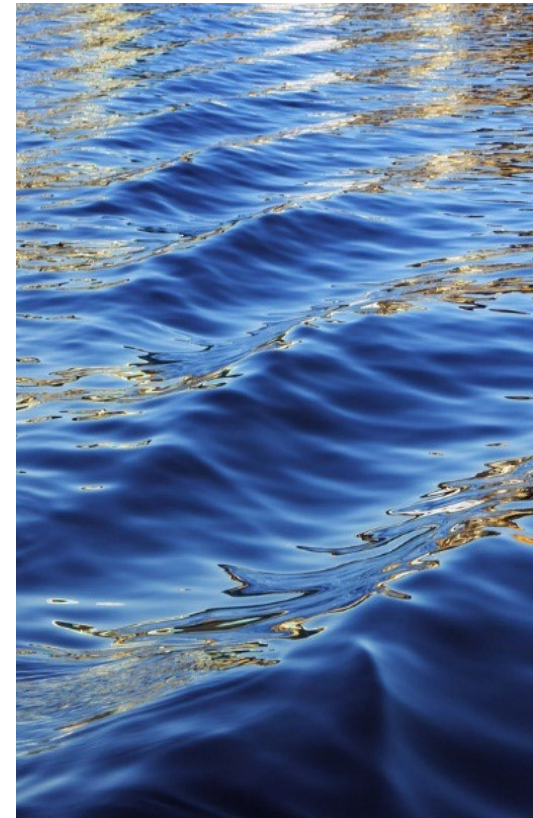


Item 12:  
Consider Adoption of  
District Strategic Goals and  
Objectives for 2026

David J. Stoldt  
General Manager

March 16, 2026



# Board Role in Strategic Planning

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- Setting policy, future direction, and priorities for District
- Ensuring District operates within the law and is transparent
- Giving GM single direction and holding him accountable
- Thinking more broadly about and involving the community



# Highest Priority Goals

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## **Goal #1: Seek Modification of Cease and Desist Order**

### *Objectives:*

- Engage State Water Board on lifting of Cease and Desist Order (CDO) & moratorium on new meters, regulatory triggers, and reporting.
- Exert legal rights to a timely hearing, if necessary.
- Keep local jurisdictions and public aware of progress.
- Develop strategy to ensure Advice Letter gets filed at CPUC if successful at State Water Board.



# Highest Priority Goals

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## **Goal #2: Implement Public Ownership of Monterey Water System as Directed by the Voters**

### *Objectives:*

- Pursue “bench trial” on the public “right to take,” including discovery and due diligence.
- Resolve latent powers (LAFCO) issue.
- Plan for financing, rates, staffing, and operations.
- Provide timely information to the public.



# Highest Priority Goals

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## **Goal #3: Collaborate on Protecting Assets in the Seaside Groundwater Basin**

### *Objectives:*

- Collaborate with Seaside Basin Watermaster, and other stakeholders.
- Evaluate requirements for additional storage of water – sources, cost, infrastructure, amounts, timing.
- Communicate District activities, studies, and/or results to public.



## Mid-Level Goals

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### **Goal #4: Implement State Policies Related to “Conservation as a California Way of Life”**

*Objectives:*

- Maintain focus on long-term supply and demand forecasting to inform future needs.
- Implement/monitor new regulatory requirements (Urban Water Management Plan, Water Use Efficiency Standards, Non-Functional Turf policy, annual Supply and Demand Assessment, etc.)
- Provide timely information to the public on programs.



## Mid-Level Goals

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### **Goal #5: Optimize ASR (Aquifer Storage & Recovery)**

*Objectives:*

- Examine alternatives for increasing ASR injection capacity.
- Implement preferred alternative.



## Mid-Level Goals

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### **Goal #6: Update & Prioritize District Rules & Regulations**

*Objectives:*

- Conform District rules to new State regulatory requirements.
- Identify and revise outdated rules & regulations.
- Simplify where possible.



## Mid-Level Goals

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### **Goal #7: Advance Los Padres Dam Alternatives**

#### *Objectives:*

- Engage with Cal-Am, consultant AECOM, and fisheries regulators on (i) flood study, and (ii) cultural resources study.
- Continue working with County Water Resources Agency on flood safety study.
- Ensure public outreach on any proposed alternative with respect to cost, timing, and outcomes.
- Develop strategy and timing for possible change petition to water rights.



## Ongoing Goals

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### **Goal #8: Protect, Enhance, and Maintain District's Financial Health**

*Objectives:*

- Complete refund of Water Supply Charge to District constituents.
- Consider cost of service analysis of District capacity fees and permit fees.
- Ensure fiscal stability in face of litigation activities, Pure Water Monterey reserve accumulation, refunds, & other.
- Regularly report on exposure, risk policy, grants.
- Maintain GFOA award and CSDA transparency certificate of compliance.
- Continue to develop strategy for PERS and OPEB liabilities in budget planning.



# Ongoing Goals

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## **Goal #9: Provide Ratepayer Advocacy**

### *Objectives:*

- Provide testimony in General Rate Case.
- Communicate rate-related issues through public outreach.
- Monitor costs and conditions of approval of desalination project.
- Monitor proposed legislation as may affect constituents.

# Wrap-Up

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**Job well done !!!**