



# STAFF REPORT

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**Meeting Type:** Planning Committee/Board of Directors  
**Title:** Muir Beach Water System Intertie Technical and Constructability Feasibility Study  
**From:** Alex Anaya, Director of Engineering  
**Through:** Ben Horenstein, General Manager  
**Meeting Date:** March 24, 2026

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**TYPE OF ITEM:**                      Approve      X      Review and Comment

**RECOMMENDATION:** Review and comment on the Muir Beach Water System Intertie Technical and Constructability Feasibility Study

**SUMMARY:** Beginning in 2023, Muir Beach Community Services District, County of Marin, National Park Services (Muir Woods), the Marin Conservation League and the Nature Conservancy initiated discussions regarding a potential water system intertie between the Marin Water’s water system and the Muir Beach Community Services District water system in order to address concerns of low flows in Redwood Creek during dry summer periods. The parties engaged the District regarding a potential water system intertie in an effort to transition Muir Beach residents from groundwater wells that are believed to draw from the underflow of Redwood Creek to the District’s water supply during limited periods of the year. The parties believe that this may result in increased baseflows in Redwood Creek, which would improve long-term drinking water reliability for the Muir Beach community, support fisheries in the creek, and increase wildfire resilience. In 2024, the County of Marin funded a technical and constructability feasibility study sponsored by the County of Marin to evaluate if a pipeline connecting to the District water system could be installed in Frank Valley Road from an existing water service meter in Muir Woods to the potable water tanks in Muir Beach. While the installation of the pipeline was determined to be feasible from a technical and constructability standpoint, several outstanding issues were identified in the study.

**DISCUSSION:** Beginning in 2023, Muir Beach Community Services District, County of Marin, Muir Woods, Marin Conservation League and the Nature Conservancy initiated discussions regarding a potential water system intertie between Marin Water’s water system and the Muir Beach Community Services District water system.

In 2024, the County of Marin funded a technical feasibility and constructability study to evaluate if a pipeline connecting to the District water system could be installed in Frank Valley Road from Muir Woods to the potable water tanks in Muir Beach. This approximately 2-miles of pipeline was evaluated

to be constructed prior to the road reconstruction of Frank Valley Road, which is a County of Marin grant funded project scheduled to take place in 2028.

While the intertie to the District's water system is technically and constructability feasible and could move into design and permitting pending securement of funding, there are several issues that are not addressed in the feasibility and constructability study that will require effort. These items include:

- Development of a contract to address the legal, jurisdictional, and operational issues involved in providing water service from District facilities to Muir Beach Community Services District (MBCSD).
- Understanding of long-term ownership, maintenance and operation of the facilities.
- Detailed hydraulic modeling of system operations and design.
- California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) study and responsibilities for conducting such study.
- Coordination and potential permitting with other regulatory agencies including California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW).
- Discussion and development of appropriate water rates, fees and charges and responsibility for collection of those items.

In addition to the issues identified above, the currently proposed pipeline connection point to the District's water system at Muir Woods is a private pipeline that is owned by the National Park Service. The District's meter for this service is located further up Mt. Tamalpais near the location of the Nature Friends Tourist Club of San Francisco. In order for Muir Beach to receive water, there would need to be an agreement between Marin Water, the National Park Service and Muir Beach Community Services District that permits usage of the privately owned pipeline and memorializes a submetering agreement between the parties. The new pipeline along Frank Valley Road, which is outside of the District's service area, would not be a District-owned and maintained pipeline, but would likely be owned and maintained by the Muir Beach Community Services District. It is anticipated that the District will need to consider approval of an outside service agreement with the Community Services District for the sale of water, subject to the above issues identified above, as well as obtain LAFCO approval. The terms of such an agreement have not yet been fully developed.

The design and construction for the new pipeline is estimated to cost between \$5,000,000 - \$10,000,000, assuming location within the Frank Valley Road right of way in conjunction with the County of Marin's road improvement project. Marin Conservation League (MCL) applied for a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Transformational Habitat Restoration and Coastal Resilience Grant in late 2023. However, that effort was unsuccessful. While MCL and the other non-governmental agencies are prepared to apply for future grant solicitations as they become available, at this time, no funding has been secured to move the conceptual water system intertie forward.

**ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW:** While the current technical and constructability feasibility study is not a "project" for the purposes of CEQA and NEPA, as the design and permitting process continues, the conceptual water system intertie would be subject to CEQA review prior to approval of any construction. Additionally, since the proposed alignment will likely include installation of water pipeline upon federal lands owned by the National Park Service, it is likely that NEPA review will also be necessary.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** The District has not, and does not plan to, expend funds on this project.

**ATTACHMENT(S):** None.