



# Newsletter & AG Water Report

2026 Spring Summer

*“Our Mission is to ensure sustainable groundwater, high-quality drinking water, and supplemental surface water for agricultural use.”*

## Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA)

Stockton East Water District is part of the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority (GWA), which oversees the region’s Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP). The GWA and its 16 local agencies are still waiting for final approval from the Department of Water Resources on recent updates to the plan. While approval is pending, work on the GSP continues.

A key update to the plan is the requirement to develop a groundwater demand management (curtailment) framework. This would only be used if other efforts fail to keep groundwater levels from dropping too low. The framework must be adopted by the GWA this year and will guide future pumping limit plans developed by each agency. The District’s main focus remains avoiding curtailment by expanding in-lieu recharge, which means using surface water instead of pumping groundwater. Through a state grant and the District’s Surface Water Enhancement Grant (SWEG) program, customers have received over \$4 million to build new surface water diversion facilities. Once all projects are completed, these efforts will meet the GSP goal of 19,000 acre-feet of in-lieu recharge.

The District is also exploring additional recharge options, including stormwater capture, new water rights, dry wells, and recharge basins. Landowners interested in partnering with the District are encouraged to contact staff. More information is available at [www.sewd.net/sewd-sgma](http://www.sewd.net/sewd-sgma).

### Surface Water Enhancement Grant Program (SWEG)

SEWD is pleased to announce the successful implementation of a District led grant program developed and executed in 2025. Recognizing the need to support its growers, the Board of Directors approved the Surface Water Enhancement Grant (SWEG) to promote water conservation and increase the use of surface water where feasible. The SWEG Policy was approved on May 27, 2025. The program invited eligible applicants to propose projects focused on conserving water through the conversion of groundwater irrigation to surface water. Funding of up to \$200,000 was available per project.

Through the SWEG Program, SEWD awarded 15 projects that will convert 2,365 acres from groundwater to surface water irrigation, resulting in approximately 6,622 acre-feet per year of in-lieu recharge. This successful program represents a significant step toward achieving groundwater basin sustainability.

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

*The District’s Board of Directors meet regularly every Tuesday at 12:30 p.m. located at 6767 East Main Street Stockton, CA 95215*

- DIVISION 1**—Richard Atkins
- DIVISION 2**—Andrew Watkins
- DIVISION 3**—Ryan Hansen
- DIVISION 4**—Melvin Panizza
- DIVISION 5**—Paul Sanguinetti
- DIVISION 6**—Paul Nakaue, Vice President
- DIVISION 7**—Thomas McGurk, President

### 2026 Dam Installation Schedule

| 2026                    |                        |            |           |
|-------------------------|------------------------|------------|-----------|
| System                  | Site                   | Begin Date | End Date  |
| Calaveras River         | Earth Dam/Bellota Weir | 4/13/2026  | 4/15/2026 |
| Mormon Slough           | Motoike Dam            | 4/16/2026  | 4/17/2026 |
| Mormon Slough           | Fine Road Dam          |            |           |
| Mormon Slough           | Avansino Dam           | 4/20/2026  | 4/20/2026 |
| Mormon Slough           | Hosie Dam              |            |           |
| Mormon Slough           | Bonomo Dam             |            |           |
| Mormon Slough           | Piazza Dam             |            |           |
| Mormon Slough           | Prato Dam              | 4/21/2026  | 4/21/2026 |
| Mormon Slough           | Fujinaka Dam           |            |           |
| Mormon Slough           | Lavaggi Dam            |            |           |
| Mormon Slough           | Panella Dam            | 4/22/2026  | 4/22/2026 |
| Mormon Slough           | Main Street Dam        |            |           |
| Potter Creek            | Lagorio Dam            | 4/23/2026  | 4/23/2026 |
| North Fork Potter Creek | Billingmeier Dam       |            |           |
| North Fork Potter Creek | Motoike Dam #2         | 4/24/2026  | 4/24/2026 |
| Potter Creek            | Drais Road Dam         |            |           |
| Mormon Slough           | 8000 Pump              | 4/27/2026  | 4/27/2026 |
| Old Calaveras River     | Clements Dam           |            |           |
| Mosher Creek            | Lyons Dam              | 4/28/2026  | 4/28/2026 |
| Old Calaveras River     | Murphy Dam             |            |           |
| Old Calaveras River     | Pezzi Dam              | 4/28/2026  | 4/28/2026 |
| Old Calaveras River     | Tully Dam              |            |           |
| Mosher Creek            | Tully-Mosher Dam       | 4/28/2026  | 4/28/2026 |
| Old Calaveras River     | 8 Mile Dam             |            |           |
| Duck Creek              | Sanguinetti Dam        | 4/28/2026  | 4/28/2026 |
| Mosher Creek            | Bear Creek Diversion   |            |           |
| Mosher Creek            | Cotta-Ferreira Dam     | 4/29/2026  | 4/29/2026 |
| Old Calaveras River     | Solari Dam             |            |           |
| Old Calaveras River     | Cherryland Dam         | 4/29/2026  | 4/29/2026 |
| Old Calaveras River     | McAllen Dam            |            |           |
| Mosher Creek            | Lefler Dam             |            |           |



### 2026 Spring Water Supply Outlook

More rain is expected this winter, and weather forecasts show above-average precipitation through March. If those forecasts are accurate, New Hogan Reservoir should have enough water to support the 2026 irrigation season, and beyond, with a full allocation. The 2024–2025 water year turned out to be close to average, which is good news in today’s climate. Stockton East Water District received full water allocations from both of our water supplies last year. Even though less water flowed into New Hogan Reservoir than expected, the District continues working closely with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to hold as much water as possible while still meeting flood safety rules. As of January 21, New Hogan Reservoir held about 179,500 acre-feet of water.

New Melones Reservoir is also in strong shape. It currently holds more than 1.76 million acre-feet of water and is not close to its flood control limit. This means there should be plenty of water available to meet irrigation needs in 2026. However, Stockton East’s water supply from New Melones does not depend on how much water is in the reservoir. Instead, it depends on the San Joaquin River Index, which is based on river conditions. Based on forecast information, the District expects an above-normal water year and another full allocation from New Melones. That said, the official allocation may not be confirmed until May.

Updates to this tentative schedule will be posted online on SEWD’s website: [www.sewd.net](http://www.sewd.net)

# Calaveras River Watershed Resilience Plan Nears Completion

Stockton East Water District (SEWD), in partnership with Calaveras County Water District (CCWD), is finalizing the Calaveras River Watershed Resilience Plan, scheduled for submission to the California Department of Water Resources by March 31, 2026. The Calaveras River Watershed is one of five pilot watersheds selected statewide to help inform California's long-term climate resilience planning. Developed over 16 months, the Plan evaluates climate-related risks to water supply, groundwater, wildfire, infrastructure, and ecosystems, and identifies strategies to improve watershed resilience. It combines advanced technical modeling with local knowledge to support coordinated water and land management decisions.

Stakeholder engagement was central to the effort. SEWD and CCWD worked with a diverse Watershed Network—including residents, Tribes, growers, agencies, and community organizations—to ensure the Plan reflects local priorities. Following submission, the draft Plan and supporting materials will be available on SEWD's website.

## Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP)

SEWD has completed the fourth full calendar year implementing the Calaveras River Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP). SEWD and our biologist, FISHBIO, have been collecting operational and environmental data for the HCP. The historical data is on the SEWD website, [www.sewd.net/hcp](http://www.sewd.net/hcp), which will also host all future reports, including the annual report currently in development. In 2025 SEWD made steady progress on several projects and activities:

- Ongoing design and permitting for three fish passage improvement projects, the largest project being the Bellota Fish Screen and Passage Improvement Project, which broke ground in the summer of 2025.
- Installed flow sensors at key flow measurement locations.
- Captured 714 Central Valley steelhead/rainbow trout in FISHBIO's Rotary Screw Trap.

SEWD is also partnering with the Family Water Alliance to develop funding for fish screen installations on private diversions from the upper Calaveras River and Mormon Slough. Please reach out to SEWD staff if you are interested in fish screen funding.

## Agriculture/Irrigation

### Pump Testing

Free Pump & Irrigation Efficiency Tests for Agriculture Water Irrigators. If you are interested in saving both water & energy this year on your Agricultural Irrigation, contact Stephen Bonnesen, SEWD's Water Supply Supervisor at (209) 871-6370 to take advantage of this Program and schedule your test today! Funding is limited.

## Aerial Spraying Notification Program

In 1997, the District implemented a voluntary Aerial Spraying Notification Program. Aerial spraying around the District's water treatment plant, Lower Farmington Canal, Upper Farmington Canal and natural creeks are of concern to the District. If you use an aerial spraying company which applies chemicals to treat your crops around these areas, please remind the company to contact the District at least 24-hours in advance of spraying at (209) 871-6370 and provide the following information: parcel to be sprayed, chemical to be sprayed, time to be sprayed, material safety data sheet and contact information (name & phone number).

## District Staff

### ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT

Justin M. Hopkins, General Manager

### FINANCE

Priya Ram, Director of Finance & Administration  
Alejandra Rangel, Accounting Supervisor

### OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT

Juan Vega, Assistant General Manager  
Jim Wunderlich, Water Operations Manager  
Kyle Brothers, Chief Plant Operator

### ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

Darrel Evensen, District Engineer

### MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT

David Higare, Maintenance & Construction Manager  
Aaron Riojas, Maintenance Supervisor  
Paul Teixeira, Electrical Supervisor

### WATER SUPPLY DEPARTMENT

Chris Donis, Water Supply Manager  
Stephen Bonnesen, Water Supply Supervisor

### WATER CONSERVATION

Kristin Coon, Water Conservation Coordinator

## CONTACT US

|                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| Administration     | (209) 948-0333                                   |
| Treatment Plant    | (209) 948-0537                                   |
| Ag Water Order     | (209) 469-3335                                   |
| Water Conservation | (209) 444-3126                                   |
| Fax                | (209) 948-0423                                   |
| District Website   | <a href="http://www.sewd.net">www.sewd.net</a>   |
| District Email     | <a href="mailto:sewd@sewd.net">sewd@sewd.net</a> |

6767 East Main Street or Post Office Box 5157  
Stockton, CA 95215 Stockton, CA 95205

## SEWD IN THE COMMUNITY



SEWD staff enjoy giving back to the community! In October 2025, staff donated bags of candy to the Garden Acres Community Center as a special Halloween treat for the ghosts and ghouls of the Center. Additionally, in November 2025, District staff donated ~164-lbs. of non-perishables to the Emergency Food Bank of Stockton.

\*See picture on left of SEWD staff and Garden Acres staff.

## SAWS in School!



The Stockton East Water District (SEWD) is a member of the Stockton Area Water Suppliers (SAWS), an alliance of water agencies that includes the City of Stockton, San Joaquin County, California Water Service Company and SEWD. SAWS sponsors the SAWS Water Education Program, which provides six standards-based, in-class water education presentations along with special event programs and facility tours. The SAWS Water Education Program connects content and Next

Generation Science Standards (NGSS) to water education to raise water awareness in our youth. Any school with a Stockton address is eligible for this fun, free, science-based educational program. In the above photo, students in Ms. Sam's third grade classroom at Ansel Adams Elementary School learn about properties of water and the importance of clean water in our environment during an experiment that demonstrates how water molecules react to added substances.

The SAWS Water Education Program visits over 300 Stockton area K-6 classrooms every year to teach water science, conservation and awareness. All SAWS instructors are approved for entry into the classroom by the four school districts in our service area. To learn more about the SAWS Water Education Program, visit SEWD's web page at <http://www.sewd.net/conservation-education>.