



COUNTY OF SONOMA

575 ADMINISTRATION
DRIVE, ROOM 102A
SANTA ROSA, CA 95403

SUMMARY REPORT

Agenda Date: 5/12/2026

To: The Board of Directors of the Sonoma County Water Agency
Department or Agency Name(s): Sonoma County Water Agency
Staff Name and Phone Number: Grant Davis 547-1900, David Royall 521-1892
Vote Requirement: 4/5th
Supervisorial District(s): First

Title:

Receive Report and Make Findings to Continue Emergency Work to Stabilize Dangerous Conditions Resulting from a Pipeline Break within the Sonoma Valley County Sanitation District's Reclamation System. □

Recommended Actions:

Receive Report and Make Findings to Continue Emergency Work to Stabilize Dangerous Conditions Resulting from a Pipeline Break within the Sonoma Valley County Sanitation District's Reclamation System (First District) (4/5th Vote Required)

Executive Summary:

This item requests that the Board of Directors for the Sonoma County Water Agency (Sonoma Water), receive a report on emergency actions taken to stabilize hazardous conditions resulting from a pipeline break within the Sonoma Valley County Sanitation District's Reclamation System and continue to suspend competitive bidding requirements.

Discussion:

On December 31, 2025, staff at the Sonoma Valley County Sanitation District's Treatment Plant identified a leak in the District's reclamation pipeline. Staff located and isolated the broken section and stopped discharges from the pipeline. Staff estimated that the broken reclamation pipe had released about 700,000 gallons of treated reclaimed water into Schell Slough in Sonoma Valley.

As described in the Board's January 6, 2026, emergency declaration, the pipeline break occurred in an area subject to tidal inundation and adjacent to a levee, creating challenging site conditions, increasing the risk of erosion and instability, and limiting what repair activities could commence before inundated areas became dry enough to permit access.

On February 27, 2026, a Contract Change Request/Potential Change Order was issued to W. M. Lyles Co. to begin emergency repair activities on the broken pipeline. W. M. Lyles Co. is the project contractor for the in-progress SVCSO Influent/Effluent Pumps and Piping Upgrade Project. This was an efficient emergency contracting strategy because W. M. Lyles Co. was already mobilized to the Sonoma Valley Treatment Plant just north of the break on the District's reclamation pipeline, possessed the appropriate contractor's license

classification for the emergency work, and had directly relevant experience with the types of piping systems, materials, and site conditions involved in the repair.

Utilizing the existing contract vehicle allowed the District to engage a qualified contractor without the delay of a separate procurement, consistent with the urgency established by the Board's emergency declaration.

On March 3, 2026, the previously inundated areas around the pipeline break were dry and stable enough to allow W. M. Lyles Co. to commence exploratory excavation around the sinkhole and begin exposing the broken section of reclamation pipeline. On March 4, 2026, W. M. Lyles Co.'s excavation activities exposed a compromised coupling joint that was the source of at least one leak. During the week of March 16, 2026, W. M. Lyles Co. procured the replacement coupler and pipe sections. Mechanical joint restraints were delivered April 13, 2026. During the week of April 13, 2026, W. M. Lyles Co. met with staff at the project site and prepared the site for the repair work. The repair work began during the week of April 20, 2026. The pipeline was repaired and successfully pressure tested. The excavation site will be backfilled and restored to original grades during the week of May 4, 2026.

The pipeline repair and verification of no additional leaks has allowed the reclamation line to be put back in service while preventing further impact to Schell Slough and not contributing to risk of erosion and instability. □

Prior Board Actions:

- 4/28/2026: Report and Make Findings to Continue Emergency Work to Stabilize Dangerous Conditions Resulting from a Pipeline Break within the Sonoma Valley County Sanitation District's Reclamation System
- 4/07/2026: Report and Make Findings to Continue Emergency Work to Stabilize Dangerous Conditions Resulting from a Pipeline Break within the Sonoma Valley County Sanitation District's Reclamation System
- 3/24/2026: Report and Make Findings to Continue Emergency Work to Stabilize Dangerous Conditions Resulting from a Pipeline Break within the Sonoma Valley County Sanitation District's Reclamation System.
- 3/03/2026: Report and Make Findings to Continue Emergency Work to Stabilize Dangerous Conditions Resulting from a Pipeline Break within the Sonoma Valley County Sanitation District's Reclamation System.
- 2/10/2026: Report and Make Findings to Continue Emergency Work to Stabilize Dangerous Conditions Resulting from a Pipeline Break within the Sonoma Valley County Sanitation District's Reclamation System.
- 1/27/2026: Report and Make Findings to Continue Emergency Work to Stabilize Dangerous Conditions Resulting from a Pipeline Break within the Sonoma Valley County Sanitation District's Reclamation System.
- 1/06/2026: Resolution Making Findings of an Emergency Need to Perform Work to Stabilize hazardous conditions resulting from a pipeline break in the reclamation distribution system

FISCAL SUMMARY

Expenditures	FY 25-26 Adopted	FY 26-27 Projected	FY 27-28 Projected
Budgeted Expenses			
Additional Appropriation Requested			
Total Expenditures			
Funding Sources			
General Fund/WA GF			
State/Federal			
Fees/Other			
Use of Fund Balance			
Contingencies			
Total Sources			

Narrative Explanation of Fiscal Impacts:

N/A

Staffing Impacts:			
Position Title (Payro	Monthly Salary Range (A - I Step)	Additions (number)	Deletions (number)

Narrative Explanation of Staffing Impacts (If Required):

N/A

Attachments:

None.

Related Items "On File" with the Clerk of the Board:

N/A