

AGENDA
IRVINE RANCH WATER DISTRICT
SUPPLY RELIABILITY PROGRAMS COMMITTEE
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2026

This meeting will be held in-person at the District’s headquarters located at 15600 Sand Canyon Avenue, Irvine, California. The meeting will be held on the second floor in the Committee room, please check in with the receptionist for access. The meeting will also be broadcasted via Webex for those wanting to observe the meeting virtually.

To observe this meeting virtually, please join online using the link and information below:

Via Web: <https://irwd.webex.com/irwd/j.php?MTID=mbd3e501b6fafbdc09ac5ee4def616878>

Meeting Number (Access Code): 2496 570 3091

Meeting Password: xyDbpAED322

As courtesy to the other participants, please mute your device when you are not speaking.

PLEASE NOTE: Participants joining the meeting will be placed into the Webex lobby when (if) the Committee enters Closed Session. Participants who remain in the “lobby” will automatically be returned to the open session of the Committee once the closed session has concluded. Participants who join the meeting while the Committee is in closed session will receive a notice that the meeting has been locked. They will be able to join the meeting once the Closed Session has concluded.

CALL TO ORDER 1:30 p.m.

<u>ATTENDANCE</u>	Committee Chair:	Dan Ferons	_____
	Committee Member:	Peer Swan	_____

<u>ALSO PRESENT</u>	Paul Cook	_____	Paul Weghorst	_____
	Neveen Adly	_____	Fiona Nye	_____
	Natalie Palacio	_____	Robert Huang	_____
	Melody Seesangrit	_____	_____	_____
	_____	_____	_____	_____
	_____	_____	_____	_____

PUBLIC COMMENT NOTICE

If you wish to address the Committee on any item, you may attend the meeting in person and submit a “speaker slip” to the Committee Chair. Forms are provided at the front of the Committee Room. Public comments are limited to three minutes per speaker on each subject. If you wish to submit written comments to the Committee, please submit your public comment in advance of the meeting by emailing comments@irwd.com before 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, October 13, 2026, and your remarks will be added to the record at the meeting.

COMMUNICATIONS

1. Notes: Weghorst
2. Public Comments
3. Determine the need to discuss and/or take action on item(s) introduced that came to the attention of the District subsequent to the agenda being posted.
4. Determine which items may be approved without discussion.

INFORMATION

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| 5. <u>WATER BANKING PROJECT FACILITIES, CAPACITIES, OPERATIONS, AND PROGRAMS – PALACIO / NYE / WEGHORST</u> | |
|---|--|

Recommendation: Receive and file.

ACTION

- | | |
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| 6. <u>REVISED POLICY PRINCIPLES ON ORANGE COUNTY WATER RELIABILITY IMPROVEMENTS – WEGHORST</u> | |
|--|--|

Recommendation: That the Board approve the Revised Policy Principles Paper on Orange County Water Reliability Improvements.

OTHER BUSINESS

7. Receive Oral Updates from District's liaison to Dudley Ridge Water District and provide information on relevant activities.
8. Directors' Comments
9. Adjourn

Availability of agenda materials: Agenda exhibits and other writings that are disclosable public records distributed to all or a majority of the members of the above-named Committee in connection with a matter subject to discussion or consideration at an open meeting of the Committee are available for public inspection in the District's office, 15600 Sand Canyon Avenue, Irvine, California ("District Office"). If such writings are distributed to members of the Committee less than 72 hours prior to the meeting, they will be available from the District Secretary of the District Office at the same time as they are distributed to Committee Members, except that if such writings are distributed one hour prior to, or during, the meeting, they will be available electronically via the Webex meeting noted. Upon request, the District will provide for written agenda materials in appropriate alternative formats, and reasonable disability-related modification or accommodation to enable individuals with disabilities to participate in and provide comments at public meetings. Please submit a request, including your name, phone number and/or email address, and a description of the modification, accommodation, or alternative format requested at least two days before the meeting. Requests should be emailed to comments@irwd.com. Requests made by mail must be received at least two days before the meeting. Requests will be granted whenever possible and resolved in favor of accessibility.

October 13, 2026
Prepared by: N. Palacio
Submitted by: F. Nye / P. Weghorst
Approved by: Paul A. Cook 

SUPPLY RELIABILITY PROGRAMS COMMITTEE

WATER BANKING PROJECT FACILITIES, CAPACITIES, OPERATIONS, AND PROGRAMS

SUMMARY:

Staff has prepared information related to IRWD's water banking facilities, capacities, operations, and exchange programs. The information is regularly updated to reflect changes in the status of IRWD's projects, programs, and operations. At the Committee meeting, staff will review this information, provide an overview and status of IRWD's exchange programs, and discuss forecasted monthly recharge operations for 2026 and 2027. Staff will also provide an update on water supply conditions in California.

BACKGROUND:

Staff has prepared reference materials in tabular, map, and schematic formats to describe IRWD's water banking facilities, capacities, operations, storage, and exchange programs. These reference materials are updated regularly to reflect changes in the status of the projects, programs, and operations. The following is an overview of the reference materials, the status of IRWD's exchange programs and forecasted recharge operations for calendar years 2026 and 2027 at the IRWD Water Bank.

Capacity and Operations Tables:

A table presenting storage, recharge, and recovery capacities of existing IRWD water banking projects, including capacities available to IRWD in the Kern Water Bank, is provided as Exhibit "A". Staff is working with Rosedale-Rio Bravo Water Storage District to estimate IRWD's share of storage, recharge, and recovery capacities associated with Phase 1-Kern Fan Project facilities. These estimates will be incorporated into Exhibit "A" in the near future. Exhibits "B" and "C" provide an update on water banking recovery and recharge operations as well as the balance of the water stored in the Kern Water Bank. Exhibit "B" provides before-loss estimates of water recharged and stored at the water banking projects. Exhibit "C" shows after-loss estimates of water recharged and stored at the projects. There are no changes to Exhibits "B" and "C" this month.

Summary of Programs:

A table summarizing IRWD's water purchase and exchange programs is presented as Exhibit "D". This table lists each water purchase and exchange program IRWD has entered into, and presents information related to the type of exchange, year executed, agreement type, and water type. IRWD and partner shares are listed, and the table shows the accumulated total amount of water secured by each program. The balances listed for IRWD and its partners show the amount of water remaining in storage with IRWD's balances specifying whether the water is

stored in the Metropolitan Water District system, Kern County, or owed to IRWD by Dudley Ridge. The change shown on Exhibit “D” reflects that IRWD’s existing program with Las Virgenes Municipal Water District (LVMWD) results in a 2-for-1 exchange.

Exhibit “E” graphically depicts how storage of State Water Project (SWP) and non-SWP water has changed annually in the Strand and Stockdale Integrated Banking Projects. Exhibit “E” also depicts the balance of water owed to IRWD by Dudley Ridge shown as credits, which are now zero acre-feet. The tables provided as Exhibit “F” show how capacities in the water banking projects have been dedicated to IRWD’s existing and proposed exchange programs. Exhibit “F” has been updated to include the capacities allocated to the existing and the Board-approved amendment to the Storage and Exchange Program with LVMWD.

Project Maps:

To support the tables and figures provided as Exhibits “A”, “B”, “C”, “D”, “E”, and “F”, staff has prepared maps depicting project wells, pipelines, recharge basins, and Cross Valley Canal turnout locations, along with the most current recharge rates. These maps are provided as Exhibits “G”, “H”, and “I”, respectively. Exhibit “I” includes the expected recharge rates for the end of 2026 at the IRWD Water Bank. The facilities shown on the maps are associated with the Strand Ranch, Stockdale West, Stockdale East, and Drought Relief Projects. Staff will update these maps to include Kern Fan Project facilities as they come available for operations.

Program Agreement Diagrams:

Schematic diagrams have been prepared that depict IRWD water banking and exchange programs with Rosedale-Rio Bravo Water Storage District, Buena Vista Water Storage District, Dudley Ridge, Metropolitan, Antelope Valley-East Kern Water Agency (AVEK), and Santa Clara Valley Water District (Valley Water). These diagrams are provided as Exhibits “J”, “K”, “L”, “M”, “N”, “O”, “P”, and “Q” as described in the List of Exhibits.

Cost of Water Tables:

A summary of the costs of water from each of IRWD’s unbalanced exchange partnerships through the year 2023 is provided as Exhibit “R”. Exhibit “R” provides a summary of the cost to recover exportable water from the IRWD Water Bank and deliver it to IRWD’s service area. The table lists each of IRWD’s unbalanced exchange partnerships and presents information related to the period over which water was acquired, water type, IRWD’s share of water, various cost components, and the total cost of water delivered to IRWD’s service area. Cost components include a *Cost of Water* made up of fixed and variable operating costs plus a capital cost of water, estimated future IRWD recovery costs, and the 2026 Metropolitan Full Service Untreated Rate. The costs of water are presented on a dollar per acre-foot basis. Exhibit “R” will be updated periodically as invoices are received from Rosedale.

IRWD's Coordinated Operating Agreement with Metropolitan

An overview of IRWD's current Coordinated Operating, Water Storage, Exchange, and Delivery Agreement with Metropolitan and Municipal Water District of Orange County (Coordinated Operating Agreement) is provided as Exhibit "S". Upon execution of the recently approved amendment to the Coordinated Operating Agreement, staff will update the benefits articulated in Exhibit "S".

Status of Programs and Forecasted 2026 Recharge Activities:

Exhibit "T" provides a summary of anticipated recharge operations for 2026 and 2027. Deliveries from Homer LLC and Metropolitan have been removed from the recharge forecast. Currently, staff expect deliveries from Dudley Ridge by the end of the month and deliveries from Valley Water and AVEK toward the end of the year.

Update on Valley Water Program:

Valley Water is working with the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) in finalizing a State Water Project Analysis Office (SWPAO) agreement to deliver water to the IRWD Water Bank before the end of 2026. Should the agreement not be ready in time, Valley Water is seeking approval to pre-deliver the water in accordance with prior actions allowed by DWR.

Update on Water Purchase from AVEK:

AVEK will work with DWR to deliver water that IRWD is expecting to purchase from AVEK in 2026. The purchased water will be used to expand the existing IRWD/LVMWD Water Storage and Exchange Program consistent with principles approved by the IRWD Board on September 28. IRWD special legal counsel is in the process of amending the Water Storage and Exchange Program agreement for execution in early November. The amendment will require LVMWD to reimburse IRWD for all the purchased water expected from AVEK. The IRWD/AVEK water purchase agreement is expected to be executed in early November.

To expedite deliveries, AVEK will pursue delivery of the purchased water through an amendment to an existing SWPAO agreement that implements IRWD's 2-for-1 program with AVEK. A new separate SWPAO agreement will be prepared over the next few months to facilitate transfer of AVEK's share of the water to IRWD through Metropolitan. Staff estimates that the AVEK deliveries to the IRWD Water Bank will begin in mid-to-late November.

Water Supply Conditions:

At the meeting, staff will update the Committee on California water supply conditions and how conditions might affect recharge operations at IRWD's Water Bank

FISCAL IMPACTS:

None.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE:

Not applicable.

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive and file.

LIST OF EXHIBITS:

- Exhibit “A” – Recharge, Storage, and Recovery Capacities of Current and Anticipated Water Banking Projects
- Exhibit “B” – Water Banking Storage, Recharge, and Recovery Operations before Losses
- Exhibit “C” – Water Banking Storage, Recharge, and Recovery Operations after Losses
- Exhibit “D” – Status of IRWD Purchase and Exchange Programs
- Exhibit “E” – Historic Water Storage in Strand and Stockdale Projects
- Exhibit “F” – Dedicated Capacities of Current Water Banking Projects
- Exhibit “G” – Map of Water Banking Project Wells and Pipelines
- Exhibit “H” – Map of Water Banking Recharge Basins and Turnout Facilities
- Exhibit “I” – Map of Water Banking Recharge Rates
- Exhibit “J” – Diagram of IRWD-Rosedale Water Banking and Exchange Program Agreements
- Exhibit “K” – Diagram of Long-term Water Exchange Program with Buena Vista Water Storage District and Diagram of One-year Program to Augment Recharge Using Stockdale West Recharge Facilities with Buena Vista Water Storage District
- Exhibit “L” – Diagram of Unbalanced Exchange Program Diagram with Dudley Ridge
- Exhibit “M” – Diagram of Coordinated Operating, Water Storage, Exchange, and Delivery Agreement with Metropolitan
- Exhibit “N” – Diagram of Template Wheeling Agreement with Metropolitan
- Exhibit “O” – Diagram of Dudley Ridge One-for-One Exchange
- Exhibit “P” – Diagram of Long-term Water Exchange Program with Antelope Valley-East Kern
- Exhibit “Q” – Diagram of Long-term Water Exchange Program with Valley Water
- Exhibit “R” – Summary of Benefits in the Current Coordinated Operating, Water Storage, Exchange and Delivery Agreement with Metropolitan and MWDOC
- Exhibit “S” – Water Banking Estimated Cost of Water Exportable to IRWD Service Area
- Exhibit “T” – Forecasted 2026 and 2027 Recharge Operations

Exhibit "A"

TABLE 1
Current and Anticipated Water Banking Projects
Recharge, Storage and Recovery Capacities
October 13, 2026

WATER BANKING PROJECT	OWNERSHIP AND WELL INFO		ALLOCATED CAPACITY (AF)					1 ST PRIORITY RECOVERY CONDITIONS (CFS)		2 ND PRIORITY RECOVERY CONDITIONS (CFS)	
	IRWD OWNED	WELLS EXISTING	TOTAL STORAGE CAPACITY	ANNUAL RECHARGE 1 ST PRIORITY	ANNUAL RECHARGE 2 ND PRIORITY	ANNUAL RECOVERY 1 ST PRIORITY	ANNUAL RECOVERY 2 ND PRIORITY	RECOVERY CAPACITY AS PLANNED ¹	RECOVERY CAPACITY (Average Daily Production 1/1/2021 - 7/31/2022)	RECOVERY CAPACITY AS PLANNED	RECOVERY CAPACITY CURRENT CONDITIONS
Strand Ranch	Yes	7	50,000	17,500	-	17,500	-	40.0	20.5	-	-
Stockdale West	Yes	3	26,000	27,100	-	11,250	-	15.0	11.6	-	-
Stockdale East	No	2	-	-	19,000	-	7,500	-	-	10.0	9.0
IRWD Acquired Storage Account ²	No	-	50,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Drought Relief Project Wells ²	No	3	-	-	-	-	-	15.0	16.5	-	-
Kern Water Bank Storage Account ⁴	No	-	9,495	3,200	-	1,520	>5,000	-	-	-	-
TOTALS		15	135,495	47,800	19,000	30,270	12,500	70.0	48.6	10.0	9.0
Partner Capacities ³			38,000	22,300	9,500	10,850	0	35.5	25.0	-	-
IRWD Capacities (does not include Kern Water Bank capacities)			88,000	22,300	9,500	17,900	7,500	34.5	25.0	-	-
IRWD's recovery <i>during</i> 6 month partner recovery period (AF)								12,420	9,000	-	-
IRWD's recovery <i>after</i> 6 month partner recovery period (AF)								5,480	6,733	-	-
TOTALS (AF)								17,900	15,733	-	-
Number of months needed to recover IRWD's total AF after partners' recovery (Assumes IRWD has use of total recovery capacity after partners' recovery)								8.6	10.2	-	-
Strand Ranch monthly recharge amount assuming 0.3 ft/day average recharge rate (AF)										4,518	
Stockdale West monthly recharge amount assuming 0.3 ft/day average recharge rate (AF)										2,331	

¹ Based on designed Strand recovery capacity assuming 370' bgs. Assumes 5 cfs for each of the Stockdale West and Drought Relief wells in order to meet IRWD's Water Banking, Transfers, and Wheeling policy position. Assumes partners' water is recovered over 6 months.

² IRWD has use of Acquired Storage and Drought Relief Project wells until January 12, 2039, unless the term of the agreement is extended.

³ One half of storage capacity at Stockdale West and Strand Ranch will be allocated for partners.

⁴ Kern Water Bank capacities based on 6.58% of Dudley Ridge Water District's 9.62% share of the Kern Water Bank. Annual recharge amount is based on an average of recharge rates for high and low groundwater level conditions. 5,000 AF of recovery capacity may be available for second priority use.

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Exhibit "B"

TABLE 2
IRWD's Water Banking Storage, Recharge and Recovery Operations - BEFORE LOSSES
October 13, 2026

TRANSACTIONS	WATER BANKING ENTITY								TOTAL BY WATER TYPE AND STORAGE LOCATION
	IRWD		BUENA VISTA (BVWSD)	CENTRAL COAST (CCWA)	ANTELOPE VALLEY- EAST KERN (AVEK)	VALLEY WATER	LAS VIRGENES	DUDLEY RIDGE WATER DISTRICT (DRWD) ³	
	SWP ¹	NON-SWP ²	NON-SWP	SWP	SWP	SWP	SWP	SWP	
BEGINNING WATER IN STORAGE 2025 (AF)									
Total Kern Water Bank ⁴	-	5,482	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,482
Total MWD System	12,033	-	-	-	-	-	-	43	12,076
Total Kern County	17,547	20,598	11,181	225	3,536	-	-	1,218	54,305
Total DRWD 1-for-1 Long Term Exchange Credit ⁵	5,330	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,330
TOTAL STORED WATER (1/1/2025)	34,910	26,080	11,181	225	3,536	-	-	1,261	77,193
(RECOVERY) AND RECHARGE IN 2025 (AF)									
DRWD Supplemental Water ⁶	-	235	-	-	-	-	-	-	235
KWB Recovery for use on Jackson Ranch ⁷	-	(232)	-	-	-	-	-	-	(232)
2025 SWP Allocation (50%) Est.	439	-	-	-	-	-	-	438	877
DRWD 1-for-1 Long Term Exchange- Predelivery Est. ^{9, 10}	3,000	-	-	-	-	-	3,000	-	6,000
DRWD 1-for-1 Long Term Exchange (Recharge) Est. ¹¹	4,689	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,689
Buena Vista Recovery	-	-	(10,112)	-	-	-	-	-	(10,112)
TOTAL 2025 TRANSACTIONS ⁸	8,128	3	(10,112)	-	-	-	3,000	438	1,457
Total Kern Water Bank ⁴	-	5,485	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,485
Total MWD System	12,033	-	-	-	-	-	-	43	12,076
Total Kern County	25,675	20,598	1,069	225	3,536	-	3,000	1,656	55,759
Total DRWD 1-for-1 Long Term Exchange Credit ^{9,11}	-	(6,000)	-	-	-	-	-	-	(6,000)
TOTAL STORED WATER (1/1/2026)	37,708	20,083	1,069	225	3,536	-	3,000	1,699	67,320
(RECOVERY) AND RECHARGE IN 2026 (AF)									
KWB Recovery for use on Jackson Ranch ⁷	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2026 SWP Allocation (45%) Est.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL ESTIMATED 2026 TRANSACTIONS	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
ESTIMATED WATER IN STORAGE 2026 (AF)									
Total Kern Water Bank ⁴	-	5,485	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,485
Total MWD System	12,033	-	-	-	-	-	-	43	12,076
Total Kern County	25,675	20,598	1,069	225	3,536	-	3,000	1,656	55,759
Total DRWD 1-for-1 Long Term Exchange Credit ^{9,11}	-	(6,000)	-	-	-	-	-	-	(6,000)
TOTAL ESTIMATED STORED WATER TO DATE	37,708	20,083	1,069	225	3,536	-	3,000	1,699	67,320

NOTES: MWD = Metropolitan Water District of Southern California.

¹ IRWD's SWP includes 295 AF from CVWD that stays in Kern County.

² IRWD's Non-SWP total includes 2,403 AF, net of losses, of Kern County Water Agency Article 21 Water.

³ DRWD water supply will be returned by MWD or IRWD's Strand Ranch to IRWD's Jackson Ranch.

⁴ IRWD's KWB Account balance includes SWP, Friant and Kern River water. The KWB account balance is included in the Non-SWP column because it is not exportable to IRWD's service area.

⁵ Per the DRWD Long-Term 1-for-1 Exchange Program, Non-SWP water delivered to DRWD landowners will be returned to IRWD as SWP water at a later date. To account for the SWP water that will be returned at a later date, the amount of water owed will be shown as a credit. Total assumes all water is returned to IRWD Water Bank which adds in a 10% loss factor.

⁶ In 2025, IRWD purchased supplemental water from DRWD on behalf of its lessee for use on Jackson Ranch.

⁷ Water recovered from IRWD's Kern Water Bank account for use on Jackson Ranch.

⁸ Total banking losses for 2025 deliveries to the IRWD bank are estimated to be 762 AF.

⁹ DRWD pre-delivered 6,000 AF of SWP Table A on behalf of landowner Wonderful Orchards under the 1-for-1 long-term exchange program. This water will be exchanged with 6,000 AF of Kern River Water stored in the IRWD Water Bank for use by Wonderful at a later date.

¹⁰ Water stored in the IRWD Water Bank on behalf of Las Virgenes until called upon by Las Virgenes per the Exchange Program Agreement with Las Virgenes. Las Virgenes' call for the water is subject to an amendment to the Coordinated Operating, Water Storage, Exchange, and Delivery Agreement with MWD.

¹¹ The 4,689 AF delivered by DRWD in 2025 fulfills DRWD's remaining obligation associated with deliveries of Kern River Water to DRWD in 2021 and 2022. The difference between the 5,330 AF credit balance shown in 2024 and the 4,689 AF delivered in 2025 is due to losses in the CVC and California Aqueduct. To account for these conveyance losses, the credit balance shown in 2025 has been zeroed out.

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Exhibit "C"

TABLE 3
IRWD's Water Banking Storage, Recharge and Recovery Operations - AFTER LOSSES
October 13, 2026

TRANSACTIONS	WATER BANKING ENTITY								TOTAL BY WATER TYPE AND STORAGE LOCATION
	IRWD		BUENA VISTA (BVWSD)	CENTRAL COAST (CCWA)	ANTELOPE VALLEY-EAST KERN (AVEK)	VALLEY WATER	LAS VIRGENES	DUDLEY RIDGE WATER DISTRICT (DRWD) ³	
	SWP ¹	NON-SWP ²	NON-SWP	SWP	SWP	SWP	SWP	SWP	
BEGINNING WATER IN STORAGE 2025 (AF)									
Total Kern Water Bank ⁴	-	4,934	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,934
Total MWD System	12,033	-	-	-	-	-	-	43	12,076
Total Kern County	14,202	15,098	10,112	193	3,032	-	-	1,045	43,682
Total DRWD 1-for-1 Long Term Exchange Credit ⁵	5,424	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,424
TOTAL STORED WATER (1/1/2025)	31,659	20,032	10,112	193	3,032	-	-	1,088	66,116
(RECOVERY) AND RECHARGE IN 2025 (AF)									
DRWD Supplemental Water ⁶	-	235	-	-	-	-	-	-	235
KWB Recovery for use on Jackson Ranch ⁷	-	(232)	-	-	-	-	-	-	(232)
2025 SWP Allocation (50%) Est. ⁸	417	-	-	-	-	-	-	416	833
DRWD 1-for-1 Long Term Exchange- Predelivery Est. ^{8,9,10}	2,850	-	-	-	-	-	2,850	-	5,700
DRWD 1-for-1 Long Term Exchange Est. ^{8,11}	4,271	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,271
Buena Vista Recovery	-	-	(10,112)	-	-	-	-	-	(10,112)
TOTAL 2025 TRANSACTIONS	7,538	3	(10,112)	-	-	-	2,850	416	695
Total Kern Water Bank ⁴	-	4,937	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,937
Total MWD System	12,033	-	-	-	-	-	-	43	12,076
Total Kern County	21,740	15,098	-	193	3,032	-	2,850	1,461	44,374
Total DRWD 1-for-1 Long Term Exchange Credit ^{9,11}	-	(5,455)	-	-	-	-	-	-	(5,455)
TOTAL STORED WATER (1/1/2026)	33,773	14,580	-	193	3,032	-	2,850	1,504	55,932
(RECOVERY) AND RECHARGE IN 2026 (AF)									
KWB Recovery for use on Jackson Ranch ⁷	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2026 SWP Allocation (30%) Est.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL ESTIMATED 2026 TRANSACTIONS	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
ESTIMATED WATER IN STORAGE 2026 (AF)									
Total Kern Water Bank ⁴	-	4,937	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,937
Total MWD System	12,033	-	-	-	-	-	-	43	12,076
Total Kern County	21,740	15,098	-	193	3,032	-	2,850	1,461	44,374
Total DRWD 1-for-1 Long Term Exchange Credit ^{9,11}	-	(5,455)	-	-	-	-	-	-	(5,455)
TOTAL ESTIMATED STORED WATER TO DATE	33,773	14,580	-	193	3,032	-	2,850	1,504	55,932

NOTES: Water in storage has been adjusted to account for losses. IRWD's water stored in Kern County is adjusted 15% for losses (5% for out of county loss, 6% surface loss, and 4% reserve loss); Water stored for BVWSD in Kern County is adjusted 10% (6% for surface loss and 4% for reserve loss); no losses for water directly delivered to MWD system.

¹ IRWD's SWP includes 251 AF from CVWD that stays in Kern County.

² IRWD's Non-SWP total includes 2,403 AF of Kern County Water Agency Article 21 Water.

³ DRWD water will be returned by MWD or IRWD's Strand Ranch to IRWD's Jackson Ranch.

⁴ IRWD's KWB Account balance includes SWP, Friant and Kern River water. The KWB account balance is included in the Non-SWP column because it is not exportable to IRWD's service area.

⁵ Per the DRWD Long-Term 1-for-1 Exchange Program, Non-SWP water delivered to DRWD landowners will be returned to IRWD as SWP water at a later date. To account for the SWP water that will be returned at a later date, the amount of water owed will be shown as a credit. Total assumes all water is returned to IRWD Water Bank which adds in a 10% loss factor. Final amounts may be subject to additional CVC losses.

⁶ In 2025, IRWD purchased supplemental water from DRWD on behalf of its lessee for use on Jackson Ranch.

⁷ Water recovered from IRWD's Kern Water Bank account for use on Jackson Ranch.

⁸ The water recharged in July through an in-lieu exchange of water being recovered for Buena Vista is not subject to surface (6%) and reserve (4%) losses.

⁹ DRWD pre-delivered 6,000 AF of SWP Table A on behalf of landowner Wonderful Orchards under the 1-for-1 long-term exchange program. This water will be exchanged with 6,000 AF of Kern River Water stored in the IRWD Water Bank for use by Wonderful at a later date.

¹⁰ Water stored in the IRWD Water Bank on behalf of Las Virgenes until called upon by Las Virgenes per the Exchange Program Agreement with Las Virgenes. Las Virgenes' call for the water is subject to an amendment to the Coordinated Operating, Water Storage, Exchange, and Delivery Agreement with MWD.

¹¹ The 4,271 AF delivered by DRWD in 2025 fulfills DRWD's remaining obligation associated with deliveries of Kern River Water to DRWD in 2021 and 2022. The difference between the 5,424 AF credit balance shown in 2024 and the 4,271 AF delivered in 2025 is due to losses in the CVC and California Aqueduct. To account for these conveyance losses, the credit balance shown in 2025 has been zeroed out.

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Exhibit "D"

TABLE 4
Status of IRWD Purchase and Exchange Programs (AFTER LOSSES)
October 13, 2026

PARTNER	EXCHANGE RATIO	YEAR EXECUTED	AGREEMENT TYPE	WATER TYPE	PARTNER WATER		IRWD WATER									SELLABLE (Y/N)
					PARTNER SHARE (AF)	PARTNER BALANCE (AF)	IRWD SHARE (AF)	IRWD BALANCE				EXPORTABILITY				
								IN MWD SYSTEM (AF)	STORED IN KERN (AF) Strand and Stockdale	Kern Fan (W.Enos)	1-for-1 EXCH CREDITS	TOTAL (AF)	EXPORTABLE TO IRWD (AF)	NON-EXPORTABLE (AF)	FOR USE ON JACKSON RANCH (DRWD)	
Semitropic Water Storage District	NA	2008	Purchase	SWP Article 21	NA	NA	2,842		2,403			2,403		2,403		Yes
Carpinteria Valley Water District ⁴	2-for-1	2008	Short-Term	SWP Table A	277		250		250			250		250		Yes
Buena Vista Water Storage District ¹	2-for-1	2010	Pilot	Kern River	4,108		3,903									Yes
	2-for-1	2011	Long-Term	Kern River	29,336	0	27,869		10,772		-5,455	5,317		5,317		
Antelope Valley East Kern Water Agency	2-for-1	2011	Pilot	SWP Table A	2,229		2,337	2,337				2,337	2,337			No
Carpinteria Valley Water District	2-for-1	2011	Pilot	SWP Table A	624		655	655				655	655			No
Dudley Ridge Water District (SWPAO #13012)	2-for-1	2013	SWPAO	SWP Table A	1,876		1,876	1,876				1,876	1,876			Yes
				SWP Article 21	1,553		1,554	1,554			1,554	1,554			Yes	
Metropolitan Water District ²	1-for-1	2014	Short-Term	SWP Table A	NA	NA	4,000	4,000				4,000	4,000			No
Dudley Ridge Water District (SWPAO #17030)	2-for-1	2018	SWPAO	SWP Table A	2,516	1,505	2,598	1,055	1,542			2,598	2,598		1,505	Yes
Central Coast Water Authority (SWPAO #17001)	2-for-1	2017	Short-Term	SWP Table A	258		258	258				258	258			No
Dudley Ridge Water District ³ (SWPAO #19001)	1-for-1	2017	Long-Term	SWP Table A	NA	NA	16,697		16,697			16,697	16,697			No
				Credit	NA	NA	0			0	0				No	
Central Coast Water Authority (SWPAO #19031)	2-for-1	2019	Short-Term	SWP Table A	298		323	298	25			323	323			No
Buena Vista Water Storage District ¹	2-for-1	2023	Short-Term	Kern River	2,025	0	1,923		1,183	741		1,923		1,923		Yes
Central Coast Water Authority (SWPAO #23012)	2-for-1	2023	Short-Term	SWP Table A	193	193	193			193		193	193			No
Antelope Valley East Kern Water Agency	2-for-1	2018	Long-Term	SWP Table A	3,032	3,032	3,032		2,461	571		3,032	3,032			No
Santa Clara Valley Water District	2-for-1	2024	Long-Term	SWP Table A												No
Las Virgenes Municipal Water District	2-for-1	2026	Long-Term	SWP Table A	2,850	2,850	na									
				Total:	48,324	4,729	70,309	12,033	35,332	1,504	(5,455)	43,415	33,522	9,893	1,505	NA

¹ Water acquired through BVWSD will be exportable after it is exchanged for SWP Table A through 1-for-1 exchange with Dudley Ridge Water District.

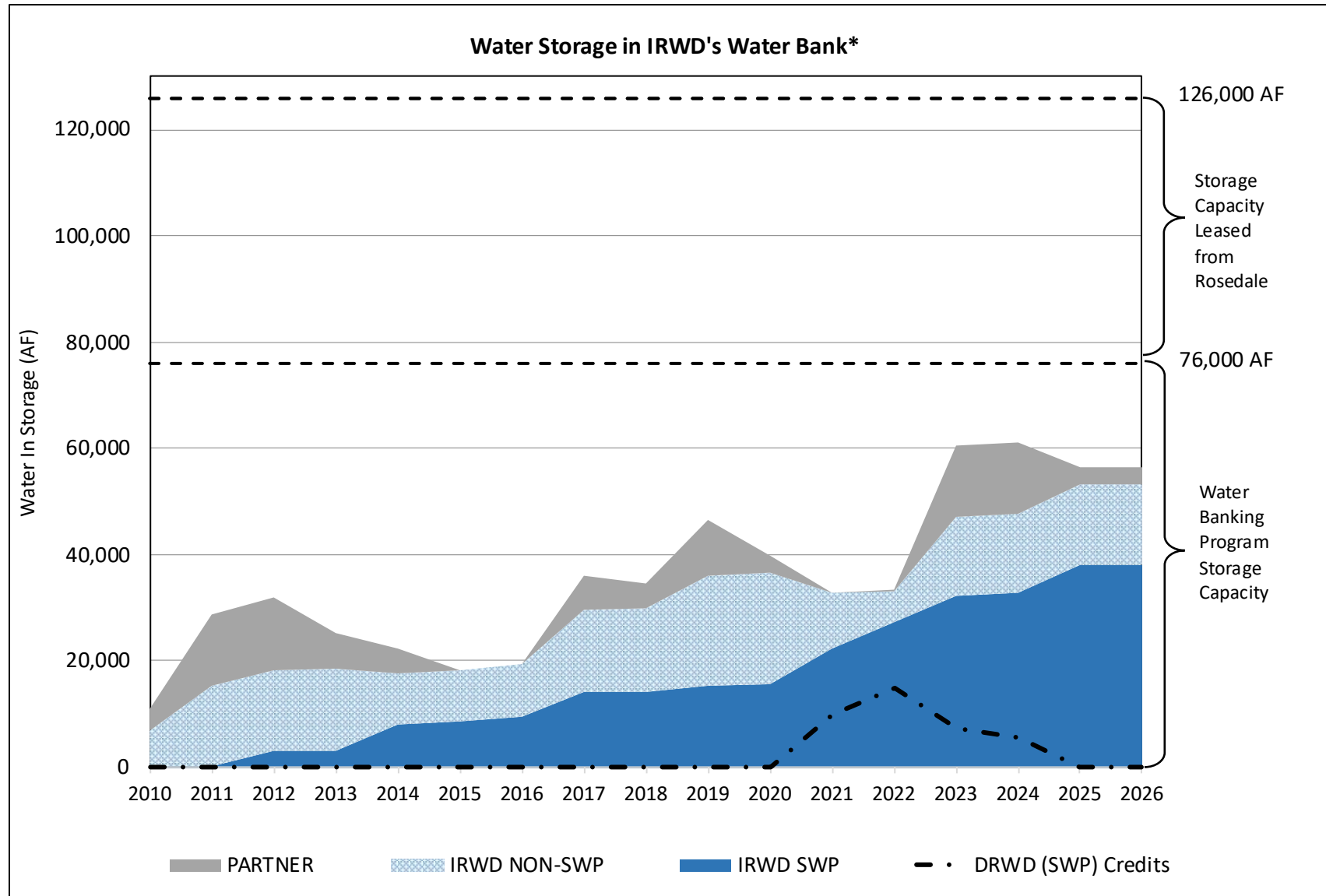
² Source of water was Buena Vista Water Storage District Kern River high flow water.

³ In July 2025, DRWD fulfilled its remaining obligation associated with deliveries of Kern River Water to DRWD in 2021 and 2022 therefore all remaining credits are shown as 0. DRWD also pre-delivered 5,700 AF, net of banking losses, of SWP Table A to the IRWD Water Bank. This water will be exchanged with Kern River Water stored in the IRWD Water Bank for use by DRWD at a later date.

⁴ Water acquired through Carpinteria is not exportable but can be exchanged for an exportable water supply.

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Exhibit "E"



*After losses

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Exhibit "F"

TABLE 5
IRWD Dedicated Water Banking Capacities for Existing and Proposed Exchange Programs
 October 13, 2026

STORAGE CAPACITY

Program	Dedicated Storage Capacity Strand Ranch (AF)	Dedicated Storage Capacity Stockdale West (AF)	Dedicated Storage Capacity Leased Storage Account (AF)	Kern Water Bank Storage Capacity (AF)
Total Capacity	50,000	26,000	50,000	9,495
BVWSD	40,000	-	-	-
IRWD/DRWD	10,000	6,000	-	-
AVEK	-	20,000	-	-
Valley Water	-	-	20,000	-
Homer LLC	-	-	8,000	-
Las Virgenes			6,000	
Total Dedicated	50,000	26,000	34,000	-
<i>Proposed Program:</i>				
Las Virgenes Additional			12,000	
Total Remaining	-	-	4,000	9,495

FIRST-PRIORITY RECHARGE CAPACITY

Program	Dedicated Recharge Capacity Strand Ranch (AF)	Dedicated Recharge Capacity Stockdale West (AF)	Dedicated Recharge Capacity Leased Storage Account (AF)	Kern Water Bank Recharge Capacity (AF)
Total Capacity	17,500	27,100	-	3,200
BVWSD	17,500	-	-	-
IRWD/DRWD	-	7,100	-	-
AVEK	-	20,000	-	-
Total Dedicated	17,500	27,100	-	-
Total Remaining	-	-	-	3,200

FIRST-PRIORITY RECOVERY CAPACITY

Program Partner	Dedicated Recovery Capacity Strand Ranch (AF)	Dedicated Recovery Capacity Stockdale West (AF)	Dedicated Recovery Capacity Leased Storage Account (AF)	Kern Water Bank Recovery Capacity (AF)
Total Capacity	17,500	11,250	-	1,520
BVWSD	6,667	-	-	-
DRWD	-	-	-	-
AVEK	-	3,333	-	-
IRWD	10,833	7,917	-	1,520
Total Dedicated	17,500	11,250	-	1,520
Total Remaining	-	-	-	-

TABLE 7

**Second-Priority Recharge and Recovery Capacity Available after Annual Scheduling of Dedicated First-Priority
Recharge and Recovery Allocated to Existing Programs**

October 13, 2026

SECOND-PRIORITY RECHARGE CAPACITY

Program	Dedicated Recharge Capacity Strand Ranch and Stockdale West (AF)	Minimum Program Share for Second- Priority ¹	Available Minimum Recharge Capacity if not used by Existing Programs (AF)	Total Program Recharge Capacity (AF)
Total Capacity	44,600		44,600	
First Priority Programs	44,600		-	44,600
Valley Water	-	40%	17,840	20,000
Homer LLC	-	16%	7,136	8,000
Las Virgenes	-	0%	-	-
Total Dedicated	44,600	56%	24,976	
Total Remaining	-	44%	19,624	

SECOND-PRIORITY RECOVERY CAPACITY

Program Partner	Dedicated Recovery Capacity Strand Ranch and Stockdale West (AF)	Minimum Program Share for Second Priority ¹	Minimum Available Recovery Capacity if not used by Existing Programs (AF)	Total Program Recovery Capacity (AF)
Total Capacity	28,750		28,750	
First Priority Programs	28,750		-	28,750
Valley Water	-	40%	3,333	3,333
Homer LLC	-	16%	1,333	1,333
Las Virgenes	-	12%	850	850
Total Dedicated	28,750	68%	5,516	
<i>Proposed Program:</i>				
Las Virgenes Additional	-	24%	1,700	1,700
Total Remaining	-	8%	21,534	

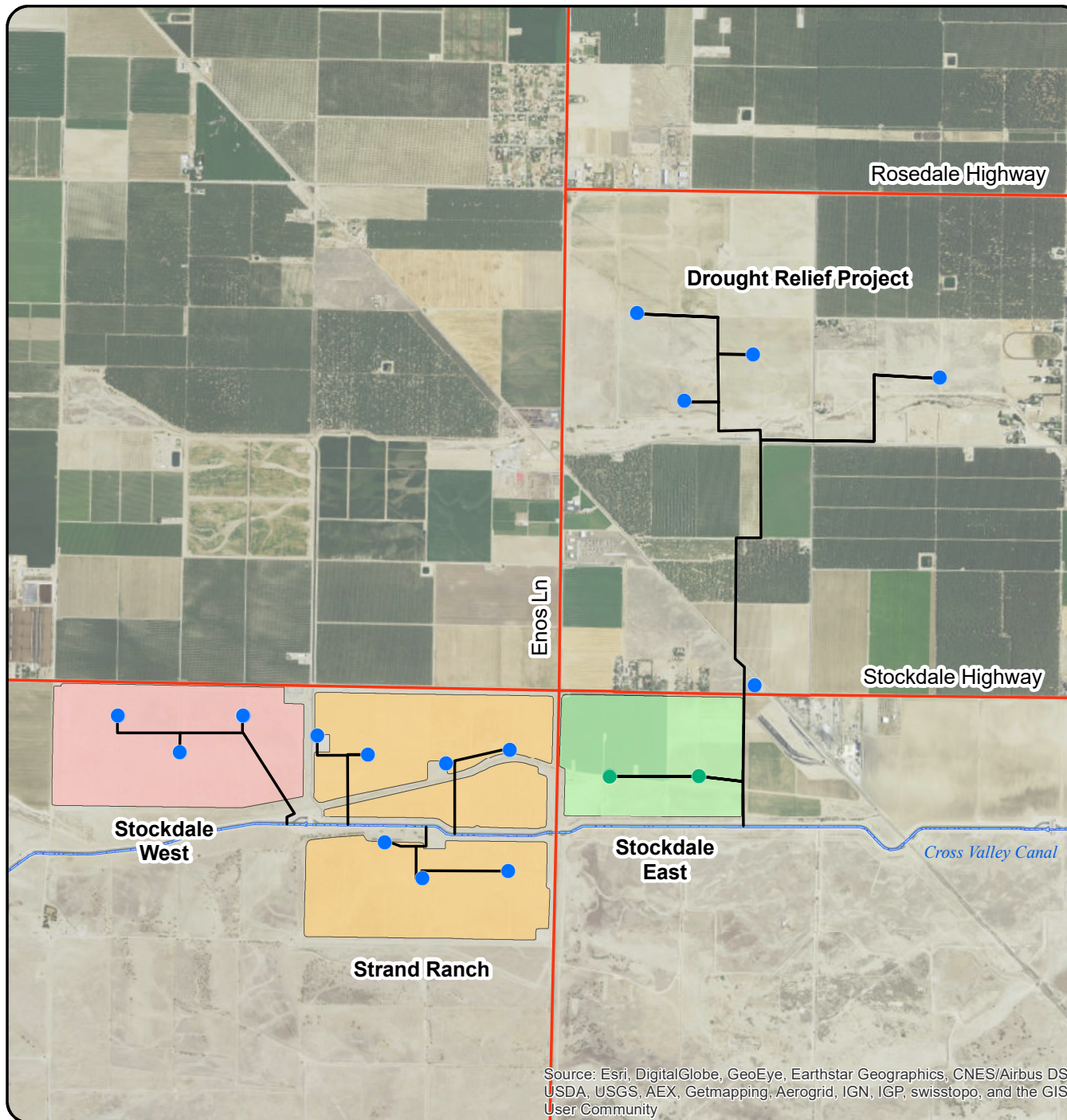
¹ Second-priority recharge and recovery capacity allocated to programs on a pro-rata share based on share of leased storage capacity.

For example:

Valley Water Share: 20,000 AF of 50,000 AF leased storage (40%)

Homer LLC Share: 8,000 AF of 50,000 AF leased storage (16%)

Exhibit "G"

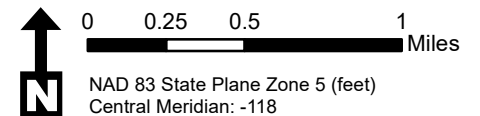


**Location Map:
IRWD Water Banking Projects
Wells and Turnin Pipelines**

MAP FEATURES

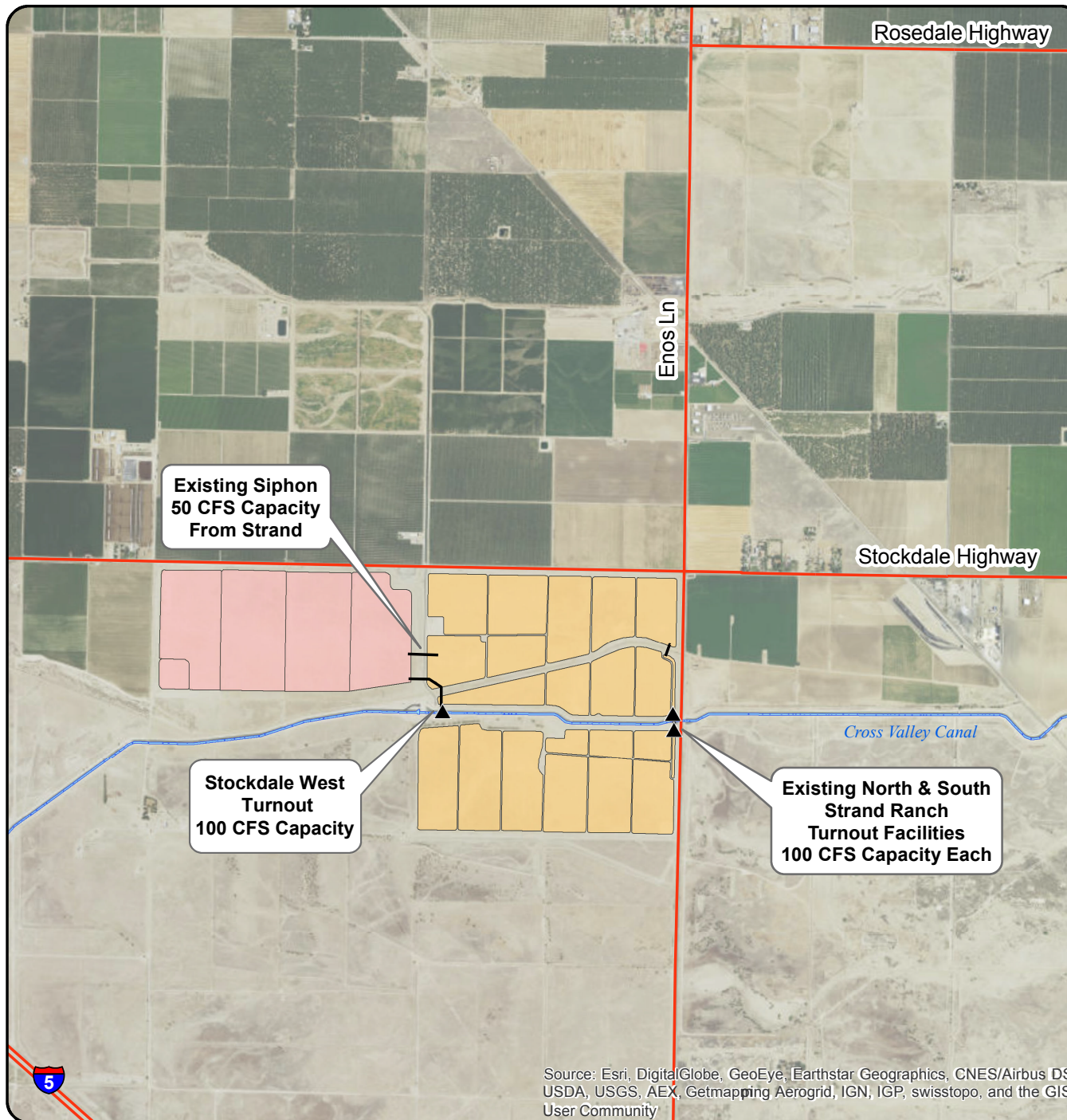
- Extraction Well
- Extraction Well
- Well Discharge Pipelines
- Stockdale East
- Stockdale West
- Strand Ranch

This figure shows the location of IRWD's water banking project sites and extraction wells.



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Exhibit "H"

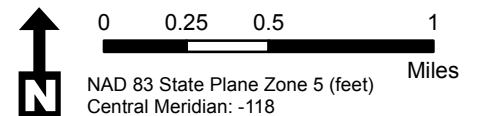


Location Map: IRWD Water Banking Projects Recharge Basins & Turnout Facilities

MAP FEATURES

- ▲ Turnouts
- Stockdale West
- Strand Ranch

This figure shows the location of recharge basins, pipelines and turnout facilities.



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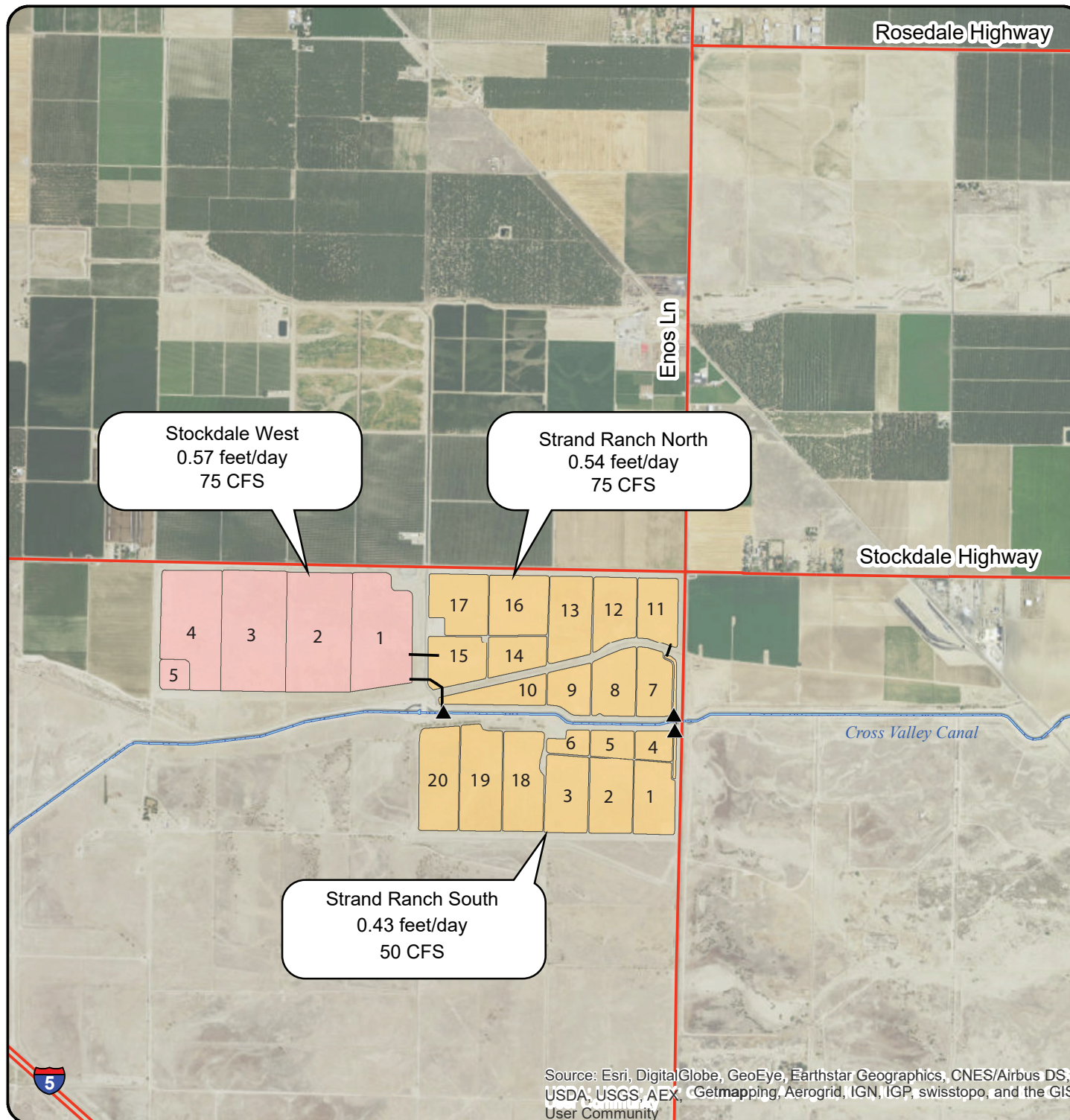


**Location Map:
IRWD Water Banking Projects
Recharge Rates**

MAP FEATURES

- ▲ Turnouts
- Stockdale West
- Strand Ranch

This figure shows the location of recharge basins and the estimated recharge rates at the start of recharge activity.



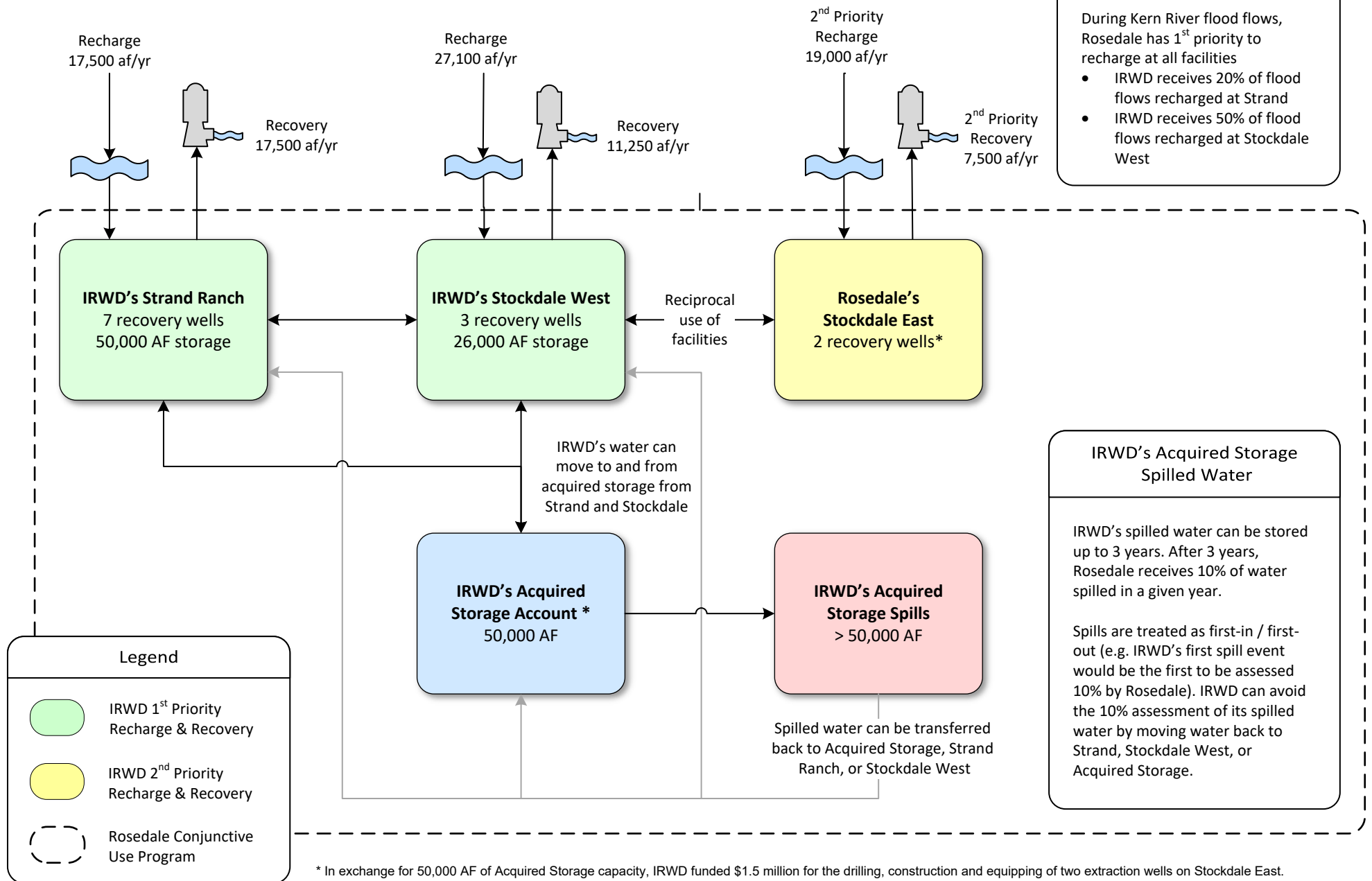
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Exhibit "J"

IRWD-Rosedale Water Banking and Exchange Program Agreements

Effective 1/12/2009 through 1/12/2039 (Strand Ranch)

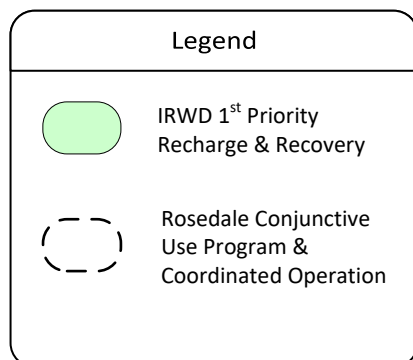
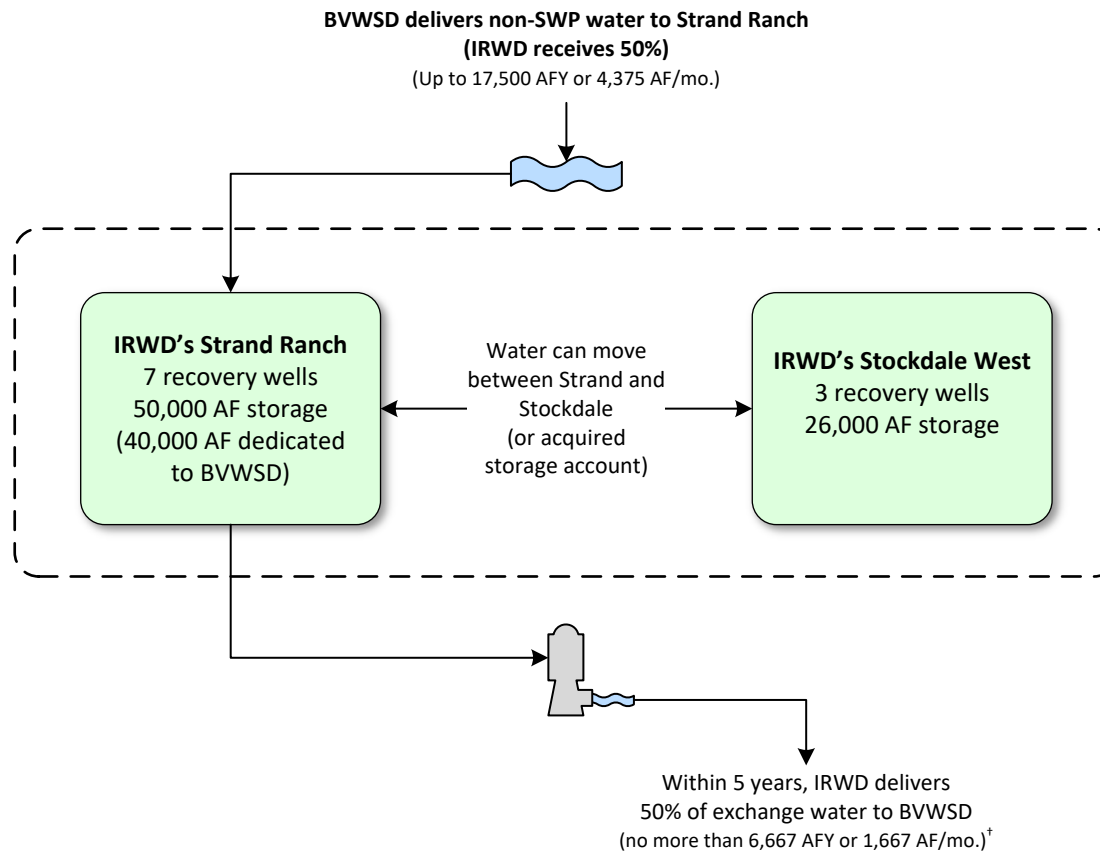
2/4/2016 through 1/12/2039 (Stockdale West)



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Buena Vista Water Storage District Long Term Water Exchange Program

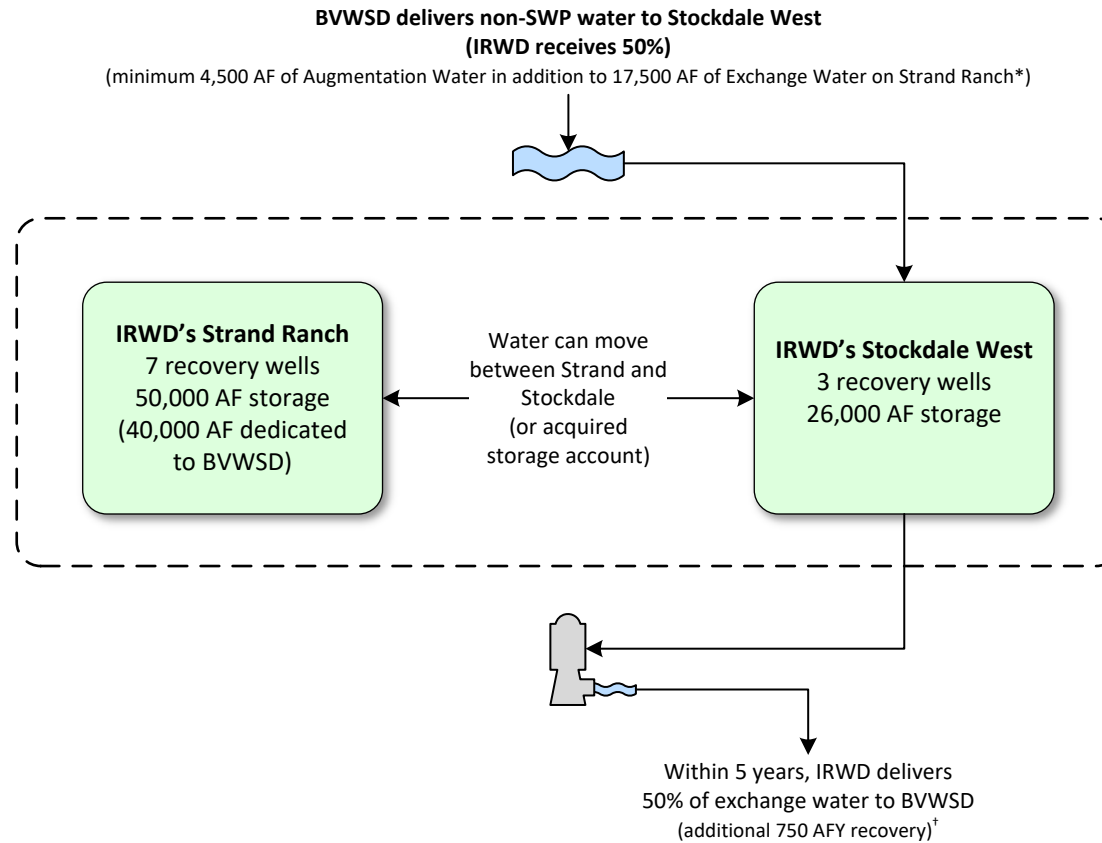
Effective 1/1/2011 through 1/12/2039



[†]IRWD shall remit one-half of the exchanged supply less one-half of reasonable losses back to BV no later than December 31st of the 4th year following the associated recharge event. IRWD pays for recovery of water returned to BV. Water to be remitted back to BV may remain in storage at Strand Ranch beyond the 4th year, in exchange for a greater percent being transferred to IRWD as compensation per the table shown to the right:

Year Following Recharge Event	Percent Transferred to IRWD	Percent Returned to BV During or Before Indicated Year
1	50%	50%
2	50%	50%
3	50%	50%
4	50%	50%
5	60%	40%
6	70%	30%
7	80%	20%
8	90%	10%
9	100%	0%

Buena Vista Water Storage District One-Year Program to Augment Recharge Using Stockdale West Recharge Facilities Effective 6/28/2023 through 12/31/2023



Legend	
	IRWD 1 st Priority Recharge & Recovery
	Rosedale Conjunctive Use Program & Coordinated Operation

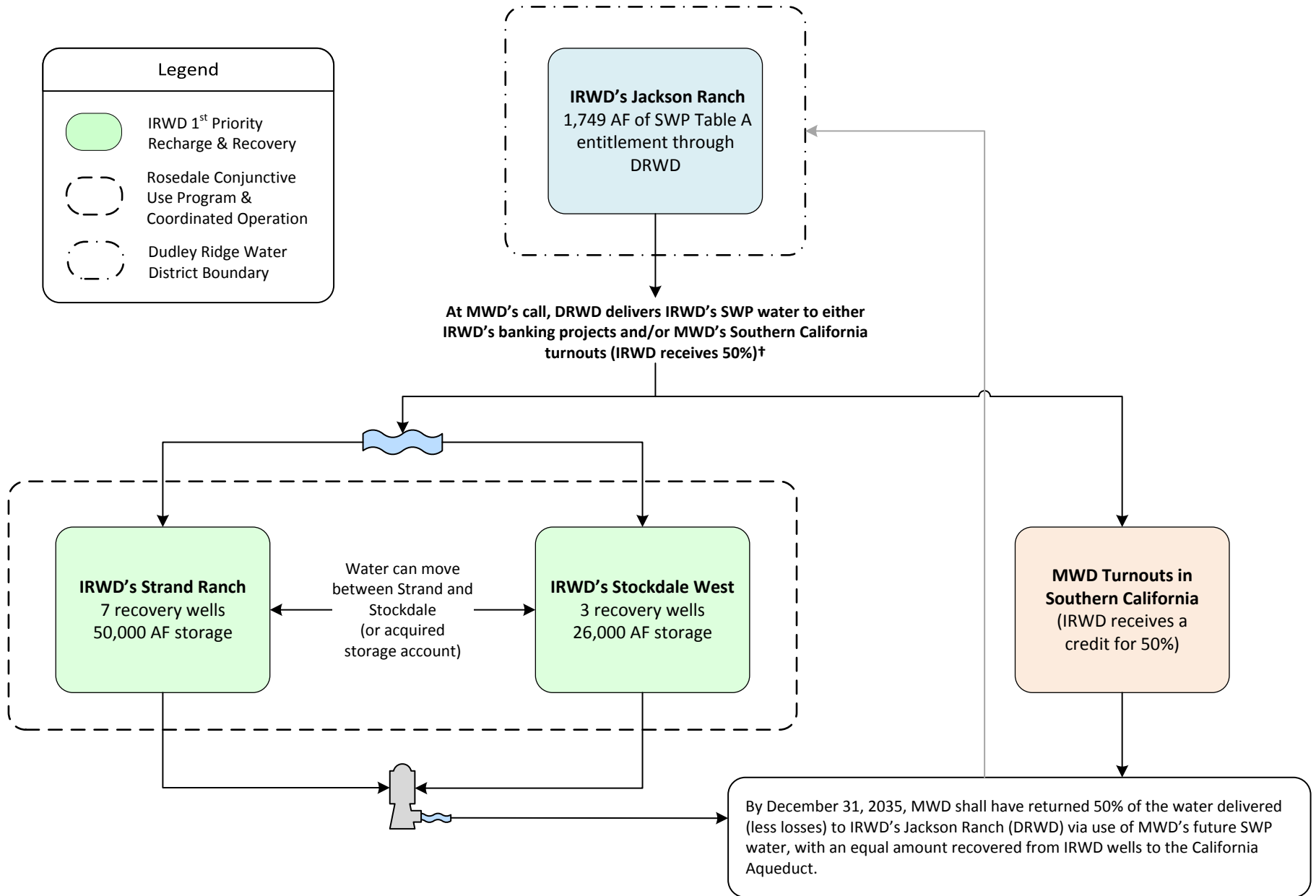
* IRWD agrees to pay BV \$25 per AF for IRWD's share of the Augmentation Water and Exchange Water

[†]IRWD shall remit one-half of the exchanged supply less one-half of reasonable losses back to BV no later than December 31st of the 4th year following the associated recharge event. BV pays for recovery of its share of Augmentation Water. Water to be remitted back to BV may remain in storage at Strand Ranch beyond the 4th year, in exchange for a greater percent being transferred to IRWD as compensation per the table shown to the right:

Year Following Recharge Event	Percent Transferred to IRWD	Percent Returned to BV During or Before Indicated Year
1	50%	50%
2	50%	50%
3	50%	50%
4	50%	50%
5	60%	40%
6	70%	30%
7	80%	20%
8	90%	10%
9	100%	0%

Exhibit "L"

**Dudley Ridge Water District (DRWD) Unbalanced Exchange
Program Up to 12,240 AF delivered from 6/7/2018 through 12/31/2027**



†Consistent with IRWD-MWD coordinated operating agreement.

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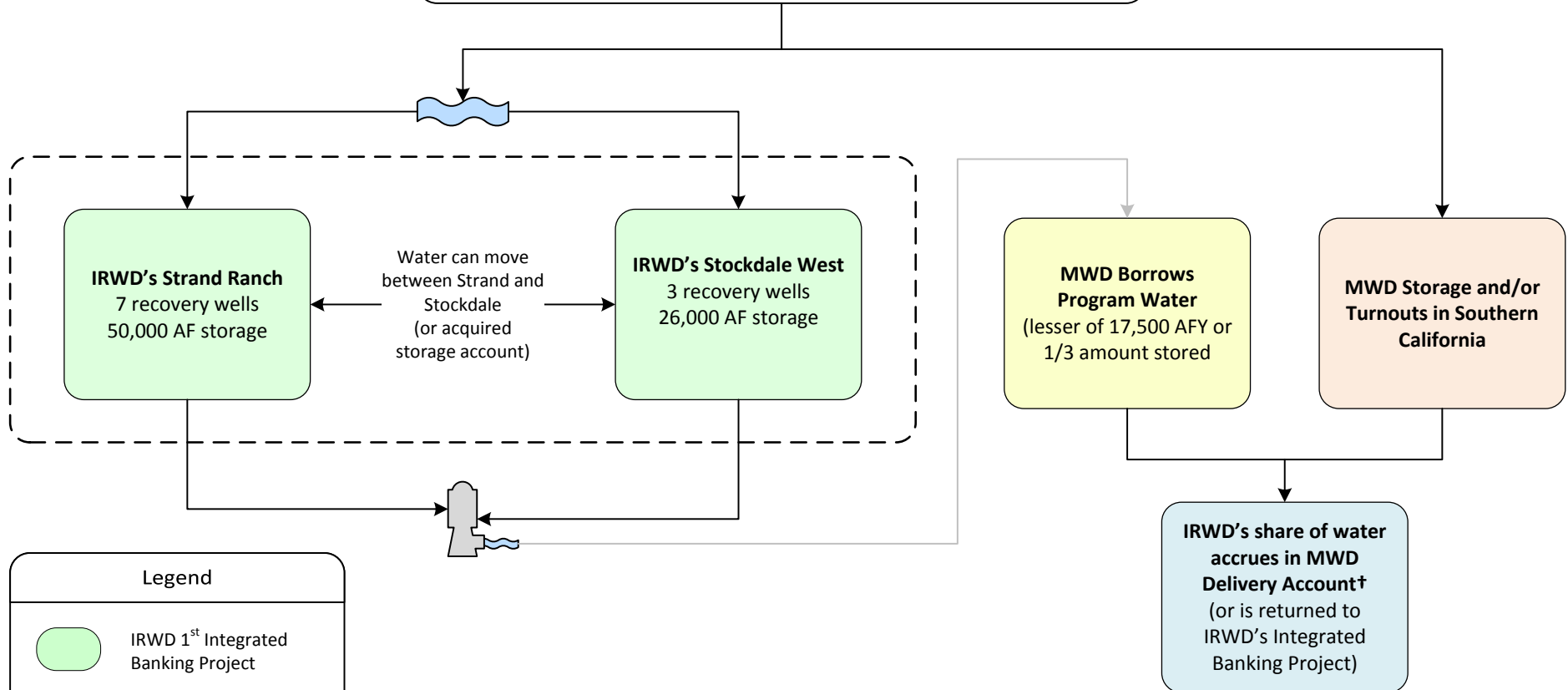
Exhibit "M"

Coordinated Operating, Water Storage, Exchange and Delivery Agreement Between MWD, MWDOC and IRWD
Effective 5/1/2011 through 11/4/2035

With MWD's consent, IRWD secures SWP water (Program Water) through exchanges with IRWD Banking Partners for use as extraordinary supply under MWD Water Supply Allocation Plan

MWD has three options for the use and storage of Program Water:

- Storage of water in IRWD's Integrated Banking Project
- Delivery to Southern California for immediate use and/or storage in MWD system
- Borrow a portion of Program water, with accrual in MWD Delivery Account

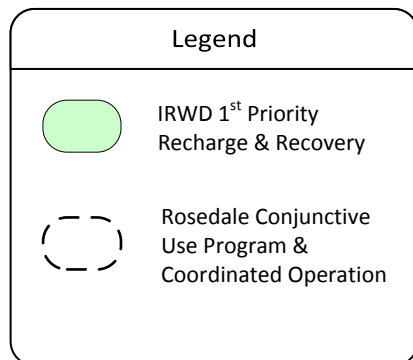
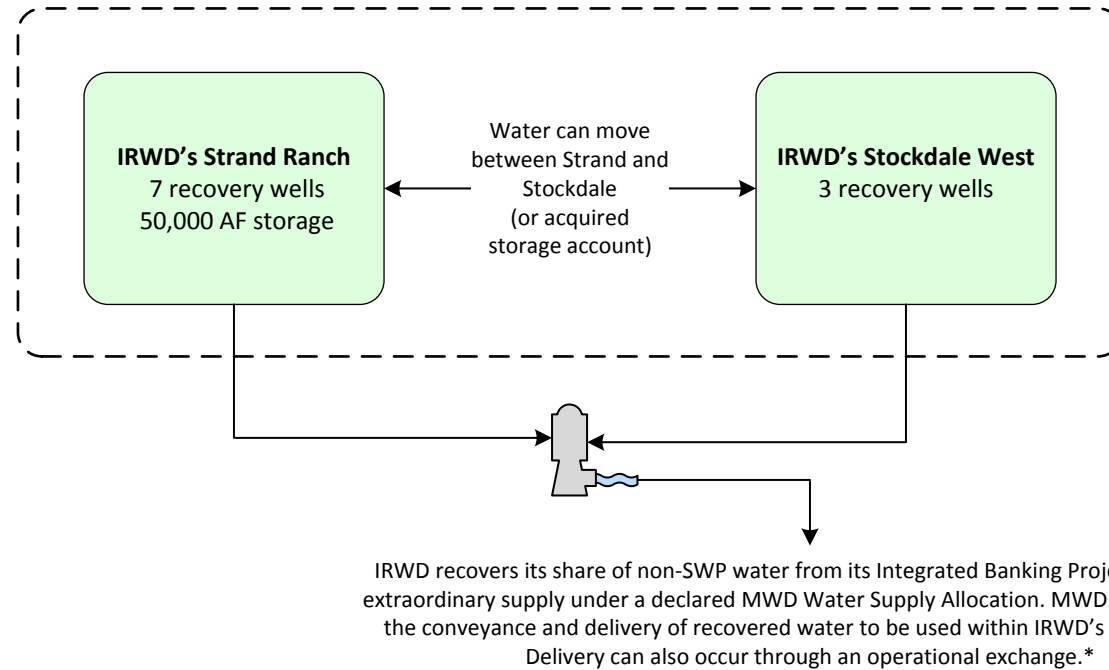


- Under an MWD Allocation, when IRWD calls for water, IRWD must first recover Program Water from the Integrated Banking Project before receiving water from the MWD Delivery Account.
- MWDOC shall pass through extraordinary supply credits for IRWD's benefit.
- † IRWD's banking partner share of Program Water to be returned by MWD.

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Exhibit "N"

Agreement for Conveyance of Water Between MWD, MWDOC, and IRWD (Wheeling Agreement)
Template for future agreements



*The recovered water must be used within IRWD's service area. IRWD to pay MWD wheeling charges, including system access rate, water stewardship rate, and treatment surcharge (if applicable), for each acre foot of recovered water wheeled by MWD. IRWD will pay the actual costs of power incurred by MWD to convey recovered water in the California Aqueduct to IRWD delivery points.

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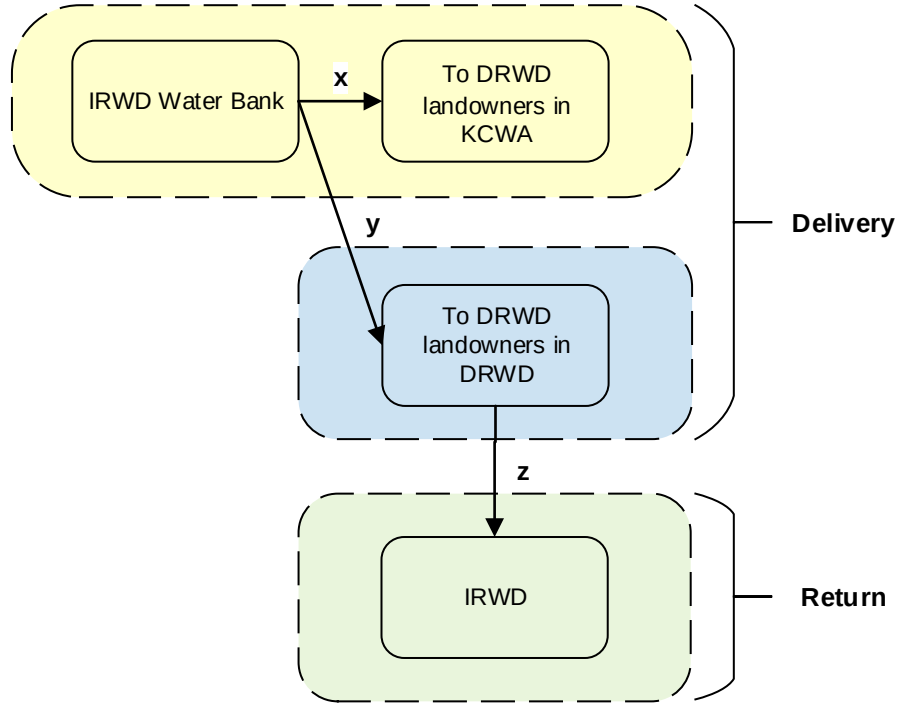
Exhibit "O"
Dudley Ridge Water District Long Term 1-for-1 Water Exchange Program
 Effective 5/31/2017 through 11/4/2035

Scenario A

(Per Sections 2, 3, 4.1.1, and 4.1.3)

x= Non-Project Water required to stay in Kern County
 y= Non-Project Water allowed to leave Kern County
 z= DRWD Table A Water equal to x+y less applicable losses, if any

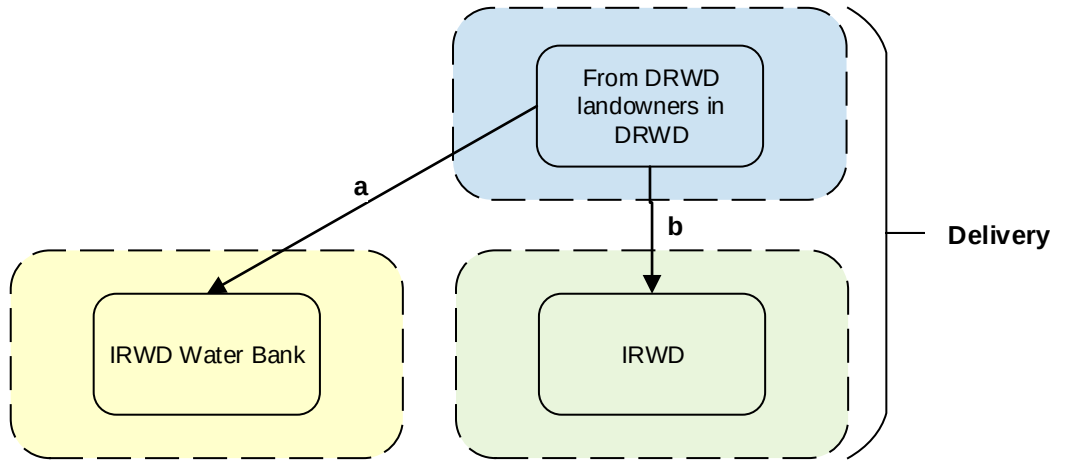
Per Section 4.1.3, z can be delivered to IRWD via in-ground transfer to IRWD, SWP delivery to IRWD banking facilities, or SWP delivery to MWDSC



Scenario B

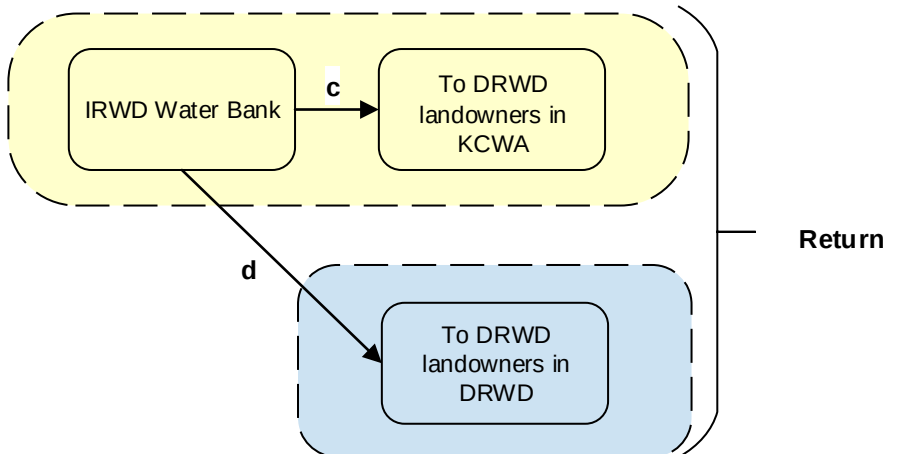
(Per Sections 2, 3, and 4.1.2)

$a + b = c + d$
 (less applicable losses, if any)



Legend

- KCWA Service Area
- DRWD Service Area
- IRWD Service Area

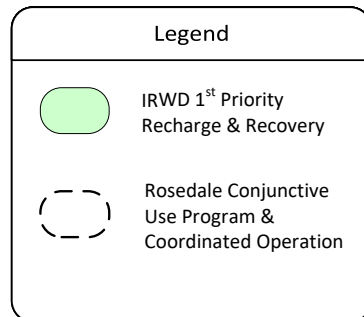
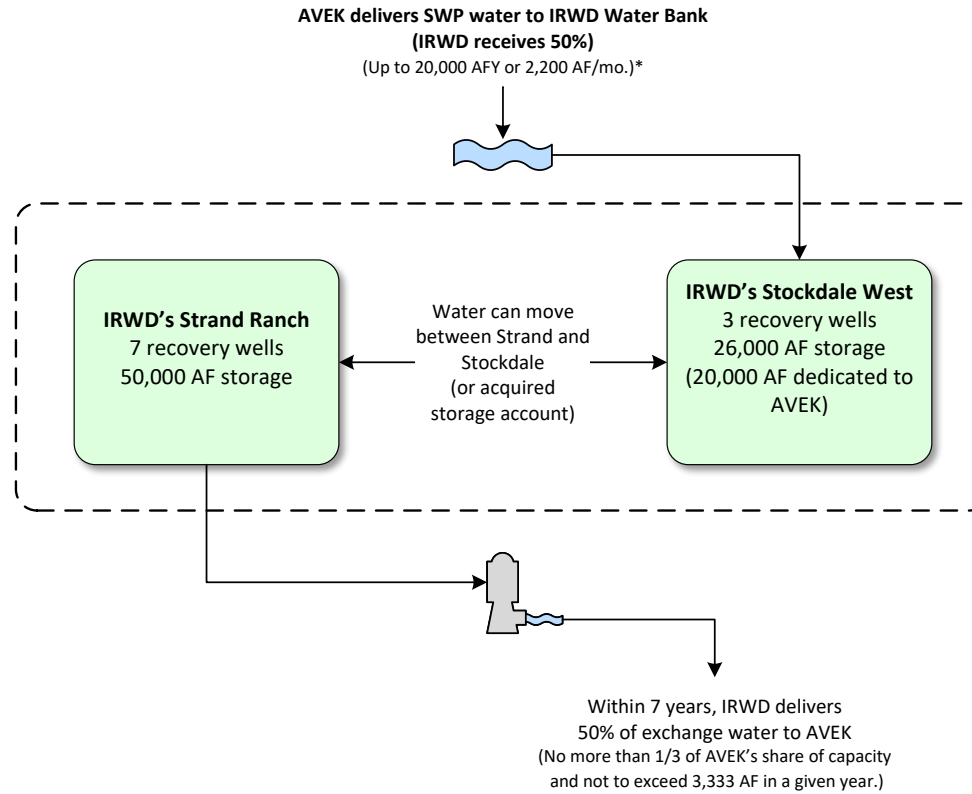


†The cost of water exchanged between IRWD and DRWD will be equalized

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Exhibit "P"

Antelope Valle-East Kern Water Agency (AVEK) Long Term Water Exchange Program Effective 12/21/2018 through 12/31/2035



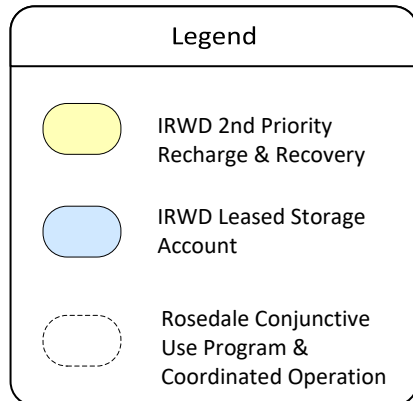
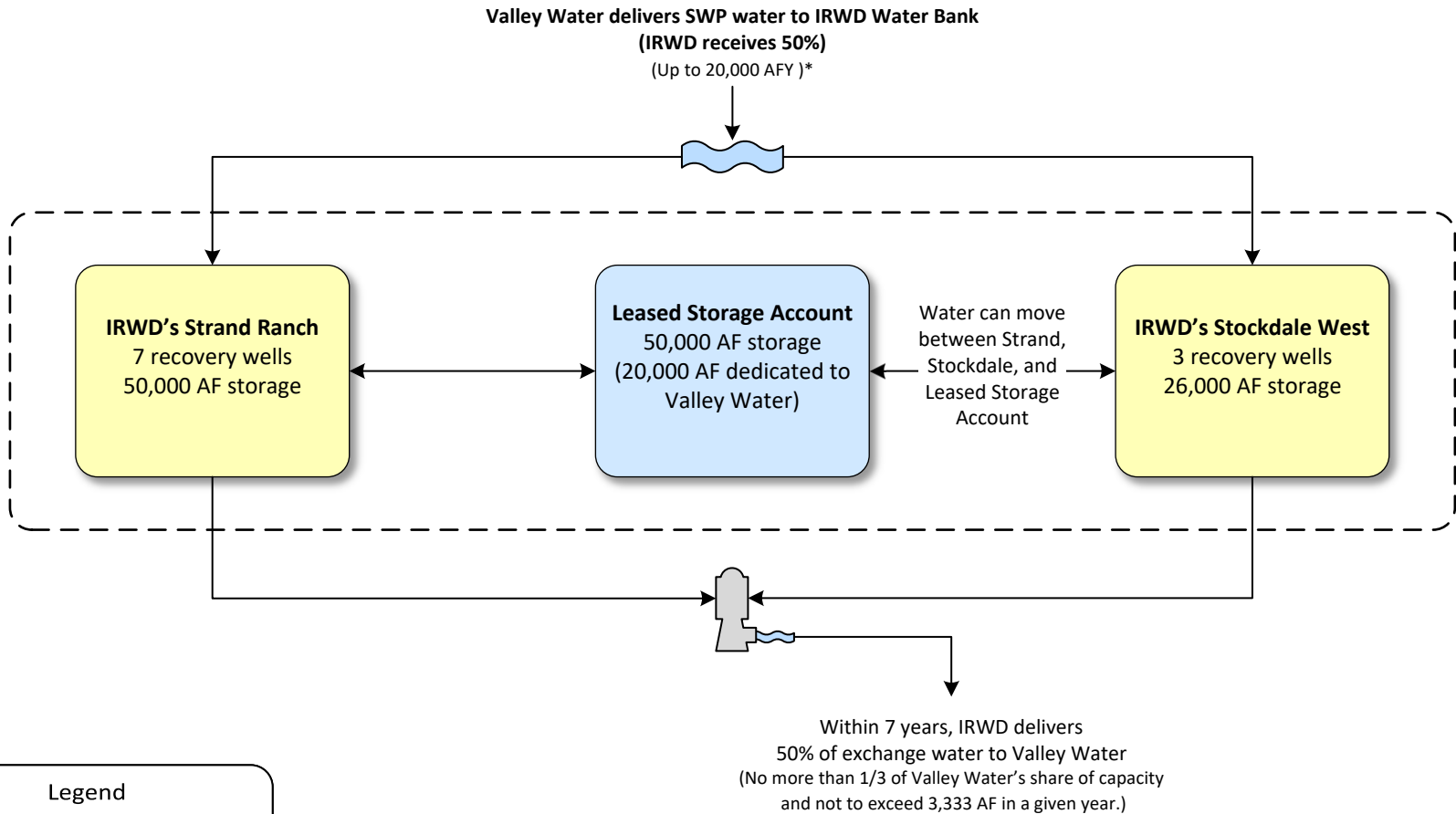
*Up to 20,000 AF per year of AVEK Exchange Water may be delivered to IRWD for recharge using recharge facilities at the Strand Ranch and Stockdale West for storage in the Stockdale West Bank. IRWD shall remit one-half of stored supplies less one half of losses back to AVEK no later than December 31st of the 7th year, following the associated recharge event.

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Exhibit "Q"

Santa Clara Valley Water District (Valley Water) Long Term Water Exchange Program

Effective 9/4/2024 through 12/31/2035



*Up to 20,000 AF per year of Valley Water Exchange Water may be delivered to IRWD for recharge using recharge facilities at the Strand Ranch and Stockdale West for storage in IRWD's Leased Storage Account. IRWD shall remit one-half of stored supplies less one half of losses back to Valley Water no later than December 31st of the 7th year, following the associated recharge event.

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Exhibit "R"

TABLE 6
Cost of Water Exportable to IRWD Service Area
 October 13, 2026

Program Partner	Agreement	Water Type	IRWD Exportable Water Stored in Kern County ^{1,4} (AF)	Cost of Water (\$/AF) ⁵	Estimated Recovery of Water ² (\$/AF)	2026 MWD Tier 1 Untreated Rate and SAC Surcharge ³ (\$/AF)	Total Cost of Water to IRWD Service Area (\$/AF)
Carpinteria	2008 Short Term	Table A	250	\$223	\$130	\$ 985	\$1,338
	2011 Short Term	Table A	-	\$219	\$130	\$ 985	\$1,334
Buena Vista	2010 Short Term	Kern River	-	\$225	\$130	\$ 985	\$1,340
	2011 Long Term	Kern River	10,772	\$230	\$130	\$ 985	\$1,345
	2023 Short Term	Kern River	1,923	<i>Pending</i>	\$130	\$ 985	<i>Pending</i>
AVEK	2011 Short Term	Table A	-	\$220	\$130	\$ 985	\$1,335
	2023 Long Term	Table A	3,032	<i>Pending</i>	\$130	\$ 985	<i>Pending</i>
Metropolitan	2014 Short Term	Table A	-	\$227	\$130	\$ 985	\$1,342
Central Coast	2017 Short Term	Table A	-	\$249	\$130	\$ 985	\$1,364
	2019 Short Term	Table A	25	\$239	\$130	\$ 985	\$1,354
	2023 Short Term	Table A	193	<i>Pending</i>	\$130	\$ 985	<i>Pending</i>
DRWD	2013 Long Term	Table A, Article 21	-	<i>Pending</i>	\$130	\$ 985	<i>Pending</i>
	2018 Long Term	Table A	1,542				
Total			17,737				

¹ Water banking data from 2010 to 2023. Buena Vista water and Carpinteria 2008 water is not exportable but can be exchanged for an exportable water supply.

² Recovery costs include estimated PG&E power for pumping, CVC charges, Recovery O&M, and Rosedale administrative charges to deliver to MWD service area.

³ Assumes IRWD would take delivery as extraordinary supply through Irvine Lake to the Baker Water Treatment Plant. The SAC surcharge rate is estimated at \$1/AF.

⁴ Exhibit R takes the IRWD balance stored in Kern minus the following non-exportable supplies: Semitropic, Dudley Ridge (SWPAO #19001), and Buena Vista 2023.

⁵ Cost of Water = Capital Component (\$190) + Fixed Costs (\$21) + Variable Recharge Costs

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Exhibit “S”

Summary of Benefits in the Current Coordinated Operating, Water Storage, Exchange and Delivery Agreement with Metropolitan Water District and Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWDOC)

Summary of Benefits to IRWD:

1. IRWD benefits from all State Water Project (SWP) water IRWD secures; Metropolitan’s borrowing of this water is temporary.
2. On behalf of IRWD, Metropolitan uses its SWP exchange and conveyance capacities to move IRWD’s water for banking.
3. IRWD can “store” water in Metropolitan’s system as a credit, freeing up space in IRWD’s Water Bank with the water stored closer to the IRWD service area. (Note: The stored water does not qualify as Extraordinary Supply.)
4. IRWD does not incur conveyance or evaporation losses on its water that is conveyed in Metropolitan’s system and stored in Metropolitan’s reservoirs.
5. IRWD avoids groundwater recovery (pumping) costs when Metropolitan issues a credit for IRWD’s SWP supplies in Southern California (estimated \$130/AF¹).
6. IRWD pays Metropolitan’s melded system power rate – currently \$179/AF, not DWR’s current power costs of \$223/AF² (\$44/AF savings).
7. Deliveries are on-demand to IRWD at its service connections in Orange County, which are not subject to lower priorities for wheeling.
8. Metropolitan pays all SWP costs, including variable OMP&R supply costs, associated with SWP water secured by IRWD³.
9. IRWD pays Metropolitan’s Full-Service Tier-1 Untreated Rate, which is currently \$984/AF, for deliveries at its service connections allowing IRWD to avoid higher Metropolitan wheeling charges.
10. IRWD only pays once for supply at the current Tier-1 Supply Rate of \$313/AF.
11. Water Bank deliveries to IRWD’s service area qualify as Extraordinary Supply during a Water Supply Allocation, allowing IRWD to avoid Metropolitan’s Allocation Surcharge of between \$1,480/AF and \$2,960/AF.
12. IRWD increases local water supply reliability for its ratepayers.

¹ Estimated from IRWD’s current groundwater pumping costs and Water Bank related operations costs. Metropolitan has the option to extinguish credits by returning water to the IRWD Water Bank. In recent borrowing letter agreement, Metropolitan agreed to waive its ability to return borrowed water to the Water Bank.

² Melded system and actual power costs were taken from Metropolitan’s Fiscal Years 2024-25 and 2025-26 Biennial Budget Report and Cost of Service Study.

³ Does not include fixed costs paid by IRWD’s unbalanced exchange partners.

Summary of Benefits to MWD:

1. Metropolitan maintains control of all SWP supplies entering its service area as required by its SWP Contract with California Department of Water Resources (DWR).
2. Metropolitan's investments in the SWP are protected by not causing a reduction in revenue received by Metropolitan for payment of SWP fixed charge obligations.
3. Metropolitan can temporarily borrow SWP water secured by IRWD.
4. Metropolitan is assured that IRWD is not competing for water supplies.
5. Increased regional water supply reliability.

Exhibit "T"

TABLE 8
IRWD 2026 Recharge Operations- BEFORE LOSSES
 October 13, 2026

Forecasted Amounts:

Month	IRWD Table A (AF)	DRWD 1:1 (AF)	MWD (AF)	Homer (AF)	Valley Water (AF)	AVEK (AF)	Total (AF)	Status	Expected Recharge ¹ (AF)	Expected Recharge Rate (CFS)
January	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	prelim	-	130
February	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	prelim	-	130
March	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	prelim	-	130
April	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	prelim	-	130
May	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	prelim	-	130
June	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	prelim	-	130
July	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	prelim	-	130
August	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	prelim	-	130
September	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	prelim	-	130
October	789	-	-	-	-	-	789		789	130
	789	-	-	-	-	-	789	-	789	
November	-	-	-	-	5,000	2,700	7,700		7,700	130
December	-	-	-	-	-	6,300	6,300		7,380	120
Total	789	-	-	-	5,000	9,000	14,789		15,869	
Recharge goal:	789	-	-	-	5,000	9,000	14,789			

¹ The expected recharge is based on the expected recharge rate and remaining recharge capacity.

TABLE 9
IRWD 2027 Recharge Operations- BEFORE LOSSES
October 13, 2026

Forecasted Amounts:

Month	IRWD Table A (AF)	DRWD 1:1 (AF)	MWD (AF)	Homer (AF)	Valley Water (AF)	AVEK (AF)	Total (AF)	Status	Expected Recharge ¹ (AF)	Expected Recharge Rate (CFS)
January	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	100
February	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	100
March	-	-	-	-	-	7,000	7,000		7,000	100
April	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	80
May	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	80
June	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	80
July	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	80
August	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	80
September	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	80
October	1,754	-	-	-	-	-	1,754		1,754	80
November	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	80
December	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	80
Total	1,754	-	-	-	-	7,000	8,754		-	
Recharge goal:	1,754	-	-	-	-	7,000	8,754			

¹ The expected recharge is based on the expected recharge rate and remaining recharge capacity.

October 13, 2026

Submitted by: P. Weghorst

Approved by: Paul A. Cook 

SUPPLY RELIABILITY PROGRAMS COMMITTEE

REVISED POLICY PRINCIPLES ON ORANGE COUNTY WATER RELIABILITY IMPROVEMENTS

SUMMARY:

Updates are proposed to IRWD's Policy Principles Paper on Orange County Water Reliability Improvements. Proposed revisions consider the upcoming expiration of the Emergency Service Program Participation and Operations Agreement for South County and IRWD Interconnection Projects (Emergency Interconnect Agreement). The revisions also consider Orange County Water District (OCWD) policy, requirements of Metropolitan Water District (MWD), Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWDOC) studies, and hydraulic studies of IRWD's potable system. Staff recommends that the Board approve the revised policy principles paper.

BACKGROUND:

In 2004, IRWD began producing policy papers on topics of particular interest to the District. Because of IRWD's standing in the water resource industry, the position of the District is regularly solicited on issues of importance to industry and the community. To keep these position papers current and usable to explain the District's position, staff recommends that the Board review the papers and incorporate revisions or adopt new papers as needed.

On January 22, 2018, the IRWD Board adopted a Policy Position Paper on South County Water Reliability. This paper took into consideration the 2004 South County Reliability Plan and MWDOC's 2016 Orange County Water Reliability Study. The paper also contemplated storage accounts and exchanges in the Orange County Ground Water Basin as well as opportunities regarding the IRWD Water Bank, Irvine Lake, and the Baker Water Treatment Plant. The 2018 policy paper helped guide IRWD in pursuing the development and execution of the Baker Plant Water Purchase and Sale Agreement with South Coast Water District and the Water Service Reliability Agreement with Serrano Water District. Revisions are now proposed for IRWD's Policy Principles on Orange County Water Reliability Improvements.

Revisions to Policy Position Paper:

To keep the policy paper current and useful for explaining IRWD's position on South County Water Reliability, staff is proposing revisions that consider the upcoming expiration of the Emergency Interconnect Agreement as well as the following:

- OCWD policy to assist South Orange County agencies;
- Findings of recent MWDOC water reliability studies;
- MWD's Administrative Code; and
- Hydraulic studies of IRWD's potable water system.

This revised paper will help guide IRWD in advocating for extending and enhancing the Emergency Interconnect Agreement, which is an IRWD Target Activity. A version of the paper with revisions shown as tracked changes is attached as Exhibit “A”. A version of the updated paper with all revisions accepted is provided as Exhibit “B”. Staff recommends that the Board approve the Revised Policy Position Paper.

FISCAL IMPACTS:

None.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE:

Not applicable.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board approve the Revised Policy Principles Paper on Orange County Water Reliability Improvements.

LIST OF EXHIBITS:

- Exhibit “A” – Draft Proposed Policy Principles on Orange County Water Reliability Improvements (with revisions shown as tracked changes)
- Exhibit “B” – Draft Proposed Policy Principles on Orange County Water Reliability Improvements (with revisions accepted)

DRAFT IRVINE RANCH WATER DISTRICT POLICY POSITION
ORANGE COUNTY WATER RELIABILITY IMPROVEMENTS

Revised: ~~January 22, 2018~~ October 13, 2026

Issue Summary:

Unplanned interruptions in a retail water agency's ability to provide water can have dire consequences to its customers and local economy. It is in the best interest of all water agencies to work with each other to ensure that all customers in Orange County have access to reliable supplies of water. Irvine Ranch Water District is positioned from both a geographic, supply, and hydraulic perspective to assist Orange County water agencies to implement new projects and programs that will further increase water supply and system reliability countywide.

Background:

Orange County water agencies remain dependent on imported water supplies. These imported water supplies ~~that~~ are provided through major pipeline systems that deliver treated and untreated water from Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) and through water deliveries made from IRWD's Baker and Howiler Water Treatment Plants as well as other retail agency treatment facilities. The water sources for the Baker and Howiler Plants make consist use of untreated Colorado River water from MWD ~~that is~~ (available through the Santiago Lateral) and water captured in Irvine Lake. MWD's Diemer Water Treatment Plant provides most of the treated imported water supply to Orange County.

The regional potable water supply system serving South Orange County has limited looping or redundancy options and has limited local storage capacity. A large earthquake or other disaster could damage the East Orange County Feeder Number 2 (EOCF No. 2) or the Allen McCulloch Pipeline, potentially causing significant reductions in water deliveries to South Orange County for multiple days. A major earthquake that damages the Diemer Water Treatment Plant could potentially interrupt South Orange County water supplies for more than a month.

Many South County water agencies have constructed ~~additional~~ storage facilities to rely upon during such potential supply interruptions and some of the agencies have developed recycled water systems that diversify their water supplies and improve reliability. While these storage and recycled water projects have improved regional supply reliability, they are not expected to provide complete potable system and supply reliability for South Orange County.

2004 South County Reliability Plan:

In September 2004, the Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWDOC) and the South Orange County retail water agencies (with support from the Bureau of Reclamation) completed a four-year reliability planning effort with the release of the South Orange County System Reliability Plan. The Plan appraised system risks and identified projects to increase system reliability.

The Plan concluded that water system reliability in South Orange County could be substantially increased by accessing the Orange County Groundwater Basin. It also concluded that some emergency water supplies for retail water agencies in South Orange County could be provided

through IRWD's potable water distribution system. It identified IRWD interconnections that would strengthen the backbone distribution system of the South County water agencies.

Emergency ~~Services~~-Interconnect Agreement:

The 2004 Plan was the impetus for the Emergency Service Program Participation and Operations Agreement for South County and Irvine Ranch Water District Interconnection Projects (Emergency Interconnect Agreement) that was executed in November 2008. This agreement led to the construction of pump station improvements and pipeline connections that provide emergency supplies to participating South County water agencies. The agreement acknowledges that IRWD's ability to deliver such emergency supplies will diminish over time with flow reservations ending by the year 2030. The maximum flow reservation is limited to 50 cfs for up to 30 days and 3,000 AF per incident. The program has been used six times to provide water to South County agencies from IRWD's system. Any groundwater delivered to South County through the Emergency Interconnect Agreement is exchanged, accounted for, and charged as imported water upon the end of each event.

Baker Water Treatment Plant:

The plan also contemplated the Baker Water Treatment Plant and an inland well field connected to the ~~East Orange County Feeder~~EOCF No. 2. Construction of the Baker Plant began in 2014 and was placed into service in January 2017. The project provides 28.8 million gallons per day of drinking water to IRWD and four South Orange County water districts. The Baker Plant was designed to treat MWD supplies from the Colorado River; ~~it~~It also ~~has the ability to~~can treat native water available from Irvine Lake. IRWD holds exclusive rights to store and use water from Irvine Lake.

2016-Recent Orange County Reliability Studies:

MWDOC has performed three Orange County reliability studies with similar findings. These studies were completed in 2016, 2018, and 2023. The conclusions from these studies are consistent in that they recommend South County agencies pursue access to groundwater from the Basin and groundwater banking projects. The conclusions from these studies are described below:

2016 OC Reliability Study:

In December 2014, MWDOC initiated a comprehensive assessment of the current and future water supply and system reliability for all of Orange County. This evaluation, known as the "Orange County Water Reliability Study", was completed in 2016. MWDOC led the study ~~efforts with the~~in collaboration ~~of with~~ the managers from MWDOC's member agencies, Orange County Water District (OCWD) as well as the cities of Anaheim, Fullerton and Santa Ana. These managers formed the Working Group that provided direction and technical support to the study, ~~including the development of study assumptions associated with future water demands, system modeling, scenario development and the implementation of future projects.~~ IRWD staff actively participated in the ~~over 25 meetings of the~~ Working Group.

Study Findings:

The findings of the 2016 OC Water Reliability Study indicated that if MWD and its member agencies were to implement a reasonable list of projects that have a high likelihood of success, that future water supply shortages in the Brea / La Habra and Orange County Basin areas would be small enough to manage through enhanced groundwater management and additional water conservation efforts. The findings further indicated~~d~~ that shortages in the South Orange County area would require additional water supply projects and programs to improve both supply and system reliability during shortage periods. The study demonstrated that substantial improvements in South County reliability could be achieved through access to water banking projects, water ~~conservation~~use efficiency efforts, and access to emergency groundwater supplies from the Orange County Groundwater Basin. Such improvements could be realized without having to invest in costly base loaded supplies from sources such as seawater desalination projects. ~~The b~~Base loaded supplies from such sources would not be needed in most years and would provide ~~little~~limited benefit to Orange County.

2018 OC Reliability Study:

In February 2019, MWDOC published its 2018 Orange County Reliability Study, which was based on a more advanced approach to modeling imported supplies from MWD. The study concluded that emergency supply needs are the major driver for water reliability projects in South County. It concluded that emergency driven shortages in South County can be met in the future through extension of the Emergency Interconnect Agreement and the introduction of groundwater from the Basin into the EOCF No. 2 pipeline. The study also concluded that South County should consider securing access to Extraordinary Supplies through participation in the IRWD Water Bank.

2023 OC Reliability Study:

In its 2023 Orange County Reliability Study, MWDOC relied upon a better understanding of climate change and declining availability of imported water from MWD. It also evaluated the benefits and uncertainties associated with MWD's proposed advanced recycled water treatment project and the California Department of Water Resource's proposed tunnel(s) project to convey water around the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta. The study recommended that Orange County water agencies make additional investments in recycled water projects, water use efficiency, access to water banking programs, expanded use of groundwater, and desalination projects.

OCWD Policy to Assist South County:

In July 2021, the OCWD Board of Directors adopted a policy to assist South County agencies during emergencies. The policy principles call for OCWD to work with South County agencies to explore providing access to groundwater when imported supplies are unavailable and to coordinate the effort with any extension of the Emergency Interconnect Agreement. The policy further states that any South County access to groundwater must be consistent with the OCWD

District Act, financially benefit OCWD, and not negatively impact OCWD's operations. The OCWD District Act requires that any program benefits involving Basin storage of water must accrue primarily to properties within the OCWD District boundaries (i.e., the Groundwater Producer Agencies).

Conveying Groundwater into EOCF No. 2:

The EOCF No. 2 is a regional pipeline that is held in trust by MWD for members of a Joint Powers Authority (JPA) and the capacity owners in the pipeline. IRWD is one of 15 Orange County water agencies that own capacity in the EOCF No. 2. The pipeline is used to deliver treated water from MWD's Lower Feeder. MWD operates and maintains the pipeline. The JPA agreement and capacity assignment agreements do not establish mechanisms for resolution of disputes or for the introduction of non-MWD supplies of water into the pipeline. The introduction of groundwater into the EOCF No. 2 is likely to require written amendments to the JPA and capacity assignment agreements. Such amendments would require signatures of all the capacity owners.

MWD Administrative Code:

The introduction of groundwater into the EOCF No. 2 for delivery to South County agencies during an emergency would need to occur through MWDOC and would be governed by Section 4519 of MWD's Administrative Code. This provision of the code would allow delivery of groundwater into the EOCF No. 2 in an emergency when MWD is physically unable to make deliveries of imported water due to a natural disaster or other catastrophic event lasting greater than seven days. There would need to be no feasible alternative to delivery water to the affected South County agencies. The determination of such non-feasibility and the approval of introduction of groundwater into the EOCF No. 2 would be at the discretion of MWD's General Manager. MWDOC would assume all risk of any adverse water quality or system impacts due to the introduction of groundwater. MWDOC would pay all MWD's direct costs and administrative fees incurred as a result of the emergency deliveries. MWDOC has agreed with MWD to participate in a pilot project to assist in the development of protocols and procedures for implementing Section 4519.

South Orange County Interconnection Study:

IRWD and MWDOC cooperated in a planning level analysis of alternatives for IRWD to continue providing emergency supplies through the IRWD potable water system to South County agencies beyond the current termination date of the Emergency Interconnect Agreement. The study evaluated supplies available from the IRWD Dyer Road Wellfield, IRWD demands, and hydraulic capacities. A study report was ~~develop~~prepared by consultants at Dudek in April 2019. The study concluded that viable solutions exist to convey groundwater from the Dyer Road Wellfield into the EOCF No. 2.

IRWD Water Supply Reliability Improvement Programs:

Since the Board adopted the 2018 version of the policy position paper, IRWD has implemented reliability improvement programs with South Coast Water District (SCWD) and Serrano Water District (SWD). In 2024, IRWD executed a Water Purchase and Sale Agreement with SCWD to improve SCWD's water supply reliability and diversity. The agreement provides for the delivery of 3 cubic feet per second (cfs) of Baker Water Treatment Plant production to SCWD from IRWD's capacity in the plant.

In early 2025, Serrano Water District (SWD) transferred its interests in Irvine Lake, the Howiler Treatment Plant, and associated conveyance facilities to IRWD. Upon completion of the transfer, IRWD entered into a Water Service Reliability Agreement through which IRWD provides water supplies to SWD from a connection to IRWD's potable system and from supplies treated at the Howiler Treatment Plant.

Future Water Supply Reliability Improvement Programs:

Extending IRWD Water Banking Benefits-Extended to Orange County Agencies:

As IRWD continues to implement its water banking programs in Kern County, it will become possible to share this reliability benefit with other water agencies, especially-including those within Orange County. Between 2018 and 2021, IRWD has begunheld discussions with MWDOK to implement a shared reliability pilot program that would provide access to emergency supplies from IRWD's water-banking-projectsWater Bank-in Kern County to other Orange County water agencies. MWDOK concluded in January 2022 that its member agencies had insufficient interest in the program to warrant further discussions.

IRWD intends to establish a guideline for the pricing of water from the IRWD Water Bank to prepare for MWDOK member agency interest in the IRWD Water Bank that is likely to occur during a future major disruption in imported water supplies. IRWD's Policy Position Paper on Water Banking, Transfers and Wheeling provides guidance on when IRWD will be positioned to share reliability benefits from the IRWD Water Bank.

Storage Accounts and Exchanges in the Orange County Basin:

OCWD is considering the implementation of programs that could increase water supply reliability as contemplated in MWDOK's 2004 and 2016 studies. IRWD and the other Orange County Groundwater Producer Agencies have a vested interest in maximizing the use of storage in the Orange County Basin to meet their own water supply reliability needs. These vested interests should be protected and be given first priority consideration by OCWD prior to implementing a storage and exchange program.

Policy Principles:

Following are policy principles to help guide IRWD in advocating for and pursuing an extension of the Emergency Interconnect Agreement as well as projects and programs to assist Orange County water agencies in improving water supply and system reliability.

- IRWD should work with all the water agencies in Orange County to ensure that all agencies have access to water supplies for use during emergency conditions.
- ~~Orange County water agencies should be encouraged to pool resources~~ (proportional to benefits) to finance the facilities necessary to achieve ~~water supply and system~~ reliability. MWDOC should work with affected agencies to encourage participation and should act as a facilitator on behalf of the beneficiary agencies.
- ~~IRWD supports efforts by MWDOC to secure the ability to convey groundwater in an emergency through the EOCF No. 2. IRWD and MWDOC should coordinate with capacity owners in the pipeline, promote written amendments to the pipeline JPA and capacity agreements, and secure the written approval of MWD consistent with its Administrative Code.~~
- ~~IRWD recognizes that it is uniquely positioned, from both a geographic and hydraulic perspective, to facilitate the conveyance of water into South Orange County. IRWD should continue to work with MWDOC, OCWD and the South County water agencies to amend the Emergency Interconnect Agreement in pursuit of projects that continue themaximize the ability to deliver emergency supplies through the IRWD system, by making use of existing interconnections and implementing improvements and programs that will ensure the ability to provide deliveries of water into the futureincluding groundwater supplies introduced into the EOCF No. 2. The development of amendments to the existing emergency interconnect agreement should be considered to facilitate such improvements and programs, based on the availability of capacity within IRWD's facilities.~~
- ~~IRWD should work with the Groundwater Producers, MWDOC, and OCWD to ensure that groundwater supplies introduced into the EOCF No. 2 for emergency use in South County, are exchanged, accounted for, and charged for as imported water through contract provisions extending the Emergency Interconnect Agreement.~~
- ~~The Groundwater Producers and OCWD staff should work together to identify ways to optimize the management of the Orange County Groundwater Basin (Basin) to increase water in storage, reduce pumping costs, and and increase dry-year water supply reliability.~~
- ~~Once measures have been identified to optimize storage in the Basin, the Producers and OCWD staff should determine how much storage is available for allocation to individual Producer storage accounts as well as establish rules for the allocation of storage and related operations.~~
- ~~IRWD supports efforts of MWDOC and the other Orange County water agencies as they work with the Orange County Water District in securing a contractual ability of retail water agencies to store or exchange water in the Orange County Basin; aAny storage and exchange program within the Orange County Basin should first be made available to the Groundwater Producers r Agencies and should benefit the Groundwater Basinproducers consistent with OCWD District Act. Nothing should preclude the ability of a Groundwater Producer to provide emergency supply assistance within the County through participation in a storage and exchange program.~~

- ~~IRWD supports efforts by MWDOC to secure the ability to convey groundwater through regionally owned transmission facilities operated by MWD to increase water supply reliability in Orange County.~~
- ~~Concepts, policies, terms, and processes for implementing a~~Any program to assist South County agencies with emergency water supply reliability, using water from the Orange County Groundwater Basin, should be limited to the use of interconnections and must first be vetted with the Groundwater Producer Agencies. It must also be compliant with the OCWD District Act and not infringe on other agency jurisdictions. . The terms must ensure that the water supply reliability needs of the Groundwater Producers must be met as a first priority and the and that the pProducers must be are protected from cost impacts or any infringement on groundwater ~~production~~ rights.
- ~~The implementation of any programs involving water from the Basin to improve the emergency supply reliability of South County agencies must be consistent with the OCWD District Act, the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act and should not infringe upon the jurisdiction of other Orange County agencies. Existing contractual arrangements, such as the Dyer Road Well Field Agreement and the Emergency Interconnect Agreement, should take priority over any subsequent arrangements.~~
- ~~IRWD must be made financially whole on any capital improvements, operations, maintenance, energy, administrative costs, replacements, and refurbishments of facilities used to assist South County agencies with supply reliability. IRWD should work to update existing or develop new interconnection agreements that would allow participating South County water agencies to reimburse IRWD, proportionately, for access to existing capital facilities as well as improvements to the IRWD system needed to allow South County water agencies access to stored or exchanged water. Such reimbursements should take into consideration the total cost of delivering water through the IRWD system including appropriate capital, operational, maintenance, energy, replacement, administration and water purchase expenses.~~
- Use of IRWD infrastructure by South County agencies should be subject to current and future availability, with the needs of IRWD's customers taking top priority.
- ~~IRWD should establish a guideline for the pricing of water from the IRWD Water Bank to prepare for future MWDOC member agency interest in the IRWD Water Bank that is likely to occur during emergencies. IRWD should work with MWDOC to implement a shared reliability program that would provide access to supplies from IRWD's water banking projects in Kern County to Orange County agencies by selling options to call on water during water shortage conditions.~~
- IRWD should ~~also~~ consider further using its rights to store and use water from Irvine Lake, its capacity rights in the Baker Plant, and other IRWD water supply assets to provide shared

water supply reliability benefits to South County ~~water agencies during both emergency and water shortage conditions.~~

- Any sharing of benefits from IRWD supplies projects with Orange County water agencies should not result in negative impacts to the ability of IRWD to meet the water supply needs of its service area, increase rates, or financially impact its customers. ~~IRWD should be proportionally compensated for its capital investments as well as appropriate operations, maintenance, replacement and administration costs.~~

DRAFT IRVINE RANCH WATER DISTRICT POLICY POSITION
ORANGE COUNTY WATER RELIABILITY IMPROVEMENTS

Revised: October 13, 2026

Issue Summary:

Unplanned interruptions in a retail water agency's ability to provide water can have dire consequences to its customers and local economy. It is in the best interest of all water agencies to work with each other to ensure that all customers in Orange County have access to reliable supplies of water. Irvine Ranch Water District is positioned from both a geographic, supply, and hydraulic perspective to assist Orange County water agencies to implement new projects and programs that will further increase water supply and system reliability countywide.

Background:

Orange County water agencies remain dependent on imported water supplies. These imported water supplies are provided through major pipeline systems that deliver treated and untreated water from Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) and through water deliveries made from IRWD's Baker and Howiler Water Treatment Plants as well as other retail agency treatment facilities. The water sources for the Baker and Howiler Plants consist of untreated Colorado River water from MWD (available through the Santiago Lateral) and water captured in Irvine Lake. MWD's Diemer Water Treatment Plant provides most of the treated imported water supply to Orange County.

The regional potable water supply system serving South Orange County has limited looping or redundancy options and has limited local storage capacity. A large earthquake or other disaster could damage the East Orange County Feeder Number 2 (EOCF No. 2) or the Allen McCulloch Pipeline, potentially causing significant reductions in water deliveries to South Orange County for multiple days. A major earthquake that damages the Diemer Water Treatment Plant could potentially interrupt South Orange County water supplies for more than a month.

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Emergency Interconnect Agreement:

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Baker Water Treatment Plant:

The plan also contemplated the Baker Water Treatment Plant and an inland well field connected to the EOCF No. 2. Construction of the Baker Plant began in 2014 and was placed into service in January 2017. The project provides 28.8 million gallons per day of drinking water to IRWD and four South Orange County water districts. The Baker Plant was designed to treat MWD supplies from the Colorado River. It also can treat native water available from Irvine Lake. IRWD holds exclusive rights to store and use water from Irvine Lake.

Recent Orange County Reliability Studies:

MWDOC has performed three Orange County reliability studies with similar findings. These studies were completed in 2016, 2018, and 2023. The conclusions from these studies are consistent in that they recommend South County agencies pursue access to groundwater from the Basin and groundwater banking projects. The conclusions from these studies are described below:

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The findings of the 2016 OC Water Reliability Study indicated that if MWD and its member agencies were to implement a reasonable list of projects that have a high likelihood of success, that future water supply shortages in the Brea / La Habra and Orange County Basin areas would be small enough to manage through enhanced groundwater management and additional water conservation efforts. The findings further indicated that shortages in the South Orange County

area would require additional water supply projects and programs to improve both supply and system reliability during shortage periods. The study demonstrated that substantial improvements in South County reliability could be achieved through access to water banking projects, water use efficiency efforts, and access to emergency groundwater supplies from the Orange County Groundwater Basin. Such improvements could be realized without having to invest in costly base loaded supplies from sources such as seawater desalination projects. Base loaded supplies from such sources would not be needed in most years and would provide limited benefit to Orange County.

2018 OC Reliability Study:

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2023 OC Reliability Study:

In its 2023 Orange County Reliability Study, MWDOC relied upon a better understanding of climate change and declining availability of imported water from MWD. It also evaluated the benefits and uncertainties associated with MWD's proposed advanced recycled water treatment project and the California Department of Water Resource's proposed tunnel(s) project to convey water around the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta. The study recommended that Orange County water agencies make additional investments in recycled water projects, water use efficiency, access to water banking programs, expanded use of groundwater, and desalination projects.

OCWD Policy to Assist South County:

In July 2021, the OCWD Board of Directors adopted a policy to assist South County agencies during emergencies. The policy principles call for OCWD to work with South County agencies to explore providing access to groundwater when imported supplies are unavailable and to coordinate the effort with any extension of the Emergency Interconnect Agreement. The policy further states that any South County access to groundwater must be consistent with the OCWD District Act, financially benefit OCWD, and not negatively impact OCWD's operations. The OCWD District Act requires that any program benefits involving Basin storage of water must accrue primarily to properties within the OCWD District boundaries (i.e., the Groundwater Producer Agencies).

Conveying Groundwater into EOCF No. 2:

The EOCF No. 2 is a regional pipeline that is held in trust by MWD for members of a Joint Powers Authority (JPA) and the capacity owners in the pipeline. IRWD is one of 15 Orange County water agencies that own capacity in the EOCF No. 2. The pipeline is used to deliver treated water from MWD's Lower Feeder. MWD operates and maintains the pipeline. The JPA agreement and capacity assignment agreements do not establish mechanisms for resolution of disputes or for the introduction of non-MWD supplies of water into the pipeline. The introduction of groundwater into the EOCF No. 2 is likely to require written amendments to the JPA and capacity assignment agreements. Such amendments would require signatures of all the capacity owners.

MWD Administrative Code:

The introduction of groundwater into the EOCF No. 2 for delivery to South County agencies during an emergency would need to occur through MWDOC and would be governed by Section 4519 of MWD's Administrative Code. This provision of the code would allow delivery of groundwater into the EOCF No. 2 in an emergency when MWD is physically unable to make deliveries of imported water due to a natural disaster or other catastrophic event lasting greater than seven days. There would need to be no feasible alternative to delivery water to the affected South County agencies. The determination of such non-feasibility and the approval of introduction of groundwater into the EOCF No. 2 would be at the discretion of MWD's General Manager. MWDOC would assume all risk of any adverse water quality or system impacts due to the introduction of groundwater. MWDOC would pay all MWD's direct costs and administrative fees incurred as a result of the emergency deliveries. MWDOC has agreed with MWD to participate in a pilot project to assist in the development of protocols and procedures for implementing Section 4519.

South Orange County Interconnection Study:

IRWD and MWDOC cooperated in a planning level analysis of alternatives for IRWD to continue providing emergency supplies through the IRWD potable water system to South County agencies beyond the current termination date of the Emergency Interconnect Agreement. The study evaluated supplies available from the IRWD Dyer Road Wellfield, IRWD demands, and hydraulic capacities. A study report was prepared by consultants at Dudek in April 2019. The study concluded that viable solutions exist to convey groundwater from the Dyer Road Wellfield into the EOCF No. 2.

IRWD Water Supply Reliability Improvement Programs:

Since the Board adopted the 2018 version of the policy position paper, IRWD has implemented reliability improvement programs with South Coast Water District (SCWD) and Serrano Water District (SWD). In 2024, IRWD executed a Water Purchase and Sale Agreement with SCWD to improve SCWD's water supply reliability and diversity. The agreement provides for the delivery of 3 cubic feet per second (cfs) of Baker Water Treatment Plant production to SCWD from IRWD's capacity in the plant.

In early 2025, Serrano Water District (SWD) transferred its interests in Irvine Lake, the Howiler Treatment Plant, and associated conveyance facilities to IRWD. Upon completion of the transfer, IRWD entered into a Water Service Reliability Agreement through which IRWD provides water supplies to SWD from a connection to IRWD's potable system and from supplies treated at the Howiler Treatment Plant.

Extending IRWD Water Bank Benefits to Orange County Agencies:

As IRWD continues to implement its water banking programs in Kern County, it will become possible to share this reliability benefit with other water agencies, including those within Orange County. Between 2018 and 2021, IRWD held discussions with MWDOC to implement a shared reliability pilot program that would provide access to emergency supplies from IRWD's Water Bank to other Orange County water agencies. MWDOC concluded in January 2022 that its member agencies had insufficient interest in the program to warrant further discussions.

IRWD intends to establish a guideline for the pricing of water from the IRWD Water Bank to prepare for MWDOC member agency interest in the IRWD Water Bank that is likely to occur during a future major disruption in imported water supplies. IRWD's Policy Position Paper on Water Banking, Transfers and Wheeling provides guidance on when IRWD will be positioned to share reliability benefits from the IRWD Water Bank.

Policy Principles:

Following are policy principles to help guide IRWD in advocating for and pursuing an extension of the Emergency Interconnect Agreement as well as projects and programs to assist Orange County water agencies in improving water supply and system reliability.

- IRWD should work with all the water agencies in Orange County to ensure that all agencies have access to water supplies for use during emergency conditions.
- Orange County water agencies should be encouraged to pool resources (proportional to benefits) to finance the facilities necessary to achieve supply and system reliability. MWDOC should work with affected agencies to encourage participation and should act as a facilitator on behalf of the beneficiary agencies.
- IRWD supports efforts by MWDOC to secure the ability to convey groundwater in an emergency through the EOCF No. 2. IRWD and MWDOC should coordinate with capacity owners in the pipeline, promote written amendments to the pipeline JPA and capacity agreements, and secure the written approval of MWD consistent with its Administrative Code.
- IRWD should work with MWDOC, OCWD and the South County agencies to amend the Emergency Interconnect Agreement in pursuit of projects that continue the ability to deliver emergency supplies through the IRWD system, including groundwater supplies introduced into the EOCF No. 2.

- IRWD should work with the Groundwater Producers, MWDOC, and OCWD to ensure that groundwater supplies introduced into the EOCF No. 2 for emergency use in South County, are exchanged, accounted for, and charged for as imported water through contract provisions extending the Emergency Interconnect Agreement.
- The Groundwater Producers and OCWD staff should work together to identify ways to optimize the management of the Basin to increase water in storage, reduce pumping costs, and increase dry-year water supply reliability.
- Any storage and exchange program within the Basin should first be made available to the Groundwater Producers and should benefit the producers consistent with OCWD District Act.
- Any program to assist South County agencies with supply reliability using water from the Basin, must be vetted with the Groundwater Producers. It must also be compliant with the OCWD District Act and not infringe on other agency jurisdictions. The supply needs of the Groundwater Producers must be met first and the producers must be protected from cost impacts or any infringement on groundwater rights.
- IRWD must be made financially whole on any capital improvements, operations, maintenance, energy, administrative costs, replacements, and refurbishments of facilities used to assist South County agencies with supply reliability.
- Use of IRWD infrastructure by South County agencies should be subject to current and future availability, with the needs of IRWD's customers taking top priority.
- IRWD should establish a guideline for the pricing of water from the IRWD Water Bank to prepare for future MWDOC member agency interest in the IRWD Water Bank that is likely to occur during emergencies.
- IRWD should consider further using its rights to store and use water from Irvine Lake, its capacity rights in the Baker Plant, and other IRWD water supply assets to provide shared water supply reliability benefits to South County.
- Any sharing of benefits from IRWD supplies projects with Orange County water agencies should not result in negative impacts to the ability of IRWD to meet the water supply needs of its service area, increase rates, or financially impact its customers.