

CCWD Oks Moke River study

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The Calaveras County Water District Board of Directors on Jan. 25 unanimously authorized two studies involving the Mokelumne River in Calaveras County.

Peter Martin, CCWD water resources program manager, explained one study will evaluate the specific water supply reliability and infrastructure needs of the West Point community, and the other will study the long-term water needs for the areas of Calaveras County served by the Mokelumne River.

ECORP Consulting, Inc. was awarded the contract to perform both studies and will team up with KASL Engineering to perform the work, which is expected to be completed in September of this year. The cost of the studies is not to exceed \$296,000, and the Calaveras Public Utilities District is partnering with CCWD to help cover the cost of the long-term needs study.

“When completed, these studies will provide important water supply decision-making tools for the districts and the region, which is becoming more essential given the recent unprecedented drought and expectations of the long-term service to secure the health and welfare of our communities,” Martin said.

The board also received an update on the local water supply conditions in Calaveras County from Joel Metzger, public information officer. As of Jan. 25, the Calaveras County region had received 43 inches of rain, which is 225 percent of the historical average for this time of year and exceeds the historical average for an entire wet season, which is 41 inches.

Snow water content in the Central Sierra is at 190 percent of the historical average for this time of year. All major reservoirs in Calaveras County are filling fast or spilling. In fact, since mid-January water managers of New Hogan and Camanche reservoirs have been conducting flood releases to ensure there is adequate room for additional run-off. CCWD remains in Stage 0 of its water shortage contingency plan.

CCWD Director of Administrative Services Jeffrey Meyer provided the board with a mid-year budget update, which reviewed the first six months of FY 2016-2017. He said the budget is generally meeting projections, and shared the good news that both water sales and hydropower revenues have increased from the prior year.