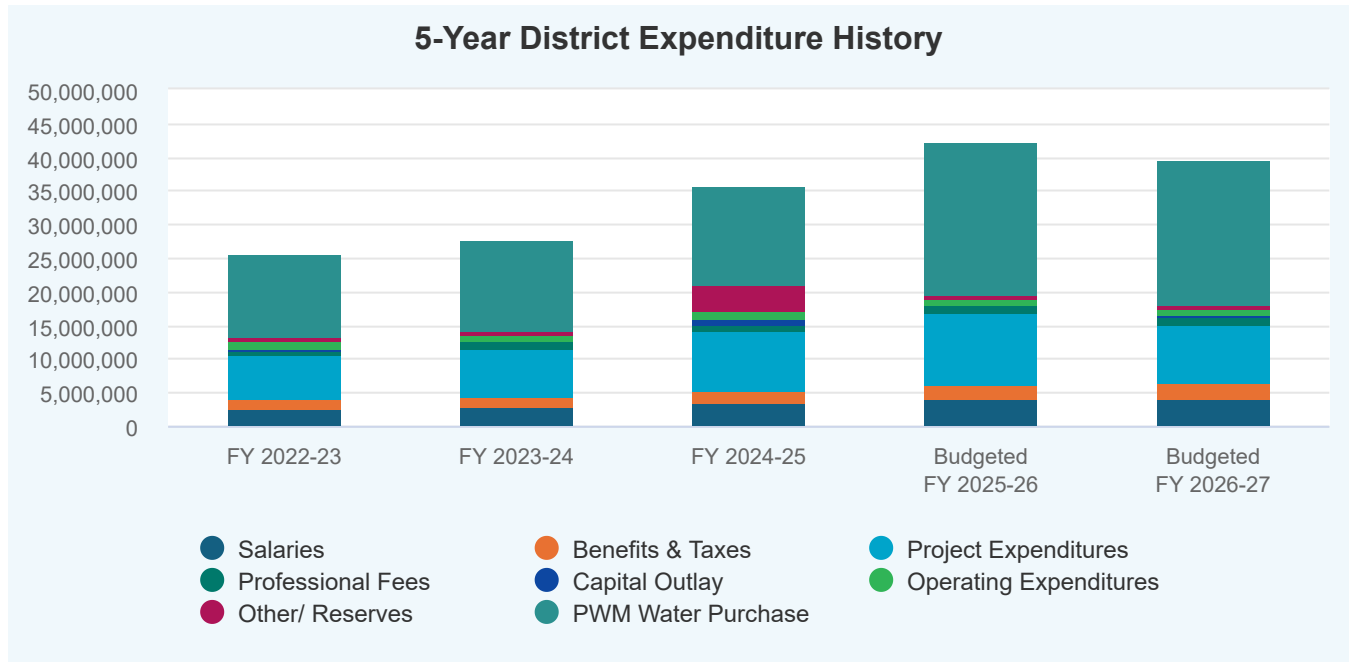


District Purpose and Activities



As shown in the chart above, the District's expenditures on water projects (blue and green segments in chart) have been \$5 to \$20 million each year. Since Pure Water Monterey began production, the District's expenditure on purchased water for resale to Cal-Am (dark blue in chart) has gone from \$6 million to over \$20 million expected in FY 2026-27.

Since 2013, the District has spent over \$45 million out-of-pocket on water projects, and obtained State and Federal grants and loans for over \$50 million more.

Conserving at the Same Time

While the District was working on new water supply, it was also focused on making better use of the Monterey Peninsula's existing water supply through conservation and efficiency measures. The State Water Resources Control Board Order in 1995, compelling the local water retailer to reduce its illegal pumping from the Carmel River, was an initial motivating factor in these efforts, but it was the recurrence of drought in 2013-16 combined with the adoption of tiered water rates and years of conservation outreach efforts by the District that truly brought the public's acceptance of reduced water use to its current level. Through its outreach and legislative efforts, the District helped the Monterey Peninsula reduce its overall water consumption by almost 44%. From 1997 through 2025, the residents and businesses in the area decreased usage from 17,000 acre-feet of water per year to below 9,500. The methods included rebates for water-efficient appliances and fixtures, distribution of thousands of free water-saving devices, updated outdoor irrigation regulations, and mandatory retrofits for commercial properties. Overall use and per-capita consumption were reduced substantially, without rationing. The data on consumption since the drought ended indicates that the community has adapted to more efficient use of water for the long term.

Environmental Stewardship

The Monterey Peninsula is one of the most beautiful places in the country. That's why millions of visitors travel here each year. Its residents are fiercely protective of its natural environment. When the Water Management District was created in 1978, community members were already concerned about the impact of water extraction on the Carmel River. People familiar with the Carmel River observed the loss of native streamside vegetation (riparian) and the subsequent erosion of the streambanks. In addition, the steelhead fishery was struggling as long reaches of the Carmel River went dry as water was diverted for the community's water supply.