitor reservoir conditions, hydrologic trends, and drought indicators to support proactive water supply management and operational decision making. Provide regular updates to the COMB Board and Member Agencies.

Strategic Initiative 2 – Distribution Facilities Improvements

Goal: Identify, prioritize and implement projects necessary to protect, improve and sustain the Cachuma Project conveyance system and appurtenant structures.

- Continue structural maintenance and rehabilitation of the Lower Reach South Coast Conduit and appurtenant structures.
- Rehabilitate the Lauro Reservoir Intake Structure that delivers water stored in the reservoir to the Cater Treatment Plant.
- Rehabilitate the Sheffield Control Station to improve pipeline capacity east of the control station and provide better isolation during outages. FY 2026-27 work includes installation of an east portal line valve and internal inspection of the pipeline.
- Complete the Lauro Bypass Channel/Access Road Project to improve access and maintain water quality at Lauro Reservoir.

FY 2026-27 GOALS AND PRIORITIES (CONTINUED)

- Perform a comprehensive update of GIS data within COMB's Field Mapplet system, incorporating updated aerial imagery and system information. Locate and digitize lateral piping associated with the South Coast Conduit.
- Continue organizing and digitizing historical records, with a focus on construction photographs of the South Coast Conduit and obtain available drawings from Reclamation.

Strategic Initiative 3 – Environmental Stewardship and Public Trust Resources

Goal: Monitor and respond to changing climate conditions, minimize impacts associated with COMB operations and implement strategies to support the sustainability of the steelhead trout population and improve fish passage along the Lower Santa Ynez River (LYSR).

- Install solar, battery, and EV charging system at COMB headquarters and continue to evaluate small hydropower system potential.
- Replace a 2009 Ford Explorer with a fuel efficient hybrid or electric vehicle.
- Continue implementation of the monitoring and survey program per the 2000 Biological Opinion.
- Continue annual development and implementation of a Migrant Trapping Plan in collaboration with Reclamation. Maintain the LSYR *O. mykiss* scale inventory and conduct data analysis.
- Collaborate with Reclamation, Cachuma Project Member Units and downstream interest groups to provide technical input for a draft Biological Assessment (BA) to support re-consultation with NMFS for a new Biological Opinion (BiOp).
- Complete the two-year Gravel Augmentation Program in Hilton Creek. Consider submitting a follow up proposal for continued program activities.
- Continue monitoring all oak trees within the Lake Cachuma Oak Tree Restoration Program.
- Continue education and collaboration with other *O. mykiss* monitoring programs within the Southern California Steelhead DPS to enhance collective knowledge.

Strategic Initiative 4 – Cost-Effectiveness and Value

Goal: Maintain and improve the cost-effectiveness and value of COMB services to our Member Agencies.

- Identify and prioritize infrastructure improvement projects through the COMB Five-Year Infrastructure Improvement Plan (IIP).

FY 2026-27 GOALS AND PRIORITIES (CONTINUED)

- Maintain proactive preventive maintenance programs to reduce emergency repairs, extend asset life, and minimize long-term operational costs.
- Assess and prioritize water meters for replacement to improve the accuracy of water accounting.
- Review and update purchasing and procurement practices to improve cost competitiveness and maximize value for agency expenditures.
- Pursue grant funding for upcoming projects, particularly those identified in the Infrastructure Improvement Plan and Habitat Improvement Plan

Strategic Initiative 5 – Organizational Policies and Financial Responsibility

Goal: Operate within approved policies in a productive, transparent and efficient manner to ensure sound financial stability.

- Execute a short-term amendatory agreement with Reclamation to the Cachuma Transferred Project Works Contract to allow for completion of a long-term agreement.
- Finalize the Bradbury Dam Safety of Dams contract including any amendments that may be needed.
- Operate within approved financial resources.
- Enhance Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) and budget documents.
- Participate in the ACWA JPIA Commitment to Excellence Program.
- Continue to strengthen cybersecurity and information technology infrastructure to reduce operational risk and protect critical agency systems and data.
- Advance Board policies and internal procedures.

Strategic Initiative 6 – Foster Leadership and Strengthen Workforce Capabilities

Goal: Promote a safe and positive work environment and provide opportunities for employees to utilize their diverse talents, grow professionally, and prepare for future challenges.

- Encourage staff development and certification as water system distribution operators, qualified applicators and appropriate safety training.
- Develop Employee Retention Plan to promote workforce stability and longevity.
- Participate in the ACWA JPIA Vector Solutions Online Training Program.
- Develop an Employee Health and Wellness Plan.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

In support of our mission to provide a reliable source of water to our Member Agencies in an efficient and cost-effective manner, COMB has identified the following key performance measures to demonstrate our efforts in achieving our objective.

Water Conveyed by Year, by Source of Water Via South Coast Conduit (Acre Feet)

	Actual 2020	Actual 2021	Actual 2022	Actual 2023	Actual 2024	Actual 2025	Plan (*) 2026	Plan (*) 2027
Cachuma Project Deliveries	17,917	22,657	14,693	18,890	16,223	19,227	23,517	23,675 (a)
State Water Project (SWP) Deliveries ⁽²⁾	705	2,457	5,537	410	330	429	53	1,600 (b)
So. Coast Storage (Gain/Loss)	177	(26)	(56)	(63)	(19)	(37)	-	-
Total	18,799	25,088	20,175	19,237	16,534	19,620	23,570	25,275

(*) Based on Member's projected imports/exports at the start of the year.

Water Conveyed by Year, by COMB Member Agency Via South Coast Conduit (Acre Feet)

	Actual 2020	Actual 2021	Actual 2022	Actual 2023	Actual 2024	Actual 2025	Plan (*) 2026	Plan (*) 2027
Goleta Water District	9,995	10,226	9,302	10,571	10,670	10,746	10,204	10,547
City of Santa Barbara	2,149	8,059	5,854	4,723	2,298	4,327	9,160	10,250
Carpinteria Valley Water District	3,311	3,013	2,414	2,691	2,268	2,994	2,935	2,935
Montecito Water District	2,493	3,417	2,003	887	966	1,190	1,245	1,516
Other (**)	674	398	656	428	352	400	27	27
Total	18,622	25,114	20,230	19,300	16,553	19,656	23,570	25,275 (a+b)

(*) Based on Member's projected imports/exports at the start of the year.

(**) Other includes SWP participants: La Cumbrew Mutual Water, Raytheon, and Morehart Land Company

Apparent Water Loss (Target = +/- 6%)

	Actual 2020	Actual 2021	Actual 2022	Actual 2023	Actual 2024	Actual 2025	Plan (**) 2026	Plan (**) 2027
Water Production (*)	18,721	24,854	20,330	19,139	17,136	19,830	23,570	25,275
Water Deliveries	18,799	25,088	20,175	19,237	16,534	19,772	23,570	25,275
Difference = Apparent Water Loss (AWL)	(78)	(234)	156	(99)	602	58	-	-
AWL %	-0.42%	-0.94%	0.77%	-0.52%	3.51%	0.29%	+/- 6%	+/- 6%

(*) Cachuma Lake Diversion + Tecolote Tunnel Intrusion + County Park Usage

(**) Per Cachuma Project Master Contract - All Project Water delivered for municipal and industrial purposes is measured by meters with an accuracy of +/- 6 percent

Planned Maintenance Hours to Distribution System Length

	Actual 2020	Actual 2021	Actual 2022	Actual 2023	Actual 2024	Actual 2025	Plan 2026	Plan 2027
Maintenance Hours	5,317	4,916	5,233	4,484	4,472	4,352	4,967	4,967
Maintenance Hours/Mile of Pipeline	187	173	174	149	149	145	165	165

Underground Service Alert in the COMB Right of Way (ROW)

	Actual 2020	Actual 2021	Actual 2022	Actual 2023	Actual 2024	Actual 2025	Plan 2026	Plan 2027
# of Dig Alerts Received and Reviewed by COMB Staff	1,091	1,006	970	1,150	1,082	1,082	1,000	1,000

Safety and Training Hours

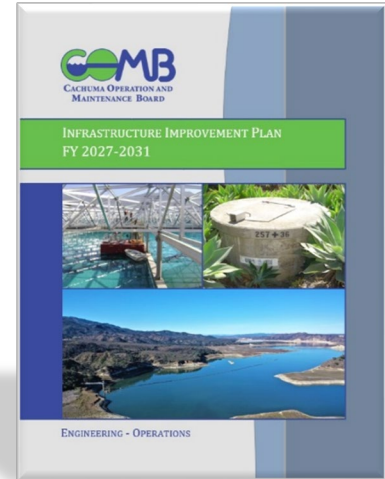
	Actual 2020	Actual 2021	Actual 2022 ⁽¹⁾	Actual 2023	Actual 2024	Actual 2025	Plan 2026	Plan 2027
Total Safety and Training Hours	142	189	644	263	188	231	180	180

(1) 2022 Safety and Training Hours were high due to staff education requirements related to Distribution Operator testing and license/certification.

LONG TERM CAPITAL AND FINANCIAL PLANNING

COMB operates under an annual operating budget, which is adopted by the Board of Directors in accordance with established short and long-term financial plans. Through the Transferred Project Works contact (O&M Contract), COMB is responsible for operating and maintaining the facilities of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. COMB does not have the title to the assets of the Cachuma Project. Capital improvements are recorded as expenditures in the COMB Operating Budget and funded on a current basis from the COMB Member Agencies.

The FY 2026-27 Budget includes \$3,921,000 for capital (infrastructure) improvement and non-capital (special) projects as compared to the FY 2025-26 Budget of \$3,375,000. See [pages 65-78](#) for information on current year's projects.



COMB has developed a comprehensive five-year Infrastructure Improvement Plan (IIP) that is used as an internal guideline for forecasting, budgeting and long-term financial planning. The IIP formalizes the strategy for implementation of capital projects and programs needed to carry out the goals and policy objectives of the Board. The IIP is organized and structured to identify and prioritize rehabilitation projects necessary to protect, improve and sustain a reliable source of water conveyed from the Cachuma Project to the South Coast communities of Santa Barbara County.

The IIP identifies the improvements needed in the Cachuma Project System and sets forth review criteria to enable the prioritization of projects for scheduling improvements during the five-year period. The IIP is intended to serve many purposes including:

- **Long Range Planning Document**

As a long-range planning document, the IIP describes the key infrastructure improvements needed for a five-year horizon and identifies additional projects that should be evaluated on a regular basis for potential future inclusion. The goal of the five-year plan is to identify the critical needs projects for near-term implementation.

- **Cachuma Project Cost Analysis**

The IIP provides an outline of costs associated with rehabilitation of the Cachuma Project that serves to provide guidance for long-term rate analysis efforts performed by our Member Agencies.

LONG TERM CAPITAL AND FINANCIAL PLANNING (CONTINUED)

- **Budget Development**

The annual COMB Operating Budget outlines discrete projects and affiliated costs to communicate needed investment for the forthcoming fiscal cycle. The IIP provides detailed guidance on priority projects to be included in the annual operating budget.

- **Communication to Stakeholders**

The IIP communicates to COMB's stakeholders the array of infrastructure improvements necessary to maintain a reliable supply of water. Communicating the condition of assets and the challenges associated with competing financial resources provides a basis for our Member Agencies to consider COMB projects and their own priorities.

Prior to drafting the IIP, COMB conducted a critical needs assessment, which included an internal inventory of assets, a conditions assessment, an estimate of replacement costs and a projection by which assets require immediate or near-term replacement for major infrastructure and appurtenances. This assessment was supplemented with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation site inspection recommendations (periodic and comprehensive reviews) of selected Cachuma Project facilities and components.

In developing the IIP, COMB staff, with input from the Member Agencies' technical staff, developed the following list of goals to serve as the guiding principles of the plan.

IIP Established Goals

- Carryout COMB's mission of providing a reliable source of water to our Member Agencies.
- Identify infrastructure vulnerabilities and operational deficiencies (Risk Management).
- Provide for a systematic selection of critical projects.
- Maintain the current level of service while allocating infrastructure improvement costs over time.
- Identify funding requirements for long-term capital planning.
- Serve as a basis for annual budget development.
- Create a framework for ensuring reliable and sustainable operations.
- Serve as a planning document for the Board of Directors.

LONG TERM CAPITAL AND FINANCIAL PLANNING (CONTINUED)

COMB staff incorporated elements of COMB internal analysis and Reclamation site inspections to produce a list of projects for further consideration. The projects included in the IIP represent the minimal level of investment necessary to continue to meet regulatory requirements, critical needs and sustain vital infrastructure.

IIP Project Ranking

To evaluate projects systematically, COMB created project priorities, as shown on the following page and ranked the projects in order of criticality. The purpose of utilizing this methodology was to separate the projects accurately into categories from high to low priority. The ranking informs the Board of Directors when reviewing, approving and budgeting for implementation of important infrastructure improvement projects.

COMB staff prioritized a comprehensive list of proposed projects using the following six priority categories:

Priority 1 **Regulatory or Legal Requirement**

Projects that are subject to the requirements of federal, state, or local regulatory agencies, with noncompliance resulting in fines or other adverse actions.

Priority 2 **Required to Maintain Current Level of Service**

Projects that maintain the current level of service to COMB's Member Agencies. These projects reduce potential disruptions, water loss and property damage that could occur without replacement. In general, these projects include the replacement or rehabilitation of valves and infrastructure that are inoperable, or whose failure would result in an unplanned shutdown of deliveries or disruption in the transmission of critical operations data.

Priority 3 **Addressing Critical Deficiency**

A critical deficiency has the potential to jeopardize COMB's ability to serve its Member Agencies in a significant manner. These deficiencies have been identified by the Bureau of Reclamation, COMB staff and outside experts. Projects under this category address known critical conditions that could result in major infrastructure failure, deteriorated water quality, limited water production, or unsafe working conditions.

Priority 4 **Evaluates Critical / Significant Deficiency**

Potential critical / significant deficiencies have been identified which require further engineering investigation and design. These projects would evaluate the criticality of the deficiency and potential solutions to mitigate the deficiency.

LONG TERM CAPITAL AND FINANCIAL PLANNING (CONTINUED)**Priority 5****Proactive Aging / Deficient Infrastructure Replacement**

These projects provide funding for the proactive replacement, upgrade, or improvement of a facility that is near or at the end of its useful service life. Although an asset may be at its assumed end of useful life, it may remain functional for many years; therefore, the replacement is considered proactive until the asset becomes inoperable.

Priority 6**System Reliability and Resilience Improvements**

These projects consist of system improvements, which improve system reliability or provide backup systems to maintain service levels during and after emergency events (i.e. wildfires, earthquakes, floods).

Updates to IIP

The IIP is updated on an annual basis and submitted to the Operations Committee for review and comment. Following Committee review and recommendations, the IIP and its annual amendments are presented to the Board of Directors for final approval. The COMB IIP, including five year cost projections, can be found on the COMB website at www.cachuma-board.org/infrastructure-improvement-program.

Five Year Financial Plan

The Five-Year Financial Plan (Plan) is prepared to provide the Cachuma Project Member Units (Member Units) pro forma projections of the COMB's operating expenditures and pass-through charges. The Plan is prepared only as an informational tool and is not formally adopted by the COMB Board of Directors. This information is used by the Member Units for their budget and long-term planning purposes. Additionally, these projections are used by the Member Units to assist in establishing water rates for their local agencies and ensuring their water system revenues are sufficient to meet their operating expenses and debt coverage covenants.

COMB's operating expenditures and general and administrative expenses are projected at a 3% inflation rate. Infrastructure improvement projects are based on the approved COMB IIP for FY 2027-2031. Board policy requires that all projects are reviewed by committee and approved by the Board prior to commencement. The Plan also includes "pass-through" charges from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and the State Water Resources Control Board. While these expenditures are not considered expenses for COMB, the charges are collected by COMB and paid to the respective agencies; therefore, they are included in the projection. Costs are allocated based on contractual agreements or approved methodologies and vary by contract.

LONG TERM CAPITAL AND FINANCIAL PLANNING (CONTINUED)

Table 5.2 – Five Year Financial Plan ⁽¹⁾

	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	Note
COMB Gross Operating Budget	\$ 9,031,502	\$ 12,860,547	\$ 7,474,363	\$ 7,643,094	\$ 7,816,887	(2), (3)
USBR O&M Costs	2,400,000	2,448,000	2,496,960	2,546,899	2,597,837	(4)
Lauro Reservoir Intake Assessment / Repair	500,000	-	-	-	-	(5)
Bradbury SOD Act	261,647	261,647	261,647	261,647	261,647	(7)
Cachuma Project Renewal Fund	240,628	200,000	200,000	200,000	200,000	(6)
Lauro SOD Act	47,404	47,404	47,404	47,404	47,404	(7)
SWRCB Water Rights Fee	87,350	89,971	92,670	95,450	98,313	(8)
DDW D3 Permit Fee	35,191	36,247	37,334	38,454	39,608	(9)
Non-Member Agency Obligation	35,191	60,000	60,000	60,000	60,000	(10)
Total Gross Obligation	12,638,913	16,003,815	10,670,378	10,892,949	11,121,697	
Less Offsetting Revenues:						
- Grant Funding	\$ (579,000)	\$ (5,550,000)	\$ -	\$ -		
- Lauro Reservoir Intake Offset - SC JPA	(500,000)					
- FEMA Assistance	(800,000)	-	-	-		
- Warren Act Trust Fund/Renewal Fund	(259,849)	(380,000)	(380,000)	(380,000)	(380,000)	
- County Betterment Fund	(100,000)	(100,000)	(100,000)	(100,000)	(100,000)	
- DDW Permit Fee	(35,191)	(36,247)	(37,334)	(38,454)	(39,608)	
- Non-Member Agency Constructive Return	-	(60,000)	(60,000)	(60,000)	(60,000)	
Total Offsetting Revenues	(2,274,040)	(6,126,247)	(577,334)	(578,454)	(579,608)	
Total Net Obligation	\$ 10,364,873	\$ 9,877,568	\$ 10,093,044	\$ 10,314,494	\$ 10,542,089	
	\$ 0					
<u>Projected Obligation by Member Unit:</u>						
Goleta Water District	\$ 3,840,457	\$ 3,836,656	\$ 3,921,153	\$ 4,008,007	\$ 4,097,285	
City of Santa Barbara	\$ 3,723,718	\$ 3,428,784	\$ 3,504,472	\$ 3,582,273	\$ 3,662,248	
Carpinteria Valley Water District	\$ 1,262,439	\$ 1,165,297	\$ 1,191,020	\$ 1,217,461	\$ 1,244,641	
Montecito Water District	\$ 1,195,464	\$ 1,098,191	\$ 1,122,433	\$ 1,147,351	\$ 1,172,966	
Santa Ynez Water Conservation District ID No 1	\$ 342,796	\$ 348,641	\$ 353,967	\$ 359,402	\$ 364,949	
Total Net Obligation by Member Unit	\$ 10,364,873	\$ 9,877,568	\$ 10,093,044	\$ 10,314,494	\$ 10,542,089	

Notes:

1. Projected amounts are for information only and have not been approved by the COMB Board of Directors and are subject to change.
2. COMB's operating expenditures and G&A expenses are projected at a 3% inflation rate.
3. COMB's infrastructure improvement projects are based upon the approved and amended COMB IIP for FY 2027-2031. Board policy requires that all projects be reviewed by the Committee and approved by the Board prior to commencement.
4. USBR O&M costs are projected with a 2% inflation factor.
5. Lauro Reservoir Intake repair project allocated to City of SB, CVWD and MWD based on Cater JPA agreement.
6. Pursuant to US Bureau of Reclamation Safety of Dams Act Repayment Agreement.
7. Amounts are variable in nature and are directly tied to the annual amount of State Water Project Water delivered into the lake.
8. State Water Resources Control Board pass-through cost projected with a 3% inflation factor.
9. Division of Drinking Water D3 Permit Fee (City of SB, MWD and CVWD, only)
10. Pursuant to the terms and conditions of the Separation Agreement, ID No. 1 was deemed no longer a Member Agency of COMB. ID No. 1 continues to be a member of the Cachuma Project which carries certain benefits and obligations associated with the Project as outlined in various agreements.
11. FY 2027-28 Grant Funding assumes possible grant funding for the Sheffield Tunnel Repair Project.

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DEBT SERVICE

DEBT SERVICE**SOD Act Assessments Receivable and Contract Payable****Bradbury Dam SOD**

On July 1, 2002, COMB executed a repayment contract with U.S. Bureau of Reclamation under the Department of Interior of the United States. Under the terms of the agreement and in accordance with the United States Safety of Dams Act, COMB will reimburse Reclamation for fifteen percent (15%) of the total amount of SOD Act funds expended by Reclamation to preserve the structural integrity of Bradbury Dam and related Cachuma Project facilities. COMB entered into a repayment contract with Reclamation when the project was deemed substantially complete. The repayment contract, as executed, calls for a repayment of 15% of a total cost of \$45,276,008 or approximately \$6,791,000 plus interest, as appropriate, over a 50-year period.

The repayment obligation has been allocated fifty-one and three-tenths percent (51.3%) to irrigation uses or \$3,483,989 and forty-eight and seven tenths' percent (48.7%) to municipal and industrial uses or \$3,307,412. The Irrigation allocation bears no interest and repayment commenced in fiscal year ending 2017. Interest during construction of \$325,477 was added to the M&I Allocation. During construction, COMB made advances of \$1,496,148 that were applied against the M&I Allocation amounts. Accounting for advances made by COMB during construction, the balance due under the M&I Allocation contract was \$2,136,741.

COMB's payment obligation for FY 2026-27 is \$261,648 and assesses the Cachuma Project Member Units in accordance with each Member's Cachuma Project entitlement percentage. The annual payment requirements to retire the contract through October 1, 2051, including interest payments at 5.856%, are presented in the following table. This table does not include future adjustments that may be made by Reclamation to the Bradbury Dam repayment contract due to additional incurred costs.

Table 5.3 - Bradbury Dam SOD Obligation

FYE	M&I Allocation		Irrigation Allocation	Total
	Principal	Interest		
2027	155,749	9,121	96,778	261,648
2028			96,778	96,778
2029			96,778	96,778
2030			96,778	96,778
2031			96,778	96,778
2032 - 2036			483,890	483,890
2037 - 2041			483,890	483,890
2042 - 2046			483,890	483,890
2047 - 2051			483,890	483,890
2052			96,778	96,778
Total	\$ 155,749	\$ 9,121	\$2,516,228	\$2,681,098

DEBT SERVICE (CONTINUED)**SOD Act Assessments Receivable and Contract Payable****Lauro Dam SOD**

On March 21, 2007, COMB executed a repayment contract with U.S. Bureau of Reclamation under the Department of Interior of the United States. Under the terms of the agreement and in accordance with the United States Safety of Dams Act, COMB will reimburse Reclamation for fifteen percent (15%) of the total amount of SOD Act funds expended by Reclamation to preserve the structural integrity of Lauro Dam and reservoir; total costs not to exceed \$17,314,125. The primary contract for construction of the modification project was awarded by Reclamation in September 2005, and the work was deemed substantially complete in February 2007.

The total cost of the Lauro Dam SOD Act project was to be reevaluated, and repayment agreement amended, as necessary. During 2017, Reclamation completed its final accounting for the project and issued a final repayment contract. The repayment obligation has been allocated fifty and seventy-two one-hundredths percent (50.72%) to irrigation uses or \$512,139 and forty-nine and twenty-eight hundredths' percent (49.28%) to municipal and industrial uses or \$497,598. The Irrigation allocation bears no interest.

COMB's payment obligation for FY 2026-27 is \$47,405 and assesses the COMB Member Agencies (only) in accordance with each Member Agency's pro-rata Cachuma Project entitlement percentage. The annual payment requirements to retire the contract through October 1, 2057, including interest payments at 4.556%, are presented in the following table. This table represents the final repayment contract amount issued during fiscal year 2017.

Table 5.4 - Lauro Dam SOD Obligation

FYE	M&I Allocation		Irrigation Allocation	Total
	Principal	Interest		
2027	25,753	9,425	12,227	47,405
2028	26,926	8,252	12,227	47,405
2029	28,153	7,025	12,227	47,404
2030	29,435	5,742	12,227	47,404
2031	30,776	4,401	12,227	47,404
2032 - 2036	65,823	4,532	61,136	131,491
2037 - 2041			61,136	61,136
2042 - 2046			61,136	61,136
2047 - 2051			61,136	61,136
2052 - 2056			61,136	61,136
2057 - 2058			24,454	24,454
Total	\$206,866	\$39,376	\$391,270	\$637,512

DEBT SERVICE (CONTINUED)**Changes in Long Term Debt – FY 2027**

Projected changes in long-term debt for FY 2026-27 by obligation are reflected in the following table.

Table 5.5 – Changes in Long Term Debt FY 2026-27

Obligation	Beginning Balance July 1, 2026	Additions	Principal Payments	Adjustments	Ending Balance June 30, 2027
Bradbury SOD	\$2,671,958	\$ 0	\$252,527	\$0	\$2,419,431
Lauro SOD	598,137	0	37,980	0	560,157
Total	\$3,804,493	\$0	\$290,507	\$0	\$3,513,986

LIST OF ACRONYMS
AND ABBREVIATIONS

LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ACWA	Association of California Water Agencies
AMC	Adaptive Management Committee
AWWA	American Water Works Association
AF	Acre Foot
AFY	Acre Feet per Year
AVAR/BO	Air Vacuum Air Release / Blow-Off
BO or BiOp	Biological Opinion
CalPERS	California Public Employees' Retirement System
CC	Consensus Committee
CCFA	Central Coast Funding Area
CCRB	Cachuma Conservation Release Board
CCWA	Central Coast Water Authority
CDFW	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
City of SB	City of Santa Barbara
COMB	Cachuma Operation and Maintenance Board
COLA	Cost of Living Adjustment
CPI	Consumer Price Index
CSDA	California Special Districts Association
CVWD	Carpinteria Valley Water District
DWR	Department of Water Resources
EAP	Employee Assistance Program
EPF	Emergency Pumping Facility
EPFP	Emergency Pumping Facilities Project
EPMC	Employer Paid Member Contribution
ESRI	Environmental Systems Research Institute
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FY	Fiscal Year
FYE	Fiscal Year End

LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

FMP	Fisheries Monitoring Program
FRGP	Fisheries Restoration Grant Program
G & A	General and Administrative
GFOA	Government Finance Officers Association
GIS	Geographic Information System
GPS	Global Positioning System
GWD	Goleta Water District
HIP	Habitat Improvement Plan
IIP	Infrastructure Improvement Plan
IRWM	Integrated Regional Water Management
IRWMP	Integrated Regional Water Management Program
JPA	Joint Powers Authority
JPIA	Joint Power Insurance Authority
MWD	Montecito Water District
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NGO	Non-Governmental Organizations
NMFS	National Marine Fisheries Service
O&M	Operations and Maintenance
PEPRA	Public Employees' Pension Reform Act
ROW	Right of Way
SB	Santa Barbara
SCADA	Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition
SCC	South Coast Conduit
SOD	Safety of Dams
SWP	State Water Project
SWRCB	State Water Resources Control Board
SYR	Santa Ynez River
SYRCWD	Santa Ynez River Conservation Water District

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GLOSSARY OF TERMS

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

A

Account - A record used to sort, store and summarize a company's transactions.

Accounting System - The total structure of records and procedures which discover, record, classify, summarize and report information on the financial position and results of a government entity.

Accrual Basis of Accounting - The method of recording financial transactions in the accounting period in which revenues are earned and expenses are incurred, rather than only after cash is received or paid.

Acre-Foot of Water - The volume of water that would cover one acre to a depth of one foot (approximately 325,900 gallons).

Appropriation - The act of setting aside money for a specific purpose.

B

Biological Opinion - When a government agency determines, through a biological assessment or other review, that its action is likely to affect adversely a listed endangered species, the agency submits to the appropriate regulatory agency a request for formal consultation. Generally, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services (USFWS) manages land and freshwater species, while the National Marine Fisheries Services (NMFS) is responsible for marine and anadromous species. During formal consultation, the appropriate regulatory agency and the requesting agency share information about the proposed project and the species or critical habitat likely to be affected. Once the formal consultation is completed, the appropriate regulatory agency will prepare a biological opinion. The conclusion of the biological opinion will state whether the requesting agency has ensured that its action is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of a listed species and/or result in the destruction or adverse modification of critical habitat.

Budget - A report of all anticipated expenditures and the sources of moneys to be used to meet such expenditures.

Budget Adjustment - The process of reallocating budgeted funds to an alternate account and does not change the overall approved budget amount.

Budget Augmentation - Represents an increase to the approved budget due to an unanticipated expenditure and the need for additional assessments.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

C

Calendar Year – The period from January 1 through December 31.

California Department of Fish and Wildlife - Within the California Natural Resources Agency, the Department of Fish and Wildlife manages and protects the state's fish, wildlife, plant and native habitats. It is responsible for related recreational, commercial, scientific and educational uses. <https://wildlife.ca.gov/>

California Department of Water Resources (DWR) – The state agency responsible for the State of California’s management and regulation of water usage. <https://water.ca.gov/>

California Public Employees’ Retirement System – An agency in the California executive branch that manages pensions and health benefits for more than 1.6 million California public employees, retirees and their families. <https://www.calpers.ca.gov/>

Capital Expenditures – Amounts expended which result in the acquisition of, or addition to, fixed assets, including land, buildings, improvements, machinery and equipment.

Carry-Over - The term used to denote amounts, which are to be expended during one fiscal year on a contract or obligation but are not expended for various reasons. Amounts are “carried over” into the subsequent fiscal year.

COMB Member Agency - On January 1, 1957, the Cachuma Operation and Maintenance Board (COMB) was formed as a Joint Powers Authority (JPA) through an agreement organized by the Cachuma Project Member Units pursuant to the provisions of Articles 1, 2 and 4 of Chapter 5, Division 7, Title 1 of the California Government Code. The resulting JPA agreement was entered into by the Cachuma Project Member Units, who, in doing so, became Member Agencies of COMB, in order to provide for the joint exercise of powers by those Member Agencies for the rights to, the facilities of, and the operation, maintenance and use of the Reclamation’s project known as the “Cachuma Project.” The organization is comprised of four Cachuma Project Member Units, known collectively as COMB’s Member Agencies. They are the Carpinteria Valley Water District, the Goleta Water District, the Montecito Water District and the City of Santa Barbara.

Cachuma Project Member Unit – The Cachuma Project Member Units are the Carpinteria Valley Water District, Goleta Water District, Montecito Water District, City of Santa Barbara and the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, Improvement District No. 1. The Member Units entered into contracts with the Santa Barbara County Water Agency for the purpose of receiving water from the Cachuma Project for the use and benefit of the Member Units.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

C

COMB Joint Powers Agreement -The original contract was executed on January 1, 1957, and subsequently amended and restated for the establishment of a Board of Control to operate and maintain the Cachuma Project and exercise the powers of the Agreement pursuant to the provisions of Articles 1, 2 and 4 of Chapter 5, Division 7, Title 1 of the California Government Code (§6500 et seq.)

Consumer Price Index (CPI) - CPI is a measure of the average change over time in the prices paid by urban consumers for a market basket of consumer goods and services. Indexes are available for the U.S. and various geographic areas.

<https://www.bls.gov/regions/west/cpi-summary/>

Conveyance — A conveyance system provides for the movement of water, either natural or manmade. Conveyance infrastructures include natural watercourses, such as streams, rivers and groundwater aquifers. They also include constructed facilities, such as canals and pipelines, including control structures such as weirs. Conveyance facilities range in size from small, local, end-user distribution systems to large systems that deliver water to or drain areas as large as multiple hydrologic regions. Conveyance facilities also require associated infrastructure, such as pumping plants and power supply, diversion structures, fish ladders and fish screens.

Comprehensive Annual Financial Report - The annual audited financial report of COMB, which includes financial statements, statistical information and extensive narration, which goes beyond the minimum financial reporting requirements of an audited financial statement.

Coverage Ratio - The margin of safety for payment of debt service, reflecting the number of times by which earnings for a period of time exceed debt service payable in such a period.

D

Debt - An obligation resulting from the borrowing of money or from the purchase of goods and services. These include bonds and accounts payable.

Deficiency - A general term indicating the amount by which anything falls short of some requirement of expectation.

Deficit - The excess of expenditures over revenues during an accounting period.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

D

Depreciation - An element of cost resulting from the service of long-lived assets in an economic organization and represents the loss in asset value because of wear, deterioration, obsolescence or action of the physical elements. In this budget, no specific depreciation schedule or funding of depreciated assets is provided.

E

Endangered Species Act - An act of the federal government enacted in 1973 that provides for the conservation of species that are endangered or threatened and the conservation of the ecosystems on which they depend. A species is considered endangered if it is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range. A species is considered threatened if it is likely to become an endangered species within the foreseeable future.

Enterprise Fund - A fund established to account for the financing of self-supporting enterprises, such as a utility fund, which render services primarily to the public.

Entity - The basic unit upon which accounting and/or financial reporting activities focus.

Expenditures - A decrease in net financial resources, or funds paid or to be paid for an asset obtained, or goods and services obtained regardless of when the expense is actually paid.

F

Fiscal Year - A twelve-month period of time to which the annual budget applies and, at the end of which, a governmental unit determines its financial position and the results of its operations.

Fixed Asset - Assets of a long-term character that are intended to continue to be held or used, such as land, buildings, improvements other than buildings, machinery and equipment.

Fund Balance - Also known as financial position, fund balance is the excess of fund assets over liabilities and represents the cumulative effect of revenues and other financing sources over expenditures and other financing uses. COMB operates under one fund for financial statement and budgetary purposes. Because COMB is a pass-through agency, all revenues are equal to the expenditures included in the budget. As such, the overall Fund Balance excluding the Warren Act Trust Fund and Renewal Fund is expected to be zero.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

G

GASB – The Government Accounting Standards Board is the source of generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) used by state and local governments. As with most of the entities involved in creating GAAP in the United States, it is a private, nongovernmental organization. <https://www.gasb.org>

Generally Accepted Accounting Principles - The uniform accounting principles, standards and procedures for the presentation of financial reports. For local governments, GAAP is set by the Government Accounting Standards Board (GASB).

Geographical Information System (GIS) – An information system that integrates maps with electronic data.

Groundwater — Water that occurs beneath the land surface and fills the pore spaces of the alluvium, soil, or rock formation in which it is situated.

Groundwater Basin — An alluvial aquifer or a stacked series of alluvial aquifers with reasonably well-defined boundaries in a lateral direction and having a definable bottom.

I

Infrastructure Improvement Project - A project that results in a new asset (e.g. a facility, betterment, replacement, equipment, etc.) that has a total cost of at least \$50,000 and a useful life of at least five years. The US Bureau of Reclamation has title to certain assets of the Cachuma Project. Improvements made to those assets are treated as expenditures on COMB's financial statements.

Irrigation Water - Water made available from the Cachuma Project which is used primarily in the production of agricultural crops or livestock.

J

Joint Powers Agreement - An agreement entered into by two or more public agencies that allows them to jointly exercise any power common to the contracting parties. JPA is defined in California Government Code Title 1, Division 7, Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 6500).

Joint Powers Authority - A public authority created by a joint exercise of powers agreement between two or more governmental agencies. The authority may be given power to perform any function that all parties to the agreement are empowered to perform and that will be of benefit to all parties.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

L

Line Item - Expenditure classifications established to account for and budget the appropriations approved.

M

Maintenance - The upkeep of physical properties in condition for use or occupancy. Examples are the inspection of equipment to detect defects and the making of repairs.

Master Contract - *Contract Between the United States and Santa Barbara County Water Agency Providing for Water from the Project (Contract No. 175r-1802R)* is between the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and the Santa Barbara County Water Agency and provides for the diversion, storage, carriage and distribution of waters from the Santa Ynez River and its tributaries for irrigation, municipal, domestic and industrial uses for the Cachuma Project Member Units.

Modified Accrual Basis - The accrual basis of accounting adapted to the governmental fund type. Revenues are recognized when they become both “measurable” and “available to finance expenditures of the current period.” Expenditures are recognized when the liability is incurred.

M

Municipal and Industrial Water (M&I Water) - Water made available from the Cachuma Project other than Irrigation Water, M&I water includes water used for municipal, industrial and domestic purposes and water used for purposes incidental to domestic uses such as the water of landscaping or pasture for animals (i.e. horses) which are kept for personal enjoyment.

N

National Marine Fisheries Services (NMFS) - The federal agency responsible for the stewardship of national marine resources. <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/>

O

Obligation - Amounts that a government may be legally required to meet out of its resources. They include not only actual liabilities, but also encumbrances not yet paid.

Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) - Benefits provided to retirees other than pension, such as retiree health insurance.

Operating Expenses- All costs associated with the day-to-day business of COMB that are not considered capital improvements or debt repayments.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

P

Pass-Through Charges - Charges from the United States Bureau of Reclamation and other state agencies which are paid by the Cachuma Project Member Units. These charges are not expenses of COMB but are charged and paid by the agency.

Project Water - Water that is developed, diverted, stored, or delivered by the United States pursuant to the Project Water Rights, including accretions to the Tecolote Tunnel.

Projected - An estimate of revenues and expenditures based on past trends, the present economic situation and future financial forecasts.

Proprietary Fund - A method of accounting for a government's ongoing organizations and activities that are similar to those often found in the private sector.

R

Resolution - A special or temporary order of a legislative body; an order of a legislative body requiring less legal formality than an ordinance or statute.

Revenue - An inflow of assets, not necessarily in cash, in exchange for services rendered.

Right of Way (ROW) - The legal right, established by usage or grant, to pass along a specific route through grounds or property belonging to another.

S

Santa Ynez Exchange Agreement - An agreement between Central Coast Water Authority, Carpinteria Valley Water District, Goleta Water District, La Cumbre Mutual Water Company, Montecito Water District, Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, Improvement District No. 1 (SYRWCD ID No.1) and the City of Santa Barbara. Among other things, this agreement provides for the exchange of SYRWCD ID No.1's Cachuma Project entitlement for a like amount of State water that would otherwise be delivered to the other South Coast project participants which are signatory to the agreement.

SCADA System - The Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) System is a computer system that collects data, processes the data and corrects and/or instructs the operators on corrective actions to take.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

S

State Water Project (SWP) – SWP, under the supervision of the California Department of Water Resources, is a water storage and delivery system of reservoirs, aqueducts, power plants and pumping plants extending more than 700 miles and serves urban and agricultural agencies from the San Francisco Bay area to Southern California.

<https://water.ca.gov/Programs/State-Water-Project>

State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) – The SWRCB oversees the allocation of the state's water resources to various entities and for diverse uses, from agricultural irrigation to hydro electrical power generation to municipal water supplies and for safeguarding the cleanliness and purity of Californians' water. The State Water Board also provides financial assistance to local governments and non-profit agencies to help build or rejuvenate wastewater treatment plants and protect, restore and monitor water quality, wetlands and estuaries. <https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/>

Surface Water - As defined under the California Surface Water Treatment Rule, California Code of Regulations Title 22, Section 64651.83, surface water means “all water open to the atmosphere and subject to surface runoff” and hence would include all lakes, rivers, streams and other water bodies. Surface water includes all groundwater sources that are deemed to be under the influence of surface water (i.e., springs, shallow wells, wells close to rivers, etc.), which must comply with the same level of treatment as surface water.

T

Table A — Table A is an exhibit that corresponds to the contracts between the California Department of Water Resources and the 29 State Water Project (SWP) water contractors, in which are defined the terms and conditions governing the water delivery and cost repayment for the SWP. All water-supply-related costs of the SWP are paid by the contractors and Table A serves as a basis for allocating some of the costs among the contractors. In addition, Table A plays a key role in the annual allocation of available supply among contractors. Table A is simply contractual language for apportioning available supply and cost obligations under the contract.

Table A Water — The maximum amount of State Water Project (SWP) water that the State agreed to make available to an SWP contractor for delivery during the year. Table A amounts determine the maximum water a contractor may request each year from the California Department of Water Resources. The State and SWP contractors also use Table A amounts to serve as a basis for allocation of some SWP costs among the contractors.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

T

Transferred Project Works Contract - *Transfer Agreement for the Operation and Maintenance of the Cachuma Project Transferred Works – Cachuma Project, California (Contract No. 14-06-200-5222R)* - An agreement between the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and the Cachuma Operation and Maintenance Board. The purpose of the agreement is to transfer the responsibility of operating and maintaining the Cachuma Project Works to the Cachuma Member Units.

U

U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) – USBR is a federal agency under the U.S. Department of the Interior, which oversees water resource management, specifically as it applies to the oversight and operation of the diversion, delivery and storage projects that it has built throughout the western United States for irrigation, water supply and attendant hydroelectric power generation.

<https://www.usbr.gov/>

W

Warren Act Contract (Contract No. 5-07-20-W1281) – A contract between the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and the Central Coast Water Authority and provides for the delivery and storage of non-project State Water in the federal facility referred to as the Cachuma Project.

Warren Act MOU Trust Fund - A trust fund established under a memorandum of understanding by and between the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and the Cachuma Project Authority for the purposes of defining the Warren Act Trust Fund and use of funds, affiliated committees and responsibilities of parties. COMB and the Cachuma Project Authority merged in 1996, with COMB as the successor agency.

Water Rights – The legal right of a user to use water from a water source (i.e., a lake, river, stream, creek, pond, or source of groundwater).

Water Year – A continuous 12-month period for which hydrologic records are compiled and summarized. Different agencies may use different calendar periods for their water years. For the California Department of Water Resources, a water year is October 1 through September 30.

Watershed — A land area from which water drains into a stream, river, or reservoir. The watershed for a major river may encompass a number of smaller watersheds that ultimately combine at a common point.

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Cachuma Operation and Maintenance Board
3301 Laurel Canyon Road
Santa Barbara, CA 93105
www.cachuma-board.org



Mission Statement:

“To provide a reliable source of water to our member agencies in an efficient and cost effective manner for the betterment of life in our communities.”

May 18, 2026

General Manager Report

The following summary provides the Board with information and an overview of progress on current COMB activities.

Administration

- **Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (Audit) for Fiscal Year 2025-26**

Bartlett, Pringle & Wolf, LLP is scheduled to begin the annual comprehensive financial audit for fiscal year ending June 30, 2026. The audit is comprised of the review of the statement of net position, related statements of revenue, expenses and changes in net position, cash flows for the year then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements. It is anticipated the results of the audit will be presented to the Administrative Committee and the Board of Directors in November and December 2026.

- **Internal Operational Annual Work Plans**

In conjunction with the development of the Infrastructure Improvement Plan (IIP) and annual operating budget, internal operational work plans are in the process of being updated by each division. These plans are focused on planning and preparation for the upcoming fiscal year work activities and provide the Division Managers and staff with guidance on scheduling and achieving the completion of varied operational activities performed by COMB staff.

Virtual Meetings

- **Santa Barbara County Integrated Regional Water Management Program (IRWMP)**

Staff virtually attended the quarterly Santa Barbara County IRWMP meeting wherein the attending cooperating partners received updates on SGMA and statewide policy updates, Roundtable of Regions (RTOR) coordination, Proposition 4 and other funding opportunities and the Parajo Watershed Resilience pilot effort.

Proposition 4 represents the most significant near-term funding source across water, wildfire, energy, coastal, and habitat sectors, totaling billions in available funds. Most programs are in development, releasing guidelines, and launching solicitations soon. The Governor’s 2026-27 budget proposal includes plans to appropriate \$2.1 billion in total bond funds, of which \$792 million is allocated for water programs. Agencies with well-developed, “shovel-ready” project will have a clear competitive advantage. Staff continues to research grant funding opportunities for all applicable COMB projects.

- **California Special Districts Association (CSDA)**

Staff attended a CSDA presentation, “Disaster Recovery Checklist & Best Practices for Special Districts,” focused on the growing importance of disaster recovery and data backup planning for public agencies in response to increasing cyber threats, ransomware incidents, natural disasters, and operational disruptions. The presentation emphasized that disaster recovery extends beyond simple data backup and requires a comprehensive, documented plan that establishes recovery priorities, recovery time objectives (RTO), recovery point objectives (RPO), communication protocols, testing procedures, and both onsite and offsite backup strategies.

Key recommendations included regularly testing backup systems, maintaining geographically separated offsite backups, training employees on cybersecurity risks, and ensuring continuity of critical public services during emergencies. COMB’s IT consultant has assisted staff in achieving these recommendations.

Staff Training

- **Confined Space Training**

COMB is required to conduct confined space training every two years. On May 6–7, 2026, staff from all divisions participated in a two-day confined space training exercise conducted by CMC Rescue. The training combined classroom instruction with hands-on field exercises focused on confined space entry, hazard recognition, atmospheric monitoring, rescue procedures, personal protective equipment (PPE), communication systems, and Cal/OSHA compliance requirements. Participants also completed practical exercises at COMB facilities involving equipment setup, retrieval systems, and simulated rescue scenarios. The training enhanced employee safety awareness, emergency preparedness, regulatory compliance, and interdepartmental coordination while reinforcing COMB's commitment to operational safety and risk reduction.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Gingras

General Manager

CACHUMA OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE BOARD

MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 18, 2026
TO: Janet Gingras, General Manager
FROM: Joel Degner, Engineer/Operations Division Manager
RE: **MONTHLY ENGINEERING REPORT**

The following summary provides the Board with information and an overview of progress by engineering staff related to on-going studies and infrastructure improvement projects.

CLIMATE CONDITIONS AND LAKE ELEVATION

The County of Santa Barbara rainfall water year-to-date is 138% of normal with a total of 37.89 inches accumulated at Gibraltar Reservoir (as of 5/11/26). The cumulative inflow as of May 12, 2026 is 200,879 acre-feet (AF) with a total spillway release of over 140,000 AF. The total four-year computed inflow for Bradbury Dam from WY 2023 to 2026 is 931,624 AF through May 12, 2026 which is the wettest four-year period since Bradbury Dam was constructed. The previous wettest four-year period was from Water Year 1995 to 1998 (930,067 AF). According to Water Right Order 2019-0148 this is classified as a Wet Year (>117,842 AF) and Table 2 releases were required starting February 15th. Reclamation declared surplus conditions over on March 20, 2026 and is continuing to transition to Table 2 Flow requirements. According to NWS Climate Prediction Center, El Nino has a 61% chance of emerging in June-August 2026 and persisting at least through the end of 2026 with a 1 in 4 chance of a very strong El Niño (greater than +2.0°C).

WINTER STORM 2024 DAMAGE REPAIRS AND REIMBURSEMENT

Federal disaster was declared in California for the January 31 to February 9th, 2024 storms (DR-4769). COMB has repaired all five damages related to the 2024 Winter Storm prior to the deadline of October 15th, 2025. COMB was denied funding for one damage and has received payment three of the four remaining project to-date. One project is still pending award. COMB applied for a grant for the Lauro Reservoir Bypass Channel Improvements under the 404 Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. Reclamation is nearing completion on the Section 106 process which has been delayed due staff limitations. Once the overall project environmental review is completed the grant for the project has the potential for being issued pending FEMA approval. Table 1 provides a summary of the costs and reimbursements to date.

Table 1. 2024 Winter Storm Damage Summary Table

Site	Cat	Location	Work Type	Estimated Cost	% Complete	Estimated Reimbursible	Received as 4/23/26	FEMA Status
<i>Fiscal Year 2023-24</i>								
COMB Access Road Debris Removal	A	South Portal/Glen Anne Turnout/Sheffield/Lauro	Force Account	\$ 32,636	100%	\$32,636	\$31,208	Funded
Boy Scout Debris Basin Erosion Repairs	D	Lauro Reservoir	Force Account	\$ 7,823	100%	\$7,334	\$7,481	Obligated
<i>Fiscal Year 2024-25</i>								
Lauro Debris Basin Sediment Removal	D	Lauro Reservoir	Contract	\$ 188,885	100%	\$177,080	\$180,621	Funded
Lauro Reservoir Inflow Structure Slide Repairs	D	Lauro Reservoir	Contract&Force Account	\$ 45,000	100%	\$0	\$0	Denied - natural slope damage is not eligible without damaged infrastructure
<i>Fiscal Year 2025-26</i>								
Glen Anne Turnout Road Slump	C	Glen Anne Turnout	Contract&Force Account	\$ 95,000	100%	\$79,688	\$0	Pending Award
Total				\$ 369,344	100%	\$ 296,738	\$ 219,310	

SYSTEM AND WATERSHED SANITARY SURVEY UPDATE

Every three years the California Division of Drinking Water (DDW) performs system sanitary survey inspections for entities with domestic water supply permits. DDW performed the system survey in November 2025 and provided COMB with the inspection report in April 2026. The purpose of the Sanitary Survey is to identify any health concerns related to the water system and to assess the overall construction, operation, maintenance, and management of the water system. No significant deficiencies were identified during the 2025 sanitary survey inspection. DDW did note three items for follow up which COMB provided responses to. These include bee boxes that were located in the pipeline easement for one structure which limited access, updates to downstream sampling requirements if there are positive sampling results, and investigating water streaks observed on the side walls of the covered reservoirs. Most streaking on the side walls is due to internal condensation. CVWD and MWD are responsible for the operation and maintenance of the reservoir covers. COMB staff plans notify CVWD and MWD staff if it notices unusual streaking during rain events during its reservoir inspections but has not identified any issues to date.

LAURO DAM INTAKE STRUCTURE EVALUATION AND DESIGN UPDATE

COMB contracted with GEI to perform a structural evaluation of the intake structure at Lauro Dam that was installed by the City of Santa Barbara in 1980 during the Cater Treatment Plant upgrade. The Intake structure modification included a riser pipe with a stainless steel cylindrical intake screen on top which was attached to the top of the existing concrete intake structure with a bearing plate. During the 2018 dive inspection of Lauro Reservoir, Reclamation identified corrosion issues with the bearing plate and recommended an engineering investigation to determine the sufficiency of the bearing plate to support the intake structure during a seismic event. GEI has determined that the bearing plate is not adequate to support the intake structure during a seismic event and recommends removing the intake structure and replacing the bearing plate with a thicker plate with gussets attached to a shorter riser pipe and re-using the existing intake screen. GEI recommends using stainless steel for the riser pipe and bearing plate to minimize future corrosion. GEI is currently preparing draft designs. Reclamation requires underwater inspections every 8 years but is no longer performing dive inspections with Reclamation divers. Reclamation could have provided a remote-operated vehicle dive inspection out of Boulder, Arizona for the 2026 inspection of the Lauro Dam Intake Structure, however, COMB staff was concerned with using inspection vehicles which may have previously come in contact with dreissenid mussel (quagga) even with strict decontamination protocols. COMB purchased a small dinghy with an electric motor (<\$1,000) to safely get to the top of the intake structure and allow the deployment of COMB's existing underwater drone. COMB staff performed the ROV inspection on May 12, 2026. The intake structure is still intact but the bearing plate shows increased corrosion and pitting which supports the need to continue the design for the replacement of the bearing plate and riser pipe. An additional contracted dive inspection may need to be contracted for measurements of the intake structure and verification of bolting patterns for potential re-use.

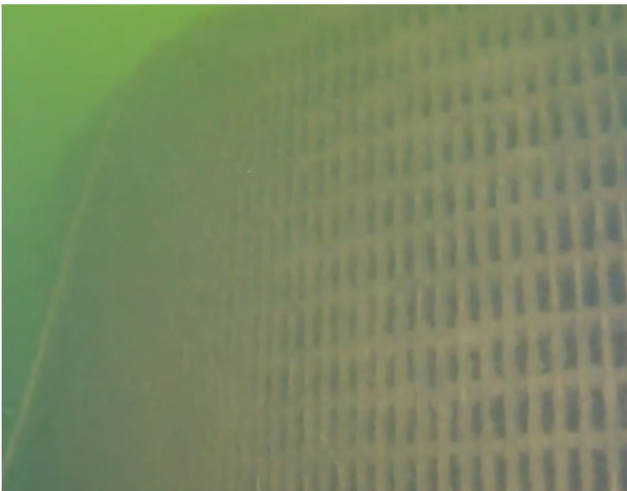


Figure 2. Lauro Dam Intake Structure - Stainless steel cylindrical intake screen (left) and steel bearing plate on top of concrete structure (right)

INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

Table 2 provides the status of Fiscal Year 2025-26 infrastructure improvement and special projects.

Table 2. Fiscal Year 2025-26 Infrastructure Improvement Projects

Infrastructure Improvement Projects	Status / Phase	Complexity / Challenges	Estimated Completion Date
Infrastructure Improvement Projects			
Lauro Outlet Works Tunnel Safety Improvements	Diani completed construction in July 2025. COMB staff installed a floor-mounted davit and upgraded the phone communication system with several additional check-in points along the tunnel. Cushman contracting performed coating maintenance in March 2026. Additional work planned in the tunnel includes hydraulic line maintenance, grouting to prevent water intrusion, and removal of mineral buildup.	The new door reduces the engulfment risk and provides easier access into the Lauro Tunnel to perform needed maintenance work.	June 2026
North Portal Elevator Modifications	RFP to evaluate the elevator and propose modifications is being prepared to send to elevator rehabilitation contractors. COMB contracted for the design of adding stairs and door to the elevator control room at the top of the elevator shaft to improve access for maintenance, inspection, and operation.	High lake levels cause increased seepage in the elevator shaft which can affect electrical sensors and increase corrosion making the elevator less reliable.	Design of control door and stairs June 2026.
SCC Structure Rehabilitation	Several remaining blowoffs need preventative rehabilitation to prevent unplanned outages. All AVARs on the SCC have been raised above grade.	Shutdowns of the SCC are normally planned in low demand months outside of fire season.	Postponed until winter 2026-2027.
Lauro Reservoir Bypass Channel Road Repair	Final designs and bid documents have been prepared. FEMA is waiting on Reclamation environmental review to be complete to provide the funding award. Reclamation is currently conducting tribal and SHPO review for the project.	COMB has requested 404 HGMP mitigation funding for the improvement to the bypass channel.	May 2026 for environmental review. Potential Construction October-November 2026.
Sheffield Tunnel Evaluation and Repair	The tunnel was inspected in April 2025, joint condition assessment completed, contingency plan developed, with alternative repair options evaluation on-going. A topographic survey and cultural resources report have been completed for the project. COMB has contracted for the design of an east portal isolation.	Limited access constraints at the east and west portal as well as limited shutdown windows complicate the development of repair options.	An internal camera inspection is needed to finalize the alternatives analysis. Camera inspection is planned for November-December 2026.
Critical Access Road Maintenance and Repair	Repair work was completed on a portion of Glen Annie Road and a small portion of Lauro Yard parking area. Minor repairs were conducted in Lauro Yard and crack seal and seal coat is planned for the side road up to Glen Anne Turnout.	Pavement repairs are generally scheduled in summer to prevent conflicts with upcoming winter storms.	June 2026

Infrastructure Improvement Projects	Status / Phase	Complexity / Challenges	Estimated Completion Date
Lauro Reservoir Intake Assessment/Repair	The consultant has completed the structural investigation and found the existing baseplate supporting the intake screen is inadequate and recommends replacing the baseplate and supporting pipe the intake screen. Draft designs are currently under preparation.	A dive or remote underwater vehicle inspection of the tower will likely be needed. Reclamation is only performing ROV inspections and the nearest ROV is from the Colorado River system. COMB conducted at ROV inspection separately to avoid any risk of quagga contamination from the Colorado River system.	The consultants is currently preparing the draft engineering designs for review, which will likely be completed by June 2026.
North Portal Intake Tower Seismic Assessment	COMB submitted the project for a grant from the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program for FY 2026. The grant funding has a low probability of award. COMB is revising the scope of the RFP due to unavailability of grant funding.	The intake tower at Lake Cachuma is likely the most vulnerable structure in seismic event in the system. This study would determine how vulnerable it is and how to mitigate the risks.	COMB plans to issue the RFP in June 2026
Critical Control Valve Replacement Project	COMB replaced three valves at Carpinteria Control station during a shutdown for cleaning in early December. COMB purchased the valves for Sheffield control station. Replacing the valves will require a whole station shutdown as leakby is too high on the old valves to perform a partial isolation. Spring has been too dry and warm and planned shutdown for valve replacement was postponed to the late fall/early winter of 2026.	Valves at the control stations are over 70 years old with some valves frozen and other valves unable to isolate without excessive leakby.	Carp CS completed Dec 2025. Nov/Dec 2026 for Sheffield CS
Tecolote Tunnel Concrete Deterioration Investigation and Weephole Cleaning	Reclamation/COMB plans to conduct an initial inspection of the Tecolote Tunnel with an uncrewed vessel in fall 2026. After reviewing the inspection results a focused investigation is planned for the southern 1/3 of the tunnel where concrete deterioration and weephole clogging have been observed in the past.	Inspection limited to winter months. Geothermal water sources (115 deg F) and hydrogen sulfide gases complicate the tunnel inspection and work for personnel	November 2026 for uncrewed inspection vessel. February/March 2027 for focused inspection team.
Meter Replacement Program	COMB's meters require investment to maintain and improve the accuracy of water accounting. The meter planned to be replaced in 2026 is the Sheffield Control Station meter as part of the valve replacement project at the control station. Validation testing of several existing meters was completed in February 2026.	Additional investments into meters may be needed to meet future state regulations.	December 2026 for the Sheffield Meters.
Multi-Site Renewable Energy and Resiliency	COMB was awarded a grant from SBAPCD for the installation of car charger, solar system, and batteries. COMB staff entered in the grant agreement with SBAPCD. COMB is working on a revised proposal for the project to be more commercial scale to meet COMB's needs.	The Cachuma Project is primarily a gravity-driven system with the only energy costs associated with electricity usage related to cathodic protection, lighting and ventilation, office equipment, and vehicle usage.	February 2027
Special Projects			

Infrastructure Improvement Projects	Status / Phase	Complexity / Challenges	Estimated Completion Date
2024 Winter Storm Repairs	Completed construction on all damage locations utilizing force account labor and equipment and contract labor. All repairs were checked frequently and fared well during the winter 2025-26 storms.	Delays in environmental reviews required in-kind repairs versus mitigation solutions.	Complete
COMB Bldg./Ground Repair	The board room roof repair was completed in February. A leak in the Operations Crew Shop was found and repaired. A portion of the wall where the leak occurred will need to be refurbished. The contractor plans to pressure wash the roof. Additional roof improvements were completed for the modular buildings (entry door eaves) and lighting being replaced in the Operations Shop and Board Room to more efficient LED lighting. More efficient windows are also planned for the board room. An ATS also may be installed at Lauro office.	ATS was not included as part of grant proposal. Lauro office remains the only portion of COMB facilities that does not automatically transfer to backup power in a power outage.	June 2026
Water Quality and Sediment Management	COMB staff is preparing a CE-QUAL model for Lake Cachuma. A preliminary model has been developed which models temperature. Additional temperature sensors in the tributaries are planned along with increased phosphorous samples in the tributaries. The water quality buoy was removed, contractor performed evaluation and maintenance including batteries replaced and some electrical system and hardware upgrades.	Water quality has improved substantially as a result of the 2023 and 2024 winters with much lower TOC and reduced algal blooms.	No major projects are planned but model development will continue along with existing data collection activities.

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CACHUMA OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE BOARD

DATE: May 18, 2026
TO: Janet Gingras, General Manager
FROM: Shane King, Operations Supervisor
RE: **MONTHLY REPORT OF OPERATIONS – April 2026**

The total flow from Lake Cachuma into the Tecolote Tunnel for April was 1,271.99 acre-feet, for an average daily flow of 42.40 acre-feet. Lake elevation was 753.08 feet at the beginning of April and 752.03 feet at the end of April. Lake storage decreased by 3,266.45 acre-feet. There was 60.0 acre-feet of inflow from CCWA into Cachuma Project facilities this month. The City of Santa Barbara wheeled 942.49 acre-feet of water from the Gibraltar Penstock through Lauro Reservoir. The Hilton Creek Watering System was utilized and delivered 430.11 acre-feet of water to Hilton Creek for the month of March.

The Operations Division of the Cachuma Operation and Maintenance Board has the responsibility to operate, repair and maintain all Cachuma Project facilities from the Intake Tower at Lake Cachuma to the Carpinteria Reservoir. The Annual Work Plan sets forth all activities necessary to ensure system reliability. Consistent with the Plan, Operation and Maintenance staff performs routine maintenance on the distribution and storage system. Staff continues to improve the system, address deficiencies, and identify items to be included in the Infrastructure Improvement Program of work. Operations Division is responsible for:

- Adequately regulating and maintaining the diversion of water from Lake Cachuma to the South Coast via the Tecolote Tunnel as the primary water source for 5 communities.
- Operation and maintenance of the South Coast Conduit pipeline, which consists of 26.5 miles of pipeline with a combined 124 blow off and air vent structures, 43 turnout structures and 20 meters.
- Operation and maintenance of four regulating reservoirs.

South Coast Conduit - Structure Inventory

Reach	Endpoints	Linear Length (ft)	Pipe Diameter	Regulating Storage Reservoirs	Meters	Air Vents	Blow-Offs	Turnouts	Open Air Vents	Valves	Valve Size	Slide Gates	Capacity / Volume (gal)
Upper	Glen Annie Turnout (S. Portal) - Cater Water Treatment Plant	64,050	48"	2	5	32	35	18	2	115	4" - 48"	7	6,017,421
Lower	Cater Water Treatment Plant - Carpinteria Reservoir	90,910	27" - 36"	2	15	26	31	42	4	144	4" - 36"	-	3,190,171

Routine operation and maintenance completed during the month of March were as follows:

- Staff has been on site monitoring several ongoing projects throughout the area, working closely with the construction and engineering contractors to ensure that:
 - Pipeline easements and the right-of-way remain accessible to Operations staff for possible emergencies and ongoing facility maintenance.
 - All projects are following the COMB and USBR approved plans.
 - No damage occurs to the SCC during the construction process.

Ongoing Monthly Operations Items:

- Conducted several flow changes at the North Portal during the month
- Reviewed several projects for conflicts within the SCC right of way
- Received and responded to 148 USA Dig alerts
- Performed weekly inspections of major facilities, safety meetings, rodent bait (all reservoirs), toe drain, and piezometer reads at Ortega (L23)
- Performed dam inspection and instrumentation reports (all reservoirs)
- Performed equipment and yard maintenance
- Performed monthly North Portal elevator maintenance with Otis
- Performed slide gate exercising on the intake tower at the north portal
- Performed monthly water quality sampling
- Read and document anodes and rectifier data

Safety related items completed these months:

- Installed barrel-mount for the davit arm for the Sheffield Tunnel East Portal to better facilitate confined space rescues and fall arrest systems in getting in and out of the tunnel (see photos).
- Staff performed confined space rescue training scenarios with CMC Pro at the North Portal Elevator, Lauro Tunnel, Sheffield Tunnel Portal, Lateral Vault, Air Vent Vault and Blowoff (see photos)
- Staff simulated rescue of a person from the elevator shaft with a redundant rope system using pulleys, captos, and clutches. Staff also simulated rescues at blow off, air vent, and lateral vaults, and at Lauro and Sheffield Tunnels (photos).
- Staff across COMB in Operations, Fisheries, and Admin also received confined space attendant, entrant, and supervisor training from CMC Pro.
Tailgate safety meeting discussions include:
 - Fatigue on the Job
 - Food Allergies Safety
 - Hydrogen Sulfide (H₂S) safety
 - Dangers of confined space

Future safety related item goals to be completed next month:

- Order life jackets to be stored inside Ortega and Carpinteria Reservoirs
- Replace outside lighting on the North Portal control building
- Obtaining quotes to replace the garage door at the north portal control building
- Weekly tailgate safety meeting and discussions

In addition to regular activities described above, Operations staff performed the following:

- COMB hired Yellowfin to clean and paint the Glen Anne Turnout Building. GWD recently painted the nearby chlorination building for the Goleta West Conduit and the Glen Anne Turnout is being painted to

match the chlorination building. Portions of the Glen Anne Turnout concrete building that were buried were exposed during the 2012 MURRP project and have never been painted while the upper portion had.

- COMB staff hired Zac Gonzalez Landscaping to trim the trees along Sheffield Control Station Access Road. Several branches would limit the ability to bring in a excavator need for upcoming Sheffield Control Station Valve replacement work.
- COMB performed an underwater video inspection of the Lauro Intake Structure with its underwater drone. COMB purchased a small lightweight boat (dinghy) with an electric trolling motor to safely navigate to the middle of the lake to perform the inspection. The boat will be also useful in the maintenance of the water quality at Lake Cachuma.
- COMB staff hired Landers roofing to add eaves to the Fisheries and Admin Office entrance and make some repairs to covered porch between COMB's offices.
- Operations staff installed a manhole riser of the existing septic tank to facilitate future clean outs.
- COMB staff performed weed abatement around Lauro Reservoir roads.
- COMB staff assisted Limnotech with the watershed sanitary site visits for Lauro Reservoir, Gibraltar Reservoir, Upper Santa Ynez River Recreation Area, Lake Cachuma, North Portal, and Bradbury Dam.

Confined Space Rescue Training



Sheffield Control Station Access Road Trees Trimmed



Lauro Intake Structure Underwater Video Inspection



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CACHUMA OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE BOARD
BOARD MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 18, 2026
TO: Janet Gingras, General Manager
FROM: Tim Robinson, Fisheries Division Manager
RE: MONTHLY FISHERIES DIVISION REPORT

HIGHLIGHTS:

- 2000 Biological Opinion target flows have been met by Reclamation through Lake Cachuma releases:
 - Hilton Creek (minimum of 2 cfs): Hilton Creek Watering System (HCWS) gravity flow to the Upper Release Point (URP) and Lower Release Point (LRP) (approximately 7.1 cfs) with approximately 0.75 cfs baseflow from the upper basin, together provided streamflows greater than target flows, which have been sustaining the *O. mykiss* population in the creek.
 - Highway 154 Bridge and Alisal Bridge (minimum 20 cfs): Given that it is a wet year and cumulative lake inflow was well over 33,707 af, WRO 2019-0148 Table 2 flows are required as of 2/16/26. Releases are meeting target flows well above the current target flow rate and are sustaining the LSYR fishery.
- Lake Cachuma started spilling on 12/26/25 and Reclamation declared the spill was over at the end of the day on 3/20/26.
- The LSYR lagoon opened to the ocean on 11/19/25 and remains open.

In compliance with the 2000 Cachuma Project Biological Opinion (BiOp) (NMFS, 2000) and WR Order 2019-0148, and as described in the 2000 Lower Santa Ynez River Fish Management Plan (SYRTAC, 2000) and the Monitoring Program in the 2000 Revised Biological Assessment (BA), the COMB-FD staff conducts routine monitoring of the steelhead/rainbow trout population and their habitat on the LSYR and tributaries below Bradbury Dam. The following is a list of activities carried out by COMB-FD staff since the last COMB Board Fisheries Division Report and has been broken out into categories.

LSYR Steelhead Monitoring Elements:

Lake Profiles: Lake Cachuma water quality measurements (temperature, dissolved oxygen concentration, pH, and turbidity) at one-meter intervals from the surface to the bottom of the lake (Lake Profile) are taken once a month at the Hilton Creek Watering System (HCWS) Intake Barge. This is near the deepest point in the lake and allows for monitoring of lake stratification, water quality conditions at the intake level for the HCWS, and lake-turnover. Due to the previous drought and the need to carefully monitor Lake Cachuma, lake profiles are being taken monthly throughout the year and are reported in the Annual Monitoring Summary/Report.

Stranding Surveys: COMB-FD staff has been conducting stranding surveys within the tributaries of the LSYR basin and the LSYR mainstem during flow cuts of the spill, after high stormflow events, and during the current heatwave. When issues of drying habitats with degraded water quality are discovered, California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) are notified, and they conduct fish rescue/relocation efforts with COMB-FD staff assistance shortly thereafter. Rescued fish are being released upstream or within the LYSR mainstem.

Redd Surveys: Redd surveys are conducted approximately every two weeks from mid-December through May (depending on streamflow conditions). Surveys are conducted within the LSYR mainstem in Highway 154, Refugio, and Alisal reaches where access is permitted, and certain sections of Hilton, Quiota, and Salsipuedes/El Jaro creeks. The number of redds is reported in the Annual Monitoring Report/Summary.

Migrant Trapping: The 2026 Migrant Trapping Plan was provided to Reclamation on 12/18/25 who then submitted it to NMFS thereafter. This monitoring effort normally begins in January and continues through May depending on streamflow rates. The results are presented in the Annual Monitoring Summary. The Hilton Creek and Salsipuedes Creek traps were installed on 1/20/26. The LSYR Mainstem Trap was not installed due to high stormflow and spill conditions. The traps were removed on 4/16/26 when the juvenile 2000 BiOp ITS take limit was reached. The results of the trapping program are presented in the Annual Monitoring Report.

Lagoon Monitoring: The LSYR Lagoon is monitored 1-3 time per week depending on river flow conditions to document if the lagoon is open to the open or if the berm has closed off the river. The results are reported in the Annual Monitoring Report/Summary.

Monitoring Target Flows: Monitoring for the required 2000 BiOp and WR 2019-0148 target flows are conducted by USGS and Reclamation for Hilton Creek and for the LSYR at the Highway 154 Bridge and Alisal Bridge. COMB-FD conducts spot flow measurements when requested.

The minimum target flow of 2 cfs to Hilton Creek was met throughout April and May with HCWS gravity flow to the URP and a small amount to the LRP (approximately 7.1 cfs as recorded by Reclamation). Upper basin baseflows ran throughout the period at about 0.75 cfs for an approximate total of 7.6 cfs or greater as recorded by USGS in Hilton Creek.

Bradbury Dam releases have been keeping river flows at the Highway 154 Bridge and the Alisal Bridge well above Table 2 compliance flows (20 cfs) at both compliance points as recorded by the USGS at each site. Staff will continue to monitor habitat conditions after any flow cuts conducted by Reclamation or stormflow events. Stream temperatures as recorded at the two compliance points have been favorable for the *O. mykiss* population.

The USGS stream gage at the Highway 154 Bridge is operating as designed and contracted. This is a low flow gage that continually records stage but only records river discharges up to 65 cfs. Reclamation continues to work with the State Board to modify Term 18 and Term 25 to officially move the target flow compliance point to the new USGS gage site.

Tributary Project Updates:

All completed tributary projects are in good shape after all storm events in November, December, January and February with only minor repairs to the picket fencing under Quiota Creek bridge crossings.

The CDFW-FRGP grant portal opened on 5/6/26. Staff are filling out the grant application for the Hilton Creek Fish Passage and Habitat Enhancement 2026 Project and the El Jaro Creek Cross Creek Ranch Fish Passage and Habitat Enhancement Project. The grant submittal deadline is 6/4/26 at 3:00 PM.

The second of a two-year project to conduct gravel augmentation in Hilton Creek started on 12/16/25 and has concluded. The final report will be done after the end of the spawning season in the summer.

State Water Board Order WR 2019-0148:

The following tasks were completed as requested by Reclamation for their required compliance with the Order (WRO) 2019-0148.

Terms 18 and 25 (improved discharge monitoring at the Highway 154 compliance point): In 2022, COMB worked with and then contracted the USGS to install a new stream gaging station just upstream of the Highway 154 Bridge on the Lower Santa Ynez River. The site was completed and activated on 10/1/22 and has been performing as designed and contracted since. Reclamation is in the process of obtaining State Board approval for transferring that compliance point. On 3/7/25, Reclamation responded to the State Board letter of 5/9/24. A technical advisory team will be meeting soon to discuss options on measuring the difference in flow rate between the new USGS Highway 154 gage site and the Highway 154 Bridge (approximately 1,200 ft).

Term 19 (monitoring effectiveness of Table 2 flows): In 2023, Reclamation asked COMB staff to facilitate and work with CCRB and the downstream interests to draft the initial Term 19 Study Plan to evaluate the benefits to the downstream fishery from Table 2 flows. Field observations and gained knowledge during the 2023 dry season led to a revised Term 19 Study Plan that is in final revisions with Reclamation. The technical advisory team met on 5/8/25 and a draft final Plan was drafted that is currently being reviewed by the downstream water users. Upon receiving those comments, a follow-up meeting of the Science Review Team will be scheduled.

Term 20 (plan to complete all required plans within the WRO): Reclamation submitted the initial Term 20 Plan on 1/23/20 that was revised on 3/17/20 and an addendum was submitted on 9/16/24 to the State Board. CDFW submitted comments. The State Board approved Reclamation's Term 20 Plan on 8/4/25 with multiple conditions and changes specifically to Term 24(a), Term 24(b), and Term 24(c) study plans. Technical staff from the local interests (CCRB, Parent District, ID#1 and COMB) have met to discuss how best to assist Reclamation. Collective recommendations were sent by CCRB to Reclamation on 10/24/25. Reclamation is reviewing submitted Member Unit comments and to date, has not accepted the Board's approval of the Term 20 Plan. Reclamation had a conference call to discuss coordination efforts with no specific direction determined yet. Further discussions are forthcoming.

Term 24(a)(fish passage around Bradbury Dam): Reclamation organized a weeklong Value Planning Study (VPS) session from 9/16/24 to 9/20/24 to discuss the feasibility for fish passage around Bradbury Dam. COMB staff were requested by Reclamation to participate given our knowledge of the fishery and the Santa Ynez River watershed, plus our participation in previous investigations of similar objectives. The final report from the VPS effort is under review by Reclamation.

Term 27 (annual reporting): This report documents the results of the annual monitoring effort and serves as the required compliance reporting for the 2000 Cachuma Project Biological Opinion and supports Reclamation's required Annual Report for Term 27 of the WRO 2019-0148. The State Board extended the deadline for the Annual Monitoring Reports (AMR) until the end of March. The WY2024 AMR was completed and submitted to Reclamation on 2/10/25 who then shortly thereafter submitted it to NMFS and CDFW for comments. Reclamation received comments from CDFW only on 3/27/25 on the WY2024 AMR and no further action was taken.

Cachuma Project Biological Assessment:

During 12/9/25 and 1/13/26 Coordination calls, Reclamation asked CCRB and local interests' technical staff to assist in coordinating the review of the draft Biological Assessment (BA) for the Cachuma Project. Once completed, the BA will be submitted to NMFS by Reclamation for consideration in their drafting of a new Cachuma Project Biological Opinion.

Hilton Creek Watering System (HCWS) and Emergency Backup System (HCEBS) Operation and Repairs:

HCWS and HCEBS: The HCWS and HCEBS are owned, operated, and maintained by Reclamation. Reclamation technical staff continues to consider improvement options for the HCWS and HCEBS. The HCWS was initially constructed in 1999 then modified to its current configuration in 2004. Recent and notable changes or repairs to these two Hilton Creek delivery systems are as follows:

- The 1/9/23 storm damaged the HCWS pumping barge and has been non-operable since. An operations team from Friant was on site on 6/24/25 to assess repair needs for the HCWS pumping barge. Once all the needed equipment is compiled, then the needed maintenance will be scheduled.
- Dam tenders detached the north side of the HCEBS floating pipeline across the Stilling Basin on 12/26/25 in association with the start of the spill event. This allowed it to swing freely and in theory be out of harms way during the spill event. There are no plans yet to reattach it.

Bradbury Dam Operations and Repairs:

Bradbury Dam and Outlet Works: Bradbury Dam and the Outlet Works are owned, operated and maintained by Reclamation.

- On 7/21/25, Reclamation had a conference call with COMB to discuss their plans and timing to replace the 30-inch valves with 24-inch valves and the 10-inch valve at the Outlet Works that they hope to do in the winter of 2026-27. On 8/18/25, a conference call was held with COMB to discuss replacement of the 10-inch valve. Reclamation successfully replaced the 10-inch valve (provided by COMB) during the week of 1/12/26. The valve controller was moved into the Outlet Works building, and a shield was installed to limit the amount of spray from the two 30-inch valves.
- The Penstock was recharged on 1/16/26 and the 30-inch valves opened up on 1/17/26 to approximately 180 cfs.
- Further refinements to the 10-inch valve installation took place on 2/10/26.

Surcharge Water Accounting:

The following table summarizes the amount of surcharge water (defined as the amount of storage added to the lake by installing the flashboards to the top of the four radial gates to take the maximum lake elevation from 750 ft to 753 ft) used to date from each of the three accounts (Fish Passage Supplementation, Adaptive Management, and Fish Rearing) plus Unallocated Project Water at the end of last month (Table 1). All numbers are from the Reclamation's Daily Operations Report. The start time for the use of the Surcharge Water Accounts and Project Yield is the day following the last day of full surcharge and the end of the last spill event. The WY2026 spill event started on 12/26/25 and all Surcharge Water Accounts were once again full. The spill ended on 3/20/26 and debiting started thereafter as reflected in Table 1 using the 2021 bathymetric survey values.

Table 1: Summary of the surcharge water accounting and use of Project Yield as of 4/30/26, using the 2021 bathymetric survey data.

Accounts*	Allocation	Amount Used**	Amount Remaining
Units:	(acre-feet)	(acre-feet)	(acre-feet)
Fish Passage Supplementation			
WY2026	3,200	0	3,200
Adaptive Management	500	0	500
Fish Rearing***	5,527	5,527	0
Unallocated Project Water		1,848	-1,848
Total:	9,227	7,375	1,852
* Originally was 9,200 af, 8,942 af in 2008, 9,184 af in 2013, and 9,227 af in 2021.			
** Values as of 4/30/26.			
*** This water is for meeting required target flows. This is not an official account and is what remains after subtracting the other two accounts.			

Reporting / Outreach / Training:

Reporting: Staff have completed the WY2025 Annual Monitoring Summary and Report (AMS and AMR) and have begun working on the WY2026 AMS/R.

Outreach and Training: Outreach continues with Lower Santa Ynez River landowners (specifically in the Quiota Creek and Salsipuedes Creek watersheds), interested parties within the Santa Ynez Valley, and the County on a variety of fisheries related issues. The Senior Resource Scientist gave a presentation at the annual Salmonid Restoration Federation (SRF) conference in Redding on 4/28/26 through 5/1/26 on the LSYR fishery.

Consultant Activity Summary:

HDR Fisheries Design Center (Mike Garello, Shaun Bevan and Anna Mallonee) – HDR has been working on the documentation for the two proposed tributary projects. All tasks were included in their SOW.

Kenneth A. Knight Consulting (Ken Knight) – No work was performed during this period on the established SOW tasks.

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CACHUMA OPERATION & MAINTENANCE BOARD

BOARD MEMORANDUM

Date:	May 18, 2026
Submitted by:	Tim Robinson and Scott Volan
Approved by:	Janet Gingras

SUBJECT: **Progress Report on the Lake Cachuma Oak Tree Restoration Program**

RECOMMENDATION:

The Board of Directors receive information on the status of the Lake Cachuma Oak Tree Restoration Program (Program) and provide direction to staff as appropriate.

SUMMARY:

This memorandum on the Lake Cachuma Oak Tree Restoration Program reflects maintenance completed since June 2025 to the present (6/1/25 – 5/18/26, Table 1). Labor and expenses as well as water usage for the entire fiscal year (7/1/25 – 6/30/26) are tracked separately and reported as necessary as recommended by the Lake Cachuma Oak Tree Committee. COMB staff continues to rely on the Fisheries Division (FD) seasonal employees whenever possible to conduct most of the oak tree work in the field. The 2015 Lakeshore Inventory was completed and reviewed by the Lake Cachuma Oak Tree Committee on 2/25/16, which set the mitigation numbers for the Program. The 2024 Annual Report with the annual inventory and Fiscal Year 2024-25 financials was completed and reviewed by the Lake Cachuma Oak Tree Committee on 8/18/25 and then approved by the COMB Board on 8/25/25 with recommendations for the forthcoming year.

Table 1: Cachuma Oak Tree Program completed maintenance tasks since May 2026.

	June 2025 ¹	July 2025	Aug 2025	Sept 2025	Oct 2025	Nov 2025	Dec 2025 ¹	Jan 2026 ¹	Feb 2026 ¹	Mar 2026 ¹	April 2026 ¹	May 2026 ¹
Year 13 Oaks (2021-2022)	Irrigated Weeded	Irrigated Weeded	Irrigated Weeded	Irrigated Weeded	Irrigated Weeded							
Year 12 Oaks (2020-2021)	Irrigated Weeded	Irrigated Weeded	Irrigated Weeded	Irrigated Weeded	Irrigated Weeded	Deer Cages	Deer Cages	Deer Cages	Deer Cages	Deer Cages	Deer Cages	Deer Cages
Year 11 Oaks (2019-2020)						Deer Cages	Deer Cages	Deer Cages	Deer Cages	Deer Cages	Deer Cages	Deer Cages
Year 10 Oaks (2018-2019)						Deer Cages					Deer Cages	Deer Cages
Year 9 Oaks (2016-2017)												
Year 8 Oaks (2015-2016)												
Year 7 Oaks (2014-2015)												
Year 6 Oaks (2005-2011)												
Year 5 Oaks (2009-2010)												
Year 1-4 Oaks (2005-2009)												
Year 1-3 Oaks (2005-2008)												
Year 2 Oaks (2006-2007)												
Year 1 Oaks (2005-2006)												

¹ Oak tree inventory.

Summaries of specific tasks outside of routine maintenance are presented below.

SPECIFIC TASKS

Tree Irrigating/Weeding

Heavy rainfall early in the water year has eliminated the need for irrigating oak trees. Only spot weeding has been done since the start of the wet season.

Tree Planting

There is no planting of new trees being considered for this year.

Deer Cage Removal

Staff continue to remove deer cages from planted oak trees that are over 6 feet in height (Exhibit A). This will be an ongoing effort for some time.

Annual Inventory

The 2025 Annual Inventory of all year classes started in early December and is expected to continue through the spring. With migrant trapping season coming to an end, staff will be dedicating more time conducting the annual oak tree inventory. This will be the Oak Tree Programs last inventory when the mitigation requirement will be officially completed.

End of Program Plan

A Lake Cachuma Oak Tree End of Program Plan was presented to the Lake Cachuma Oak Tree Committee on 5/17/23 and presented to the COMB Board on 5/22/23 when it was then finalized. The Plan is being followed as presented.

COMMITTEE STATUS:

Lake Cachuma Oak Tree Committee met on 8/18/25 to review the draft 2024 Annual Inventory with Fiscal Year 2024-25 financials. The Committee made the recommendation to continue maintenance on the most recent trees only. The next Committee meeting will be scheduled at the beginning of next fiscal year to review the 2025 Annual Report and Fiscal Year 2025-26 financials

LIST OF EXHIBITS:



Exhibit A: Removing the deer cage from a Year 10 oak tree.



May 2026

Day ¹	Lake Cachuma				Rainfall		Evaporation ³		CCWA Inflow	Release					Computed Inflow ⁵	
	Elevation	Storage ²	Change in Storage	Surface Area						Park Use	Tunnel	Hilton Creek	WR 89-18	Outlet ⁴		Spillway
SHEF Tag→	HL	LS	LC		PP	PPAF	EV	EVAF	QICWA		QUTEC	QUHIL	QUWATR	QU	QS	QI
	ft	acre-feet	acre-feet	acres	inches	acre-feet	inches	acre-feet	acre-feet	acre-feet	acre-feet	acre-feet	acre-feet	acre-feet	acre-feet	acre-feet
30	752.03	189,963														
1	751.98	189,808	(154.8)	3,091.0	-	-	0.220	45.90	-	-	52.68	14.27	-	142.00	-	100.08
2	751.94	189,685	(123.0)	3,089.7	-	-	0.190	39.63	-	-	49.18	14.26	-	136.00	-	116.03
3	751.88	189,501	(184.5)	3,087.8	-	-	0.130	27.10	-	-	51.00	14.29	-	135.00	-	42.84
4	751.84	189,378	(123.0)	3,086.6	-	-	0.130	27.08	-	-	50.19	14.26	-	137.00	-	105.50
5	751.79	189,224	(153.8)	3,085.0	-	-	0.160	33.32	-	-	40.94	14.25	-	134.00	-	68.71
6	751.74	189,070	(153.8)	3,083.4	-	-	0.190	39.54	-	-	48.41	14.26	-	135.00	-	83.43
7	751.68	188,886	(184.5)	3,081.5	-	-	0.160	33.28	-	-	47.74	14.24	-	126.00	-	36.71
8	751.63	188,732	(153.8)	3,079.9	-	-	0.320	66.53	-	-	51.58	14.21	-	124.00	-	102.52
9	751.59	188,609	(123.0)	3,078.7	-	-	0.200	41.56	-	-	48.36	14.24	-	126.00	-	107.13
10	751.54	188,455	(153.8)	3,077.1	-	-	0.240	49.85	-	-	47.31	14.27	-	126.00	-	83.64
11	751.50	188,332	(123.0)	3,075.8	-	-	0.230	47.75	-	-	50.86	14.20	-	126.00	-	115.78
12	751.44	188,147	(184.5)	3,073.9	-	-	0.290	60.17	-	-	46.88	14.24	-	115.00	-	51.74
13	751.37	187,932	(215.3)	3,071.7	-	-	0.120	24.88	-	-	49.51	14.21	-	116.00	-	(10.70)

Total			(2,031.02)		-	-	2.580	536.59	-	-	634.63	185.20	-	1,678.00	-	1,003.41
Minimum	751.37	187,932	(215.31)	3,071.71	-	-	0.120	24.88	-	-	40.94	14.20	-	115.00	-	(10.70)
Average	751.69	188,905	(156.23)	3,081.70	-	-	0.198	41.28	-	-	48.82	14.25	-	129.08	-	77.19
Maximum	751.98	189,808	(123.03)	3,090.98	-	-	0.320	66.53	-	-	52.68	14.29	-	142.00	-	116.03

Comments

1. Data based on 24-hour period ending 0800
2. Storage volume based on 2021 bathymetric survey.
3. Evaporation in inches is the measured pan evaporation. Calculated evaporation in acre feet uses the May pan factor: 81%
4. Indicated outlet release includes any leakage around gates.
5. Computed inflow is the sum of change in storage, releases, and evaporation minus precip on the reservoir surface and CCWA inflow.



**Santa Barbara County Parks Division,
Cachuma Lake Recreation Area
Summary of Aquatic Invasive Species Vessel Inspection Program
and Early Detection Monitoring Program: April 2026**



Cachuma Lake Recreation Area Launch Data – April 2026		
Inspection Data		
Total Vessels Entering Park	853	
Total Vessels Launched	842	
Total Vessels Quarantined	11	
Returning (Tagged) Boats Launched	697	86%
Kayak/Canoe: Inspected, launched	114	14%
4-stroke Engines	*	
2-strokes, w/CARB star ratings	*	
2-strokes, NO emissions ratings	*	
Quarantine Data		
Total Vessels Quarantined	11	
Quarantined 14 days	*	
Quarantined 30 days	11	
Quarantine Cause		
Water on vessel*	*	
Debris on hull*	*	
Plug installed*	*	
From infected county	2	
Ballast tanks*	*	
Boat longer than 24 feet*	*	
Out-of-state	0	
Unspecified*	*	
Mandatory Quarantine All Untagged Boats	11	
Demographic Data		
Quarantined from infected county	2	
Quarantined from SB County	8	
Quarantined from uninfected co	1	

Boat Launch Tags: Boats with Cachuma Lake Boat Launch Tags attach boat to trailer.

No mussel species have been located on any vessel entering Cachuma Lake as of the last day of this month.

* These conditions are no longer being tracked.

EARLY DETECTION MONITORING PROGRAM SUMMARY

Summary: No Dreissenid Mussels were detected, nor Aquatic Invasive Species of any kind.

Inspection Site: Cachuma Lake Reservoir, Santa Barbara County, California.

Plankton Tow Inspection Dates: 2026.04.11

Artificial Substrate & Surface Survey Date: 2026.04.30 2026.04.30

Method: 4 Artificial Substrate Stations; 20 meters /65.61 linear feet of line as well as ramp, dock, anchor, etc.

Surveyors: COSB, Parks Division –Camarillo, Friedli

Lake elevation: Max feet: 753.00, current 752.08ft ; Max acre-feet: 190,119, current: 189,132

Capacity: 99% At of the end of the survey month.