



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: February 3, 2026

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TYPE OF ITEM: Action Information

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

SUMMARY: The ARC Project team has completed early-phase activities and continues to advance towards key project milestones supporting the preliminary design and environmental review process. Staff will provide an update on project activities to date including 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. 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. Following the Board's approval of those contracts, the ARC project team has pursued key early project activities summarized below.

Design & Property Acquisition

- Completed phase 1 field work including aerial surveys and geotechnical investigations of the proposed alignment along San Marin Drive and Pt. Reyes-Petaluma Road to support preliminary design development
- Evaluated a shortlist of pump station sites, selected a preferred site to locate Pump Station A and finalized the purchase agreement with extended escrow for the site near interconnection with North Marin Aqueduct.
- Staff is working with North Marin Water District to assess the availability and suitability of a potential Pump Station B site located near Stafford Lake.
- The project team continues to gather available utility information to support development of the design and Basis of Design Report (BODR)

Environmental Review and Stakeholder Engagement

- Established coordination meeting with local partner agencies including City of Novato, North Marin Water District, Novato Sanitary, County of Marin DPW and County of Marin Park Service to provide ongoing and centralized communication as the project progresses
- In addition, the team is continuing outreach with individual stakeholders on select topics
- Started baseline biological and cultural resource surveys, including performing field surveys by project team at potential pump station sites

Over the next month, the project team will focus on completing the Basis of Design Report (BODR) and preliminary design, formally initiating the CEQA scoping process and issuing the Notice of Preparation (NOP), and maintaining regular coordination with stakeholders as the project continues to progress.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW: Not applicable.

FISCAL IMPACT: None.

ATTACHMENT(S): None.