

Water Rights Fees Stakeholder Meeting

Thursday, July 31, 2025, at 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Webcast and Zoom Meeting Only

NO PHYSICAL MEETING LOCATION



Live Webcast [Here](#)

[Water Rights Email](#)

DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES – WATER RIGHTS AGENDA

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. WRF Budget Cost Drivers (Attachment 1)
 - a. [FY 25-26 Budget Proposal - Legal Resources to Respond to Federal Actions](#)
3. WRF Fund Condition (Attachment 2)
4. Fee Update
 - a. [Federal Energy Regulatory Commission \(FERC\)](#)
5. Fee Update
 - a. Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA)
6. Open Discussion
7. Next Steps
 - a. September 16, Board Meeting

**Water Rights Fund Budget Cost Drivers FY 2025-26
(\$000)**

Water Rights Fund (3058)	FY 2024-25 Fee Setting Budget	FY 2025-26 Governor's Enacted Fee Setting Budget¹	Net Difference	Percent Change
Budget Allocation	\$38,811	\$38,318	(\$493)	-1.3%

FY 2025-26 Budget Cost Drivers	Increase Amount	Percent Change
State Operations ²	(\$249)	-0.6%
Pro Rata	(\$473)	-1.2%
CDTFA	\$29	0.1%
25-26 Legal Resources to Respond to Federal Actions	\$200	0.5%
Totals	(\$493)	-1.3%

¹The 25-26 enacted budget included a \$5,472 loan from USTCF to the WRF to support the implementation of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act. This amount is not included in the Governor's Enacted Fee Setting Budget.

²Control Section Item 9800 Employee Compensation, 3.60 Retirement and Healthcare Cost.

**Water Rights Fund
Fund Condition (\$000)**

	Actual FY 23-24	FY 24-25 (Forecast)	FY 25-26 No Fee Changes (Forecast)	FY 25-26 With Fee Changes (Forecast)
BEGINNING BALANCE	\$5,889	\$12,926	\$9,821	\$9,821
Prior year adjustments	\$2,287	\$0	\$0	\$0
Adjusted Beginning Balance	\$8,176	\$12,926	\$9,821	\$9,821
Revenue				
Regulatory Fees ¹	\$31,211	\$33,487	\$33,487	\$35,161
Cost Recovery ²	\$30	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
Other Revenue ³	\$960	\$1,316	\$1,316	\$1,316
Operating Transfers from Fund 0439 per EO E 23/24-85	\$15,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
Operating Transfers to Fund 0439 per EO E 23/24-183R	(\$15,000)	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Revenue	\$32,201	\$35,803	\$35,803	\$37,477
Expenditures				
Water Board State Operations	\$24,198	\$34,769	\$34,583	\$34,583
Cost Recovery Expenditures ²	\$0	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
Other State Operations ⁴	\$3,253	\$3,193	\$2,735	\$2,735
Total Expenditures	\$27,451	\$38,908	\$38,318	\$38,318
Surplus(Deficit)	\$4,750	(\$3,105)	(\$2,515)	(\$841)
ENDING BALANCE	\$12,926	\$9,821	\$7,306	\$8,980
Fund Reserve	47.1%	25.9%	19.6%	24.1%
SGMA Revenue and Expenditures⁵				
Loan from the Underground Storage Tank Cleanup Fund (0439) to the Water Rights Fund (3058) per Item 3940-011-0439, Budget Act of 2025	\$0	\$0	\$5,472	\$5,472
Expenditures	\$0	\$0	\$5,472	\$5,472

¹ Forecasted revenue is based on estimated billing amounts for applications, annual fees for license/permit/pending.

² Ongoing cost recovery for the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Consultation.

³ Includes miscellaneous services to the public, Surplus Money Investment Fund (SMIF) & Enforcement, and F&P revenue.

⁴ Includes expenditures to CDTFA, CalEPA, Supplemental Pension and Pro Rata.

⁵ The SGMA revenues and expenditures are not part of the WRF fee setting process.