

**WATER RESOURCES & CONSERVATION
COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY MINUTES
Wednesday, January 28, 2026
3:30 p.m.**

ATTENDANCE 

Directors: Aziz Akbari (Chair), John Weed

Staff: Ed Stevenson, Laura Hidas, Gisselle Marcia, Thomas Niesar, Stephanie Nevins, Jon Wunderlich

Public: None

This meeting was conducted in person at the District's Headquarters and virtually by Zoom Webinar and Teleconference, and members of the public were invited to participate. Materials presented to the Committee were posted in advance of the meeting at www.acwd.org and copies of materials as presented are attached to these minutes.

DISCUSSION TOPICS

1. Public Comments: There were no comments from the public.
2. Water Efficiency Master Plan (WEMP) Implementation Status Update for Fiscal Year 24-25: Gisselle Marcia, Water Use Efficiency Specialist, presented an update on implementation of the District's Water Efficiency Master Plan (WEMP), highlighting water savings and major projects and initiatives from Fiscal Year (FY) 2024-25. To date, the District's Water Use Efficiency (WUE) program has achieved an estimated 16,502 acre-feet (AF) of lifetime savings, derived using study-based mechanical savings estimated in the WEMP and an average life of the measures implemented. The WEMP's target cost in dollars per AF saved is \$695/AF, while staff's estimated cost is well below the target at \$139/AF. Staff noted that savings and costs do not include outreach budgeted by the District's Public Affairs team. Staff also noted that costs do not include the District's Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) project hardware and software expenses, they represent WUE staff time related to AMI water use efficiency measures. WUE program highlights for FY 24-25 included: launching the Water Savings Center, presenting at the WaterSmart Innovations Conference, extensive engagement with local community groups, and tracking and ensuring compliance with the State Urban Water Use Objectives (UWUO). Current WUE activities for FY 2025-26 include updating the WEMP to meet the UWUO through 2050, hiring interns to help with UWUO compliance related projects, updating the District's Water Waste Ordinance, and implementing improvements to the Water Savings Center and AMI customer portal. Staff answered questions from the Committee related to the WUE internship positions and the Water Efficient Technology Incentive program for Commercial, Industrial, and Institutional customers. There was also a request to frame water savings using a gallons per day metric in future presentations.
3. Extension of the Yuba Accord Long-Term Water Transfer Program and Potential for District Participation: Laura Hidas, Director of Water Resources, and Thomas Niesar, Water Supply & Planning Manager, provided an update on the Yuba Accord Long-Term Water Transfer Program (Program). Ms. Hidas explained that the Yuba Accord, originally implemented in

2008, provides in-stream water for fish in the lower Yuba River while also allowing for the released water to be transferred to others who can use it downstream. Through a number of different agreements, water is made available for instream flows through surface water reservoir releases and voluntary groundwater substitutions by Yuba Water Agency's member units, which can then be purchased for downstream use as part of the Program. The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) has a water purchase agreement with Yuba Water Agency to purchase water, when available, and deliver it to downstream participating contractors.

Ms. Hidas shared that the original Program agreements expired at the end of 2025, but the Program has been very successful and is being extended through 2050. DWR is amending its water purchase agreement with Yuba Water Agency for the Program to continue to provide this water to participating contractors. State Water Project contractors can sign an amendment to the existing Dry Year Water Purchase Program Agreement with DWR to participate. The District did not participate in the original Program, but staff has confirmed with DWR that the District is able to join the Program at this time by signing the new amendment for the Program. The water costs are built into the amendment and would be incurred only when the District elects to purchase water from the program.

Thomas Niesar, Water Supply & Planning Manager, explained that joining the Yuba Accord has been identified in the Water Resources Master Plan process as a low-risk option for immediate implementation, which will give the District access to routinely available dry-year supply to improve reliability, without a major up-front investment. The program has been in place for more than two decades, with a strong track record and relatively low controversy. Mr. Niesar explained that because the environmental obligations and transfer pathways are already built into the operating framework of the State Water Project, this water can usually move with better reliability than ad-hoc drought transfers.

Staff responded to questions from the Committee and plans to bring this item to the February Board meeting for the full Board to consider.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Topics discussed by the Committee were informational only, and no recommendations were being made.

Alameda County Water District

Water Efficiency Master Plan (WEMP) Implementation Status Update for Fiscal Year 24-25



Gisselle Marcia

Water Use Efficiency Specialist

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Total Savings and Costs to Date

	Fiscal Year (FY) 2020-21	FY 2021-22	FY 2022-23	FY2023-24	FY 2024-25
Annual Savings Achieved in Acre-Feet (AF)*:	64	73	290**	429**	683
Annual Cost*:	\$275,000	\$520,000	\$690,000	\$548,000	\$528,000
New Measures Implemented:	2	2	3	2	NA
Customer Accounts Impacted**:	4,694	5,245	8,070	11,215	10,752

Total Lifetime Savings:
16,502 AF

Overall Cost per AF Saved:
\$139

Target Cost per AF Saved:
\$695

Note: *Savings/Costs do not include Public Affairs outreach budgeted items. They only include Water Use Efficiency (WUE) directed outreach activity savings estimates and expenditures. Costs do not include Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) portal cost, only WUE staff time. **Average is reported for FY 22-23 and FY 23-24 annual savings. Previously, a high and low savings ranged based on estimated AMI savings was reported. ***Accounts impacted do not include AMI portal access (this is ALL customers) but does include an estimated number of customers receiving leak and high usage notifications through AMI.



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Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Highlights

- Launched Water Savings Center - Worked with developer to make improvements/fix issues
- Filled new Water Use Efficiency Specialist 1 position Fall 2024; Added an internship position
- Increased Commercial, Industrial, and Institutional (CII) customer engagement:
 - Water Efficient Technology Incentive (Tesla, Alameda County Fire)
 - Surveys (AC Transit, Forest & Flour)
 - More water-efficient landscape rebate program participation
- Community engagement
 - Advised Girl Scouts projects
 - Events: Earth Day, Imagine a Day Without Water, Landscape Workshops, Tours, Prologis Lunch and Learn, and more
- WaterSmart Innovations Conference Presentation: AMI Discovered a Leak – Now What?
- State Urban Water Use Objectives (UWUO) finalized - First Official Report submitted January 1, 2025
- District water demand forecast revised to meet UWUO; Staff began WEMP analysis to identify ways to meet UWUO
- Projects to ensure compliance with UWUO reporting requirements:
 - Classification of CII accounts
 - Mixed use meter identification and mapping in Waterfluence



Current Fiscal Year Activities

- Hired interns to support UWUO compliance-related projects
- Water Savings Center enhancements to streamline program implementation and reporting
- Continuing to meet UWUO
 - Latest annual report submitted by January 1, 2026
- Updating WEMP to meet UWUO through 2050
- Updating Water Waste Ordinance to include Assembly Bill 1572 prohibitions (ban on irrigating non-functional turf at CII properties)
- Continuing improvements to AMI portal (Survey data collection, customer segmentation, leak/high use thresholds, Chatbot)
- Developing Drip Irrigation Rebate
- Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP) update



Questions?



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