



**SPECIAL MEETING  
OF THE  
CACHUMA OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE BOARD**

**Monday, May 6, 2024  
1:00 P.M.**

---

**HOW TO OBSERVE THE MEETING**

Attend in Person or Join by Teleconference

*COMB follows Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and local public health guidelines with respect to COVID-19 protocols and masking requirements, based on local conditions and needs. COMB will have available masks for use during public meetings.*

Members of the public may observe the meeting as set forth below.

**Join via Video Conference**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83559296072?pwd=NFo2Z0VkNUY4b3lwZVlzZ0FhNDZBQT09>

Passcode: 309073

**Join via Teleconference**

US+1 669 900 6833 Webinar ID: 835 5929 6072 Passcode: 309073

**HOW TO MAKE A PUBLIC COMMENT**

Any member of the public may address the Board on any subject within the jurisdiction of the Board of Directors. The total time for this item will be limited by the President of the Board. The Board is not responsible for the content or accuracy of statements made by members of the public. No action will be taken by the Board on any Public Comment item.

**In person:** Those observing the meeting in person may make comments during designated public comment periods.

**By Video:** Those observing the meeting by video may make comments during designated public comment periods using the “raise hand” feature. Commenters will be required to unmute their respective microphone when providing comments.

**By Telephone:** Those observing the meeting by telephone may make comments during the designated public comment periods by pressing \*9 on the key pad to indicate such interest. Commenters will be prompted to press \*6 to unmute their respective telephone when called upon to speak.

**AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT**

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to review agenda materials or participate in this meeting, please contact the Cachuma Operation and Maintenance Board office at (805) 687-4011 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting to enable the Board to make reasonable arrangements.

**SPECIAL MEETING  
OF THE  
CACHUMA OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE BOARD**  
*held at*  
**3301 Laurel Canyon Road  
Santa Barbara, CA 93105**

---

**Monday, May 6, 2024**

**1:00 P.M.**

**AGENDA**

**NOTICE:** This Meeting shall be conducted in-person and through remote access as authorized and in accordance with Government Code section 54953, AB 361 and AB 2449.

1. **CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL**
2. **PUBLIC COMMENT** *(In accordance with Government Code Section 54954.3, every notice for a special meeting shall provide an opportunity for members of the public to directly address the legislative body concerning any item that has been described in the notice for the meeting before or during consideration of that item.)*
3. **[PROPOSED DRAFT FISCAL YEAR 2024-25 COMB ANNUAL OPERATING BUDGET](#)**  
Action: Receive a presentation on the Proposed Draft Fiscal Year 2024-25 COMB Annual Operating Budget and provide direction to staff
4. **DIRECTORS' REQUESTS FOR AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETING**
5. **MEETING SCHEDULE**
  - **May 20, 2024 Regular Board Meeting at 1:00 P.M**
  - **Board Packages Available on COMB website [www.cachuma-board.org](http://www.cachuma-board.org)**
6. **COMB ADJOURNMENT**

NOTICE TO PUBLIC

**Posting of Agenda:** This agenda was posted at COMB's offices, located at 3301 Laurel Canyon Road, Santa Barbara, California, 93105 and on COMB's website, in accordance with Government Code Section 54954.2. The agenda contains a brief general description of each item to be considered by the Governing Board. The Board reserves the right to modify the order in which agenda items are heard. Copies of staff reports or other written documents relating to each item of business are on file at the COMB offices and are available for public inspection during normal business hours. A person with a question concerning any of the agenda items may call COMB's General Manager at (805) 687-4011.

**Written materials:** In accordance with Government Code Section 54957.5, written materials relating to an item on this agenda which are distributed to the Governing Board less than 72 hours (for a regular meeting) or 24 hours (for a special meeting) will be made available for public inspection at the COMB offices during normal business hours. The written materials may also be posted on COMB's website subject to staff's ability to post the documents before the scheduled meeting.

**Public Comment:** Any member of the public may address the Board on any subject within the jurisdiction of the Board that is not scheduled for as an agenda item before the Board. The total time for this item will be limited by the President of the Board. The Board is not responsible for the content or accuracy of statements made by members of the public. No action will be taken by the Board on any Public Comment item.

**Americans with Disabilities Act:** in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to review agenda materials or participate in this meeting, please contact the Cachuma Operation and Maintenance Board office at (805) 687-4011 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting to enable the Board to make reasonable arrangements.

**Note:** If you challenge in court any of the Board's decisions related to the listed agenda items you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at any public hearing described in this notice or in written correspondence to the Governing Board prior to the public hearing.

# CACHUMA OPERATION & MAINTENANCE BOARD

## BOARD MEMORANDUM

Date:	May 6, 2024
Submitted by:	Edward Lyons
Approved by:	Janet Gingras

---

**SUBJECT:**    **COMB Proposed Draft FY 2024-25 Operating Budget**

---

**RECOMMENDATION:**

The Board of Directors receive a presentation on the COMB Proposed Draft Fiscal Year 2024-25 Operating Budget and provide direction to staff as appropriate.

**BACKGROUND:**

Each year, the Board of Directors approves the COMB Annual Operating Budget (Budget) for the following fiscal year, which runs from July 1 through June 30. The Budget provides a framework for effecting policy directives, executing operational plans, and implementing infrastructure improvement projects necessary to operate and maintain the Cachuma Project Transferred Project Works. In addition, the Budget establishes the direction for the near term and, to the extent decisions have continuing implications, it establishes a long-term course as well. The Budget also supports the work associated with implementation of the Fish Management Plan and the 2000 Cachuma Project Biological Opinion.

At the beginning of the annual budget planning cycle, COMB staff prepares estimated budget projections and presents a draft Operating Budget to the General Managers and technical staff of the COMB Member Agencies. Staff then incorporates any comments received into the proposed operating budget prior to submission to the COMB Administrative Committee.

Following review by the Administrative Committee, COMB staff then conducts a budget workshop with the COMB Board, at a public meeting, to review the draft operating budget, the proposed upcoming infrastructure and habitat improvement projects, and any revenue and expenditure assumptions and projections contained therein.

Depending on the quantity or nature of comments received during the budget workshop, the draft budget may be sent back to committee for further consideration or brought back to the Board at its next meeting, as revised, for adoption.

**SUMMARY:**

Presented for review and discussion is the COMB Proposed Draft FY 2024-25 Operating Budget. The draft budget reflects projected operating expenses for the Operations Division, the Fisheries Division as well as General and Administrative expenses. These projected expenditures have been refined through

development of divisional annual work plans, the Board adopted Five-Year (2025-2029) Infrastructure Improvement Plan, and required implementation activities associated with the 2000 Biological Opinion.

As reflected in Table 1, the COMB Gross Operating Budget for FY 2024-25, excluding offsetting revenues, is \$7.6M as compared to the FY 2023-24 Operating Budget of \$7.0M, which reflects an increase of \$600K (8.5%).

**Table 1: COMB Operating Budget**

<b>COMB OPERATING BUDGET</b>				
<b>SALARIES &amp; BENEFITS</b>	<b>FY 2023-24</b>	<b>FY 2024-25</b>	<b>Change (\$)</b>	<b>Change (%)</b>
Operations Division	\$ 1,220,347	\$ 1,296,612	\$ 76,266	6.2%
Fisheries Division	824,382	870,930	\$ 46,548	5.6%
Administration	966,952	1,041,658	\$ 74,707	7.7%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 3,011,681</b>	<b>\$ 3,209,201</b>	<b>\$ 197,520</b>	<b>6.6%</b>
<b>OPERATIONS &amp; MAINTENANCE EXPENSES</b>				
Operations Division	\$ 625,800	\$ 638,500	\$ 12,700	2.0%
Fisheries Division	84,600	87,500	\$ 2,900	3.4%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 710,400</b>	<b>\$ 726,000</b>	<b>\$ 15,600</b>	<b>2.2%</b>
<b>GENERAL &amp; ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES</b>				
Operation Division	\$ 267,527	\$ 286,027	\$ 18,500	6.9%
Fisheries Division	131,181	140,681	\$ 9,500	7.2%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 398,707</b>	<b>\$ 426,707</b>	<b>\$ 28,000</b>	<b>7.0%</b>
<b>Total Operating Budget</b>	<b>\$ 4,120,788</b>	<b>\$ 4,361,908</b>	<b>\$ 241,120</b>	<b>5.9%</b>
<b>INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT, HABITAT IMPROVEMENT &amp; SPECIAL PROJECTS</b>				
<b>Operations Division</b>				
Infrastructure Improvement Projects	\$ 1,300,000	\$ 2,400,000	\$ 1,100,000	84.6%
Special Projects	1,370,000	335,000	\$ (1,035,000)	-75.5%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,670,000</b>	<b>2,735,000</b>	<b>\$ 65,000</b>	<b>2.4%</b>
<b>Fisheries Division</b>				
Habitat Improvement Projects	\$ 25,000	\$ 325,000	\$ 300,000	1200.0%
Program Support Services	\$ 172,000	\$ 162,000	\$ (10,000)	-5.8%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>197,000</b>	<b>487,000</b>	<b>\$ 290,000</b>	<b>147.2%</b>
<b>TOTAL GROSS OPERATING BUDGET</b>	<b>\$ 6,987,788</b>	<b>\$ 7,583,908</b>	<b>\$ 596,120</b>	<b>8.5%</b>
Projected Offsetting Revenues	\$ (2,058,805)	\$ (1,279,572)		
<b>TOTAL NET OPERATING BUDGET</b>	<b>\$ 4,928,983</b>	<b>\$ 6,304,336</b>	<b>\$ 1,375,353</b>	<b>27.9%</b>

The following items describe the net change from the previous fiscal year:

**Table 2: Change from Previous Year**

Amount	Description
\$197.5K	<u>Salaries and Benefits</u> - An increase of \$197.5K (6.6%) which includes staffing of fifteen fulltime and two fulltime equivalent (FTE) seasonal employees, step increases, a 3.51% COLA adjustment, a 5% health benefits increase, and an increase in CalPERS obligation and unfunded liability.
\$15.6K	<u>Operations and Maintenance Expenses</u> - An increase of \$15.0K (2.2%) which is attributed to an increase in materials and supplies (\$10K), permits (\$3K) uniforms (\$1.8K) and other expenses (\$0.8K).
\$28.0K	<u>General and Administrative Expenses (excluding administrative salaries)</u> - An increase of \$28K (7.0%) is attributed to an increase in general liability insurance costs (\$13K) and computer consultant / network services (\$15k).
\$65.0K	<u>Infrastructure Improvement Projects and Special Projects</u> – An increase of \$65.0K (2.4%) See <u>pages 64-77</u> for information on upcoming scheduled projects.
\$290.0K	<u>Habitat Improvement Projects and Program Support Services</u> – An increase of \$290.0k (147.2%). See <u>pages 87-88</u> for information on upcoming scheduled projects.
\$596.1K	Net Change

The COMB Net Operating Budget, including offsetting revenues for FY 2024-25, is \$6.3M and is compared to FY 2023-24 of \$4.9M, which is an increase of \$1.4M (27.9%). The increase is attributed to less projected offsetting revenue in the upcoming fiscal year. COMB is actively engaged to identify other sources of funding opportunities to lessen the financial burden on its Member Agencies.

**COMB Managed Revenues**

In addition to the annual Operating Budget, COMB collects and manages various other assessments considered as pass-through revenues and charges. COMB has the authority, granted by various agreements, for administering the provisions, collection and payment of these revenues including the USBR Entitlement Obligation (USBR Water Rates), the Bradbury and Lauro Safety of Dams (SOD) Repayment Obligations, and the State Water Resource Control Board Water Rights Fee. COMB is also responsible for managing various federal, state and local grant revenues, as well as various restricted trust fund accounts.

For FY 2024-25, the total projected managed revenue is \$9.2M and is compared to the FY 2023-24 total projected managed revenue of \$7.6M as shown in Table 3.

**Table 3: Projected Obligation by Cachuma Project Member Unit**

CATEGORY	Projected Obligation by Cachuma Project Member Unit - FY 2024-25						FY 2023-24
	GWD	City of SB	CVWD	MWD	SYRWCD ID No. 1	Totals	
COMB Gross Operating Budget	\$ 3,065,187	\$ 2,721,886	\$ 925,052	\$ 871,782	\$ -	\$ 7,583,908	\$ 6,987,788
USBR Water Rates	797,500	708,180	240,680	226,820	226,820	2,200,000	2,200,000
Bradbury SOD Act	94,847	84,224	28,624	26,976	26,976	261,647	261,647
Cachuma Project Renewal Fund	87,829	77,992	26,506	24,980	24,980	242,286	76,456
Lauro SOD Act	19,159	17,013	5,782	5,449	-	47,404	47,404
SWRCB Water Rights Fee	28,958	25,715	8,739	8,236	7,612	79,260	75,620
DDW D3 Permit Fee	-	12,047	4,094	3,859	-	20,000	20,000
	<u>\$4,093,480</u>	<u>\$3,647,058</u>	<u>\$1,239,478</u>	<u>\$1,168,101</u>	<u>\$286,388</u>	<u>\$10,434,505</u>	<u>\$9,668,915</u>
Less Offsetting Revenues:							
FEMA Assistance - 2023 Winter Storms	\$ (323,336)	\$ (287,122)	\$ (97,581)	\$ (91,961)	\$ -	\$ (800,000)	\$ (1,101,563)
CVWD Cooperative Agreement Funding	-	-	-	-	-	-	(550,000)
Warren Act Trust Fund	(6,986)	(6,204)	(2,108)	(1,987)	-	(17,286)	(210,786)
Renewal Fund	(138,342)	(122,847)	(41,751)	(39,346)	-	(342,286)	(76,456)
County Betterment Fund	(40,417)	(35,890)	(12,198)	(11,495)	-	(100,000)	(100,000)
Total Offsetting Revenue	<u>(\$509,081)</u>	<u>(\$452,064)</u>	<u>(\$153,637)</u>	<u>(\$144,790)</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>(\$1,259,572)</u>	<u>\$ (2,038,805)</u>
<b>Sub Total Projected Net Obligation</b>	<b>\$ 3,584,399</b>	<b>\$ 3,194,994</b>	<b>\$ 1,085,841</b>	<b>\$ 1,023,311</b>	<b>\$ 286,388</b>	<b>\$ 9,174,933</b>	<b>\$ 7,630,110</b>
Non-Member Agency Obligation <sup>(6)</sup>	(24,250)	(21,534)	(7,319)	(6,897)	60,000	-	-
<b>Total Projected Net Obligation</b>	<b>\$ 3,560,149</b>	<b>\$ 3,173,459</b>	<b>\$ 1,078,523</b>	<b>\$ 1,016,414</b>	<b>\$ 346,388</b>	<b>\$ 9,174,933</b>	<b>\$ 7,630,110</b>

**Memo:**

<b>FY 2023-24</b>	<b>\$ 2,942,831</b>	<b>\$ 2,625,276</b>	<b>\$ 892,222</b>	<b>\$ 840,842</b>	<b>\$ 328,938</b>	<b>\$ 7,630,110</b>
Increase/Decrease (\$)	\$ 617,318	\$ 548,184	\$ 186,301	\$ 175,572	\$ 17,449	\$ 1,544,823
Increase/Decrease (%)	21.0%	20.9%	20.9%	20.9%	5.3%	20.2%

**COMMITTEE STATUS:**

The Administrative Committee reviewed the COMB Proposed Draft FY 2024-25 Operating Budget and forwards it to the Board for presentation and consideration.

**LIST OF EXHIBITS:**

- 1) Draft Resolution No. 7XX
- 2) FY 2024-25 Draft COMB Operating Budget

**RESOLUTION NO. 7XX**

**RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE  
CACHUMA OPERATION & MAINTENANCE BOARD ADOPTING THE  
ANNUAL OPERATING BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2025**

**WHEREAS**, the Cachuma Operation & Maintenance Board (“COMB”) is a joint powers authority and public entity, organized and existing in the County of Santa Barbara in accordance with Government Code Section 6500 et seq., and operating pursuant to the 1996 Amended and Restated Agreement for the Establishment of a Board of Control to Operate and Maintain the Cachuma Project - Cachuma Operation And Maintenance Board, dated May 23, 1996 (“Amended and Restated Agreement”), as amended by an Amendment to the Amended and Restated Agreement made effective September 16, 2003; and as amended by the Second Amendment to the 1996 Amended and Restated Agreement made effective November 20, 2018 (collectively the “Joint Powers Agreement”); and

**WHEREAS**, the Member Agencies of COMB are the Goleta Water District, the City of Santa Barbara, the Montecito Water District, and Carpinteria Valley Water District; and

**WHEREAS**, COMB operates and maintains Cachuma Project facilities pursuant to a Transfer of Operation and Maintenance Contract with the United States Bureau of Reclamation, including the South Coast Conduit (“SCC”) and appurtenances. The SCC is a critical piece of infrastructure that provides for the conveyance of Cachuma Project water and State Project water to 250,000 residents on the South Coast of Santa Barbara County; and

**WHEREAS**, COMB staff developed the Fiscal Year (“FY”) 2024-25 Annual Operating Budget using zero-based budgeting methodology, which unlike traditional incremental budgeting, employs a detailed examination of expenditures wherein only the necessary budget amount for each line item is presented for discussion; and

**WHEREAS**, COMB staff presented the COMB FY 2024-25 Draft Operating Budget to the General Managers and staff of the Member Agencies for review and incorporated comments and suggestions prior to being presented to the Administrative Committee for its review; and

**WHEREAS**, on April 25, 2024, the COMB Administrative Committee reviewed the FY 2024-25 Draft Operating Budget and, after providing comments, forwarded it to the COMB Governing Board for review and consideration; and

**WHEREAS**, on May 6, 2024, the Governing Board was provided an overview of the FY 2024-25 Draft Operating Budget, with assurances that it was based on Board priorities, demonstrates fiscal accountability, and ensures future financial sustainability; and

**WHEREAS**, on May 20, 2024, the COMB Governing Board was presented the Final FY 2024-25 Annual Operating Budget, with Board incorporated comments, for approval and adoption; and

**WHEREAS**, it is in the best interest of COMB to approve and adopt the COMB FY 2024-25 Annual Operating Budget for sound financial operation of COMB.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BOARD OF COMB AS FOLLOWS:**

1. The Governing Board finds and determines that the facts set forth in the above recitals and in the documents referenced herein are true and correct.
2. The Governing Board approves and adopts, with consideration of any modifications made at the time of adoption, the COMB FY 2024-25 Annual Operating Budget ending June 30, 2025.
3. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

**PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED** by the Governing Board of the Cachuma Operation and Maintenance Board, this 20th day of May 2024, by the following roll call vote:

**Ayes:**  
**Nays:**  
**Abstain:**  
**Absent:**

**APPROVED:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
President of the Governing Board

**ATTEST:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary of the Governing Board



**DRAFT**

**CACHUMA OPERATION &  
MAINTENANCE BOARD**

# Fiscal Year 2024-25 Annual Operating Budget



***Adopted: XX/XX/XXXX***



**DRAFT**

This page left blank intentionally

**Our Mission**

*To provide a reliable source of water to our Member Agencies  
in an efficient and cost-effective manner  
for the betterment of our community*



**DRAFT**

This page left blank intentionally



**Cachuma Operation and  
Maintenance Board**

**Board of Directors**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Member Agency</b>
Polly Holcombe	President	Carpinteria Valley Water District
Kristen Sneddon	Vice President	City of Santa Barbara
Lauren Hanson	Director	Goleta Water District
Cori Hayman	Director	Montecito Water District

**General Manager**

Janet L. Gingras

**Staff Contributors**

Edward Lyons, Administrative Manager, CFO

Joel Degner, Engineer / Operations Division Manager

Tim Robinson, Fisheries Division Manager

Elijah Papen, Water Resources Analyst

Dorothy Turner, Administrative Assistant II

Rosey Bishop, Administrative Assistant II

**DRAFT**

This page left blank intentionally



**COMB AT A GLANCE**

Form of government	Joint Powers Authority
Date of organization	January 1, 1957
Number of full-time staff	15
Lake Cachuma maximum storage (acre feet)	192,978
Lake Cachuma spillway elevation (feet)	753
Tecolote Tunnel (miles)	6
South Coast Conduit (SCC) pipeline (miles)	26
SCC design capacity	45 million gallons per day
Number of reservoirs	4
Number of structures maintained	220
Number of meters maintained	28

**COMB MEMBER AGENCIES**

<b>COMB Member Agency</b>	<b>COMB Board Representation</b>
Goleta Water District	2 Votes
City of Santa Barbara	2 Votes
Carpinteria Valley Water District	1 Vote
Montecito Water District	1 Vote
<b>Total</b>	<b>6 Votes</b>

**CACHUMA PROJECT WATER ENTITLEMENT**

<b>Cachuma Project Member Unit</b>	<b>Entitlement (%)</b>	<b>Entitlement (AFY)</b>
Goleta Water District	36.25%	9,322
City of Santa Barbara	32.19%	8,277
Carpinteria Valley Water District	10.94%	2,813
Montecito Water District	10.31%	2,651
SYR Water Conservation District, ID No. 1	10.31%	2,651
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>25,714</b>

**DRAFT**

This page left blank intentionally



## General Manager's Message

The COMB Fiscal Year (FY) 2024-25 Operating Budget (Budget) provides the foundation for implementing critical infrastructure improvement projects necessary to operate and maintain the Cachuma Transferred Project Works. In addition, the Budget supports the work associated with implementation of the Lower Santa Ynez River Fish Management Plan and the 2000 Cachuma Project Biological Opinion. The Budget document provides detailed information about the Cachuma Operation & Maintenance Board (COMB) revenue and expenditure forecast in the coming year and addresses the main points and major decisions made in compiling the Budget. The Budget provides the financial plan required to implement our mission and will enable staff to utilize the resources needed to achieve our goals.

Adoption of the Budget is one of the most important actions taken by the Board of Directors. The Budget is COMB's financial work plan, translated in expenditures and supported by revenues. It establishes the direction for the near term, and to the extent the decisions have continuing implications, it establishes a long-term course as well. The Budget is a projection of revenues and expenditures needed for operation, maintenance, administration, infrastructure, and habitat improvements associated with providing an essential water supply to our Member Agencies.

### Year in Review

The COMB Operating Budget funded the highest priority projects and activities necessary to achieve our goals while keeping expenditures as low as possible. Some of the notable highlights over the last year are:

- Completed repair of a washout on Lauro Reservoir Bypass Channel with external contractor which included mitigation efforts to extend the concrete channel by 80 feet to prevent damage in future events. The new concrete channel functioned well during the 2024 winter storms. Performed repairs on unimproved sections of the bypass channel which failed in three spots during the 2024 storm events. COMB has also applied for hazard mitigation financial assistance to extend the existing concrete channel by 800 feet to prevent damage in future events.
- Set up and operated an emergency bypass pumping system from the Lake Cachuma stilling basin below Bradbury Dam to the lower Santa Ynez River under Reclamation direction and in collaboration with COMB Fisheries to allow Reclamation to install a refurbished cone valve and test the new spillway gate motors at Bradbury Dam. The pump-bypass system allowed the critical maintenance work to be performed without impacting flows downstream. Both the spillway motors and outlet-works valve were used extensively in the winter of 2024 by Reclamation in managing flows.
- Completed debris removal from 2023 Winter Storms that was deposited in debris basins around Lauro Reservoir in preparation of the 2024 Winter season with external contractor. COMB has initiated the application process and is working closely with FEMA/CalOES for federal disaster relief funding for damages that resulted from the event.

# DRAFT

- Completed a TOC/Phosphorous Source Study at Lake Cachuma. The study had additional challenges due to the large influx of sediment and water that occurred during the 2023 Winter Storms.
- Imported COMB GIS data to ESRI Field Maps program and began a systematic update of GPS-locations of structures with centimeter-grade accuracy with a goal of accurately mapping the location of the South Coast Conduit and allow Operations staff to better utilize GIS in the field.

A complete list of accomplishments can be found on [pages 15-21](#) of this document.

## *Short Term Factors Influencing Budget Decisions*

The objective of the Budget is to preserve the current level of service to our Member Agencies, the community, and our external stakeholders. Conservative but realistic projection of revenues and expenditures helps ensure availability of resources to meet budgeted obligations. Significant fiscal and operational challenges continue to face our Member Agencies that fund COMB in FY 2024-25.

- The 2023 and 2024 winter storm events and subsequent debris flows caused damage to South Coast Conduit (SCC) appurtenant structures and facilities along the south coast, as well as, to fish passage and habitat enhancement projects located in the Lower Santa Ynez River (LYSR). COMB has identified and prioritized projects necessary to protect, improve, and sustain a reliable source of water to our community. Further details on these projects can be found on [pages 48-49](#). Additionally, COMB is pursuing federal disaster relief and hazard mitigation funding as well as other revenues to offset these costs.
- California's COVID-19 state of emergency was declared ended on February 28, 2023. National, regional, and local economies are slowly recovering from actions taken around the world to help mitigate the spread of the coronavirus including restrictions on travel, quarantines in certain areas, and forced closures of public spaces and businesses. However, the financial impact from the recent military action in Europe is slowing the economic recovery from the pandemic and making financial projections more difficult than normal. Further details are provided on [pages 13-14](#).
- The Federal Reserve has been battling inflation for the past year by increasing interest rates. For the twelve months ending December 2023, the average national inflation rate was 4.1% down from 8.0% from the previous year. Notwithstanding, costs for essential materials and supplies remain high and have placed additional pressure on COMB and our Members Agencies' budgets. Further details are provided on [page 14](#).
- The California State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) approved Water Rights Order 2019-0148 for the Cachuma Project (the Order) on September 17, 2019. The Order requires Reclamation, as permit holder, to abide by specific terms as outlined in the Order. The implementation of these terms, in addition to the potential issuance of a new Biological Opinion, may result in future budgetary impacts to the COMB Member Agencies as they comply with the terms of the Order and the new Biological Opinion.

# DRAFT

From the beginning of this budget process, we scrutinized our budget planning assumptions, established prudent financial targets, and set priorities with careful consideration. COMB has worked aggressively to maintain costs in all areas of the budget by improving operating efficiencies and effectively utilizing internal resources to achieve our objectives.

COMB also evaluated and selected current year infrastructure improvements and special projects based on the following criteria as outlined in the Board approved Five-Year Infrastructure Improvement Plan: water supply reliability, risk, critical need, safety, and service disruption. Projects may vary by year depending on external and uncontrolled factors such as ongoing drought conditions, lake elevation and natural disasters. Further details are provided on [pages 64-77](#).

In alignment with Board adopted policies, COMB staff shares a commitment to continued diligence in everyday work production and performance and recognizes the important obligation charged to COMB in support of our Member Agencies and external stakeholders.

### The Overall Budget Summary and Assumptions

As reflected on Table 1, the COMB Gross Operating Budget for FY 2024-25, excluding offsetting revenues, is \$7.6M as compared to the FY 2023-24 Operating Budget of \$7.0M, which reflects an increase of \$596.1K (8.5%).

**Table 1**

Category	Budget FY 2023-24	Budget FY 2024-25	Change (\$)	Change (%)
Salaries and Benefits	\$3,011,681	\$3,209,201	\$197,520	6.6%
Operation & Maintenance Expenses	710,400	726,000	15,600	2.2%
General & Administrative Expenses	398,707	426,707	28,000	7.0%
Sub Total	\$4,120,788	\$4,361,908	\$241,120	5.9%
Infrastructure Improvements Projects	2,670,000	2,375,000	65,000	2.4%
Habitat Improvement Projects	197,000	487,000	290,000	147.2%
Sub Total	\$2,867,000	\$3,222,000	\$355,000	12.4%
Total Gross Operating Budget	\$6,987,788	\$7,583,908	\$596,120	8.5%

# DRAFT

The net change from the previous fiscal year is described in Table 2 below.

**Table 2**

Amount	Description
\$197.5K	<u>Salaries and Benefits</u> - An increase of \$197.5K (6.6%) which includes staffing of fifteen fulltime and two fulltime equivalent (FTE) seasonal employees, step increases, a 3.51% COLA adjustment, a 5% health benefits increase, and an increase in CalPERS obligation and unfunded liability.
\$15.0K	<u>Operations and Maintenance Expenses</u> - An increase of \$15.0K (2.2%) which is attributed to an increase in materials and supplies (\$10K), permits (\$3K) uniforms (\$1.8K) and other expenses (\$0.8K).
\$28.0K	<u>General and Administrative Expenses (excluding administrative salaries)</u> - An increase of \$28K (7.0%) is attributed to an increase in general liability insurance costs (\$13K) and computer consultant / network services (\$15k).
\$65.0K	<u>Infrastructure Improvement Projects and Special Projects</u> - An increase of \$65.0K (2.4%) See <a href="#">pages 64-77</a> for information on upcoming scheduled projects.
\$290.0K	<u>Habitat Improvement Projects and Program Support Services</u> - An increase of \$290.0k (147.2%). See <a href="#">pages 87-88</a> for information on upcoming scheduled projects.
\$596.1K	Net Change

The COMB Net Operating Budget, including offsetting revenues for FY 2024-25, is \$6.3M and is compared to FY 2023-24 of \$4.9M, which is an increase of \$1.4M (27.9%). The increase is attributed to less projected offsetting revenue in the upcoming fiscal year. COMB is actively engaged to identify other sources of funding opportunities to lessen the financial burden on its Member Agencies.

**Table 3**

Category	Budget FY 2023-24	Budget FY 2024-25	Change (\$)	Change (%)
Total Gross Operating Budget	\$6,987,788	\$7,583,908	596,120	8.5%
Less: Projected Offsetting Revenues	2,058,805	1,279,572	(779,233)	(37.8%)
Total Net Operating Budget	\$4,928,983	\$6,304,336	\$1,375,353	27.9%

In this dynamic financial environment, monitoring the budget and responding to changes or unanticipated events is a continuing process. COMB will continue to report financial activity in a timely and transparent manner to the Board and Member Agencies. Cost management will remain a key objective in consideration of ongoing pressures on water rates and financial reserves at the Member Agency level. COMB is committed to sustaining a sound financial position that ensures the ability to identify and resolve future challenges.

# DRAFT

## Projected Obligation by Cachuma Project Member Unit

The COMB Operating Budget and pass-through revenues and charges are funded by assessments from the Cachuma Project Member Units. Amounts are allocated based on various contractual agreements or approved methodologies. The projected obligation for FY 2024-25 is reflected in Table 4.

**Table 4**

CATEGORY	Projected Obligation by Cachuma Project Member Unit - FY 2024-25						FY 2023-24
	GWD	City of SB	CVWD	MWD	SYRWCD ID No. 1	Totals	
COMB Gross Operating Budget (Billed Quarterly)	\$ 3,065,187	\$ 2,721,886	\$ 925,052	\$ 871,782	\$ -	\$ 7,583,908	\$ 6,987,788
USBR Water Rates <sup>(1)</sup> (Due Oct 1 <sup>st</sup> )	797,500	708,180	240,680	226,820	226,820	2,200,000	2,200,000
Bradbury SOD Act <sup>(2)</sup> (Due Oct 1 <sup>st</sup> )	94,847	84,224	28,624	26,976	26,976	261,647	261,647
Cachuma Project Renewal Fund <sup>(3)</sup> (Due Oct 1 <sup>st</sup> )	87,829	77,992	26,506	24,980	24,980	242,286	76,456
Lauro SOD Act <sup>(2)</sup> (Due Oct 1 <sup>st</sup> )	19,159	17,013	5,782	5,449	-	47,404	47,404
SWRCB Water Rights Fee <sup>(4)</sup> (Billed Dec/Jan)	28,958	25,715	8,739	8,236	7,612	79,260	75,620
DDW D3 Permit Fee <sup>(5)</sup> (Billed Dec/Jan)	-	12,047	4,094	3,859	-	20,000	20,000
Total Gross Obligation	\$4,093,480	\$3,647,058	\$1,239,478	\$1,168,101	\$286,388	\$10,434,505	\$9,668,915
Less Offsetting Revenues:							
FEMA Assistance - 2023 Winter Storms	\$ (323,336)	\$ (287,122)	\$ (97,581)	\$ (91,961)	\$ -	\$ (800,000)	\$ (1,101,563)
CVWD Cooperative Agreement Funding	-	-	-	-	-	-	(550,000)
Warren Act Trust Fund	(6,986)	(6,204)	(2,108)	(1,987)	-	(17,286)	(210,786)
Renewal Fund	(138,342)	(122,847)	(41,751)	(39,346)	-	(342,286)	(76,456)
County Betterment Fund	(40,417)	(35,890)	(12,198)	(11,495)	-	(100,000)	(100,000)
Total Offsetting Revenue	(\$509,081)	(\$452,064)	(\$153,637)	(\$144,790)	\$ -	(\$1,259,572)	\$ (2,038,805)
<b>Sub Total Projected Net Obligation</b>	<b>\$ 3,584,399</b>	<b>\$ 3,194,994</b>	<b>\$ 1,085,841</b>	<b>\$ 1,023,311</b>	<b>\$ 286,388</b>	<b>\$ 9,174,933</b>	<b>\$ 7,630,110</b>
Non-Member Agency Obligation <sup>(6)</sup>	(24,250)	(21,534)	(7,319)	(6,897)	60,000	-	-
<b>Total Projected Net Obligation</b>	<b>\$ 3,560,149</b>	<b>\$ 3,173,459</b>	<b>\$ 1,078,523</b>	<b>\$ 1,016,414</b>	<b>\$ 346,388</b>	<b>\$ 9,174,933</b>	<b>\$ 7,630,110</b>

**Memo:**

FY 2023-24	\$ 2,942,831	\$ 2,625,276	\$ 892,222	\$ 840,842	\$ 328,938	\$ 7,630,110
Increase/Decrease (\$)	\$ 617,318	\$ 548,184	\$ 186,301	\$ 175,572	\$ 17,449	\$ 1,544,823
Increase/Decrease (%)	21.0%	20.9%	20.9%	20.9%	5.3%	20.2%

Notes:

1. USBR passthrough costs - projection reflects no change from previous year.
2. Pursuant to Safety of Dams repayment contract.
3. Based on \$10 AF of water made available by the Cachuma Project and adjusted by amounts deposited into the Warren Act Trust Fund.
4. State Board of Equalization pass-through cost – based on actual amount paid during FY 2023-24.
5. Division of Drinking Water D3 Permit Fee (City of SB, MWD and CVWD, only)
6. Pursuant to the terms and conditions of the Separation Agreement, ID No. 1 was deemed no longer a Member Agency of COMB and had departed from the COMB JPA Agreement as of May 27, 2016. ID No. 1 continues to be a member of the Cachuma Project which carries certain benefits and obligations associated with the Project as outlined in various agreements. Payments received from ID No. 1 for certain COMB BiOp and Oak Tree related expenditures vary by year and will be returned to the COMB Member Agencies upon collection.

# DRAFT

## Awards and Acknowledgements

The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) presented a Distinguished Budget Presentation Award to COMB for its Annual Budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023. This was the fourth year that COMB applied for and achieved this prestigious recognition. To receive this award, a governmental unit must publish a document that meets program criteria as a policy document, a financial plan, an operations guide, and as a communications device. This award is valid for a period of one year only. We believe our current budget document continues to conform to the program requirements and we are submitting it to the GFOA to determine its eligibility for another award.

## Closing

The preparation of this Budget would not have been possible without the skill, effort, and dedication of the COMB Division Managers and entire staff of the Administration Division. I wish to thank staff for their assistance in providing the data necessary to prepare this Budget. Recognition is also given to the COMB Board of Directors for their unfailing support in maintaining the highest standards of professionalism in governance of the Cachuma Operation and Maintenance Board. I am pleased to present this Budget to the Board of Directors for formal adoption.

Respectfully submitted,



Janet Gingras  
General Manager



GOVERNMENT FINANCE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

*Distinguished  
Budget Presentation  
Award*

PRESENTED TO

**Cachuma Operation and Maintenance Board  
California**

For the Fiscal Year Beginning

**July 01, 2023**

*Christopher P. Morill*

Executive Director

**DRAFT**

This page left blank intentionally



**DRAFT**

**INSERT BOARD RESOLUTION**

XI

**DRAFT**

**INSERT BOARD RESOLUTION**

XII

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

[\(Click on page # for direct access to content\)](#)

### SECTION I – COMB Overview:

Page

History of COMB	1-2
COMB Organizational Structure	3
Cachuma Project Facilities Map	4
Transferred Project Works Contract	5
COMB Managed Assets	6-9
Infrastructure Improvement Plan FY 2025-2029	9
NMFS Biological Opinion and Fish Management Plan	10
Drought Response and Management	11-13
Coronavirus (COVID19)	13
Local Economy	14
Accomplishments	15-21

### SECTION II – Budget Overview:

COMB Annual Operating Budget	22
Basis of Budgeting	22
Budget Development	23
Budget Calendar	24
Budget Approval	24
Balanced Budget	24
Outside Funding Sources	25
Pass-Through Revenues and Charges	25
Budgeted Expenditures	25
Allocation of General and Administrative Expenses	26
Budget Adjustments / Augmentations	26
Member Agency Payment of Assessments	26
Non-Member Agency Payment Obligations	27
Unexpended Funds	27
Financial Statement Reporting	27

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

[\(Click on page # for direct access to content\)](#)

### SECTION III – COMB Managed Revenues:

	<b>Page</b>
COMB Managed Revenues and Expenditures	28-30
COMB Operating Budget	31-33
USBR Water Rates	33
USBR Water Rate Deficits	34
Grant Funding / Financial Assistance	34-35
Warren Act Trust Fund / Renewal Fund	35-36
Bradbury Dam/Lauro Dam Safety of Dams (SOD) Act Repayment Contracts	36
Betterment Fund	37
Water Rights Fee	37
Drinking Water Program Fee	37
Potential Revenue Opportunities	38

### SECTION IV – COMB Operating Budget:

COMB Operating Budget Highlights: Summary	39-41
COMB Operating Budget Highlights: Personnel/Labor	41-43
COMB Operating Budget Highlights: Operations and Maintenance	44-46
COMB Operating Budget Highlights: General and Administrative	46-47
COMB Operating Budget Highlights: Infrastructure Improvement Projects	48
COMB Operating Budget Highlights: Habitat Improvement Projects	48-49
COMB Operating Budget: By Division	50-53
COMB Operating Budget Allocation by Quarter FY 2024-25	54-55
COMB Operating Budget Narrative	56
Operations Division – Operation and Maintenance Expenses	56-58
Operations Division - General and Administrative Expenses	59-63
Operations Division - Special General and Administrative Expenses	63
Operations Division - Infrastructure Improvement Projects	64-75
Operations Division - Special Projects	76-77
Fisheries Division – Operation and Maintenance Expenses	78-80
Fisheries Division - General and Administrative Expenses	81-84
Fisheries Division – Program Support Services	85-86
Fisheries Division - Habitat Improvement Projects	87-89
Recap - Total COMB Budget FY 2024-25	90

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

[\(Click on page # for direct access to content\)](#)

### APPENDIX

Page

COMB Governance	92
Financial, Administrative and Operating Policies	92-95
Basis of Accounting	96
Fund Structure	96-99
Summary of Funds by Fund Type	100
Strategic Planning	102-106
FY 2024-25 Goals and Priorities	107-109
Performance Measures	110
Long Term Capital and Financial Planning	111-115
Debt Service	118-120
List of Acronyms	121-123
Glossary of Terms	125-134

### LIST OF FIGURES

[\(Click on page # for direct access to content\)](#)

#### SECTION I – COMB Overview:

Page

Figure 1.1 COMB Organizational Structure	3
Figure 1.2 Cachuma Project Facilities Map	4
Figure 1.3 Summary of COMB Managed Assets	6

#### SECTION III – COMB Managed Revenues:

Figure 3.1 FY 2024-25 COMB Managed Revenues by Source	28
Figure 3.2 FY 2024-25 Operating Budget by Division	32

#### SECTION IV – COMB Operating Budget:

Figure 4.1 FY 2024-25 Personnel Costs by Category	43
---	----

#### APPENDIX:

Figure 5.1 COMB Fund Structure	99
--------------------------------	----

# DRAFT

## LIST OF TABLES

[\(Click on page # for direct access to content\)](#)

### SECTION II – Budget Overview:

**Page**

Table 2.1 FY 2024-25 Budget Process Schedule	24
--	----

### SECTION III – COMB Managed Revenues:

Table 3.1 FY 2024-25 COMB Managed Revenues and Expenditures	29
Table 3.2 Previous Ten Fiscal Years' COMB Managed Revenues	30
Table 3.3 COMB Operating Budget Allocation Percentages	31
Table 3.4 Previous Ten Fiscal Years' Gross Operating Budget History	33

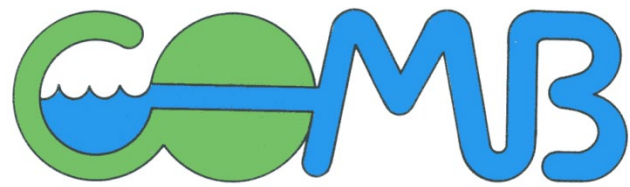
### SECTION IV – COMB Operating Budget:

Table 4.1 COMB Operating Budget: Consolidated Overview	40
Table 4.2 Personnel Count Summary	41
Table 4.3 FY 2024-25 Budgeted Personnel Costs	43
Table 4.4 Operation and Maintenance Expenditures Descriptions	45
Table 4.5 FY 2024-25 Operation and Maintenance Costs	46
Table 4.6 FY 2024-25 General and Administrative Costs	47
Table 4.7 FY 2024-25 Infrastructure Improvement Projects	48
Table 4.8 FY 2024-25 Operations Division Special Projects	48
Table 4.9 FY 2024-25 Habitat Improvement Projects	49
Table 4.10 COMB Operating Budget Summary	49
Table 4.11 COMB Operating Budget: By Division	50-53
Table 4.12 COMB Operating Budget Allocation By Quarter	54-55

### APPENDIX:

Table 5.1 Summary of Funds by Fund Type	100
Table 5.2 – Fiver Year Financial Plan	115
Table 5.3 Bradbury Dam SOD Obligation	118
Table 5.4 Lauro Dam SOD Obligation	119
Table 5.5 FY 2024-25 Changes in Long Term Debt	120

**DRAFT**



**SECTION I – COMB OVERVIEW**

**DRAFT**

This page left blank intentionally



**HISTORY OF COMB**

The Cachuma Project was constructed in the early 1950s by the United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation or USBR) under contract with the Santa Barbara County Water Agency on behalf of the Cachuma Project Member Units.



The Cachuma Project Member Units (Member Units) are the Carpinteria Valley Water District, Goleta Water District, Montecito Water District, City of Santa Barbara, and the Santa Ynez River

Water Conservation District, Improvement District No. 1. The Member Units entered into contracts with the Santa Barbara County Water Agency for the purpose of receiving water from the Cachuma Project for the use and benefit of the Member Units. Over the past sixty years, the Project has been the principal water supply for the Upper Santa Ynez Valley and the South Coast communities, delivering an average of approximately 25,000 acre-feet per year.

On January 1, 1957, the Cachuma Operation & Maintenance Board (COMB) was formed as a Joint Powers Authority (JPA) through an agreement organized by the Cachuma Project Member Units pursuant to the provisions of Articles 1, 2, and 4 of Chapter 5, Division 7, Title 1 of the California Government Code. The resulting JPA agreement was entered into by the Member Units, who, in doing so, became Member Agencies of COMB, in order to provide for the joint exercise of powers by those Member Agencies for the rights to, the facilities of, and the operation, maintenance and use of the Reclamation’s project known as the “Cachuma Project.” These rights and powers included the storage, treatment, transport and appurtenant facilities, and all necessary tangible and intangible property and rights. Under the JPA Agreement, COMB also has the authority for the financing of costs for the capture, development, treatment, storage, transport and delivery of water.

COMB’s organizational structure originally consisted of the six (6) Cachuma Project beneficiaries: the Carpinteria County Water District, Goleta Water District, Montecito Water District, the City of Santa Barbara, Summerland Water District, and Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District (Parent District).

In 1993, the Parent District assigned its rights and obligations under Contract No. 175r-1802 (Water Repayment Contract between USBR and Santa Barbara County) to Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, Improvement District No. 1 (ID No. 1). In 1995, the Summerland Water District and Montecito Water District combined, with Montecito Water District as successor in interest.

**HISTORY OF COMB (CONTINUED)**

In 2016, the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, Improvement District No. 1 (ID No. 1) notified the COMB Board of its stated intent to withdraw from the Agreement. A Separation Agreement was entered into by ID No. 1, COMB, and the remaining COMB Member Agencies and was approved by all parties effective August 28, 2018. Pursuant to the terms and conditions of the Separation Agreement, ID No. 1 was deemed no longer a Member Agency of COMB and had departed from the COMB JPA Agreement as of May 27, 2016. ID No. 1 continues to be a member of the Cachuma Project, which carries certain benefits and obligations associated with the Project as outlined in various agreements.

Today, the organization is comprised of four Cachuma Project Member Units, known collectively as COMB’s Member Agencies: the Carpinteria Valley Water District, the Goleta Water District, the Montecito Water District, and the City of Santa Barbara.

The Governing Board is composed of one publicly elected representative member from each of the governing bodies and is appointed by appropriate action of each governing board to serve on the COMB Board. The appointed Board members are authorized to carry out the provisions of the JPA agreement and any other agreement entered into by the Governing Board. The Board of Directors is responsible for setting policy on matters such as fiscal management and financial planning, Board administration, infrastructure improvements, and long-range planning documents.

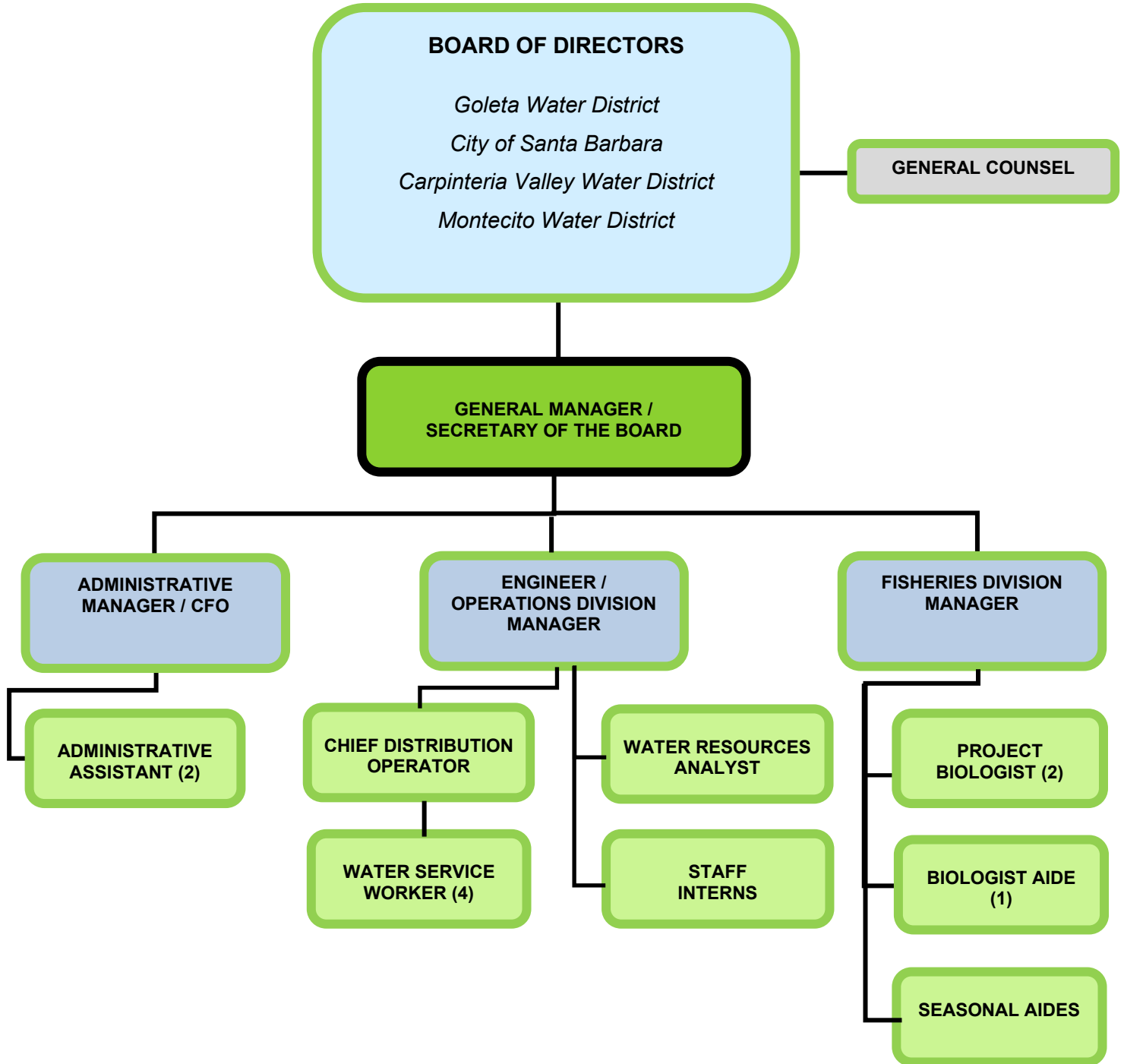
Day-to-day operations are executed by the General Manager who serves at the pleasure of the Board. The General Manager oversees a staff of fifteen full-time employees including division managers, certified distribution operators, senior biology staff, a program analyst, and administrative personnel. Figure 1.1 on the following page provides an overview of the COMB Organizational Structure.



*Lake Cachuma Bradbury Dam, March 2024*

**COMB ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE**

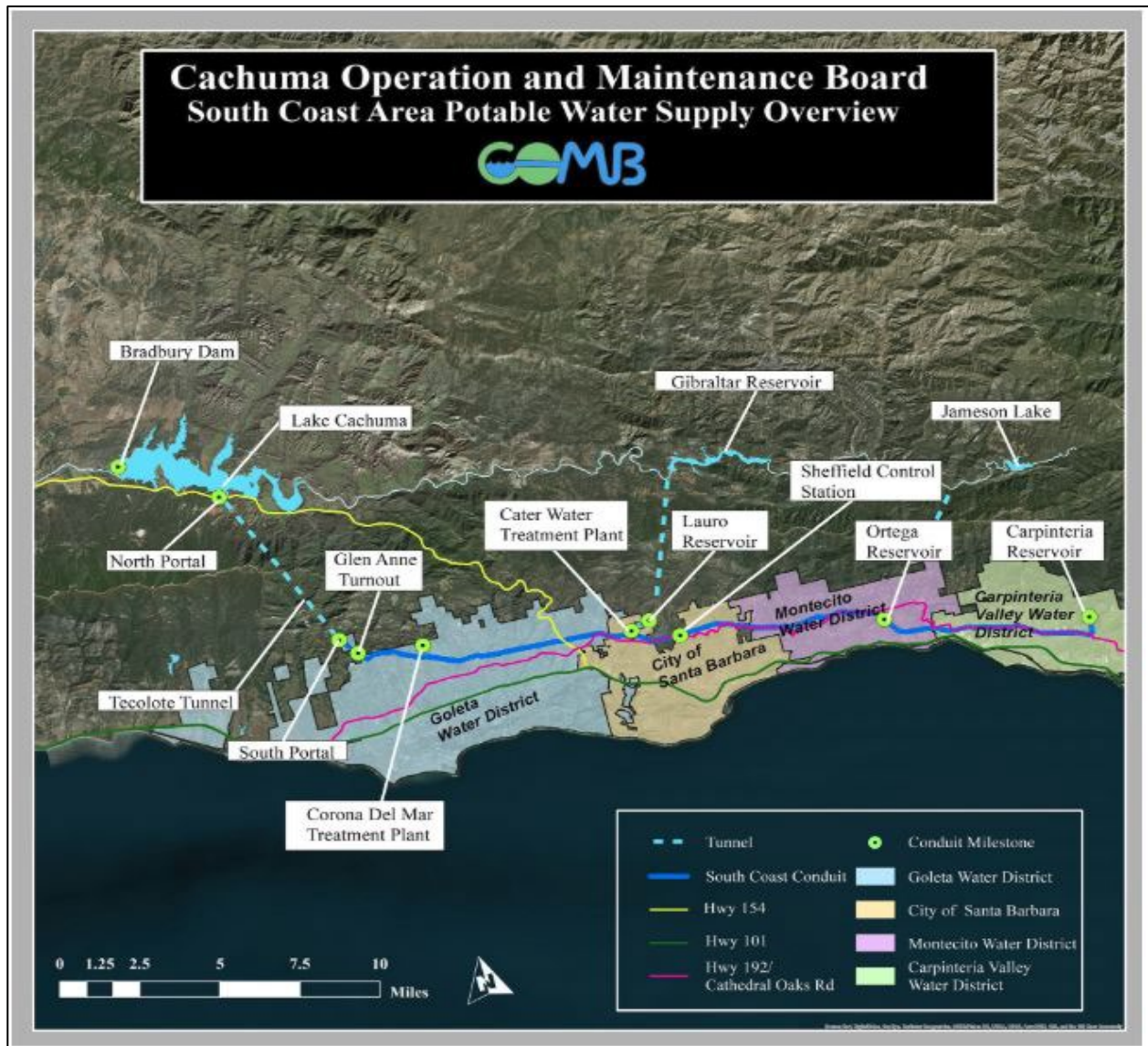
**Figure 1.1 –COMB Organizational Structure**



CACHUMA PROJECT FACILITIES MAP

Lake Cachuma and Bradbury Dam are located on the Santa Ynez River approximately 25 miles northwest of Santa Barbara. Water from Lake Cachuma is conveyed to the COMB Member Agencies through the Tecolote Tunnel intake tower at the east end of the reservoir. The Tecolote Tunnel extends 6.4 miles through the Santa Ynez Mountains from Lake Cachuma to the headworks of the South Coast Conduit. The South Coast Conduit system is a high-pressure concrete pipeline that extends over 26 miles from the Tecolote Tunnel outlet to the Carpinteria area and includes four regulating reservoirs and various appurtenant structures. Figure 1.2 below provides an overview of the Cachuma Project Facilities Map.

Figure 1.2 – Cachuma Project Facilities Map



**TRANSFERRED PROJECT WORKS CONTRACT**

On February 24, 1956, Reclamation, the original Member Units, and the Agency entered into a contract which provided for the transfer of Operation and Maintenance (O&M) of the Transferred Project works to the Original Member Units. The O & M contract has been amended by amendatory contracts since that time, one of which was executed with COMB as the contractor. In March 2003, Reclamation entered into a new contract with the Cachuma Operation and Maintenance Board for the operation and care of the transferred project works including the Tecolote Tunnel and the South Coast Conduit system. The contract remained in effect through September 30, 2020. COMB initiated the contract renewal process with Reclamation during fiscal year 2019-20. On September 28, 2020, Reclamation and COMB executed a three-year amendatory contract to allow for the completion of a long-term agreement. In 2023, the contract was amended for an additional three-year period through September 2026.

COMB is responsible for diversion of water to the South Coast through the Tecolote Tunnel, and operation and maintenance of the South Coast Conduit pipeline, flow control valves, meters, and instrumentation at control stations, and turnouts along the South Coast Conduit and at four regulating reservoirs. COMB coordinates closely with the Bureau of Reclamation and Member Agencies' staff to ensure that water supplies meet daily demands.

COMB staff reads meters, accounts for Project water deliveries monthly and performs repairs and preventative maintenance on Project facilities and equipment. COMB safeguards Project lands and rights-of-way on the South Coast as the contractor for Reclamation. COMB is responsible for issuing Project water production and use reports, operations reports, fisheries reports, and financial and investment reports which track operation and maintenance expenditures.



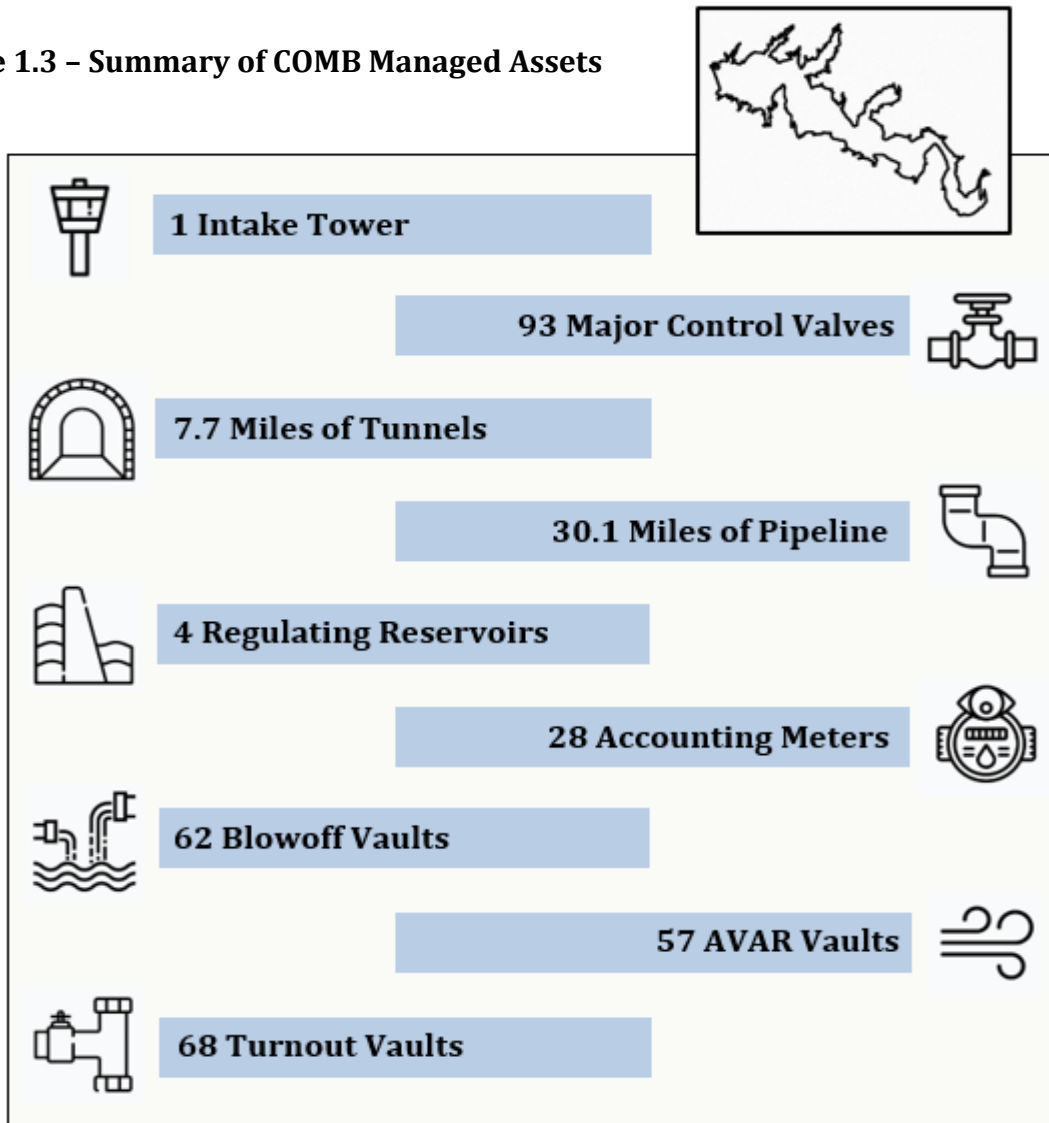
*Ortega Reservoir Maintenance Project*

**COMB MANAGED ASSETS**

COMB, through the Transferred Project Works contract, is responsible for operating and maintaining the USBR facilities. COMB operates and maintains the Cachuma Project critical infrastructure assets, which include the North Portal, Tecolote Tunnel, South Coast Conduit, Sheffield Tunnel, and Glen Anne, Lauro, Ortega, and Carpinteria Reservoir locations.

A comprehensive inventory was assembled for COMB assets using the Gutteridge, Haskins & Davey (GHD) asset management tool available through the EPA website. The GHD method allows for organizing a hierarchy of assets, which can be characterized by asset class, original cost, replacement cost, effective life, probability of failure, and renewal strategy (abandon, maintain, repair, replace), among other inputs. It is useful for viewing assets and their current conditions in a single location, while identifying assets or categories of assets that will need near or long-term work. Figure 1.3 provides a summary of COMB Managed Assets.

**Figure 1.3 – Summary of COMB Managed Assets**



**COMB MANAGED ASSETS (CONTINUED)**

**Intake Tower**

COMB operates and maintains the North Portal Intake Tower, which diverts water from Lake Cachuma into the Tecolote Tunnel and through the South Coast Conduit (SCC) for delivery to COMB Member Agencies. The vertical intake tower was built by the U. S. Bureau of Reclamation during construction of the Cachuma Project and stands 120 feet tall. The intake tower is located approximately mid-reservoir and contains five slide gates, each at varying levels on the pentagonal-shaped tower. The slide gates are used to manage the conveyance of water from the lake at various elevations depending on lake conditions.



**Valves**

COMB operates and maintains over 93 large control valves and slide gates located within gate chambers, control stations, and dam inlet-outlet works. Most of the large control valves measure 30 inches or more in diameter. The large control valves are located throughout the system and allow distribution or service area isolation when maintenance on the system is required. COMB performs annual maintenance to ensure their operability.



**Tunnels**

COMB maintains four separate tunnels covering over 7.7 miles throughout the Cachuma Project system. The tunnels vary in length, with the most significant being the 6.4-mile Tecolote Tunnel, which provides water conveyance from Lake Cachuma through the Santa Ynez Mountains to the South Coast Conduit where it is delivered to the water districts. The horseshoe shaped, concrete walled tunnels were built by Reclamation during the creation and installation of the Cachuma Project.



**COMB MANAGED ASSETS (CONTINUED)**

**Pipeline**

COMB operates and maintains over 30.1 miles of concrete conveyance pipeline throughout the system. The primary pipeline is referred to as the South Coast Conduit (SCC) and is composed of over 9.5 miles of 48-inch diameter reinforced concrete cylinder pipe in the upper reach of the system, and 17.0 miles of 27 to 36-inch bar-wrapped concrete cylinder pipe within the lower reach.



The SCC is original except for 330 feet installed as part of a Highway 154 realignment project in 1970, 2,900 feet of welded steel pipe installed in 1980, and approximately 2,000 feet of welded steel pipe installed in the upper reach as part of the Modified Upper Reach Reliability Project (MURRP) in 2012.

In 2022, COMB installed a secured pipeline at the Lake Cachuma Intake Tower. The secured pipeline is a 3600-ft long HDPE pipeline that will be connected to a pumping barge in times of drought to ensure continued water deliveries. The secured pipeline also re-establishes the capability to draft from the original Gate 5 elevation (660') and allow higher quality water when available to be diverted to the Tecolote Tunnel under normal operations.

**Reservoirs**



COMB operates and maintains four regulating reservoirs, which balance conveyance operations within the south coast area of the Cachuma Project system. Two of the reservoirs are zoned earth-filled embankment dams originally designed and installed by the Bureau of Reclamation. Lauro Dam has a structural height of 137 feet, a crest length of 540 feet, and a storage capacity of 518 acre-feet. Seismic safety modifications were completed in 2006, which brought the facility into seismic compliance. Glen Anne Dam located in the upper reach is currently non-operational. The two reservoirs located in the lower reach of the system are Ortega Reservoir and Carpinteria Reservoir. They are homogenous earth-filled structures and provide for over 100 acre-feet of storage capacity combined. Both Ortega and Carpinteria Reservoirs have two separate bays divided by a center wall and were covered with aluminum roofs in 2007 and 2005, respectively.



**COMB MANAGED ASSETS (CONTINUED)**

**Meters**

COMB reads and maintains 28 accounting meters throughout the system. Of the 28 meters, 11 are integrated with SCADA to allow remote tracking and historical logging of flow measurements. COMB also tracks pressure and water quality parameters such as turbidity, specific conductance, pH, and temperature, using sensors located at the North Portal.



**Structures**

COMB operates and maintains approximately 200 SCC structures throughout the system. This includes 62 blow-off vaults, 57 air-vacuum air-release (AVAR) vaults, and 68 turnouts through the peaks and valleys of SCC system. The purpose of these appurtenant structures is to allow staff access to system components, in order to release/admit air for pipeline protection, release water for maintenance purposes or emergencies, and to service internal assembly and/or valves.



**INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT PLAN - FY 2025 - 2029**

In February 2024, the COMB Board adopted the COMB Five-Year Infrastructure Improvement Plan (IIP). The IIP formalizes the strategy for implementation of capital projects and programs needed to carry out the goals and policy objectives of the Board. The IIP is organized and structured to identify and prioritize rehabilitation projects necessary to protect, improve, and sustain a reliable source of water conveyed from the Cachuma Project to the South Coast communities of Santa Barbara County.

Projects outlined in the IIP have been identified based on U.S. Bureau of Reclamation inspection recommendations, COMB asset inventory analysis, and other staff observations and recommendations. The identification of a project within the five-year plan does not guarantee construction. The initiation of any project requires Board approval for a project to advance to design and ultimately construction. Additionally, the Board of Directors has the ongoing ability to review and revise projects based upon unforeseen conditions, priorities, and financial resources.

Further details are provided on [pages 111-114](#).

**NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE  
BIOLOGICAL OPINION AND FISH MANAGEMENT PLAN**

The United States Bureau of Reclamation currently operates and maintains Bradbury Dam and associated water transport and delivery structures, collectively known as the Cachuma Project on and near the Santa Ynez River for the Cachuma Project Member Units. The Santa Ynez River is about 900 square miles in watershed area with Bradbury Dam located approximately 48 miles from the Pacific Ocean.



The National Marine Fisheries Services (NMFS) is the United States federal agency that oversees protection of Southern California steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*, *O. mykiss*). The Cachuma Project Biological Opinion (BO or BiOp) and the Lower Santa Ynez River Fish Management Plan (FMP) were issued in 2000 for implementation of steelhead management actions developed over many years of study by the Cachuma Project Member Units. The BO addresses the effects of the

proposed Cachuma Project operations on steelhead and its designated critical habitat in accordance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973. The goal is to provide physical projects and management strategies that will protect, enhance, restore, and create new habitat for spawning and rearing of endangered steelhead, while keeping a balance between fish management, other ecological needs, and the delivery of adequate water supplies to customers of local water agencies and groundwater recharge.

On behalf of the U. S. Bureau of Reclamation, COMB is responsible for implementation of the 2000 Biological Opinion and Fish Management Plan related to the Cachuma Project on the Santa Ynez River. These activities include ongoing scientific studies along the river, monitoring and recording changing conditions, and implementation of fish passage improvements as outlined in the 2000 Biological Opinion. In addition, a consensus based, long-term Fish Management Program was developed which provides protection for steelhead/rainbow trout downstream of Bradbury Dam through a combination of water releases from Bradbury Dam through the Hilton Creek watering system, and the removal or modification of numerous fish passage barriers to steelhead on tributaries to the mainstem Santa Ynez River. By implementing these actions, stakeholders in the Cachuma Project have created significant additional habitat for steelhead within the Santa Ynez River watershed.



**DROUGHT RESPONSE AND MANAGEMENT**

Efficient use of water has long been a priority within the Cachuma Project Service Area. Water purveyors are dependent on local water supplies, and have experienced periodic droughts including 1989-91, and the recent multi-year drought of 2012 - 2019. During a drought period, the COMB Member Agencies dramatically increase their conservation efforts to minimize the impact of water shortages on the community. Drought conditions can last many years. The reductions in Cachuma Project water supplies have a major impact on water supply management for the COMB Member Agencies.

During the drought that began in 2012, COMB was responsible for the implementation of the Emergency Pumping Facility Project (EPFP), which allowed water to be pumped and conveyed during the time when lake levels were extremely low and unable to flow via gravity into the Tecolote Tunnel. After an all-time low of 7% reservoir capacity during 2016, Lake Cachuma rebounded to approximately 73% capacity during the February 2019 storms and subsequent inflows.

In December of 2022, COMB completed the installation of a secured pipeline at Lake Cachuma. The secured pipeline is a 3600-ft long HDPE pipeline that will be connected to a pumping barge in times of drought to ensure continued water deliveries.

The Secured Pipeline Project will improve future deployments of the EPF by 1) reducing the elevation triggers for installing the EPF; (2) eliminate the need to install and remove temporary anchor piles; (3) eliminate the need to store the pipeline near the shore of the lake; and (4) reduce the deployment period from over a year to 120 days. It will also reduce the cost of future EPF deployments and improve the quality of delivered water under normal operations.



*Lake Cachuma Tecolote Tunnel Intake Tower Secured Pipeline Installation (December 2022)*

**DROUGHT RESPONSE AND MANAGEMENT (CONTINUED)**

The Secured Pipeline Project will also re-establish the capability to draft from the original Gate 5 elevation (660') and allow higher quality water when available to be diverted to the Tecolote Tunnel under normal operations. COMB was awarded \$4M in grant funding which was applied to construction cost of the Secured Pipeline Project.

Over the last two water years, Santa Barbara County experienced back-to-back wet year conditions and extreme stormflow events. During both years, these storms caused flow to occur in the Santa Ynez River, Santa Cruz Creek, and other tributaries, which raised the elevation in Lake Cachuma to full capacity of 753 feet which resulted in a declaration of surplus water by Reclamation. The last occurrence of a surplus / spill event was in 2011.

**Cachuma Lake Intake Tower - Lake Elevation at Different Points in Time**

*August 2016*



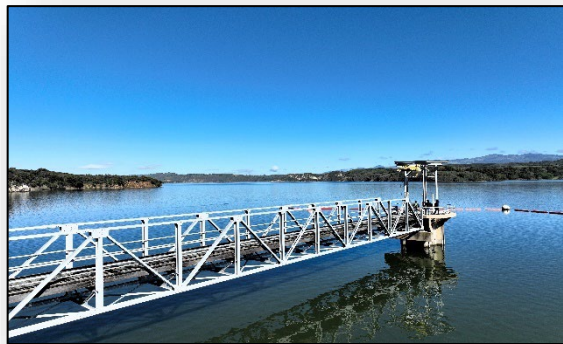
*February 2019*



*February 2023*



*March 2024*



**DROUGHT RESPONSE AND MANAGEMENT (CONTINUED)**

**CURRENT RESERVOIR ELEVATION**

As of March 31, 2024, the elevation in Lake Cachuma was 752.53 feet, which equates to 191,517 acre-feet of water (or 99.2% capacity). The COMB Member Agencies continue to face a water supply shortage until such time that their respective groundwater basins have been recharged and supplemental water obligations are repaid.



*Bradbury Dam Spillway following the February 2024 storm event.*

COMB has developed a lake elevation projection model for forecasting lake elevations and has implemented a regime to request Member Agencies’ projected imports and exports on a periodic basis as part of its ongoing planning process. An update is provided to the COMB Board at their regularly scheduled, monthly public meeting.

**CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)**

California’s COVID-19 state of emergency ended on February 28, 2023. While COVID-19 continues to exist in our community, public water supplies remain safe to drink due to numerous robust treatment processes used by local water agencies. California’s comprehensive safe drinking water standards require a multistep treatment process that includes filtration and disinfection. This process removes and kills viruses, including coronaviruses such as COVID-19, as well as bacteria and other pathogens. According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the World Health Organization (WHO), and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) the COVID-19 virus has not been detected in drinking water supplies, and based on current evidence, the risk to water supplies remains low.

COMB coordinates closely with the Santa Barbara County Health Department and follows all guidelines from the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Additionally, COMB has updated its emergency response plans and is well prepared to maintain operations in the event of an outbreak. COMB’s top priority is to keep its employees, Member Agency staff, contractors, and vendors safe and healthy so we can continue to serve our community.

**LOCAL ECONOMY**

Santa Barbara County is located approximately 100 miles north of Los Angeles and 300 miles south of San Francisco. The largest employment sectors include services, wholesale and retail trade, hospitality, agriculture, and manufacturing. The mild climate, picturesque coastline, scenic mountains, and numerous parks and beaches make Santa Barbara County a popular tourist and recreational area. The County spans over 2,700 square miles and includes an estimated population of 441,257.



*Santa Barbara County Courthouse*

The national economy has been slowly recovering from the worldwide pandemic caused by COVID 19 which began in 2020. In the spring of 2022, the United States experienced a slowdown in recovery due to the military action in Ukraine as well as a spike in national inflation. Throughout 2022 and into 2023, the Federal Reserve has raised interest rates to ease demand in the U.S. economy and reduce inflation. For the twelve months ending December 2023, the annual inflation rate was 3.4 % as compared to 6.5% as of December 2022. <sup>(1)</sup> Unstable costs for essential materials and supplies, due to supply chain restraints, continue to place additional pressure on COMB and our Members Agencies. Staff has worked aggressively to maintain costs in all areas by improving operating efficiencies and effectively utilizing internal resources, when possible, to achieve our objectives.

Locally, the County’s average unemployment rate for February 2024 was 5.7% compared to 3.9% for the previous year. The County’s unemployment rate was higher than the State unemployment rate of 5.6% and the national unemployment rate of 4.2%. <sup>(2)</sup> Countywide estimated retail sales decreased 3.4% to 9.60 billion for fiscal year 2022-23. In the Leisure and Hospitality sector, countywide estimated room sales increased by 1.0% to \$703.1 million. Countywide estimated Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) revenue increased by 0.9% to \$83 million and Southern Santa Barbara County hotel room rates decreased by 2.2% while available hotel room increased by 0.8% from the previous fiscal year with a hotel occupancy rate of 70.1%. <sup>(3)</sup>

The real estate market continued its upward trend in price increases. The countywide median home price increased 2% to \$898,194. In the southern portion of Santa Barbara County, the median home price in January 2024 increased to \$1,775,000 up from \$1,694,000 from the prior year. <sup>(3)</sup>

<sup>(1)</sup> Source: CNBC

<sup>(2)</sup> Source: State of California Employment Development Department

<sup>(3)</sup> Source: County of Santa Barbara

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

During 2023-24, COMB continued to focus efforts on water supply reliability, infrastructure improvements, environmental stewardship, policies, and financial responsibility, and improving workforce capabilities. Outlined below are highlights of accomplishments during this past year.

**Operations and Engineering Division**

- Completed debris removal from 2023 Winter Storms that was deposited in debris basins around Lauro Reservoir in preparation of the 2024 Winter season with contractor. Replaced the Lauro Debris Basin pump which burned out from extensive use during the 2023 storm season.
- Completed repair of a washout on Lauro Reservoir Bypass Channel with contractor which included mitigation to extend the concrete channel by 80 feet to prevent damage in future events. The new concrete channel functioned well in 2024 storms. Performed repairs on unimproved sections of the bypass channel which failed in three spots during the 2024 storm events.
- Removed sediment from Lauro Reservoir Spillway Stilling Well utilizing large vacuum truck contractor to prevent impacts to San Roque Creek. Spillway was flowing at capacity during 2024 storms following the cleanout and the timely cleanout was important to prevent damage during the 2024 rainy season.
- Repaired damage to two blowoff structures from the 2023 Winter Storms.
- Cleaned Ortega Reservoir following a two-month shutdown of the reservoir for extensive joint sealing and repair by Montecito Water District/Carpinteria Valley Water District (MWD/CVWD) contractor and returned the reservoir to normal service in collaboration with MWD.
- Set up and operated emergency bypass pumping system from the stilling basin below Bradbury Dam to the lower Santa Ynez River under United States Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) direction and in collaboration with COMB Fisheries to allow Reclamation to install a refurbished fixed cone valve and test the new spillway gate motors at Bradbury Dam. The pump-bypass system allowed the critical maintenance work to be performed without impacting flows downstream. Both the spillway motors and outlet works valve were used extensively in the winter of 2024 by Reclamation in managing flows.
- Replaced the pressure transducers in Carpinteria Reservoir to improve accuracy of reservoir elevation reading in collaboration with the City of Santa Barbara and CVWD.

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS (CONTINUED)****Operations and Engineering Division (Continued)**

- Assisted Goleta Water District (GWD) and MWD with turnout shutdowns from the South Coast Conduit system to facilitate repairs in their portion of the system.
- Removed the Stow Ranch meter and re-piped structure back into a blowoff-only configuration in collaboration with Stow Ranch landowner and GWD.
- Obtained coverage under the state drinking water discharge permit for maintenance and emergency discharges which is a better fit for the Cachuma Project system than the limited threat discharge permit COMB previously had coverage under.
- Completed TOC/Phosphorous Source Study which had added challenges due to the large influx of sediment and water that occurred during the 2023 Winter Storms.
- Operated and maintained the South Coast Conduit, which consists of 26.5 mile of pipeline with a combined 124 blow off and air vent structures, 43 turnout structures, 20 meters and 4 regulating reservoirs.
- Imported COMB GIS system to ESRI Field Maps program and began a systematic update of GPS-locations of structures with centimeter-grade accuracy with a goal of more accurately mapping the location of the South Coast Conduit and allow Operations staff to better utilize GIS in the field.
- Participated in the Annual Site inspections and five-year Hazardous Waste Audit with US Bureau of Reclamation staff.
- Received and reviewed 1129 Underground Service Alert tickets and took appropriate action, as necessary.
- Prepared an extensive update to the Infrastructure Improvement Plan for the five-year period from 2025-2029.
- Performed repairs of the Operations Division Building to prevent ponding of water outside of the building from entering the buildings during storm events.
- Monitored numerous construction projects adjacent to and within the Reclamation right-of-way to ensure the protection of the South Coast Conduit.
- Removed vegetation at all structure sites to ensure defensible space as required by the Santa Barbara County Fire Marshal.
- Performed weekly inspections of major facilities.



**ACCOMPLISHMENTS (CONTINUED)****Operations and Engineering Division (Continued)**

- Performed routine dam inspections and instrumentation reports (all reservoirs).
- Performed north reach structure maintenance and control station valve exercising as part of the annual Operating Division work plan.
- Enhanced the Lake Cachuma elevation projection model for water supply and conveyance planning purposes.
- Maintained the Lake Cachuma log boom around the intake tower which has been breaking more frequently requiring repairs on approximately 10 occasions during the year.
- Repaired, cracked sealed, and seal coated the asphalt around Lauro Office and Yard with asphalt contractor.
- Maintained certified D3 operators for the D3 classified system. COMB staff currently has five (5) D3 certified operators on staff for the D3 classified system.
- Continued advancement of COMB's internal water accounting model to automate and improve monthly water accounting reports.
- Conducted safety-training meetings include Confined Space Rescue training.

**Fisheries Division**

- Conducted all 2000 BiOp compliance monitoring in the Lower Santa Ynez River (LYSR) basin and its tributaries including Lake Cachuma water quality monitoring pursuant to associated guidance documents.
- Conducted all monitoring, analyses, and reporting as requested by Reclamation in compliance with the State Water Board Order WR 2019-0148.
- Completed the Water Year (WY) 2022 Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) and Annual Monitoring Summary (AMS).
- Transferred all field monitoring data files to Reclamation via the established data portal for WY2022 and files from previous years if there were modifications after a QA/QC process with Reclamation.
- Provided comments on draft sections of the Biological Assessment as requested by Reclamation for their re-consultation efforts with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS).

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS (CONTINUED)****Fisheries Division (Continued)**

- Worked closely with Reclamation upon their request to monitor Hilton Creek and the LSYR mainstem during all required testing, modifications, or operations of Bradbury Dam, the Hilton Creek Watering System, and the Hilton Creek Emergency Backup System to safeguard the fishery downstream of the dam and assisted Reclamation operations staff.
- Worked with Reclamation to draft a 2-year gravel augmentation plan for Hilton Creek and the LYSR mainstem on Reclamation property that is scheduled to start next fall.
- Continued to work closely and collaboratively with California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), Reclamation, and NMFS on fish rescue in the LSYR mainstem and its tributaries as needed and requested due to dam operations, specifically spill ramp down, or tributary habitat enhancement efforts.
- Conducted WY2023 spill ramp down surveys looking for stranded fish or mortalities. This effort continued throughout the dry season.
- Wrote and submitted to Reclamation the Mudflow Report (1/9/23) and the WY2023 Spill Ramp-Down Report (3/9/23 and 1/30/24), each incident had *O. mykiss* mortalities and the need for fish rescue/relocation efforts.
- Assisted CDFW in fish rescue and relocation efforts at Quiota Creek Crossing 9 just prior to instream elements being improved in the fall.
- Successfully completed the Fish Passage Enhancement Project at Quiota Creek Crossing 5 and Crossing 9 in the fall.
- Completed fish scale mounting, photographing, reading, and reporting for WY2023 and WY2014 as part of the WY2023 AMS.
- Worked with the COMB Operations Division on monitoring algae, nutrients, and water quality in Lake Cachuma throughout the year and participated in the TOC/P Study of Lake Cachuma, specifically the sediment study and reviewing draft reports.
- Monitored and maintained all mitigation oak trees near Lake Cachuma as part of the surcharge operation at the Dam. COMB has planted approximately 5,740 oak trees under this program since its inception in 2005.

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS (CONTINUED)****Fisheries Division (Continued)**

- Completed the 2022 Annual Oak Tree Survey and reported the status of the Lake Cachuma Oak Tree Restoration Program with FY 2022-23 financials to the Oak Tree Committee and COMB Board.
- Drafted a Wildlife Conservation Board grant proposal for multiple fish passage enhancement projects.
- Updated the Fisheries Division Habitat Improvement Plan with all potential fish passage projects over the next 5 fiscal years.
- Maintained a rigorous watering/weeding effort of the mitigation trees in the Lake Cachuma Oak Tree Restoration Program throughout the dry season that has shown positive results in sustaining those trees.
- Obtained a CDFW 2081(A) MOU and a CDFW Scientific Collection Permit for CESA take coverage for all components of our monitoring program.
- Presented a poster at the 2023 Salmonid Restoration Federation (SRF) annual fisheries conference on Sulfur and Salmonids and gave an oral presentation at the 2024 SRF conference on fish and high flow releases.

**Administrative Division**

- Awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) for the FY 2021-22 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report.
- FY 2022-23 Audited Financial Statements received an unmodified (“clean”) opinion.
- Awarded the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award from the GFOA for the FY 2023-24 COMB Operating Budget document.
- Initiated renewal discussions with Reclamation for the Cachuma Transferred Project Works Contract. Executed a three-year amendatory contract to allow for the completion of a long-term agreement.
- Participated in a technical session with Reclamation to discuss the process of finalizing the Bradbury Dam Safety of Dams contract including any amendments that may be needed. The contract is expected to be finalized in the spring of 2024.

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS (CONTINUED)****Administrative Division (Continued)**

- Initiated discussions with Reclamation related to capitalizing certain key assets that COMB paid and installed within federal easements. Executed a twenty-five year license agreement with Reclamation for both the Modified Upper Reach Reliability Project and the Lake Cachuma Secured Pipeline. The license agreement provided COMB’s auditors with the documentation necessary to capitalize both assets which will significantly improve COMB’s financial position.
- Participated in the County of Santa Barbara Office of Emergency Management update to the Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan (MJHMP). COMB as a member of the Mitigation Advisory committee provided input on local hazard management activities and reviewed draft MJHMP components as part of a regional effort to update the MJHMP and annexes. the Plan was adopted in the spring of 2023.
- Participated in the Santa Barbara County Integrated Regional Water Management Program (IRWMP). The Cooperating Partners of IRWMP meet regularly to promote and practice integrated regional water management strategies; to ensure sustainable water uses, reliable water supplies and water quality, environmental stewardship, efficient urban development; and protection of agricultural and watershed awareness.
- Executed a subgrant agreement with the Santa Barbara County Water Agency under the Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Implementation Grant Solicitation. COMB was awarded \$1M in grant funding to be used for the Lake Cachuma Secured Pipeline Agreement. Submitted invoicing materials and other deliverables necessary for reimbursement under the agreement.
- Initiated the application process and worked closely with FEMA/CalOES for federal disaster relief funding for damages that resulted from the 2023 storm events.
- Administrative Manager/CFO attended the 2023 GFOA Annual Conference and participated in several educational sessions including: Accounting and Auditing Updates for 2023, GASB Statement No. 96 – Accounting for Subscription Based Information Technology Arrangements (SBITA), Financial Forecasting, Capital Planning and Asset Management, Federal Funding Opportunities, and Cybersecurity Best Practices.

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS (CONTINUED)****Administrative Division (Continued)**

- Administrative Manager / CFO appointed to the Finance and Audit Committee of ACWA JPIA. The primary responsibility of the Committee is to put forward recommendations for approval to the Executive Committee with respect to audit, budget and investment policy.
- Completed the annual ACWA JPIA Worker’s Compensation, Liability, and Property Risk Assessment. ACWA JPIA reviewed COMB’s Employment Practices, Safety protocols and Heat Illness Prevention Program, ACWA’s Risk Control and Risk Transfer Manual, and COMB’s Workers Compensation and Liability Program experience history.
- Received the President’s Special Recognition Award from the Association of California Water Agencies. The JPIA recognizes its members that have a loss ratio of 20% or less in the Liability, Property and Worker’s Compensation programs.
- Conducted the annual Information Technology (IT) review with COMB’s outsourced IT consultant. The purpose of the meeting was to review COMB’s server and network systems, identify updates to system requirements, assess current IT protocols, review data disaster recovery practices, as well as identify potential new risks against cybersecurity threats.
- Updated various internal operational safety procedures/protocols to maintain a safe and healthy working environment, free from hazards, for all employees including COMB’s Injury and Illness Prevention Plan, Safe Operating Procedures Manual and Heat Illness Prevention Plan.
- Updated COMB’s Personnel Policy and Employee Handbook for labor law updates and changes.
- COMB field and administrative staff completed their biennial First Aid/CPR certification training.
- Hired and trained an Administrative Assistant II position.

**DRAFT**

This page left blank intentionally

**DRAFT**



**SECTION II – BUDGET OVERVIEW**

**DRAFT**

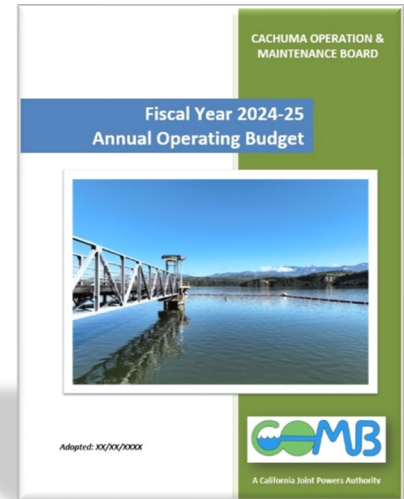
This page left blank intentionally



**COMB ANNUAL OPERATING BUDGET**

Each year, the Board of Directors approves the COMB Operating Budget for the following fiscal year that runs from July 1 through June 30.

The development and adoption of an annual budget is based on the Board’s financial and operational policies. Its purpose is to maintain fiscal stability by providing a structural balance between revenues and expenditures and to identify programs of work COMB has pledged to support. In addition, the budget provides the financial resources necessary to achieve or advance management strategies and goals. It serves as a financial road map and communication tool describing programs of work, resource requirements, and functions as a guideline in accomplishing our mission in the most efficient, fiscally sustainable manner while ensuring maximum value to our Member Agencies.



The COMB Operating Budget for FY 2024-25 is further detailed in Section IV – COMB Operating Budget starting on [page 39](#).

**BUDGET DEVELOPMENT**

**Basis of Budgeting**

For budgetary reporting purposes, COMB uses the modified accrual basis of accounting. Under this method, revenues are recognized when they become measurable and available. “Measurable” means the amount of the transaction can be determined. “Available” means the amount of the transaction can be collectible within the current period, or soon enough thereafter, to be used to pay liabilities of the current period. Expenditures are recognized in the accounting period in which the liability is incurred. Non-cash expense items such as depreciation expense for fixed assets and accrued paid time off are excluded from the budget.

COMB operates under one fund for budgetary purposes. However, the Agency’s various divisions and budget preparation are segregated as follows:

- Operations / Engineering Division
- Fisheries Division

The Administrative Division is included with General and Administrative Expenditures, which are generally allocated between the Operations Division (65%) and Fisheries (35%).

**BUDGET DEVELOPMENT**

**Budget Development**

Development of the budget is based on a zero-based budgeting methodology. This methodology employs a detailed examination of expenditures wherein only the necessary budget amount for each line item is presented for discussion. This approach addresses fundamental and prioritized service needs and represents the minimum level of funding needed for effective operations.

At the beginning of the annual budget planning cycle, COMB staff prepares estimated budget projections and presents a draft Operating Budget to the General Managers and technical staff of the COMB Member Agencies. Staff incorporates any comments received into the proposed operating budget prior to submission to the COMB Administrative Committee. Following review by the Administrative Committee,

COMB staff then conducts a budget workshop with the COMB Board, at a public meeting, to review the draft operating budget, the proposed upcoming infrastructure and habitat improvement projects, and any revenue and expenditure assumptions and projections contained therein.

Depending on the quantity or nature of comments received during the budget workshop, the draft budget may be sent back to the Administrative Committee for further consideration or brought back to the Board at its next meeting, as revised, for adoption.



**BUDGET DEVELOPMENT (CONTINUED)**

**Budget Calendar**

Table 2.1 provides the budget process schedule for FY 2024-25.

**Table 2.1 – FY 2024-25 Budget Process Schedule**

<b>Deliverables</b>	<b>Jan</b>	<b>Feb</b>	<b>Mar</b>	<b>Apr</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>Jun</b>
Updates to: - Infrastructure Improvement Projects - Habitat Improvement Projects - Projected COMB Managed Revenues - Projected General and Administrative Expenditures - Projected Operating Expenditures	X	X				
Draft Budget Document Developed		X				
Draft Budget Internal Review Process			X			
Member Agency Review Process				X		
Admin Committee Draft Budget Review – Public Meeting				X		
Board Budget Workshop – Public Meeting					X	
Update Draft Budget – Prepare Final Budget					X	
Board Adopts Final Budget – Public Meeting					X	

**BUDGET POLICIES**

**Budget Approval**

The final COMB Operating Budget is approved and adopted by the Board of Directors through a resolution during a scheduled public meeting. Once adopted by the Board, management continues to closely monitor and report on revenues and expenditures throughout the fiscal year to ensure compliance with the budget, as well as the integrity, transparency and quality of operations.

**Balanced Budget**

The primary budget objective is to provide the highest possible level of service to COMB’s stakeholders and members of the public without impairing COMB’s financial condition. COMB will make every effort to keep current expenditures less than current assessments and revenues. Current expenditures are defined as operating expenses, debt payment and infrastructure and habitat improvement projects. COMB will endeavor to operate within the approved budgetary amounts to avoid subsequent assessments to its Member Agencies.

**BUDGET POLICIES (CONTINUED)****Outside Funding Sources**

COMB staff actively pursues outside funding sources for all infrastructure improvement projects. Outside funding sources, such as grants, are used to finance only those improvement projects that are consistent with the Five-Year Infrastructure Improvement Project Plans and COMB priorities, and whose operating and maintenance costs have been included in future operating budget forecasts. Board policy requires that all grant agreements be considered at Committee and be reviewed and approved by the Board prior to acceptance.

**Pass-Through Revenues and Charges**

In addition to the annual Operating Budget, COMB collects and manages various other assessments, which are considered pass-through revenues and charges. COMB has been granted the authority, by various agreements, for administering the provision, collection and payment of these revenues including the USBR Entitlement Obligation (USBR Water Rates), the Bradbury and Lauro Safety of Dams (SOD) Repayment Obligations, and the State Water Resources Control Board Water Rights Fee. Since these payments are considered pass-through revenues and charges, they are not recorded as revenue on COMB's financial statements.

COMB endeavors to provide sufficient information to its Member Agencies regarding the USBR and other pass-through charges to enable them to gain a full understanding of the charges.

**Budgeted Expenditures**

As stated in COMB's Procurement Policy, the General Manager has the authority to approve expenditures made for official COMB business up to a maximum of \$50,000, provided such expenditures are within the budget, as adopted by the COMB Board. Purchases of equipment, services, or supplies exceeding \$50,000 are submitted, through the appropriate Committee, to the Board of Directors for review and approval. This expenditure authority limitation does not apply to routine, recurring operational expenses already approved within the annual operating budget, such as salaries, benefits, insurance, legal and IT services.

Emergency expenditures, as defined in COMB's Procurement policy, are subject to approval by the General Manager or designee, who in turn notifies the Board President of actions taken and brings notification to the full Board within 30 days of the expenditure being made. In such an event, a determination is made and considered by the Board if a special assessment is warranted to cover non-budgeted emergency expenditures.

Any capital expenditure or form of indebtedness in excess of one million dollars requires unanimous consent by the COMB Board through a board resolution.

**BUDGET POLICIES (CONTINUED)****Allocation of General and Administrative Expenses**

General and Administrative expenses include costs for support of all administrative functions of COMB such as: Director fees, legal expenditures, general liability and property insurance, audit fees, temporary/contract labor, utilities, IT and communications, postage and office supplies, training, education and subscriptions and miscellaneous expenses. General and Administrative expenses are generally allocated between Operations Division (65%) and Fisheries Division (35%).

**Budget Adjustments / Augmentations**

The budget may be adjusted or augmented throughout the year by Board action to accommodate an expenditure that was either unanticipated or indeterminable at the time the annual budget was adopted. This process involves a recommendation by staff to the appropriate Board committee prior to submission to the Board of Directors for consideration. A budget adjustment is defined as the process of reallocating budgeted funds to an alternate account and does not change the overall approved budget amount. A budget augmentation is defined as an increase to the approved budget and the need for additional assessments.

The Board considers the recommendation at a public meeting and approves or rejects such requests by motion and majority vote of the Board. Any budget adjustment or augmentation that increases the cost of a capital expenditure or form of indebtedness in excess of one million dollars requires unanimous consent by the COMB Board through a board resolution.

**Member Agency Payment of Assessments**

Current operations of COMB are funded by assessment of the Member Agencies, with the assessments based on the Member Agencies' Cachuma Project entitlement percentages. Operating assessments are calculated each year through the Budget process. Member Agencies are billed at the start of each quarter for their allocable amount.

Section 4.2 of Article IV of the COMB JPA outlines the division of Cachuma Project Costs among the Member Agencies. Section 4.2 states: "Parties shall divide and pay the administrative costs, the storage operation and maintenance costs, and the conveyance and operations and maintenance costs, including the payment of any loans or obligations incurred by the Cachuma Operation and Maintenance Board pursuant to the provisions of Article I, Section 1.3(h) (iv) and Section 1.3 (i), according to their use of the facilities and their participation in the benefit of the annual yield of the Cachuma Project. Such costs shall be assessed to the parties upon a schedule approved by the Cachuma Operation and Maintenance Board."

**BUDGET POLICIES (CONTINUED)****Non-Member Agency Payment Obligations**

Pursuant to the Separation Agreement between COMB and Santa Ynez River Conservation District, ID No. 1 (ID No. 1), starting in Fiscal Year 2017-18 and going forward, certain actual expenditures incurred by COMB will be collected from ID No. 1 through an invoice issued quarterly to it by COMB. In addition, COMB collects payments from ID No. 1 for continuing pass-through obligations pursuant to the terms of the Separation Agreement, dated August 31, 2018.

**Unexpended Funds**

Unexpended funds occur when assessments (revenues) collected from the Member Agencies through the budget process exceed actual expenditures. Unexpended funds are identified through the audit process and returned to the Member Agencies using one of four methods. These methods include: 1) the issuance of checks made payable to each Member Agency; 2) constructively returning the unexpended funds by reducing future quarterly assessments; 3) carrying forward unexpended funds for work in process; and/or 4) reducing the projected operating budget for the following fiscal year.

The Board of Directors shall take action annually to approve the methodology for return once unexpended funds are identified.

**Financial Statement Reporting**

Division financial statements are provided to each division manager monthly. Expenditures are reviewed to ensure that actual costs to-date do not exceed the adopted budget.

Unaudited financial statements, including a statement of paid claims and an investment report, are received and filed by the Board monthly at a regularly scheduled public meeting.

On a quarterly basis, the Administrative Manager / Chief Financial Officer (CFO) provides a fiscal year-to-date financial review of the unaudited interim financial reports to the Board of Directors, comparing actual expenditures to the budget. Additionally, the General Manager provides a quarterly report of contracts executed pursuant to COMB's Procurement policy.

In compliance with Government Code section 53891(a), COMB submits its annual Financial Transaction Report and annual Government Compensation in California to the State Controller's office for posting on its public website.

**DRAFT**



**SECTION III - COMB MANAGED REVENUES**

**DRAFT**

This page left blank intentionally



**COMB MANAGED REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES**

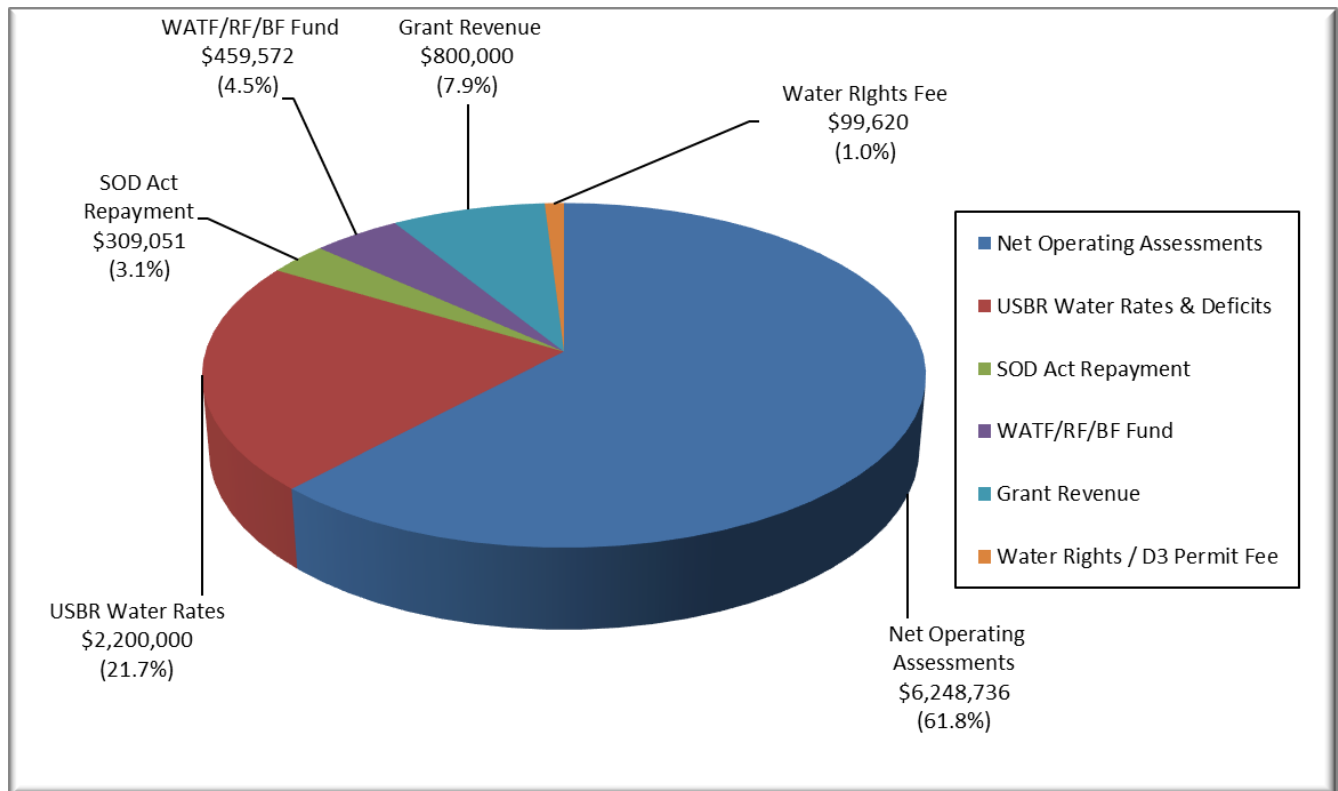
In addition to the annual Operating Budget, COMB collects and manages various other assessments, which are considered pass-through revenues and charges. COMB has been granted the authority, by various agreements, for administering the provisions, collection and payment of these revenues including the following:

- USBR Entitlement Obligation (USBR Water Rates)
- Bradbury Safety of Dams (SOD) Repayment Obligations
- Lauro Safety of Dams (SOD) Repayment Obligations
- State Water Resource Control Board Water Rights Fee

COMB is also responsible for managing various federal, state and local grant revenues, as well as various restricted trust fund accounts to be used for the betterment of the Cachuma Project.

For FY 2024-25, COMB’s projected managed revenues are \$10,172,579 as shown in Figure 3.1, and Table 3.1. The previous ten fiscal years’ COMB Managed Revenues are shown in Table 3.2.

**Figure 3.1 – FY 2024-25 COMB Managed Revenue by Source**



**COMB MANAGED REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES (CONTINUED)**

**Table 3.1 – FY 2024-25 COMB Managed Revenues and Expenditures <sup>(1)</sup>**

Category	FY 2022-23 Actuals	FY 2023-24 Budget	FY 2023-24 Est. Actuals	FY 2024-25 Budget
<b>Revenues:</b>				
COMB Net Operating Budget	\$ 5,349,254	\$ 4,928,983	\$ 4,707,778	\$ 6,304,336
USBR Water Rates/Deficits	2,231,608	2,200,000	1,968,000	2,200,000
Grant Funding	2,996,640	1,101,563	328,793	800,000
CVWD Cooperative Agreement Funding	-	550,000	-	-
Warren Act Trust Fund	99,592	210,786	229,354	17,286
Bradbury SOD Act	261,647	261,647	261,647	261,647
Cachuma Project Betterment Fund	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000
SWRCB Water Rights Fee	70,715	75,620	75,609	79,620
Lauro SOD Act	47,404	47,404	47,404	47,404
Renewal Fund	29,123	76,456	132,179	342,286
DDW D3 Permit Fee	-	20,000	16,068	20,000
<b>Total Managed Revenues:</b>	<b>\$ 11,185,983</b>	<b>\$ 9,572,459</b>	<b>\$ 7,866,832</b>	<b>\$ 10,172,579</b>
<b>Expenditures:</b>				
<b>Contracts/Agreements</b>				
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation	\$ 2,231,608	\$ 2,200,000	\$ 1,968,000	\$ 2,200,000
Bradbury SOD Act Repayment	261,647	261,647	261,647	261,647
Lauro SOD Act Repayment	47,404	47,404	47,404	47,404
Water Rights Fee	70,715	75,620	75,609	79,620
<b>Subtotal:</b>	<b>\$ 2,611,374</b>	<b>\$ 2,584,671</b>	<b>\$ 2,352,660</b>	<b>\$ 2,588,671</b>
<b>Personnel</b>				
Operations Division	\$ 919,290	\$ 1,220,347	\$ 1,029,599	\$ 1,296,612
Fisheries Division	709,582	824,382	773,692	870,930
Administrative Division	751,678	966,952	879,382	1,041,658
<b>Subtotal:</b>	<b>\$ 2,380,551</b>	<b>\$ 3,011,681</b>	<b>\$ 2,682,673</b>	<b>\$ 3,209,201</b>
<b>Operation and Maintenance</b>				
Operations Division	\$ 357,210	\$ 625,800	\$ 612,652	\$ 638,500
Fisheries Division	162,958	84,600	66,894	87,500
<b>Subtotal:</b>	<b>\$ 520,169</b>	<b>\$ 710,400</b>	<b>\$ 679,546</b>	<b>\$ 726,000</b>
<b>General and Administrative</b>				
Operations Division	\$ 220,715	\$ 267,527	\$ 202,258	\$ 286,027
Fisheries Division	96,574	131,181	106,714	140,681
<b>Subtotal:</b>	<b>\$ 317,289</b>	<b>\$ 398,707</b>	<b>\$ 308,972</b>	<b>\$ 426,707</b>
<b>Infrastructure and Improvement Projects</b>				
Infrastructure Improvement Projects	\$ 4,971,950	\$ 1,300,000	\$ 699,160	\$ 2,400,000
Special Projects	218,777	1,370,000	794,010	335,000
Habitat Improvement Projects	22,999	25,000	223,033	325,000
Program Support Services	142,876	172,000	126,778	162,000
<b>Subtotal:</b>	<b>\$ 5,356,602</b>	<b>\$ 2,867,000</b>	<b>\$ 1,842,981</b>	<b>\$ 3,222,000</b>
<b>Total Expenditures before Debt:</b>	<b>\$ 11,185,984</b>	<b>\$ 9,572,459</b>	<b>\$ 7,866,832</b>	<b>\$ 10,172,579</b>

**Footnotes**

- (1) Consolidated schedule including COMB annual Operating Budget and Contractual Obligations managed by COMB.
- (2) COMB Board adopts the annual Operating Budget.

**COMB MANAGED REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES (CONTINUED)**

**Table 3.2 – Previous Ten Fiscal Years’ COMB Managed Revenues (1)**

Fiscal Year	Net Operating Assessments <sup>(10)</sup>	USBR Water Rates & Deficits	SOD Act Repayment	Grant Revenue	WATF/RF/BF Fund <sup>(2)</sup>	Loan Payments EPFP	Water Rights/ D3 Permit Fee	Total Managed Revenues
2015-16	\$ 5,556,673	\$ 977,048	\$ 196,958	\$ 705,205	\$ 661,728	\$ -	\$ 41,300	\$ 8,138,913
2016-17	\$ 4,415,707	\$ 1,129,078	\$ 309,051	\$ 1,542,476	\$ 381,178	\$ 406,011	\$ 46,897	\$ 8,230,397
2017-18	\$ 2,587,215	\$ 1,728,642	\$ 309,051	\$ -	\$ 710,361	\$ 463,450	\$ 48,991	\$ 5,847,710
2018-19 <sup>(5)</sup>	\$ 4,197,066	\$ 3,189,982	\$ 309,051	\$ 1,886,408	\$ 629,521	\$ 463,450	\$ 52,162	\$ 10,727,640
2019-20 <sup>(6),(7)</sup>	\$ 4,624,002	\$ 2,312,529	\$ 309,051	\$ 1,461,452	\$ 681,523	\$ 463,450	\$ 60,900	\$ 9,912,907
2020-21	\$ 4,808,442	\$ 1,788,246	\$ 309,051	\$ 180,754	\$ 356,078	\$ 463,450	\$ 64,423	\$ 7,970,444
2021-22	\$ 4,421,917	\$ 1,770,763	\$ 309,051	\$ 15,763	\$ 272,830	\$ 38,621	\$ 70,715	\$ 6,899,660
2022-23 <sup>(8)</sup>	\$ 5,349,254	\$ 2,231,608	\$ 309,051	\$ 2,996,640	\$ 228,715	\$ -	\$ 70,715	\$ 11,185,983
2023-24	\$ 4,707,778	\$ 1,968,000	\$ 309,051	\$ 328,793	\$ 461,533	\$ -	\$ 91,677	\$ 7,866,832
2024-25 <sup>(10)</sup>	\$ 6,304,336	\$ 2,200,000	\$ 309,051	\$ 800,000	\$ 459,572	\$ -	\$ 99,620	\$ 10,172,579

Notes:

(1) COMB has been granted the authority, by various agreements, for administering the provisions, collection and payment of certain pass-thru revenues including the USBR Entitlement Obligation (USBR Water Rates), the Bradbury and Lauro Safety of Dams (SOD) Repayment Obligations, and the State Water Resource Control Board Water Rights Fee. These pass-thru revenues are not reflected in COMB's audited financial statements.

(2) WATF/RF/BF = Warrant Act Trust Fund / Renewal Fund / Betterment Fund.

(3) FY 2014-15 Operating Assessments includes \$1.8M paid by the City of Santa Barbara to fund its proportionate share of the Emergency Pumping Facilities Project. The remaining South Coast Member Agencies elected to finance their obligation through two notes payable agreements with American Riviera Bank.

(4) FY 2014-15 Grant Revenue includes funding related to Emergency Pumping Facilities Project from various sources: IRWMP, DWR, SWRCB and USBR.

(5) FY 2018-19 USBR Water Rates include (1) an installment payment for Extraordinary O&M Costs (\$420K) related to the replacement of the 30" cone valves on Bradbury Dam (Total Cost - \$1.2M) amortized over a 3-year period, and (2) approximately \$860k of the FY 2015-17 USBR Deficits paid in-full by three Cachuma Project Member Units. The remaining Member Units elected to pay their obligation over a 5-year period.

(6) FY 2019-20 USBR Water Rates include (1) 2nd installment payment for Extraordinary O&M Costs (\$420K) - see Footnote 6, and (2) approximately \$200k of the FY 2015-17 USBR Deficits due from two Cachuma Project Member Units which elected to pay their obligation over a 5-year period.

(7) FY 2019-20 Grant Revenue includes funding related to Sycamore Canyon Slope Stabilization FEMA Assistance (\$450k) and California Department of Fish and Wildlife grant funds affiliated with Quiota Creek Project (\$1.01M).

(8) FY 2022-23 Grant Revenue includes funding from the Department of Water Resources Urban and Multi Benefit Drought Relief Program (\$2.25M) and US Bureau of Reclamation WaterSMART Drought Response Program (\$750k). Both grants will be applied to the Lake Cachuma Secured Pipeline project.

(10) FY 2024-25 Grant Revenue includes projected FEMA/CalOES assistance related to FEMA DR-4683-CA 2023 Winter Storm.

**COMB OPERATING BUDGET**

COMB operates under an annual operating budget, which is adopted by the Board of Directors in accordance with established short and long-term financial plans. The COMB Operating budget reflects projected operating expenses for the COMB Operations Division, the Fisheries Division and General and Administrative expenses.

The budget may be amended throughout the year by Board action. The Board considers the request of staff at a public meeting and approves or rejects such requests by motion and majority vote of the Board.

Annual budget revenues are funded by quarterly assessments of COMB Member Agencies and are based on the Member Agencies’ proportionate Cachuma Project entitlement percentages. Included in the budget is the cost of personnel and administration, operation and maintenance, fisheries related work and infrastructure improvement projects related to the Cachuma Project storage and conveyance facilities. These facilities include the Tecolote Tunnel, the South Coast Conduit (SCC), and four regulating dams and reservoirs (Glen Annie, Lauro, Ortega and Carpinteria). During the fiscal year 2021-22, COMB conducted and/or completed several special studies and projects using revenue provided by these assessments. These projects included storage of key components of the Emergency Pumping Facility, improvements to the South Coast Conduit, and rehabilitation and betterment of control stations, valves and structures.

**Table 3.3  
COMB Operating Budget Allocation Percentages**

<b>Member Unit</b>	<b>COMB Operating Budget Allocation %</b>
Goleta Water District	40.42 %
City of Santa Barbara	35.89 %
Carpinteria Valley WD	12.20 %
Montecito Water District	11.50 %
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

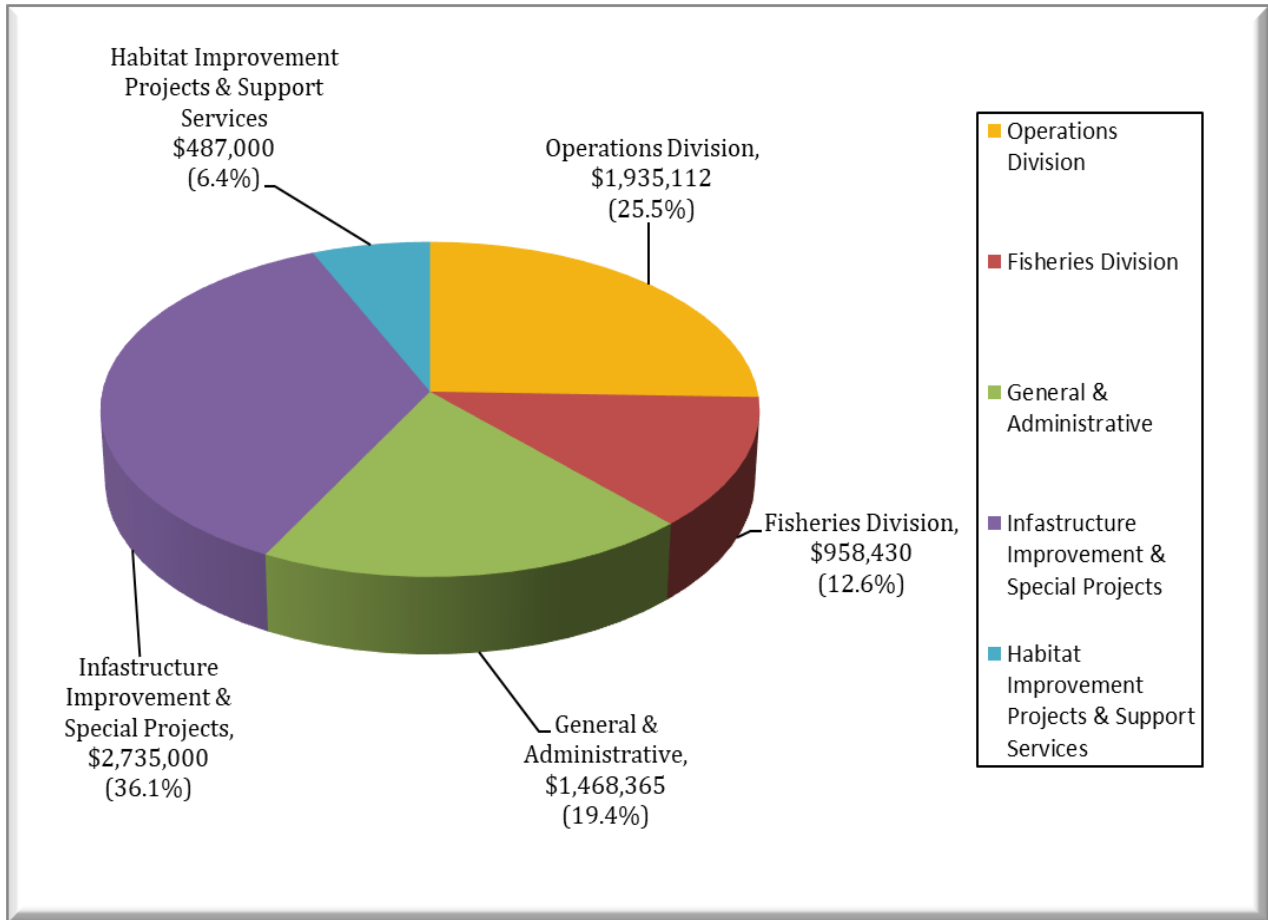
In 2016, the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, Improvement District No. 1 (ID No. 1) notified the COMB Board of its stated intent to withdraw from the COMB Joint Powers Agreement. A Separation Agreement was entered into by ID No. 1, COMB, and the remaining COMB Member Agencies and was approved by all parties effective August 28, 2018.

Pursuant to the terms and conditions of the Separation Agreement, ID No. 1 is no longer a Member Agency of COMB and has departed from the COMB JPA Agreement as of May 27, 2016. ID No. 1 continues to be a member of the Cachuma Project, which carries certain benefits and obligations associated with the Project and specific COMB activities as outlined in the Separation Agreement. Payments received from ID No. 1 for certain COMB BiOp and Oak Tree related expenditures, previously assessed to the current COMB Member Agencies, are returned to the COMB Member Agencies upon collection.

COMB OPERATING BUDGET (CONTINUED)

The COMB Gross Operating Budget, not including pass-thru expenditures, for FY 2024-25 is \$7,583,908 and is further broken down by major category as depicted in Figure 3.2.

Figure 3.2 – FY 2024-25 Operating Budget by Division



The primary budgetary objective is to provide the highest possible level of service to the Cachuma Project Members. Continual efforts are made to improve productivity, lower costs, and enhance services. COMB staff evaluates and selects current year infrastructure improvements and special projects based on the following criteria: water supply reliability, risk, critical need, safety, and service disruption. Projects may vary by year depending on external and uncontrolled factors such as ongoing drought conditions, lake elevation and natural disasters (i.e., fire, significant rain events, debris flow, etc.).

The COMB gross budget history for the previous ten fiscal years is outlined in Table 3.4 on the following page.

**Table 3.4 – Previous Ten Fiscal Years’ Gross Operating Budget History**

Fiscal Year	Operations Division O&M	Fisheries Division O&M	General and Admin	Infrastructure Improvement & Special Projects	Habitat Improvement Projects & Support	Total
2015-16	\$1,100,197	\$632,994	\$1,234,251	\$3,689,250	\$2,132,000	\$8,788,693
2016-17	\$1,097,375	\$691,118	\$1,082,056	\$2,561,250	\$2,283,000	\$7,714,799
2017-18	\$1,062,108	\$753,374	\$1,139,848	\$1,020,000	\$1,343,000	\$5,318,330
2018-19	\$1,101,747	\$763,409	\$1,196,679	\$1,842,983	\$2,349,996	\$7,254,814
2019-20	\$1,227,664	\$800,751	\$1,227,664	\$2,045,327	\$1,390,000	\$6,766,977
2020-21	\$1,339,141	\$810,413	\$1,199,967	\$1,630,000	\$185,000	\$5,164,520
2021-22	\$1,402,187	\$867,558	\$1,237,439	\$1,600,050	\$185,000	\$5,292,234
2022-23	\$1,561,326	\$934,164	\$1,288,054	\$6,050,000	\$185,000	\$10,018,544
2023-24	\$1,846,147	\$908,982	\$1,365,659	\$2,670,000	\$197,000	\$6,987,788
2024-25	\$1,935,112	\$958,430	\$1,468,365	\$2,735,000	\$487,000	\$7,583,908

Unexpended funds are identified through the audit process and returned to the Member Agencies using one of four methods. These methods include: 1) the issuance of checks made payable to each Member Agency; 2) constructively returning the unexpended funds by reducing the Member Agency’s quarterly assessments; 3) carrying forward unexpended funds for work in process; and/or 4) reducing the projected operating budget for the following fiscal year. The Board of Directors shall take action annually to approve the methodology for return once unexpended funds are identified.

**USBR WATER RATES**

Through Resolution No. 224 and the Water Rates Agreement, COMB is responsible for administering provisions of the Water Rates Agreement for the Cachuma Project. This includes calculating and distributing bills and assessments for water, administering payments from the Cachuma Member Units to the United States pursuant to the provisions of the Master Contract, the Cachuma Member Unit water supply contracts with Santa Barbara County Water Agency and the water rates agreement. COMB is required to make payment directly to the United States to satisfy those agreements.



*Water Releases Bradbury Dam*

The water rates are developed annually by the rate-setting branch of Reclamation (Regional Office) located in Sacramento and are based on projected Operating and Maintenance (O&M) costs for the upcoming water year. The South-Central California (Fresno) Area Office is responsible for providing the Regional Office estimated budgets and projected O&M costs pertaining to the Cachuma Project for formulation of the water rates. The total projected amount for WY 2024-25 is \$2.2M.

**USBR WATER RATE DEFICITS**

USBR Water Rate Deficits occur due to a deficiency in revenues (USBR projected budget) compared to actual operational and any extraordinary costs for a particular fiscal year.

Reclamation reported a deficit total of \$426,864 for FY 2015, a deficit total of \$1,003,523 for FY 2016, and a deficit total of \$302,053 for FY 2017. Three Cachuma Project Member Units elected to pay their deficit obligation in full during FY 2018-19. The remaining two Cachuma Project Member Units elected to pay their obligation over a five-year period. These obligations were paid in-full during FY 2023-24.

Reclamation reported a surplus for FY 2022 of \$171,778. Reclamation applied this surplus first against any prior year deficit repayments that were made during Water Year 2022 in accordance with Reclamation policy. For those Cachuma Project Member Units that paid their prior year deficit balances in full, their respective pro-rata adjustment was added to their 1st period obligation for WY 2023-24. The FY 2023 surplus/deficit, when finalized, will be reported with the WY 2024-25 Water Rate calculations during the fall of 2024.

**GRANT FUNDING / FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

COMB has developed a grant program by utilizing a team of staff members to write proposals, administer grants and carry out grant contracts.

In 2021, COMB entered into a Cooperative Agreement with Carpinteria Valley Water District (CVWD) proposing a collaborative work effort between CVWD and COMB to repair and rehabilitate aging infrastructure in the lower reach section of the South Coast Conduit and the CVWD distribution system. CVWD proposed to financially participate in rehabilitating SCC laterals in collaboration with COMB installing two (2) isolation valves on the SCC. This approach would allow improved isolation and enable longer shutdowns to repair and maintain the system in the future or during an emergency. Phase 2 of this project is scheduled to be completed in FY 2025-26.

In December 2022, COMB was awarded \$1,000,000 under the Department of Water Resources, Proposition 1 Implementation Grant Program – Round 2, Cycle 1 through its participation in the Santa Barbara County Regional Water Management Program (IRWMP). Projects proposed by IRWMP support the goals and target of the adopted IRWMP and achieve many of the region’s resource management strategies. Funds from this grant will be applied to the Lake Cachuma Emergency Pumping Facility – Secured Pipeline Project.

The January 2023 storm events and subsequent debris flows caused damage to South Coast Conduit appurtenant structures and facilities. Shortly thereafter, President Joseph R. Biden, Jr. declared that an emergency exists in the State of California and ordered Federal assistance to supplement State, tribal, and local response efforts. COMB has initiated the application process and is working closely with FEMA/CalOES for federal disaster relief and hazard mitigation funding for damages that resulted from that event.

**WARREN ACT TRUST FUND / RENEWAL FUND**

The Warren Act Trust Fund is a requirement of the Cachuma Project Warren Act Contract negotiated between the Central Coast Water Authority (CCWA) and the Bureau of Reclamation for delivery and transport of State Water Project water through the Cachuma Project facilities. A 1995 memorandum of understanding executed in conjunction with the Warren Act Contract established a charge of \$43 per acre-foot (AF) (\$58 initially with a \$15 service charge by Reclamation), which is not indexed. Payments are required upon delivery of State Water Project (SWP) water to Cachuma Reservoir. CCWA makes quarterly payments to COMB based on the prior quarter’s water deliveries to the lake.

The Renewal Fund is a requirement of the 1995 Renewal Master Contract (Contract No. I75r-1802R between the United States and Santa Barbara County Water Agency) entered into for water conveyance from the Cachuma Project to the five Cachuma Project Member Units. The Member Units are the Carpinteria Valley Water District, the Goleta Water District, the Montecito Water District, the City of Santa Barbara, and the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, Improvement District No. 1 (ID No. 1).

The Renewal Master Contract requires the payment of \$10 per acre-foot of water made available by the Cachuma Project. The Renewal Fund itself is capped at \$257,100, which is related to the current annual operational yield of 25,714 AF. Subject to the limitations of sub article 27(e), the Cachuma Project Member Units shall deposit into the Renewal Fund an amount which, when added to any monies already in the Renewal Fund, are sufficient to pay for activities which are to be undertaken pursuant to the Annual Work Plan for the that Water Year.

For calendar year 2023, total SWP deliveries into the lake were 402 AF, which converts to \$17,286 of Warren Act Trust Fund revenue available for FY 2024-25. Therefore, the preliminary amount to be deposited into the Renewal Fund by the Cachuma Member Units, subject to sub article 27 (e), is projected to be \$242,286 based on the following calculation.

<b>Given:</b>	WATF = \$17,286
	AOY = Annual Operation Yield of 25,714 x \$10 = \$257,100
	RFC (Renewal Fund Calculation) = [1-(WATF/\$300,000) x AOY
<b>Then:</b>	RFC = [1-(\$17,286/\$300,000) x \$257,100
	RFC = \$242,286



**WARREN ACT TRUST FUND / RENEWAL FUND (CONTINUED)**

*Warren Act Trust Fund / Renewal Fund Annual Meeting*

The annual meeting of the Cachuma Project Warren Act Trust Fund / Renewal Fund (Funds Committee) occurs in the summer of each year. At the annual meeting, the Funds Committee reviews the Annual and Long-Term Plan prepared as outlined in the Master Renewal Contract document. The participating Committee members discuss and subsequently vote how to apply the Warren Act Trust Fund / Renewal Fund monies for program expenditures and activities in the upcoming fiscal year.

**BRADBURY DAM / LAURO DAM SAFETY OF DAMS (SOD) ACT REPAYMENT CONTRACTS**

Under the terms and conditions of a repayment contract executed in 2002, COMB is responsible for payment to the United States for fifteen percent (15%) of the total amount of Safety of Dams (SOD) Act funds expended by the United States for structural stability and related work at Bradbury Dam and Lauro Dam.



*Bradbury Dam*

Bradbury Dam: The fifteen percent obligation under the Bradbury SOD contract is \$7,605,739 and is to be repaid by annual payments over a 50-year period. COMB’s payment obligation for FY 2024-25 is \$261,647 with assessments collected from the Cachuma Project Member Units in accordance with each Member’s Cachuma Project entitlement percentages.

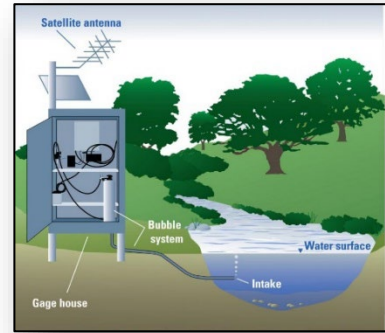


*Lauro Dam*

Lauro Dam: The fifteen percent obligation under the Lauro SOD contract is \$1,009,737 and is to be repaid by annual payments over a 50-year period. COMB’s payment obligation for FY 2024-25 is \$47,404 and assessments are collected from the COMB Member Agencies in accordance with each Member Agency’s pro-rata Cachuma Project entitlement percentages.

**BETTERMENT FUND**

Article 8 (b) of the Cachuma Project Member Unit contracts with Santa Barbara County Water Agency requires the County Water Agency to provide \$100,000 annually for beneficial purposes consistent with the Water Agency Act and within the Santa Ynez River watershed or the Cachuma Project service area. All decisions relating to the expenditure of such funds must be agreed to by both the County Water Agency and the Cachuma Member Agency Representative, acting by unanimous vote. Consistent with past years, COMB will receive \$100,000 to be used for the Santa Ynez River stream gauge program.



*Stream Gauge Station*

**WATER RIGHTS FEE**

Effective January 1, 2004, the Water Code was amended to authorize and require the State Water Board to adopt emergency regulations establishing and revising water rights and water quality certification fees, which are to be deposited in the Water Rights Fund in the State Treasury. Since then, the State Water Board has charged annual water rights fees. The Water Code authorizes the State Water Board to revise the fee schedule each fiscal year as necessary to conform to the revenue levels set forth in the annual Budget Act.

COMB is responsible for the assessment and payment of the water rights fee on behalf of the Cachuma Project Members. Assessments are made according to the Cachuma Project entitlement percentages with all five Member Units being responsible for the Santa Ynez River Permit fees and the four South Coast Member Units being responsible for the Lauro Creek and W. Glen Anne Creek fees. The projected cost for FY 2024-25 is \$79,260.

**DRINKING WATER PROGRAM FEE**

The South Coast Conduit is divided into two sections: Goleta and Carpinteria. The South Coast Conduit – Goleta Section (SCC – GS) starts at the South Portal of the Tecolote Tunnel and ends at Lauro Reservoir, conveying raw water from Lake Cachuma to Lauro Reservoir. The South Coast Conduit – Carpinteria Section (SCC-CS) starts at Cater Water Treatment Plant and ends at Carpinteria Reservoir, conveying treated water.

Effective February 2022, the SCC-CS became permitted as a D3 wholesaler by the State of California Division of Drinking Water. Costs for this fee are shared by the City of Santa Barbara, Carpinteria Valley Water District and Montecito Water District. The projected cost for FY 2024-25 is \$20,000.

**POTENTIAL REVENUE OPPORTUNITIES**

***Integrated Regional Water Management Program (IRWMP)***

Beginning in September 2006, the Santa Barbara County Water Agency has worked with a County-wide group of approximately 29 cooperating partners including cities, special districts, water companies, joint powers authorities, and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) to develop the first Integrated Regional Water Management (“IRWM”) Plan (completed in May 2007). The plan was recently updated in 2019 in response to DWR’s 2016 IRWM Guidelines.



The Water Agency acts as the single eligible grant recipient responsible for administration of the IRWM Grants. In accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and sub-grant agreements between the Water Agency and project proponents, the Water Agency functions as a pass-through agency between the State and proponents. The Water Agency is responsible for organizing and forwarding the required project reporting information and claims to the State on behalf of each project proponent. Project proponents are then reimbursed once funding is received from the State.

**Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan (MJHMP)**

COMB participated in the County of Santa Barbara Office of Emergency Management 2022 update to the MJHMP. COMB as a member of the Mitigation Advisory committee provided input on local hazard management activities and reviewed draft MJHMP components as part of a regional effort to update the MJHMP and annexes.



The purpose of a MJHMP is to identify policies and actions that can be implemented to reduce risk and future losses from disasters. The MJHMP creates a framework for risk-based decision-making to reduce damage to lives, property and local economies by focusing resources on the greatest risks and vulnerabilities. MJHMP adoption allows access to hazard mitigation assistance programs and funding, including Hazard Mitigation Grant Programs, Pre-Disaster Mitigation, Flood Mitigation Assistance and Severe Repetitive Loss Grant Programs.

***Other Revenue Sources***

COMB staff is actively engaged to identify other sources of funding opportunities to lessen the financial burden on COMB’s Member Agencies. Other revenue sources include grant funding and low interest debt financing.

**DRAFT**

This page left blank intentionally

**DRAFT**



**SECTION IV – COMB OPERATING BUDGET**

**DRAFT**

This page left blank intentionally

**COMB OPERATING BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS**

The Operating Budget reflects projected operating expenses for the COMB Operations Division, the Fisheries Division as well as the General and Administrative expenses for FY 2024-25. These projected expenditures have been refined through the development of divisional annual work plans. The Board adopted a Five Year (2025-2029) Infrastructure Improvement Plan and required implementation activities associated with the 2000 Biological Opinion.

Development of the budget was based on a zero-based budgeting methodology. Unlike traditional incremental budgeting, this methodology employs a detailed examination of expenditures wherein only the necessary budget amount for each line item is presented for discussion. This approach addresses the most fundamental and prioritized service needs and represents the minimum level of funding needed for effective operations.

As reflected in Table 4.1, the COMB Gross Operating Budget for FY 2024-25, excluding offsetting revenues, is \$7.6M as compared to the FY 2023-24 Operating Budget of \$7.0M, which reflects an increase of \$596.1K (8.5%).

The net change from the previous fiscal year is described by the following items:

- An increase in total Salaries and Benefits of 197.6K (6.6%) which includes the staffing of fifteen full-time and two full-time equivalent (FTE) seasonal employees, a 3.51% COLA adjustment, step increases, a 5% health benefits increase, and an increase in CalPERS obligation and unfunded liability.
- An increase in total Operations and Maintenance expenses of \$15.6K (2.2%) which is attributed to an increase in materials and supplies (\$10K), permits (\$3K) uniforms (\$1.8K) and other expenses (\$0.8K).
- An increase in General and Administrative Expenses, excluding administrative salaries of \$28.0K (7.0%) which is attributed to an increase in general liability insurance costs (\$13K) and computer consultant/network services (\$15K).
- An increase in the Operations Division Infrastructure Improvement Projects and Special Projects of \$65K (2.4%). [See pages 64-77](#) for information on upcoming scheduled projects.
- An increase in Habitat Improvement Projects and Program Support Services of \$290K (147.2%). [See pages 87-88](#) for information on upcoming scheduled projects.

The COMB Net Operating Budget, including offsetting revenues for FY 2024-25, is \$6.3M and is compared to FY 2023-24 of \$4.9M, which is an increase of \$1.4M (27.9%).

**COMB OPERATING BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS (CONTINUED)**

**Table 4.1- COMB Operating Budget: Consolidated Overview**

<b>COMB OPERATING BUDGET</b>				
<b>SALARIES &amp; BENEFITS</b>	<b>FY 2023-24</b>	<b>FY 2024-25</b>	<b>Change (\$)</b>	<b>Change (%)</b>
Operations Division	\$ 1,220,347	\$ 1,296,612	\$ 76,266	6.2%
Fisheries Division	824,382	870,930	\$ 46,548	5.6%
Administration	966,952	1,041,658	\$ 74,707	7.7%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 3,011,681</b>	<b>\$ 3,209,201</b>	<b>\$ 197,520</b>	<b>6.6%</b>
<b>OPERATIONS &amp; MAINTENANCE EXPENSES</b>				
Operations Division	\$ 625,800	\$ 638,500	\$ 12,700	2.0%
Fisheries Division	84,600	87,500	\$ 2,900	3.4%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 710,400</b>	<b>\$ 726,000</b>	<b>\$ 15,600</b>	<b>2.2%</b>
<b>GENERAL &amp; ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES</b>				
Operation Division	\$ 267,527	\$ 286,027	\$ 18,500	6.9%
Fisheries Division	131,181	140,681	\$ 9,500	7.2%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 398,707</b>	<b>\$ 426,707</b>	<b>\$ 28,000</b>	<b>7.0%</b>
<b>Total Operating Budget</b>	<b>\$ 4,120,788</b>	<b>\$ 4,361,908</b>	<b>\$ 241,120</b>	<b>5.9%</b>
<b>INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT, HABITAT IMPROVEMENT &amp; SPECIAL PROJECTS</b>				
<b>Operations Division</b>				
Infrastructure Improvement Projects	\$ 1,300,000	\$ 2,400,000	\$ 1,100,000	84.6%
Special Projects	1,370,000	335,000	\$ (1,035,000)	-75.5%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,670,000</b>	<b>2,735,000</b>	<b>\$ 65,000</b>	<b>2.4%</b>
<b>Fisheries Division</b>				
Habitat Improvement Projects	\$ 25,000	\$ 325,000	\$ 300,000	1200.0%
Program Support Services	\$ 172,000	\$ 162,000	\$ (10,000)	-5.8%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>197,000</b>	<b>487,000</b>	<b>\$ 290,000</b>	<b>147.2%</b>
<b>TOTAL GROSS OPERATING BUDGET</b>	<b>\$ 6,987,788</b>	<b>\$ 7,583,908</b>	<b>\$ 596,120</b>	<b>8.5%</b>
Projected Offsetting Revenues	\$ (2,058,805)	\$ (1,279,572)		
<b>TOTAL NET OPERATING BUDGET</b>	<b>\$ 4,928,983</b>	<b>\$ 6,304,336</b>	<b>\$ 1,375,353</b>	<b>27.9%</b>



**COMB OPERATING BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS (CONTINUED)**

COMB expenditures are comprised of costs associated with personnel, operations and maintenance, general and administrative, and infrastructure and habitat improvement projects.

Staff assignments and project implementation are reviewed by the General Manager and the Division Managers to control costs and to provide the highest possible level of service to the COMB Member Agencies. Projects may vary by year depending on financial and operational constraints. Additionally, external and uncontrolled factors such as ongoing drought conditions, lake elevation and natural disasters (i.e., fire, significant rain events, debris flow, etc.) can have an impact on project implementation.

**PERSONNEL**

Recruitment, professional development, and employee retention are considered key factors by COMB to achieve its short and long-term goals and objectives. The General Manager is responsible for hiring and overseeing a staff of fifteen full time employees including three division managers, certified distribution operators, senior biology staff, water resources analyst and administrative personnel, as outlined in Table 4.2 – Personnel Count Summary.

**Table 4.2 – Personnel Count Summary**

<b>Position</b>	<b>FTE Count FY 2022-23</b>	<b>FTE Count FY 2023-24</b>	<b>FTE Count FY 2024-25</b>	<b>Change Over FY 2022-23</b>	<b>Change Over FY 2023-24</b>
General Manager	1	1	1	0	0
Administrative Mgr./CFO	1	1	1	0	0
Operations Division Manager	1	1	1	0	0
Chief Distribution Operator	1	1	1	0	0
Water Service Worker	4	4	4	0	0
Fisheries Division Manager	1	1	1	0	0
Senior Biologist	2	2	2	0	0
Biologist Aide	1	1	1	0	0
Program Analyst	1	1	1	0	0
Administrative Assistant	2	2	2	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

There are no projected staffing changes for FY 2024-25.

**COMB OPERATING BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS (CONTINUED)****Salaries and Benefits**

As reflected in Table 5.3, total projected salaries and benefits for FY 2024-25 is \$3.2M, which reflects an increase of \$197.5K (6.6%) as compared to FY 2023-24. The budget reflects the current salaries and benefits package for all employees including the General Manager's position.

The budget includes a 3.51% COLA increase for all employees, excluding the General Manager, per the historical annual calculation that is based on the February Consumer Price Index (CPI) data each year. The calculation is obtained by averaging the prior thirteen months indexes for all urban consumers and comparing that average to the previous year averaged data. The U.S. City and the Los Angeles-Riverside data is averaged together to obtain the percentage COLA for the period.

Health insurance costs for active employees are projected to increase between 5-10% in January 2025 based on preliminary projections from ACWA/JPIA.

COMB participates in the California Public Employees' Retirement System. On January 1, 2013, the Public Employees' Pension Reform Act of 2013 (PEPRA) took effect. PEPRA limited pension benefits offered to new employees and increased the cost sharing between new employees and public employers. All employees hired after January 2013 who are not classified as "classic" members contribute 7.75% of their eligible salary towards the CalPERS retirement premium.

Starting July 1, 2017, all employees hired before July 1, 2017 (and who are "Classic" employees as defined by CalPERS) began contributing toward their employee member contribution under a five-year phased-in method. For fiscal year 2024-25, the classic member contribution rate is set at 7.0%. Additionally, the CALPERS line item reflects an increase in the annual Unfunded Liability obligation as factored under the CALPERS 30-year amortization policy and pursuant to the Public Employee Pension Reform Act of 2013. A copy of the most recent CalPERS valuation report can be found at <https://www.calpers.ca.gov/page/employers/actuarial-resources/public-agency-actuarial-valuation-reports>.

Table 4.3 provides a breakdown of the individual components of the projected Personnel costs for FY 2024-25 as compared to FY 2023-24 and FY 2022-23.

**COMB OPERATING BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS (CONTINUED)**

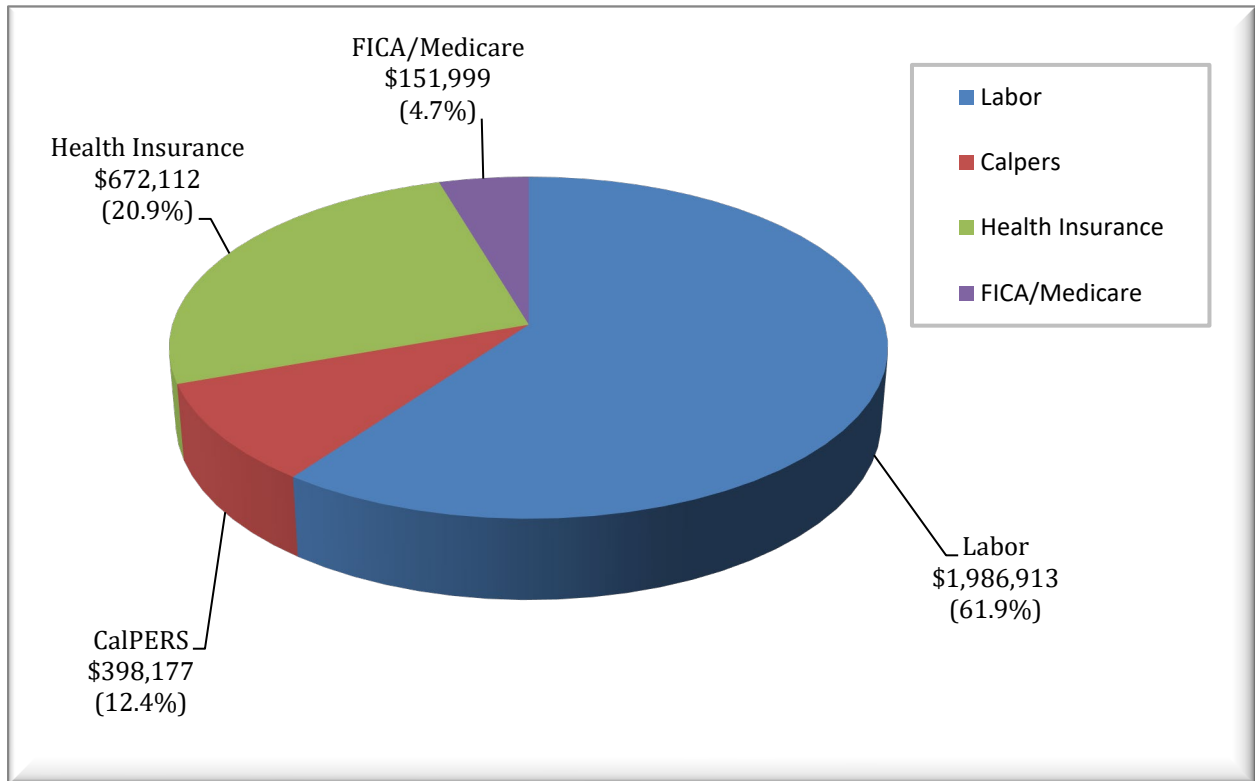
**Table 4.3 – FY 2024-25 Budgeted Personnel Costs**

Category	Actual FY 2022-23	Budget FY 2023-24	Estimated Actual FY 2023-24	Budget FY 2024-25	Variance Analysis (*)	
					\$ Higher / (Lower)	% Higher / (Lower)
Labor	\$1,548,653	\$1,879,558	\$1,726,839	\$1,986,913	\$107,355	5.7%
CalPERS	311,839	349,188	340,587	398,177	48,988	14.0%
Health Ins / WC	403,821	639,148	485,997	672,112	32,964	5.2%
FICA/Medicare	116,238	143,786	129,250	151,999	8,213	5.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,380,551</b>	<b>\$3,011,681</b>	<b>\$2,682,673</b>	<b>\$3,209,201</b>	<b>\$197,520</b>	<b>6.6%</b>

(\*) Compares FY 2024-25 Budget to FY 2023-24 Budget.

Figure 4.1 provides a breakdown of the individual components of the projected Personnel costs for FY 2024-25.

**Figure 4.1 – FY 2024-25 Personnel Costs by Category**



**COMB OPERATING BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS (CONTINUED)**

**Operations and Maintenance Expenses**

COMB Operations are comprised of two divisions: Operations and Fisheries.

**Operations Division**

COMB's Operations Division is responsible for diversion of water from Lake Cachuma located in the Santa Ynez Valley to the South Coast of Santa Barbara County through the Tecolote Tunnel. In addition, the Operations Division responsibilities include operation and maintenance of the 26-mile South Coast Conduit conveyance pipeline, flow control valves, meters, instrumentation at control stations, turnouts and appurtenant structures along the South Coast Conduit and at four regulating reservoirs.



COMB coordinates closely with the Bureau of Reclamation and Member Agency staff to ensure that water supplies meet daily demands.

**Fisheries Division**

COMB's Fisheries Division is responsible for implementation of the 2000 Biological Opinion and Fish Management Plan related to the Cachuma Project on the Santa Ynez River in Santa Barbara, California. These activities include ongoing scientific studies along the river, monitoring and recording changing conditions, and implementation of fish passage improvements as outlined in the 2000 Biological Opinion. The National Marine Fisheries Services (NMFS) is the agency that oversees protection of Southern California steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*).



Operation and Maintenance expenditures required to support the divisions include Vehicles and Equipment, Contract Labor, Materials and Supplies and Other Expenses. Projects and staff assignments are reviewed by the General Manager to control costs in this category. Table 4.4 includes a brief description of expenditures for each O&M category.

**OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE (CONTINUED)**

**Table 4.4 – Operation and Maintenance Expenditures Descriptions**

Category	Operations	Fisheries
Vehicles and Equipment	Includes funds for the purchase of fixed capital, equipment rental, vehicle and equipment maintenance, and fuel costs.	Includes funds for the purchase of fixed capital, equipment rental, vehicle and equipment maintenance, and fuel costs.
Contract Labor	Contains funds for outside services and labor that cannot be supported by COMB staff, which may include water quality sampling, elevator repair, tree trimming and removal services, heavy equipment and operators' labor costs for various small projects including meter calibration and meter repair.	Contains funds for outside services/labor to support equipment calibration on flow meters, and funds for technical assistance corresponding to the operation, maintenance and performance review of completed fish passage projects.
Materials and Supplies	Covers costs related to the operation and maintenance of the conduit, reservoirs, and outlying buildings and roads.	Includes costs for the purchase of items needed for the Fisheries Monitoring Program specifically monitoring for migration, spawning and over-summering such as constructing and repairing fish migration traps and the equipment necessary to conduct snorkel and redds surveys.
Other Expenses	Includes permit fees, utilities, uniforms, hazardous waste disposal, communications, Under-ground Service Alerts, and employee training and certifications.	Includes funds to pay for permit fees, uniforms, and personal protective gear for the fisheries division employees.

**OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE (CONTINUED)**

Operation and Maintenance expenditures in FY 2024-25 are projected to total \$726K, a 2.2% increase as compared to FY 2023-24.

**Table 4.5 – FY 2024-25 Operation and Maintenance Costs - Consolidated**

Category	Actual FY 2022-23	Budget FY 2023-24	Estimated Actual FY 2023-24	Budget FY 2024-25	Variance Analysis (*)	
					\$ Higher / (Lower)	% Higher / (Lower)
Vehicles & Equip.	\$309,369	\$342,500	\$329,498	\$342,500	\$0	0.0%
Contract Labor	76,281	174,100	170,766	174,000	(100)	(0.1%)
Materials & Supplies	74,322	108,000	98,886	118,000	10,000	9.3%
Other Expenses	60,196	85,800	75,433	91,500	5,700	6.6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$520,169</b>	<b>\$710,400</b>	<b>\$674,583</b>	<b>\$726,000</b>	<b>\$15,600</b>	<b>2.2%</b>

(\*) Compares FY 2024-25 Budget to FY 2023-24 Budget.  
(\*\*) Includes both Operations and Fisheries Division.

**GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE**

General and Administrative expenses include costs for support of all administrative functions of COMB such as: Director fees, legal expenditures, general liability and property insurance, audit fees, utilities, IT and communications, postage and office supplies, training, education and subscriptions and miscellaneous expenses.



Costs are generally allocated between Operations and Maintenance (65%) and Fisheries Division (35%).

General and Administrative expenditures, excluding administrative labor and benefits, in FY 2024-25 are projected to total \$426.7K, a 7.0% increase as compared to FY 2023-24.

The budget reflects an increase in expenses of \$13K related to an increase in general liability insurance costs as well as a \$15K increase in computer consultant and network services.

Table 4.6 provides a breakdown of the individual components of the projected General and Administrative costs for FY 2024-25 as compared to FY 2023-24 and FY 2022-23.

**GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE (CONTINUED)**

**Table 4.6 – FY 2022-23 General and Administrative Costs (\*\*)**

Category	Actual FY 2022-23	Budget FY 2023-24	Estimated Actual FY 2023-24	Budget FY 2024-25	Variance Analysis (*)	
					\$ Higher / (Lower)	% Higher / (Lower)
Director Fees	\$11,956	\$20,000	\$14,001	\$20,000	\$-	0.0%
Audit	23,495	35,000	23,270	35,000	-	0.0%
Legal	76,826	100,000	43,153	100,000	-	0.0%
Unemployment Insurance	-	5,000	-	5,000	-	0.0%
General Liability Insurance	58,495	61,400	72,204	74,400	13,000	21.2%
Postage/Office Supplies	11,680	10,000	7,358	10,000	-	0.0%
Office Equip/Leases	11,380	21,972	12,142	21,972	-	0.0%
Misc. Admin Expense	18,832	18,500	21,240	18,500	-	0.0%
Communications	13,118	13,955	12,279	13,955	-	0.0%
Utilities	14,048	14,980	16,711	14,980	-	0.0%
Membership Dues	19,090	18,900	18,343	18,900	-	0.0%
Admin Fixed Assets	6,742	17,000	4,802	17,000	-	0.0%
Computer Consultant	34,779	40,000	53,129	55,000	15,000	37.5%
Employee Education	3,663	4,500	225	4,500	-	0.0%
Travel	7,738	7,500	919	7,500	-	0.0%
Public Info	3,752	5,000	4,197	5,000	-	0.0%
IRWM	1,693	5,000	5,000	5,000	-	0.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$317,289</b>	<b>\$398,707</b>	<b>\$308,972</b>	<b>\$426,707</b>	<b>\$28,000</b>	<b>7.0%</b>

(\*) Compares FY 2024-25 Budget to FY 2023-24 Budget.

(\*\*) Excludes labor



*Cachuma Operation and Maintenance Board Meeting Room*

**INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS**

Infrastructure planning and investment is critical to the ongoing reliability of the Cachuma Project, its facilities and its distribution system. COMB staff evaluates and selects current year infrastructure improvements and special projects based on the following criteria: water supply reliability, risk, critical need, safety, service disruption and the betterment of the Cachuma Project. Tables 4.7 and 4.8 below are the projects identified for implementation during fiscal year 2024-25. Detailed descriptions of each project can be found on [pages 64-77](#).

**Table 4.7 – FY 2024-25 Infrastructure Improvement Projects**

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Fiscal Year 2024-25</b>
Lauro Reservoir Bypass Channel Road Improvements	\$1,320,000
SCC Lower Reach Lateral Structures	\$305,000
North Portal Log Boom Replacement	\$135,000
Lauro Outlet Works Tunnel Safety Improvements	\$100,000
North Portal Elevator Modification	\$100,000
North Portal Intake Tower Seismic Assessment	\$100,000
SCC Structure Rehabilitation	\$90,000
Sheffield Tunnel Evaluation and Repair	\$75,000
Critical Access Road Maintenance and Repair	\$75,000
Lauro Reservoir Intake Assessment/Repair	\$50,000
Multi-Site Renewable Energy and Resiliency	\$50,000
Sub Total	\$2,400,000

**Table 4.8 – FY 2024-25 Operations Division Special Projects**

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Fiscal Year 2024-25</b>
2024 Winter Storm Repairs	\$150,000
COMB Building Improvements and Maintenance	\$80,000
Water Quality and Sediment Management	\$40,000
SCADA Improvements and Support	\$35,000
ROW Identification Program	\$20,000
GIS and Mapping	\$10,000
Sub Total	\$335,000

**HABITAT IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS**

The Fisheries Division is tasked, through Reclamation’s operation of the Cachuma Project, with carrying out the fisheries monitoring, data analysis and tributary enhancement projects as described in the National Marine Fisheries Service’s (NMFS) 2000 Biological Opinion. A consensus based, long-term fisheries program has been developed that provides protection for steelhead/rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*, *O. mykiss*) downstream of Bradbury Dam. This is done through a combination of long-term monitoring, water



releases from Bradbury Dam through the Hilton Creek Watering System, Hilton Creek Emergency Backup System and Outlet Works, passage flows to assist migrating steelhead, improved riparian habitat, and the removal or modification of numerous fish passage barriers to steelhead on tributaries of the Lower Santa Ynez River. Projects identified for implementation during fiscal year 2024-25 are provided in Table 4.9. Detailed descriptions of each project can be found on [pages 87-89](#).

**Table 4.9 – FY 2024-25 Habitat Improvement Projects**

Project Name	Fiscal Year 2024-25
Cachuma Lake Oak Tree Restoration Program	\$10,000
Tributary Project Support	\$10,000
Quiota Creek Crossing 4 (fix/enhance)	\$60,000
Quiota Creek Crossing 3 (fix/enhance)	\$65,000
Quiota Creek Crossing 8 (fix/enhance)	\$66,000
Quiota Creek Crossing 1 (fix/enhance)	\$24,000
Quiota Creek Crossing 2 (fix/enhance)	\$30,000
El Jaro Creek rancho San Julian (fix/enhance)	\$53,000
Gravel Augmentation (Hilton Creek and LSYR Mainstem)	\$2,000
Hilton Creek Fish Passage and Habitat Enhancements	\$5,000
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>\$325,000</b>

In summary, the COMB Gross Operating Budget for FY 2024-25 is \$7,583,908. COMB staff is actively engaged in identifying other sources of funding opportunities in an effort to lessen the financial burden on COMB’s Member Agencies. With projected offsetting revenues of \$1,279,572, the COMB Net Operating Budget for FY 2024-25 totals \$6,304,336.

**Table 4.10- COMB Operating Budget Summary**

Category	Budget FY 2023-24	Budget FY 2024-25	Variance Analysis (*)	
			\$ Higher / (Lower)	% Higher / (Lower)
Gross Operating Budget	\$6,987,788	\$7,583,908	596,120	8.5%
Less: Offsetting Revenue	(\$2,058,805)	1,279,572	(779,233)	(37.8%)
<b>Net Operating Budget</b>	<b>\$4,928,983</b>	<b>\$6,304,336</b>	<b>\$1,375,353</b>	<b>27.9%</b>

N/M – Not Meaningful

**LIST OF SUPPORTING TABLES:**

- 1) Table 4.11 - FY 2024-25 COMB Operating Budget by Division
- 2) Table 4.12 - FY 2024-25 COMB Operating Budget Allocation by Quarter

**Table 4.11- COMB Operating Budget: By Division**



**OPERATIONS DIVISION**



Account Number	Account Name	FY 2022-23 Actual	FY 2023-24 Budget	Estimated FY 2023-24 Actual	FY 2024-25 Budget	Variance Analysis (*)	
						\$ Higher / (Lower)	% Change
<b>OPERATION &amp; MAINTENANCE EXPENSES</b>							
<b>SALARIES &amp; BENEFITS</b>							
3100	Labor Operations Staff	\$ 621,438	\$ 784,243	\$ 691,063	\$ 825,197	\$ 40,954	
3155	CalPERS	110,361	126,779	114,311	145,413	18,634	
3150	Health Insurance	121,332	210,119	151,624	221,615	11,497	
3150	Workers Compensation	15,701	39,212	17,361	41,260	2,048	
3160	FICA	50,458	59,995	55,239	63,128	3,133	
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$ 919,290</b>	<b>\$ 1,220,347</b>	<b>\$ 1,029,599</b>	<b>\$ 1,296,612</b>	<b>\$ 76,266</b>	<b>6.2%</b>
<b>VEHICLES &amp; EQUIPMENT</b>							
3201	Vehicle/Equip Maintenance	\$ 34,978	\$ 40,000	\$ 33,698	\$ 40,000	\$ -	
3202	Fixed Capital	116,860	200,000	248,234	200,000	-	
3203	Equipment Rental	6,293	40,000	684	40,000	-	
3204	Miscellaneous	7,149	10,000	799	10,000	-	
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$ 165,280</b>	<b>\$ 290,000</b>	<b>\$ 283,414</b>	<b>\$ 290,000</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
<b>CONTRACT LABOR</b>							
3301	Conduit, Meter, Valves	\$ 12,151	\$ 35,000	\$ 26,634	\$ 35,000	\$ -	
3302	Buildings & Roads	6,682	25,000	38,017	25,000	-	
3303	Reservoirs	51,778	60,000	64,292	60,000	-	
3304	Engineering, Misc Services	-	40,000	36,052	40,000	-	
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$ 70,611</b>	<b>\$ 160,000</b>	<b>\$ 164,995</b>	<b>\$ 160,000</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
<b>MATERIALS &amp; SUPPLIES</b>							
3401	Conduit, Meter, Valves	\$ 59,130	\$ 70,000	\$ 77,601	\$ 80,000	\$ 10,000	
3402	Buildings & Roads	693	20,000	9,849	20,000	-	
3403	Reservoirs	3,394	10,000	4,887	10,000	-	
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$ 63,217</b>	<b>\$ 100,000</b>	<b>\$ 92,337</b>	<b>\$ 110,000</b>	<b>\$ 10,000</b>	<b>10.0%</b>
<b>OTHER EXPENSES</b>							
3501	Utilities	\$ 7,218	\$ 7,000	\$ 6,797	\$ 7,000	\$ -	
3502	Uniforms	4,751	5,750	6,075	7,500	1,750	
3503	Communications	11,459	15,800	10,884	16,000	200	
3504	USA & Other Services	5,592	7,250	5,441	8,000	750	
3505	Miscellaneous	10,555	12,000	12,975	12,000	-	
3506	Training	2,904	3,000	4,500	3,000	-	
3507	Permits	15,622	25,000	25,234	25,000	-	
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$ 58,102</b>	<b>\$ 75,800</b>	<b>\$ 71,906</b>	<b>\$ 78,500</b>	<b>\$ 2,700</b>	<b>3.6%</b>
<b>TOTAL O &amp; M EXPENSE</b>		<b>\$ 1,276,501</b>	<b>\$ 1,846,147</b>	<b>\$ 1,642,250</b>	<b>\$ 1,935,112</b>	<b>\$ 88,966</b>	<b>4.8%</b>

(\*) Compares FY 2024-25 Budget to FY 2023-24 Budget.

**Table 4.11 COMB Operating Budget: By Division (Continued)**

		<u>OPERATIONS DIVISION (CONTINUED)</u>							
Account Number	Account Name	FY 2022-23 Actual	Adopted FY 2023-24 Budget	Estimated FY 2023-24 Actual	FY 2024-25 Budget	Variance Analysis (*)			
						\$ Higher / (Lower)	% Change		
<b>GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES</b>									
5000	Directors Fees	\$ 7,772	\$ 13,000	\$ 9,475	\$ 13,000	\$ -	-		
5101	Audit	15,272	22,750	15,022	22,750	-	-		
5100	Legal	64,613	75,000	28,433	75,000	-	-		
5150	Unemployment Tax	-	5,000	-	5,000	-	-		
5200	Liability & Property Insurance	38,022	39,400	46,933	47,900	8,500	-		
5201	Health and Workers' Compensation	145,374	203,327	175,954	208,843	5,517	-		
5250	CalPERS	75,629	82,662	100,259	96,343	13,680	-		
5339	FICA & Medicare	20,035	27,304	23,785	29,390	2,087	-		
5300-5307	Administrative Salaries	288,399	356,909	345,029	384,185	27,276	-		
5310	Office Expense & Postage	7,570	6,000	5,086	6,000	-	-		
5311	Office Equipment / Leases	7,444	13,440	8,021	13,440	-	-		
5312	Miscellaneous	13,762	11,000	14,123	11,000	-	-		
5313	Communications	8,527	9,500	7,981	9,500	-	-		
5314	Utilities	9,131	9,737	10,862	9,737	-	-		
5315	Membership Dues	12,173	11,700	11,479	11,700	-	-		
5316	Admin Fixed Assets	4,382	12,000	2,061	12,000	-	-		
5318	Computer Consultant	22,606	25,000	34,534	35,000	10,000	-		
5325	Employee Education / Training	2,304	2,000	169	2,000	-	-		
5330	Admin Travel & Conferences	3,005	3,500	238	3,500	-	-		
5331	Public Information	2,439	3,500	2,842	3,500	-	-		
<b>TOTAL GENERAL &amp; ADMINISTRATIVE</b>		<b>\$ 748,458</b>	<b>\$ 932,728</b>	<b>\$ 842,285</b>	<b>\$ 999,787</b>	<b>\$ 67,059</b>	<b>7.2%</b>		
<b>SPECIAL G &amp; A EXPENSES</b>									
5510	Integrated Regional Water Mgmt Plan	\$ 1,693	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ -	-		
<b>TOTAL SPECIAL G &amp; A EXPENSES</b>		<b>\$ 1,693</b>	<b>\$ 5,000</b>	<b>\$ 5,000</b>	<b>\$ 5,000</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>0.0%</b>		
<b>INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS (IIP) <sup>(1)</sup></b>									
6055	Bradbury Dam Outlet Works	\$ -	\$ 117,160	\$ 117,160	\$ -	\$ (117,160)	-		
6096	SCC Structure Rehabilitation	391,963	82,840	32,000	90,000	7,160	-		
6120	Secured Pipeline Project	4,533,732	-	-	-	-	-		
6136	SCC Isolation Valve Installation	46,256	550,000	-	-	(550,000)	-		
6137	SCC Lower Reach Lateral Structures	-	550,000	550,000	305,000	(245,000)	-		
6128	Lauro Outlet Works Tunnel Safety Imprv	-	-	-	100,000	100,000	-		
6107	North Portal Elevator Modification	-	-	-	100,000	100,000	-		
6102	Lauro Reservoir Bypass Channel Rd Imprv	-	-	-	1,320,000	1,320,000	-		
6123	Sheffield Tunnel Evaluation and Repair	-	-	-	75,000	75,000	-		
6045	Critical Access Road Maint and Repair	-	-	-	75,000	75,000	-		
6043	Lauro Reservoir Intake Assessment/Repair	-	-	-	50,000	50,000	-		
6134	North Portal Intake Tower Seismic Assmnt	-	-	-	100,000	100,000	-		
6074	North Portal Log Boom Replacement	-	-	-	135,000	135,000	-		
6075	Multi Site Renewable Energy and Resiliency	-	-	-	50,000	50,000	-		
<b>TOTAL IIP</b>		<b>\$ 4,971,950</b>	<b>\$ 1,300,000</b>	<b>\$ 699,160</b>	<b>\$ 2,400,000</b>	<b>\$ 1,100,000</b>	<b>84.6%</b>		
<b>SPECIAL PROJECTS</b>									
6110	SCADA Improvements and Support	\$ 12,169	\$ 35,000	\$ -	\$ 35,000	\$ -	-		
6115	COMB Bldg Improvements and Maint	63,208	80,000	69,488	80,000	-	-		
6097	GIS and Mapping	18,063	10,000	11,447	10,000	-	-		
6105	ROW Identification Program	2,977	20,000	20,000	20,000	-	-		
6125	2023 Winter Storm Repairs	54,091	1,175,000	638,793	-	(1,175,000)	-		
6126	2024 Winter Storm Repairs	-	-	1,160	150,000	-	-		
6138	Water Quality and Sediment Mgmt	68,270	50,000	53,123	40,000	(10,000)	-		
<b>TOTAL SPECIAL PROJECTS</b>		<b>\$ 218,777</b>	<b>\$ 1,370,000</b>	<b>\$ 794,010</b>	<b>\$ 335,000</b>	<b>\$ (1,185,000)</b>	<b>-86.5%</b>		
<b>TOTAL IIP and SPECIAL PROJECTS</b>		<b>\$ 5,190,727</b>	<b>\$ 2,670,000</b>	<b>\$ 1,493,170</b>	<b>\$ 2,735,000</b>	<b>\$ 65,000</b>	<b>2.4%</b>		
<b>TOTAL OPERATIONS DIVISION BUDGET</b>		<b>\$ 7,217,379</b>	<b>\$ 5,453,875</b>	<b>\$ 3,982,706</b>	<b>\$ 5,674,900</b>	<b>221,025</b>	<b>4.1%</b>		

(\*) Compares FY 2024-25 Budget to FY 2023-24 Budget.

**Table 4.11 - COMB Operating Budget: By Division (Continued)**



**FISHERIES DIVISION**



Account Number	Account Name	FY 2022-23 Actual	Adopted FY 2023-24 Budget	Estimated FY 2023-24 Actual	FY 2024-25 Budget	Variance Analysis (*)	
						\$ Higher / (Lower)	% Change
<b>OPERATION &amp; MAINTENANCE EXPENSES</b>							
<b>SALARIES &amp; BENEFITS</b>							
4100	Labor Fisheries Staff	\$ 459,254	\$ 478,225	\$ 474,006	\$ 498,663	\$ 20,438	
4114	Labor Seasonal Staff	24,270	68,000	40,826	72,000	4,000	
4151	CalPERS	85,125	95,237	103,306	104,545	9,308	
4150	Health Insurance	93,554	113,823	100,667	123,534	9,710	
4150	Workers Compensation	12,422	27,311	16,592	28,533	1,222	
4152	FICA	34,957	41,786	38,296	43,656	1,870	
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$ 709,582</b>	<b>\$ 824,382</b>	<b>\$ 773,692</b>	<b>\$ 870,930</b>	<b>\$ 46,548</b>	<b>5.6%</b>
<b>VEHICLES &amp; EQUIPMENT</b>							
4270	Vehicle/Equip Maintenance	\$ 44,422	\$ 30,000	\$ 25,421	\$ 30,000	\$ -	
4280	Fixed Capital	97,985	20,000	20,000	20,000	-	
4290	Miscellaneous	1,682	2,500	663	2,500	-	
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$ 144,089</b>	<b>\$ 52,500</b>	<b>\$ 46,084</b>	<b>\$ 52,500</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
<b>CONTRACT LABOR</b>							
4221	Instrumentation	\$ 520	\$ 3,000	\$ 321	\$ 3,000	\$ -	
4222	Project Maintenance	5,150	11,100	5,450	11,000	(100)	
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$ 5,670</b>	<b>\$ 14,100</b>	<b>\$ 5,771</b>	<b>\$ 14,000</b>	<b>\$ (100)</b>	<b>-0.7%</b>
<b>MATERIALS &amp; SUPPLIES</b>							
4390	Miscellaneous	\$ 11,105	\$ 8,000	\$ 6,549	\$ 8,000	\$ -	
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$ 11,105</b>	<b>\$ 8,000</b>	<b>\$ 6,549</b>	<b>\$ 8,000</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
<b>OTHER EXPENSES</b>							
4502	Uniforms	\$ 2,094	\$ 5,000	\$ 3,527	\$ 5,000	\$ -	
4503	Permits	-	5,000	4,963	8,000	3,000	
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$ 2,094</b>	<b>\$ 10,000</b>	<b>\$ 8,490</b>	<b>\$ 13,000</b>	<b>\$ 3,000</b>	<b>30.0%</b>
<b>TOTAL O &amp; M EXPENSE</b>		<b>\$ 872,541</b>	<b>\$ 908,982</b>	<b>\$ 840,586</b>	<b>\$ 958,430</b>	<b>\$ 49,448</b>	<b>5.4%</b>
<b>GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES</b>							
5426	Directors Fees	\$ 4,185	\$ 7,000	\$ 4,526	\$ 7,000	\$ -	
5407	Legal	12,213	25,000	14,720	25,000	-	
5441	Audit	8,223	12,250	8,248	12,250	-	
5443	Liability & Property Insurance	20,473	22,000	25,271	26,500	4,500	
5401	Health and Workers' Compensation	15,438	45,356	23,799	48,326	2,971	
5402	CalPERS	40,723	44,511	22,712	51,877	7,366	
5403	FICA/Medicare	10,788	14,702	11,929	15,825	1,124	
5404-09	Administrative Salaries	155,292	192,182	175,916	206,869	14,687	
5410	Office Expense & Postage	4,110	4,000	2,272	4,000	-	
5411	Office Equipment / Leases	3,936	8,533	4,121	8,533	-	
5412	Miscellaneous	5,071	7,500	7,117	7,500	-	
5413	Communications	4,591	4,455	4,298	4,455	-	
5414	Utilities	4,917	5,243	5,849	5,243	-	
5415	Membership Dues	6,917	7,200	6,864	7,200	-	
5416	Admin Fixed Assets	2,360	5,000	2,741	5,000	-	
5418	Computer Consultant	12,173	15,000	18,595	20,000	5,000	
5425	Employee Education / Training	1,359	2,500	56	2,500	-	
5430	Admin Travel & Conferences	4,733	4,000	681	4,000	-	
5431	Public Information	1,313	1,500	1,355	1,500	-	
<b>TOTAL GENERAL &amp; ADMINISTRATIVE</b>		<b>\$ 318,815</b>	<b>\$ 427,931</b>	<b>\$ 341,069</b>	<b>\$ 463,578</b>	<b>\$ 35,647</b>	<b>8.3%</b>

(\*) Compares FY 2024-25 Budget to FY 2023-24 Budget.

**Table 4.11- COMB Operating Budget: By Division (Continued)**

		<u>FISHERIES DIVISION (CONTINUED)</u>							
Account Number	Account Name	FY 2022-23 Actual	Adopted FY 2023-24 Budget	Estimated FY 2023-24 Actual	FY 2024-25 Budget	Variance Analysis (*)			
						\$ Higher / (Lower)	% Change		
<b>PROGRAM SUPPORT SERVICES</b>									
6201	BO/FMP Implementation	\$ 18,177	\$ 42,000	\$ 17,303	\$ 42,000	\$ -			
6202	GIS and Mapping	11,519	10,000	5,020	10,000	-			
6205	USGS Stream Gauge Program	113,180	120,000	104,455	110,000	(10,000)			
<b>TOTAL PROGRAM SUPPORT SERVICES</b>		<b>\$ 142,876</b>	<b>\$ 172,000</b>	<b>\$ 126,778</b>	<b>\$ 162,000</b>	<b>\$ (10,000)</b>	<b>-5.8%</b>		
<b>HABITAT IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS (HIP) (1)</b>									
6207	Oak Tree Restoration Program	\$ 4,594	\$ 15,000	\$ 1,222	\$ 10,000	\$ (5,000)			
6303	Tributary Project Support	18,405	10,000	6,140	10,000	-			
6304	Tributary Project Enhancement	0	0	215,670	305,000	305,000			
<b>TOTAL HABITAT IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS</b>		<b>\$ 22,999</b>	<b>\$ 25,000</b>	<b>\$ 223,033</b>	<b>\$ 325,000</b>	<b>\$ 300,000</b>	<b>1200.0%</b>		
<b>TOTAL HIP AND PROGRAM SUPPORT SERVICES</b>		<b>\$ 165,875</b>	<b>\$ 197,000</b>	<b>\$ 349,811</b>	<b>\$ 487,000</b>	<b>\$ 290,000</b>	<b>147.2%</b>		
<b>TOTAL FISHERIES DIVISION BUDGET</b>		<b>\$ 1,357,231</b>	<b>\$ 1,533,913</b>	<b>\$ 1,531,466</b>	<b>\$ 1,909,008</b>	<b>\$ 375,095</b>	<b>24.5%</b>		
<b>TOTAL COMB GROSS OPERATING BUDGET</b>		<b>\$ 8,574,610</b>	<b>\$ 6,987,788</b>	<b>\$ 5,514,172</b>	<b>\$ 7,583,908</b>	<b>\$ 596,120</b>	<b>8.5%</b>		
<b>Projected Offsetting Revenues:</b>									
	Warren Act Trust Fund (4)	\$ (99,592)	\$ (210,786)	\$ (229,354)	\$ (17,286)				
	Renewal Fund (4)	(29,123)	(76,456)	(132,179)	(242,286)				
	Renewal Fund Carryover (4)	-	-	-	(100,000)				
	Santa Barbara County Contribution	(100,000)	(100,000)	(100,000)	(100,000)				
	DWR Urban and Multibenefit Drought Relief C	(2,250,000)	-	-	-				
	USBR WaterSmart Grant	(743,950)	-	-	-				
	CVWD Cooperative Agreement Funding	-	(550,000)	-	-				
	Misc Grant Income	(2,690)	-	(480)	-				
	D3 Permit Pass Thru	-	(20,000)	(16,068)	(20,000)				
	FEMA Assistance - 2023 Winter Storms	-	(1,101,563)	(328,313)	(800,000)				
	<b>Total Offsetting Revenues</b>	<b>\$ (3,225,356)</b>	<b>\$ (2,058,805)</b>	<b>\$ (806,394)</b>	<b>\$ (1,279,572)</b>	<b>\$ 779,233</b>	<b>-37.8%</b>		
<b>TOTAL COMB NET OPERATING BUDGET</b>		<b>\$ 5,349,254</b>	<b>\$ 4,928,983</b>	<b>\$ 4,707,778</b>	<b>\$ 6,304,336</b>	<b>\$ 1,375,353</b>	<b>27.9%</b>		

**Disclosures**

- (1) Board policy requires all projects to be approved thru Committee and by the Board prior to commencement
- (2) General and Administrative labor costs are generally allocated at 65% Operations Division and 35% Fisheries Division
- (3) Labor costs contain 7.44% COLA increase per annual calculation
- (4) Warren Act Trust Fund and Renewal Fund are special purpose restricted funds

**Table 4.12 - COMB Operating Budget Allocation by Quarter**

For FY 2024-25, COMB adjusted the collection of the quarterly assessments based on estimated projected implementation and projected cash outflows.

<b>OPERATIONS DIVISION</b>		
<b>Operations Division Budget</b>		
Goleta Water District	40.42%	\$ 2,293,624
City of Santa Barbara	35.89%	\$ 2,036,738
Carpinteria Valley Water District	12.20%	\$ 692,200
Montecito Water District	11.50%	\$ 652,338
<b>Total Operations Division Budget</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>\$ 5,674,900</b>
<b>FISHERIES DIVISION</b>		
<b>Fisheries Division Budget</b>		
Goleta Water District	40.42%	\$ 771,564
City of Santa Barbara	35.89%	\$ 685,148
Carpinteria Valley Water District	12.20%	\$ 232,853
Montecito Water District	11.50%	\$ 219,443
<b>Total Fisheries Division Budget</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>\$ 1,909,008</b>
<b>COMB GROSS OPERATING BUDGET</b>		
Goleta Water District	40.42%	\$ 3,065,187
City of Santa Barbara	35.89%	\$ 2,721,886
Carpinteria Valley Water District	12.20%	\$ 925,052
Montecito Water District	11.50%	\$ 871,782
<b>Total Gross COMB Operating Budget</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>\$ 7,583,908</b>
<b>OFFSETTING REVENUES</b>		
Goleta Water District	40.42%	\$ (517,165)
City of Santa Barbara	35.89%	\$ (459,242)
Carpinteria Valley Water District	12.20%	\$ (156,077)
Montecito Water District	11.50%	\$ (147,089)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>\$ (1,279,572)</b>
<b>Total Offsetting Revenues</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>\$ (1,279,572)</b>
<b>TOTAL NET COMB OPERATING BUDGET</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>\$ 6,304,336</b>

**Table 4.12 - COMB Operating Budget Allocation by Quarter (Continued)**

<b>COMB OPERATING BUDGET QUARTERLY ASSESSMENT</b>		
<b>COMB Operating Budget Quarterly Assessment (July - September, 2024)</b>		
Goleta Water District	40.42%	\$ 994,900
City of Santa Barbara	35.89%	\$ 883,472
Carpinteria Valley Water District	12.20%	\$ 300,254
Montecito Water District	11.50%	\$ 282,963
<b>Subtotal Assessment (July - September, 2023)</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>\$ 2,461,589</b>
<b>COMB Operating Budget Quarterly Assessment (October - December, 2024)</b>		
Goleta Water District	40.42%	\$ 502,431
City of Santa Barbara	35.89%	\$ 446,158
Carpinteria Valley Water District	12.20%	\$ 151,630
Montecito Water District	11.50%	\$ 142,898
<b>Subtotal Assessment (October - December, 2023)</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>\$ 1,243,117</b>
<b>COMB Operating Budget Quarterly Assessment (January - March, 2025)</b>		
Goleta Water District	40.42%	\$ 492,760
City of Santa Barbara	35.89%	\$ 437,571
Carpinteria Valley Water District	12.20%	\$ 148,711
Montecito Water District	11.50%	\$ 140,148
<b>Subtotal Assessment (January - March, 2024)</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>\$ 1,219,189</b>
<b>COMB Operating Budget Quarterly Assessment (April - June, 2025)</b>		
Goleta Water District	40.42%	\$ 557,932
City of Santa Barbara	35.89%	\$ 495,444
Carpinteria Valley Water District	12.20%	\$ 168,380
Montecito Water District	11.50%	\$ 158,684
<b>Subtotal Assessment (April - June, 2024)</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>\$ 1,380,439</b>
<b>TOTAL NET COMB OPERATING BUDGET</b>		
Goleta Water District	40.42%	\$ 2,548,023
City of Santa Barbara	35.89%	\$ 2,262,644
Carpinteria Valley Water District	12.20%	\$ 768,976
Montecito Water District	11.50%	\$ 724,693
<b>TOTAL NET COMB OPERATING BUDGET</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>\$ 6,304,336</b>

Notes:

- 1) General & Administrative Expenses are allocated at 65% Operations Division and 35% Fisheries Division with the exception of Legal Fees, Membership dues, Admin Fixed Assets, Education, Travel, Public Info
- 2) Pursuant to the terms and conditions of the Separation Agreement, ID No. 1 was deemed no longer a Member Agency of COMB and had departed from the COMB JPA Agreement as of May 27, 2016. ID No. 1 continues to be a member of the Cachuma Project which carries certain benefits and obligations associated with the Project as outlined in various agreements. Payments received from the ID No. 1 for certain COMB BiOp and Oak Tree related expenditures will be returned to the COMB Member Agencies upon collection.

**COMB OPERATING BUDGET NARRATIVE**  
**OPERATIONS DIVISION: OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE EXPENSES**



COMB's Operations Division is responsible for diversion of water from Lake Cachuma located in the Santa Ynez Valley to the South Coast of Santa Barbara County through the Tecolote Tunnel. In addition, the Operations Division responsibilities include the operation and maintenance of the 26-mile South Coast Conduit conveyance pipeline, flow control valves, meters, instrumentation at control stations, turnouts and appurtenant structures along the South Coast Conduit and at four regulating reservoirs.

COMB coordinates closely with the Bureau of Reclamation and COMB Member Agency staff to ensure that water supplies meet daily demands.

<b>Labor (Accounts: 3100 - 3165)</b>	<b>\$ 1,296,612</b>
--------------------------------------	---------------------

Operation and Maintenance Labor is the cost for the total salaries and benefits for an Operations Division Manager / Engineer, a Chief Distribution Operator/Operations Supervisor, a Water Resources Analyst and a four-member field crew. The benefits include medical, dental and vision insurance coverage, a \$20,000 life insurance policy per employee, an employee assistance program (EAP), and the Cal-PERS retirement contribution.

Starting July 1, 2017, classic members began paying a portion of the Employer Paid Member Contribution (EPMC) cost. For fiscal year 2024-25, the classic members' contribution rate is set at 7.0%. All employees hired after January 2013 who are not classified as "classic" members will contribute 7.75% of the CalPERS retirement premium from their bi-weekly paycheck.

The health, vision, dental and life insurance programs are selected through ACWA/JPIA. The Workers' Compensation premiums are based on payroll calculated at various percentages depending on the category of each employee (clerical, outside sales and field operations). FICA is a mandatory employer expense. A multiple policy discount has been applied as additional savings to the employee benefits program.

The overall labor line item includes a 3.51% COL based on the annual calculation.

Totals by Account:

3100 Labor Operations	\$ 825,197
3155 CalPERS	\$ 145,413
3150 Health Insurance	\$ 221,615
3150 Workers Compensation	\$ 41,260
3160 FICA	\$ 63,128
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 1,296,612</b>



**COMB OPERATING BUDGET NARRATIVE  
OPERATIONS DIVISION: OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE EXPENSES**



<b>Vehicles and Equipment (Accounts: 3201 - 3204)</b>	<b>\$ 290,000</b>
---	-------------------

The Vehicles and Equipment account is comprised of four sub-accounts which include funds for the purchase of vehicles, fuel, parts, inspections and maintenance of vehicles, equipment, and rental of equipment.

Account 3201 includes supplies necessary to operate and maintain vehicles and equipment such as fuel, oil, tires, parts, inspections, and labor, etc. This account reflects amounts determined by historical expense data and projected operational needs. Account 3202 contains funds for the purchase of replacement vehicles, equipment or large tools as may be necessary in the fiscal year. Account 3203 includes all rental equipment charges necessary for operation. Account 3204 is utilized for the purchase of small tools, equipment, and supplies. These accounts are increased or decreased annually to reflect changes in the price, work plan and number of items to be purchased from these accounts.

Totals by Account:

3201 Vehicle/Equip Maintenance	\$ 40,000
3202 Fixed Capital	\$ 200,000
3203 Equipment Rental	\$ 40,000
3204 Misc.	\$ 10,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 290,000</b>

<b>Contract Labor (Accounts: 3301 - 3304)</b>	<b>\$ 160,000</b>
---	-------------------

The Contract Labor account contains funds for outside services/labor that cannot be supported by COMB staff which may include water quality sampling, elevator repair, tree trimming and removal services, heavy equipment and operators' labor costs for various small projects, meter calibration and meter repair, etc. The amounts have been distributed between accounts 3301, 3302 and 3303 to reflect the costs accurately. Account 3304 is used to hire consultants as necessary for extraordinary engineering, design, or study projects.

Totals by Account:

3301 Conduit, Meter, Valves	\$ 35,000
3302 Buildings and Roads	\$ 25,000
3303 Reservoirs	\$ 60,000
3304 Engineering Misc.	\$ 40,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 160,000</b>

**COMB OPERATING BUDGET NARRATIVE  
OPERATIONS DIVISION: OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE EXPENSES**



<b>Materials / Supplies (Accounts: 3401 - 3403)</b>	<b>\$ 110,000</b>
---	-------------------

The Materials and Supplies account covers costs related to operation and maintenance of the conduit, reservoirs, and outlying buildings and roads. This account includes funding for gravel, fencing, charts, locks, paint, fire extinguishers, etc.

Totals by Account:

3401 Conduit, Meter, Valves	\$ 80,000
3402 Buildings and Roads	\$ 20,000
3403 Reservoirs	\$ 10,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 100,000</b>

<b>Other Expenses (Accounts: 3501 - 3506)</b>	<b>\$ 78,500</b>
---	------------------

The Other Expenses account includes utilities, uniforms, hazardous waste disposal, communications (phones at facilities and cell phones for operations and maintenance), Underground Service Alerts (USA), employee training and certifications. Costs are based on historical actual charges for these services.

Totals by Account:

3501 Utilities	\$ 7,000
3502 Uniforms	\$ 7,500
3503 Communications	\$ 16,000
3504 USA and Other Svcs	\$ 8,000
3505 Misc.*	\$ 12,000
3506 Training and Certifications	\$ 3,000
3507 Permits	\$ 25,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 78,500</b>

\*Misc. detail: Operations Division non-fixed assets expenses, computer/software/ office supply needs, shipping, refuse/recycle/ waste/non-hazmat material disposal, portable toilets/roll off boxes, operations employment ads/background checks.

Non-fixed assets	\$ 1,000
Operations computer/ Software/office supply needs	\$ 500
Safety / First Aid Supplies	\$ 1,200
Refuse/recycle, etc.	\$ 3,800
Portable toilets/roll offs	\$ 5,500
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 12,000</b>

<b>SUBTOTAL OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 1,935,112</b>
--	---------------------

**COMB OPERATING BUDGET NARRATIVE  
OPERATIONS DIVISION: GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES**



**Program Description**

The General and Administrative accounts reflect costs for support of all administrative functions of COMB. These include water supply and delivery reports, human resources and risk management, tax, audit, contractual and employment law, salary and benefits, accounting, communications with Federal, State and local agencies and the public on a variety of contractual and informational matters.

Administrative costs are generally allocated between the Operations Division (65%) and the Fisheries Division (35%).

<b>Directors' Fees (Account: 5000)</b>	<b>\$ 13,000</b>
--	------------------

This account reflects Directors' fees at a rate of \$204.75 per meeting. The Directors will decide future increases by public meeting and change of ordinance. This cost is allocated between the Operations and Fisheries division.

<b>Audit (Account: 5101)</b>	<b>\$ 22,750</b>
------------------------------	------------------

This account reflects costs for the annual COMB financial audit and any other audit service or valuation as required.

<b>Legal (Account: 5100)</b>	<b>\$ 75,000</b>
------------------------------	------------------

This account reflects costs for the COMB general counsel and any litigation expenses.

<b>Unemployment Tax (Account: 5150)</b>	<b>\$ 5,000</b>
---	-----------------

COMB belongs to the California State Unemployment "self-insured" program. Under the program, COMB is not required to pay unemployment premiums. Instead, COMB is required to budget for and pay any unemployment claims that may arise. This account is an estimate.

**COMB OPERATING BUDGET NARRATIVE  
OPERATIONS DIVISION: GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES**



<b>Liability and Property Insurance (Account: 5200)</b>	<b>\$ 47,900</b>
---	------------------

This account reflects insurance costs for coverage provided by ACWA/JPIA for all general liability, property insurance (buildings, personal property, fixed equipment, and catastrophic coverage), crime coverage, employee dishonesty, and replacement costs. The general liability premiums are based on a formula that includes annual payroll as well as a three-year loss history of claims. The property insurance premiums are based on value of property in which coverage is provided. The general liability and property insurance line item is an allocated cost between Operations and Fisheries Divisions.

<b>Health and Workers' Compensation (Account: 5201)</b>	<b>\$ 208,843</b>
---	-------------------

This account reflects costs for 65% of all administrative staff health premiums (medical, dental, vision and life), and employee assistance program (EAP), workers' compensation premiums as well as all retiree health premiums. The cost for health premiums is a set premium amount for each employee and their dependents, as well as eligible retirees, depending on qualifying criteria. The health, workers compensation and life insurance programs were negotiated through ACWA/JPIA. Although there have been substantial increases in the past, the premiums have remained competitive throughout the years. This line item includes a projected increase in health premiums that will occur in January 2024.

<b>CalPERS (Account: 5250)</b>	<b>\$96,343</b>
--------------------------------	-----------------

This account reflects costs for the California Public Employees' Retirement System. The costs are based on 65% of salaries for all COMB administrative staff. The calculation of this account is payroll driven.

COMB pays the employer and a portion of the employee cost for classic members while new hires pay 50% of the normal cost contributions. Starting July 1, 2017, classic members began paying a portion of the employee cost (EPMC). For fiscal year 2024-25, the classic members' contribution rate is set at 7.0%. All employees hired after January 2013 who are not classified as "classic" members will contribute 7.75% of the CalPERS retirement premium from their bi-weekly paycheck.

<b>FICA and Medicare (Account: 5339)</b>	<b>\$ 29,390</b>
--	------------------

This account reflects 65% of the matching share of social security and Medicare taxes for all administrative employees.

**COMB OPERATING BUDGET NARRATIVE  
OPERATIONS DIVISION: GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES**



<b>Administrative Salaries (Account: 5300 - 5307)</b>	<b>\$ 384,185</b>
---	-------------------

This account reflects salaries for the specified positions of General Manager, Administrative Manager/CFO, and two administrative staff at 65% apportionment. The salaries for all administrative staff (except the GM) contain a 3.51% cost of living increase. The COLA calculation is based on a melding of both the Los Angeles / Riverside index with the US City average index for a 13-month rolling period. The salary for the General Manager is set by the COMB Board.

<b>Office Expense and Postage (Account 5310)</b>	<b>\$ 6,000</b>
--	-----------------

The Office Expense and Postage account reflects the cost of all office supplies and postage for general and administrative tasks. General and Administrative expenses have been reduced to the lowest level of effective operation.

<b>Office Equipment/Leases (Account: 5311)</b>	<b>\$ 13,440</b>
--	------------------

The Office Equipment/Leases account includes costs associated with leases and quarterly service agreements for postage machine, copier equipment, accounting/computer software licenses, and any maintenance fees.

<b>Miscellaneous Expense (Account: 5312)</b>	<b>\$ 11,000</b>
--	------------------

This account contains funds necessary for office cleaning, board meeting supplies, outside payroll services, building alarm renewal, and miscellaneous expenses. General and Administrative expenses have been reduced to the lowest level of effective operation.

Office Cleaning	\$ 5,000
Paychex payroll costs	\$ 4,000
Misc. expenses	\$ 2,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$11,000</b>

<b>Communications (Account: 5313)</b>	<b>\$ 9,500</b>
---------------------------------------	-----------------

This account contains funds necessary for the telephone service, long distance service, cable internet service, conference call service and cell phone service. General and Administrative expenses have been reduced to the lowest level of effective operation.

**COMB OPERATING BUDGET NARRATIVE  
OPERATIONS DIVISION: GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES**



<b>Utilities (Account: 5314)</b>	<b>\$ 9,737</b>
----------------------------------	-----------------

This account contains funds necessary to provide utilities to the administrative offices.

<b>Membership Dues (Account: 5315)</b>	<b>\$ 11,700</b>
--	------------------

This account reflects membership dues for Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA), American Water Works Association (AWWA), California Special Districts Association (CSDA), Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) and subscriptions for professional publications.

<b>Administrative Fixed Assets (Account: 5316)</b>	<b>\$ 12,000</b>
--	------------------

This fiscal year's fixed assets include the replacement of computers and office furniture as needed.

<b>Computer Consultant (Account: 5318)</b>	<b>\$ 35,000</b>
--	------------------

This account was established for an outside consulting company that provides monitoring and technical support for all of our information technology and computer related needs.

<b>Employee Education / Training (Account: 5325)</b>	<b>\$ 2,000</b>
--	-----------------

This account was established to provide employees with the ability to obtain professional training, required certifications and for management training purposes. This account also provides for human resources and employee related subscriptions.

<b>Administrative Travel (Account: 5330)</b>	<b>\$ 3,500</b>
--	-----------------

This account reflects actual travel costs for the COMB staff. This account is also used for attendance at conferences by the General Manager and/or staff.

**COMB OPERATING BUDGET NARRATIVE  
OPERATIONS DIVISION: GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES**



<b>Public Information (Account: 5331)</b>	<b>\$ 3,500</b>
---	-----------------

This account is available for public information bulletins or newsletters in order to communicate with the community in case of emergencies or environmental impacts on the COMB water distribution system or reservoirs. This account also includes costs to operate and maintain the COMB website.

<b>SUBTOTAL GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 999,787</b>
---	-------------------

**OPERATIONS DIVISION: SPECIAL GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES**

<b>Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (Account: 5510)</b>	<b>\$ 5,000</b>
--	-----------------

This account has been established for COMB to participate in the integrated regional water management plan for Santa Barbara County.

<b>SUBTOTAL SPECIAL GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 5,000</b>
---	-----------------



*North Portal Intake Tower*

**COMB OPERATING BUDGET NARRATIVE  
OPERATIONS DIVISION: INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS**



<b>Lauro Outlet Works Tunnel Safety Improvement (Acct: 6128)</b>	<b>\$ 100,000</b>
--	-------------------

**Background**

Operations staff conducts the Ongoing Visual Inspection Checklist (OVIC) for the outlet works tunnel housing the outlet works conduit as required by Reclamation’s Standing Operating Procedure (SOP) for Lauro Dam and Reservoir on at least a monthly basis. This requires entry through an above-ground conduit access structure, ladder descension into the confined space, and walking an 869-foot long, 7-foot-high tunnel underneath the dam and reservoir to its terminus. A new railing system, ladders, and entrance hatch modifications were added to the conduit access structure in November 2004.

**Need**

The need for this project is due to ongoing safety concerns for personnel entering the outlet works tunnel. Due to the slope of the tunnel floor, water accumulating within the tunnel would drain and accumulate near the conduit access structure. Small volumes of water will escape through the existing drain structure, but in the event of a sudden break in the outlet works conduit (due to aging infrastructure, earthquake, or other causes), any entrants would quickly become engulfed as the exit floods. The current design is not acceptable in terms of routing large volumes of water away from the single exit and maximizing personnel safety in the event of an emergency scenario. Reclamation has recommended several projects be conducted within the tunnel. However, COMB currently minimizes the time spent in the tunnel to reduce risks.

**Description**

The project includes modifying the existing conduit access structure to improve draining and safety elements. A combination ground level access door and drainway would be added to facilitate faster personnel egress and to evacuate large volumes of water from the facility, preventing floodwaters to backup within the tunnel. In addition, a communication system will be installed as an improvement to existing handheld radio communication. Other safety features will be considered as recommended during the design and engineering phase.



**Figure - Lauro Outlet Works Tunnel Access House**

**PRIORITY CATEGORY**  
**1. Regulatory, Legal, or Safety Requirement**

**ESTIMATED COST**  
**\$200,000**

Fiscal Year	Phase	Cost
2025	Design/Construction	\$100,000
2026	Construction	\$100,000

**Environmental / Permitting Considerations:** Reclamation Technical Center would need to review and approve any changes to the dam infrastructure to ensure that no changes are made which could impact dam safety.



**COMB OPERATING BUDGET NARRATIVE  
OPERATIONS DIVISION: INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS**



**North Portal Elevator Modification (Account: 6107)**

**\$ 100,000**

**Background**

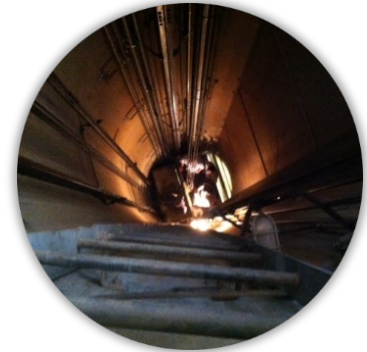
The North Portal Elevator is the only access point to the jet flow control valve and bypass controlling flow into the Tecolote Tunnel. Routine staff entry into the gate chamber is required to calibrate instrumentation, access valves, and to inspect or make other adjustments as needed. The existing elevator shaft is 8ft in diameter and 156ft deep, containing an enclosed elevator car for descension into the gate chamber. In an emergency, entrants need to utilize a small emergency door on the ceiling of the elevator car and ascend 140 ft of ladder rungs up to the surface doors using a full body harness and fall arrest self-extraction system. Staff cannot be below the elevator at any time due to the risk of being stuck below the elevator with no exit available.

**Need**

The existing elevator has been a longstanding concern due to its limited escape options and narrow shaft design. The study will result in a safer escape design and detailed evaluation of a modified elevator design with improved escape features, a secondary escape shaft, installation of modernized extraction systems, or other safety improvements as recommended. The overarching need is to modernize the extraction capabilities in the North Portal, ensuring that in case of an emergency, personnel can swiftly and safely evacuate the gate chamber. The current elevator system presents a significant challenge in terms of escape during emergencies.

**Description**

The study encompasses a comprehensive assessment and redesign of the existing elevator system in the North Portal facility. This project will include a detailed analysis of the elevator's limitations and its escape features. A suite of potential solutions will be explored and the best solution will be recommended. The study will include a thorough evaluation of safety protocols, engineering requirements, and modernization possibilities to determine the most viable solution for COMB's needs. Smaller common sense safety modifications will occur simultaneous to the study.



**Figure - North Portal Elevator Shaft**

**PRIORITY CATEGORY**

**1. Regulatory, Legal, or Safety Requirement**

**ESTIMATED COST**

**\$1,200,000\***

Fiscal Year	Phase	Cost
2025	Study/Modifications	\$100,000
2026	Study/Modifications	\$100,000
2027	Study/Modifications	\$100,000
2028	Construction	\$400,000
2029	Construction	\$500,000

*\*Construction costs are highly variable and dependent upon the outcome of the study.*

**Environmental / Permitting**

**Considerations:** *There will be OSHA requirements to consider in the development of this study to modify this facility; other environmental, permitting, historic building considerations, and collaboration with Reclamation will be required.*

**COMB OPERATING BUDGET NARRATIVE  
OPERATIONS DIVISION: INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS**



<b>SCC Structure Rehabilitation (Account: 6096)</b>	<b>\$ 90,000</b>
---	------------------

**Background**

Blow-off structures exist on all low points of a water distribution system. Blow-offs allow the conduit to be dewatered to conduct necessary maintenance and to perform emergency work. Combination air vacuum air release valves (AVARs) are located at high points along the pipeline and act to automatically expel air and relieve vacuum accumulation in pipes. If air is not adequately expelled, air pockets can constrict flows. If the vacuum is not relieved, serious damage or collapse of the pipeline can occur. Of the sixty-two blowoffs on the SCC – five need to have their valve replaced and/or be rehabilitated and four of fifty-seven AVARs need their valve replaced. Four shutdowns are needed to complete these replacements (F2, F3, F4, and F5).

**Need**

The remaining original and partially rehabilitated blow-offs need full rehabilitation due to extensive corrosion. The dependability of these components is necessary to allow the system to be dewatered for maintenance and response to an emergency break. Three blow-off structures are original components, and two additional blow-offs require replacement of the first valve. Although all the AVARs are now above grade and coated, there are two (2) remaining AVAR structures which require a shutdown to replace the first valve. Not completing this project could result in a major facility failure in multiple locations, uncontrolled loss of water, and inability to respond to an emergency.

**Description**

The project consists of replacing manhole covers, blow-off nozzles, gate valves, upper spools, and discharge piping for original blow-offs and replacing first valves for partially rehabilitated structures. The work would be phased over four shutdowns (F2, F3, F4, and F5) in coordination with impacted Member Agencies.



**Figure - Inside of Blow Off Structure**

**PRIORITY CATEGORY**  
**2. Required to Maintain**  
**Level of Service**

**ESTIMATED COST**  
**\$310,000**

Fiscal Year	Phase	Cost
2025	F3, F4	\$90,000
2026	F2, F5	\$220,000

**Environmental / Permitting Considerations:** *This project has been identified by the USBR as a Category 2 recommendation.*

COMB OPERATING BUDGET NARRATIVE

OPERATIONS DIVISION: INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS



SCC Lower Reach Lateral Structure (Account: 6137)

\$ 305,000

Background

There are approximately 68 lateral connections along the South Coast Conduit. The function of these connections is to provide water to the treatment plants and specific sections of the Member Agencies distribution systems requiring direct feed. Each connection generally contains two gate valves, a meter, and an air vent component. All the SCC Upper Reach laterals have now been blind-flanged and air gapped except for the larger functional laterals: Goleta West Conduit and Corona Del Mar Water Treatment Plant box turnouts. Several laterals in the SCC Lower Reach were abandoned or rehabilitated in the 1980s, 2005, or more recently in the Schedule F1 (2023) and F4 (2021) work, concluding Phase I of a cooperative agreement between COMB and Carpinteria Valley Water District (CVWD).

Need

As of February 2024, 14 of the 30 laterals in the CVWD service area have reached their maximum life and need rehabilitation. Ten of these high-risk laterals will be rehabilitated during Phase II of the COMB-CVWD cooperative agreement. Four lower risk laterals remain original and will be rehabilitated by COMB when required. The dependability of these valves is necessary to perform maintenance and shutdowns of the South Coast Conduit. The consequence of not completing this project could result in lateral failure/inoperability limiting deliveries to customers served by those laterals or complicating operations if leak-by or a major failure occurred.

Description

The project would require coordination with CVWD. For efficiency and to minimize cost, the work on the laterals would be conducted in the same area and year as the Lower Reach South Coast Conduit Blowoff Nozzle/Valve replacement project.



**Figure - SCC Lower Reach Lateral 22**

**PRIORITY CATEGORY**  
2. Required to Maintain Level of Service

**ESTIMATED COST**  
\$305,000

Fiscal Year	Phase	Cost
2025	F5	\$305,000

**Environmental / Permitting Considerations:** This project has been identified by the USBR as a Category 2 recommendation.

COMB OPERATING BUDGET NARRATIVE  
OPERATIONS DIVISION: INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS



Lauro Reservoir Bypass Channel Road Repair (Account: 6102)

\$ 1,320,000

Background

Lauro Reservoir is the Cachuma Project’s primary balancing reservoir on the South Coast and forebay for Cater Water Treatment Plant. The natural watershed flows upstream of Lauro Reservoir are required by the Division of Drinking Water to be routed around the reservoir for public safety. Watershed flows are captured by Lauro Debris Basin and diverted into a 24" HDPE storm drain, or onto the Lauro Reservoir Bypass Channel during more extreme storm events. In addition to routing emergency overflow, the bypass channel also collects runoff from the surrounding slopes, prevents shallow landslides, and provides vehicle access around the reservoir. Portions of the bypass channel were improved with a concrete road and retaining walls in 2007 and in 2023 after a significant washout.

Need

The need for this project is illustrated through repeated damages and public safety concerns since the 1960s. Damages have occurred in the following years: 1962, 1964, 1965, 1967, 1969, 1973-74, 1977-78, 1980, 1983-85, 1991-92, 1993-94, 1995, 1998, 2000, 2005, and 2023. Damages from excessive storm inputs included slides, washouts, erosion, high turbidity levels, water quality concerns, and the need to take Lauro Reservoir offline for varying periods. These storm events caused disruptions to water supply and quality and necessitated repairs. There remains 800ft of unimproved bypass channel with asphalt and gravel vulnerable to damage.

Description

Includes removal of the current asphalt and gravel sections and installation of a significantly more robust concrete bypass channel with curbs and retaining walls to match previously improved sections. The total length of the improved bypass channel would be approximately 800ft and would include retaining walls to hold back the slope and prevent shallow landslides onto the bypass channel and washouts of the road. The project would complete the bypass channel around Lauro Reservoir and prevent repetitive damage.



Figure - Lauro Reservoir Bypass Channel Washout January 2023 Winter Storms

**PRIORITY CATEGORY**  
3. Addresses Critical Deficiency

**ESTIMATED COST**  
\$1,320,000\*

Fiscal Year	Phase	Cost
2025	Construction	\$1,320,000

\*The Lauro Reservoir Bypass Channel Road Improvements (2018-C-4) project schedule depends upon grant funding opportunities. This estimate includes improving the access road to the bypass channel which is ~\$340,000 of the cost.

**Environmental / Permitting Considerations:** Environmental and permitting will follow the same procedure as previous installations and will include updated requirements and/or grant requirements.

**COMB OPERATING BUDGET NARRATIVE  
OPERATIONS DIVISION: INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS**



**Sheffield Tunnel Evaluation and Repair (Account: 6123)**

**\$ 75,000**

**Background**


The Sheffield Tunnel is a concrete tunnel housing the 30” Centrifugal Concrete Pipe (CCP) South Coast Conduit (SCC) that extends 6,100 feet in 12-ft segments between the Sheffield Control Station east of Mission Creek to Parma Park. Within the tunnel, sections of concrete pipe are connected and joined with steel bands, double gaskets, and mortar to maintain the integrity of the pipe collar connections. Water collected within Sheffield Tunnel accumulates and is routed into a creek drop inlet culvert downstream of the west portal of the tunnel.

**Need**

The USBR inspection report of the Sheffield Tunnel identified and recommended evaluating the deteriorating mortar joints and determine if they are needed to ensure the structural integrity and proper function of the pipeline. Heavy seepage appears to be a contributing factor to deterioration. Deterioration potentially compromises the integrity of the tunnel and poses an operational risk. The 6,100-ft tunnel does not have redundancy and any damage to the SCC in this area would cause potential water supply disruptions, significant access challenges for repair work, and environmental damage in the uncontrolled release of water from the pipeline.

**Description**

An engineering firm would conduct a condition assessment to determine which joints could be repaired without a shutdown during the regularly scheduled inspection in 2025. Following the inspection, a qualified contractor would be selected to repair the cracks in the mortared joints without a shutdown the following year. In addition, an internal pipeline inspection would be conducted. Following the inspection, internal joint seals would be installed on the most severely deteriorated joints via the manholes accessible in the structure. Sheffield Control Valves will need to be replaced prior to the internal pipeline work.



**Figure - Sheffield Tunnel and Pipeline**

**PRIORITY CATEGORY**  
**3. Addresses Critical Deficiency**

**ESTIMATED COST**  
**\$505,000**

Fiscal Year	Phase	Cost
2025	Engineering	\$75,000
2026	Engineering/Cons	\$130,000
2027	Construction	\$300,000

**Environmental / Permitting Considerations:** *This project has been identified by the USBR as a Category 2 recommendation.*

**COMB OPERATING BUDGET NARRATIVE  
OPERATIONS DIVISION: INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS**



**Critical Access Road Maintenance and Repair (Account: 6045)**

**\$ 75,000**

**Background**

COMB maintains a network of critical access roads, often in remote locations, which allow passage to vital water conveyance facilities. Maintaining these access roads is a challenge due to the rugged terrain, steep surrounding hillslopes, periodic natural hazards, and natural weathering. Recent events, such as the damages inflicted by California Severe Winter Storms, Flooding, Landslides, and Mudslides (DR-4683-CA) in early January 2023, underscore the urgent need for elevated maintenance and improvements in these areas.

**Need**

The purpose of this project is to prevent interrupted access to essential water conveyance infrastructure. These access roads serve as the lifelines for maintenance crews, emergency responders, and equipment transportation, especially in cases of unforeseen events such as severe weather and natural disasters. The continuous weathering of these roads puts the safety of both personnel and the reliability of the water conveyance infrastructure at risk. This project is not only about road repair but also about fortifying the critical transportation arteries that connect essential facilities.

**Description**

COMB staff will prioritize fixing or improving roads in clear disrepair, those that provide non-redundant access to key facilities, and low-cost improvements. Solutions are site-specific, but will include erosion control measures, landslide mitigation, regrading, road resurfacing, and improvements to drainage systems at target locations including the North Portal Road, Glen Annie Road, Lauro Reservoir Bypass Channel, Sheffield Control Station Road, Ortega Reservoir Road, Greenwell Canyon, and Carpinteria Reservoir Road. Additionally, the improvements will incorporate measures to enhance the roads' resilience to extreme weather events and natural disasters, thereby reducing the risk of future damage.



**Figure - Glen Annie Road Damage following January 2023 Winter Storms**

**PRIORITY CATEGORY  
3. Address Critical Deficiency**

**ESTIMATED COST  
\$1,200,000**

Fiscal Year	Phase	Cost
2025	Ortega/Carp/Lauro	\$75,000
2026	NP/Sheffield	\$200,000
2027	Glen Annie	\$325,000
2028	Lauro/Greenwell	\$300,000
2029	Other	\$300,000

**Environmental / Permitting**

**Considerations:** *This project has been identified by the USBR as a Category 2 recommendation.*

**COMB OPERATING BUDGET NARRATIVE  
OPERATIONS DIVISION: INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS**



<b>Lauro Reservoir Intake Assessment/Repair (Account: 6043)</b>	<b>\$ 50,000</b>
---	------------------

**Background**


The Lauro Reservoir intake structure was modified in 1981 by adding a stainless steel circular intake screen connected to a steel pipe which was inserted in the original concrete intake structure. A 1/2-inch-thick steel circular bearing plate was installed on top of the existing concrete intake structure to cover the opening between the intake structure and vertical pipe and provide structural support. The 2018 dive report prepared by Reclamation states the intake structure is in satisfactory condition with the exception of the bearing plate. The bearing plate was observed to be fully covered with corrosion and rust nodules.

**Need**

The steel bearing plate on the intake structure has deteriorated because of corrosion and poses an operational risk for both the protection against outside intrusion of elements penetrating through the opening or structural support of the intake pipe and screen.

**Description**

Engineering services will be retained to determine the expected level of performance from the steel bearing plate (protection from outside element intrusion or structural). Engineering will need to be conducted by a structural engineer to determine if the steel bearing plate is necessary for support, and if required, a method to design a repair that will allow for continued structural support of the intake structure. The reservoir may need to be lowered to accommodate inspections and repairs.



**Figure - Corroded Steel Bearing Plate on Lauro Reservoir Intake Structure**

**PRIORITY CATEGORY**  
**3. Addresses Critical Deficiency**

**ESTIMATED COST**  
**\$150,000\***

Fiscal Year	Phase	Cost
2025	Engineering	\$50,000
2026	Construction	\$100,000

*\*The cost estimates assumes structural support may be added to the structure. However, it may be that the entire structure may need to be replaced which would increase costs significantly.*

*This structure was added as part of the Reclamation agreement (No. 0-07-20-L1582) with the City of Santa Barbara. Per the agreement, maintenance costs are to be funded by the City of Santa Barbara through the Cater JPA.*

**Environmental / Permitting Considerations:** This project has been identified by the USBR as a Category 2 recommendation.

**COMB OPERATING BUDGET NARRATIVE  
OPERATIONS DIVISION: INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS**



**North Portal Intake Tower Seismic Assessment (Account: 6134)**

**\$ 100,000**

**Background**

Water diversions from Lake Cachuma occur from the North Portal Intake Tower facility into the Tecolote Tunnel and to the South Coast Conduit for water delivery to the Cachuma Project Member Agencies. The vertical intake tower free-stands 120ft and is located approximately mid-reservoir and contains five slide gates, each at varying levels on the pentagonal shaped tower. The slides gates are covered with mesh fish screens to prevent fish and debris from entering the tunnel. Water diversions are controlled 800 feet away through a 140ft shaft to the gate chamber in the Tecolote Tunnel.

**Need**

The North Portal Intake Tower and Gate Chamber was constructed by the Bureau of Reclamation in the 1950's, at which time the standards for structural design requirements were not as stringent as today's compliance requirements. Structural elements of the intake structure and gate chamber would be examined to determine the general reliability of the tower, and recommendations for upgrades and refurbishments would be provided if needed. The consequence of not completing this project would be uncertainty in structure reliability during a seismic event, which could result in losing ability to deliver water to the South Coast while emergency repairs are made.

**Description**

This initial phase consists of acquiring consulting services of a qualified structural engineering firm to perform a Seismic Reliability Analysis and Physical Condition Assessment of the North Portal Intake Tower and Gate Chamber. It shall include a report of all findings and propose recommendations for structural rehabilitation to increase and/or ensure continued reliability of the structure in the occurrence of a large seismic event. It should also include recommendations for a temporary pump system from the lake to the gate chamber in the event of earthquake damage.



**Figure - North Portal Intake Tower**

**PRIORITY CATEGORY  
3. Addresses Critical Deficiency**

**ESTIMATED COST  
\$300,000**

Fiscal Year	Phase	Cost
2025	Assessment	\$100,000
2026	Engineering	\$200,000

*\*A condition assessment of the North Portal Intake Tower is ideally completed when the lake level is low exposing for examination.*

**Environmental / Permitting Considerations:** No regulatory compliance measures are expected for this project as it is an assessment.



**COMB OPERATING BUDGET NARRATIVE  
OPERATIONS DIVISION: INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS**



<b>North Portal Log Boom Replacement (Account: 6074)</b>	<b>\$ 135,000</b>
--	-------------------

**Background**

According to the second amendment to contract for the transfer of the operation and maintenance of the Cachuma Transferred Project Works (No. 14-06-200-5222RB) between Reclamation and COMB, COMB is transferred the operation and maintenance of the Tecolote Tunnel including all water situated within a 1,500-foot radius of the intake of the Tecolote Tunnel. Log booms constructed of timber have been placed around the Intake Tower as early as September 1957 to keep floating debris from damaging infrastructure and clogging screens. Currently, COMB utilizes shackled polymer booms that encircle the Intake Tower. The existing booms were purchased in 2007 and are close to 20 years old.

**Need**

The previous shackled design is flawed, as the connecting hardware fails under light wind and wave events. The Operations Division staff responds to boom failures several times a year requiring mobilization to Lake Cachuma, boat rental, and hours of staff time maneuvering booms back into place and reinstalling connection hardware. During boom failure, the exclusion zone is open to boaters and floating debris can wash towards the Intake Tower causing damage and clogging.

**Description**

The new boom designs feature shackle-free connections and high load bearing internal steel to resist horizontal and vertical loads. The new designs are much more resistant to shackle failures and are expected to withstand the types of varied weather conditions observed at Lake Cachuma. The existing booms would be removed and stored for possible use in other parts of the system with less wind and wave potential.



**Figure - Log Boom Shackle Failure**

**PRIORITY CATEGORY**  
**5. Proactive Aging Infrastructure Replacement**

**ESTIMATED COST**  
**\$135,000**

Fiscal Year	Phase	Cost
2025	Buy/Install	\$135,000

**Environmental / Permitting Considerations:** *No regulatory compliance measures are expected for this project.*

**COMB OPERATING BUDGET NARRATIVE  
OPERATIONS DIVISION: INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS**



<b>Multi-Site Renewable Energy and Resiliency (Account: 6075)</b>	<b>\$ 50,000</b>
---	------------------

**Background**

In June 2022, the COMB Board of Directors adopted the COMB Sustainability Plan, which included an initiative to explore alternate sources of renewable energy. Specifically, staff was instructed to explore opportunities for alternate sources of renewable energy (solar, hydroelectric, etc.) to be installed at the COMB office and/or outlying facilities.

**Need**

The envisioned benefit is to incorporate clean energy components into COMB’s energy system, while participating in regional and global efforts towards cleaner air, lower carbon emissions, and conservation of natural resources. Also of interest is the long-term cost savings associated with reduced conventional energy consumption, and increased energy resilience through on-site battery storage. Currently there are generators at the COMB office and North Portal building locations. On-site storage could replace or augment existing back-up systems and provide flexibility in avoiding increased electricity prices during peak hours.

**Description**

A system-wide assessment of electrical demand, location specific resiliency needs, and opportunities for renewable energy generation and cost savings would be conducted initially. Initial system installation would offset electrical demands at Lauro Office and North Portal. The system would be expanded in the future as more electrical vehicles would be added to COMB’s fleet. The initial system installed would be approximately 40 kw and expanded to approximately a total of approximately 100 kw in the future.



**Figure - COMB 2022 Sustainability Plan Image**

**PRIORITY CATEGORY**  
**6. System Reliability and Improvements**

**ESTIMATED COST**  
**\$450,000\***

Fiscal Year	Phase	Cost
2025	Plan	\$50,000
2026	Install	\$250,000**
2027	Install	\$150,000**

*\*The Multi-Site Renewable Energy and Resiliency (2025-C-2) project schedule depends upon grant funding opportunities.*

*\*\*Installation costs would be offset by reduced electrical and fuel costs. The capital costs could be minimized by option of entering into a purchase power agreement.*

**Environmental / Permitting Considerations:** MP-620 would be required from Reclamation, and coordination with SB County Fire Department for meeting building setbacks and defensible space standards.

<b>SUBTOTAL INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS</b>	<b>\$ 2,400,000</b>
---	---------------------

**COMB OPERATING BUDGET NARRATIVE  
OPERATIONS DIVISION: SPECIAL PROJECTS**



<b>2024 Winter Storm Repairs (Account: 6126)</b>	<b>\$ 150,000</b>
--	-------------------

During winter storms in 2024, sediment and debris were deposited into the two main debris basins at Lauro Reservoir (Main Debris Basin and Boy Scout Debris Basin). It is not cost effective to remove the sediment until the late summer or fall when the basins have dried out. Sediment needs to be removed from the basins to restore them to their functional capacity to prepare for future large rain events. If the debris basins are not maintain FEMA is unlikely to fund debris removal in future events. In addition, small slides occurred at Glen Anne Turnout Road and around Lauro Reservoir related to the 2024 winter storms that will also require repair once conditions dry out.



*Lauro Reservoir - Main Debris Basin*



*Lauro Reservoir - Boy Scout Debris Basin*

<b>COMB Building Improvements and Maintenance (Account: 6115)</b>	<b>\$ 80,000</b>
---	------------------

This account contain funds for outside services/labor that cannot be supported by COMB staff including building improvements, plumbing and electrical, HVAC repair, landscaping, and general maintenance.

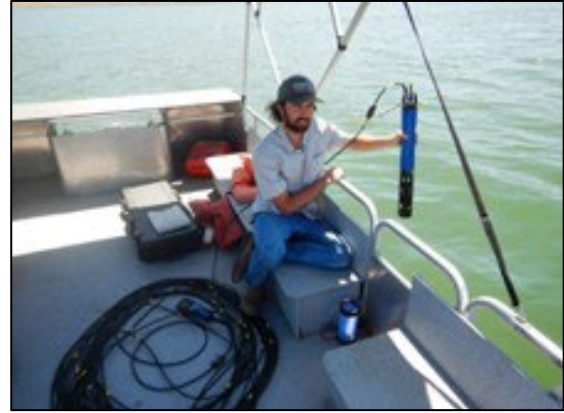


*COMB Office Buildings*

**Water Quality and Sediment Management (Account: 6138)**

**\$ 40,000**

Lake Cachuma is the principal drinking water supply for the South Coast of Santa Barbara County providing surface water supply to the Goleta Water District, City of Santa Barbara, Montecito Water District, and Carpinteria Valley Water District. In addition, Lake Cachuma serves as the conduit for state water deliveries to the South Coast. Diversions from the lake are managed by COMB. Upstream of Lake Cachuma are Gibraltar Reservoir, owned by the City of Santa Barbara, and Jameson Reservoir, owned by Montecito Water District.



*Water Quality Sampling*

COMB completed a two-year study in 2020 on behalf of, and in coordination with, the COMB Member Agencies for addressing raw surface water quality and sedimentation issues at Lake Cachuma. In Fiscal Year 2023-24, COMB continued to implement the recommendations within the final Lake Cachuma Water Quality and Sediment Management Study. This included completion of the Organic Carbon / Phosphorus Sampling and Source Investigation in 2024, which refined our understanding of sources and flux rates of carbon, phosphorus, and sulfides at Lake Cachuma, and provided additional recommendations for consideration.

For Fiscal Year 2024-25, COMB plans on continuing our regular water quality sampling program at Lake Cachuma. COMB plans to create a simple water quality model of Lake Cachuma to simulate nutrient transfer from watershed sources, internal cycling processes, and exodus of nutrients through regular operations and environmental/chemical processes.



*Lake Cachuma  
Water Quality Monitoring Buoy*

Expansion of tributary water quality sampling in Fiscal Year 2024-25 will allow COMB to simulate tributary contributions with greater resolution within the chosen water quality model. Also, ongoing maintenance is required to keep the Lake Cachuma water quality monitoring buoy and other water quality instrumentation functional.

**COMB OPERATING BUDGET NARRATIVE  
OPERATIONS DIVISION: SPECIAL PROJECTS**



<b>SCADA Improvement and Support (Account: 6110)</b>	<b>\$ 35,000</b>
--	------------------

The “Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition” system (SCADA) collects and enables the retrieval of historical data. Information includes flows, reservoir elevations, alarms, communication, turbidity, pH, temperature, and valve positions. Additionally, SCADA provides alerts to COMB Operations staff to take corrective action 24/7. For fiscal year 2024-25, costs in this category include ongoing contractor support and any software subscription and licenses.



*SCADA Control Panel*

<b>Right of Way Identification Program (Account: 6105)</b>	<b>\$ 20,000</b>
--	------------------

The Right of Way Project (ROW) inventory will centralize information electronically to facilitate landowner communication regarding pending right-of-way work, provide communication with Santa Barbara permitting agencies, and enable COMB staff response to right-of-way disruptions and issues more efficiently by utilizing the GIS inventory. Specific tasks of the project include identifying, locating, and labeling the pipeline through field mapping in GIS and surveying. Sequentially, as data is developed, landowners will be notified of property easements and of COMB’s South Coast Conduit responsibilities

<b>GIS and Mapping (Account: 6097)</b>	<b>\$ 10,000</b>
--	------------------

This line item will support expenses for the licenses that are required to run the software affiliated with the Right-of-way program and other extraneous mapping needs.

<b>SUBTOTAL SPECIAL PROJECTS</b>	<b>\$ 195,000</b>
----------------------------------	-------------------

<b>SUBTOTAL INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT &amp; SPECIAL PROJECTS</b>	<b>\$ 2,500,000</b>
---	---------------------

<b>TOTAL OPERATIONS DIVISION BUDGET</b>	<b>\$ 5,602,464</b>
---	---------------------

**COMB OPERATING BUDGET NARRATIVE**  
**FISHERIES DIVISION: OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE EXPENSES**



**Program Description**

To maintain and support all associated costs of operation and maintenance as they relate to the implementation of the NMFS Biological Opinion and the Lower Santa Ynez River Fish Management Plan.

<b>Labor (Accounts: 4100 - 4152)</b>	<b>\$ 870,930</b>
--------------------------------------	-------------------

The Fisheries Division Labor line item reflects labor costs and benefits for a Senior Resource Scientist, a three-member field crew, and four part-time seasonal bio-aide positions.

The benefits include medical, dental and vision insurance coverage, a \$20,000 life insurance policy per employee, deferred compensation, matching social security contributions, mandatory workers' compensation coverage, an employee assistance program (EAP), FICA/Medicare and a CalPERS retirement contribution (2% @ 55 formula) Starting July 1, 2017, classic members began paying a portion of the employee cost (EPMC). For FY 2024-25, the classic member's contribution rate is set at 7.0%. All employees hired after January 2013 and who are not classified as "classic" members will contribute 7.75% of the CalPERS retirement premium from their bi-weekly paycheck (2% @ 62 formula). This line item includes a 3.51% COLA based on the annual calculation.

Totals by Account

4100 Labor Biology Crew	\$ 48,663
4114 Labor Seasonal Crew	\$ 72,000
4151 CalPERS	\$104,545
4150 Health Insurance	\$123,534
4150 Workers Compensation	\$ 28,533
4152 FICA	\$ 43,656
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$870,930</b>



*COMB Fisheries Staff*

**COMB OPERATING BUDGET NARRATIVE**  
**FISHERIES DIVISION: OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE EXPENSES**



<b>Vehicles and Equipment (Accounts: 4270 - 4290)</b>	<b>\$ 52,500</b>
---	------------------

The Vehicles and Equipment section is made up of three accounts which include funds for the purchase of vehicles, fuel, parts, inspections and maintenance of vehicles and equipment.

Account 4270 includes costs necessary to operate vehicles and equipment such as fuel, oil, tires, parts, inspections, and labor, etc. This account reflects amounts determined by historical expense data and projected operational needs. Account 4280 contains funds for the purchase or replacement of equipment or large tools as may be necessary in the fiscal year. Account 4290 includes funding for all miscellaneous items affiliated with vehicles or equipment.

These accounts are increased or decreased annually to reflect changes in the price.

Totals by Account:

4270 Vehicles	\$ 30,000
4280 Fixed Capital	\$ 20,000
4290 Miscellaneous	\$ 2,500
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 52,500</b>

<b>Contract Labor (Accounts: 4220 - 4222)</b>	<b>\$ 14,100</b>
---	------------------

The Contract Labor account contains funds for outside services/labor to support equipment calibration on flow meters and sonde meters, and funds for technical assistance corresponding to the operation, maintenance, and performance review of completed fish passage projects.

Completed tributary projects at Rancho San Julian, Cross Creek Ranch, and Quiota Creek Crossings require annual performance evaluation; licensed fish passage engineers need to conduct the structural evaluation whereas the biological evaluation and report are done by COMB staff.

Totals by Account:

4221 Equip Calibration	\$ 3,000
4222 Project Maintenance	\$11,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$14,000</b>

**COMB OPERATING BUDGET NARRATIVE**  
**FISHERIES DIVISION: OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE EXPENSES**



<b>Materials and Supplies (Account: 4390)</b>	<b>\$ 8,000</b>
---	-----------------

The Materials and Supplies account covers costs for the purchase of materials needed for the Fisheries Monitoring Program, specifically monitoring for migration, spawning and over-summering. This can include constructing and repairing fish migration traps (pvc, netting, plywood, locks, waders, etc.) and the equipment necessary to conduct snorkel (dry suit, masks, snorkels, hoods, gloves, etc.) and redd surveys (waders, clipboards, etc.).

<b>Other Expenses (Account: 4502)</b>	<b>\$ 13,000</b>
---------------------------------------	------------------

The Other Operating Expenses account includes for permit fees and uniform expense for the fisheries employees.

<b>SUBTOTAL OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 958,430</b>
--	-------------------



*Quiota Creek Fish Passage Project*



**COMB OPERATING NARRATIVE  
FISHERIES DIVISION: GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES**



**Program Description**

The General and Administrative accounts reflect costs for support of all fisheries division administrative functions of COMB. The salaries and benefits are divided at a 65% - 35% basis between the Operations Division and the Fisheries Division based on payroll allocations. General and Administrative expenses have been reduced to the lowest level of effective operation for FY 2024-25

<b>Directors Fees (Account: 5426)</b>	<b>\$ 7,000</b>
---------------------------------------	-----------------

This account reflects Directors' fees at a rate of \$204.75 per meeting. The Directors will decide future increases by public meeting and change of ordinance. This cost is allocated between Operations and Fisheries divisions.

<b>Legal (Account: 5407)</b>	<b>\$ 25,000</b>
------------------------------	------------------

This account reflects the costs for General Counsel affiliated with the Fisheries Division program of work, as well as, anticipated litigation.

<b>Audit (Account: 5441)</b>	<b>\$ 12,250</b>
------------------------------	------------------

This account reflects costs for a portion of the annual COMB financial audit and any single audit requirements.

<b>Liability and Property Insurance (Account: 5443)</b>	<b>\$ 26,500</b>
---	------------------

This account reflects a portion of insurance costs for coverage provided by ACWA/JPIA for all general liability and property i.e., buildings, structures, computers, modular furniture, copiers, postage meters, vehicles and replacement costs of all properties belonging to COMB.

<b>Health and Workers Compensation (Account: 5401)</b>	<b>\$ 48,326</b>
--	------------------

This account reflects costs for 35% of all administrative staff health premiums (medical, dental, vision and life), and employee assistance program (EAP), deferred compensation and workers' compensation premiums. The cost for health premiums is a set premium amount for each employee and their dependents. This line item includes a projected increase in health premiums that will go into effect in January 2025.

**COMB OPERATING BUDGET NARRATIVE**  
**FISHERIES DIVISION: GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES**



<b>CalPERS (Account: 5402)</b>	<b>\$ 51,877</b>
--------------------------------	------------------

This account reflects 35% percent of costs for the California Public Employees’ Retirement System for administrative personnel charged to the fisheries division. COMB pays the employer and a portion of the employee cost for classic members and new hires pay 50% of the normal cost contributions. Starting July 1, 2017, classic members began paying a portion of the employee cost (EPMC). For FY 2024-25, the classic member’s contribution rate is set at 7.0%. All employees hired after January 2013, who are not classified as “classic” members, contribute 7.75% of the CalPERS retirement premium from their bi-weekly paycheck (2% @ 62 formula).

<b>FICA and Medicare (Account: 5403)</b>	<b>\$ 15,825</b>
--	------------------

This account reflects 35% of the matching share of social security and Medicare taxes for all administrative employees.

<b>Salaries (Accounts: 5404, 5405, 5408, 5409, 5419)</b>	<b>\$ 206,869</b>
--	-------------------

This account reflects a 35% allocation of salaries for the General Manager, Administrative Manager, and two administrative staff positions.

<b>Postage and Office Supplies (Account: 5410)</b>	<b>\$ 4,000</b>
--	-----------------

The Office Expense and Postage account reflects the cost of all office supplies and postage for general and administrative tasks attribute to the fisheries division.

<b>Office Equipment / Leases (Account: 5411)</b>	<b>\$ 8,533</b>
--	-----------------

The Office Equipment / Leases account includes the fisheries division portion of leases and quarterly service agreements for postage machine, copier equipment and any maintenance fees.

<b>Miscellaneous Administrative Expense (Account: 5412)</b>	<b>\$ 7,500</b>
---	-----------------

This account contains funds necessary for office cleaning, Board meeting supplies, Paychex payroll costs, outside copy costs and other minor miscellaneous expenses.

**COMB OPERATING BUDGET NARRATIVE**  
**FISHERIES DIVISION: GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES**



<b>Communications (Account: 5413)</b>	<b>\$ 4,455</b>
---------------------------------------	-----------------

This account contains funds necessary for the telephone service, long distance service, cable internet service, and staff cell phones.

<b>Utilities (Account: 5414)</b>	<b>\$ 5,243</b>
----------------------------------	-----------------

This account contains funds necessary to provide utilities to the administrative offices affiliated with the fisheries division program of work.

<b>Membership Dues (Account: 5415)</b>	<b>\$ 7,200</b>
--	-----------------

This account reflects costs for membership dues for the American Fisheries Society as well as a portion of ACWA dues as they pertain to the fisheries division employees. This account also covers subscriptions for professional publications.

<b>Administrative Fixed Assets (Account: 5416)</b>	<b>\$ 5,000</b>
--	-----------------

This fiscal year's fixed assets include the purchase of computers according to the replacement schedule and office equipment / furniture as needed.

<b>Computer Consultant (Account: 5418)</b>	<b>\$ 20,000</b>
--	------------------

This account was established to fund needs for all computer and internal network systems support through outside computer consultant services. It also accommodates purchasing and updating of software licenses.

<b>Employee Education / Subscriptions (Account: 5425)</b>	<b>\$ 2,500</b>
---	-----------------

This account was established to provide employees with the ability to obtain professional training, required certifications and for management training purposes specifically for in field and office operations, and safety and regulatory compliance. This account also provides for employee related subscriptions to professional fisheries organizations.

**COMB OPERATING BUDGET NARRATIVE**  
**FISHERIES DIVISION: GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES**



<b>Administrative Travel (Account: 5430)</b>	<b>\$ 4,000</b>
--	-----------------

This account provides for actual travel costs for professional conferences, seminars, training, and strategy meetings that are attended by the General Manager and/or staff throughout the fiscal year.

<b>Public Information (Account: 5431)</b>	<b>\$ 1,500</b>
---	-----------------

This account is for miscellaneous costs that may arise out of public records act requests, newsletters, webpage support or other public information requirements.

<b>SUBTOTAL GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 463,578</b>
---	-------------------



*Beaver Dam Survey – January 2024*

**COMB OPERATING BUDGET NARRATIVE  
FISHERIES DIVISION: PROGRAM SUPPORT SERVICES**



<b>Biological Opinion / FMP Implementation (Account: 6201)</b>	<b>\$ 42,000</b>
--	------------------

This line item provides funding for outside consultant support on activities, which include participation in the NFMS Biological Opinion compliance preparation as well as review of technical reports, study plans, participation in coordination and review meetings and conference calls.

BO and WR Order 2019-0148 Compliance Tasks and Support

This task addresses ongoing Cachuma Project Biological Opinion (BO or BiOp) and WR Order 2019-0148 compliance efforts and implementation of the Lower Santa Ynez River Fisheries Monitoring Program (FMP). As needed, consultants will provide technical and analytical support and review of the fisheries monitoring program and any proposed study plans. This may require participation of an advisory group to obtain consensus on the recommendations. A fish passage engineer will review, evaluate, and develop technical elements of fisheries related monitoring, fish passage and restoration program elements. In addition, this item includes bio-statistician support and genetic tissue analysis (fish fin clips) conducted by a National Marine Fisheries Service certified geneticist. Activities may involve background research, concept development, content development and production schematics support for the ongoing BO, WR Order 2019-0148 and FMP activities.



AMC and CC Participation and Technical Support

Conference calls preparation and follow-up per call as well as participation in face-to-face meeting of the Adaptive Management Committee (AMC) and Consensus Committee (CC) if necessary. Technical support to COMB in preparing work products for the AMC and the CC as required.

Review of Fisheries Monitoring Reports

Review of any fisheries monitoring reports that are prepared by the Cachuma Project Biology Staff. These reports would be compliance measures for terms and conditions presented in the BO and WR Order 2019-0148 and would include the Annual Monitoring Report and technical memos prepared for Reclamation as well as the AMC, CC or COMB Board. This may include participation on the Science Advisory Committee to discuss comments on the reviewed reports.

**COMB OPERATING BUDGET NARRATIVE  
FISHERIES DIVISION: PROGRAM SUPPORT SERVICES**



<b>GIS and Mapping - 6202</b>	<b>\$ 10,000</b>
-------------------------------	------------------

This account provides funds for the purchase and maintenance of the GIS and GPS system components, software (ESRI, AutoCAD, Field Mapplet, MapLogic, and Photoshop), hardware, aerial imagery, and GIS/GPS technical support.

<b>USGS Stream Gauge Program (Account: 6205)</b>	<b>\$ 110,000</b>
--	-------------------

This line item is to fund the required stream discharge and water quality monitoring on the lower Santa Ynez River and its tributaries in compliance with the NMFS Biological Opinion.

<b>SUBTOTAL PROGRAM SUPPORT SERVICES</b>	<b>\$ 162,000</b>
--	-------------------



Redd Survey – Upper Refugio Reach

**COMB OPERATING BUDGET NARRATIVE  
FISHERIES DIVISION: HABITAT IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS**



<b>Oak Tree Restoration Program (Account: 6207)</b>	<b>\$ 10,000</b>
---	------------------

This line item is used to fund oak tree planting, maintenance and monitoring efforts at several sites bordering Lake Cachuma and Bradbury Dam. This planting and maintenance program is intended to result in a 2:1 replacement of oak trees lost due to the higher water elevations during surcharge events.

COMB has planted approximately 5,740 oak trees under this program since its inception in 2005.



Oak Tree Watering

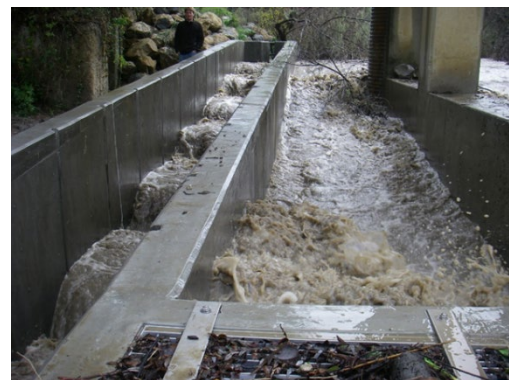
<b>Tributary Project Support (Account: 6303)</b>	<b>\$ 10,000</b>
--	------------------

This line item is to fund technical assistance provided by a fish passage engineer for tasks anticipated to include refinement of monitoring methods and procedures, hydraulic review of fish passage within a stream network, troubleshooting of general operation and maintenance issues, and review of miscellaneous technical data and reporting.

<b>Tributary Project Improvements (Account: 6304)</b>	<b>\$ 305,000</b>
---	-------------------

Over the last two years, Santa Barbara County experienced two back-to-back wet year conditions and extreme stormflow events. These storms caused extensive stream channel scour and bank erosion in the Lower Santa Ynez River (LYSR) leaving several of COMB’s fish passage and habitat enhancement projects in need of improvement.

COMB has identified the following projects to address the impact of recent stormflow events and to maintain/improve the fish passage and habitat suitability for the *Oncorhynchus mykiss* population.



El Jaro Creek Fish Ladder

**COMB OPERATING BUDGET NARRATIVE  
FISHERIES DIVISION: HABITAT IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS**



Project Description	Amount
<b>Quiota Creek Crossing 4:</b> Reposition downstream rock slope protection (RSP) boulders, rebuild unraveled upstream RSP, replace lost upstream root wad, and reconfigure the channel for improved low and high flow channel function.	\$60,000
<b>Quiota Creek Crossing 3:</b> Replace about 30% of missing upstream RSP and repair upstream RSP located in the scour pocket to assure no bridge flanking.	\$65,000
<b>Quiota Creek Crossing 8:</b> Anchor downstream root wad to prevent flanking, remove deposited sediment in two rock weir pools, install a rock groin at the bedrock outcropping on the upstream edge of the project to deflect the flow and increase bank stabilization, and clean out one of the two settling basins that is filled with sediment.	\$66,000
<b>Quiota Creek Crossing 1:</b> Install RSP under a large oak tree located at the downstream end of the project to prohibit further bank erosion.	\$24,000
<b>Quiota Creek Crossing 2:</b> Remove the aggraded sediment in the downstream rock weir pool and reconfigure some of the upstream rock bands/weirs for channel stabilization and fish passage.	\$30,000
<b>El Jaro Creek / Rancho San Julian:</b> Bank stabilization upstream of the Rancho San Julian entrance bridge, add RSP on the western bank upstream of the bridge and clean out the deposited sediment at the entrance to the fish ladder.	\$53,000
<b>Gravel Augmentation (Hilton Creek and LYSR Mainstem):</b> There is very little spawning gravel within Hilton Creek and the LYSR mainstem. Adding gravel to the streambed will vastly enhance the spawning potential. A similar project was completed in 2018 and 2019 and was highly successful.	\$2,000
<b>Hilton Creek Fish Passage and Habitat Enhancements:</b> Two back-to-back large streamflow years have washed out many of the instream structure that provided resting habitats for upstream migrating fish. The migration path upstream from the floodplain and through the canyon to more favorable spawning and rearing habitats can be greatly improved by providing constructed step-pools and instream structure for resting and rearing habitats. This portion of the project is for design development.	\$5,000
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>\$305,000</b>



**COMB OPERATING BUDGET NARRATIVE**  
**FISHERIES DIVISION: HABITAT IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS**



<b>SUBTOTAL HABITAT IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS</b>	<b>\$ 325,000</b>
<b>SUBTOTAL PROG SUPPORT AND HABITAT IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS</b>	<b>\$ 487,000</b>
<b>TOTAL FISHERIES DIVISION BUDGET</b>	<b>\$ 1,909,008</b>



Snorkeling Survey



**RECAP - TOTAL COMB OPERATING BUDGET**  
**FY 2024-25**

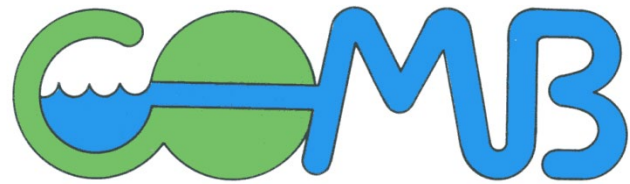


<b>COMB OPERATIONS DIVISION</b>	<b>\$5,674,900</b>
<b>COMB FISHERIES DIVISION</b>	<b><u>\$1,909,008</u></b>
<b>TOTAL COMB GROSS OPERATING BUDGET</b>	<b>\$7,583,908</b>
<b>LESS: OFFSETTING REVENUES</b>	<b><u>(1,279,572)</u></b>
<b>TOTAL COMB NET OPERATING BUDGET</b>	<b><u>\$6,304,336</u></b>



Intake Tower Lake Cachuma, April 2024

**DRAFT**



**APPENDIX**

**DRAFT**

This page left blank intentionally

## **FISCAL OVERSIGHT**

## COMB GOVERNANCE

As set forth in Section 1.3 of the COMB JPA, COMB is governed by a Board of Directors (Board), which has the authority to conduct the business and policy-making affairs of COMB. All powers of COMB are exercised through the Board. Members of the Board are obligated to uphold both the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of California. Board members are also required to comply with all applicable laws regulating their conduct, including conflict of interest, financial disclosure and open government laws. (California Government Code Section 1360; and Article 20, Section 3 of the California Constitution.)



COMB has five standing committees: the Administrative Committee (financial, personnel and legal matters); the Operations Committee; the Fisheries Committee; the Public Outreach Committee; and the Lake Cachuma Oak Tree Committee. Each committee is composed of two Board members and one alternate Board member. Appointments to the committees are made by the President of the Board, typically during the first month of the fiscal year or as necessary. The committees meet with staff on an as-needed basis, and review and recommend proposed actions to the Board concerning, among other things, capital improvements, finance, and other matters. On occasion, COMB utilizes ad-hoc committees that are temporary in nature.

COMB's General Manager is responsible for overall management of the day-to-day and long-term operations and activities of COMB.

## FINANCIAL, ADMINISTRATIVE AND OPERATING POLICIES

The COMB Board establishes policies and resolutions to comply with federal and state law, government code, various Cachuma Project operating and JPA agreements, applicable administrative policies and generally-accepted accounting principles. These policies include:

### **Board Governance Policy**

COMB Board Resolution No. 676, adopted November 26, 2018.

The Board Governance policy sets forth the basic professional and ethical standards to be followed by the COMB Board. The objectives of this Policy are to (1) outline the function, role and responsibility of the Board; (2) provide guidance for dealing with ethical issues; (3) heighten awareness of these ethical issues and values as critical elements in Board members' conduct and governing practices; and (4) support effective and timely decision-making.

**FINANCIAL, ADMINISTRATIVE AND OPERATING POLICIES (CONTINUED)****Board Governance Policy (Continued)**

This policy was adopted pursuant to Section 1.7 of the 1996 Amended and Restated Joint Powers Agreement (COMB JPA) for the Establishment of a Board of Control to exercise the powers of the Agreement.

**Annual Statement of Investment Policy**

COMB Board Resolution No. 689, adopted July 22, 2019.

This policy sets forth guidelines by which surplus funds may be invested. The policy requires that the investment of surplus money of COMB shall be made in securities in accordance with Section 53601 of the Government Code. Investments are made taking into consideration the following factors: the probable income as well as the probable safety of said funds, exercising the judgment and care under the circumstances prevailing, which persons of prudence, discretion, and intelligence exercise in the management of their own affairs, not in regard to speculation, but in regard to the permanent disposition of said funds.

This policy further requires the Board Secretary submit a month report to the Board in accordance with Section 53646(b) of the Government Code.

**Fiscal Policy**

COMB Board Resolution No. 674, adopted November 26, 2018 (Revised July 24, 2023).

The purpose of this policy is to identify and outline fiscal policies and guidelines pursuant to federal and state law, government code, various Cachuma Project operating and JPA agreements, applicable administrative policies and generally-accepted accounting principles.

This policy sets forth the basic framework for the overall fiscal management of COMB and provides guidelines for evaluating both current activities and proposals for future programs. This policy further provides a guideline to the administrative and finance staff in planning and directing the day-to-day financial affairs, and in developing financial recommendations to the COMB Board.

The objective of this policy is to achieve long-term stability and a positive financial condition. An important aspect of the policy is the application of budget and fiscal policies in the context of a long-term financial approach.

The scope of this policy includes accounting, auditing, financial reporting, internal control, operating and capital budgeting, revenue management, cash and investment management, expenditure control, asset management, strategic plans and debt management.

**FINANCIAL, ADMINISTRATIVE AND OPERATING POLICIES (CONTINUED)****Procurement Policy**

Adopted by the COMB Board August 27, 2017

The procurement policy sets forth uniform procedures for the procurement of equipment, non-professional and professional services, supplies, and formal bidding and contracting for COMB.

The objective of a procurement policy is to ensure timely, efficient, and cost-effective procurement within the guidelines of good business practices and transparent public policy. Unless stated otherwise, the policy applies to all purchasing actions regardless of funding source and payment method. All procurements shall be reasonable and necessary.

This policy applies to the procurement of equipment, services, and supplies using funds authorized for expenditure by the adopted annual budget.

**Capital Improvement Planning**

Five-Year Infrastructure and Habitat Improvement Plans are developed by COMB staff and used as an internal guideline for forecasting, budgeting, and long-term financial planning. COMB staff actively pursues outside funding sources for all Infrastructure Improvement Projects. Outside funding sources, such as grants, are used to finance only those Improvement Projects that are consistent with the Five-Year Infrastructure Improvement Plan and COMB priorities, and whose operating and maintenance costs have been included in future operating budget forecasts.

Section 1.3 of Article I of the COMB JPA outlines unanimous consent required for the Cachuma Operation and Maintenance Board to act on certain matters. Section 1.3. (i). states: A decision of the Cachuma Operation and Maintenance Board authorizing a capital expenditure in excess of one million dollars or incurring an indebtedness or obligation in excess of one million dollars shall not be effective unless it has been ratified by a resolution approved by all of the parties.”

COMB staff, with the assistance of external consultants, will conduct a reliability study of its critical infrastructure on a periodic basis, to evaluate its current condition, remaining useful life, and future replacement costs. The Bureau of Reclamation technical engineering team also conducts periodic and comprehensive facility reviews every 3 and 6 years, respectively, to assess and document recommendations on the system operating facilities.

**Reserve Policy**

A reserve account provides resources to ensure sufficient funding is available to meet operating, capital and debt service obligations, comply with legally mandated requirements, and have the ability to respond to unforeseen events or emergencies.



**FINANCIAL, ADMINISTRATIVE AND OPERATING POLICIES (CONTINUED)****Reserve Policy (Continued)**

COMB has traditionally operated without a formalized reserve fund and has utilized COMB quarterly assessments for operational expenditures. In addition, special assessments have been authorized by the Board during extraordinary or unforeseen events.

**Debt Policy**

COMB is authorized pursuant to Section 6588(C) of the Government Code of the State of California and the COMB 1996 Amended and Restated JPA agreement to issue bonds, notes, letters of credit, or other forms of indebtedness. COMB does not use long-term debt to pay for on-going operations. The use of bonds or other forms of indebtedness is only considered for significant capital and infrastructure improvements.

There is no specific provision within the California Government Code that limits the amount of debt that may be issued by COMB as a Joint Powers Authority. However, indebtedness or obligation in excess of one million dollars shall not be effective unless it has been ratified by a resolution approved by unanimous consent of the COMB Board pursuant to Section 1.3. (h). of Article I of the COMB JPA.

New debt issues, and refinancing of existing debt, must be analyzed for compatibility within COMB's overall financial planning. The review includes, but is not limited to, cash flow analysis and the maintenance of COMB's bond rating. Annual debt service shall not produce an adverse impact upon future operations.

**Annual Audit**

An annual audit is performed by an independent public accounting firm with an audit opinion to be included with COMB's published Comprehensive Annual Financial Report. The external auditor presents the COMB Board, on an annual basis, with audited financial statements in accordance with Government Auditing Standards issued by the Comptroller General of the United States and the State Controller's Minimum Audit Requirements for California Special Districts. The external auditor expresses an opinion about whether the financial statements fairly represent the financial position of COMB. The external auditor also evaluates the adequacy of COMB's internal control system, the electronic data processing and, where weaknesses are noted, makes appropriate recommendations for improvements.

The external auditor will further submit a written management letter, which communicates suggested improvements in the District's financial operations, and any deficiencies in internal controls that need to be addressed by COMB.

## **BASIS OF ACCOUNTING**

COMB operates as a proprietary fund-type. All proprietary fund-types use a flow of economic resources measurement focus. Under this measurement focus, all assets and liabilities associated with the operation of these funds are included on the Statement of Net Position. Total net position (i.e., fund equity) is segregated into amounts invested in capital and unrestricted net position. Proprietary fund-type operating statements present increases (revenues) and decreases (expenses) in total net position.

All proprietary fund-types utilize the accrual basis of accounting. Under this method, revenues are recognized when earned, regardless of when received, and expenses are recognized at the time the related liabilities are incurred, regardless of when paid.

COMB's accounting policies and procedures are consistent with:

- Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP)
- Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB)
- Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circular A-133 "Audits of States, Local Governments, and Non-Profit Organizations" related to federal assistance and federal grant programs.

## **FUND STRUCTURE**

To provide for accountability of public monies in accordance with applicable federal and state law and regulations, various Cachuma Project and JPA agreements and Board policies, the following funds have been established in the Treasury of COMB. COMB operates under one fund for financial statement and budgetary purposes. Because COMB is a pass-through agency, all revenues are equal to the expenditures included in the budget. As such, the overall fund balance is expected to be zero. Unexpended funds are identified through the audit process and returned to the Member Agencies on an annual basis.

### **General Fund**

Receipts from COMB O&M assessments, Cachuma Project pass-through revenues, federal and state grant reimbursements, the Cachuma Project Betterment Fund, and miscellaneous income are deposited into the General Fund. Payments from the General Fund are made in accordance with COMB Fiscal Policy (adopted November 26, 2018) and COMB Procurement Policy (adopted August 27, 2017) and include the following items:

- Infrastructure and Habitat Improvement Projects
- Operation and Maintenance Costs
- Administrative Costs
- Loans and Obligations
- Cachuma Project Pass-through Charges
- Transfers to the Revolving Fund

**FUND STRUCTURE (CONTINUED)****Revolving Fund**

The Revolving Fund is used to pay employee compensation and payroll related federal, state, and local taxes. The fund is replenished through transfers from the General Fund.

**Investment Fund**

The COMB Board of Directors established a General Fund from which monies may be expended for specific and general operating purposes. From time to time, COMB has on hand in the General Fund monies, which are surplus to COMB's immediate operating needs. The COMB Board determined it to be in the public interest to invest such surplus funds in a manner which ensures a maximum return consistent with safety on such investments while maintaining the integrity of such surplus funds.

Cash and investment programs are maintained in accordance with California Government Code Section 53600 et seq. to ensure that proper controls and safeguards are maintained. Pursuant to State law, the COMB Board adopts a detailed investment policy through a Board resolution on an annual basis. Reports on COMB's investment portfolio and cash position are presented to the COMB Board monthly at a regularly scheduled public meeting, in conformity with Section 53646(a) of the California Government Code.

**Warren Act Trust Fund**

The Warren Act Trust Fund is a requirement of the Cachuma Project Warren Act Contract that the Central Coast Water Authority (CCWA) negotiated with the US Bureau of Reclamation for delivery and transport of State Water Project (SWP) water through the Cachuma Project facilities. A 1995 memorandum of understanding executed between CCWA, Reclamation and the Cachuma Project Authority (CPA) in conjunction with the Warren Act Contract established a charge of \$43 per acre-foot (AF) (\$58 initially with a \$15 service charge by Reclamation), which is not indexed. Payments are required upon delivery of SWP water to Cachuma Reservoir. CCWA makes quarterly payments to COMB (successor agency to CPA) on the prior quarter's water deliveries to the lake. Article 3.a. of the MOU provides that funds be deposited into the Warren Act Trust Fund.

Expenditures of the Warren Act Trust Fund revenues, as further detailed in the MOU, are considered restricted and are limited to:

- Environmental Restoration
- Wastewater Reclamation
- Water Conservation
- Innovative Water Management Techniques
- Cachuma Project Betterment

The current Warren Act contract expires in June 2022. Renewal discussions are currently underway between CCWA and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. Both parties anticipate that a long-term contract will be issued prior to the expiration date.

**FUND STRUCTURE (CONTINUED)****Renewal Fund**

The Renewal Fund is a requirement of the 1995 Renewal Master Contract (executed in 1996 between Reclamation and the Santa Barbara County Water Agency) entered into for water conveyance from the Cachuma Project to the five Cachuma Project Member Units.

The Renewal Master Contract requires the payment of \$10 per AF of water made available by the Cachuma Project during the water year, which runs from October 1 to September 30. The Renewal Fund itself is capped at \$257,100, which is related to the current annual operational yield of 25,714 AF.

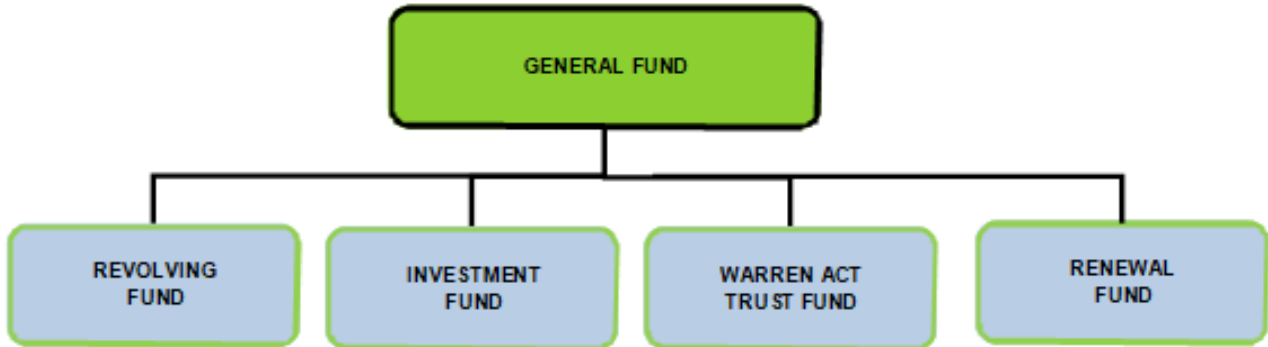
Article 27(a) of the Cachuma Project Renewal Master Contract (MCA 27) established the Renewal Fund into which monies are deposited and from which monies are expended. As provided in this Article, the purpose of Renewal Fund is to finance the following activities:

- Mitigation activities associated with the selected alternative identified in the final Cachuma Project Renewal EIS/EIR.
- Activities that may be required of the Contracting Officer by SWRCB orders affecting the Project Water Rights.
- Studies described in sub-article 7 (b) which are specific to conducting and preparing studies and reports that are required to be submitted by Reclamation to the SWRCB pursuant to Board WR94-5 paragraph 3, including fisheries studies and other related studies under the continuing jurisdiction of the SWRCB.
- Studies relating to modifications in the Cachuma Project operations pursuant to sub-article 9 (g), including to protect the environment and groundwater quality downstream of Bradbury Dam, conserve Project Water, and promote efficient water management.
- Restoration of riparian or other habitat of the Santa Ynez River and its watershed, which has been adversely affected by the Project.
- Activities of Reclamation pursuant to sub-article 27 (i) that are required by law to be the Contractor, those shall be included in the Long-Term Plan and Annual Work Plan and reimbursed by the Renewal Fund.

The 1995 Renewal Master Contract was to expire September 30, 2020. The Santa Barbara County Water Agency (SBCWA) initiated a contract renewal process with Reclamation during fiscal year 2019-20. On September 22, 2020, Reclamation and SBCWA executed a three-year amendatory contract to allow for the development and completion of a long-term agreement.

**FUND STRUCTURE (CONTINUED)**

**Figure 5.1 - COMB Fund Structure**



COMB operates under one fund for financial statement and budgetary purposes. Because COMB is a pass-through agency, all revenues are equal to the expenditures included in the budget. As such, the overall fund balance is expected to be zero. Unexpended funds are identified through the audit process and returned to the Member Agencies on an annual basis.

A summary of funds by fund type can be found on the following page.

**FUND STRUCTURE (CONTINUED)**

**Table 5.1 Summary of Funds by Fund Type – FY 2024-25 (1)**

Category	General Fund	Warren Act Trust Fund	Renewal Fund	Total
<b>Revenues:</b>				
COMB Net Operating Budget	\$ 6,304,336	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 6,304,336
USBR Water Rates/Deficits	2,200,000	-	-	2,200,000
Grant Funding	800,000	-	-	800,000
CVWD Cooperative Agreement Funding	-	-	-	-
Warren Act Trust Fund	-	17,286	-	17,286
Bradbury SOD Act	261,647	-	-	261,647
Cachuma Project Betterment Fund	100,000	-	-	100,000
SWRCB Water Rights Fee	79,620	-	-	79,620
Lauro SOD Act	47,404	-	-	47,404
Renewal Fund	-	-	342,286	342,286
DDW D3 Permit Fee	20,000	-	-	20,000
<b>Total Managed Revenues:</b>	<b>\$ 9,813,007</b>	<b>\$ 17,286</b>	<b>\$ 342,286</b>	<b>\$ 10,172,579</b>
<b>Expenditures:</b>				
<b>Contracts/Agreements</b>				
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation	\$ 2,200,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,200,000
Bradbury SOD Act Repayment	261,647	-	-	261,647
Lauro SOD Act Repayment	47,404	-	-	47,404
Water Rights Fee	79,620	-	-	79,620
<b>Subtotal:</b>	<b>\$ 2,588,671</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 2,588,671</b>
<b>Personnel</b>				
Operations Division	\$ 1,296,612	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,296,612
Fisheries Division	826,358	2,286	42,286	870,930
Administrative Division	1,041,658	-	-	1,041,658
<b>Subtotal:</b>	<b>\$ 3,164,629</b>	<b>\$ 2,286</b>	<b>\$ 42,286</b>	<b>\$ 3,209,201</b>
<b>Operation and Maintenance</b>				
Operations Division	\$ 638,500	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 638,500
Fisheries Division	87,500	-	-	87,500
<b>Subtotal:</b>	<b>\$ 726,000</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 726,000</b>
<b>General and Administrative</b>				
Operations Division	\$ 286,027	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 286,027
Fisheries Division	140,681	-	-	140,681
<b>Subtotal:</b>	<b>\$ 426,707</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 426,707</b>
<b>Infrastructure and Improvement Projects</b>				
Infrastructure Improvement Projects	\$ 2,400,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,400,000
Special Projects	335,000	-	-	335,000
Habitat Improvement Projects	10,000	15,000	300,000	325,000
Program Support Services	162,000	-	-	162,000
<b>Subtotal:</b>	<b>\$ 2,907,000</b>	<b>\$ 15,000</b>	<b>\$ 300,000</b>	<b>\$ 3,222,000</b>
<b>Total Expenditures before Debt:</b>	<b>\$ 9,813,007</b>	<b>\$ 17,286</b>	<b>\$ 342,286</b>	<b>\$ 10,172,579</b>

(1) COMB operates under one fund for financial statement and budgetary purposes. Because COMB is a pass-through agency, all revenues are equal to the expenditures included in the budget. As such, the overall Fund Balance excluding the Warren Act Trust Fund and Renewal Fund is expected to be zero. Unexpended funds are identified through the audit process and returned to the Member Agencies on an annual basis.

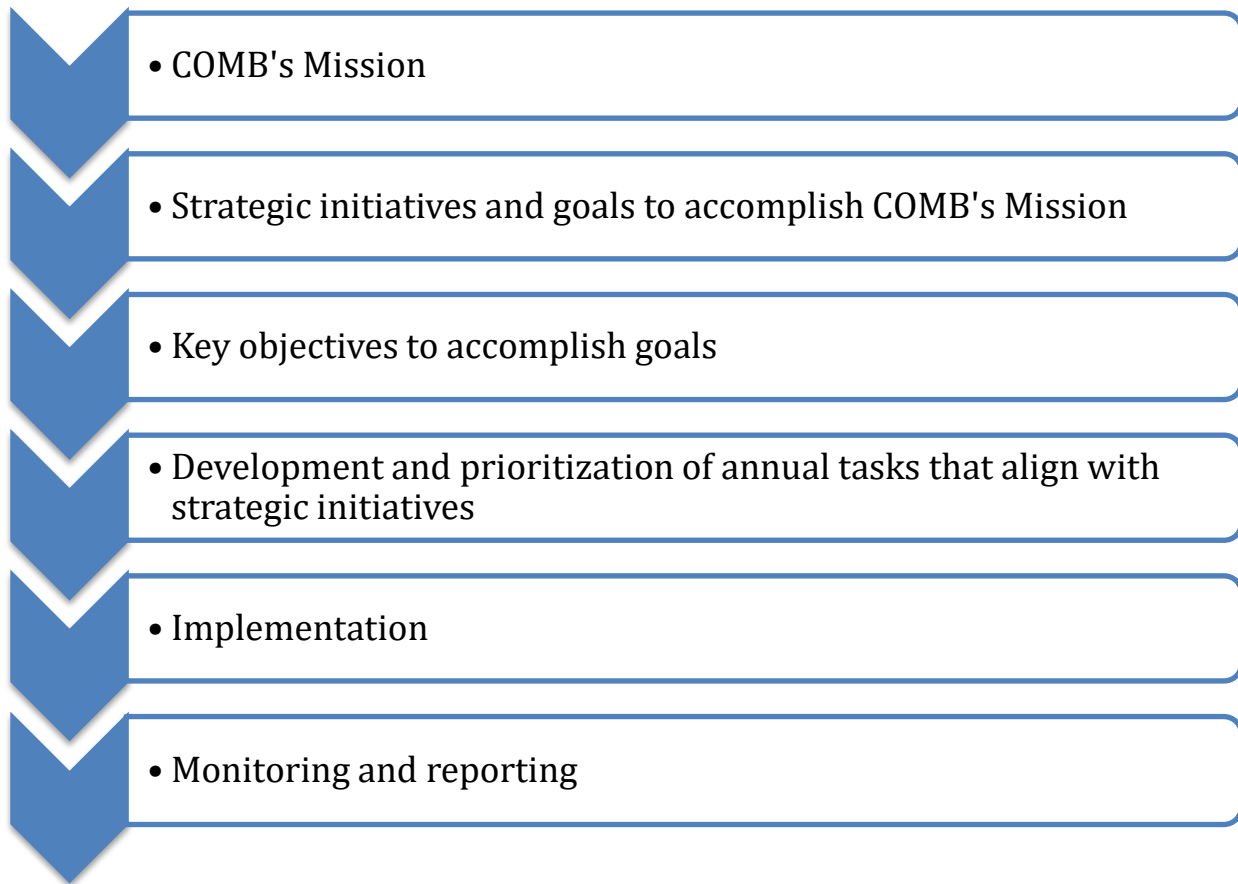
## **LONG TERM PLANNING**

**STRATEGIC PLANNING**

**The Planning Process**

Strategic planning is a comprehensive and systematic management tool designed to help organizations assess the current environment, anticipate and respond appropriately to changes in the environment, envision the future, increase effectiveness, develop commitment to the organizations’ mission and achieve consensus on strategies and objectives for achieving that mission. The planning process warrants considerable time and includes thoughtful consideration on components such as identifying critical issues and establishing strategic initiatives, developing broad goals to achieve those initiatives, creating measurable objectives, and ultimately implementing the plan.

At the end of 2019, COMB staff developed six internal strategic initiatives as part of the annual budget and long term financial planning process. Staff took into consideration the following elements in its planning efforts:





**STRATEGIC PLANNING (CONTINUED)**

**Our Policy Statement and Mission**

COMB is committed to providing its core services while maintaining a balanced approach to human and environmental needs. Our actions are guided by the COMB mission:

---

***“To provide a reliable source of water to our Member Agencies  
in an efficient and cost effective manner  
for the betterment of our community.”***

---

**Strategic Initiatives**

As COMB moves into the next fiscal year, staff is committed to upholding the core values that have shaped its standard of excellence. These six initiatives seek to coordinate with existing COMB plans, policies, programs and action in order to carry out our mission.



- Initiative 1 - Water Supply Reliability
- Initiative 2 - Distribution Facilities Improvement
- Initiative 3 - Environmental Stewardship and Public Trust Resources
- Initiative 4 - Cost Effectiveness and Value
- Initiative 5 - Organizational Policies and Financial Responsibilities
- Initiative 6 - Foster Leadership and Workforce Capabilities

**STRATEGIC PLANNING (CONTINUED)**

**Initiative 1 Water Supply Reliability**

**Goal:** Sustain a safe, reliable water supply for our Member Agencies by:

**Objectives:**

- Protecting and maintaining the water conveyance system.
- Analyzing watershed conditions - watershed stewardship.
- Implementing drought response and resiliency measures.
- Storing and conveying state water imports.
- Monitoring / defending against natural and human-made disasters.

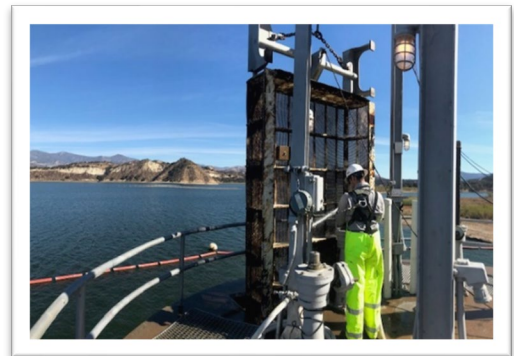


**Initiative 2 Distribution Facilities Improvements**

**Goal:** Identify, prioritize and implement projects necessary to protect, improve, and sustain the Cachuma Project conveyance system and appurtenant structures by:

**Objectives:**

- Continuing infrastructure improvement planning.
- Developing and updating asset management plan.
- Updating the risk and resiliency plan.
- Improving facilities security and emergency preparedness plans.
- Continuing technology improvements toward operation and maintenance activities.



**STRATEGIC PLANNING (CONTINUED)**

**Initiative 3 Environmental Stewardship and Public Trust Resources**

**Goal:** Continue to monitor and mitigate for changing climate conditions, develop and implement strategies to increase sustainability of the steelhead trout population and improve fish passages along the Santa Ynez River by:

**Objectives:**

- Implementing the provisions of the 2000 BiOp and Water Rights (WR) Order 2019-0148.
- Protecting and enhancing steelhead habitats in accordance with the FMP.
- Adhering to environmental regulatory requirements.
- Improving watershed protection.
- Working to mitigate climate crisis effects of COMB operations.

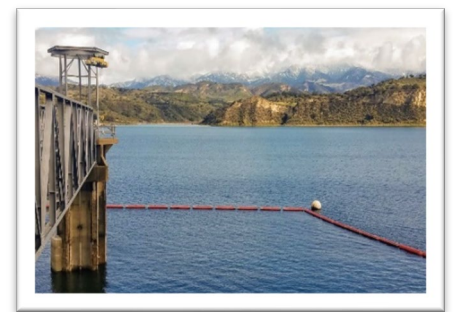


**Initiative 4 Cost-Effectiveness and Value**

**Goal:** Maintain and improve the cost effectiveness and value of COMB services to our Member Agencies by:

**Objectives:**

- Managing and maintaining infrastructure efficiently.
- Continuing to review and prioritize IIP.
- Investing in system improvements and sustainably efficient equipment for better, more economical results and climate change resiliency.
- Enhancing asset management program.
- Leveraging technology to improve system.



**STRATEGIC PLANNING (CONTINUED)**

**Initiative 5      Organizational Policies and Financial Responsibility**

**Goal:** Operate within approved policies in a productive, transparent and efficient manner to ensure sound financial stability by:

**Objectives:**

- Advancing the development of policies and procedures in an ever changing legal and regulatory environment.
- Enhancing the annual financial audit practices and budget document formulation.
- Developing short and long term financial plans.
- Adhering to risk transfer practices.
- Leveraging advances in technology.



**Initiative 6      Foster Leadership and Strengthen Workforce Capabilities**

**Goal:** Continue to promote a safe and positive work environment and provide equal opportunities for employees to use their diverse talents to grow professionally and prepare for challenges of the future by:

**Objectives:**

- Promoting a safe and socially equitable working environment.
- Providing training and continuing education.
- Advancing licensing and certification for staff members.
- Investing in professional growth opportunities.
- Reinforcing employee retention through workplace / leadership practices.



**FY 2024-25 GOALS AND PRIORITIES**

In January of each year, COMB Division Managers prepare a list of priorities by division and general area of responsibility. The list is reviewed by the General Manager and refined as appropriate. The goals are then presented to the Board of Directors at regularly scheduled public meeting. Outlined below are highlights of priorities, sorted by strategic initiative, to be initiated during fiscal year 2024-25.

**Strategic Initiative 1 – Water Supply Reliability**

**Goal:** Sustain a safe, reliable water supply for our Member Agencies.

- Update COMB’s Risk and Resilience Assessment and perform studies and modifications on key infrastructure to improve resiliency and safety.
- Implement Phase 2 actions for the Lake Cachuma Water Quality and Sediment Management Study related to additional sampling and water quality model development.
- Complete repairs and debris removal related to the 2024 storms.
- Operate Lake Cachuma Evaporation and Water Quality Buoy.
- Continue enhancement of Lake Projection model.

**Strategic Initiative 2 – Distribution Facilities Improvements**

**Goal:** Identify, prioritize and implement projects necessary to protect, improve, and sustain the Cachuma Project conveyance system and appurtenant structures.

- Continue with structure maintenance and rehabilitation of the South Coast Conduit and appurtenant structures.
- Make improvements to the South Coast Conduit in collaboration with Carpinteria Valley Water District to allow for improved future maintenance of the South Coast Conduit in that area.
- Make necessary improvements to complete Reclamation recommendations from 2022 Comprehensive Facility Review and past reviews.
- Continue to improve system records for maintenance and right-of-way program.
- Perform a comprehensive update of the GIS information in COMB’s Field Mapplet system with updated aerial photo imagery and GIS information. Locate and digitize lateral piping off of the South Coast Conduit.
- Continue to organize and digitize historical records with focus on historical photos of the construction of the South Coast Conduit and obtain available drawings from Reclamation.

**FY 2024-25 GOALS AND PRIORITIES (CONTINUED)****Strategic Initiative 3 – Environmental Stewardship and Public Trust Resources**

**Goal:** Continue to monitor and mitigate for changing climate conditions, develop and implement strategies to increase sustainability of the steelhead trout population and improve fish passages along the Lower Santa Ynez River (LYSR).

- Implement fish passage and habitat enhancement projects within the LSYR basin as funds and permits become available, specifically in the Quiota Creek and El Jaro Creek drainages.
- Implement the Gravel Augmentation Program in Hilton Creek and the LYSR mainstem on Reclamation property during this year and the following.
- Continue implementation of the monitoring and survey program per the 2000 Biological Opinion.
- Continue collaboration with Reclamation on any monitoring or reporting tasks that they request regarding compliance with any of the State Water Orders (specifically WR 89-18 and WR 2019-0148).
- Continue annual development and implementation of a Migrant Trapping Plan in collaboration with Reclamation.
- Maintain the LSYR *O. mykiss* scale inventory and conduct analyses on data.
- Continue working with the US Geological Survey on stream gauge program.
- Continue education and collaboration with other *O. mykiss* monitoring programs within the Southern California Steelhead DPS to improve collective knowledge.

**Strategic Initiative 4 – Cost-Effectiveness and Value**

**Goal:** Maintain and improve the cost effectiveness and value of COMB services to our Member Agencies

- Identify and prioritize infrastructure improvement projects through the COMB Five-Year Infrastructure Improvement Plan (IIP).
- Perform COMB Operations Annual Work Plan activities.
- Continue to seek grant funding for upcoming projects, especially for projects listed within the Infrastructure Improvement Plan and Habitat Improvement Plan.
- Investigate and implement new technologies to advance operational efficiencies and reduce impacts of climate change.
- Explore alternative sources of renewable energy.

**FY 2024-25 GOALS AND PRIORITIES (CONTINUED)****Strategic Initiative 5 – Organizational Policies and Financial Responsibility**

**Goal:** Operate within approved policies in a productive, transparent and efficient manner to ensure sound financial stability.

- Continue discussion with Reclamation to execute a long-term Cachuma Transferred Project Works Contract.
- Enhance financial audit/budget documents.
- Operate within approved financial resources.
- Participate in the ACWA JPIA Commitment to Excellence Program.
- Advancement of IT network and infrastructure and security protocols.
- Advancement of Board Policies and Internal Procedures.

**Strategic Initiative 6 – Foster Leadership and Strengthen Workforce Capabilities**

**Goal:** Continue to promote a safe and positive work environment and provide equal opportunities for employees to use their diverse talents to grow professionally and prepare for challenges of the future.

- Continue to encourage staff development and certification as water system distribution operators, qualified applicators, and appropriate safety training.
- Develop Employee Retention plan to promote longevity.
- Participate in the ACWA JPIA Vector Solutions Online Training Program.
- Develop an Employee Health and Wellness plan.

**PERFORMANCE MEASURES**

In support of our mission to provide a reliable source of water to our Member Agencies in an efficient and cost-effective manner, COMB has identified the following key performance measures to demonstrate our efforts in achieving our objective.

**Water Conveyed by Year, by Source of Water Via South Coast Conduit (Acre Feet)**

	Actual 2019	Actual 2020	Actual 2021	Actual 2022	Actual 2023	Plan <sup>(*)</sup> 2023	Plan <sup>(*)</sup> 2024
Cachuma Project Deliveries	12,423	17,917	22,657	14,693	18,890	23,767	22,876 (a)
State Water Project (SWP) Deliveries <sup>(2)</sup>	2,476	705	2,457	5,537	410	750	1,250 (b)
So. Coast Storage (Gain/Loss)	(122)	177	(26)	(56)	(63)	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,777</b>	<b>18,799</b>	<b>25,088</b>	<b>20,175</b>	<b>19,237</b>	<b>24,517</b>	<b>24,126</b>

*(\*) Based on Member's projected imports/exports at the start of the year.*

**Water Conveyed by Year, by COMB Member Agency Via South Coast Conduit (Acre Feet)**

	Actual 2019	Actual 2020	Actual 2021	Actual 2022	Actual 2023	Plan <sup>(**)</sup> 2023	Plan <sup>(**)</sup> 2024
Goleta Water District	7,801	9,995	10,226	9,302	10,571	9,761	11,197
City of Santa Barbara	1,753	2,149	8,059	5,854	4,723	7,918	8,198
Carpinteria Valley Water District	3,177	3,311	3,013	2,414	2,691	3,618	2,950
Montecito Water District	1,902	2,493	3,417	2,003	887	2,470	1,031
Other <sup>(*)</sup>	266	674	398	656	428	750	750
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,899</b>	<b>18,622</b>	<b>25,114</b>	<b>20,230</b>	<b>19,300</b>	<b>24,517</b>	<b>24,126 (a+b)</b>

*(\*) Includes Includes SWP participants: La Cumbre Mutal Water District, Raytheon, and Morehart Land Company*

*(\*\*) Based on Member's projected imports/exports at the start of the year.*

**Apparent Water Loss (Target = +/- 6%)**

	Actual 2019	Actual 2020	Actual 2021	Actual 2022	Actual 2023	Plan <sup>(**)</sup> 2023	Plan <sup>(**)</sup> 2024
Water Production <sup>(*)</sup>	14,761	18,721	24,854	20,330	19,139	24,517	24,126
Water Deliveries	14,777	18,799	25,088	20,175	19,237	24,517	24,126
Difference = Apparent Water Loss (AWL)	(16)	(78)	(234)	156	(99)	-	-
AWL %	-0.11%	-0.42%	-0.94%	0.77%	-0.52%	+/- 6%	+/- 6%

*(\*) Cachuma Lake Diversion + Tecolote Tunnel Intrusion + County Park Usage*

*(\*\*) Per Cachuma Project Master Contract - All Project Water delivered for munical and industrial purposes is measured by meters with an accuracy of +/- 6 percent*

**Planned Maintenance Hours to Distribution v**

	Actual 2019	Actual 2020	Actual 2021	Actual 2022	Actual 2023	Plan 2023	Plan 2024
Maintenance Hours	4,773	5,317	4,916	5,233	4,484	4,967	4,967
Maintenance Hours/Mile of Pipeline	168	187	173	174	149	165	165

**Underground Service Alert in the COMB Right of Way (ROW)**

	Actual 2019	Actual 2020	Actual 2021	Actual 2022	Actual 2023	Plan 2023	Plan 2024
# of Dig Alerts Received and Reviewed by COMB Staff	1,168	1,091	1,006	970	1,150	1,000	1,000

**Safety and Training Hours**

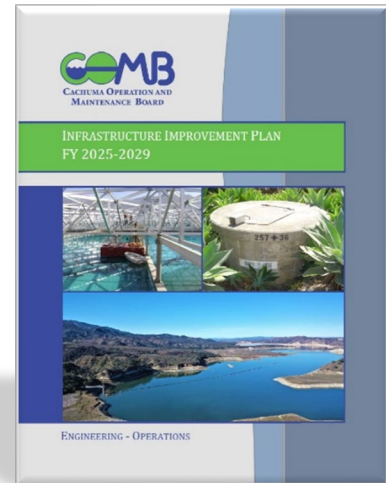
	Actual 2019	Actual 2020	Actual 2021	Actual 2022 <sup>(1)</sup>	Actual 2023	Plan 2023	Plan 2024
Total Safety and Training Hours	343	142	189	644	263	180	180

*(1) 2022 Safety and Training Hours were high due to staff education requirements related to Distribution Operator testing and license/certification.*



**LONG TERM CAPITAL AND FINANCIAL PLANNING**

COMB operates under an annual operating budget, which is adopted by the Board of Directors in accordance with established short and long-term financial plans. Through the Transferred Project Works contact (O&M Contract), COMB is responsible for operating and maintaining the facilities of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. COMB does not have title to the assets of the Cachuma Project. Capital improvements are recorded as expenditures in the COMB Operating Budget and funded on a current basis from the COMB Member Agencies.



The FY 2024-25 Budget includes \$2,735,000 for capital (infrastructure) improvement and non-capital (special) projects as compared to the FY 2023-24 Budget of \$2,670,000. See [pages 64-75](#) for information on current year projects.

COMB has developed a comprehensive five-year Infrastructure Improvement Plan (IIP) that is used as an internal guideline for forecasting, budgeting, and long-term financial planning. The IIP formalizes the strategy for implementation of capital projects and programs needed to carry out the goals and policy objectives of the Board. The IIP is organized and structured to identify and prioritize rehabilitation projects necessary to protect, improve, and sustain a reliable source of water conveyed from the Cachuma Project to the South Coast communities of Santa Barbara County.

The IIP identifies the improvements needed in the Cachuma Project System and sets forth review criteria to enable the prioritization of projects for scheduling improvements during the five-year period. The IIP is intended to serve many purposes including:

- **Long Range Planning Document**

As a long-range planning document, the IIP describes the key infrastructure improvements needed for a five-year horizon and identifies additional projects that should be evaluated on a regular basis for potential future inclusion. The goal of the five-year plan is to identify the critical needs projects for near-term implementation.

- **Cachuma Project Cost Analysis**

The IIP provides an outline of costs associated with rehabilitation of the Cachuma Project that serves to provide guidance for long-term rate analysis efforts performed by our Member Agencies.

**LONG TERM CAPITAL AND FINANCIAL PLANNING (CONTINUED)**

- **Budget Development**

The annual COMB Operating Budget outlines discrete projects and affiliated costs to communicate needed investment for the forthcoming fiscal cycle. The IIP provides detailed guidance on priority projects to be included in the annual operating budget.

- **Communication to Stakeholders**

The IIP communicates to COMB's stakeholders the array of infrastructure improvements necessary to maintain a reliable supply of water. Communicating the condition of assets and the challenges associated with competing financial resources provides a basis for our Member Agencies to consider COMB projects and their own priorities.

Prior to drafting the IIP, COMB conducted a critical needs assessment, which included an internal inventory of assets, a conditions assessment, an estimate of replacement costs, and a projection by which assets require immediate or near-term replacement for major infrastructure and appurtenances. This assessment was supplemented with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation site inspection recommendations (periodic and comprehensive reviews) of selected Cachuma Project facilities and components.

In developing the IIP, COMB staff, with input from the Member Agencies' technical staff, developed the following list of goals to serve as the guiding principles of the plan.

**IIP Established Goals**

- Carryout COMB's mission of providing a reliable source of water to our Member Agencies.
- Identify infrastructure vulnerabilities and operational deficiencies (Risk Management).
- Provide for a systematic selection of critical projects.
- Maintain current level of service while allocating infrastructure improvement costs over time.
- Identify funding requirements for long term capital planning.
- Serve as a basis for annual budget development.
- Create a framework for ensuring reliable and sustainable operations.
- Serve as a planning document for the Board of Directors.

**LONG TERM CAPITAL AND FINANCIAL PLANNING (CONTINUED)**

COMB staff incorporated elements of COMB internal analysis and Reclamation site inspections to produce a list of projects for further consideration. The projects included in the IIP represent the minimal level of investment necessary to continue to meet regulatory requirements, critical needs, and sustain vital infrastructure.

**IIP Project Ranking**

To evaluate projects systematically, COMB created project priorities, as shown on the following page, and ranked the projects in order of criticality. The purpose of utilizing this methodology was to accurately separate the projects into categories from high to low priority. The ranking informs the Board of Directors when reviewing, approving, and budgeting for implementation of important infrastructure improvement projects.

COMB staff prioritized a comprehensive list of proposed projects using the following six priority categories:

**Priority 1 Regulatory or Legal Requirement**

---

Projects that are subject to the requirements of federal, state, or local regulatory agencies, with noncompliance resulting in fines or other adverse actions.

**Priority 2 Required to Maintain Current Level of Service**

---

Projects that maintain the current level of service to COMB’s Member Agencies. These projects reduce potential disruptions, water loss, property damage that could occur without replacement. In general, these projects include the replacement or rehabilitation of valves and infrastructure that are inoperable, or whose failure would result in an unplanned shutdown of deliveries or disruption in the transmission of critical operations data.

**Priority 3 Addressing Critical Deficiency**

---

A critical deficiency has the potential to jeopardize COMB’s ability to serve its Member Agencies in a significant manner. These deficiencies have been identified by Bureau of Reclamation, COMB staff, or outside experts. Projects under this category address known critical conditions that could result in major infrastructure failure, deteriorated water quality, limited water production, or unsafe working conditions.

**Priority 4 Evaluates Critical / Significant Deficiency**

---

Potential critical / significant deficiencies have been identified which require further engineering investigation and design. These projects would evaluate the criticality of the deficiency and potential solutions to mitigate the deficiency.

**LONG TERM CAPITAL AND FINANCIAL PLANNING (CONTINUED)****Priority 5****Proactive Aging / Deficient Infrastructure Replacement**

These projects provide funding for the proactive replacement, upgrade, or improvement of a facility that is near or at the end of its useful service life. Although an asset may be at its assumed end of useful life, it may remain functional for many years; therefore, the replacement is considered proactive until the asset becomes inoperable.

**Priority 6****System Reliability and Resilience Improvements**

These projects consist of system improvements, which improve system reliability or provide backup systems to maintain service levels during and after emergency events (i.e. wildfires, earthquakes, floods).

**Updates to IIP**

The IIP is updated on an annual basis and submitted to the Operations Committee for review and comment. Following Committee review and recommendations, the IIP and its annual amendments are presented to the Board of Directors for final approval. The COMB IIP, including five year cost projections, can be found on the COMB website at [www.cachuma-board.org/infrastructure-improvement-program](http://www.cachuma-board.org/infrastructure-improvement-program).

**Five Year Financial Plan**

The Five Year Financial Plan (Plan) is prepared to provide the Cachuma Project Member Units (Member Units) pro forma projections of the COMB's operating expenditures and pass-through charges. The Plan is prepared only as an informational tool and is not formally adopted by the COMB Board of Directors. This information is used by the Member Units for their budget and long-term planning purposes. Additionally, these projections are used by the Member Units to assist in establishing water rates for their local agencies and ensuring their water system revenues are sufficient to meet their operating expenses and debt coverage covenants.

COMB's operating expenditures and general and administrative expenses are projected with a 3% inflation factor. Infrastructure improvement projects are based on the approved COMB IIP for FY 2025-2029. Historically, IIP projects have averaged \$1.7M per year. Board policy requires that all projects be approved thru Committee and by the Board prior to commencement. The Plan also includes "pass-through" charges from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and the State Water Resources Control Board. While these expenditures are not considered expenses for COMB, the charges are collected by COMB and paid to the respective agencies; therefore, they are included in the projection. Costs are allocated based on contractual agreements or approved methodologies and vary by contract.

**LONG TERM CAPITAL AND FINANCIAL PLANNING (CONTINUED)**

**Table 5.2 – Five Year Financial Plan <sup>(1)</sup>**

	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	Note
COMB Gross Operating Budget	\$ 7,583,907	\$ 7,389,425	\$ 7,224,608	\$ 7,414,596	\$ 6,934,534	(2), (3)
USBR O&M Costs	2,200,000	2,266,000	2,333,980	2,403,999	2,476,119	(4)
Bradbury SOD Act	261,647	261,647	261,647	261,647	261,647	(5)
Cachuma Project Renewal Fund	242,286	200,000	200,000	175,000	175,000	(6)
Lauro SOD Act	47,404	47,404	47,404	47,404	47,404	(5)
SWRCB Water Rights Fee	79,260	81,638	84,087	86,610	89,208	(7)
DDW D3 Permit Fee	20,000	20,600	21,218	21,855	22,510	(8)
Non-Member Agency Obligation	60,000	60,000	60,000	60,000	60,000	(9)
<b>Total Gross Obligation</b>	<b>10,494,504</b>	<b>10,326,714</b>	<b>10,232,944</b>	<b>10,471,110</b>	<b>10,066,422</b>	
<b>Less Offsetting Revenues:</b>						
- Grant Funding	\$ (800,000)	\$ (300,000)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
- Other Funding	-	-	-	-	-	
- Warren Act Trust Fund/Renewal Fund	(359,572)	(360,000)	(360,000)	(360,000)	(360,000)	
- County Betterment Fund	(100,000)	(100,000)	(100,000)	(100,000)	(100,000)	
- Non-Member Agency Constructive Re	(60,000)	(60,000)	(60,000)	(60,000)	(60,000)	
<b>Total Offsetting Revenues</b>	<b>(1,319,572)</b>	<b>(820,000)</b>	<b>(520,000)</b>	<b>(520,000)</b>	<b>(520,000)</b>	
<b>Total Net Obligation</b>	<b>\$ 9,174,933</b>	<b>\$ 9,506,714</b>	<b>\$ 9,712,944</b>	<b>\$ 9,951,110</b>	<b>\$ 9,546,422</b>	
<b>Projected Obligation by Member Unit:</b>						
Goleta Water District	\$ 3,560,149	\$ 3,701,023	\$ 3,781,190	\$ 3,874,170	\$ 3,707,229	
City of Santa Barbara	\$ 3,173,459	\$ 3,298,917	\$ 3,370,478	\$ 3,453,427	\$ 3,305,578	
Carpinteria Valley Water District	\$ 1,078,523	\$ 1,121,160	\$ 1,145,481	\$ 1,173,672	\$ 1,123,424	
Montecito Water District	\$ 1,016,414	\$ 1,056,596	\$ 1,079,516	\$ 1,106,084	\$ 1,058,730	
Santa Ynez Water Conservation District ID No 1	\$ 346,388	\$ 329,017	\$ 336,279	\$ 343,758	\$ 351,461	
<b>Total Net Obligation by Member Unit</b>	<b>\$ 9,174,933</b>	<b>\$ 9,506,714</b>	<b>\$ 9,712,944</b>	<b>\$ 9,951,110</b>	<b>\$ 9,546,422</b>	

**Notes:**

1. Projected amounts are for information only and have not been approved by the COMB Board of Directors and are subject to change.
2. COMB’s operating expenditures and general and administrative expenses are projected with a 3% inflation factor.
3. COMB’s infrastructure improvement projects are based upon the approved and amended COMB IIP for FY 2025-29. Historically, IIP projects have averaged \$1.5M per year. Board policy requires that all projects be approved through the Administrative Committee and by the Board prior to commencement.
4. USBR O&M costs are projected with a 3% inflation factor.
5. Pursuant to US Bureau of Reclamation Safety of Dams Act Repayment Agreement.
6. Amounts are variable in nature and are directly tied to the annual amount of State Water Project Water delivered into the lake.
7. State Water Resources Control Board pass-through cost projected with a 3% inflation factor.
8. Division of Drinking Water D3 Permit Fee (City of SB, MWD and CVWD, only)
9. Pursuant to the terms and conditions of the Separation Agreement, ID No. 1 was deemed no longer a Member Agency of COMB and had departed from the COMB JPA Agreement as of May 27, 2016. ID No. 1 continues to be a member of the Cachuma Project which carries certain benefits and obligations associated with the Project as outlined in various agreements. Payments received from the ID No. 1 will be returned to the COMB Member Agencies through a constructive return.

This page left blank intentionally

**DEBT SERVICE**

**DEBT SERVICE**

**SOD Act Assessments Receivable and Contract Payable**

**Bradbury Dam SOD**

On July 1, 2002, COMB executed a repayment contract with U.S. Bureau of Reclamation under the Department of Interior of the United States. Under the terms of the agreement and in accordance with the United States Safety of Dams Act, COMB will reimburse Reclamation for fifteen percent (15%) of the total amount of SOD Act funds expended by Reclamation to preserve the structural integrity of Bradbury Dam and related Cachuma Project facilities. COMB entered into a repayment contract with Reclamation when the project was deemed substantially complete. The repayment contract, as executed, calls for a repayment of 15% of a total cost of \$45,276,008 or approximately \$6,791,000 plus interest, as appropriate, over a 50-year period.

The repayment obligation has been allocated fifty-one and three-tenths percent (51.3%) to irrigation uses or \$3,483,989 and forty eight and seven tenths percent (48.7%) to municipal and industrial uses or \$3,307,412. The Irrigation allocation bears no interest and repayment commenced in fiscal year ending 2017. Interest during construction of \$325,477 was added to the M&I Allocation. During construction, COMB made advances of \$1,496,148 that were applied against the M&I Allocation amounts. Accounting for advances made by COMB during construction, the balance due under the M&I Allocation contract was \$2,136,741.

COMB’s payment obligation for FY 2024-25 is \$261,648 and assesses the Cachuma Project Member Units in accordance with each Member’s Cachuma Project entitlement percentages. The annual payment requirements to retire the contract through October 1, 2051, including interest payments at 5.856%, are presented in the following table. This table does not include future adjustments that may be made by Reclamation to the Bradbury Dam repayment contract due to additional incurred costs.

**Table 5.3 – Bradbury Dam SOD Obligation**

FYE	M&I Allocation		Irrigation Allocation	Total
	Principal	Interest		
2025	\$138,994	\$25,876	\$96,778	\$261,648
2026	147,133	17,737	96,778	261,648
2027	155,749	9,121	96,778	261,648
2028			96,778	96,778
2029			96,778	96,778
2030 - 2034			483,890	483,890
2035 - 2039			483,890	483,890
2040 - 2044			483,890	483,890
2045 - 2049			483,890	483,890
2050 - 2052			290,334	290,334
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 441,876</b>	<b>\$ 52,734</b>	<b>\$2,709,784</b>	<b>\$3,204,394</b>



**DEBT SERVICE (CONTINUED)**

**SOD Act Assessments Receivable and Contract Payable**

**Lauro Dam SOD**

On March 21, 2007, COMB executed a repayment contract with U.S. Bureau of Reclamation under the Department of Interior of the United States. Under the terms of the agreement and in accordance with the United States Safety of Dams Act, COMB will reimburse Reclamation for fifteen percent (15%) of the total amount of SOD Act funds expended by Reclamation to preserve the structural integrity of Lauro Dam and reservoir; total costs not to exceed \$17,314,125. The primary contract for construction of the modification project was awarded by Reclamation in September 2005 and the work was deemed substantially complete in February 2007.

The total cost of the Lauro Dam SOD Act project was to be re-evaluated and repayment agreement amended, as necessary. During 2017, Reclamation completed its final accounting for the project and issued a final repayment contract. The repayment obligation has been allocated fifty and seventy-two one-hundredths percent (50.72%) to irrigation uses or \$512,139, and forty-nine and twenty-eight hundredths percent (49.28%) to municipal and industrial uses or \$497,598. The Irrigation allocation bears no interest.

COMB’s payment obligation for FY 2024-25 is \$47,405 and assesses the COMB Member Agencies (only) in accordance with each Member Agencies’ pro-rata Cachuma Project entitlement percentages. The annual payment requirements to retire the contract through October 1, 2057, including interest payments at 4.556%, are presented in the following table. This table represents the final repayment contract amount issued during fiscal year 2017.

**Table 5.4 - Lauro Dam SOD Obligation**

FYE	M&I Allocation		Irrigation Allocation	Total
	Principal	Interest		
2025	\$23,558	11,620	\$12,227	\$47,405
2026	24,630	10,547	12,227	47,405
2027	25,753	9,425	12,227	47,405
2028	26,926	8,252	12,227	47,405
2029	28,153	7,025	12,227	47,404
2030 - 2034	126,035	14,675	61,136	201,846
2035 - 2039			61,136	61,136
2040 - 2044			61,136	61,136
2045 - 2049			61,136	61,136
2050 - 2054			61,136	61,136
2055 - 2058			48,909	48,909
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 255,054</b>	<b>\$ 61,543</b>	<b>\$ 415,725</b>	<b>\$ 732,322</b>

**DEBT SERVICE (CONTINUED)**

**Changes in Long Term Debt – FY 2025**

Projected changes in long-term debt for FY 2024-25 by obligation are reflected in the following table.

**Table 5.5 – Changes in Long Term Debt FY 2024-25**

<b>Obligation</b>	<b>Beginning Balance July 1, 2024</b>	<b>Additions</b>	<b>Principal Payments</b>	<b>Adjustments</b>	<b>Ending Balance June 30, 2025</b>
Bradbury SOD	\$3,151,641	\$ 0	\$235,772	\$0	\$2,915,869
Lauro SOD	670,779	0	23,558	0	647,221
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,822,420</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$259,330</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$3,825,931</b>

**LIST OF ACRONYMS**  
**AND ABBREVIATIONS**

**LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS**

ACWA	Association of California Water Agencies
AMC	Adaptive Management Committee
AWWA	American Water Works Association
AF	Acre Foot
AFY	Acre Feet per Year
AVAR/BO	Air Vacuum Air Release / Blow Off
BO or BiOp	Biological Opinion
CalPERS	California Public Employees' Retirement System
CC	Consensus Committee
CCFA	Central Coast Funding Area
CCRB	Cachuma Conservation Release Board
CCWA	Central Coast Water Authority
CDFW	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
City of SB	City of Santa Barbara
COMB	Cachuma Operation and Maintenance Board
COLA	Cost of Living Adjustment
CPI	Consumer Price Index
CSDA	California Special Districts Association
CVWD	Carpinteria Valley Water District
DWR	Department of Water Resources
EAP	Employee Assistance Program
EPF	Emergency Pumping Facility
EPFP	Emergency Pumping Facilities Project
EPMC	Employer Paid Member Contribution
ESRI	Environmental Systems Research Institute
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FY	Fiscal Year
FYE	Fiscal Year End

**LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS**

FMP	Fisheries Monitoring Program
FRGP	Fisheries Restoration Grant Program
G & A	General and Administrative
GFOA	Government Finance Officers Association
GIS	Geographic Information System
GPS	Global Positioning System
GWD	Goleta Water District
HIP	Habitat Improvement Plan
IIP	Infrastructure Improvement Plan
IRWM	Integrated Regional Water Management
IRWMP	Integrated Regional Water Management Program
JPA	Joint Powers Authority
JPIA	Joint Power Insurance Authority
MWD	Montecito Water District
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NGO	Non-Governmental Organizations
NMFS	National Marine Fisheries Service
O&M	Operations and Maintenance
PEPRA	Public Employees' Pension Reform Act
ROW	Right of Way
SB	Santa Barbara
SCADA	Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition
SCC	South Coast Conduit
SOD	Safety of Dams
SWP	State Water Project
SWRCB	State Water Resources Control Board
SYR	Santa Ynez River
SYRCWD	Santa Ynez River Conservation Water District

This page left blank intentionally

**GLOSSARY OF TERMS**

## GLOSSARY OF TERMS

### A

**Account** - A record used to sort, store and summarize a company's transactions.

**Accounting System** - The total structure of records and procedures which discover, record, classify, summarize, and report information on the financial position and results of a government entity.

**Accrual Basis of Accounting** - The method of recording financial transactions in the accounting period in which revenues are earned and expenses are incurred, rather than only after cash is received or paid.

**Acre-Foot of Water** - The volume of water that would cover one acre to a depth of one foot (approximately 325,900 gallons).

**Amortization** - Gradual reduction, redemption, or liquidation of the balance of an account according to a specified schedule of times and amounts.

**Appropriation** - The act of setting aside money for a specific purpose.

### B

**Biological Opinion** - When a government agency determines, through a biological assessment or other review, that its action is likely to affect adversely a listed endangered species, the agency submits to the appropriate regulatory agency a request for formal consultation. Generally, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services (USFWS) manages land and freshwater species, while the National Marine Fisheries Services (NMFS) is responsible for marine and anadromous species. During formal consultation, the appropriate regulatory agency and the requesting agency share information about the proposed project and the species or critical habitat likely to be affected. Once the formal consultation is completed, the appropriate regulatory agency will prepare a biological opinion. The conclusion of the biological opinion will state whether the requesting agency has insured that its action is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of a listed species and/or result in the destruction or adverse modification of critical habitat.

**Budget** - A report of all anticipated expenditures and the sources of moneys to be used to meet such expenditures.

**Budget Adjustment** - The process of reallocating budgeted funds to an alternate account and does not change the overall approved budget amount.

**Budget Augmentation** - Represents an increase to the approved budget due to an unanticipated expenditure and the need for additional assessments.



## GLOSSARY OF TERMS

### C

**Calendar Year** – The period from January 1 through December 31.

**California Department of Fish and Wildlife** - Within the California Natural Resources Agency, the Department of Fish and Wildlife manages and protects the state's fish, wildlife, plant and native habitats. It is responsible for related recreational, commercial, scientific, and educational uses. <https://wildlife.ca.gov/>

**California Department of Water Resources (DWR)** – The state agency responsible for the State of California's management and regulation of water usage. <https://water.ca.gov/>

**California Public Employees' Retirement System** – An agency in the California executive branch that manages pensions and health benefits for more than 1.6 million California public employees, retirees, and their families. <https://www.calpers.ca.gov/>

**Capital Expenditures** – Amounts expended which result in the acquisition of, or addition to, fixed assets, including land, buildings, improvements, machinery and equipment.

**Carry-Over** - The term used to denote amounts, which are to be expended during one fiscal year on a contract or obligation but are not expended for various reasons. Amounts are “carried over” into the subsequent fiscal year.

**COMB Member Agency** - On January 1, 1957, the Cachuma Operation and Maintenance Board (COMB) was formed as a Joint Powers Authority (JPA) through an agreement organized by the Cachuma Project Member Units pursuant to the provisions of Articles 1, 2, and 4 of Chapter 5, Division 7, Title 1 of the California Government Code. The resulting JPA agreement was entered into by the Cachuma Project Member Units, who, in doing so, became Member Agencies of COMB, in order to provide for the joint exercise of powers by those Member Agencies for the rights to, the facilities of, and the operation, maintenance and use of the Reclamation's project known as the “Cachuma Project.” The organization is comprised of four Cachuma Project Member Units, known collectively as COMB's Member Agencies. They are the Carpinteria Valley Water District, the Goleta Water District, the Montecito Water District, and the City of Santa Barbara.

**Cachuma Project Member Unit** – The Cachuma Project Member Units are the Carpinteria Valley Water District, Goleta Water District, Montecito Water District, City of Santa Barbara, and the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, Improvement District No. 1. The Member Units entered into contracts with the Santa Barbara County Water Agency for the purpose of receiving water from the Cachuma Project for the use and benefit of the Member Units.

## GLOSSARY OF TERMS

### C

**COMB Joint Powers Agreement** -The original contract was executed on January 1, 1957 and subsequently amended and restated for the establishment of a Board of Control to operate and maintain the Cachuma Project and exercise the powers of the Agreement pursuant to the provisions of Articles 1, 2 and 4 of Chapter 5, Division 7, Title 1 of the California Government Code (§6500 et seq.)

**Consumer Price Index (CPI)** - CPI is a measure of the average change over time in the prices paid by urban consumers for a market basket of consumer goods and services. Indexes are available for the U.S. and various geographic areas.

<https://www.bls.gov/regions/west/cpi-summary/>

**Conveyance** — A conveyance system provides for the movement of water, either natural or manmade. Conveyance infrastructures include natural watercourses, such as streams, rivers, and groundwater aquifers; and constructed facilities, such as canals and pipelines, including control structures such as weirs. Conveyance facilities range in size from small, local, end-user distribution systems to large systems that deliver water to or drain areas as large as multiple hydrologic regions. Conveyance facilities also require associated infrastructure, such as pumping plants and power supply, diversion structures, fish ladders, and fish screens.

**Comprehensive Annual Financial Report** - The annual audited financial report of COMB, which includes financial statements, statistical information, and extensive narration, which goes beyond the minimum financial reporting requirements of an audited financial statement.

**Coverage Ratio** - The margin of safety for payment of debt service, reflecting the number of times by which earnings for a period of time exceed debt service payable in such a period.

### D

**Debt** - An obligation resulting from the borrowing of money or from the purchase of goods and services. These include bonds and accounts payable.

**Deficiency** - A general term indicating the amount by which anything falls short of some requirement of expectation.

**Deficit** - The excess of expenditures over revenues during an accounting period.

## GLOSSARY OF TERMS

### D

**Depreciation** - An element of cost resulting from the service of long-lived assets in an economic organization and represents the loss in asset value because of wear, deterioration, obsolescence or action of the physical elements. In this budget, no specific depreciation schedule or funding of depreciated assets is provided.

### E

**Endangered Species Act** - An act of the federal government enacted in 1973 that provides for the conservation of species that are endangered or threatened and the conservation of the ecosystems on which they depend. A species is considered endangered if it is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range. A species is considered threatened if it is likely to become an endangered species within the foreseeable future.

**Enterprise Fund** - A fund established to account for the financing of self-supporting enterprises, such as a utility fund, which render services primarily to the public.

**Entity** - The basic unit upon which accounting and/or financial reporting activities focus.

**Expenditures** - A decrease in net financial resources, or funds paid or to be paid for an asset obtained, or goods and services obtained regardless of when the expense is actually paid.

### F

**Fiscal Year** - A twelve-month period of time to which the annual budget applies and, at the end of which, a governmental unit determines its financial position and the results of its operations.

**Fixed Asset** - Assets of a long-term character that are intended to continue to be held or used, such as land, buildings, improvements other than buildings, machinery and equipment.

**Fund Balance** - Also known as financial position, fund balance is the excess of fund assets over liabilities, and represents the cumulative effect of revenues and other financing sources over expenditures and other financing uses. COMB operates under one fund for financial statement and budgetary purposes. Because COMB is a pass-through agency, all revenues are equal to the expenditures included in the budget. As such, overall Fund Balance excluding the Warren Act Trust Fund and Renewal Fund is expected to be zero.

## GLOSSARY OF TERMS

### G

**GASB** - The Government Accounting Standards Board is the source of generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) used by state and local governments. As with most of the entities involved in creating GAAP in the United States, it is a private, nongovernmental organization. <https://www.gasb.org>

**Generally Accepted Accounting Principles** - The uniform accounting principles, standards, and procedures for the presentation of financial reports. For local governments, GAAP is set by the Government Accounting Standards Board (GASB).

**Geographical Information System (GIS)** - An information system that integrates maps with electronic data.

**Groundwater** — Water that occurs beneath the land surface and fills the pore spaces of the alluvium, soil, or rock formation in which it is situated.

**Groundwater Basin** — An alluvial aquifer or a stacked series of alluvial aquifers with reasonably well-defined boundaries in a lateral direction and having a definable bottom.

### I

**Infrastructure Improvement Project** - A project that results in a new asset (e.g. a facility, betterment, replacement, equipment, etc.) that has a total cost of at least \$50,000 and a useful life of at least five years. The US Bureau of Reclamation has title to certain assets of the Cachuma Project. Improvements made to those assets are treated as expenditures on COMB's financial statements.

**Irrigation Water** - Water made available from the Cachuma Project which is used primarily in the production of agricultural crops or livestock.

### J

**Joint Powers Agreement** - An agreement entered into by two or more public agencies that allows them to jointly exercise any power common to the contracting parties. JPA is defined in California Government Code Title 1, Division 7, Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 6500).

**Joint Powers Authority** - A public authority created by a joint exercise of powers agreement between any two or more governmental agencies. The authority may be given power to perform any function that all parties to the agreement are empowered to perform and that will be of benefit to all parties.

## GLOSSARY OF TERMS

### L

**Line Item** - Expenditure classifications established to account for and budget the appropriations approved.

### M

**Maintenance** - The upkeep of physical properties in condition for use or occupancy. Examples are the inspection of equipment to detect defects and the making of repairs.

**Master Contract** - *Contract Between the United States and Santa Barbara County Water Agency Providing for Water from the Project (Contract No. 175r-1802R)* is between the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and the Santa Barbara County Water Agency and provides for the diversion, storage, carriage and distribution of waters from the Santa Ynez River and its tributaries for irrigation, municipal, domestic and industrial uses for the Cachuma Project Member Units.

**Modified Accrual Basis** - The accrual basis of accounting adapted to the governmental fund type. Revenues are recognized when they become both “measurable” and “available to finance expenditures of the current period.” Expenditures are recognized when the liability is incurred.

### M

**Municipal and Industrial Water (M&I Water)** - Water made available from the Cachuma Project other than Irrigation Water, M&I water includes water used for municipal, industrial, and domestic purposes, and water used for purposes incidental to domestic uses such as the water of landscaping or pasture for animals (i.e. horses) which are kept for personal enjoyment.

### N

**National Marine Fisheries Services (NMFS)** - The federal agency responsible for the stewardship of national marine resources. <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/>

### O

**Obligation** - Amounts that a government may be legally required to meet out of its resources. They include not only actual liabilities, but also encumbrances not yet paid.

**Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB)** - Benefits provided to retirees other than pension, such as retiree health insurance.

**Operating Expenses**- All costs associated with the day-to-day business of COMB that are not considered capital improvements or debt repayments.

## GLOSSARY OF TERMS

### P

**Pass-Through Charges** - Charges from the United States Bureau of Reclamation and other state agencies which are paid by the Cachuma Project Member Units. These charges are not expenses of COMB but are charged and paid by the agency.

**Project Water** - Water that is developed, diverted, stored, or delivered by the United States pursuant to the Project Water Rights, including accretions to the Tecolote Tunnel.

**Projected** - An estimate of revenues and expenditures based on past trends, the present economic situation and future financial forecasts.

**Proprietary Fund** - A method of accounting for a government's ongoing organizations and activities that are similar to those often found in the private sector.

### R

**Resolution** - A special or temporary order of a legislative body; an order of a legislative body requiring less legal formality than an ordinance or statute.

**Revenue** - An inflow of assets, not necessarily in cash, in exchange for services rendered.

**Right of Way (ROW)** - The legal right, established by usage or grant, to pass along a specific route through grounds or property belonging to another.

### S

**Santa Ynez Exchange Agreement** - An agreement between Central Coast Water Authority, Carpinteria Valley Water District, Goleta Water District, La Cumbre Mutual Water Company, Montecito Water District, Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, Improvement District No. 1 (SYRWCD ID No.1), and the City of Santa Barbara. Among other things, this agreement provides for the exchange of SYRWCD ID No.1's Cachuma Project entitlement for a like amount of State water that would otherwise be delivered to the other South Coast project participants which are signatory to the agreement.

**SCADA System** - The Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) System is a computer system that collects data, processes the data and corrects and/or instructs the operators on corrective actions to take.

## GLOSSARY OF TERMS

### S

**State Water Project (SWP)** – SWP, under the supervision of the California Department of Water Resources, is a water storage and delivery system of reservoirs, aqueducts, power plants and pumping plants extending more than 700 miles and serves urban and agricultural agencies from the San Francisco Bay area to Southern California.

<https://water.ca.gov/Programs/State-Water-Project>

**State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB)** – The SWRCB oversees the allocation of the state's water resources to various entities and for diverse uses, from agricultural irrigation to hydro electrical power generation to municipal water supplies, and for safeguarding the cleanliness and purity of Californians' water. The State Water Board also provides financial assistance to local governments and non-profit agencies to help build or rejuvenate wastewater treatment plants, and protect, restore and monitor water quality, wetlands, and estuaries. <https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/>

**Surface Water** - As defined under the California Surface Water Treatment Rule, California Code of Regulations Title 22, Section 64651.83, surface water means “all water open to the atmosphere and subject to surface runoff” and hence would include all lakes, rivers, streams, and other water bodies. Surface water includes all groundwater sources that are deemed to be under the influence of surface water (i.e., springs, shallow wells, wells close to rivers, etc.), which must comply with the same level of treatment as surface water.

### T

**Table A** — Table A is an exhibit that corresponds to the contracts between the California Department of Water Resources and the 29 State Water Project (SWP) water contractors, in which are defined the terms and conditions governing the water delivery and cost repayment for the SWP. All water-supply-related costs of the SWP are paid by the contractors, and Table A serves as a basis for allocating some of the costs among the contractors. In addition, Table A plays a key role in the annual allocation of available supply among contractors. Table A is simply contractual language for apportioning available supply and cost obligations under the contract.

**Table A Water** — The maximum amount of State Water Project (SWP) water that the State agreed to make available to an SWP contractor for delivery during the year. Table A amounts determine the maximum water a contractor may request each year from the California Department of Water Resources. The State and SWP contractors also use Table A amounts to serve as a basis for allocation of some SWP costs among the contractors.

## GLOSSARY OF TERMS

### T

**Transferred Project Works Contract** - *Transfer Agreement for the Operation and Maintenance of the Cachuma Project Transferred Works – Cachuma Project, California (Contract No. 14-06-200-5222R)* - An agreement between the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and the Cachuma Operation and Maintenance Board. The purpose of the agreement is to transfer the responsibility of operating and maintaining the Cachuma Project Works to the Cachuma Member Units.

### U

**U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation (USBR)** – USBR is a federal agency under the U.S. Department of the Interior, which oversees water resource management, specifically as it applies to the oversight and operation of the diversion, delivery, and storage projects that it has built throughout the western United States for irrigation, water supply, and attendant hydroelectric power generation.

<https://www.usbr.gov/>

### W

**Warren Act Contract (Contract No. 5-07-20-W1281)** – A contract between the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and the Central Coast Water Authority and provides for the delivery and storage of non-project State Water in the federal facility referred to as the Cachuma Project.

**Warren Act MOU Trust Fund** - A trust fund established under a memorandum of understanding by and between the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and the Cachuma Project Authority for the purposes of defining the Warren Act Trust Fund and use of funds, affiliated committees and responsibilities of parties. COMB and the Cachuma Project Authority merged in 1996, with COMB as the successor agency.

**Water Rights** – The legal right of a user to use water from a water source (i.e., a lake, river, stream, creek, pond, or source of groundwater).

**Water Year** – A continuous 12-month period for which hydrologic records are compiled and summarized. Different agencies may use different calendar periods for their water years. For the California Department of Water Resources, a water year is October 1 through September 30.

**Watershed** — A land area from which water drains into a stream, river, or reservoir. The watershed for a major river may encompass a number of smaller watersheds that ultimately combine at a common point.



**DRAFT**

This page left blank intentionally

**DRAFT**



Cachuma Operation and Maintenance Board  
3301 Laurel Canyon Road  
Santa Barbara, CA 93105  
[www.cachuma-board.org](http://www.cachuma-board.org)