

SANTA MARGARITA
Groundwater Agency



Sustainably Managing our
Local Groundwater Resources

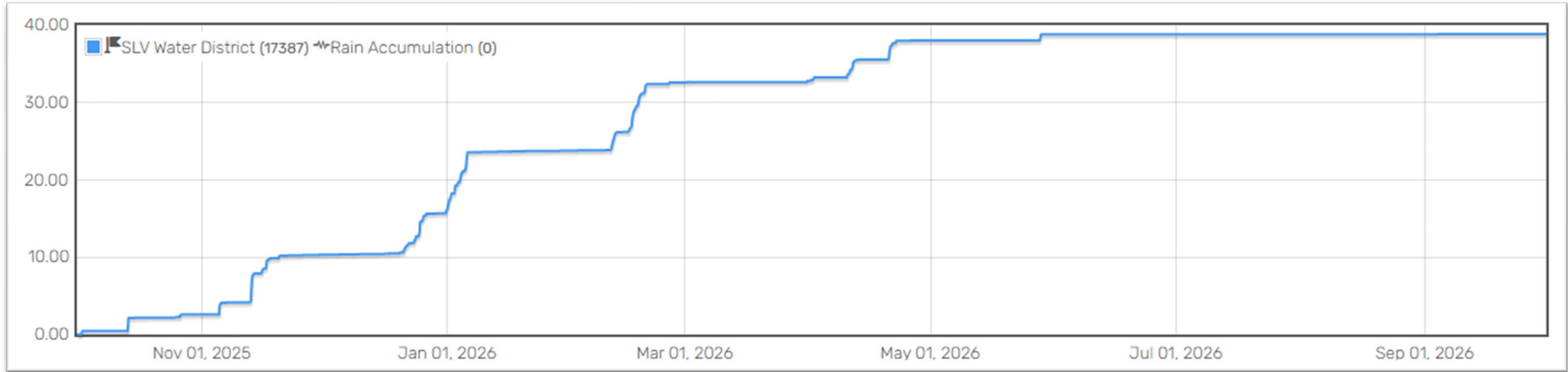
Groundwater Sustainability Program Update

Board of Directors Meeting

October 22, 2026

Presentations 3.1

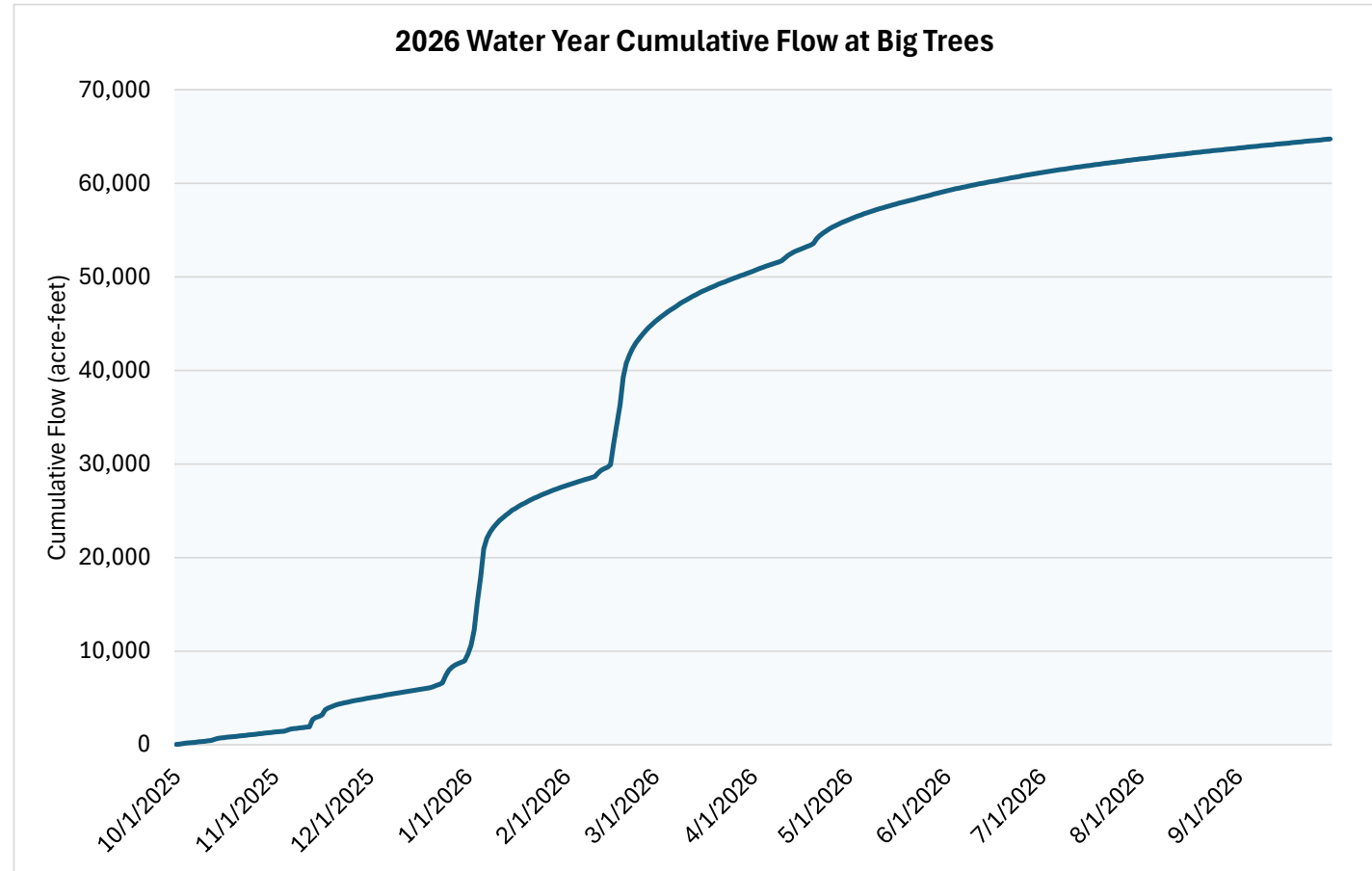
Precipitation for Water Year (WY) 2026 Below Average



- Total at Boulder Creek was 40.1 inches, compared to long-term average of 50.3 inches (86% of avg)
- Total at El Pueblo Yard in Scotts Valley was 33.4 inches, compared to long-term average of 41.3 inches (82% of avg)

Cumulative Flow on San Lorenzo River was Below Average

- Measured flow was 64,744 acre-feet, compared to 30-year average of 99,400 acre-feet (65% of avg)
- Minimum flow at Big Trees of 15.4 cubic feet per second on 9/30



Water Year 2026 Fall Water Level Review

- Measurement collected by San Lorenzo Valley Water District, Scotts Valley Water District, and County mid-Sept through first week October
- No minimum threshold exceedances compared to updated levels indraft amended Groundwater Sustainability Plan

	Well Name	Measurable Objective	Minimum Threshold	Fall 2026 Level	Diff from MT (feet)
Unconfined	SLVWD Quail MW-A	417	413	413.8	0.8
	SLVWD Quail MW-B	470	457	458.2	1.2
	SMGWA-6	360	325	334.3	9.3
	SLVWD Olympia 1	359	349	367.9	18.9
	SMGWA-3	393	387	396.0	9.0
	SMGWA-4	349	345	349.0	4.0
	SMGWA-5	528	515	526.0	11.0
	SVWD TW-18	474	469	472.0	3.0
	SMGWA-2	396	392	399.5	7.5
	SLVWD Pasatiempo MW-2	528	516	521.3	5.3
	SVWD AB303 MW-1	488	478	482.7	4.7
	SVWD SV4-MW	408	399	400.8	1.8
Confined	SMGWA-8	325	320	331.4	11.4
	SVWD #9	346	340	369.4	29.4
	SLVWD Pasatiempo #3 (Estrella)	359	337	362.9	25.9
	SLVWD Pasatiempo MW-1	372	337	371.0	34.0
	SVWD #10	335	286	334.9	48.9
	SVWD #11A	317	294	340.6	46.6
	SVWD AB303 MW-2	400	387	411.2	24.2
	SVWD AB303 MW-3A	361	354	399.2	45.2
	SVWD TW-19	348	337	406.5	69.5
	SVWD Canham Well	451	433	439.3	6.3
	SVWD Stonewood Well	845	841	847.5	6.5

Water Year 2026 Water Quality Review

- Review all public supply wells available from State Water Board website
- All wells meeting measurable objective (MO)
- Also reviewed available small water system results, but these are not representative monitoring points
- Make notes on other sampling and results of interest – confer with water agencies and County



Water Quality Review – Primary Constituents of Concern

Total Dissolved Solids				Arsenic			Nitrate		
	2026 Value	MO	MT	2026 Value	MO	MT	2026 Value	MO	MT
Quail 4a	160	250	500	2.9	5	8	0.56	2	5
Quail 5a	120	250	500	2	5	8	2	4	5
Olympia 2	390	600	800	ND	2	5	ND	2	5
Olympia 3	730	900	1000	ND	2	5	ND	2	5
Pasatiempo 5a	200	250	500	2.2	5	8	0.099	2	5
Pasatiempo 7	NS	250	500	1	5	8	NS	2	5
Pasatiempo 8	NS	250	500	NS	13	15	NS	2	5
SVWD 10A	330	400	600	ND	2	5	ND	2	5
SVWD 11A	610	700	800	3.8	6	8	ND	2	5
SVWD 11B	360	500	700	11	14	16	ND	2	5
Orchard Run	660	800	1000	ND	2	5	ND	2	5

ND – not detected; NS – not sampled



Water Quality Review – Other Constituents Tracked

Well	2026 notes			
Quail 4a	No PFAS			
Quail 5a	PFAS detects in May, but no detects in August			
Olympia 2	No PFAS			
Olympia 3	No PFAS			
Pasatiempo 5a	No PFAS			
Pasatiempo 7	Not tested			
Pasatiempo 8	Not tested			
SVWD 10A	PFAS detects, Benzene - 0.96 ug/L			
SVWD 11A	PFAS detects, Chlorobenzene - 1.3 ug/L, O-Dichlorobenzene - 0.55 ug/L			
SVWD 11B	PFAS detects in May, but not in 2 other rounds			
Orchard Run	No PFAS, multiple other TDS below 520			

ND – not detected; NS – not sampled

PFAS – *Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances*



In Other News...

- Final Small Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) Grant Program Guidelines expected this month
 - Department of Water Resources has indicated that it intends to award the funding to a single third-party administrator
 - The administrator would enter into an agreement with and issue sub-awards to small GSAs
 - No current timeline on this, but action could be required by SMGWA prior to next Board meeting on February 25, 2027
 - Intent is to evenly distribute the funding among the small GSAs
 - Current minimum estimated award is \$120K
 - SMGWA expenses on periodic evaluation are eligible for reimbursement
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In Other News...

Department of Water Resources has approved Mid-County Groundwater Basin's Periodic Evaluation. Letter excerpts:

Specifically, SGMA does not obligate the GSA to address or remediate pre-2015 ISW depletion conditions,⁵² and the GSA's management strategy is to prevent ISW depletion from worsening relative to that baseline by maintaining groundwater levels above pre-2015 historical levels. Staff believe this approach achieves SGMA's objectives while allowing the GSA to focus resources on other important Plan implementation issues. Accordingly, despite data gaps in quantifying depletion or linking it to groundwater level thresholds, maintaining overall Basin groundwater conditions at or near pre-2015 levels is a reasonable proxy for preventing ISW depletions from increasing beyond levels that SGMA has expressly excluded from a GSA's responsibility to manage or avoid. In this

However, to better ensure the effectiveness of the GSA's 2015-groundwater level management approach to ISW, Department staff recommend that the GSA strengthen its use of groundwater levels as a proxy by considering groundwater conditions not only in the vicinity of streams but throughout the Basin. Maintaining Basin-wide groundwater levels at or above pre-2015 conditions may help ensure ISW depletion does not increase relative to that baseline, which is consistent with the Plan's undesirable result definition.⁵³