



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: November 4, 2025

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TYPE OF ITEM: Action X Information

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

SUMMARY: Following Board approval of contracts for engineering design and environmental review earlier this year, the ARC Project team has initiated early-phase activities such as field investigations, meeting with local agencies to discuss the proposed project, and analysis of pump station siting. Staff will provide an update on project activities to date, coordination with regional agencies, and upcoming project milestones.

DISCUSSION: As part of the District's ongoing Water Supply Roadmap actions, the ARC Project was identified as the preferred alternative compared to other long-term water supply alternatives available to the District to advance into design and environmental review. Earlier this spring, the Board approved an agreement with Carollo Engineers to provide the engineering design services as well as an agreement with Panorama Environmental to conduct environmental review and analysis of the proposed project. Following the Board's approval of those contracts, the ARC project team has completed key early project activities summarized below.

Design

- Gathered nearby utility information to support development of the design and Basis of Design Report (BODR)
- Performed evaluation of potential pump station sites, including field visits to potential sites along alignment
- Began field work including aerial surveys and geotechnical investigations of the proposed alignment along San Marin Drive and Pt. Reyes-Petaluma Road

Environmental Review

- Started baseline biological and cultural resource surveys, including performing field surveys by project team at potential pump station sites

Outreach and Stakeholder Engagement

- Meetings introducing the proposed project to agency staff have been held with North Marin Water District (NMWD), City of Novato, Novato Sanitary District, County of Marin, Marin County Open Space District, Sonoma County Water Agency, and San Marin High School
- Introduced ARC Project to Novato City Council at Council meeting on September 23, 2025
- Distributed project flyer to residents along proposed alignment introducing proposed project and notifying of early-phase field investigations
- Scheduled kickoff coordination meeting with local agencies to provide ongoing and centralized communication as the project design progresses.

Over the next several months, the project team will focus on confirming the location for potential pump stations, completing field investigations to inform the preliminary design, developing and analyzing information to support the Notice of Preparation (NOP) of an environmental impact report for the project pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act, and maintaining regular coordination with stakeholders as the proposed project continues to progress.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW: Not applicable.

FISCAL IMPACT: None.

ATTACHMENT(S): None.