

# Utica Water and Power Authority Annual Update to City Council

May 20, 2025



# What is Utica's Purpose?

- Conveying safe, reliable water to 10,000 people through 5 reservoirs, 27 miles of wooden flumes, and concrete canals
- Holding 7 water rights: Stanislaus River, Mill Creek, Angels Creek, French Gulch
- Operating two hydroelectric powerhouses



**Murphys  
Powerhouse  
3.6 MW**



**Angels  
Powerhouse  
1.4 MW**



# How Much Water Does City of Angels Use?

**1,120 Acre Feet Per Year on Average**

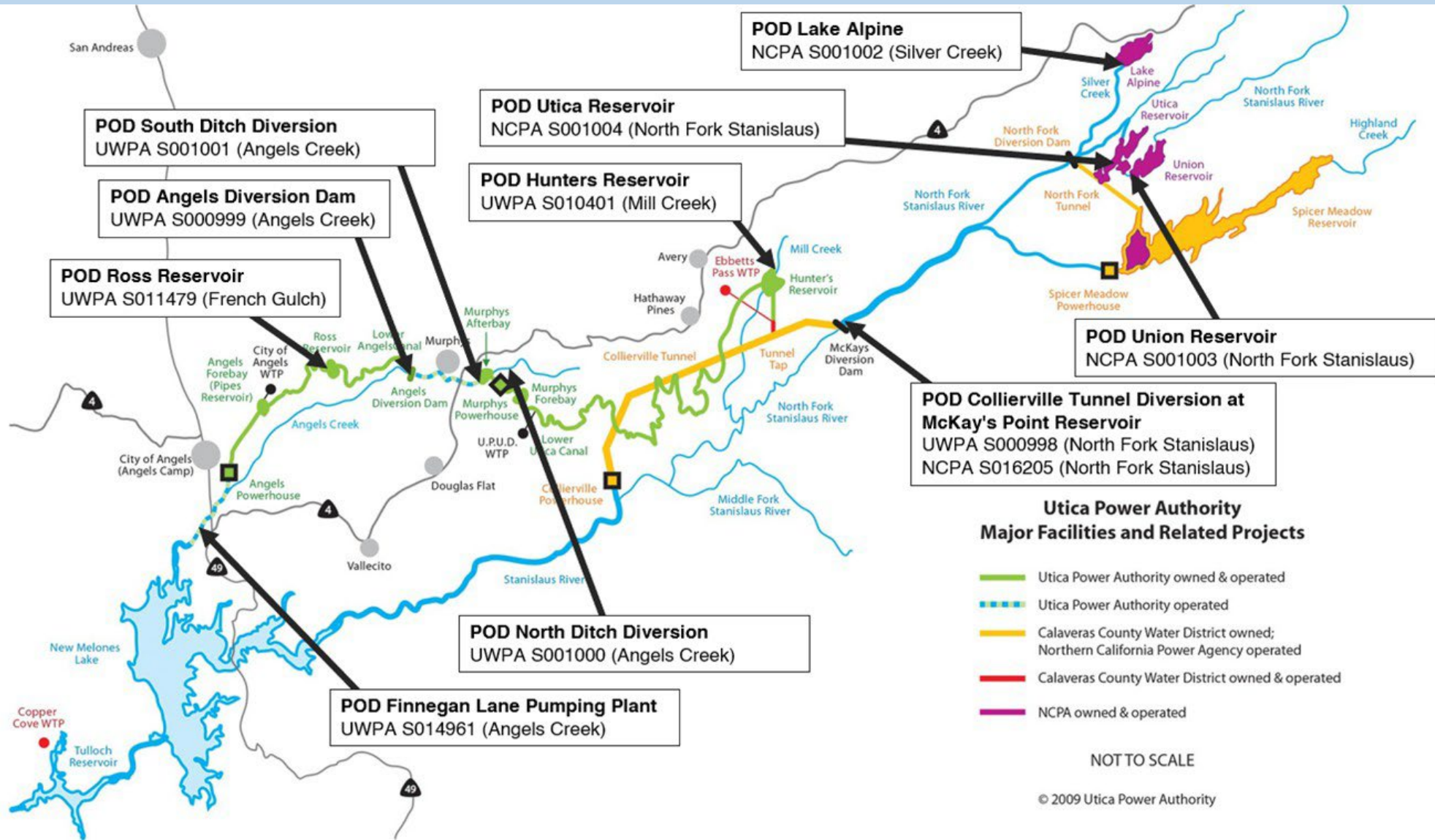
**Water Supply Agreement: 3,600 AF / year**

**31% of Contracted Supply from Utica**

**Note: Greenhorn Creek uses 150 – 800 AF / year**

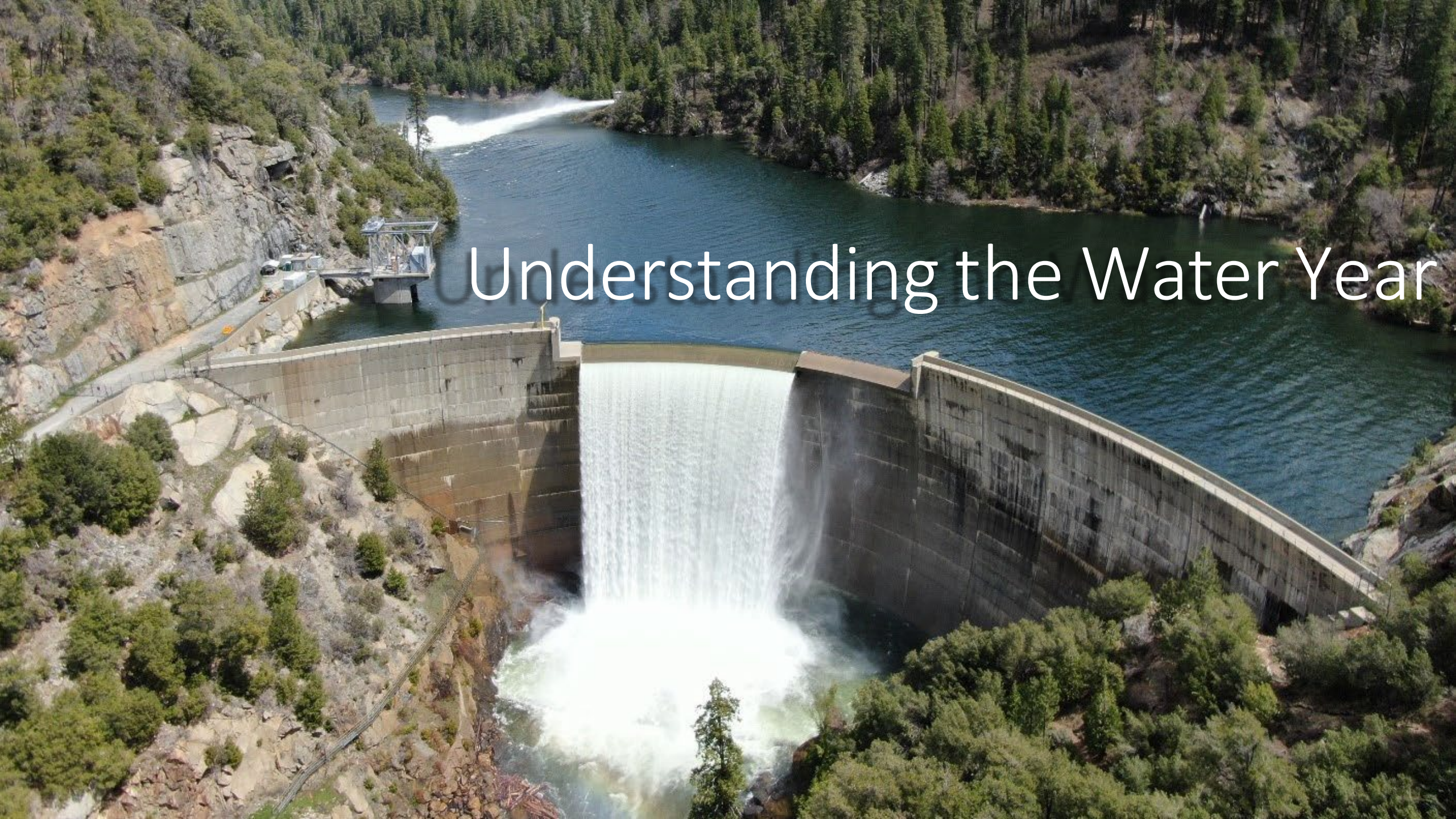
# Utica's Water Rights Portfolio

## Stanislaus River: 60 CFS = 43,000 AF/year



Attachment  
A  
Agreement  
Limits  
Diversions,  
Increases  
Reliability in  
Summer &  
Drought





# Understanding the Water Year



The Water Year  
is Determined by  
DWR's B120 Report:  
Unimpaired runoff  
at Goodwin Dam:  
April - July

New Melones

Lake Tulloch

Goodwin Dam

Per contract,  
Utica's Water  
Year is Locked  
in on May 1st

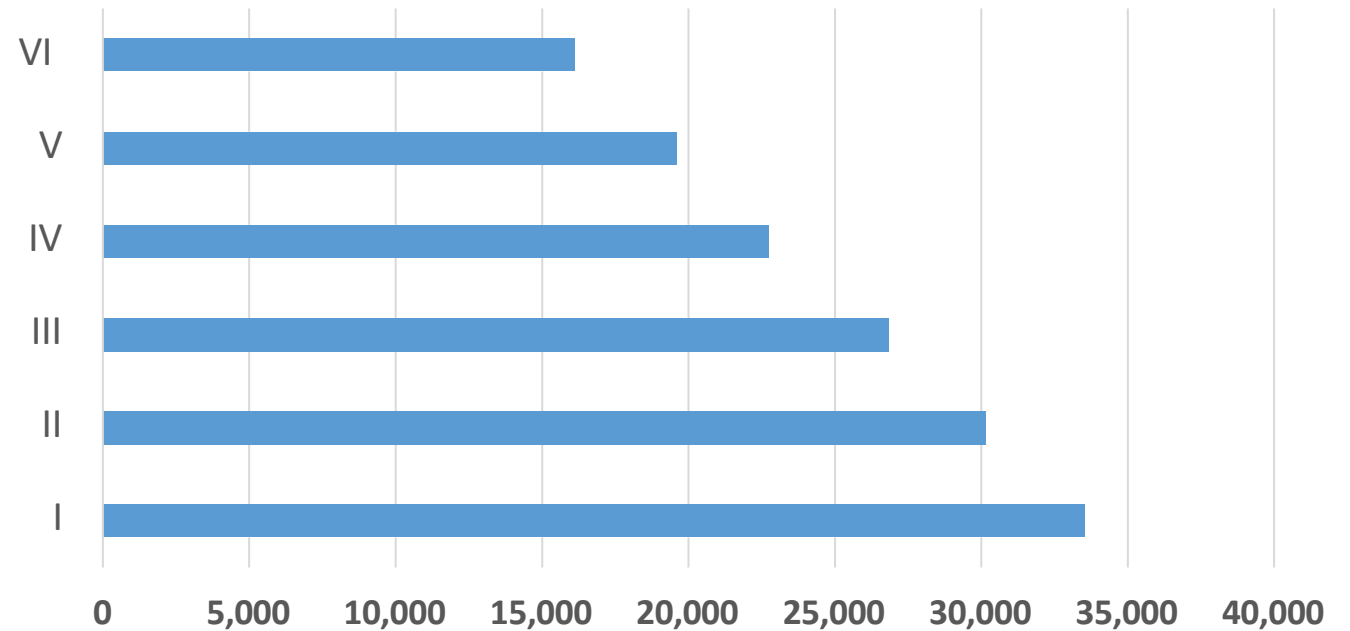




# Water Allocation by Water Year

- 6. Water Year 6 – 16,107 AF
- 5. Water Year 5 – 19,605 AF
- 4. Water Year 4 – 22,716 AF
- 3. Water Year 3 – 26,830 AF
- 2. Water Year 2 – 30,151 AF
- 1. Water Year 1 – 33,514 AF

**Acre Feet by Water Year I-VI**





# FY 2025-2026 Budget Development





# Overview of Budget Development Process

1. Staff used Smartsheet to develop a draft FY 2025-2026 Budget
2. Staff will continue to refine the budget vs. actuals in coming weeks
3. The Utica Budget Committee will meet again in June leading up to the June 24 Board meeting
4. Budget adjustments can be made throughout the year



# Utica Financial Analysis & JPA Funding Plan

1. Per a request from UPUD and COA, a financial rate consultant was hired to perform a financial analysis for Utica in 2024. This analysis was used to develop a model that Utica staff could use to project revenues and expenses for the next 5-10 years
2. The development of solid financial information for Utica staff/Board provided much-needed information to City of Angels and Union Public Utility District to help inform their rate studies and Prop. 218 proceedings.
3. JPA Managers worked to identify a fixed contribution amount over five years that would remove variability to the budgeting for all JPA members, starting in FY 2024-2025.
4. The 5-Year JPA Funding Plan was unanimously supported at a Joint JPA meeting in June 2024



# 5-Year JPA Funding Plan: 2025 - 2029

Unanimously supported by UPUD, COA, and Utica at JPA Joint Meeting June 13, 2024

Fiscal Year	24-25	25-26	26-27	27-28	28-29
O&M	\$2,253,955	\$2,365,000	\$2,497,000	\$2,543,000	\$2,634,000
CIP	\$770,000	\$360,000	\$285,000	\$135,000	\$285,000
Capital Outlay	\$21,000	\$61,000	\$82,000	\$22,000	\$23,000
Reserve Contributions	\$503,800	\$503,800	\$503,800	\$503,800	\$503,800
Grant Projects	\$1,000,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Annual Expenses	\$4,548,755	\$3,289,800	\$3,367,800	\$3,203,800	\$3,445,800
Total Utica Revenue	\$3,123,573	\$1,813,000	1,824,000	1,836,000	\$1,848,000
JPA Member Payments (50/50 split)	\$740,000	\$814,000	\$895,000	\$985,000	\$1,083,000
Annual JPA Payment % Change		10%	10%	10%	10%
<b>Remaining Budget Shortfall</b>	<b>(\$685,182)</b>	<b>(\$662,800)</b>	<b>(\$648,800)</b>	<b>(\$382,800)</b>	<b>(\$514,800)</b>
Projected Carryover	\$ 150,182	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Budget Balance Reserve Transfer		\$ 505,000			
CIP Cuts	\$ 435,000	\$ 57,800	\$ 285,000	\$ 135,000	\$ 285,000
Reserve Contribution Cuts	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 363,800	\$ 247,800	\$ 229,800
Balanced Budget	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0



# Purpose of JPA 5-Year Funding Plan

1. Inform UPUD and COA rate studies
2. Provide Utica with certainty on funding
3. Provide JPA members (COA, UPUD) with certainty on contributions
4. Utica committed to ensuring reserve levels are appropriate in good water years and spending down reserves in bad water years.



# FY 2025-2026 Draft Budget Development

1. Staff reviews Budget vs. Actuals report for FY 2024-2025
2. Utica's projections are on track for the FY 2024-2025 Budget
3. Many things can change between today and June 30



# Capital Improvement Projects for 2025-2026

1. \$93,758 – Murphys Powerhouse Backup Transformer
2. \$100,000 – Murphys Powerhouse Static Exciter
3. \$70,000 – Murphys Forebay Trash Rake Installation



# Operations and Maintenance Highlights

1. \$103,000 – Wooden Flume Maintenance
2. \$56,000 – Concrete-lined Canal Maintenance

# Reserve Contributions

- FERC: \$300,000 (Reduced from \$400,000 per policy)
- Operating: \$30,000
- FERC Five-Year: \$61,800
- FERC 10 Year: \$12,000
- If needed the Budget Balancing Reserve has \$500,000. Note: That reserve was mainly funded through surplus hydropower revenue in wet water years between 2019 and 2025.



# Cuts Made to Balance Budget

- Cut FERC Reserve contribution by \$100,000
- Cut Murphys Powerhouse transformer by \$60,000
- Deferred Murphys Powerhouse Relays to next year: \$150,000,
- Cut the purchase of water conveyance truck: \$55,000
- Various other cuts were made to close the budget gap
- More cuts will be made if needed

# Direction from Budget Committee & Next Steps

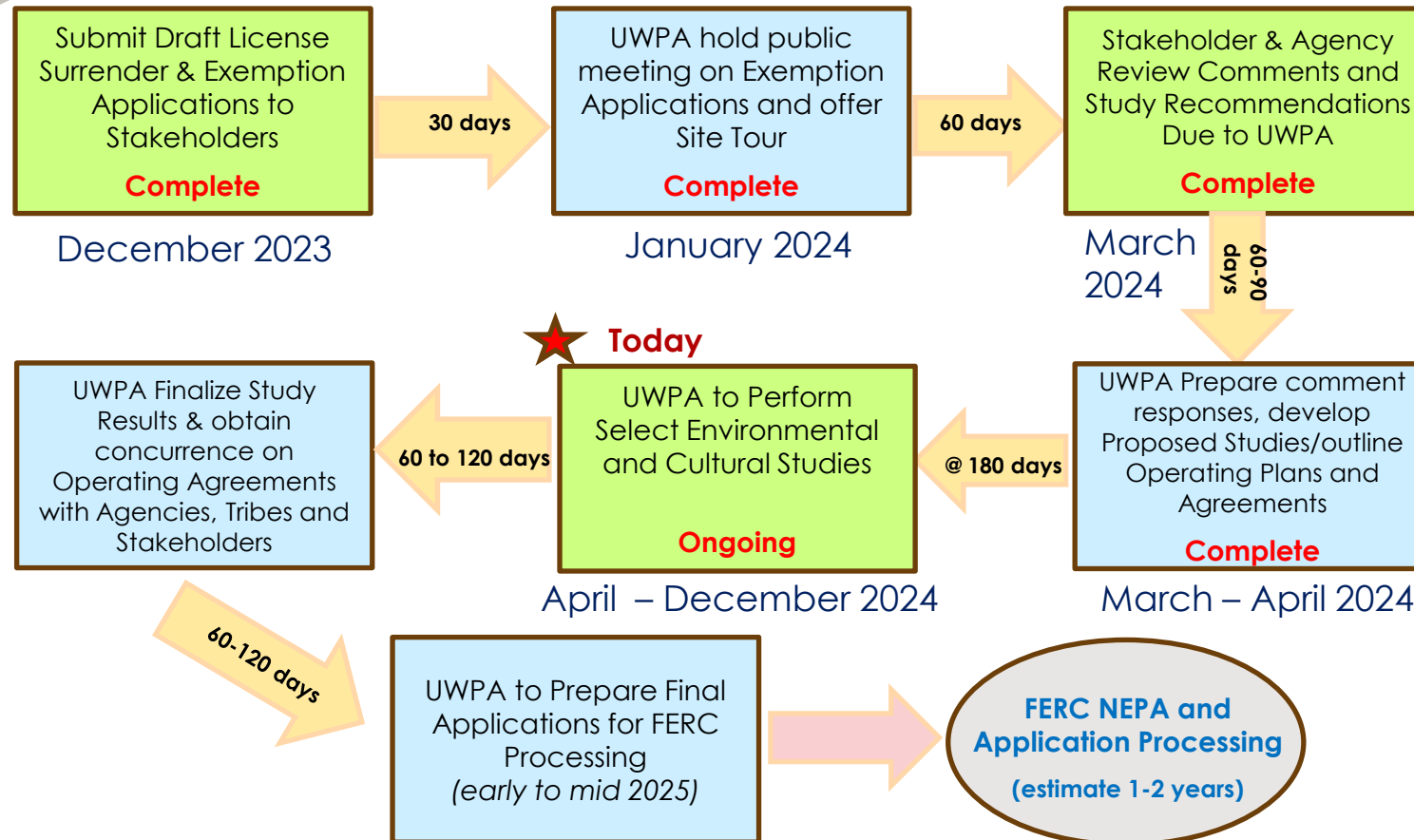
1. The Budget Committee Agreed with staff recommendations.
2. Recommended staff continue assessing the need for outside IT services.
3. Staff scheduled the next Budget Committee meeting on June 17
4. Staff plans to bring a final budget to the Board for adoption June 24



# FERC Exemption Efforts

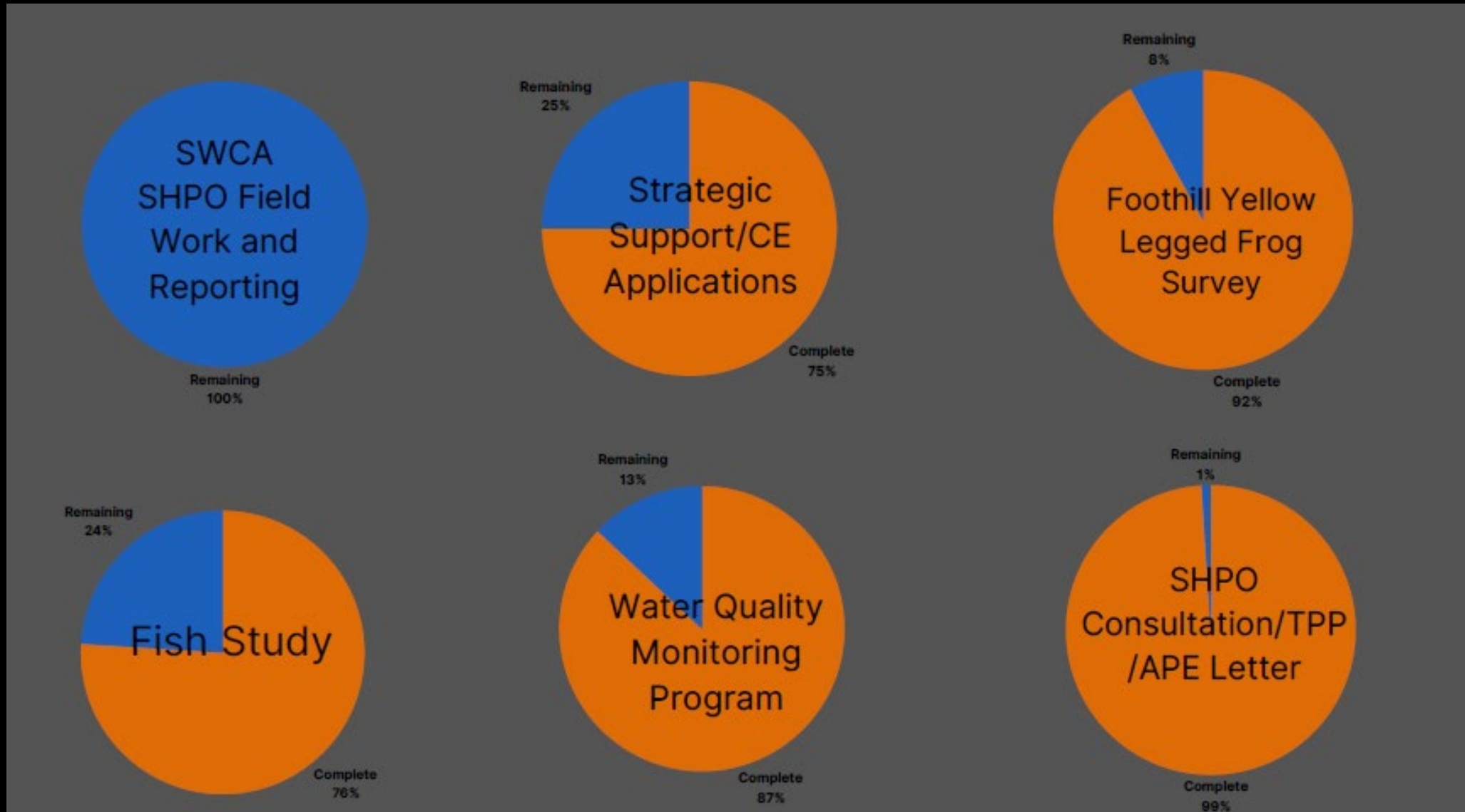


# UWPA - FERC Conduit Exemption Timeline and General Process





# FERC Exemption – Update on Final Application Submittal



# FERC Exemption – Final Application Submittal

- Utica sent a field inventory plan to the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) in April 2025 seeking approval
- SHPO reviewed it April 11 and indicated the study approach would be acceptable, with some minor revisions
- Revisions were made, and the updated Study Plan was submitted to SHPO in mid-April
- Providing SHPO approves the Study Plan, Utica's consultant will begin field work May 5
- The final SHPO report is expected to be complete by June 2025



# FERC Exemption – Final Application Submittal

- Utica has been measuring water temperature in Angels Creek and Mill Creek since April 2024
- As of April 24, Utica had collected 12 months of temp data
- That water temp data and the high-flow grab sample data were the two things needed to finalize the Water Quality Study that Stantec is performing
- That study is expected to be complete in May 2025, and it will be circulated to CDFW and the State Water Board for review

# FERC Exemption – Memorandum of Agreement

- Over the past year, Utica has been in negotiations with CDFW, the State Water Board and U.S. Fish and Wildlife
- These negotiations led to the development of a MOA between Utica and CDFW
- This MOA dictates how Utica will manage its water conveyance system if/when FERC approves the exemptions
- This negotiation is nearly complete and Utica has good relationships with CDFW

# FERC Exemption – Final Application Submittal

- Once the SHPO field work and reports are done and the Water Quality Study is complete, Utica and Stantec can begin working on compiling the final applications
- We plan to submit the final Exemption applications in July
- Once final applications are submitted, we have to prepare a 401 Water Quality Certification Application and the associated CEQA
- The 401 process is approximately 12 months



# FERC Exemption – Projected FERC Timeline

- FERC's review of Utica's final application is expected to take 18-24 months
- If submittal occurs in July 2025, we expect to have a determination from FERC by the end of 2027



# Questions?

