



**A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE OPERATING COMMITTEE
of the
CENTRAL COAST WATER AUTHORITY**

AGENDA

**Chairman – Paeter Garcia
Vice Chairman – Shad Springer**

Wednesday, October 21, 2026
9:00 AM

at 255 Industrial Way, Buellton, California
and

Brownstein, Hyatt Farber Schreck, 1020 State Street, Santa Barbara, CA

Members of the public may participate by video call or telephone via
[Microsoft Teams](#) Meeting ID: 282 264 638 274 470 Passcode: uW2DW7ht
or by dialing [+1 323-484-5095](#), and entering access Code/Meeting ID; 155 985 808#

Please note: public participation by video call or telephone is for convenience only and is not required by law. If technical interruptions to the video call/telephone occur, the chair has the discretion to continue the meeting and participants are invited to take advantage of the other participation options above.

Public Comment on agenda items may occur via video call or telephonically, or by submission to the Board Secretary via email at lfw@ccwa.com no later than 8:00 a.m. on the day of the meeting. In your email, please specify (1) the meeting date and agenda item (number and title) on which you are providing a comment and (2) that you would like your comment read into the record during the meeting. If you would like your comment read into the record during the meeting (as either general public comment or on a specific agenda item), please limit your comments to no more than 250 words.

Every effort will be made to read comments into the record, but some comments may not be read due to time limitations. Please also note that if you submit a written comment and do not specify that you would like this comment read into the record during the meeting, your comment will be forwarded to Committee members for their consideration.

Pursuant to Government Code section 54957.5, non-exempt public records that relate to open session agenda items and are distributed to a majority of the Committee less than seventy-two (72) hours prior to the meeting will be available on the CCWA internet web site, accessible at <https://www.ccwa.com>.

★ indicates written report

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

II. Public Comment – (Any member of the public may address the Committee relating to any matter within the Committee’s jurisdiction. Individual Speakers may be limited to five minutes; all speakers to a total of fifteen minutes.)

III. Consent Calendar

- A. Minutes of the July 9, 2026 Operating Committee Meeting ★
- B. Minutes of the October 8, 2026 Operating Committee Meeting ★
Staff recommendation: Approve consent calendar.

IV. Executive Director’s Report

- A. California Aqueduct Subsidence and Golden Mussel Mitigation Update
Staff Recommendation: Informational item only.
- B. Presentation from Montecito Water District Regarding Potential Permanent Sale of a Portion of the District’s State Water Project Allocation
Staff Recommendation: Informational item only.
- C. Review and Discussion of CCWA Participant Water Management Needs Survey Results.
Staff Recommendation: Informational item only.

- D. Operations Update
Staff Recommendation: Informational item only.
- E. Water Supply Situation Report
Staff Recommendation: Informational item only.
- F. Water Transfer Update
Staff Recommendation: Informational item only.
- G. Polonio Pass Water Treatment Plant Filter Media and Underdrain Nozzle Replacement Project
Staff Recommendation: Informational item only.
- H. Chorro Valley Access Road Repair Project Reimbursement Agreement ★
Staff Recommendation: Informational item only.
- I. State Water Contractors Update
Staff Recommendation: Informational item only.

V. Reports from Committee Members for Information Only

VI. Items for Next Regular Meeting Agenda

VII. Date of Next Regular Meeting: January 14, 2027

VIII. Adjournment

**MINUTES OF THE
CENTRAL COAST WATER AUTHORITY
OPERATING COMMITTEE**

July 9, 2026

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

Mr. Garcia, Committee Chair, called the July 9, 2026 Central Coast Water Authority Operating Committee meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

Committee members present:

Paeter Garcia	- Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, ID#1
Kelley Dyer	- Carpinteria Valley Water District
Ryan Drake	- Goleta Water District
Joshua Haggmark	- City of Santa Barbara
Rose Hess	- City of Buellton
Joshua Reynolds	- City of Santa Maria
Nick Turner	- Montecito Water District

II. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

III. Election of Officers

Following discussion, a motion to continue the current slate of Mr. Garcia as Chairman and Mr. Springer as Vice Chairman of the Operating Committee for a two-year term was made by Mr. Turner, seconded by Mr. Haggmark and carried with Mr. Drake, Ms. Dyer, Mr. Garcia, Mr. Haggmark, Ms. Hess, Mr. Reynolds, and Mr. Turner in favor and none opposed.

IV. Consent Calendar

A. Approve Minutes of the March 12, 2026 Operating Committee Meeting

A motion by to approve the consent calendar was made by Mr. Drake, seconded by Mr. Turner and carried with Mr. Drake, Mr. Garcia, Mr. Haggmark, Mr. Reynolds, and Mr. Turner in favor, Ms. Hess and Ms. Dyer abstaining and none opposed.

V. Executive Director's Report

A. Operations Update

Mr. David Beard, CCWA Deputy Director, reviewed the repair of the treated water pipeline at the Polonio Pass Water Treatment Plant (PPWTP), noting that the repair made will be temporary and a permanent repair will be planned for a future outage. The detection of Golden Mussels was also reviewed, and CCWA will be changing the location of the chlorine injection point at the PPWTP to discourage attachment of the veligers. Mr. Beard reviewed other processes being tested with DWR to prevent the spread of the mussels.

DWR has set the dates of the Coastal Branch Maintenance outage to November 1 through November 15, 2026.

Recently completed projects and upcoming projects were reviewed.

B. Water Supply Situation Report

The current statewide precipitation indices, reservoir levels and snowpack levels were provided for the information of the Committee.

CCWA's water delivery schedule through June 30, 2026 was reviewed.

C. Water Transfers Update

Mr. Beard briefly reviewed the current water transfers as detailed in the staff report included in the meeting materials.

D. Potential Water Management Programs Update

Opportunities for water management, including short term banking agreements, multi-year Transfers/Exchanges and independent water lease agreements and the range of terms and pros and cons related to the various options were discussed with the Committee.

Mr. Peter Thompson, CCWA Executive Director, requested feedback from the Committee and stated that a survey will be sent to participants to determine water management needs.

E. Willow Springs Water Bank Memorandum of Interest

Mr. Thompson explained the Willow Springs Water Bank Memorandum of Interest (MOI) with Antelope Valley Water Storage, LLC (AVWS) and several of the key terms. The MOI involves no financial commitment and affirms CCWA's interest in the Willow Springs Water Bank (WSWB) Project. The MOI does not make CCWA a Participant and does not obligate CCWA to any funding.

Discussion ensued, in which the committee raised concerns and the potential for administering this program in the same manner as the Supplemental Water Transfer Program wherein CCWA participants determine if they are interested as opposed to CCWA participating as a whole.

F. Ad-Hoc Committee for the Purpose of Examining CCWA Water Management Procedures and Developing and Recommending Changes to Those Procedures

The goal to make CCWA's procedures for water exchanges and transfers simpler and quicker to execute while maintaining transparency and fairness among CCWA project participants was reviewed by Mr. Thompson. He noted that opportunities to exchange or transfer SWP water with other contractors frequently arise on short timeframes and often close quickly. The Ad Hoc Committee would develop changes to the procedures and present them to the Operating Committee and the CCWA Board of Directors for consideration and adoption in calendar year 2027 for use in 2028.

The Committee generally recommended that Montecito WD, City of Santa Barbara and Carpinteria VWD be involved in the Ad Hoc process, which would create some efficiencies and requested that feedback be provided to staff to prepare a recommendation related to processes for consideration based on who is interested in participation in participation on the ad hoc committee.

G. Annual Coastal Branch Maintenance Outage and Pipeline Water Quality Update

Prior to annual shutdown in November, CCWA is proposing a chlorine disinfection of the length of the pipeline from the PPWTP to the Santa Ynez Pumping Plant. Approximately 190 AF of water would be required to flush the pipeline, and Mr. Beard discussed with the Committee the options for allocating the 190 AF to ensue there was sufficient demand to transmit the flush water to Lake Cachuma as very few project participants are having water transmitted to the Lake.

Following discussion, it was determined that the most efficient process would be to create transfers between participants leading up the period of delivery to the lake, and staff were directed to proceed with the internal transfers.

H. Calendar Year 2027 DWR Statement of Charges

DWR released the calendar year 2027 Statement of Charges on July 1, 2026, as required under the water supply contract. Ms. Mladenova reviewed the differences between the amounts used to prepare the FY 2026/27 CCWA Budget and the actual amounts in the 2027 DWR Statement of Charges. Overall, the charges are \$228,287 lower than the estimates used in the FY 2026/27 Budget. The excess funds will be used to offset future fixed assessment billings.

I. State Water Contractors Update

Mr. Thompson noted that he has been working with the other Coastal Branch contractors and DWR on addressing the Golden Mussel infestation. He reported that Sustainable Groundwater Management Act compliance may be mitigating subsidence and subsidence may not be continuing on the trajectory prior studies indicated, and a new model is being developed to estimate future subsidence. Alternatives to rebuilding portions of the California Aqueduct, including installing pumping stations, are also being investigated.

VI. Reports from Committee Members for Information Only

The Committee asked when the Strategic Plan development would begin and were informed a kickoff was planned in August.

There were no reports from the Committee members.

VII. Date of Next Regular Meeting:

The date of the next Regular meeting is October 8, 2026.

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:53 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth F. Watkins
Secretary to the Board

**MINUTES OF THE
CENTRAL COAST WATER AUTHORITY
OPERATING COMMITTEE**

October 8, 2026

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

Mr. Garcia, Committee Chair, called the October 8, 2026 Central Coast Water Authority Operating Committee meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

Committee members present:

Paeter Garcia	- Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, ID#1
Mike Alvarado	- La Cumbre Mutual Water Company
Ryan Drake	- Goleta Water District
Dakota Corey	- City of Santa Barbara
Rose Hess	- City of Buellton
Shad Springer	- City of Santa Maria
Nick Turner	- Montecito Water District

II. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

III. Strategic Plan Needs Assessment Workshop

Mr. Peter Thompson, CCWA Executive Director, thanked the Committee for their participation in the questionnaire distributed to participants prior to the meeting, and introduced Ken Kirby of Evotoco. Mr. Kirby was retained by CCWA to formulate a Strategic Plan and has been working with CCWA Project Participants and staff on the Plan. Mr. Thompson explained the goals of today's Operating Committee is to propose success criteria for the Strategic Plan, propose strategic priorities to include in the Strategic Plan and identify strategic options to discuss with the CCWA Board.

Mr. Kirby reviewed a presentation providing an overview and synthesis of the questionnaire responses, which was discussed by the Committee, who provided direction and clarification regarding success criteria and defined priorities for their agencies. Mr. Kirby reviewed the responses and provided information on the next steps of the process and how the discussion will inform the Board workshop planned for early November, noting that all Operating Committee members are encouraged to participate in that meeting as well.

IV. Reports from Committee Members for Information Only

There were no reports from the Committee members.

V. Date of Next Regular Meeting:

Mr. Thompson stated a State Water Contractors representative would be present at the October 21, 2026 Operating Committee meeting to provide information on the ongoing Golden Mussels mitigation efforts and subsidence at State Water Project facilities.

Mr. Garcia requested that Montecito Water District present on the District's potential agreement to sell a portion of their State Water Project allocation.

The date of the next meeting is October 21, 2026.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:01 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth F. Watkins
Secretary to the Board



CENTRAL COAST WATER AUTHORITY

MEMORANDUM

October 15, 2026

TO: CCWA Operating Committee

FROM: David Beard, Deputy Director

SUBJECT: Reimbursement Agreement for the Chorro Valley Access Road Repair Project

SUMMARY

Central Coast Water Authority (CCWA) staff are presenting the Reimbursement Agreement for the Chorro Valley Access Road Repair Project to the CCWA Board of Directors for its consideration at the regular meeting scheduled for October 22, 2026.

RECOMMENDATION

None – informational only.

DISCUSSION

The Chorro Valley Access Road provides the sole access route to the South Portal of the Cuesta Tunnel, a critical utility crossing for regional water infrastructure as it conveys water from the Salinas Pipeline, State Water Project, and Nacimiento Water Project through the Cuesta grade.

In 2023, extreme rainstorms in San Luis Obispo County caused erosion and damaged both the Chorro Valley Access Road and the supporting slope. The San Luis Obispo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (SLOCFCWCD) commissioned an alternatives analysis, and a soldier pile wall and minor drainage improvements were selected to repair the roadway and mitigate future damage. SLOCFCWCD has obtained grant funds from the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services to pay approximately 89% of the total estimated project cost of \$4,460,000.

SLOCFCWCD has requested that the remaining project cost that would not be paid for by grant funds be split evenly among the four pipelines that occupy the Cuesta Tunnel utility crossing through the Cuesta grade. CCWA's share of the estimated non-reimbursed project cost would be 25% of \$504,415, or \$126,000.

CCWA utilizes the Chorro Valley Access Road for access to the portion of the Coastal Branch Pipeline (Pipeline) downstream of the Cuesta Tunnel for routine operations and maintenance activities. This road would also be used in the event CCWA had to respond to an emergency in that portion of the Pipeline. CCWA and SLOCFCWCD have previously executed a similar project-specific reimbursement agreement for the construction of the Shandon Turnout and agreed to share costs on erosion repairs made to the Cuesta Tunnel North Portal access road.

CCWA's Fiscal Year 2026-27 Budget includes \$100,000 for this project. Construction is not scheduled to begin until after the 2026-27 rain season, so an additional \$26,000 may be

included in CCWA's Fiscal Year 2027-28 Budget, based on SLOFCWCD's project cost estimate.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

CCWA's execution of the Reimbursement Agreement for the Chorro Valley Access Road Repair Project is exempt from review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), as it falls under numerous statutory and categorical exemptions. The following exemptions apply: Pub. Res. Code § 21065; Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, §§ 15000 – 15387 (CEQA Guidelines), § Categorical Exemptions: CEQA Guidelines § 15302 (Replacement or Reconstruction).

Reasons Why Project is Exempt:

Class 2 - Replacement or Reconstruction: The Project involves the reconstruction of an existing utility facility involving no expansion of capacity. Therefore, the Replacement or Reconstruction exemption applies. (CEQA Guidelines § 15302.)

Exceptions to the Categorical Exemptions:

No exceptions to this exemption, as outlined in Section 15300.2, have been identified.

Attachment:

Reimbursement Agreement for the Chorro Valley Access Road Repair Project

REIMBURSEMENT AGREEMENT FOR
THE CHORRO VALLEY ACCESS ROAD REPAIR PROJECT

This Reimbursement Agreement for the Chorro Valley Access Road Repair Project (Agreement) is made this ____ day of _____, 2026, by and between the Central Coast Water Authority (CCWA), and the San Luis Obispo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (SLOCFCWCD or District) (collectively the Parties) with reference to the following facts and intentions:

A. CCWA is a public entity organized in Santa Barbara County under a Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement, dated August 1991, to finance, design, construct, operate, and maintain the Coastal Branch of the SWP. In addition, CCWA owns and operates a water treatment plant and pipeline that delivers water from the SWP through the Phase II Coastal Branch to the District and water users in Santa Barbara County. DWR and CCWA entered into a Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement dated October 1, 1996 (1996 Coastal Branch Maintenance Agreement), pursuant to which DWR secured CCWA assistance in connection with the construction, operation, and maintenance of the Phase II Coastal Branch.

B. On January 14th, 2023, and April 3rd, 2023, the President of the United States declared two major disasters (DR-4683 & DR-4699 respectively) following extreme weather along the coast of California which included San Luis Obispo County. Erosion during these storms damaged both the Chorro Valley Access Road and the supporting slope. This access road provides the sole access route to the South Portal of the Cuesta tunnel, a critical chokepoint for regional water infrastructure as it conveys water from the Salinas Pipeline, State Water Project, and Nacimiento Water Project through the Cuesta grade. Repair of this damage was included within a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) claim for DR 4683 CA that provided reimbursement for a significant portion of the estimated repair costs. Remaining repair costs are to be borne by the District and CCWA. As operators of the four water systems (Nacimiento Pipeline, Salinas Pipeline, Chorro Valley Pipeline, and the Coastal Branch Pipeline) collectively use the same road, costs of the repair project are to be shared equally among the systems.

C. The project will repair the existing damage and mitigate future damage by installing a soldier pile wall and minor drainage improvements to the Chorro Valley Access Road ("Project") as described in Exhibit A.

D. The purpose of this Agreement is to describe the roles and responsibilities of CCWA and the District with respect to sharing costs associated with the repair Project as CCWA uses the Chorro Valley Access Road to access the Coastal Branch Pipeline.

NOW THEREFORE, the parties agree as follows:

I. COST-SHARING AGREEMENT

The District and CCWA agree that all non-federally reimbursed costs associated with the Project are to be distributed equally as follows: Nacimiento Pipeline 25%; Salinas Pipeline 25%; Chorro Valley Pipeline 25%; Coastal Branch Pipeline 25%.

II. CONSTRUCTION WORK

The District shall procure a contractor (Contractor) with the requisite expertise to construct the Project through a competitive bidding process in compliance with District public procurement policies, funding agency requirements and all applicable laws. The District intends to retain a Construction Management consultant (Consultant) to perform construction-related services during the course of the Project including, but not limited to, bidding, submittal review, construction observation, change orders, progress payments and other services.

The District, in conjunction with the Consultant, will manage all aspects of the construction of the Project and will control all work and require the Contractor to complete all work in strict conformance with final construction plans and specifications. The District agrees to provide a copy of the bid documents to CCWA as well as a final as-constructed copy of the plans.

III. PAYMENT FOR WORK

CCWA agrees to reimburse the District for twenty-five percent (25%) of the final net Project cost in an amount not-to-exceed \$126,000. A preliminary estimate of the Project cost and calculation of CCWA's estimated cost share is shown in Exhibit B.

Upon completion of the Project, the District shall send CCWA an invoice for reimbursement of these costs and supporting documentation identifying: (a) total project costs, (b) FEMA and Cal OES reimbursements or offsets, (c) remaining eligible costs, and (d) CCWA's 25% cost share.

The Parties shall mutually determine the appropriate method for satisfying CCWA's cost share obligation, which may include direct payment, a credit against amounts otherwise due between the Parties, or another mutually agreed accounting mechanism.

If the Parties mutually determine that direct payment is the appropriate method for satisfying CCWA's cost share obligation, payment shall be made within thirty (30) days

following the Parties' agreement on the final cost share calculation after the completion of the Project.

IV. GENERAL CONDITIONS

If the District's Project which precipitated this Agreement is canceled or modified so as to eliminate the necessity of work, the District will notify CCWA in writing and terminate the agreement via a mutually executed termination agreement.

This Agreement constitutes the entire agreement between the parties and supersedes all prior contemporaneous agreements, representations and understandings of the parties. This Agreement may be altered, amended or modified only by a supplemental writing executed by the parties to this Agreement and by no other means. Each party waives their future right to claim, contest or assert that this Agreement was modified, canceled, superseded or changed by any oral agreement, course of conduct, waiver or estoppel.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the above parties have executed this Agreement the day and year above written.

CENTRAL COAST WATER AUTHORITY:

By: _____
Peter Thompson, Executive Director

Date: _____

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT:

By: _____
John Diodatti, Director of Public Works

Date: _____

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGAL EFFECT:

Jon Ansolabehere
County Counsel

By: _____
County Counsel

Date: _____

EXHIBIT A – PROJECT DESCRIPTION

**Chorro Valley Access Road Repair
San Luis Obispo**

District Project No: WBS 300716



**San Luis Obispo County Flood Control and Water Conservation
District**

Department of Public Works

I. PROJECT BACKGROUND

A. Project Objective

The proposed project is located on the Chorro Valley Access Road in San Luis Obispo County, CA. The Chorro Valley Access Road is an earthen road connecting the entrance of the California Men's Colony to the South Portal of the Cuesta Tunnel. The road is inaccessible at various periods during the year when wet, with erosion occurring annually along both sides of the road. The Chorro Valley Access Road supports the Chorro Valley, Nacimiento, and Salinas pipelines as well as providing sole access to the South Portal of the Cuesta tunnel. The Cuesta tunnel is a critical chokepoint as it conveys water via three separate piping systems through the Cuesta grade along a common alignment to southern municipalities. During the 2023 storms, erosion along the Chorro Valley Access Road resulted in damage to the road and the supporting slope. This damage was included in a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) claim for DR 4683 CA by the San Luis Obispo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (District). Following an alternatives analysis by Cannon and Yeh & Associates, a soldier pile wall and minor drainage improvements were selected to repair the roadway and mitigate future damage. The project location is shown in **Figure 1**.

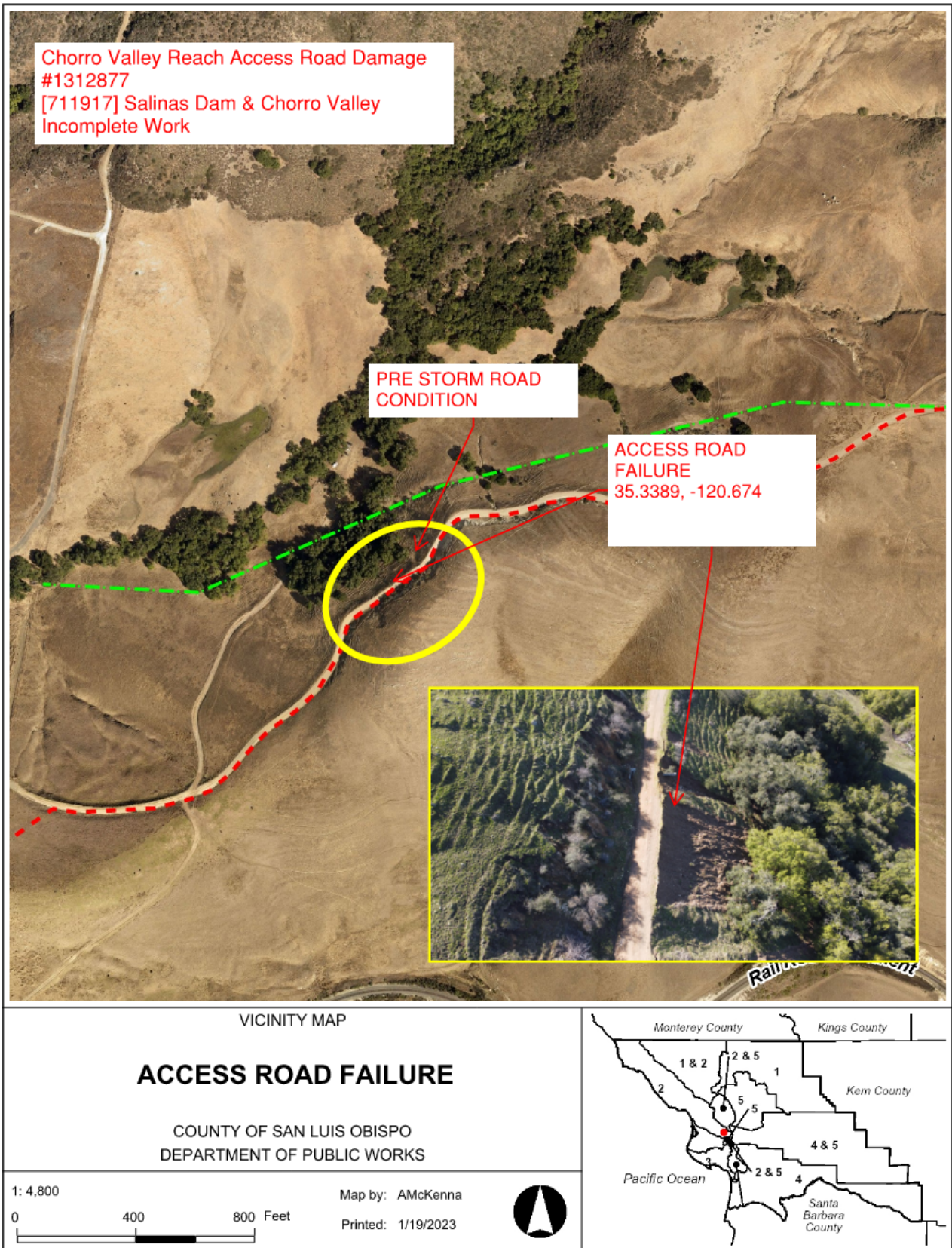


Figure 1: Roadway Repair Location

II. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Project will install a new soldier pile wall along the Chorro Valley Access Road and replace existing culverts. **Figure 2** illustrates the proposed soldier pile wall cross section.

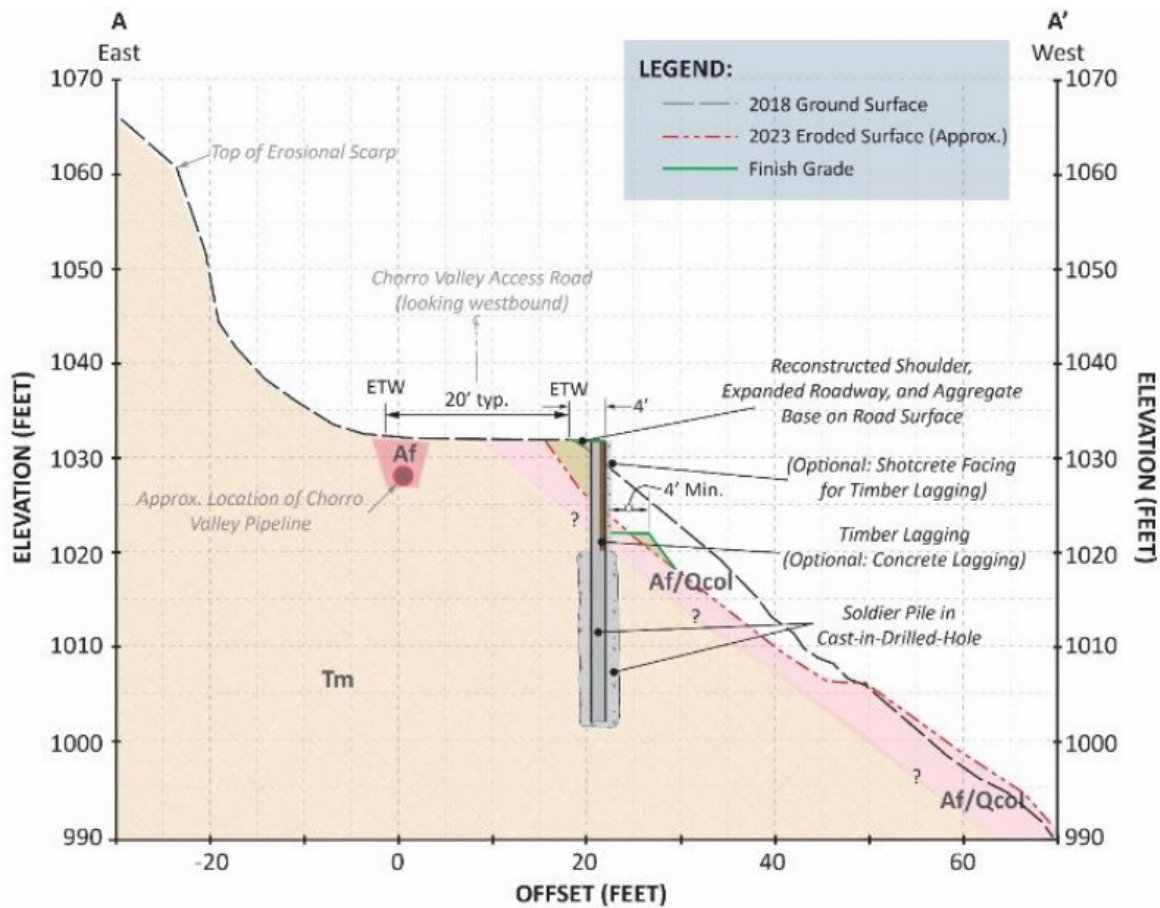


Exhibit B – Estimated Project Cost and CCWA Cost Share

(Estimated for budgeting purposes only. Final cost share shall be based on actual eligible project costs.)

Item	Estimated Amount ¹
Total Estimated Project Cost	\$4,460,000
Estimated FEMA Eligible Reimbursement ²	\$3,164,468
Estimated Cal OES Reimbursement ³	\$791,117
Estimated Non-Reimbursed Project Cost	\$504,415
CCWA Share ⁴	\$126,000

Notes

1. The amounts shown are preliminary estimates prepared for budgeting purposes only and are subject to change based on final construction costs and reimbursement determinations by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES), and any other applicable funding sources.
2. FEMA Reimbursement represents 75% of project cost, less County staff and third party overhead.
3. CalOES Reimbursement represents 18.75% of project cost, less County staff and third party overhead.
4. CCWA's reimbursement obligation shall equal twenty-five percent (25%) of the final net Project cost after application of all eligible FEMA, Cal OES, and other governmental reimbursement funding received for the Project. The District shall provide documentation supporting the final Project cost, applicable reimbursements, and calculation of CCWA's cost share. The method of satisfying CCWA's cost share obligation shall be determined by mutual agreement of the Parties.
5. The Parties acknowledge that the Chorro Valley Access Road provides access to four major regional water conveyance systems: the State Water Project (SWP) Coastal Branch Aqueduct (SWP), Chorro Valley Pipeline (CVP), Salinas Pipeline, and Nacimiento Water Project (NWP) pipeline. For purposes of this Project, the remaining net Project costs are allocated equally among these four systems, resulting in a twenty-five percent (25%) cost share assigned to each system. This allocation applies solely to the Project described in this Agreement and is not intended to establish or modify any future maintenance or cost-sharing obligations of the Parties.