



STAFF REPORT

Meeting Type: Board of Directors
Title: Atmospheric River Capture (ARC) Project Update
From: Paul Sellier, Director of Water Resources
Through: Ben Horenstein, General Manager
Meeting Date: May 12, 2026

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TYPE OF ITEM: Action X Information

RECOMMENDATION: Receive an update on the Atmospheric River Capture (ARC) Project

SUMMARY: The ARC Project team continues to advance through preliminary design and environmental review. This update summarizes recent progress on engineering design, environmental review, property acquisition, and stakeholder coordination, as well as key upcoming milestones.

DISCUSSION: As part of the District's Water Supply Roadmap, the ARC Project was identified as the preferred alternative to improve long-term water supply reliability. In spring 2025, the Board approved an agreement with Carollo Engineers to provide engineering design services as well as an agreement with Panorama Environmental to conduct environmental review and analysis of the proposed project. Since that time, the project team has been advancing engineering, environmental, and coordination efforts to support the proposed project.

Engineering Design and Property Acquisition

The project design continues to progress through the preliminary design phase:

- The project team has completed a draft Basis of Design Report (BODR) and 30% design drawings, which are currently being refined based on internal review and coordination.
- A BODR workshop was held with District staff to review key assumptions, system hydraulics, and operational considerations.
- On April 7, 2026, the Board approved an amendment to the Carollo Engineers contract to incorporate design of a second pump station (Pump Station B), reflecting updated hydraulic analysis and system optimization.
- Staff continues coordination with North Marin Water District (NMWD) and design consultants to evaluate operational considerations associated with the North Marin Aqueduct.
- The District is working with NMWD and the County of Marin to assess the feasibility of a potential Pump Station B site near Stafford Lake.
- Coordination with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is ongoing regarding potential Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) funding opportunities.

Environmental Review and Stakeholder Engagement

The environmental review process and stakeholder outreach efforts are actively underway:

- The District formally initiated the CEQA process by issuing the Notice of Preparation (NOP) in March 2026 and conducting two in-person scoping meetings in Novato. The scoping period concluded on April 13, 2026, and the project team is currently reviewing and incorporating comments received.
- AB 52 tribal consultation has been initiated with the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria.
- Staff has met with and is planning to continue to meet with key stakeholders, including County of Marin and City of Novato representatives, as well as the San Marin Improvement Association.
- A multi-agency coordination meeting was held on April 21 with representatives from the City of Novato, North Marin Water District, Novato Sanitary District, and Marin County Parks to support ongoing coordination.

Over the coming months, the project team will focus on finalizing the Basis of Design Report (BODR) and advancing preliminary design, preparing the Administrative Draft of the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and supporting technical studies, and maintaining regular coordination with stakeholders as the project continues to progress.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW: Not applicable.

FISCAL IMPACT: None.

ATTACHMENT(S): None.