COLUSA COUNTY WATER DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

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ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER

After losing 45+ years of O&M knowledge the District is starting a succession planning effort. This plan includes a newly developed position of Assistant General Manager that will oversee field operations, SCADA technology, recharge efforts, and grant opportunities. The goal is to have an individual well versed in all facets of the District operations in order to seamlessly step into the General Manager position in the future.

If you or someone you know would be interested in this career opportunity, please contact the District office or email: s.murphy@colcwd.com for more details.

2025 Ephemeral Stream Trickle Recharge

2025 IN REVIEW

2025 was the 3rd year in a row, Colusa County Water District received a 100% allocation. Additionally, 3F water (excess flows) was available thru April 2025 offering a discounted rate as well as supplementing recharge efforts. In 2025, the District also saw more landowners opting to use surface water than in recent years. Both, direct recharge efforts and the greater use of surface water aka "in-lieu recharge" is vital to sustaining and conserving groundwater supplies throughout the District and County helping the Colusa Sub-Basin comply with SGMA (the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act) which was passed in 2015.

As a member agency of the Colusa Groundwater Authority and a proponent of the newly formed SCNY group the District is actively working to build groundwater reserves that will be relied on during drought times. Additionally, this work will help protect domestic wells and potentially slow/stop local subsidence.

In 2025, using Grant resources, the District discharged 1600 AF into various ephemeral streams and installed well monitoring devices on several wells to monitor recharge efforts. CCWD is planning to implement a pilot a groundwater accounting program that will quantify recharge and help inform SGMA efforts. Please contact the District office if you are interested in being a part if of this pilot. There is also additional Grant funding available for on-farm recharge projects if you are interested in developing one.

"When the well is dry, we know the worth of water"
- Ben Franklin

"The Earth, the air, the land and the water are not an inheritance from our forefathers but on loan from our children. So we have to handover to them at least as it was handed over to us." -Gandhi

2026 BUREAU OF RECLAMATION ALLOCATION ANNOUNCEMENT

Once again, early storms in late November and December 2025 helped boost reservoir levels at Shasta and Trinity Reservoirs. However, this was followed by a dry January with a diminishing snowpack that created some fear that the first Bureau allocation announcement was going to be low. Thankfully, the storm window opened up again in February resulting in a 100% allocation announcment for North of the Delta (NOD) contractors on February 26th. In addition to the 100% allocation, 3F water (excess flows) started in mid-February and will likely continue for several weeks.

2026 WATER RATES & ORDER FORMS

Enclosed is the 2026 water order form for you to complete and return by April 15th with your first installment/deposit. A 100% allocation equates to roughly 1.7 acre feet per District assessed acre. Please order the total AF you would like for the 2026 irrigation season (March 1 – February 28). If a demand issue results and a reduction in request becomes necessary we will contact affected landowners to discuss options. Additionally, when available, 3F water (excess flows) is at a reduced rate but only during the window that it is made available. The District will adjust the rate accordingly when billed. E-mail notifications will be sent out when this water is available and when it terminates.

The 2026 water rates listed below are based on the Districts average yearly deliveries of 55,000/af(*). As noted in prior years, the water rate is a "pass-through" of the applicable USBR rates plus the TCCA conveyance charge.

	Irrigation	M&I
2026 USBR Final Rates (per AF)	**$ 56.02**	**$ 75.32**
TC Conveyance Cost Estimate	16.83*	16.83*
2026 District Rate per AF:	**$ 72.85**	**$ 92.15**

Complete the enclosed water order form and return by April 15th

2026 BASE RATE CHARGES

Established in 2009, the Base Rate charge pays for the Overhead & Maintenance (O&M) of the District. After years of holding the Base Rate steady at $24.50/acre the Board held a 218 Hearing in 2025 effectively increasing the rate to $25.75/acre. The 2026 Budget maintains the rate at $25.75 per the enclosed bill.

Base rate billings are due and payable either in full or in 3 installments (1/2 by April 1st, ¼ by July 1st and ¼ by October 1st). All District charges (assessment, base rate & water charges) must be current in order for water to be served. Water service will denied to lands with delinquent balances.

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