Public Works - Water Resources / Delta Activities

Najee Zarif - Director of Public Works

Budget Units

#2023060000, 2023070000

Department Overview

The Water Resources Division (Water Resources) is responsible for carrying out the functions of the San Joaquin County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (District), including administration of the County's flood management and water resources programs. Water Resources is responsible for implementing the goals and objectives established by the Board's adopted Strategic Plan to improve Water Management. Water Resources also administers the County’s stormwater quality permit compliance program, and the Delta Activities budget.

Water Resources

Water Resources provides the primary support staff to the District's Advisory Water Commission, the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority, and the Tracy Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) Coordinating Committee. The latter two groups were created to address the requirements of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014.

Water Resources administers the County's Flood Hazards Ordinance, which involves regulating development in Special Flood Hazard Areas in accordance with Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) requirements. Part of this effort is voluntary participation in FEMA's Community Rating System program. In addition to flood risk reduction activities, Water Resources works on delivering flood hazard mitigation projects.

The Water Resources Division is dedicated to protecting the County’s communities, infrastructure, and natural resources through proactive stormwater management. The Division also manages programs that improve water quality through stormwater pollution prevention efforts, and ensure compliance with Federal, State, regional, and local regulations such as compliance with the County’s National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permit. Work efforts include promoting best practices for stormwater runoff including trash reduction and removal from local waterways.

Please visit sjgov.org/pw/water-resources for more information.

Delta Activities

Delta Activities supports ongoing planning, legislative, outreach, and coalition-building activities that protect the County's interests in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. Funding is provided to reimburse County departments for staff support, and to perform historical and technical research, legal services, public affairs, and legislative advocacy. The budget also funds the County's cost share of the Delta Counties Coalition Coordinator.

Expenditures Summary

The 2026-2027 Proposed Budget of $4,702,691 is a decrease of $463,360 from the 2025-2026 Adopted Budget of $5,166,051 primarily due to decreases in consultant services and legal counsel ($177,897), Cost Allocation Plan charges ($130,487), salaries and benefits adjustments ($128,943), and operating transfers out to Zone 2 ($85,000).

FY27 Expenditures by Type

Salaries And Benefits	**$2,776,163**	59.03%
Services And Supplies	**$1,760,624**	37.44%
Centrally-Budgeted Expenses	**$145,904**	3.10%
Transfers Out	**$20,000**	0.43%

Expenditures by Type

Category	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Budget	FY 2027 Budget	FY 2026 Budget vs. Budget (% Change)
Salaries And Benefits	$1,536,682	$1,885,712	$2,905,106	$2,776,163	-4.44%
Services And Supplies	$1,352,504	$1,009,432	$1,900,523	$1,760,624	-7.36%
Centrally-Budgeted Expenses	-$45,149	$89,152	$255,422	$145,904	-42.88%
Transfers Out	$275,000	$105,000	$105,000	$20,000	-80.95%
Total Expenditures	**$3,119,038**	**$3,089,295**	**$5,166,051**	**$4,702,691**	**-8.97%**

Expenditures by Budget Unit

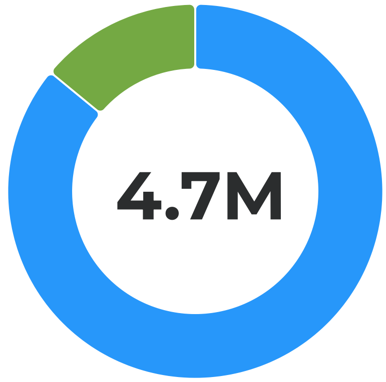
Category	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Budget	FY 2027 Budget	FY 2026 Budget vs. Budget (% Change)
Water Resources	$2,598,657	$2,528,634	$4,466,051	$4,042,691	-9.48%
Delta Activities	$520,380	$560,662	$700,000	$660,000	-5.71%
Total Expenditures	**$3,119,038**	**$3,089,295**	**$5,166,051**	**$4,702,691**	**-8.97%**

Funding Summary

The 2026-2027 Proposed Budget includes $4,042,691 in cost reimbursements from San Joaquin Flood Control and Water Conservation District, Water Investigation Zone 2, Zone 9, Zone 10, San Joaquin Area Flood Control Agency Assessment Fund, Delta Activities, Mokelumne River Water and Power Authority, and County Service Area 54 (stormwater quality permit compliance) and $660,000 in operating transfers in from the Tobacco Settlement budget (#1010805000).

For additional information on these funding sources, please visit sjwater.org/ About-the-District/Funding.

FY27 Funding by Source



Cost Reimbursements	$4,042,691	85.97%
Transfers In	$660,000	14.03%

Funding by Source

Category	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Budget	FY 2027 Budget	FY 2026 Budget vs. Budget (% Change)
Miscellaneous Revenues	-	$218,962	-	-	-
Transfers In	$730,000	$900,000	$700,000	$660,000	-5.71%
Cost Reimbursements	$2,598,657	$2,528,634	$4,466,051	$4,042,691	-9.48%
General Purpose Revenue	-$209,620	-$558,300	-	-	-
Total Revenues	**$3,119,038**	**$3,089,295**	**$5,166,051**	**$4,702,691**	**-8.97%**

Personnel Summary

The 2026-2027 Proposed Budget includes no position changes from the prior year.

	Allocated June 2026	Proposed 2026-2027	Increase / (Decrease)
Allocated Total	14.0	14.0	0.0
Temporary (FTE)	0.8	0.8	0.0
Position Total	**14.8**	**14.8**	**0.0**

Budget Highlights

Water Resources

The 2026-2027 Proposed Budget supports the County's flood control, stormwater management, groundwater sustainability, and regional water coordination efforts. The Proposed Budget of $4,042,691 reflects continued investment in regulatory compliance, regional water planning, and infrastructure maintenance while maintaining fiscal responsibility. Overall expenditures and revenues are balanced to support core operations and ongoing programs.

The majority of expenditures are associated with personnel and professional services required to support regulatory compliance, flood hazard mitigation initiatives, groundwater sustainability planning, and regional water coordination activities. Consultant services continue to support specialized technical analysis, planning studies, engineering design, environmental compliance, and grant-funded program implementation. Operating costs also include ongoing maintenance and operational support for flood control and stormwater management activities.

Revenue supporting the Water Resources program is derived from Special District funds.

Mokelumne River Water Rights Application

Through the Mokelumne River Water and Power Authority, the County will continue to pursue its amended Water Rights Application 29835 on the Mokelumne River. Securing environmental clearance, resolving protests, and submitting the application for consideration by the State Water Resources Control Board are continued priorities for 2026-2027. Making substantive progress on the application is critical to preventing its cancellation.

Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA)

SGMA establishes a State-mandated framework for sustainable groundwater management by local Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs). The two groundwater subbasins in the County are subject to SGMA: the Eastern San Joaquin (ESJ) Subbasin and the Tracy Subbasin. The ESJ Subbasin consists of roughly two-thirds of the County northeast of the San Joaquin River, and the Tracy Subbasin consists of roughly one-third of the County southwest of the San Joaquin River.

Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs) have been prepared for both subbasins in accordance with SGMA. The ESJ Subbasin GSP was reviewed and approved by the Department of Water Resources (DWR) after it was revised in 2022. The Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority submitted a required 2024 Amended GSP and first 5-year Periodic Evaluation to DWR by the January 2025 deadline, and DWR is currently reviewing them. The Tracy Subbasin GSP was approved by DWR in January 2024. Water Resources, in collaboration with the other GSAs in both subbasins, will focus on implementing the GSPs, which are intended to result in sustainable groundwater use within 20 years. The 2026-2027 District Zone 2 budget (Special District Fund #21168) includes appropriations of $225,000 to support ESJ Subbasin GSP implementation activities and $85,000 to fund Tracy Subbasin GSP implementation activities.

In 2026-2027, Water Resources staff will continue efforts to establish and implement regulatory fees for the County-administered GSAs within each subbasin to cover ongoing costs associated with SGMA compliance.

Demonstration, Recharge, Extraction, and Aquifer Management (DREAM) Project

The DREAM Project was a demonstration-scale groundwater storage project in Eastern San Joaquin County. The project started in 2017 and allowed the East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD), under permit from the County, to temporarily store groundwater in the underground basin and recover up to half of the banked water in the future. The project's purpose was to provide a supplemental dry-year supply for EBMUD and additional groundwater for local users, while reducing groundwater overdraft. Demonstration project operations concluded in 2024, and project results were evaluated in 2024-2025. During 2026-2027, future larger-scale DREAM Project phases will be discussed with project partners for future development.

CSA 54 Stormwater Quality Permit Compliance

Community Service Area (CSA) 54 was established to support stormwater quality permit compliance activities in priority land-use areas of unincorporated San Joaquin County under the requirements of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Phase 1 Permit. This program is administered by the US Environmental Protection Agency, State Water Resources Control Board, and Central Valley Regional Water Board under the authority of the Federal Clean Water Act of 1972, and regulates stormwater discharges to protect water quality in Waters of the United States. CSA 54 provides funding for activities such as stormwater monitoring, regulatory reporting, public outreach, and implementation of stormwater pollution prevention measures required by the County's NPDES MS4 Permit. Revenues are generated through a property-related fee that supports compliance with regional, State, and Federal stormwater regulations. Through CSA 54, the County maintains its commitment to protecting stormwater quality.

In 2026-2027, Water Resources will continue efforts to implement a regulatory fee to cover the increasing ongoing costs associated with permit compliance. In addition, Water Resources will develop strategies, including additional maintenance and infrastructure improvements, to comply with the evolving permit requirements associated with trash capture regulations.

Delta Activities

The 2026-2027 Proposed Budget for Delta Activities reflects the Board of Supervisors' adopted policy (R-21-93) to allocate 10% of Tobacco Settlement funds for Delta activities and other water-related matters. The County is currently engaged in litigation regarding water rights permitting, environmental review, and bond funding related to the State's proposed Delta Conveyance Project.

The County is currently involved in multiple litigation actions related to the Delta Conveyance Project which are anticipated to continue into 2026-2027.

Support and advocacy for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta continues to be among the Board's top priorities. With two-thirds of the Delta located in San Joaquin County, it is an important natural resource locally and Statewide. The Board has engaged with a variety of partners to defend Delta through:

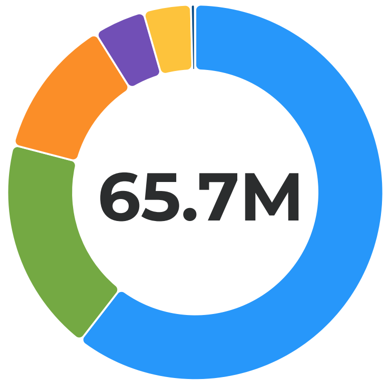
- Responding to public review and comment opportunities for a single tunnel conveyance project.
- Improving and maintaining the system of levees that protect life and property for both agricultural and urban areas and also supports the current system of through-Delta exports.
- Advocating for continued access to Delta water supplies of sufficient quantity and quality for farmers, urban users, and the environment.
- Supporting efforts to have a healthy and viable Bay-Delta estuary.
- Enhancing Delta maritime commerce and recreation.
- Recognizing the Delta as a place.
- Advocating for administrative and legal remedies in defense of the County's authority and the community's interest in the Delta.

The County has also committed to participation in the Delta Counties Coalition (DCC), which consists of Contra Costa, Sacramento, Solano, San Joaquin, and Yolo counties. The DCC is active in the following areas:

- Engaging and building coalitions with agencies looking for alternative solutions to the Governor's proposed single tunnel conveyance project.
- Committing to be highly involved in reformulating Statewide water policy.
- Responding to anticipated legislative and administrative proposals regarding drought and flood conditions, Statewide water policy, the Water Resilience Portfolio, the Delta Levee Investment Strategy, the Delta Plan, and the potential impact of Federal and State legislation on Delta water operations.
- Ensuring State funding directed to the Delta is allocated to projects benefiting the Delta and is not used to mitigate State and Federal water projects impacting the Delta.
- Participating in legal and administrative proceedings tied to the Governor's single tunnel conveyance project, State Water Project contract extensions, Delta Plan consistency, and the Water Quality Control Plan for the Bay-Delta.

Special Districts

FY27 Expenditures by Type

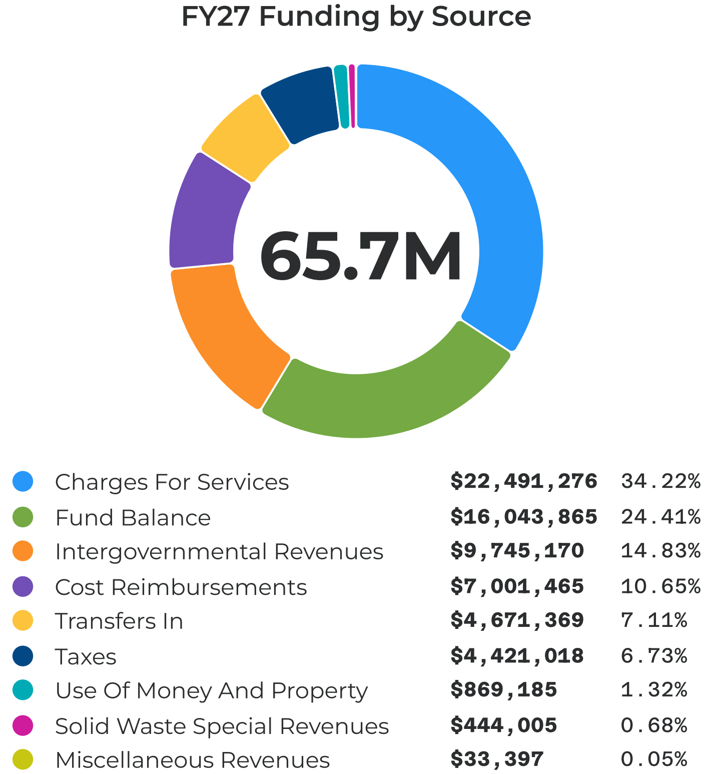


Services And Supplies	**$39,751,848**	60.49%
Capital Expenditures	**$12,212,068**	18.58%
Other Charges	**$7,909,078**	12.03%
Public Works Project Exp	**$2,916,475**	4.44%
Transfers Out	**$2,688,699**	4.09%
Centrally-Budgeted Expenses	**$224,582**	0.34%
Other Financing Uses	**$18,000**	0.03%

Expenditures by Type

Category	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Budget	FY 2027 Budget	FY 2026 Budget vs. Budget (% Change)
Services And Supplies	$18,055,348	$20,489,996	$35,946,296	$39,751,848	10.59%
Centrally-Budgeted Expenses	$190,382	$204,027	$215,310	$224,582	4.31%
Other Charges	$4,327,489	$5,339,220	$5,600,288	$7,909,078	41.23%
Other Financing Uses	$18,199	$17,789	$22,180	$18,000	-18.85%
Capital Expenditures	$4,240,139	$4,970,763	$15,711,460	$12,212,068	-22.27%
Transfers Out	$551,000	$250,000	$550,000	$2,688,699	388.85%
Public Works Project Exp	$1,081,743	$216,128	$5,826,250	$2,916,475	-49.94%
Total Expenditures	**$28,464,300**	**$31,487,923**	**$63,871,784**	**$65,720,750**	**2.89%**

Funding by Source



Funding by Source

Category	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Budget	FY 2027 Budget	FY 2026 Budget vs. FY 2027 Budgeted (% Change)
Taxes	$4,370,464	$4,622,427	$4,215,283	$4,421,018	4.88%
Use Of Money And Property	$1,919,058	$2,211,438	$509,552	$869,185	70.58%
Intergovernmental Revenues	$1,840,659	$4,577,947	$14,519,264	$9,745,170	-32.88%
Charges For Services	$19,286,398	$20,237,667	$22,398,135	$22,491,276	0.42%
Miscellaneous Revenues	$56,070	$482,530	$410,468	$33,397	-91.86%
Transfers In	$958,769	$355,000	$4,155,003	$4,671,369	12.43%
MP-Tel-Radio-ISF-Revenues	-	-	$576,000	-	-100.00%
Solid Waste Special Revenues	-	-	-	$444,005	-
Cost Reimbursements	$460,564	$968,936	$7,384,083	$7,001,465	-5.18%
Fund Balance	-$427,683	-$1,968,023	$9,703,996	$16,043,865	65.33%
Total Revenues	**$28,464,300**	**$31,487,923**	**$63,871,784**	**$65,720,750**	**2.89%**