

**SUBMITTAL TO THE FLOOD CONTROL AND
WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**



ITEM: 14.3
(ID # 30380)

MEETING DATE:
Tuesday, July 14, 2026

FROM : FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT

SUBJECT: FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT: (PUBLIC HEARING) Adopt Resolution F2026-08 Adopting and Confirming Each and All Assessments on Property in the Santa Margarita Watershed Benefit Assessment Area Pursuant to Ordinance No. 14 Providing for the Establishment and Levy of Benefit Assessments for the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Stormwater Program, Districts 2, 3, 4, 5. [\$0]

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Conduct the public hearing concerning the Engineer's Report on the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Program for the Santa Margarita Watershed Benefit Assessment Area, dated July 2026; and
2. If at the conclusion of the hearing a majority protest has not been received, adopt the following Resolution: Resolution No. F2026-08 Adopting and Confirming Each and All Assessments on Property in the Santa Margarita Watershed Benefit Assessment Area Pursuant to Ordinance No. 14 Providing for the Establishment and Levy of Benefit Assessments for the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Stormwater Program.

ACTION:Policy

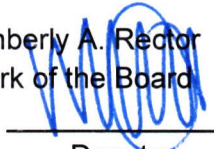
Jason Uhley, GENERAL MGR-CHF FLD CNTRL ENG

6/29/2026

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

On motion of Supervisor Medina, seconded by Supervisor Gutierrez and duly carried, IT WAS ORDERED that the above matter is approved as recommended.

Ayes: Medina, Spiegel, and Gutierrez
Nays: None
Absent: Washington and Perez
Date: July 14, 2026
xc: Flood

Kimberly A. Rector
Clerk of the Board
By: 
Deputy

**SUBMITTAL TO THE FLOOD CONTROL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD
OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

FINANCIAL DATA	Current Fiscal Year:	Next Fiscal Year:	Total Cost:	Ongoing Cost
COST	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
NET COUNTY COST	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
SOURCE OF FUNDS: N/A			Budget Adjustment:	N/A
			For Fiscal Year:	26/27

C.E.O. RECOMMENDATION: Approve

BACKGROUND:

Summary

All of the requirements of District Ordinance No. 14 providing for the establishment and levy of the Fiscal Year 2026-27 Benefit Assessments have been satisfied; therefore, the public hearing may be closed and the assessments levied.

Impact on Residents and Businesses

The financial impact to property owners is outlined in the Engineer's Report and Benefit Assessment Tax Rolls. The proposed benefit assessment rate for Fiscal Year 2026-27 is \$4.00 per Benefit Assessment Unit; this is equal to the Benefit Assessment that was enrolled and levied for Fiscal Year 1996-97 and all subsequent years.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. SMR BA Engineer's Report FY 2026-27
2. SMR BA Resolution No. F2026-08
3. Notice of Public Hearing for the Santa Margarita Watershed BA

CW:rlp
P8/26821


Douglas Cordonez Jr. 7/9/2026


Aaron Gettis, Chief Deputy County Counsel 7/1/2026

PLEASE COMPLETE THIS INFORMATION

RECORDING REQUESTED BY:

KIMBERLY A. RECTOR, CLERK OF THE BOARD
RIVERSIDE CO. CLERK OF THE BOARD
4080 LEMON STREET, 1ST FLOOR CAC
P O BOX 1147 – RIVERSIDE, CA 92502

MAIL STOP # 1010

AND WHEN RECORDED MAIL TO:

RETURN TO: STOP #1010
RIVERSIDE COUNTY CLERK OF THE BOARD
P. O. BOX 1147 – RIVERSIDE, CA 92502

2026-022256

07/16/2026 09:21 AM Fee: \$ 0.00

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Recorded in Official Records
County of Riverside
Peter Aldana
Assessor-County Clerk-Recorder



882

THIS SPACE FOR RECORDERS USE ONLY

RESOLUTION NO. F2026-08

ADOPTING AND CONFIRMING EACH AND ALL ASSESSMENTS ON PROPERTY IN
THE SANTA MARGARITA WATERSHED BENEFIT ASSESSMENT AREA PURSUANT
TO ORDINANCE NO. 14 PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT AND LEVY OF
BENEFIT ASSESSMENTS FOR THE NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE
ELIMINATION SYSTEM STORMWATER PROGRAM

(FLOOD CONTROL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT – ITEM 14.3 of 07/14/2026)

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**RIVERSIDE COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL
AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

RESOLUTION NO. F2026-08

ADOPTING AND CONFIRMING EACH AND ALL ASSESSMENTS ON PROPERTY IN THE SANTA MARGARITA WATERSHED BENEFIT ASSESSMENT AREA PURSUANT TO ORDINANCE NO. 14 PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT AND LEVY OF BENEFIT ASSESSMENTS FOR THE NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM STORMWATER PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the California Regional Water Quality Control Board - San Diego Region, on behalf of the Federal Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA"), and consistent with Section 402 of the Federal Clean Water Act, as amended, and the regulations promulgated by the EPA pursuant thereto, has issued an area-wide stormwater discharge permit under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System ("NPDES Permit") to the Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District ("District"), the County of Riverside and certain Cities within the Santa Margarita Watershed that are within the District's jurisdiction, and has named the District as the "Principal Permittee"; and

WHEREAS, under existing state and federal regulations, the District must obtain and comply with the provisions of the NPDES Permit in order to legally discharge stormwater from its flood control and stormwater drainage facilities; and

WHEREAS, the NPDES Permit requires the District to develop, implement and manage specific compliance programs dealing with stormwater runoff that will benefit all property within the Santa Margarita Watershed that lies within the District's jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, the District's Board of Supervisors ("Board") on May 14, 1991 adopted Resolution No. F91-22 pursuant to the provisions of Section 14 of the Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District Act, which is Appendix 48 to the California Water Code ("District Act"), and pursuant to Ordinance No. 14 that formed a Benefit Assessment Area ("Benefit Assessment Area"), which encompasses all territory within the District's jurisdiction that is within the Santa Margarita Watershed as described in Ordinance No. 14, and has levied annually thereon a Benefit Assessment ("Benefit Assessment") to pay the District's annual costs associated with the NPDES Permit; and

JUL 14 2026 14.3

1 **WHEREAS**, the Benefit Assessments collected are principally used to finance capital
2 costs and to maintain and operate the flood control system as required by the terms of said Permit
3 and must be expended in the Benefit Assessment Area in which they are collected; and

4 **WHEREAS**, the District initially levied the Benefit Assessment for 1991-92 Fiscal Year
5 and has levied the Benefit Assessment in each successive fiscal year; and

6 **WHEREAS**, the voters of California on November 5, 1996, approved Proposition No. 218,
7 which added Article XIID to the California Constitution ("Article XIID") effective November 6,
8 1996; and

9 **WHEREAS**, Section 5(a) of Article XIID provides in pertinent part that "...any
10 assessment imposed exclusively to finance the capital costs or maintenance and operation expenses
11 for...flood control and drainage systems..." shall be exempt from the procedures and approval
12 process set forth in Section 4 of Article XIID until the assessment is increased; and

13 **WHEREAS**, the Benefit Assessment proposed to be levied and enrolled for the 2026-27
14 Fiscal Year is not greater than the Benefit Assessment that was levied for the 1996-97 Fiscal Year
15 and all subsequent years;

16 **WHEREAS**, at a duly noticed hearing as required by Ordinance No. 14, the Board heard
17 and considered all protests with respect to the amount of the Benefit Assessment to be levied for
18 the 2026-27 Fiscal Year.

19 **NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, DETERMINED AND ORDERED** by the
20 Board of Supervisors of the Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District,
21 County of Riverside, State of California, in regular session assembled on July 14, 2026 as follows:

22 Section 1. The above recitals are true and correct.

23 Section 2. That a public hearing has been duly held on this date, and that each and every
24 step in the proceedings as required by the District Act and Ordinance No. 14 has been duly taken
25 and all protests considered, and that the Board does hereby close the public hearing.

26 Section 3. That the Board does hereby make its determination upon each parcel in the
27 Benefit Assessment Area as described in the Engineer's Report entitled "Engineer's Report to the
28 Board of Supervisors of the Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District on

1 the NPDES Program for the Santa Margarita Watershed Benefit Assessment Area" ("Engineer's
2 Report"), dated July 14, 2026 filed with the Board pursuant to Ordinance No. 14, and that the
3 Board does hereby confirm each and all Benefit Assessments on such parcels and thereby levies a
4 Benefit Assessment in the Benefit Assessment Area of the District for the Fiscal Year 2026-27 at
5 a rate of \$4.00 per benefit assessment unit.

6 Section 4. Pursuant to Section 5(a) of Article XIID, compliance with the procedures set
7 forth in Section (4) of Article XIID is not necessary and there will be no increase in the Benefit
8 Assessment to be enrolled for the 2026-27 Fiscal Year over the Benefit Assessment enrolled for
9 the 1996-97 Fiscal Year and all subsequent years.

10 Section 5. That a copy of this Resolution duly certified by the Clerk of this Board be
11 recorded in the Office of the Recorder of the County of Riverside, and a copy of this Resolution
12 duly certified by the Clerk of this Board and the Engineer's Report be filed with the
13 Auditor/Controller of the County of Riverside.

Board of Supervisors

**RIVERSIDE COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL
AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

RESOLUTION NO. F2026-08

**ADOPTING AND CONFIRMING EACH AND ALL ASSESSMENTS ON PROPERTY IN
THE SANTA MARGARITA WATERSHED BENEFIT ASSESSMENT AREA PURSUANT TO
ORDINANCE NO. 14 PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT AND LEVY OF BENEFIT
ASSESSMENTS FOR THE NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION
SYSTEM STORMWATER PROGRAM**

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: Medina, Spiegel, and Gutierrez

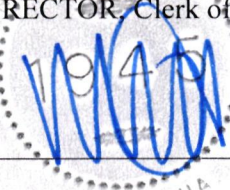
Nays: None

Absent: Washington and Perez

Abstain: None

The foregoing is certified to be a true copy of a resolution duly adopted by said Board of Supervisors on the date therein set forth.

KIMBERLY A. RECTOR, Clerk of said Board

By:  Deputy

**PETER ALDANA
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE
ASSESSOR-COUNTY CLERK-RECORDER**

Recorder
P.O. Box 751
(951) 486-7000
www.riversideacr.com

CERTIFICATION

Pursuant to the provisions of Government Code 27361.7, I certify under the penalty of perjury that the following is a true copy of illegible wording found in the attached document:

(Print or type the page number(s) and wording below):

CLARIFICATION FOR SEAL for the Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (EMBOSSSED ON DOCUMENT)

RIVERSIDE COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL AND
WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

1945

CALIFORNIA

Date: 07/14/2026

Signature: _____

Print Name: Whitney Mayo, Deputy Clerk of the Board Assistant

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING BEFORE THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
OF RIVERSIDE COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL AND WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT ON THE NPDES BENEFIT ASSESSMENT PROGRAM FOR
THE SANTA MARGARITA WATERSHED BENEFIT ASSESSMENT AREA

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public hearing, at which all interested persons will be heard, will be held before the Board of Supervisors of Riverside County, California, acting as the governing board of the Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (District), County Administrative Center, 4080 Lemon Street, Riverside, California, on July 14, 2026 at 9:30 a.m. or soon thereafter, relative to the District's Engineer's Report on the NPDES Program for the Santa Margarita Watershed Benefit Assessment Area. The Board will hear and consider all protests with regard to the program, if any, including protests with regard to the amount of the proposed assessment to be levied. At the conclusion of the hearing, the Board may adopt, revise, change, reduce, or modify any assessment and shall make its determination upon each assessment described in the report for Fiscal Year 2026-27.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that, pursuant to statutory authorization, a written report by the Chief Engineer of the District describing the Benefit Assessment Program has been filed with the Clerk of the District's Board. The report contains a description of each parcel of property within the boundaries of the Santa Margarita Watershed Benefit Assessment Area of the District on which a benefit assessment is proposed to be levied and sets forth the amount of the proposed benefit assessment for each such parcel. The report contains a schedule of the benefit assessment rates for the 2026-27 Fiscal Year. Copies of the report, together with copies of the assessment rolls for the Santa Margarita Watershed Benefit Assessment Area and the official Riverside County Assessor's Map Books, are on file and available for review by the public at the office of the Clerk of the District's Board at the County Administrative Center, 4080 Lemon Street, Riverside, California; the District's office at 1995 Market Street, Riverside, California; the City of Temecula, 41000 Main Street, Temecula, California; and the City of Murrieta, 1 Town Square, Murrieta, California. By reference to the Chief Engineer's report, the assessment rolls, and the map books, each property owner may verify the area of his or her parcel, its land use, and the amount of the 2026-27 Benefit Assessment.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN THAT the proposed benefit assessment rate for Fiscal Year 2026-27 is the same benefit assessment rate as Fiscal Year 1996-97 and all subsequent years.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

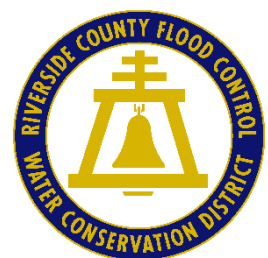
Dated: _____

KIMBERLY RECTOR
Clerk of the District's Board

By: _____
Deputy

ENGINEER'S REPORT
TO THE
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
OF THE
RIVERSIDE COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL
AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
ON THE
NPDES PROGRAM
FOR THE
SANTA MARGARITA WATERSHED
BENEFIT ASSESSMENT AREA
JULY 2026

JASON E. UHLEY
General Manager-Chief Engineer



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APPENDIX B – RCFC&WCD Ordinance No. 14 (May 14, 1991)
APPENDIX C – Map of Santa Margarita Watershed Benefit Assessment Area (SMWBAA)
APPENDIX D – SMWBAA Assessment Roll (FY 2026-27)

INTRODUCTION

In 1987, Congress amended the Federal Clean Water Act (CWA) to require public agencies which serve urbanized areas with a population greater than 100,000 and other designated areas to obtain permits to discharge urban stormwater runoff from municipally owned drainage facilities including streets, highways, storm drains, and flood control channels. In November 1990, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) promulgated enforceable regulations establishing Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permit requirements under its National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Program. In California, USEPA has delegated its NPDES permitting authority to the California State Water Resources Control Board (CSWRCB). The CSWRCB issues and enforces NPDES MS4 Permits through its nine California Regional Water Quality Control Boards (CRWQCB).

The Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (District) service area encompasses portions of three major watersheds (drainage areas): the Santa Ana River, Santa Margarita River, and Whitewater River Watersheds. The discharge of stormwater from MS4s within each of these three watersheds is regulated pursuant to an NPDES MS4 Permit (NPDES Permit) administered by a separate CRWQCB. **The District must comply with the provisions of these NPDES Permits in order to legally operate and maintain its flood control and drainage system infrastructure.** The USEPA and the CRWQCBs can impose significant penalties for non-compliance. In addition, private citizens can pursue enforcement actions under the Federal CWA.

In the Santa Margarita River Region (SMR), the District, along with the County of Riverside (County) and the City of Temecula (Co-Permittees), obtained an "early"¹ NPDES Permit from the CRWQCB - San Diego Region (Regional Board) on June 16, 1990 (first-term SMR Permit). The Regional Board added the then newly incorporated City of Murrieta as a Co-Permittee to the Permit on May 18, 1992. This first-term SMR NPDES Permit was considered a "Developmental Permit". The Co-Permittees were authorized to continue discharging stormwater from their MS4s while developing various elements of an area-wide stormwater management program. The Permit identified the District as Principal Permittee, and the County and Cities of Temecula and Murrieta as Co-Permittees (collectively, the Principal Permittee and Co-Permittees comprise the Riverside County Permittees). The area-wide stormwater management program was documented in the 1993 Drainage Area Management Plan (1993 DAMP).

Although the first-term SMR Permit "expired" on June 16, 1995, its provisions remained in effect in accordance with the applicable provisions of the NPDES Permit Program regulations until the Regional Board adopted a second-term SMR NPDES Permit (Board Order No. 98-02) on May 13, 1998. However, USEPA Region IX raised an objection to specific language that was included in Board Order No. 98-02 at the direction of the SWRCB. Region IX subsequently took action to issue its own NPDES Permit (CAS0108766) in accordance with the Memorandum of Agreement between Region IX and the SWRCB and the Phase I NPDES MS4 regulations at 40 CFR123.44 (h). On June 25, 1999, Region IX "returned" the NPDES Permit which it had issued to the Regional Board for implementation. On November 8, 2000, the Regional Board issued Addendum No. 1 to Board Order No. 98-02, which incorporated, by reference, the USEPA NPDES Permit into their Board Order.

¹ The term "early" is used to indicate permits that were issued prior to the promulgation of the final USEPA rules for permitting municipal stormwater discharges [40CF122.26, November 1990].

In general, both Board Order No. 98-02 and the USEPA NPDES Permit validated the Riverside County Co-Permittees' overall stormwater management efforts by incorporating the major elements of the 1993 DAMP and other stormwater management program elements that the Co-Permittees had subsequently developed. However, both Board Order No. 98-02 and the USEPA NPDES Permit imposed additional programs and activities that the Riverside County Co-Permittees were required to implement in accordance with specified time schedules in order to achieve compliance with Board Order No. 98-02, the USEPA NPDES Permit, and the CWA. Board Order No. 98-02 expired on November 30, 2003. The Riverside County Co-Permittees submitted a Report of Waste Discharge (ROWD) to the Regional Board on May 30, 2003, requesting renewal of the SMR Permit. On June 14, 2004, the Regional Board adopted Board Order No. R9-2004-001, the third-term SMR Permit.

The third-term SMR Permit required several additional or expanded program elements, such as strict control on new developments, expanded construction, industrial and commercial inspection programs, and a new emphasis on water quality monitoring and program effectiveness evaluations. Compliance programs were developed or expanded to address the third-term SMR Permit between June 2004 and June 2005.

The Riverside County Co-Permittees submitted a ROWD to the Regional Board on January 15, 2009, as an application for the reissuance of the SMR Permit by the Regional Board. The Regional Board responded to the ROWD and permit renewal process on February 18, 2010. The District and Riverside County Co-Permittees worked with the Regional Board to develop the fourth-term SMR Permit which was adopted on November 10, 2010 (2010 Permit) and included the newly incorporated City of Wildomar as a Co-Permittee.

From 2012 to 2015, although regulated under the 2010 Permit at the time, the Riverside County Co-Permittees coordinated with the San Diego County and South Orange County Permittees in responding to Regional Board staff proposals in their development of a Regional NPDES Permit (Regional MS4 Permit). The Regional MS4 Permit required a paradigm shift from traditional jurisdiction-based Permit requirements to watershed-based, outcome-oriented requirements. The Regional MS4 Permit was adopted in May 2013; in May 2015, the Riverside County Co-Permittees submitted a ROWD requesting renewal of the SMR Permit. The Regional MS4 Permit regulates Co-Permittees within San Diego and Orange Counties, and as of November 18, 2015, now regulates the Riverside County Co-Permittees. The Regional MS4 Permit expired on June 27, 2018 but has been administratively extended until it is reissued. On December 27, 2017, the Riverside County Co-Permittees submitted a ROWD as an application for the re-issuance of the Regional MS4 Permit. The Regional Board initiated the process to reissue the Regional MS4 Permit with a meeting on March 9, 2023 and expects to conduct additional meetings and develop a staff working proposal for proposed language revisions to the Regional MS4 Permit sometime in the second half of FY 26-27. The reissued Regional MS4 Permit will include new requirements stemming from SWRCB adopted state-wide policies on trash, fiscal reporting, and asset management that the Riverside Co-Permittees will need to implement. Until the Regional Board adopts and reissues a revised Regional MS4 Permit, the Riverside County Co-Permittees will continue to be regulated by the currently adopted Regional MS4 Permit for FY 26-27.

Since issuance of the first-term SMR Permit in 1990, the Riverside County Co-Permittees' Stormwater Management Program has been guided by the following principles:

1. Utilize existing Co-Permittee departments/programs to meet NPDES Permit requirements whenever possible.

2. Minimize duplication of effort through coordinated Co-Permittee compliance actions.
3. When necessary, develop new or expanded stormwater management programs that are both cost-effective and acceptable to the public.

The Santa Margarita Watershed Benefit Assessment Area (SMWBAA) was established pursuant to District Ordinance No. 14 on May 14, 1991 (see Appendix B). The SMWBAA was formed to offset the District's program and administrative costs associated with the development, implementation, and management of identified stormwater management activities required by the federally mandated NPDES Permit Program. **The District must continue to develop and implement these stormwater management activities in order to legally operate and maintain its flood control and drainage facilities.** A map showing the boundaries of the SMWBAA is attached hereto as Appendix C.

As Principal Watershed Co-Permittee under the Regional MS4 Permit, the District serves as liaison to the Regional Board on general Permit issues and is required to coordinate MS4 Permit activities and facilitate collaboration on development and implementation of programs required by the Regional MS4 Permit.² As such, the costs of the District's various NPDES Permit compliance activities fluctuate from year to year. Although some expenses do not change significantly on a yearly basis, certain costs are cyclical (e.g., preparing ROWDs and negotiating NPDES permit provisions), while expenses associated with collecting water quality samples and conducting laboratory analyses may vary according to the amount of rainfall occurring in a given year or in response to certain information requests from the Regional Board. Costs associated with the development, production, and distribution of public education materials are not always incurred on a Fiscal Year basis (FY). Occasionally, additional consultants and/or legal services may be needed to assist the District with the development of a particular Permit requirement or program activity. Also, certain activities or programs may be expanded or curtailed from time to time and, occasionally, new programs or activities must be developed and implemented.

Currently, the regulation and management of stormwater runoff is a topic of increasing interest amongst the public, municipalities, regulatory authorities, and legislators. Although new laws and regulations could result in changes to the assessment rate in future years, **the proposed assessment rate for Fiscal Year 2026-27 is equal to or less than the assessment rate that was enrolled and levied since Fiscal Year 1996-97.**

² Section G, Order No. R9-2013-0001, as amended by Order Nos. R9-2015-0001 and R9-2015-0100

APPORTIONMENT METHODOLOGY

SMWBAA assessments are apportioned based on the proportionate stormwater runoff generated by each parcel. This method of assessment is consistent with state law and District Ordinance No. 14. The amount of benefit is computed based upon parcel size and use classification. A single-family residential structure on a 7,200 square foot parcel is defined as one benefit assessment unit (BAU). The BAUs for other types of land use are calculated in proportion to the amount of runoff generated by a single-family residence on a 7,200 square foot lot.

In comparison with a typical single-family residence, industrial and commercial properties typically generate more stormwater runoff, and higher pollutant loads on a per acre basis. Thus, industrial/commercial parcels are assessed at a higher rate per acre than residential parcels. Because agricultural discharges are currently exempt under the NPDES Permit regulations, parcels within the SMWBAA that are used for agricultural purposes are exempt from the assessment. Vacant, undeveloped parcels are not assessed because they are considered to generate no increase in pollutant loading. Additionally, certain large undeveloped tracts of land such as federal or state-owned forest are excluded from the SMWBAA. A more detailed discussion of the apportionment methodology is presented in Appendix B.

CURRENT YEAR ASSESSMENTS (FY 2025-26)

In July 2025, the District's Board of Supervisors confirmed a benefit assessment rate for FY 2025-26 of \$4.00 per BAU. Following is a summary of FY 2025-26 assessments:

Rate	Billed Parcels	BAUs	Assessments	Corrections	Amount Paid⁽²⁾⁽³⁾
\$4.00	99,172	156,393	\$625,171		\$618,197

⁽¹⁾ Amount reflects actual total assessments on all parcels. Total may vary due to rounding.

⁽²⁾ Estimated based on FY 2024-25 delinquency percentage.

⁽³⁾ Includes payments received for direct billed parcels.

Property owners may request a review of their assessment(s) by contacting the District. District staff considers each request by reviewing information such as assessor's parcel maps, aerial photographs, and, when necessary, conducting site visits. The Auditor-Controller is notified of any needed corrections and a new tax bill is issued or, in cases where the assessment has been paid, a refund is made. Last year, there were no corrections processed.

RECOMMENDED BENEFIT ASSESSMENT RATES (FY 2026-27)

The District recommends that for FY 2026-27, the SMWBAA assessment rate remain unchanged at \$4.00 per BAU. This BAU rate would result in an equivalent charge per acre for the following land uses:

Group	Land Use Classification	BAU/Acre	Assessment Rate*
A	Commercial, Industrial	12	\$48.00/acre
B	Apartments/Mobile Home Parks, Churches and Schools	9	\$36.00/acre
C	Single-family Residential	6**	\$24.00/acre
D	Agricultural/Vacant Undeveloped	Exempt	\$0.00/acre
E	Golf Courses	0.10	\$0.40/acre
F	Undeveloped Portions of Parcels	0.05	\$0.20/acre

* Refer to Appendix B for a detailed discussion of the Benefit Assessment methodology.

** One BAU per single-family residence, assuming six equally sized residential parcels per acre.

The projected revenue for FY 2026-27, using the proposed benefit assessment rate of \$4.00 per BAU is as follows:

Rate	Parcels ⁽¹⁾	BAUs	Assessment ⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾	Projected Revenue ⁽³⁾
\$4.00	99,172	156,393	\$625,171	\$593,912

⁽¹⁾ Based on FY 2025-26 Assessor's information.

⁽²⁾ Totals may vary due to rounding.

⁽³⁾ Assumes a 5.0% delinquency rate.

The projected revenue along with any remaining portion of the ending fund balance from FY 2025-26 will fund the District's NPDES Stormwater Management Program activities for the Santa Margarita Watershed area in FY 2026-27. The proposed FY 2026-27 budget is presented in Appendix A.

During the early years of the NPDES Program, there were many uncertainties regarding startup costs (consultant costs, amount of sampling that would be required, overall program scope, etc.) since the program was new for both the regulatory authorities and the Permittees. Consequently, the initial assessment rates were set conservatively to ensure that all permit obligations could be met. To date, the District has been able to maintain a modest fund balance since the benefit assessments were first levied in FY 1991-92. The District is reducing the fund balance by maintaining the current assessment rate while sustaining expenditure levels that are slightly above projected revenues. As a result of increasingly stringent regulations of municipal stormwater runoff in California, continued full implementation and anticipated reissuance of the Regional MS4 Permit, and with ongoing technical and monitoring work required to support the Advanced

Restoration Plans for the Santa Margarita River and Estuary³, it is expected that the District's NPDES Permit compliance costs will increase significantly in FY 2026-27 and in the coming years.

ASSESSMENT ROLL

The SMWBAA Assessment Roll provides a listing by Assessor's Parcel Number of the proposed FY 2026-27 Benefit Assessment to be levied on each parcel of property in the SMWBAA. The Assessment Roll is identified as Appendix D and incorporated herein by this reference. This Engineer's Report along with the SMWBAA Assessment Roll will be placed at the following locations for review by the public:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
4080 Lemon Street, 1st floor
Riverside, CA 92501

Riverside County Flood Control
and Water Conservation District
1995 Market Street
Riverside, CA 92501

City of Murrieta
1 Town Square
Murrieta, CA 92562

City of Temecula
41000 Main Street
Temecula, CA 92590

The Engineer's Report may also be viewed or downloaded at
<http://content.rcflood.org/NPDES/SantaMargaritaWS.aspx>

³ The Regional Board has renamed these programs as "Nutrient Water Quality Restoration Plans" for the Estuary and River, rather than "TMDL Alternatives." See:
https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/water_issues/programs/tmdls/santa_margarita_river_estuary.html

NPDES PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS (FY 2025-26)

The following tasks were accomplished or are ongoing for the year ending June 30, 2026, in compliance with the Regional MS4 Permit:

- A. Pursuant to Provision B of the Regional MS4 Permit, the Riverside County Co-Permittees developed and implemented the SMR Water Quality Improvement Plan (WQIP). The WQIP is a watershed-based plan that addresses the entire SMR Watershed Management Area (SMR WMA), including land-use areas and facilities within the jurisdiction of the Riverside County Co-Permittees, a portion of the City of Menifee, and a portion of the County of San Diego, in which Co-Permittees must assess all watershed streams and known pollutant sources, prioritize water quality issues, and then set forth an adaptive management process to implement strategies to address the highest priority water quality issues. The WQIP was developed through a transparent process involving extensive collaboration with watershed stakeholders and the public. The Regional Board accepted the WQIP on November 27, 2018.

Pursuant to Provision B of the Regional MS4 Permit, the Riverside County Co-Permittees elected to perform the optional Watershed Management Area Analysis (WMAA). The WMAA is a watershed-scale analysis that identifies important characteristics, such as hydrologic processes categories and stream descriptions. The WMAA identifies candidate projects with the potential to provide offsite alternative compliance options. The WMAA evaluated three selected large stream reaches to determine whether they were currently experiencing impacts from hydromodification or were likely to experience such impacts in a future "full buildout" condition. The WMAA recommends hydromodification exemptions for two large streams (Murrieta Creek and the Santa Margarita River) and provides quantitative data and analyses to support the exemptions. Additional WMAA analyses were conducted in May and June 2018, and a revised version of the WMAA document was submitted with the WQIP in October 2018.

- B. The District submitted a WQIP Update on January 31, 2021, to incorporate the requirements of Investigative Order R9-2019-0007 (see Paragraph D, below) and submitted revisions to the January 2021 WQIP Update to the Regional Board concurrently with the WQIP Annual Report in January 2022. The revisions to the WQIP Update were required in response to comments from the Regional Board as outlined in the 2019-2020 WQIP Annual Report Review Letter received April 30, 2021. On April 26, 2022, the Regional Board approved a WQIP Update prepared by the District to incorporate the requirements of Order R9-2019-0007 (see Paragraph C and D, below). For FY 2025-26, the District submitted an updated WQIP to maintain compliance with Provision D, the Regional MS4 Permit's monitoring requirements. The WQIP update included revisions to the Quality Assurance Project Plan to update the revised 303(d) list and add new receiving water monitoring locations. The District also continued to implement the required Regional MS4 Permit strategies to meet the interim and final target nutrient reductions in the Santa Margarita River Estuary that are scheduled in Table 4-2 of the WQIP.
- C. In 2018, the District began coordinating the work of the Santa Margarita River Nutrient Initiative Group (SMRNIG). In Fiscal Year 2025-26, the District continued to chair the SMRNIG. The District coordinates and provides facilitation services for quarterly and as-needed meetings of the SMRNIG's Stakeholder Advisory Group. This coordination had been provided by the County of San Diego from 2014 – 2018. The Regional Board, in conjunction with the USEPA and local stakeholders including the local agencies in the Santa Margarita River Watershed, formed the SMRNIG to investigate the conditions, sources of pollutants,

loading capacity, and existing control requirements affecting the eutrophic conditions in the watershed. Several long-term water quality monitoring projects have been implemented, and modeling of the Santa Margarita Estuary, River Mainstem, and watershed have been performed. The information is currently being used to develop a TMDL Alternative (now termed “Nutrient Advance Restoration Plan” by the San Diego Water Board) to address the pollutants and conditions affecting eutrophication within the estuary and the river. From 2012-18, the SMRNIG was funded largely through the Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) process and a Proposition 84 grant from the State of California with matching funding and in-kind services by the District, the County of San Diego, and U.S. Marine Corps (USMC) Base Camp Pendleton. The current technical work, which began in early 2019, has been funded largely by the Regional Board. However, the District, in coordination with the Riverside County Co-Permittees, provided review of the technical work, supported a related modeling project to determine nutrient loading and water quality conditions under a natural condition, and provided administrative support. The technical work and the final technical report were completed in early 2022. In September 2023, the Water Board prepared a draft Staff Report describing the conditions in the River Main Stem and proposing Nutrient Response Targets and load allocations for the MS4 Permittee stakeholders (Counties of Riverside and San Diego, Cities of Murrieta, Temecula, and Wildomar, the District, and USMC Camp Pendleton). The Draft Staff Report was reviewed by the Co-Permittees and was then submitted for peer review through the State Water Resources Control Board. Peer reviewers provided comments on the draft Staff Report in the summer of 2024. The District Riverside Co-permittees provided consultant support to address selected technical peer review comments, and the San Diego Water Board provided a draft response to comments document in August 2025. The Staff Report was expected to be released for full public review in early 2026 but the release has been delayed due to staffing changes at the Regional Board.

- D. On May 9, 2019, the Regional Board issued Investigative Order No. R9-2019-0007 (2019 IO): An Order Directing the Cities of Murrieta, Temecula, and Wildomar, the Counties of San Diego and Riverside, the Riverside Flood Control and Water Conservation District, and the United States Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton to Design and Implement a Water Quality Improvement Monitoring and Assessment Program for Eutrophic Conditions in the Santa Margarita River Estuary and Watershed. The 2019 IO required these seven named agencies to develop a Monitoring and Assessment Workplan and submit the Workplan to the Regional Board for approval within six months. The Workplan was developed in coordination with the seven agencies and with review by the SMRNIG. The final Workplan was approved by the Regional Board on January 30, 2020. The required monitoring activities for the SMR Estuary were funded jointly by the seven named agencies under a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). Additional monitoring required at three sites on the Santa Margarita River was conducted independently by the County of San Diego, the USMC Base Camp Pendleton, and by the District. Monitoring began in May of 2020 and continued through 2023. The required monitoring under the 2019 IO was completed in October 2023, and the final four-year monitoring program report was submitted to the Water Board April 1, 2024. San Diego Water Board staff provided comments on the final IO Monitoring Report in November 2024. District staff reviewed these comments and Naval Information Warfare Center Pacific (NIWC Pacific) prepared a draft-final version of the report for review and discussion with San Diego Water Board staff. NIWC prepared a response to the comments from the Water Board and submitted the final version of the report in early 2026. Therefore, all requirements of the IO have been completed. The Water Board is expected to prepare new requirements for the River Mainstem and Estuary Restoration Plan, which could start in 2026, and the District will lead the negotiation of this new program on behalf of the Riverside

County Co-Permittees. The District continues to monitor the Santa Margarita River site in an effort to measure progress in making reductions in nutrient loading and coordinated with the County of San Diego to conduct additional monitoring in the Estuary in monitoring year 2025-2026.

- E. The Co-Permittees updated the BMP Design Manual (BMPDM) and the Water Quality Management Plan (WQMP), which became effective July 5, 2018. The Co-Permittees are currently implementing the updated BMPDM and WQMP per the Regional MS4 Permit. The District continued to provide training support services to the Riverside County Co-Permittees and the engineering and development community on the BMPDM and WQMP. District participation in Regional BMP programs and ongoing monitoring activities at the District's Low Impact Development facility will support necessary BMP design changes that are more cost effective and meet MS4 permit requirements.
- F. The SMR Hydromodification Management Plan (HMP) was developed by the Riverside County Co-Permittees in response to Provision F.1.h of the 2010 Permit to manage increases in runoff discharge rates and durations from Priority Development Projects (PDPs). Hydrologic and sediment supply performance standards that will support maintenance of geomorphic stability in channels receiving runoff from PDPs were developed in this process. The HMP requirements for PDPs have been incorporated into the BMPDM and WQMP, which now supersede the HMP. The HMP is now a historical program document.
- G. The District continued implementation of the SMR Hydrology Model (SMRHM). The SMRHM became effective on July 11, 2014. The SMRHM is a tool that provides continuous simulation of peak flow runoff rates, from 10% of the 2-year runoff event up to the 10-year runoff event for PDPs. The software is a Hydrologic Simulation Program FORTAN (HSPF) model that allows users to demonstrate compliance with the HMP performance standards through an interactive graphic user interface.
- H. The District conducted hydromodification monitoring within the SMR as specified in the SMR HMP Monitoring Plan from 2016 - 2019. The plan requires monitoring and assessing two streams in the SMR over time; data gathered will be used in conjunction with monitoring efforts required under the Regional MS4 Permit and will also be provided to several watershed stakeholders for use in special studies and/or stream restoration projects. This monitoring was completed in 2019 and a final HMP Monitoring Report was submitted to the Regional Board in January 2020. Hydromodification monitoring was also conducted at the two Long-Term Receiving water stations in Spring 2021 in accordance with the WQIP schedule for year 3 of implementation. Due to lack of wet weather flow for sampling, and as encouraged by the Regional Board, the Long-Term Receiving water station for the upper watershed was moved from Wilson Creek to upper Temecula Creek; therefore, another Hydromodification monitoring event was conducted in Spring 2023 to complete the hydromodification monitoring requirements at the Long-Term Receiving water stations for the permit term.
- I. The District developed and submitted a completed test claim on the 2010 MS4 Permit, pursuant to the request from the Commission on State Mandates. In light of a recent Supreme Court ruling, the Commission agreed to review the original test claim filed by the SMR Co-Permittees in 2011 regarding costs incurred for 2010 MS4 Permit provisions which may be eligible for reimbursement from the state. The completed test claim was submitted to the Commission on April 28, 2017; hearing dates continue to be delayed due to ongoing legal challenges regarding other test claims in the state. On March 13, 2023, the Commission

issued a Draft Proposed Decision on the test claim, which included a partial granting of subvention of state funds for specified permit requirements. Claimants' attorneys requested a time extension and comments could be filed until May 19, 2023. The Commission heard the test claim and adopted "Parameters and Guidelines (Ps and Gs)" at their hearing on January 26, 2024. The Ps and Gs identify which permit provisions were found to be unfunded mandates and sets forth the terms upon which claimants can receive a subvention of state funds. The Office of the State Controller issued claiming instructions on April 29, 2024. The District provided cost information to the Co-Permittees for unfunded mandate provisions that were funded through the shared cost budget as developed per the Implementation Agreement, including reimbursable costs for consultant services and District staff time. Most Riverside County Co-Permittees submitted actual claims by the deadline of August 27, 2024.

- J. The District developed and submitted a completed test claim on the Regional MS4 Permit with the Commission on State Mandates. The test claim was submitted on June 30, 2017; hearing dates continue to be delayed but is most recently scheduled for a hearing by the Commission on December 3, 2027.
- K. The District continued identifying and tracking impending draft policies and proposed legislation to inform regulators, policy makers, and the Co-Permittees of potential impacts to the Permit program or to any of its specific components. Specifically, the District developed a comment letter for the Draft 2026 California Integrated Report and submitted to the State Water Resources Control Board; developed and submitted new information to the State Water Board and provided testimony at a State Water Board Workshop on May 6, 2025 regarding the proposed San Diego Water Board's Basin Plan Amendment to add biological objectives for streams in the San Diego Region.
- L. The District continued partnership and support in the Upper Santa Margarita Watershed Integrated Regional Watershed Management Group (USMWIRWMG). The Regional Watershed Management Group (RWMG) involves multiple agencies, stakeholders, individuals, and groups, and collaborates to apply for Propositions 1 and 84 grant funding through the Upper Santa Margarita Watershed Integrated Regional Watershed Management Plan (IRWMP) for planning projects within the SMR that would additionally help provide funding for compliance activities required by the Regional MS4 Permit. The USMWIRWMG did not meet in FY 2024-25.
- M. In 2019, the District prepared a Storm Water Resources Plan (SWRP) for the Upper Santa Margarita River Watershed (USMRW). The 2019 USMRW SWRP is an integrated plan that focuses on regional watershed-based stormwater priorities and on developing projects with multiple benefits in the Riverside County portion of the SMRWMA. The purpose of the SWRP is to guide development, facilitate implementation, and improve funding eligibility of stormwater projects that will provide benefits such as improved water quality, augmented water supply, and reduced flood risk. The SWRP also acts as a vehicle for agency collaboration to allow development of regional stormwater and dry weather runoff solutions. The SWRP was developed out of previous cooperative water management planning efforts in the Planning Area, which is also covered by the SMR WQIP. The SWRP works closely with the WQIP as well as the USMRW IRWMP. In December 2019, the SWRP was submitted for approval to the SWRCB. In January 2021, the SWRCB provided a letter of concurrence that approved the SWRP. The SWRP was also submitted to Rancho California

Water District (RCWD) for inclusion in the USMRW IRWM and this action is still pending with RCWD.

- N. The District continued to chair the Santa Margarita Permit Technical Advisory Committee comprised of Riverside County and San Diego Co-Permittees and Regional Board staff. The Riverside County Co-Permittees coordinate their urban runoff management activities to work toward achieving the greatest protection of receiving water quality. This committee serves as a forum to effectively disseminate information, discuss regional and statewide program issues, and plan and coordinate Co-Permittee actions to achieve compliance with the Regional MS4 Permit.
- O. The District continued contributing financial support to area-wide stormwater pollution prevention programs, such as the Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) temporary and permanent collection events and the "ABOP" (Anti-freeze, Batteries, Oil, and Paint) Program. These programs are provided through a Memorandum of Understanding and financial contributions to the Riverside County Department of Waste Resources. The HHW and ABOP programs implemented by the District support regional strategies that are identified in the SMR WQIP to protect receiving waters.
- P. The District prepared the comprehensive 2024-25 WQIP Annual Report, which was submitted via posting to a FTP site set up by the San Diego Water Board and uploading to the Regional Clearinghouse website as directed by the Regional Board. The WQIP Annual Report was posted and uploaded to the FTP site and the website on January 30, 2026. The WQIP Annual Report included information provided in response to Regional Board reviews of WQIP Annual Reports for all the Watershed Management Areas in the San Diego Region. Additional minor updates were incorporated for the submittal on January 30, 2026.
- Q. The District continues to review and update the Low Impact Development (LID) BMP Design Manual, which is focused on landscape based BMPs and infiltration BMPs capable of addressing identified water quality impairments in the Santa Margarita Watershed. The LID BMP Design Manual is available on the District's website. In mid-2023, the District conducted a review of the specification for bioretention soil media and finalized an improved specification in late summer 2025. The new specification will be incorporated into the BMP Manual when it is next updated.
- R. The District continued collection and analysis of water quality samples in accordance with the Regional MS4 Permit's WQIP Monitoring and Assessment Program requirements. Dry weather field screening is conducted at District and Co-Permittee MS4 outfalls and water quality samples collected during wet and dry weather at MS4 outfalls are analyzed for required constituents. Water quality samples will continue to be collected at Long-Term Receiving Water stations and analyzed for required constituents in accordance with the program schedule under the WQIP.
- S. The WQIP includes a Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment Program (MAP), which incorporates the requirements specified in the Regional MS4 Permit. The Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) (Volume II) of the CMP has been incorporated into the MAP and specifies the general methods, procedures, quality assurance, and quality control requirements as relevant to the Riverside County MS4 Permits' monitoring requirements.
- T. The District continued participation in the Stormwater Monitoring Coalition (SMC), a regional monitoring group comprised of Southern California Phase 1 Municipal NPDES

Permit holders and local Water Board representatives whose focus is developing effective and meaningful stormwater quality monitoring techniques. The goal of the SMC is to develop the technical information necessary to better understand stormwater mechanisms and impacts and then develop the tools that will effectively and efficiently improve stormwater decision-making. The SMC develops and funds cooperative projects to improve the knowledge of stormwater quality management and reports on the progress of those projects on an annual basis (<http://socalsmc.org/>). To date, the coalition has funded more than 30 research projects valued at \$18 million, underscoring the value of collaborative research. The current master agreement was signed in November 2023, effective July 2024 and spans five years. Under this agreement, the SMC executive steering committee developed a forward-looking research agenda to guide the SMC's priorities and directions through June 2029. To date, the District has served as SMC Chair, Vice-chair, and as the Project Manager for the Executive Steering Committee. District staff have also provided expertise on various technical workgroups, including the Regional Stream Survey and Regional BMP monitoring network. Through this regional collaboration, the District continues to help pilot pivotal efforts through in-kind monitoring and consultant services support.

- U. The District continued coordination with the SMC for participation in the southern California bioassessment monitoring program. This monitoring program was created in response to the need for a more holistic and coordinated approach for gathering information about the health of streams in southern California both for compliance purposes and data-sharing purposes as streams are an important natural resource. The study was designed to answer questions essential to watershed management. Answering these questions at the regional scale provides resource managers with the ability to contextualize their programs and improve understanding of the effectiveness of management actions, prioritization of streams most in need of protection, and identification of stressors that are likely to pose the greatest risk to stream health. Based on the findings and lessons learned from the decade of regional monitoring efforts, the development of a new five-year workplan for 2027-2031 is underway. One SMC monitoring station will be visited as part of the regional survey during the Spring 2026 monitoring year to meet both the bioassessment requirement and participation in SMC requirement in the MS4 permit.
- V. The District continued to participate in the California Stormwater Quality Association (CASQA) on behalf of the Permittees. CASQA is a professional member association dedicated to the advancement of stormwater quality management through collaboration, education, implementation guidance, regulatory review, and scientific assessment. CASQA assists California's stormwater Permittees in developing, implementing, and maintaining effective stormwater quality management programs. To date, District staff have served on the CASQA Board of Directors, on the Executive Program Committee, as Legislative Subcommittee Co-Chair, Monitoring and Science Subcommittee Co-Chair, Policy and Permitting Subcommittee Co-Chair, BMP Effectiveness Subcommittee Co-Chair, True Source Control Subcommittee, and as a member of the BMP Effectiveness Subcommittee.
- W. The District continued participation in the CASQA True Source Control Subcommittee. This subcommittee was developed from the combined Watershed Management & Impaired Waters Subcommittee and the Pesticides Subcommittee in 2021. One of the focused efforts of the True Source Subcommittee is to facilitate changes to state and federal pesticide regulations that could potentially improve processes for evaluating the environmental impacts of new pesticides on receiving waters. It is also focused on improving labeling, use requirements, and regulatory approaches for existing pesticides. Since 2021, the

Subcommittee has expanded its focus to address a broader range of pollutant sources, including product-related contaminants such as microplastics, tire-related chemicals, and metals. The Subcommittee coordinates with the State Water Resources Control Board and other state agencies, including the Department of Pesticide Regulation, to support proactive, source control strategies that reduce pollutant impacts to receiving waters through upstream regulatory and programmatic approaches.

- X. The District continued providing required municipal employee stormwater training. These training classes focus on the requisite knowledge for properly implementing the requirements outlined in the Jurisdictional Runoff Management Program (JRMP) Plan and WQMP. The training classes also address Permittee functions such as development planning, municipal activities, industrial/commercial inspections, and construction inspections. In previous years all such training was conducted through in-person training events. However, in 2020 the District began implementation of an online training program to allow for a more cost effective and convenient training platform for Co-Permittees. During the FY 2025-26, the District held -in person training events on WQMPs, construction site inspections, and municipal facilities and activities.
- Y. The Watershed Protection Program's 2023-27 strategic plan for public education has been developed by the Public Education Strategic Taskforce (PEST) to engage Riverside County residents in actions protective of the County's streams and rivers, which is built upon the many successes of the current program and carries out activities and projects that include:
- Program Website rcwatershed.org
 - Best Management Practices information and flyers
 - Maintaining the 24/7 illegal dumping hotline
 - Social Media platforms
 - Monthly news bulletin
 - Public engagement campaigns to eliminate over-irrigation and trash
 - K-12 school education outreach program
 - Partnership programs – Responsible Pet Parent campaign with Animal Services
 - Love Your Neighborhood project with Western Riverside Council of Governments

The Program's goals consist of continued efforts to increase stormwater pollution prevention awareness and its impact on the environment; to educate residents and local businesses with the goal of shaping their attitude toward minimizing stormwater pollution and to maintain compliance with the MS4 Permit. In addition to improving water quality, helping the public understand the problems associated with stormwater runoff builds overall support for the stormwater program.

- Z. The District continues to update the District's NPDES website to meet the Regional MS4 Permit requirements for the "Regional Clearinghouse". The Regional MS4 Permit requires all program documents and supporting documents to be accessible online. The website has been updated to provide links to all required documents and to link to the relevant section of the San Diego County NPDES website for the SMR Watershed Management Area.

PROGRAM/WORK ITEMS (FY 2026-27)

The Regional Board enrolled the Riverside County Co-Permittees into the Regional MS4 Permit on November 18, 2015; the Permit became effective for the Co-Permittees on January 7, 2016. Upon the Regional MS4 Permit's effective date, a two-year timeline began in which the SMR WMA WQIP must be developed and submitted for Regional Board approval; additionally, the JRMP Plan and BMPDM were all required to be updated and submitted. Each of these Regional MS4 Permit compliance documents required significant public and stakeholder participation, review and comment, and extensive coordination with other WMA entities including the Riverside County Co-Permittees, County of San Diego, and City of Menifee. Implementation of the WQIP continues to have significant impacts on Co-Permittee resources.

The following program activities will be emphasized for the coming year:

NPDES Permit Compliance Document Development Submittal

Pursuant to the Regional MS4 Permit, the Co-Permittees in the SMR WMA (Riverside County Co-Permittees, County of San Diego) and the City of Menifee have designated the District to be the Principal Watershed Co-Permittee for the SMR WMA; this means that in addition to assuring its own compliance with the Regional MS4 Permit, the District is also responsible for serving as liaison between the SMR WMA Co-Permittees and the Regional Board, and facilitating development and coordinating submittal of the primary Permit compliance documents for the WMA.

Regional MS4 Permit compliance reports which will be developed and submitted by January 31st.

The District and the Co-Permittees will continue to implement the WQIP and the JRMP requirements. The District will also review and update the WQIP, the WMAA, the JRMP template, and the BMP Design Manual as needed. Costs to coordinate and develop the above stated plans and reports have been significant; the District's share of the cost for developing these compliance documents include SMWBAA funds.

State Water Board Municipal Cost Reporting Policy

The SWRCB adopted a Statewide Standardized Cost Reporting in MS4 Permits policy on January 22, 2025 to standardize cost reporting requirements in Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permits throughout California. This Policy applies to all Phase I MS4 permittees in the SMR. In addition, the SWRCB is developing a related guidance document entitled “Cost Reporting Guidance for the Water Quality Control Policy for Standardized Cost Reporting in Municipal Stormwater Permits” (Guidance Document), and a “MS4 Cost Data Portal” where municipalities will upload their cost data annually as required by the Policy. The State’s Guidance Document and Data Portal are expected to be available in early FY 2026-27. The District will assist the Riverside Co-Permittees to understand the requirements and to comply with this new policy.

Renewal of the Regional MS4 Permit

The District (in coordination with the Co-Permittees, the County of San Diego, and the County of Orange) submitted the ROWD as application for a renewed Regional MS4 Permit on December 27, 2017. The process to renew the Regional MS4 Permit began in FY 2022-23. The District will lead the renewal activities on behalf of the Co-Permittees, including stakeholder coordination meetings and document development, review, and revision. The schedule for permit renewal has been extended and is expected to be ongoing in FY 2026-27. The District participates in several

subcommittees and workgroups led by the County of San Diego that are evaluating the current permit provisions in preparation for the initiation of the actual permit renewal.

SMR WMA WQIP Implementation

The WQIP addresses water quality issues within the SMR WMA in a systematic fashion which is prescribed by the Regional MS4 Permit. The WQIP includes a complete assessment of watershed streams and outfalls, pollutant sources, extensive mapping, assessment of pollutant loads, and development of strategies for addressing the SMR WMA's identified highest priority water quality issues. The WQIP also includes a monitoring program and an adaptive management process. The WQIP serves as the cornerstone Regional MS4 Permit compliance document going forward into subsequent MS4 Permit terms. As described in paragraph "B" above, the WQIP was updated in 2020 to incorporate the requirements of Order No. R9-2019-0007, and the WQIP update was revised in 2021 to address comments from the Regional Board. The District will coordinate to ensure full implementation of water quality improvement strategies identified in the WQIP.

The WQIP Target Area Program was developed in response to San Diego Water Board comments in their 2020-21 WQIP Annual Report review letter. The District and Co-Permittees selected specific strategies, interim goals, and metrics to demonstrate progress toward WQIP goals for the assessment period ending in 2023. Strategies implemented in the priority outfall drainage areas include new and enhanced outreach to residents and businesses intended to change behaviors to reduce application of fertilizers and eliminate or reduce dry weather discharges from landscaping or other residential activities. New strategies are also being implemented to enhance the effectiveness of IDDE investigations, and to monitor flow from selected priority outfalls to determine flow patterns and evaluate effectiveness of outreach and IDDE investigations in reducing dry weather flows at the outfalls. A comprehensive assessment of progress toward the 2023 interim WQIP goals was conducted in 2023, and the key findings were reported in the WQIP Annual Report submitted in January 2024. Based on the assessment, the WQIP Target Area Program has been revised with enhanced actions to address residential dry weather unpermitted discharges and will continue in FY 2026-27, with the next assessment period ending in 2028.

Individual JRMPs

The District will continue to implement a JRMP that describes its specific runoff management programs and activities. Additionally, each Co-Permittee must update its respective JRMP Plans to reflect the requirements of the Regional MS4 Permit. As Principal Co-Permittee, the District prepared a JRMP template to assist Co-Permittees with preparation of their own jurisdiction-specific documents. Using the JRMP template as a guide, the Co-Permittees prepared and submitted updated JRMP Plans to the Regional Board on January 5, 2018 and are updating and adapting these programs as needed. The JRMPs for the District and the Co-Permittees were fully updated in February 2024 and February 2025 and were posted to the Regional Clearinghouse web page.

WQMP Implementation

In accordance with 2010 Permit and Regional MS4 Permit requirements, the Riverside County Co-Permittees developed an HMP to manage increases in runoff discharge rates and durations from certain Priority Development Projects. The WQMP requires projects to have estimated post-project runoff discharge rates and durations that do not exceed pre-development discharge rates and durations. Modeling software, called the Santa Margarita Region Hydrology Model (SMRHM), was developed and finalized to perform the necessary calculations to estimate pre-development and post-project runoff discharge rates. Implementation of the WQMP and SMRHM will continue in FY 2026-27.

MS4 Program Management

As Principal Watershed Co-Permittee, the District coordinates the efforts of the other WMA Co-Permittees and facilitates regional compliance with certain aspects of the Regional MS4 Permit on behalf of the Riverside and San Diego County Co-Permittees. This includes acting as liaison between Co-Permittees and the Regional Board, chairing regular meetings of the SMR WMA Technical Advisory Committee, administration of area-wide programs (e.g., public education and outreach, municipal employee training, household hazardous waste collection, hazardous material spill response, and stormwater sample collection and analysis), program development, and preparation and submittal of the Monitoring Annual Report to the Regional Board. The District will also continue its efforts to identify and comment on statewide issues that affect local stormwater programs.

Area-Wide MS4 Programs

The District will continue to provide financial support for several important "area-wide" BMP programs implemented on behalf of the Riverside County Co-Permittees. The programs currently include:

Public Education

The District provides for coordination and oversight of the area-wide NPDES public education and outreach efforts, including public events, school and adult education programs, printed brochures, and commercial mass-media campaigns. This includes continued development and distribution of focused educational outreach materials for specific industries and businesses such as restaurants, auto repair shops, outdoor cleaning businesses, and other commercial and industrial activities that are potential sources of stormwater pollution.

Training for Municipal Employees

Municipal training programs are provided to improve understanding of NPDES Permit requirements and stormwater BMPs. The classes focus on methods to reduce and/or eliminate sources of stormwater pollution from public agency facilities and activities, implementation of the WQMP and HMP, local stormwater ordinances, and Statewide NPDES Construction and Industrial General Permit requirements. Training is provided specifically for construction inspection staff, industrial/commercial facilities inspection staff, municipal facilities maintenance staff, and staff responsible for new development/redevelopment project review. Training is available through an online Learning Management System and includes selected live and in-person training events.

Household Hazardous Waste Collection/ABOP

The District and Riverside County Co-Permittees provide financial support to the County Department of Waste Resources to support ongoing permanent and mobile HHW collection events and operation of the "ABOP" (Antifreeze, Batteries, used motor Oil, and latex Paint) Program, all of which provide local residents with opportunities to properly dispose of HHW.

Santa Margarita River and Estuary TMDL Alternative

The District will coordinate the work of the SMRNIG and provide facilitation services for as-needed meetings of the SMRNIG's Stakeholder Advisory Group. Currently, water quality monitoring required by Investigative Order No. 2019-0007 and modeling of the Santa Margarita River mainstem has been completed. The information is currently being used to develop a TMDL Alternative⁴, including water quality targets and pollutant allocations to address the pollutants and

⁴ The Regional Board is adopting new terminology for the TMDL Alternative projects and will now be using the term "Watershed Restoration Plan" in their documents.

conditions affecting eutrophication within the river. The current technical work, which began in early 2019, has been funded largely by the Regional Board. However, the District, in coordination with the Riverside County Co-Permittees, provide review of the technical work, and supported a related modeling project to determine nutrient loading and water quality conditions under natural conditions and provided administrative support. The technical work and the final technical report were completed in early 2022 and the Regional Board is preparing a Staff Report that will outline the regulatory approach to implement load allocations and monitoring for the river and estuary. In September 2023, the Water Board prepared a draft Staff Report describing the conditions in the River Main Stem and proposing Nutrient Response Targets and load allocations for the MS4 Permittee stakeholders (Counties of Riverside and San Diego, Cities of Murrieta, Temecula, and Wildomar, the District, and USMC Camp Pendleton). The Draft Staff Report was reviewed by the Co-Permittees and was then submitted for peer review through the State Water Resources Control Board. The District in coordination with the Riverside Co-permittees provided consultant support to address selected technical peer review comments, and the San Diego Water Board provided a draft response to comments document in August 2025. The Staff Report was expected to be released for full public review in early 2026 but the release has been delayed due to staffing changes at the Regional Board. The District in coordination with the Riverside Co-permittees will lead review of the Staff Report when it is released, and lead negotiations to develop a watershed monitoring program for the SMR Estuary and River when proposed by Water Board staff.

Water Quality Monitoring

On behalf of the Riverside County Co-Permittees, the District will conduct wet and dry weather sample collection from receiving water and outfall monitoring stations in accordance with the SMR WQIP.

The Riverside County Co-Permittees have also been participating in a study to develop Numeric Nutrient Endpoints for a Santa Margarita River Nutrient Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) alternative. The District and Co-Permittees developed a new monitoring program to assess pollutant loading and impacts to the SMR Estuary to comply with the Regional Board Investigative Order issued May 9, 2019. The District collaborated with the County of San Diego and the USMC Camp Pendleton to conduct the required monitoring through October 2023. The required monitoring under the 2019 IO was completed in October 2023, and the final four-year monitoring program report was submitted to the Water Board April 1, 2024. Therefore, all requirements of the IO have been completed. The Water Board is expected to prepare a new Investigative Order for the River Mainstem and Estuary starting in late 2026 and the District will lead the negotiation of this new program on behalf of the Riverside County Co-Permittees.

As required by the Regional MS4 Permit, the Riverside County Co-Permittees conduct and implement Special Studies work plans that are intended to be in alignment with addressing the high priority water quality conditions in the SMR under the WQIP. As incorporated as a WQIP strategy the Co-permittees have continued efforts under the MS4 Outfall Continuous Flow Monitoring Special Study conducted by the District during the 2024-25 and 2025-26 monitoring year that evolved into the WQIP Target Area Program. This program was developed to address over-irrigation and backyard discharges as a source of dry weather flow from residential areas and consists of IDDE investigations and continuous flow monitoring at seven priority outfalls in coordination with targeted public education materials for residents.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The area-wide Municipal Stormwater Program for the Santa Margarita Watershed has been implemented in an efficient, cost-effective manner through the ongoing cooperative efforts of the District, the Riverside County Co-Permittees, the Regional Board, the Riverside County Fire Department, and Riverside County Department of Waste Resources. The District's NPDES Program activities, which are funded by these SMWBAA assessments, are required to comply with the Regional MS4 Permit and enforceable provisions of the California Water Code and the Federal Clean Water Act, which regulate the discharge of stormwater from MS4s. These mandatory stormwater management program activities are an essential component of the District's continuing operation and maintenance of its critical public safety facilities; therefore, the following action is recommended:

Levy a Flood Control Benefit Assessment in the Santa Margarita Watershed Benefit Assessment Area at an unchanged rate of \$4.00 per benefit assessment unit for FY 2026-27.

GLOSSARY

ABOP – Anti-freeze, Batteries, Oil, and Paint

BAU – Benefit Assessment Unit

BMP – Best Management Practice

CASQA – California Stormwater Quality Association

CMP – Consolidated Monitoring Program

CRWQCB – California Regional Water Quality Control Board

CWA – Clean Water Act

District – Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District

FY – Fiscal Year

HHW – Household Hazardous Waste

HMP – Hydromodification Management Plan

IRWMP – Integrated Regional Watershed Management Plan

JRMP – Jurisdictional Runoff Management Program

LID – Low Impact Development

MS4 – Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System

NPDES – National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System

Board Order No. R9-2013-0001 – See Regional MS4 Permit

Regional Board – San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board

Regional MS4 Permit – An Order of the California Regional Water Quality Control Board – San Diego Region to regulate stormwater discharges from municipal stormwater facilities owned or operated by the District, County of Riverside, Cities of Murrieta, Temecula or Wildomar, County of San Diego and all incorporated Cities, and County of Orange and named incorporated Cities.

ROWD – Report of Waste Discharge

SMC – Southern California Stormwater Monitoring Coalition

SMR – Santa Margarita River/Region

SMRHM – Santa Margarita Region Hydrology Model

SMRNIG – Santa Margarita River Nutrient Initiative Group

SMWBAA – Santa Margarita Watershed Benefit Assessment Area

SWRCB – California State Water Resources Control Board

SWRP – Stormwater Resource Plan

SSMP – Standard Stormwater Mitigation Plan; same as WQMP

TMDL – Total Maximum Daily Load

USEPA – United States Environmental Protection Agency

WQMP – Watershed Quality Management Plan; same as SSMP

WQIP – Water Quality Improvement Plan

APPENDIX A

Proposed NPDES Program Budget (FY 2026-27)

APPENDIX A

SANTA MARGARITA WATERSHED BENEFIT ASSESSMENT AREA PROPOSED NPDES PROGRAM BUDGET (FY 2026-27)

STAFFING

Salaries, Overtime and Benefits	\$1,054,878.00
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OVERHEAD

Administration Support	110,994.00
Computer Workstation Usage	100,000.00
Bad Debt Expense	<u>1,000.00</u>
Subtotal	\$211,994.00

CONSULTANT SERVICES

NPDES Permit Administration	300,000.00
IDDE	75,000.00
Public Education & Outreach	47,520.00
Training Program	30,000.00
Water Quality Monitoring	595,000.00
TMDLs	155,000.00
District Permit Compliance	16,750.00
Misc WPD Projects/Work	<u>150,000.000</u>
Subtotal	\$1,369,270.00

OTHER MS4 PROGRAM EXPENSES

County Counsel/Legal Services	1,685.00
Vehicle Usage	32,000.00
Public Education & Outreach	17,950.00
Water Quality Monitoring	3,500.00
Photocopying/Duplicating	3,000.00
Licenses, Permits, Books, Publication	6,800.00
Misc. (utilities, supplies, materials, communication services)	<u>150.00</u>
Subtotal	\$65,085.00

REGIONAL PROGRAMS AND MEMBERSHIPS

NPDES Permit Administration: CASQA Membership	10,313.00
NPDES Permit Administration: HHW Program, SMC	<u>62,000.00</u>
Subtotal	\$72,313.00

PROGRAM SUBTOTAL

PROGRAM SUBTOTAL	\$2,773,540.00
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Contingency (10%)	277,354.00
Assessor's/Treasurer's Office Line-Item Charges (\$0.36/parcel) *	35,701.92
County Fee for Annual Submittal *	<u>96.14</u>

TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$3,086,692.06
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* Based on County's FY 2025-26 collection charges. The County's FY 2026-27 collection charges are not yet available.

APPENDIX B

**RCFC&WCD Ordinance No. 14
(May 14, 1991)**

APPENDIX C

Map of Santa Margarita Watershed Benefit Assessment Area

APPENDIX D

SMWBAA Assessment Roll (FY 2026-27)