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NOTICE REGARDING (COVID-19)

Before public comments are considered, the record will reflect that pursuant to the provisions of Executive Order N-29-20 issued by Governor Gavin Newsom on March 19, 2020, this meeting will be conducted by teleconference only.



Call to Order

Board of Directors Workshop - Policy
Thursday, April 8, 2021

Chairperson – Director Longville
Vice-Chair – Director Botello



Introductions

Following the introduction of Directors and District staff, participants may use this time to state their name and agency/affiliation in order to be included in the formal record of attendees.

Public Comment

Any person may address the Board on matters within its jurisdiction.

- *Please use the chat feature on the Zoom toolbar or digitally raise your hand to let the moderator know you would like to make a comment.*



Summary of Previous Meeting (Pg. 3)

Board of Directors Workshop – Policy – March 11, 2021



Presentation Item 4.1 (Pg. 12)

Kristeen Farlow, MPA – External Affairs Manager

Presentation by Paul Jones, GM at EVMWD, on the topic of the Effect of COVID on Residential Water Bills

Staff Recommendation
Receive and file



San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District
Board Workshop

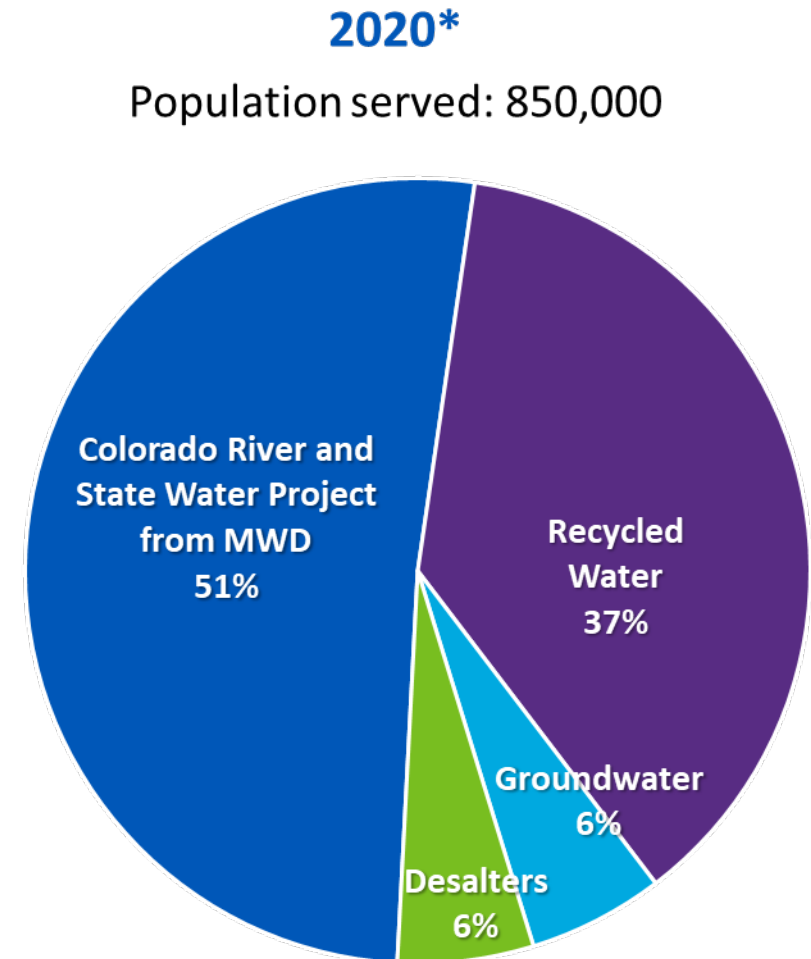
Examining Affordability of Water Service at the Household Level

Paul D. Jones II, P.E.

April 8, 2021

Eastern Municipal Water District Background

- Established in 1950 serving:
 - Water, wastewater and recycled
 - Retail with some wholesale deliveries
- Sixth largest public water utility in California – 555 square miles
- Serving seven cities, unincorporated county – 850,000 residents
- More than 600 employees
- 135,000 acre-feet of water served annually
- Metropolitan Water District member agency



*Total Water Supply: 135,008 AF per EMWD
Comprehensive Annual Financial Report, FYE 2020

Landmark Legislation Addressing Water Affordability

AB 685 (Eng, 2012) Human Right to Water

- “Every human has the right to safe, clean, affordable and accessible water adequate for human consumption, cooking and sanitary purposes”

AB 401 (Dodd, 2015) Low Income Water Rate Assistance

- Required the State Board to develop a plan for state-wide low-income water rate assistance program

SB 200 (Monning, 2019) Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund

- Addresses 300+ Community Water Systems not meeting drinking water regulations
- \$130 million per year - adoption of a Fund Expenditure Plan by SWRCB
- The Plan identifies failing systems in disadvantaged communities that must charge fees that exceed an “affordability threshold”

Household Low Income Rate Assistance – SWRCB Study (AB 401)

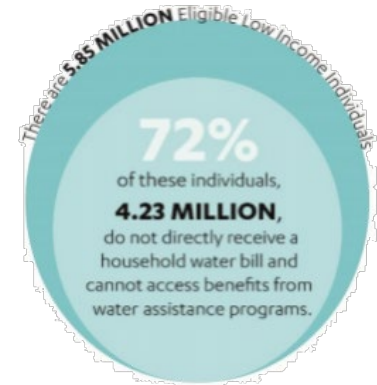
SWRCB finalized report in February 2020

- Three-tiered benefit structure design:
 - **20%, 35%, or 50%** discount based on cost of water in service area covering **12 CCF of monthly usage**
 - Sufficient for 4 persons at 55 gal/day + small amount of outdoor use

- Residential households at or below 200% of the federal poverty level would be eligible for LIRA program (**~34% of California Residents**)

Est. cost (1st year) of State's LIRA program: **\$606.4M**

- Potential revenue sources:
 - personal income tax (**~\$466M**) + bottled water sales tax (**~\$153.6M**)
- Various options for benefit distribution:
 - water bills, electric/gas utility bills, CalFresh, EBT, and income tax credits



Issue: Indirect billing leads to exclusion of many income eligible individuals from water assistance programs

For EMWD, 20.9% of Households would be eligible for rate assistance (28.6% of individual residents)



University of California Riverside (UCR) 2019 Study - Affordability of Water Services in the Inland Empire

2019 UCR Affordability Study – Goals and Objectives

Goal: Collaborate with UCR to research the relative cost and affordability of water and sewer services within EMWD

- Evaluate how water and sewer service affordability for households in EMWD’s service area compares to published affordability metrics and is influence by:
 - Customer water usage
 - Various income levels in EMWD’s service area
- Review impact of water bills have on households’ disposable income
 - What role can changing water costs play in increasing well-being among low-income households?
- Apply USEPA affordability metrics based upon MHI
 - 2.5% water/2.0% sewer = 4.5% MHI
 - Evaluate district-wide and at census block level



UCR Study: Affordability of Water Services

- Goal: research the relative cost of water and sewer services within EMWD
- Basic metric: **Water Expenditure Ratio (WER)**, defined as follows for an individual household

$$WER_i = \frac{\text{Household}_i \text{ Expenditures on Water Services}}{\text{Household}_i \text{ Income}} \times 100\%$$

- Evaluated five levels of water service paid for by customers (WER numerator):
 - **Basic Needs at 35.66 gpcd**
 - **Indoor Water Use at 55 gpcd**
 - **Average Winter Use (proxy for indoor use)**
 - **Use of full water budget (indoor + outdoor)**
 - **Actual Water Usage Observed (billed)**
- Compared against three cases of household income (WER denominator):
 - **District-wide MHI**
 - **Census block level MHI (256 blocks)**
 - **20th percentile of census block MHI (to examine low income customers)**

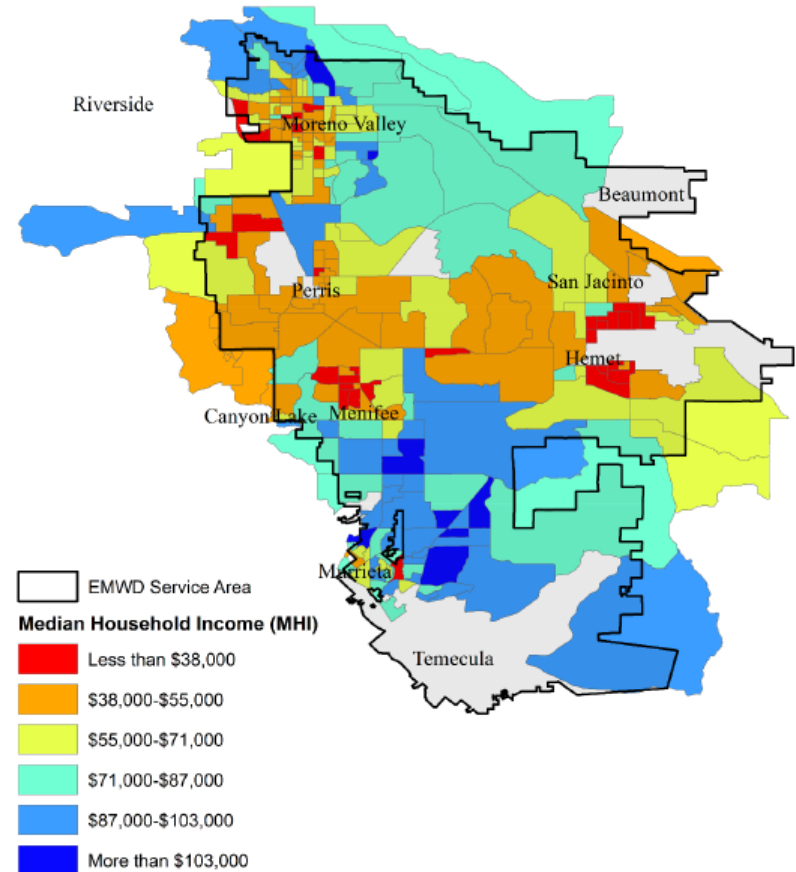


Figure 1. Median household income distribution in the EMWD service area (2017).²³

Study Stats:

- 138,000 customer accounts
- 12 million billing records
- From 2011 to 2018

2019 UCR Affordability Study – Findings

Key UCR Study Findings:

Based upon average water use District-wide:

- **Only 0.4 percent, or 550 households** exceeded the EPA affordability threshold of 4.5 percent

For basic water use levels of 35.66 gpcd (~6 CCF):

- **Only 0.004%, or 5 households** exceeded the EPA affordability threshold of 4.5 percent

Tiered rate structures with low-fixed charges can improve affordability for low-income households

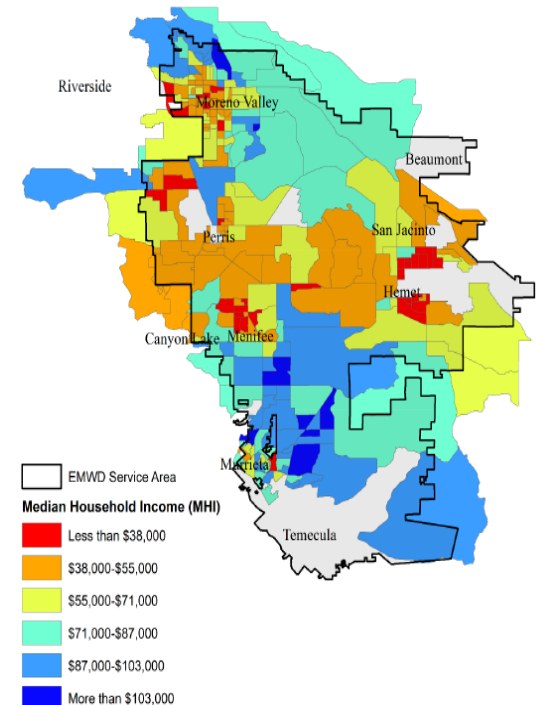


Figure 1. Median household income distribution in the EMWD service area (2017).²³



EMWD Analysis of Data Using Alternative Affordability Metrics

EMWD Analysis of Data Using Alternative Affordability Metrics

Challenges/Questions:

- Application of USEPA affordability metrics of **2.5% water/2.0% sewer = 4.5% MHI**
- What alternative metrics might be used to evaluate household versus system affordability?
- Would re-analyzing the data using alternative affordability metrics yield substantially different results?

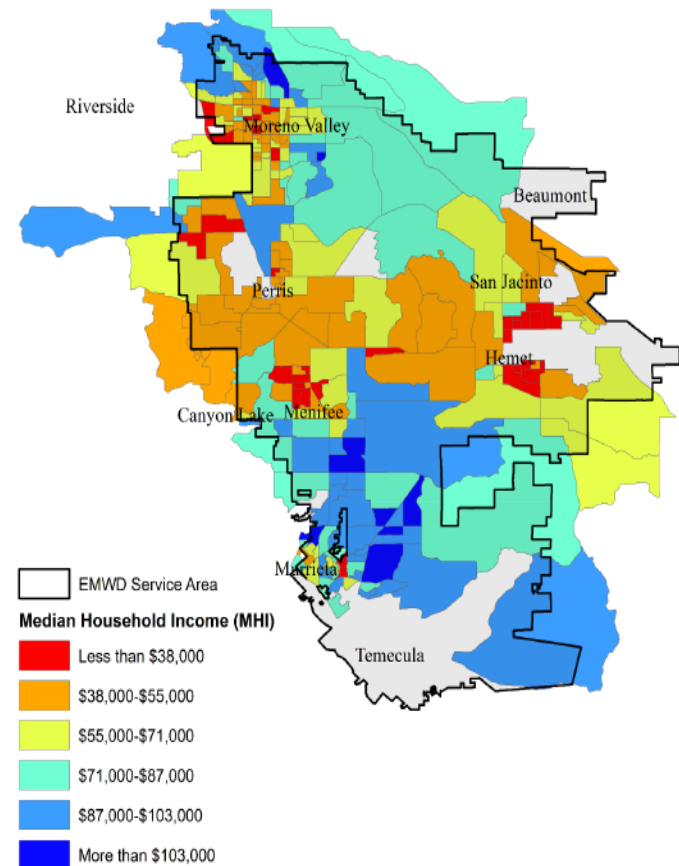


Figure 1. Median household income distribution in the EMWD service area (2017).²³

SWRCB System Affordability Indicator Metrics¹ - SAFER Program and At-Risk Needs Assessment

1. Population growth – Rate over last decade
2. **Percent of MHI at 6 CCF**
3. Percent of Community Poverty Threshold (% CPT) at 6ccf
4. Percent of Deep Poverty Income (% DP)
5. Per Capita Income
6. Average Median Household Income
7. Percentage of Poverty (% Poverty)
8. Demographic and Socioeconomic Characteristics of Customer Base
9. **Household Burden Indicator (HBI) for bottom income quintile (20%)**
10. **Poverty Prevalence Indicator (PPI) below 200% FPL**
11. Affordability Ratio (AR20) bottom quintile discretionary income
12. WARI® weighted census tract level MHI
13. **Extreme Water Bill for 6 CCF**
14. **% Shut-offs**
15. Duration of Shut-offs
16. Hours at Minimum Wage to Pay Water Bill at 6 CCF
17. Socioeconomic Vulnerability Index – community characteristics
18. Households Delinquent in Paying Bills
19. Households Below the Living Wage
20. **Shelter Cost (Housing Burden)**
21. Households Receiving Public Assistance
22. Customers receiving Water Bill Payment Assistance

 = 2021-2022 Needs Assessment only

 = 2021-2022 and 2022-23 Needs Assessments

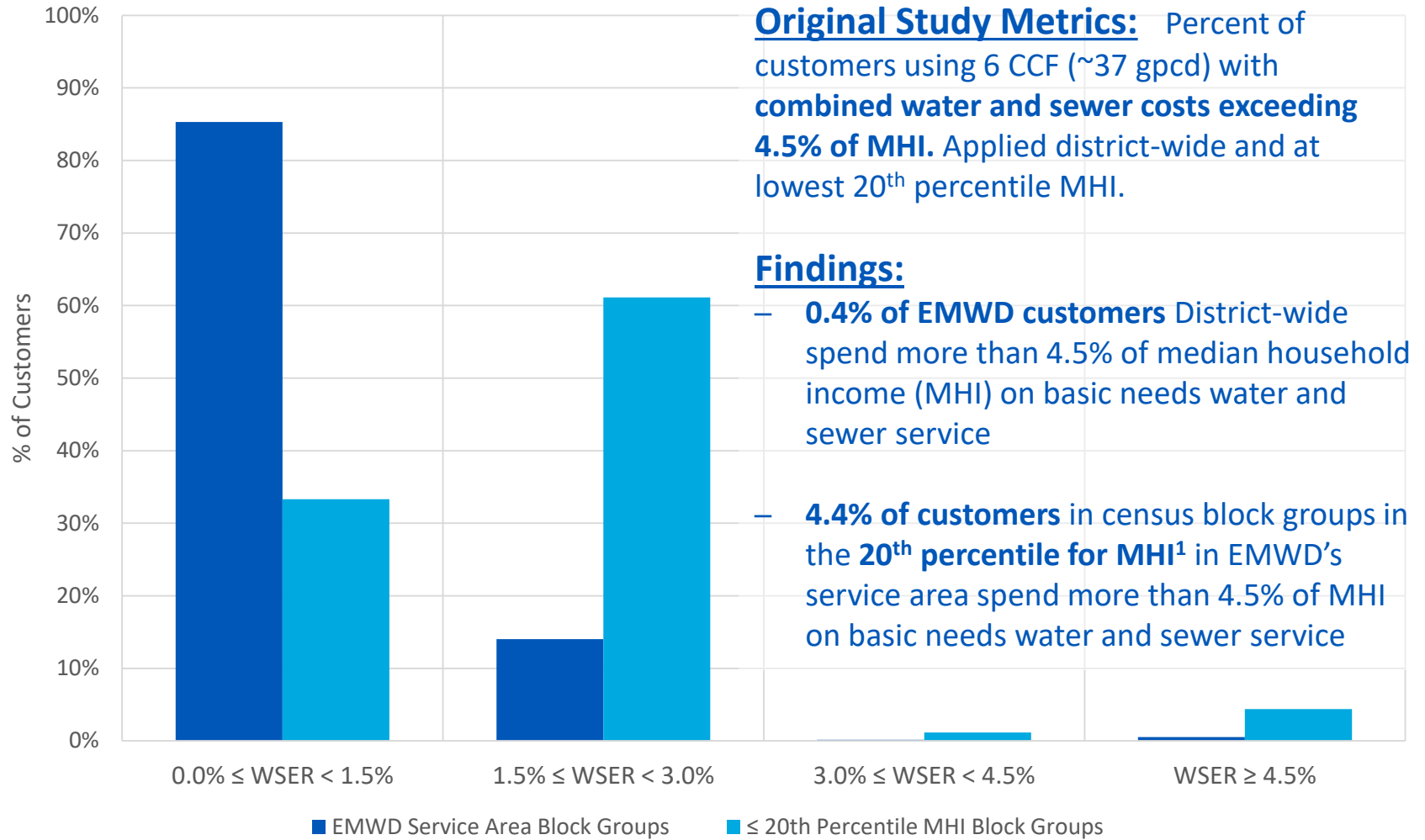
 = 2022-23 Needs Assessments

Affordability Indicator Metrics¹ that Have Been Used to Evaluate **Household Affordability**

1. Population growth – Rate over last decade
- 2. Percent of MHI at 6 CCF – 1.5% for water**
3. Percent of Community Poverty Threshold (% CPT) at 6ccf
4. Percent of Deep Poverty Income (% DP)
5. Per Capita Income
6. Average Median Household Income
7. Percentage of Poverty (% Poverty)
8. Demographic and Socioeconomic Characteristics of Customer Base
- 9. Household Burden Indicator (HBI) for bottom income quintile (20%)**
10. Poverty Prevalence Indicator (PPI) below 200% FPL
- 11. Affordability Ratio (AR20) bottom quintile of disposable income**
12. WARi® weighted census tract level MHI
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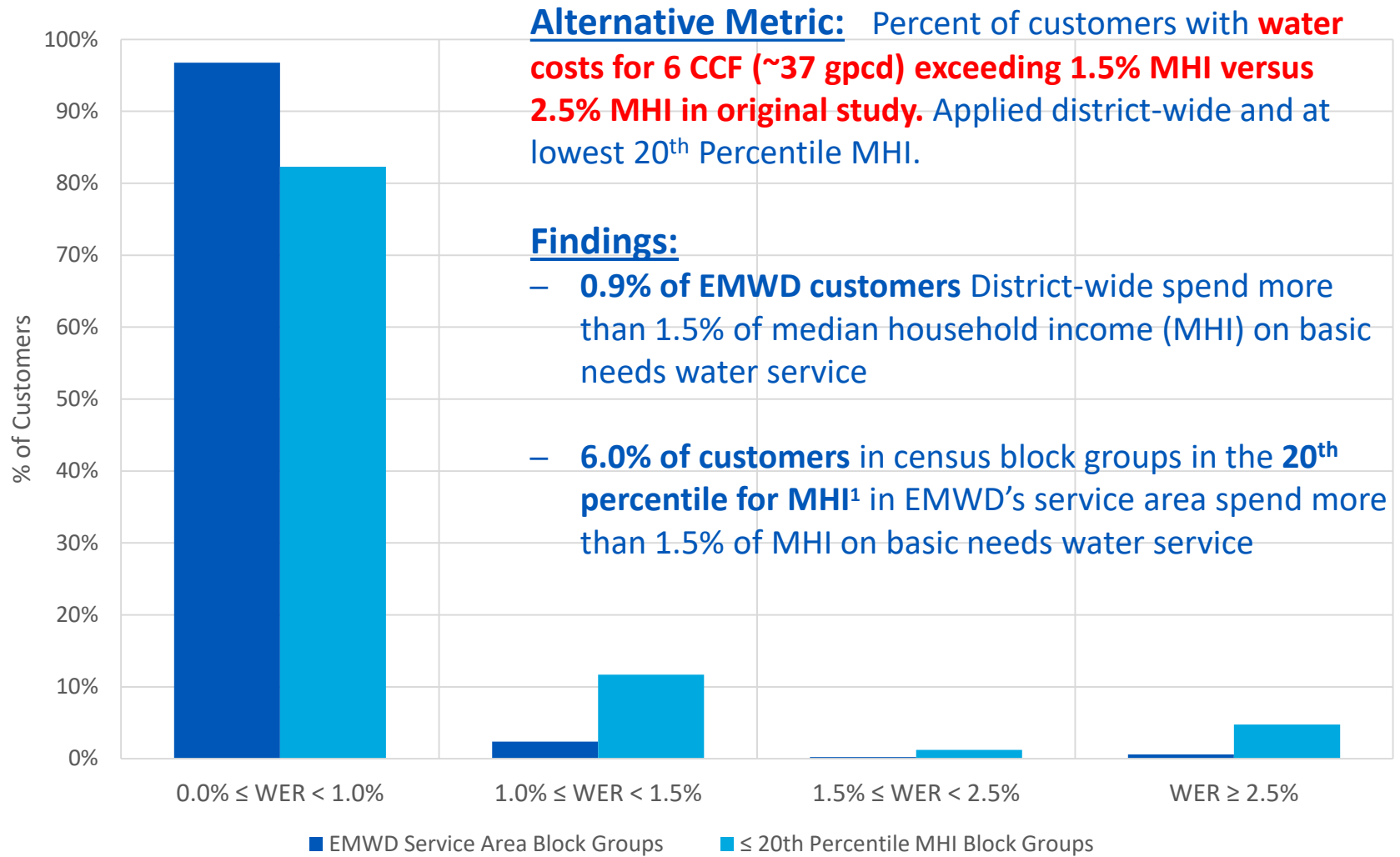
¹ Source: SWRCB “Identification of Risk Assessment 2.0 Indicators for Public Water Systems”, July 2020

UCR Study - Water and Sewer Costs at a percent of District-wide and Lowest 20th Percentile MHI



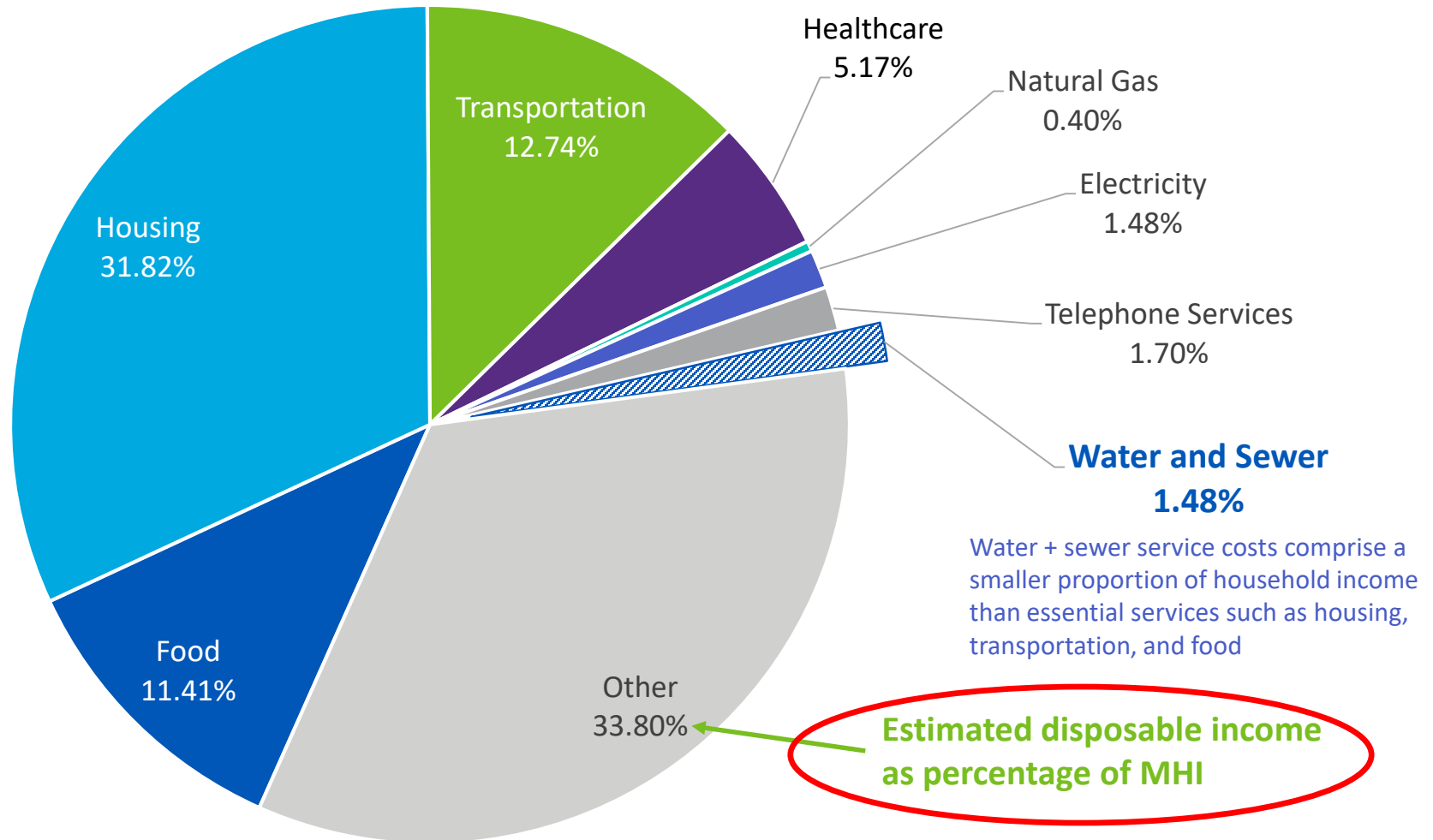
1. The 20th percentile MHI (2018) = \$44,618

Water Cost at a percent of District-wide and Lowest 20th Percentile MHI



1. The 20th percentile MHI (2018) = \$44,618

Calculating Water and Sewer Costs as Percentage of Disposable Income

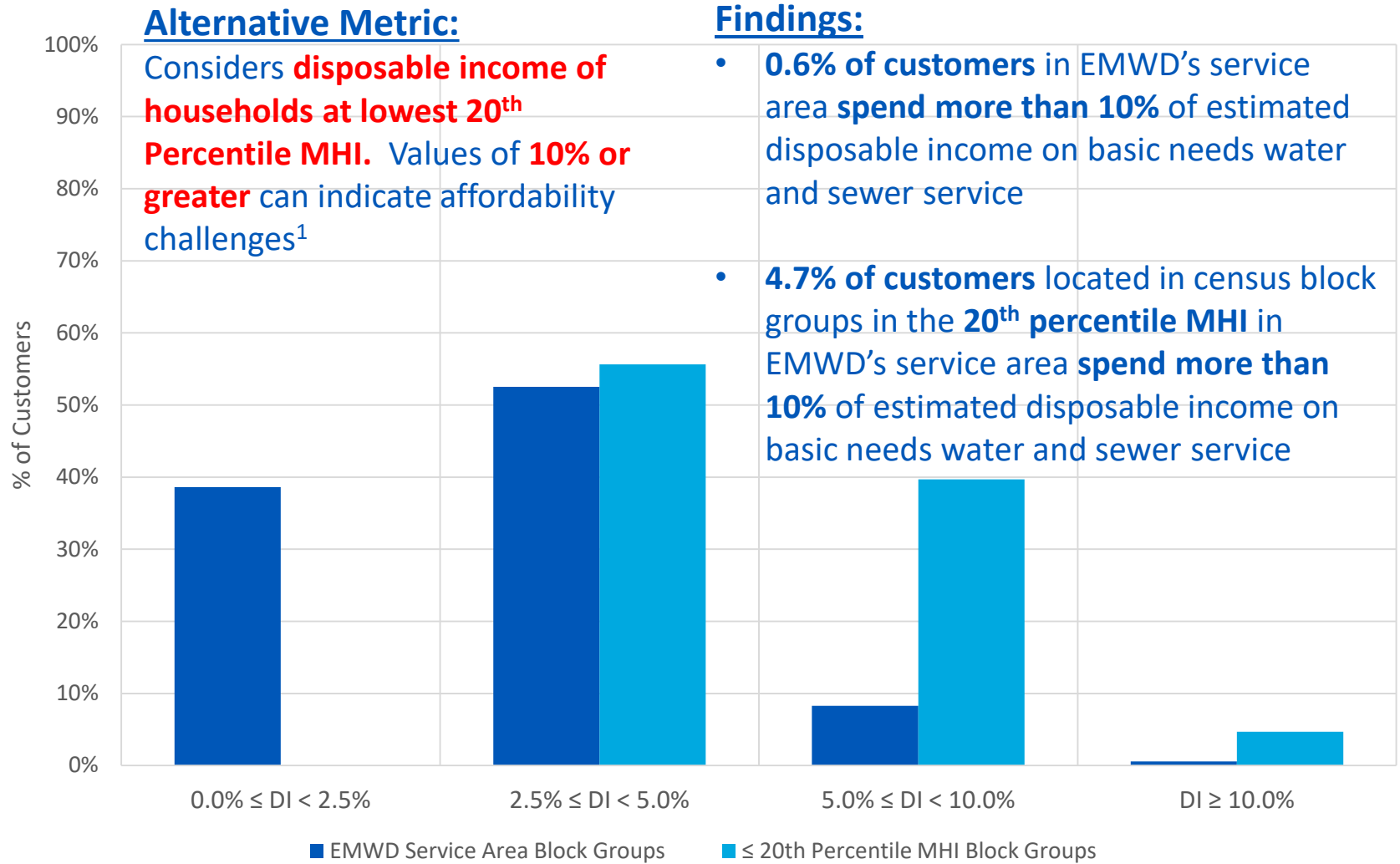


(1) Food, housing, transportation, and healthcare costs based on Los Angeles Metropolitan Statistical Area

(2) Natural gas, electricity, and telephone service costs based on Western United States, including AL, AZ, CA, Guam, HI, ID, NV, OR, and WA

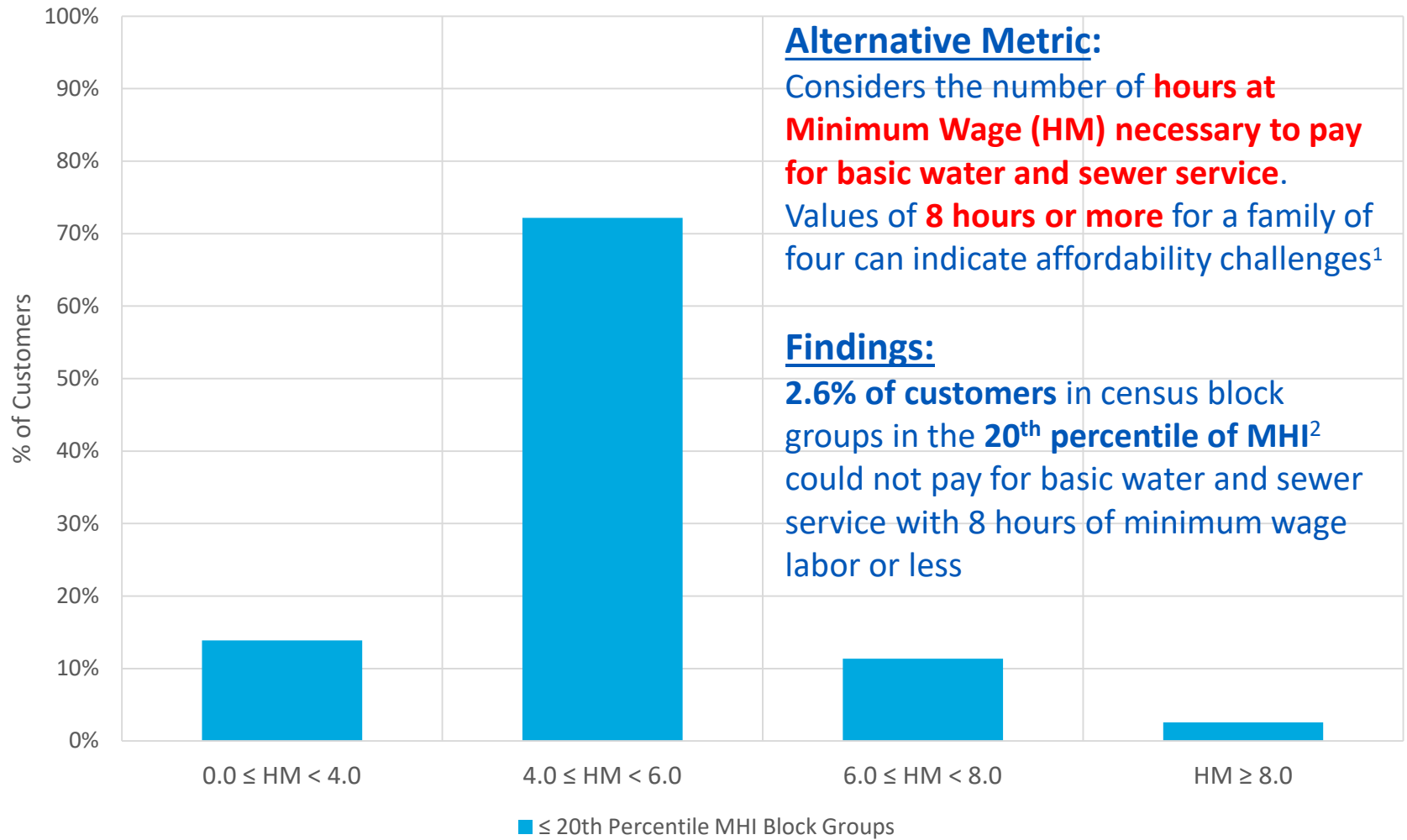
(3) Balance of income not specifically associated with essential services listed above assumed to be spent in "Other" category

Water and Sewer Costs as Percentage of Estimated Disposable Income (DI) for 20th Percentile MHI



1. Teodoro, “Measuring Household Affordability for Water and Sewer Utilities,” 2018

Water and Sewer Costs as Monthly Hours of Minimum Wage Labor (HM) – Less than 20% MHI Block Groups



1. Teodoro, "Measuring Household Affordability for Water and Sewer Utilities," 2018
2. The 20th percentile MHI (2018) = \$44,618

EMWD's Takeaways on Household Water and Sewer Affordability

- Low Income Rate Assistance (**LIRA**) programs are needed for financially challenged households
- For EMWD's Service Area:
 - Using the metrics presented, between **0.4% and 0.9% of the overall customer could have affordability challenges**
 - For households in the **lowest 20% of MHI**, this increases to between **2.6% and 6.0%**
 - **Much lower than 20.9%** of EMWD's households **under AB 401 or historic PUC programs**
- Determining the **threshold for providing LIRA program eligibility is complex** and should consider multiple metrics:
 - Tailored to agencies' individual low-income customer base
 - Focus financial assistance to those households in need
- The use of **tiered rate structures**, lower housing and other household costs and other factors can affect and improve affordability





Contact Information

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(951) 928-3777 www.emwd.org

Director Comments and Discussion



**Paul
Kielhold**
President



June Hayes
Vice President



**T. Milford
Harrison**
Treasurer



**Gil J.
Botello**
Director



**Susan
Longville**
Director

Staff Recommendation

Receive and File



Discussion Item 5.1

(Pg. 14)

Kristeen Farlow, MPA – External Affairs Manager

Discuss State and Federal Legislative Update

Staff Recommendation
Receive and file

State Legislative Update

- American Rescue Plan: \$150 billion to California



Bills of Interest

- **AB 377:** the California Clean Water Act
- **SB 559:** Canal Conveyance Capacity Restoration Fund
- **AB 1500:** Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparation, Flood Protection, Extreme Heat Mitigation, and Workforce Development Bond Act of 2022
- **SB 45:** Wildfire Prevention, Safe Drinking Water, Drought Preparation, and Flood Protection Bond Act of 2022

Federal Legislative Update

Drinking Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Act of 2021

REAUTHORIZATIONS

- Clean Water State Revolving Fund
- Water Infrastructure Finance & Innovation Act

NEW PROGRAMS

- Clean Water Infrastructure Resiliency & Sustainability Grant Program
- Stormwater Infrastructure Technology Program

Federal Legislative Update (cont.)

BUILD BACK BETTER

- President Biden consideration \$3 trillion bill
- Long-term economic program
- Infrastructure
- Climate Change

WATER CONSERVATION AND FARMING ACT

- Add natural infrastructure to the Bureau of Reclamation's mission
- Habitat restoration
- Watershed health project
- Create a \$300 million fund for
 - water recycling
 - water efficiency
 - dam safety projects

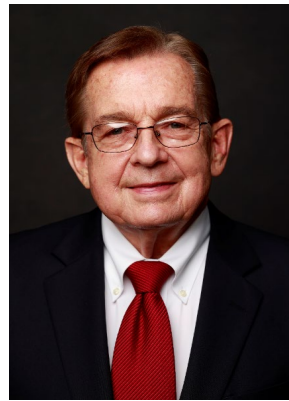
Director Comments and Discussion



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**Gil J.
Botello**
Director



**Susan
Longville**
Director

Staff Recommendation

Receive and file

Discussion Item 5.2 (Pg. 31)

Cindy Saks, CPA – Chief Financial Officer/Deputy General Manager

Consider Financial Statement Auditing Services for Fiscal Year End June 30, 2021 - 2023

Staff Recommendation

Direct Staff to negotiate a new agreement for auditing services with RAMS as mentioned above for a three-year period of time (fiscal years June 30, 2021, 2022 and 2023) with the option to extend an additional two years (fiscal years June 30, 2024 and June 30, 2025) which includes a change in engagement audit team and bring the contract to a future Board meeting for consideration.

The District is required to have an independent audit of its financial records each year.

The current District's auditing firm is Rogers, Anderson, Malody & Scott (RAMS) located in San Bernardino.

The audit for fiscal year June 30, 2020 concluded the current contract with RAMS. RAMS has been providing the annual audits for the District for the past 15 years with the District requesting a change in the engagement partner for each of the past 5 years.

RAMS was selected due in part to being a local San Bernardino-based CPA firm with experience in providing audit services to State Water Contractors.

In February 2021, District staff conducted a request for proposal process for financial auditing services and received four proposals. To ensure a new audit team, staff requested RAMS include in their proposal a change in the audit engagement partner, audit manager and audit supervisor in the proposal.

Proposals were received from the following firms:

Firm Name	Location	Audit fee for FYE 6/30/21	Audit fee for FYE 6/30/22	Audit fee for FYE 6/30/23	Appropriation Limit Calculation per year	Single Audit if needed
Lance, Soll & Lunghard	Brea	\$ 28,630	\$ 28,630	\$ 28,630	\$ 410	\$ 4,460
Brown Armstrong	Bakersfield	\$ 23,012	\$ 23,012	\$ 23,012	\$ 603	\$ 4,622
Rogers, Anderson, Malody & Scott	San Bernardino	\$ 29,500	\$ 29,940	\$ 30,390	\$ 450	\$ 3,500
Davis Farr	Irvine	\$ 26,740	\$ 26,740	\$ 26,740	\$ 750	\$ 3,500

In the past, the Board has requested a list of auditing firms that were located in San Bernardino County that possess experience auditing a State Water Contractor. The District's current audit firm of Rogers, Anderson, Malody and Scott (RAMS) is the only firm staff found that fit the two criteria.

Agency	County	Current Audit Firm	County CPA firm is located
San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District	San Bernardino	Rogers, Anderson, Malody & Scott	San Bernardino
San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency	Riverside	Eadie + Payne	Riverside
Crestline Lake Arrowhead Water Agency	San Bernardino	Rogers, Anderson, Malody & Scott	San Bernardino
Metropolitan Water District	Los Angeles	KPMG	Los Angeles
Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency	Los Angeles	Lance, Soll & Lunghard, LLP	Orange
Antelope Valley-East Kern Water Agency	Los Angeles	Brown Armstrong	Bakersfield
Coachella Valley Water District	Riverside	Clifton Larson Allen	Orange
Desert Water Agency	Riverside	Singer Lewak	Riverside
Mojave Water Agency	San Bernardino	Rogers, Anderson, Malody & Scott	San Bernardino

The Board and Staff are satisfied with the service RAMS has provided the District over the years.

As the District has had specific audit or accounting questions throughout the years, RAMS has been very responsive and attentive to assist the District in whatever way possible.

Therefore, due to the change of the entire audit team dedicated to perform audit services for the District at RAMS, consistent high-quality service, and the fact that RAMS is based within our service area, Staff is recommending that the Board direct Staff to negotiate a new 3-year contract, with extensions, with RAMS and bring it before the Board for consideration.

Director Comments and Discussion



**Paul
Kielhold**
President



June Hayes
Vice President



**T. Milford
Harrison**
Treasurer



**Gil J.
Botello**
Director



**Susan
Longville**
Director

Staff Recommendation

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Discussion Item 5.3 (Pg. 34)

Heather Dyer, MS, MBA – Chief Executive Officer/General Manager
Adekunle Ojo, MPA – Manager of Water Resources

Consider the preparation of a Climate Resilience Plan

Staff Recommendation

Provide feedback and direction on development of a Climate Resilience Plan

Summary of the Climate Resilience Standing Committee Meeting

March 29, 2021 Meeting @ 2:00 PM

Agenda

- GM and Director's Opening Remark
- Review Scope of Work for Estimated Project Timetable
- Review Draft Outline of the proposed Climate Resilience Plan (CRP)
- Timeline and Next Steps
- Recommendation for the April 8 Policy Workshop

Climate Resilience Standing Committee

Purpose of the committee:

Focuses on planning for, and addressing, various issues related to climate change

Plans to mitigate risks associated with climate change to ensure District interests are resilient to variable future climate conditions

Develop strategy to position District to secure outside funding for climate resilience initiatives

Water Resource Diversity

Climate-Resilient Water Management

1. Uses best available climate data and information
2. Integrates “buffers”, flexibility and adaptability
3. Reduces the vulnerability of poor and marginalized communities

Adaptation to Extreme Events

Environmental Resilience

Climate Change Primer

- CO₂ is a greenhouse gas, which means that it absorbs and radiates Heat
- Increased levels in CO₂ atmosphere increases global temperature (Heat)
- Increased Heat Causes Increased Evapotranspiration which influences Precipitation Patterns (weather) around the Globe
- Drought arises from conditions of **Shortage of Precipitation** (Moisture Supply) or **Excess Evapotranspiration** (Moisture Demand).

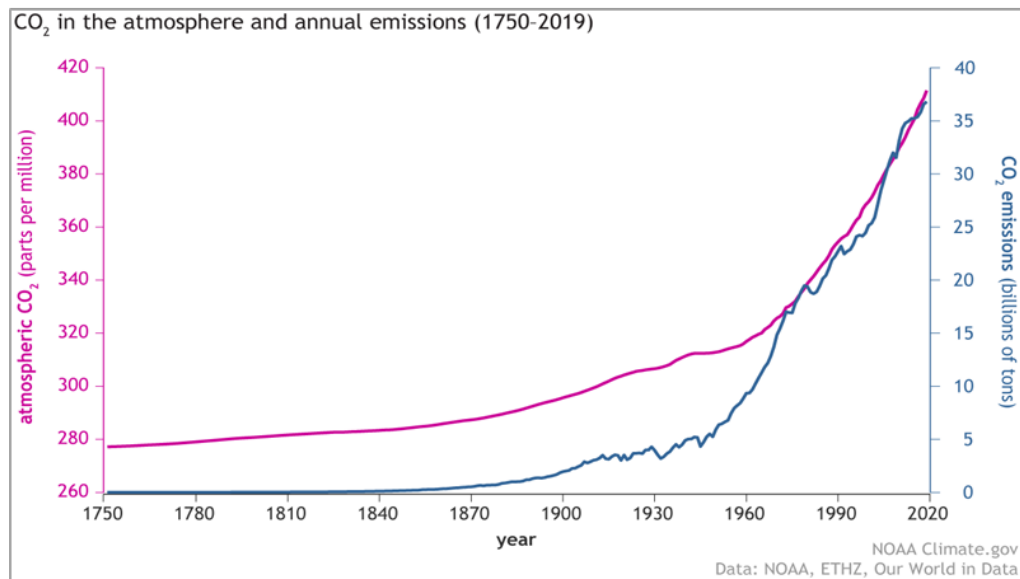


Figure Credit: NOAA, Climate.gov

CO₂ levels are High and Rising.

Climate Conditions Drive Weather Patterns

- Increased intensity and duration of heat waves
- Longer, drier, periods in some areas with longer wet periods in others
- Increased frequency and intensity of wildfire
- Increased duration and intensity of atmospheric rivers
- Increased ocean temperature, which influences weather patterns
- Melting polar ice, sea level rise



Image from <https://climate.nasa.gov/effects>
Photo Credit: VladisChern/Shutterstock.com



Image from <https://climate.nasa.gov/effects/> Photos Bottom Left - Mellimage/Shutterstock.com, center - Montree Hanlue/Shutterstock.com

Why are we here?

1) To ensure that the District is resilient to future climate change uncertainties.

- The District will analyze risks, identify systemic vulnerabilities, and develop mitigating strategies to best position our resources for response to future unknown and adverse conditions.
 - Water supply portfolio
 - Infrastructure
 - Habitat
 - Facilities

2) To ensure the District is engaged as a civic leader and “*pragmatic partner*” on the threat of climate change, acknowledging the potential impacts from climate change along with the potential benefits advanced climate change planning could bring to our community.

- The District will analyze our current contribution to the climate change problem (i.e. increased greenhouse gases) and become part of the solution by establishing a target for future reduced emissions and an actionable plan to achieve the target by a set date.
- The District will develop strategies to implement climate-resilient initiatives in a fair and equitable manner throughout our entire service area; bringing environmental, health, and economic benefits to the community we serve.

3) To strategically position the District to be highly competitive for funding opportunities related to climate-resilient planning and infrastructure.

Related Documents

Valley District is committed to environmental sustainability and recognizes its role in addressing the threat of climate change

We're not starting from scratch:

- 2020 Integrated Regional Urban Water Management Plan (IRUWMP)
- RAND Demand and Supply Studies
- Regional Recycled Water Concept Study Report
- Upper Santa Ana River Habitat Conservation Plan
- Local Hazard Mitigation Plan
- Santa Ana River Water Rights/Seven Oaks Dam
- Active Recharge Project Report
- Enhanced Recharge Project Report
- Headwater Resilience Partnership
- White Paper on District Energy Portfolio, etc.

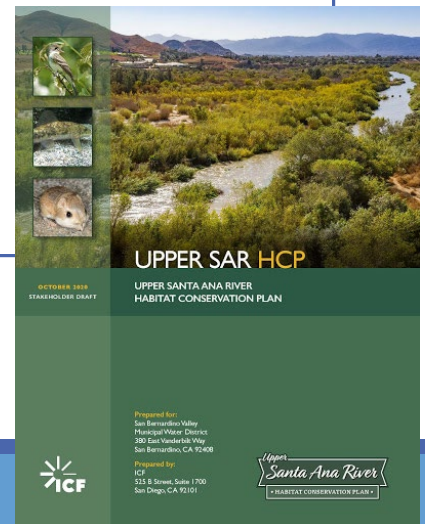
Estimating Future Water Demand for San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District

Michelle E. Miro, David G. Groves, David Catt, Benjamin M. Miller

RAND Social and Economic Well-Being

WR-1288-SBVMWD
December 2016
Prepared for San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District

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Climate Resilience Plan- Draft Outline

Chapter 1: Introduction

Chapter 2: Baseline Assessment

Chapter 3: Water Supply Resilience

Chapter 4: Energy Resilience and GHG Emission Reductions

Chapter 5: Ecosystem and Headwater Forest Resilience

Chapter 6: Infrastructural Resilience and Emergency Preparedness

Chapter 7: Plan Implementation and Monitoring

Chapter 1: Introduction

Climate Change Definition from Valley District's Perspective

Board Policies and Goals on Climate Resilience

Climate Resilience Policy Framework
Climate Change Investment Principles
Service Area & Community Equity

What is the Plan

Why does the Valley District need a Plan?
How will Valley District use the Plan?

Stakeholder Involvement and Communication

Chapter 2: Baseline Assessment

Climate Vulnerability and Risk Assessment

Valley District's Carbon Footprint and Current Climate Impact

Water Supply Assessment

Infrastructural and Operational Assessment

Chapter 3:
Water Supply
Resilience

Local Supply Investment and
Diversification

Seven Oaks Dam Conservation Use
Stormwater & Recycled Water, etc.

Investment in Imported Water
Reliability

Sites & Delta Conveyance
SWP Carbon Neutrality by 2045

Demand Management and Water
Conservation

Water Shortage Contingency Planning
WUE, Water Loss Control, etc.

Chapter 4:
Energy
Resilience and
GHG Emission
Reductions

Renewable Energy Investment

Hydropower & Renewables

Energy Efficiency Improvements

GHG Emission Reductions

Energy Use Intensity Reduction

Chapter 5:
Ecosystem and
Headwaters
Resilience

Upper Santa Ana River Habitat
Conservation

Headwaters Resilience

Headwaters Forest Management

Reforestation and Carbon sequestration

Other climate-resilient watershed and
ecosystem solutions

Chapter 6:
Infrastructural
Resilience and
Emergency
Preparedness

Climate modeling and analysis

Emergency Preparedness and Planning

Emergency Management Procedures (floods,
fires, mudslides, high turbidity/water quality
degradation, etc.)

Chapter 7:
Plan
Implementation
and Monitoring

Plan Implementation and Phasing

Implementation Phase Stakeholder
Outreach

Climate Resilience Project Portfolio (5
Year, 10 Year, and 20 Year)

Plan Monitoring and Performance
Measures

Stakeholder Involvement Tracking

Estimated Project Timetable

- dates subject to change



Initiation Phase: March – early April

TODAY (Mar. 29) –
Climate Resilience
Standing Committee
Meeting

Apr. 1 – Staff memo
prepared with
Committee’s feedback
incorporated

Apr. 8 – Policy
Workshop



RFP & Contract Phase: Mid-April to mid-June

April 19
– RFP is
released

May 3 -
Deadline
to submit
questions

May 5 –
Zoom
meeting

May 19 –
Deadline
to submit
proposals

Week of May 24 –
RFP Review and
Consultant Selection

**Week of June 1st
or 7th** – consultant
interviews if
needed

Jun. 3 –
Resources
Workshop

Jun. 15 –
Contract
awarded at
the regular
Board
meeting



Project Phase: Late June – December

Week of June 28 –
Project kick-off

October - First Draft

December – Draft
CRP

Proposal Requirements



Detailed proposed scope and projected timeline that address project approach and reflects knowledge of Valley District

Schedule reflecting timeframes and milestones for completing each phase and task

Detail of how the proposer plans to engage key stakeholders, gather public input, and advance stakeholder engagement during implementation

Experience and history in performing this type of work in California or Western United States

Full description of the expected cost for the proposed work

Next Steps

Initiation Phase: March – early April

- **March 29** – Climate Resilience Standing Committee Meeting
- **TODAY** – Policy Workshop

RFP Phase: Mid-April to mid-June

- **April 19** – Request for Proposal (RFP) is released; due date – 1 month
- **Week of May 24** – RFP Review and Consultant Selection
- **Jun. 3** – Selected consultant proposed at the Resources Workshop
- **Jun. 15** – Contract awarded at the regular Board meeting

Project Phase: Late June – December

Week of June 28 – Project kick-off

Phase I

- Task 1:** Review of related documents
- Task 2:** Baseline Assessment

Phase II

- Task 3:** Engage Board and stakeholders
- Task 4:** Recommend climate adaptation and mitigation strategies

Phase III

- Task 5:** Draft the Plan
- Task 6:** Complete CEQA Review
- Task 7:** Finalize Plan
- Task 8:** Additional Services

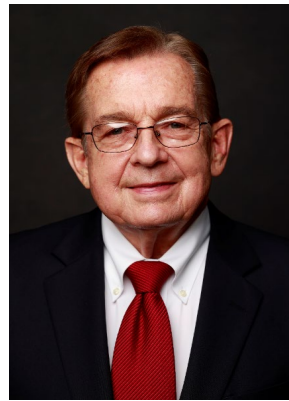
Director Comments and Discussion



**Paul
Kielhold**
President



June Hayes
Vice President



**T. Milford
Harrison**
Treasurer



**Gil J.
Botello**
Director



**Susan
Longville**
Director

Staff Recommendation

Provide feedback and direction on development of a Climate Resilience Plan.



Future Business



Adjournment
