



Senior Canyon Mutual Water Company

P.O. Box 600, Ojai, California 93024

November 2024 Updates

Water Production and Purchases

October 2024 water production from our Tunnel, West Fork and North Fork sources was 52 acre feet, which equals 2,265,120 cubic feet or 16,944,252 gallons of water—an unprecedented amount of water from our own sources following the hot summer months. Additionally, we purchased 18 acre feet, or about 5,865,318 gallons, from the Casitas Municipal Water District, which means that the Purchase Water Charge (PWC) will apply to this month's bills.

Tunnel Grant

The cultural evaluation environmental packet including a proposed treatment plan for historic resources has been sent to the State Historic Properties Office for review and approval and will complete the federal review process. Once that review is complete, we will submit the environmental reports and evidence of approvals to the California State Department of Water Resources to complete the state review process. All of this work must be completed before construction activities can begin. We hope to begin work on the tunnel early next year.

FEMA Grants

As I mentioned in last month's update, we are still owed a substantial amount of FEMA money for repair work on our system, including for work that we've completed, and are optimistic that we will receive that money in the near future. More information on our FEMA projects is available on our website at <https://seniorcanyonwater.com/fema-projects/>.

Capital Improvement Program

The company's management committee—Peter, Mike, Adam and myself, in consultation with Rei and Robert—continues to develop a capital improvement plan. The plan breaks down potential improvements into four categories: **distribution** (pipelines and pump station upgrade), **supply** (the tunnel and new wells), **water treatment** (filtration) and **support facilities & equipment** (roads and trucks). Each project has been assigned a priority from one to four, with the "ones" being the highest and most immediate priorities. Our challenge now is to plan and fund these projects. On a positive note, thanks to funding and support from the Ventura River Instream Flow Enhancement and Water Resilience Regional Framework (VRIF) program and work performed by Watershed Progressive in collaboration with Rei, Robert and Adam, we already have in hand preliminary design plans for many of our distribution projects.

Lawsuit Refund

Rest assured that the board understands shareholders still have a refund coming as a result of the lawsuit settlement. We appreciate everyone's patience on this front, because when work on the tunnel begins, demand on our cash flow will be intense. Once the tunnel project is complete and we've received the majority of our tunnel and FEMA money, we will issue the refund, most likely as a credit on your bills.

Fire Protection

As I put the finishing touches on this update, I learned of a new fire burning near Somis and Camarillo. I know several people who are preparing to evacuate their homes. The so-called Mountain Fire is a painful reminder of how impactful wildfires can be. The board is ever mindful of the need to be prepared for the next wildfire, and to that end, we are exploring ways to protect our East End community when the next fire occurs.

To learn more about valley-wide fire prevention efforts, I encourage you to read through the *Ojai Valley Community Wildfire Protection Plan*, which is "a living document that serves as a road map for planning and prioritizing wildfire mitigation activities throughout the Planning Area, while also providing a resource to help increase public awareness and engagement in wildfire safety principles and preparedness at the individual, household, and neighborhood levels." You can download the full plan from the Fire Safe Council's website at: <https://firesafeojai.org/about-the-ojai-cwpp/>.

Stay Safe,

Jim