

CALAVERAS COUNTY WATER DISTRICT OFFICIALS ANNOUNCE NEW BUSINESS PLAN

By ***The Record***

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SAN ANDREAS -- Calaveras County Water District officials have announced that a new business plan will within a few years save almost \$2 million annually and avert the need to increase the district's operations and maintenance budget.

General Manager Mitch Dion and Administrative Services Director Jeffrey Meyer said the plan calls for reducing personnel with retirements in the next few years and improving automated processes for purchasing, maintenance and information management. The cost reductions are needed because increasing energy prices and contractual obligations will push the district's operations and maintenance costs up by \$1.8 million.

The operations and maintenance budget is separate from the capital repair and renovation budget the district uses to replace aging pipes, pumps and other infrastructure. The district board last summer approved rate hikes specifically to fund capital costs and promised ratepayers the money would not go to pay for ongoing operations.

The operations and maintenance savings will be phased in to take full effect in the 2017-18 fiscal year.

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