Legislative Affairs and Communications Committee Meeting - April 5, 2023

1. Agenda Packet

   Documents:

   230405 LAC AGENDA PACKET.PDF

SWEETWATER AUTHORITY
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CARLOS QUINTERO
GENERAL MANAGER

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS AND COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

AGENDA

DATE: Wednesday, April 5, 2023 TIME: 6:00 p.m.

Notice: This meeting will be held at the above date, time, and location, and Sweetwater Authority Board members and members of the public may attend in person. Some Sweetwater Authority Board members may attend and participate in the meeting virtually pursuant to the Brown Act (Gov. Code § 54953). As a convenience to the public, the Sweetwater Authority provides a call-in option and internet-based option for members of the public to virtually observe and provide public comments at its meetings. Additional details on in-person and virtual public participation are below. Please note that, in the event of a disruption in the call-in option or internet-based option, the meeting will continue unless otherwise required by law, such as when a Director is attending the meeting virtually pursuant to certain provisions of the Brown Act.

To join via Zoom Webinar from a computer, tablet, or smartphone, click on the link below:
https://zoom.us/j/91458023440

To join this meeting via telephone, please dial:
1-669-900-6833 or 1-253-215-8782
Meeting ID: 914 5802 3440
The Zoom Webinar link and telephone number will be active approximately 15 minutes prior to the meeting start time.

If you are unable to access the meeting using this call-in information, please contact the Assistant Board Secretary at (619) 409-6704 for assistance.

Instructions for Making Public Comments:

Members of the public may address the Board regarding items not appearing on the posted agenda, which are within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Governing Board, and on agenda items. Speakers are asked to state name, address, and topic, and to observe a time limit of three (3) minutes each. Public comment on a single topic is limited to twenty (20) minutes. (Note: Written comments will no longer be read aloud during the meeting.)

Making Public Comment for Those Attending In-Person:

Anyone desiring to address the Governing Board regarding non-agenda items or an item listed on the agenda is asked to fill out a speaker's slip and present it to the

Board Chair or the Secretary. Request to Speak forms are available at the Speaker's podium and at www.sweetwater.org/speakerform.

Making Public Comment for Those Not Attending In-Person:

The Chair will inquire if there are any comments from the public regarding non-agenda items and any items listed on the agenda prior to Board discussion. Members of the public may request to speak and make comments as follows:

- Via Zoom Webinar, click on "Raise Hand" button. This will notify the moderator that you wish to speak during Oral Communication or during a specific item on the agenda.

- Via phone, you can raise your hand by pressing *9 to notify the moderator that you wish to speak during the current item.

Any person with a disability who requires a modification or accommodation in order to participate in a meeting should direct such request to the Board Secretary at (619) 409-6703 at least forty-eight (48) hours before the meeting, if possible.

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

2. ITEMS TO BE ADDED, WITHDRAWN, OR REORDERED IN THE AGENDA

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

Opportunity for members of the public to address the Committee. (Government Code Section 54954.3).

4. ACTION AGENDA

The following items on the Action Agenda call for discussion and action by the Committee. All items are placed on the Agenda so that the Committee may discuss and take action on the item if the Committee is so inclined, including items listed for information.

A. Update on Rate Outreach Plan (Information Item)

B. Update on Sacramento Legislative Briefings (Information Item)

5. DIRECTORS' COMMENTS

Directors' comments are comments by Directors concerning Authority business that may be of interest to the Board. Directors' comments are placed on the Agenda to enable individual Board members to convey information to the Board and the Public. There is no discussion or action taken on comments made by Board members.

6. NEXT MEETING DATE: Monday, May 8, 2023 at 5 p.m.

7. ADJOURNMENT

This agenda was posted at least seventy-two (72) hours before the meeting in a location freely accessible to the Public on the exterior bulletin board at the main entrance to the Authority's office and it is also posted on the Authority's website at www.sweetwater.org. No action may be taken on any item not appearing on the posted agenda, except as provided by California Government Code Section 54954.2. Any writings or documents provided to a majority of the members of the Sweetwater Authority Governing Board regarding any item on this agenda will be made available for public inspection at the Authority Administration Office, located at 505 Garrett Avenue, Chula Vista, CA 91910, during normal business hours. Upon request, this agenda will be made available in appropriate alternative formats to persons with disabilities, as required by Section 202 of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Any person with a disability who requires a modification or accommodation in order to participate in a meeting should direct such request to the Board Secretary at (619) 409-6703 at least forty-eight (48) hours before the meeting, if possible.

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BOARD INFORMATION

TO: Governing Board (Legislative Affairs and Communications Committee)

FROM: Carlos Quintero, General Manager
Leslie Payne, Public Affairs Manager

DATE: March 30, 2023

SUBJECT: Update on Rate Outreach Plan

SUMMARY

At its January 25, 2023 meeting, the Board selected a consultant to prepare the 2023 Rate Study. An outreach plan was presented to the Board at its February 22, 2023 meeting. A monthly update will be provided to the Legislative Affairs and Communications Committee and the Board on outreach activities related to the 2023 Rate Study in order to receive input. An updated Rate Outreach Plan is provided as Attachment 1.

Presentation and outreach requests were sent to the approved community group list, as amended, after the February 22, 2023 Board meeting. The presentations listed below were scheduled, and this scheduling effort will continue with other groups during the first week in April. A few community events are scheduled for the Spring and Summer months which can provide an opportunity to perform outreach on the rate study and other Authority activities. The list of confirmed presentations and community events are included below:

Community Presentations

Presentation Date	Group
April 12, 2023	Sweetwater Authority Rate Payer Association (SARPA)
April 13, 2023	Chula Vista Sunrise Rotary
April 19, 2023	Public Rate Workshop
May 2, 2023	South County Economic Development Council
June 6, 2023	City of Chula Vista City Council Briefing
June 10, 2023	City of National City Quarterly Council Breakfast
June 20, 2023	City of National City Council Briefing

Community Event (Outreach Opportunities)

Event	Location	Event Date
South Bay Earth Day	Bayfront Park	April 15, 2023
Spring Garden Butterfly Festival	Water Conservation Garden	May 6, 2023
Rate Study Open House	Robert A. Perdue Treatment Plant	June 3, 2023
Lemon Festival	Third Avenue	August 12, 2023

Outreach Materials

Materials Developed	Details
Draft Presentation	Presentation template created for community presentations (will be used and updated for presentations as needed)
Open House Insert	Open House insert at Perdue developed and will be mailed in customer bills April 7 through May 26
Public Rate Workshop	Flyer for April 19 Rate Workshop

PAST BOARD ACTIONS

February 22, 2023	The Governing Board approved the Rate Study Outreach Plan with the addition of community groups; recognizing that this process is still evolving and may include other participants.
January 25, 2023	The Governing Board awarded a contract to NBS in the amount of $58,200 for the 2023 Water Rate Cost of Service Study.

FISCAL IMPACT

Funds for the proposed plan are covered in the Authority's approved FY 2022-23 Budget under Fund 10-10-120-5620 Administration (Public Affairs, Program Supplies).

POLICY /STRATEGIC PLAN

Strategic Plan Goal 4: Customer Service, Citizen Engagement and Community Relations (CS)

- Objective CS1: Develop an outreach program that includes a multi-faceted approach to communications and customer outreach - including, but not limited to, press releases, web-based communications, social media, community presentations, community events, educational opportunities, and periodically surveying customer

CONCLUSION

This is an information item.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Updated Rate Outreach Plan
2. Rate Workshop Flyer
3. Open House Billing Insert

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ATTACHMENT 1

Outreach Plan for 2023 Water Rate Study (Updated April 2023)

Timeline	Outreach Action	Additional Info	Action	Input
February 2023	Create branding for rate study	Develop tagline, materials	Public Affairs	Management
	Create package of outreach materials to share w/stakeholder groups	Package information on LIHWAP, rebates, water resources Add later: Open House materials	Public Affairs	Management
	Confirm list of NGOs/stakeholder groups with Committee	Additions, edits to list ahead of contact	Public Affairs	Legislative Affairs & Communications Committee
March 2023	Initiate outreach to NGO/stakeholder groups	Request to share information, attend meetings and/or give presentation	Public Affairs	
	Develop presentation templates	Create long and short versions with top speaking points; adapt as needed	Public Affairs	Management
	Commence community presentations	Schedule and complete presentations by May 2023	Presenters: General Manager and/or Director of Finance Assist: Public Affairs	
	Develop social media campaign based on rate study branding	Deployment ongoing through Prop 218 hearing	Public Affairs	
	Begin monthly outreach update to Committee	Provide metrics and measures in a monthly report	Public Affairs	Legislative Affairs & Communications Committee
April 2023	Continue outreach/presentations to NGOs/stakeholder groups	Provide materials, coordinate presentations as requested	Public Affairs	
	Potential: Outreach at community events	South Bay Earth Day-April 8	Programs/Public Affairs	
May 2023	Update messaging/branding packet based on rate study outcome, budget		Public Affairs	Management
	Draft Prop 218 presented at Budget Workshop on May 17	Add placeholders for rates if needed	Public Affairs	Board

June 2023	Budget approved	First or Second Board meeting in June	Board	
	Open House at Perdue/Sweetwater Dam	Saturday, June 3 from 9 to 11	DH's, Public Affairs	
	Finalize Prop 218	Prepare for mailing	Public Affairs	Management
	Create materials for Open House promotion	Direct mail postcards, envelope snipe with bills, newsletter articles, ads for placement, social media ads/posts, lobby posters, flyers	Public Affairs	
	Create dedicated webpage for Open House, Prop 218	Promote on outreach materials	Public Affairs	
July 2023	Prop 218 mailed to customers	In hand by week of July 3	Public Affairs	
	Mail postcard for Open House invite	Mail to all customers	Public Affairs	
	Commence ad placement	Identify and implement print, digital, social ads for Open House	Public Affairs	Management
August 2023	Open House at Desal Facility	Thursday, August 3 from 4 to 7	DHs, Public Affairs, Management	Board, Support staff
	Outreach at community events	Lemon Festival – August 12	Public Affairs	Management
	Rate Hearing	August 30	Board	

RATE STUDY WORKSHOP

Technical Session

Wednesday, April 19, 2023
3:00 - 4:00 PM

Learn about the Rate Study Process

Sweetwater Authority (Authority) is currently conducting a water rate cost of service study. The study will evaluate the Authority's existing rates and rate structure for water charges and provide recommendations for updating the rates and/or rate structure.

Share your Feedback & Questions

Members of the public are invited to attend a rate workshop to hear about the rate study from NBS, the Authority's consultant performing the study, and to provide feedback and ask questions.

Join us In-person

When: Wednesday, April 19, 2023
3:00 - 4:00 PM

Where: Sweetwater Authority Administrative Offices
505 Garrett Avenue
Chula Vista, CA 91910

RSVP Required

All attendees must RSVP for this event by Friday, April 14, 2023. To RSVP, scan the QR code or visit:

www.sweetwater.org/rateworkshop

SCAN TO RSVP

We're here to serve

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ATTACHMENT 3

COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSE

Learn more about where your water comes from and the work Sweetwater Authority does to protect and secure affordable water for our customers. All ages welcome!

Topics include:

- Overview of water supply and water system infrastructure
- Water quality information
- Drought updates and water-efficiency resources
- Facility tour at 10:00 am, including a look at the historic Sweetwater Dam
- Light refreshments

RSVP: www.sweetwater.org/openhouse

Saturday, June 3, 2023
9:00 am - 11:00 am

Robert A. Perdue Water Treatment Plant
100 Lakeview Avenue, Spring Valley, CA 91977

SCAN TO RSVP

DIA DE PUERTAS ABIERTAS PARA LA COMUNIDAD

Obtenga más información sobre el lugar de donde proviene el agua que consume, y sobre el trabajo que Sweetwater Authority realiza para proteger y garantizar agua accesible para nuestros clientes. Todos son bienvenidos; este es un evento para todas las edades.

Los temas incluyen:

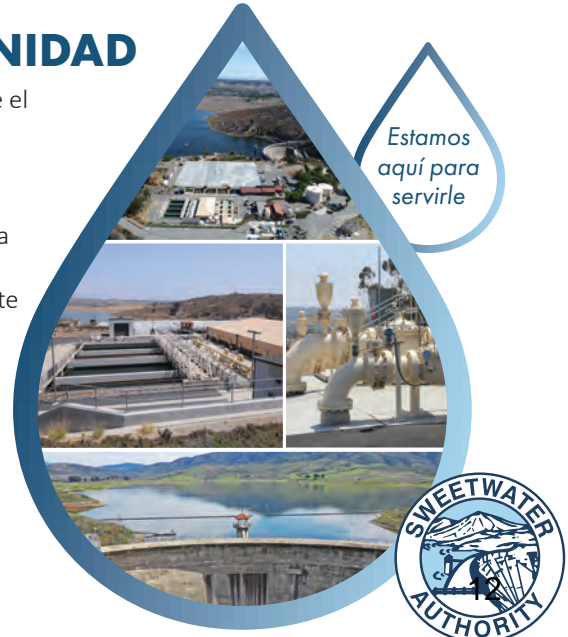
- Descripción general de la infraestructura del suministro de agua y del sistema de agua
- Información sobre la calidad del agua
- Información actualizada sobre la sequía y recursos para usar el agua de forma eficiente
- El recorrido de las instalaciones empieza a las 10.00 a.m., e incluye visita a la presa histórica de Sweetwater
- Refrigerios ligeros

RSVP: www.sweetwater.org/openhouse

Sábado 3 de junio de 2023
9:00 am - 11:00 am

Planta de tratamiento de agua potable Robert A. Perdue
100 Lakeview Avenue, Spring Valley, CA 91977

Escanear para confirmar asistencia



BOARD INFORMATION

TO: Governing Board (Legislative Affairs and Communications Committee)

FROM: Carlos Quintero, General Manager
Leslie Payne, Public Affairs Manager

DATE: March 30, 2023

SUBJECT: Update on Sacramento Legislative Briefings

SUMMARY

On March 14, 2023, Directors and staff represented the Authority in Sacramento. Legislative briefings that were coordinated by the Authority's State Lobbyist, Glenn Farrell of GF Advocacy.

Below is a summary of the schedule of meetings:

- Miles Horton, Legislative Director - Office of Speaker-Designate Robert Rivas
- Assemblymember Chris Ward
- Assemblymember Marie Waldron, Luigi Luciano, Chief of Staff, and Kendra Johnson, Legislative Director
- Assemblymember Akilah Weber
- Assemblymember David Alvarez
- Aaron Rice, Legislative Staff - Office of Assemblymember Devon Mathis, Vice-Chair, Assembly Water, Parks, and Wildlife Committee
- Emily Zhou, Legislative Staff - Office of Senator Steve Padilla
- Genevieve Wong, Consultant - Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee
- Assemblymember Luz Rivas, Chair of the Assembly Natural Resources Committee
- John McHale, Legislative Staff
- Office of Senate Minority Leader Brian Jones

These meetings focused on highlighting the needs of the Authority and serving its disadvantaged community. Staff and Directors highlighted projects, including repairs to the Authority's dams, advanced metering infrastructure, and sustainability projects. Samples of the materials created and distributed at all of the briefings are attached. Staff is working with GF Advocacy to plan another round of briefings later this summer.

PAST BOARD ACTIONS

September 13, 2023	Staff recommends that the Governing Board approve a one-year contract with GF Advocacy and Thomas Walters and Associated with the scope of work and rates as presented.

FISCAL IMPACT

Funds for travel and lobbyist fees are covered in the Authority's FY 2022-23 Budget.

POLICY /STRATEGIC PLAN

Strategic Plan Goal 3: Financial Viability – Ensure long-term financial viability of the agency through best practices, operational efficiency, and maximizing assets.

- Objective AE2: Identify and pursue grant funds for high priority projects and programs, including, but not limited to, legislative advocacy, Integrated Water Management, Bu Rec Title XVI, and State funding programs.

CONCLUSION

This is an information item.

ATTACHMENT

Materials from Legislative Briefing packets

SWEETWATER AUTHORITY

A publicly-owned water agency providing safe, reliable water

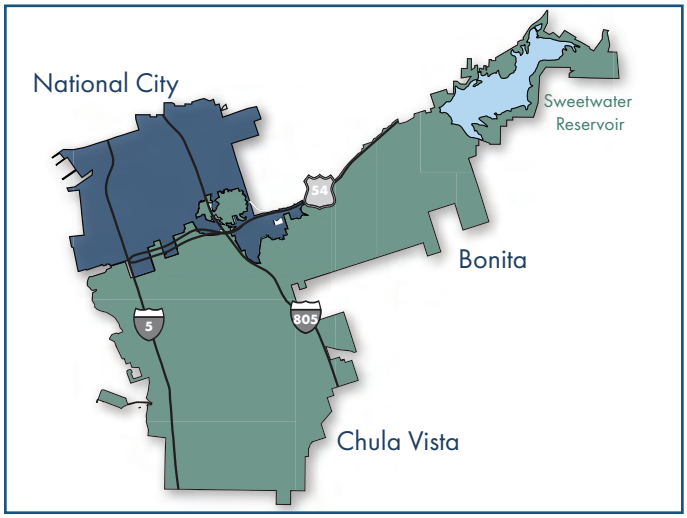
PROVIDING SAFE, RELIABLE WATER

Sweetwater Authority's mission is to provide customers with safe, reliable water. We are proud to provide this essential service to our community, and through securing sustainable water supplies, regular system maintenance, a balanced approach to human and environmental needs and responsible agency management, we are prepared to continue to do so for generations to come. Behind each drop of water we deliver is a diverse team of dedicated industry professionals who work around-the-clock to ensure customers have access to safe, affordable, high quality tap water every single day.

ABOUT SWEETWATER AUTHORITY

The Authority is a publicly-owned, joint powers water agency, with policies and procedures established by a seven-member Governing Board. Five directors are elected by the citizens of the South Bay Irrigation District. Two directors are appointed by the Mayor of National City, subject to City Council confirmation.

The Authority provides water service to approximately 200,000 people in National City, Bonita, and western and central portions of Chula Vista. Its customers include residential, business, government, and industrial water users in an area covering more than 36 square miles in the South Bay region of San Diego County.



Hydro Station Experience

PARTNERING WITH OUR COMMUNITY

Through a robust education program, the Authority invests in the education of students in our service area to foster knowledge and appreciation of the value of water, and to bring awareness to the vital service the Authority provides.

The Authority has created unique partnerships with school districts and other organizations serving local youth and their families to help bring water-related education and unique hands on experiences to students in our service area.

PRIORITIZING TRANSPARENCY

In a time where proper fiscal management and responsibility in public agencies is paramount, and the task of governing these agencies has become even more complex, regulated and costly, it has become increasingly important to demonstrate to constituents that public agencies have sound fiscal management policies and practices in place among other areas of importance in agency operations. In addition, it is important that this information be easily accessible and transparent to the public. The Authority holds both a District of Distinction and a District Transparency Certificate of Excellence from the Special District Leadership Foundation. This prestigious achievement is possessed by only two percent of the more than 4,000 Special Districts. With these special titles, the Authority shows its commitment to serving the public in a responsible, efficient, ethical and transparent manner.

Loveland Reservoir

Sweetwater Reservoir

San Diego Formation Wells

National City Wells

OUR WATER SOURCES

The Authority's customers receive water from four sources: 1) the Sweetwater River (with water impounded at Loveland Reservoir in Alpine and Sweetwater Reservoir in Spring Valley); 2) freshwater wells in National City; 3) brackish groundwater wells in Chula Vista and; 4) imported water from the Colorado River and/or the State Water Project in northern California purchased through the local wholesaler, the San Diego County Water Authority. Although the water portfolio changes from year to year, on average Authority customers can expect to receive 70% of their water from local water supplies.

REGULATED WATER QUALITY

The Authority's water treatment plants use state-of-the art technology to ensure each drop is thoroughly filtered, disinfected, tested and safe to drink. The Authority operates a traditional 30 million gallon per day treatment facility at Sweetwater Reservoir, as well as an award winning, 10 million gallon per day Desalination Facility which treats brackish groundwater utilizing reverse osmosis. Water from the freshwater wells in National City is disinfected and fluoridated before entering the distribution system. The Authority strives to not only meet, but exceed, Federal and State regulations for quality and safety.

Desalination Facility

Water Quality Laboratory

RELIABLE WATER SERVICE

After treatment, the water is then delivered to customers through an extensive distribution system consisting of 394 miles of transmission and distribution pipelines, approximately 6,000 isolation valves, 21 water storage tanks, and 21 pump stations. In the event of emergencies or unexpected water service interruptions, industry-certified staff are on-call 24/7 to ensure water service interruptions are minimized and water restored to customers in a timely manner.

Providing safe, reliable water

For more information or tours, contact:

Leslie Payne
Public Affairs Manager
(619) 409-6723
lpayne@sweetwater.org

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE
505 GARRETT AVENUE
CHULA VISTA, CA 91910

WWW.SWEETWATER.ORG

UTILIZING GREEN ENERGY TO HELP SECURE WATER AFFORDABILITY

As renewable energy sources have become more accessible and affordable, Sweetwater Authority (Authority) has been at the forefront of utilizing new technologies to help independently generate clean electricity and offset some of the Authority's power needs. The Authority is committed to finding ways to help keep operational costs minimal in an effort to keep water rates affordable for customers, and by implementing new renewable energy solutions, the Authority is securing long-term financial stability that will benefit both the agency and ratepayers for generations to come.

In the last 6 years, the Authority has completed a number of important sustainability projects, including:

SOLAR ENERGY

A solar panel array located at the Authority's Richard A. Reynolds Desalination Facility generates nearly 1.5 million kW-hr annually. The electricity produced helps offset the cost to treat brackish groundwater at the facility.

HYDROELECTRIC POWER

A 590 kilowatt hydroelectric turbine system located at the Authority's Robert A. Perdue Water Treatment Plant capitalizes on the weight of imported water purchased from the San Diego County Water Authority flowing downhill toward the plant where it is then treated to drinking water standards.

ELECTRIC VEHICLES (EV) & INFRASTRUCTURE

With deadlines for state mandated zero-emission vehicles on the horizon, the Authority has taken the initiative to seek out partnerships and funding to help install the necessary infrastructure for EV, including on-site charging stations at the Authority's locations, the first of which were installed in late 2021. It is the Authority's goal to replace vehicles scheduled for replacement with EV when available and appropriate for operational needs.

COMPREHENSIVE ENERGY AUDIT

In 2020 the Authority enlisted the assistance of a consultant to conduct a comprehensive energy management review, which included a review of current facilities and utility rate structures, current energy and operations data, adding new facilities (solar, hydroelectric power, new production wells and water treatment operations) into the overall energy plan, and recommendations for future cost-cutting measures, upgrades and energy minimization practices.

With traditional energy costs rapidly rising, the Authority's own renewable energy initiatives will help mitigate future increased operational expenses. By doing so, the Authority will be able to help keep water rates affordable for customers.

PROJECT BENEFITS

Replacing aging pipeline within the Authority's service area helps improve water service reliability and sustainability - making sure customers have access to their tap water 24/7. Pipelines are replaced in order of priority, ensuring the pipelines most susceptible to leaks and failure are addressed first.

PIPELINE REPLACEMENT PROGRAM

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Sweetwater Authority's (Authority) service area spans a 36-square mile radius, with treated water traveling through a complex water distribution system which includes 394 miles of pipeline made from various materials, including steel, asbestos cement, copper and polyvinyl chloride (PVC). In an effort to maintain the system and ensure water service is reliable and consistent, the Authority follows recommendations set forth from a regularly reviewed and revised Water Distribution System Master Plan that is developed using a reliable set of industry-wide standards for pipeline and asset management. The master plan includes a recommended schedule of pipeline replacements and repairs, ranking pipelines in need of attention by likelihood of failure and the severity of the impact to customers and water service should the pipelines fail.

Over the next year, the Authority has identified two major pipeline projects that will help improve water service reliability and capacity to portions of the Authority's service area. In the Bonita area, the Authority will be constructing 4,600 feet of new 12-inch PVC pipeline to help improve water service in an area that has consistently experienced issues with water pressure. In National City, the Authority is working on replacing 1,200 feet of existing steel pipeline with equivalently sized PVC pipeline. By doing so, the Authority will continue to mitigate future leaks and improve system reliability and capacity.

Beyond this next year, the Authority's current 2020 Water Distribution System Master Plan lists a total of 32 pipeline improvement projects and 72 pipeline replacement projects of varying size and cost.

COST

The Bonita pipeline construction project is estimated to cost $2.6 million, and the National City pipeline replacement project is estimated to cost $1.1 million. Subsequent projects vary in estimated cost, and will require updated cost estimates closer to the commencement of construction.

SCHEDULE

Construction activities began in late 2022 and are anticipated to be completed by April 2023.

Subsequent pipeline projects will commence as funding is made available.

LOVELAND DAM SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS & VALVE REPLACEMENTS

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Loveland Reservoir, located near Alpine, California, has a capacity of 25,400 acre feet. Loveland Dam is 203 feet high and 765 feet wide, and was completed in 1945. Loveland Reservoir captures local runoff and serves as a holding area for water before it is released to Sweetwater Reservoir. In a recent annual inspection of Loveland Dam, the State's Division of Safety of Dams (DSOD) noted leakage from two valves at the outlet structure. While the leakage is not a safety issue, DSOD recommended Sweetwater Authority (Authority) submit a plan and schedule for the refurbishment of the leaking outlet valves. In addition, the Authority plans to address corrosion issues at the dam's outlet structure and valve house that should be repaired to ensure that Loveland Dam and Reservoir continue to operate as intended.

A consultant for the Authority noted that due to the complicated logistical challenges and significant expense to repair both valves, it would make economic sense to replace the valves instead of repairing them. Although repairing both valves would extend their life, the valves are approximately 76 years old and the Authority has opted to replace them instead of repairing them to avoid a significant replacement expense in approximately 20-25 years.

Additionally, during routine dam safety inspections, Authority staff identified a cracked concrete section on the access stairway to the valve house. Due to safety concerns, an evaluation of the stairway was performed and it was concluded that the stairway had failed on some locations and that additional sections of the stairway could be expected to fail. Authority staff have since implemented the use of a temporary safety harness system in order to facilitate access to the valve house. Design plans and specifications to replace the stairway at Loveland Dam have been completed, and are anticipated to be submitted to DSOD for review and approval at the same time that design plans for the valve replacements are submitted in 2023. Staff is currently evaluating an updated project schedule.

COST

Preliminary cost estimates for repairs at Loveland Dam are anticipated to be in the order of $10 million. However, once design plans and specifications for the valve replacement component of the project are in the process of being prepared, project costs will be updated and could potentially exceed the current preliminary project cost estimate.

SCHEDULE

A tentative schedule for completion of design plans and specifications to replace the valves, in addition to construction to replace the stairway and both valves will be developed in 2023, with an estimated project completion date in 2024.

PROJECT BENEFITS

Replacing the water release valves at Loveland Dam will ensure that the Authority continues to have the ability to perform water transfers from Loveland Reservoir to Sweetwater Reservoir, and to perform emergency water releases from Loveland Reservoir if needed. Replacement of the stairway at Loveland Dam will ensure that staff continues to have the ability to access the valve house for operation and maintenance needs and to perform water transfer operations.

SWEETWATER DAM SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Sweetwater Reservoir, located in Spring Valley California, has a capacity of 28,079 acre feet. Completed in 1888, Sweetwater Dam is 112 feet high and 700 feet wide. Sweetwater Reservoir captures local runoff and serves as a holding area for water before it is treated at the adjacent Robert A. Perdue Water Treatment Facility, and distributed to customers. As part of its commitment to maintaining the integrity of its infrastructure and water supply, as well as the safety of residents and businesses in the areas surrounding Sweetwater Reservoir, Sweetwater Authority (Authority) has planned construction improvements to the Sweetwater Dam and the South Dike.

PROJECT BENEFITS

Making the necessary improvements to the Sweetwater Dam and South Dike will ensure the integrity of the critical infrastructure, as well as the safety of all those who live and work in the areas downstream of the Sweetwater Reservoir. In the event of an extreme weather event that causes the reservoir to fill beyond capacity, the reinforced structures will directly prevent failure of the dam and save countless lives and structures from dangerous severe flooding.

These planned improvements will demonstrate the Authority's compliance with the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) Division of Safety of Dams (DSOD) regulatory program (California Water Code Division 3, Dams and Reservoirs) to safely pass and contain storm water flows associated with a Probable Maximum Flood event.

The planned improvements include replacing the existing the parapet wall on the north side of the dam, and reinforcing the parapet wall on the south side. Additionally the South Dike will be raised, and an assessment on whether the South Spillway should be replaced or retired in place will be conducted.

COST

The current projected cost of the project is $25 million, however the project may require additional design work and construction based on the results of an upcoming comprehensive assessment of the dam.

SCHEDULE

The Authority is in the process of selecting and working with a consultant to conduct a comprehensive assessment of Sweetwater Dam, to be completed in 2023.

ADVANCED METERING INFRASTRUCTURE, AUTOMATED METER READING OR CELLULAR WATER METER SYSTEM PROJECT

PROJECT BENEFITS

The implementation of an AMR, AMI or cellular system would allow Sweetwater Authority to switch to monthly reading and billing for the entire service area. This would also enable staff to notify customers of leaks and higher than average usage within a 24 hour period while improving operational efficiencies for office and field personnel.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Sweetwater Authority (Authority) provides safe, reliable water service to approximately 200,000 people in a service area that covers 36 square-miles and includes National City, Bonita and western and central portions of Chula Vista.

In an effort to help streamline the water usage billing process, the Authority is assessing the potential benefits of implementing a meter reading system that would utilize the current technology available to improve operational efficiencies. The Authority is considering either Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI), Automated Meter Reading (AMR) or cellular water meter technology on approximately 33,000 service connections ranging from 5/8" to 10" meters. This project is an important component of the Authority's water use efficiency and conservation messaging programs. An integral part of this project is to provide customers with real-time and historical water consumption data, including leak notification and access to conservation tools and programs. The Authority anticipates increased water conservation from this project due to improved leak detection and identification, customer behavior changes with access to real-time usage data, and increased customer outreach during the new meter deployment process. Importantly, the Authority would also be able to monitor mandatory water consumption reduction requests through this system.

In fiscal year 2020-21, the Authority worked with a local housing developer in Bonita to implement a pilot project for AMI. This project included the installation of nineteen residential services with internal fire protection and one landscape account. The Authority installed Neptune 1" Mach 10 Ultrasonic water meters with cellular technology. Ultrasonic meters have many advantages over traditional meters including:

- accurately register water usage at lower flows
- longer life due to no moving parts inside the meters
- the ability to interface with cellular technology to transmit data
- aiding in conservation, reduction of water loss and rate planning

With this new technology, the Authority receives usage data on an hourly basis and can easily detect leaks and other problems. The Authority has extended the pilot program to include mobile construction meters and meters that are difficult to access. This pilot program has allowed for testing the technology on a small-scale basis before making a large investment. The pilot has been a success and the Authority would like to deploy this technology in other portions of the service area.

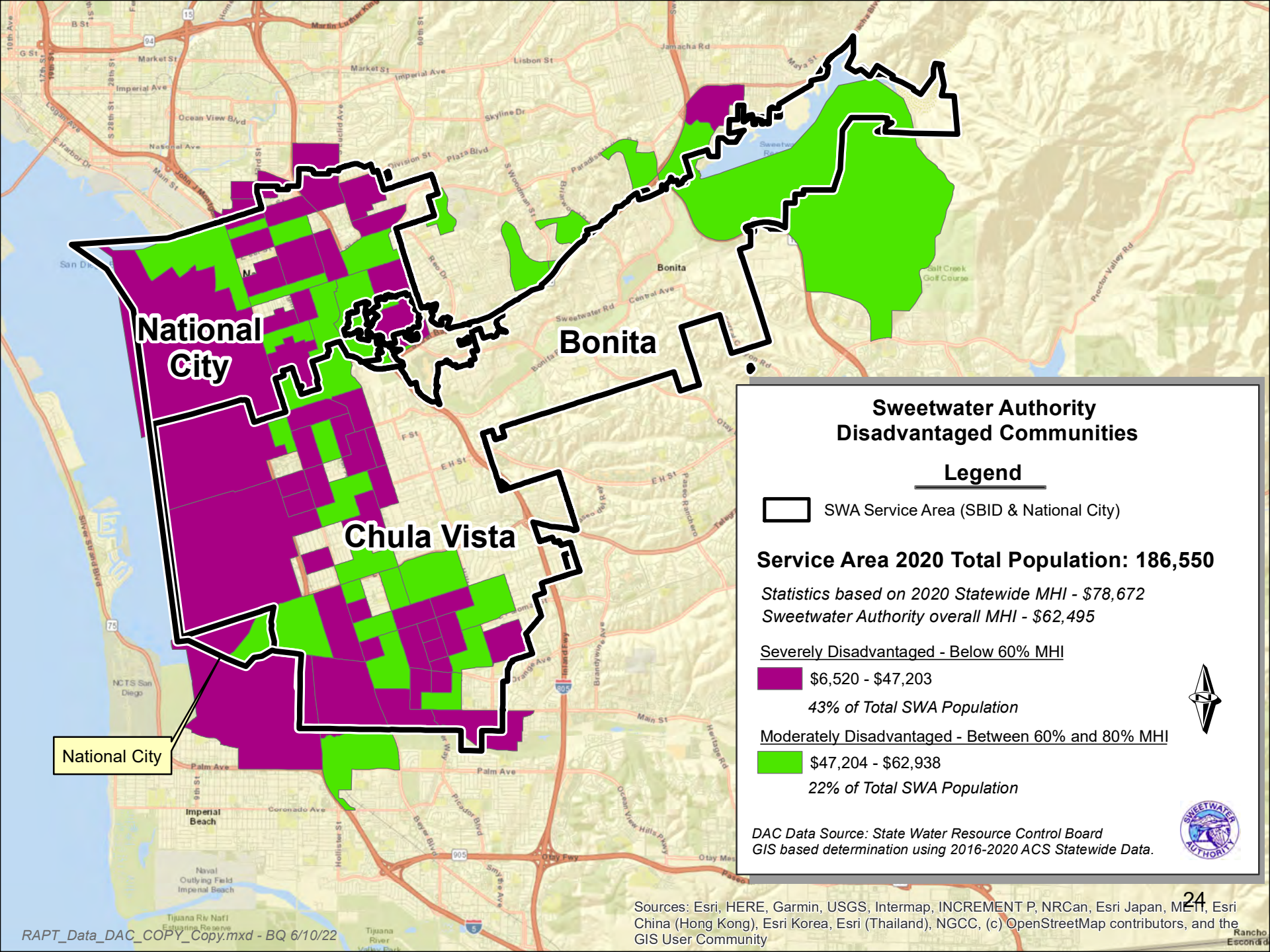
COST

Projected costs depend on the Authority's selection of water meter reading technology. An estimated cost for AMI or cellular hardware (registers only), would be approximately $600 per water meter for a total approximate expense of $20 million. Added expenses include labor and cost associated with changing or retrofitting existing water meters.

As plans and specifications for the meter infrastructure replacement components of the project are in the process of being prepared, project costs will be updated and could potentially exceed the current and anticipated cost estimates.

SCHEDULE

A tentative schedule for implementation will be developed based on the availability of funds and Board approval.


National City
Bonita
Chula Vista
National City
Sweetwater Authority
Disadvantaged Communities
Legend
SWA Service Area (SBID & National City)
Service Area 2020 Total Population: 186,550
Statistics based on 2020 Statewide MHI - $78,672
Sweetwater Authority overall MHI - $62,495
Severely Disadvantaged - Below 60% MHI
$6,520 - $47,203
43% of Total SWA Population
Moderately Disadvantaged - Between 60% and 80% MHI
$47,204 - $62,938
22% of Total SWA Population
DAC Data Source: State Water Resource Control Board
GIS based determination using 2016-2020 ACS Statewide Data.
Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, USGS, Intermap, INCREMENT P, NRCan, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), Esri Korea, Esri (Thailand), NGCC, (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community
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