County Service Area No. 7
(La Honda Water System)

System Update Public Meeting
La Honda Fire Station
Community Meeting Room
8945 La Honda Road
La Honda, CA 94020

Wednesday, November 4, 2026, 6:00 P.M.

COUNTY OF SAN MATEO

Meeting Agenda

1. Water System Overview and Current Conditions
2. Improvements Completed on the Water System
3. Water Distribution Pipeline Improvement Project Update
4. Customer Connections and Transition to the New Water Main
5. Projects in Progress
6. Winter Preparedness and System Reliability
7. Financial Outlook and Potential Future Rate Adjustments
8. Community Questions and Comments

There will be an opportunity at the end of the presentation to ask questions. Please hold your questions until the end.

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SYSTEM AT A GLANCE

Existing Water System Overview

1 Alpine Creek	2 Raw water intake	3 Raw water storage	4 Treatment plant	5 Treated storage	6 Distribution
Existing source	A 15 HP pump	70,000-gallon redwood tank	Conventional treatment	500,000-gallon steel tank	North and south service areas

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SYSTEM AT A GLANCE

Water System Overview

65	50 gpm	70,000 gal	500,000 gal
residential connections	treatment plant capacity	raw water storage	treated water storage

Service area and configuration

- CSA 7 serves residential customers and County facilities, including Camp Glenwood and Sam McDonald Park.
- The system includes distribution areas: north (Memory Lane, RV Park, Pope Road, SR 84/Pescadero Creek Road) and south (Canyon View, Loop Road, Alpine Road, Camp Glenwood, and Sam McDonald Park).
- Planning-level demand estimates total 17.9 gpm average daily, 27.0 gpm maximum daily, and 53.7 gpm peak hourly.

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SYSTEM AT A GLANCE

Current Conditions and Priorities

Distribution System

Many lines were reported as dating to the 1920s, using varying materials and diameters.

Northern area

This area has recurring breaks, leaks, and low-pressure conditions in the Memory Lane, RV Park, and Pope Road area.

System resilience

The existing network was described as branched, with limited looping/redundancy and challenging terrain/access.

Aging infrastructure such as the intake pump and redwood raw water tank could affect system reliability.

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SYSTEM AT A GLANCE

Current Conditions and Priorities

Water Sources

The system relies on Alpine Creek as its primary water source.

To strengthen long-term water-supply reliability, the County conducted exploratory well drilling to evaluate the feasibility of developing an additional groundwater source. The drilling encountered challenging geologic conditions and did not identify a viable groundwater supply at depths of up to 300 feet.



PROGRESS SINCE THE LAST COMMUNITY MEETING

Improvements Completed on the Water System

Distribution	Upper Pope Road water-main replacement of approximately 600 linear feet (Completed in 2019)
Treatment & storage	• Treated-water tank seismic retrofit and aeration-system piping, vents, and pump (Completed in 2019) • Chemical containment, polymer-feed conduit, wye fitting and screen, filter-media replacement, underdrain piping replacement, chamber recoating and filter-valve replacement (Completed in 2024)
Operations & planning	Permanent emergency generator installation, electrical modifications, testing, and commissioning (Completed in 2025)

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PROGRESS SINCE THE LAST COMMUNITY MEETING

Improvements Completed on the Water System

Distribution

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PROJECT UPDATE

Water Distribution Pipeline Improvement Project

Construction contract

Awarded

Board of Supervisors awarded the contract to Ghilotti Construction Company, Inc. on April 21, 2026; NTE: $3,428,272.

Field Work

Underway

- Contractor mobilized on July 15, 2026
- Approximately 8,500 of 11,000 linear feet installed—about 77% complete
- Pescadero Creek Road work between Highway 84 and the intake and the segment between the intake and the Water Treatment Plant were complete.
- Remaining work:
  - La Honda Road pipe installation
  - Pope Road connection
  - Memory Lane connection
  - RV Park line interception for future disconnection

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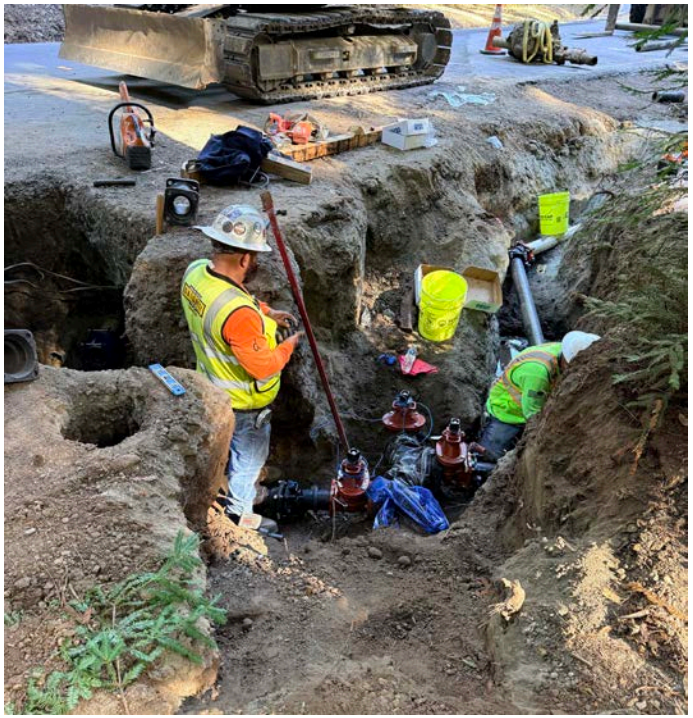
PROJECT UPDATE

Water Distribution Pipeline Improvement Project





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PROJECT UPDATE

Water Distribution Pipeline Improvement Project





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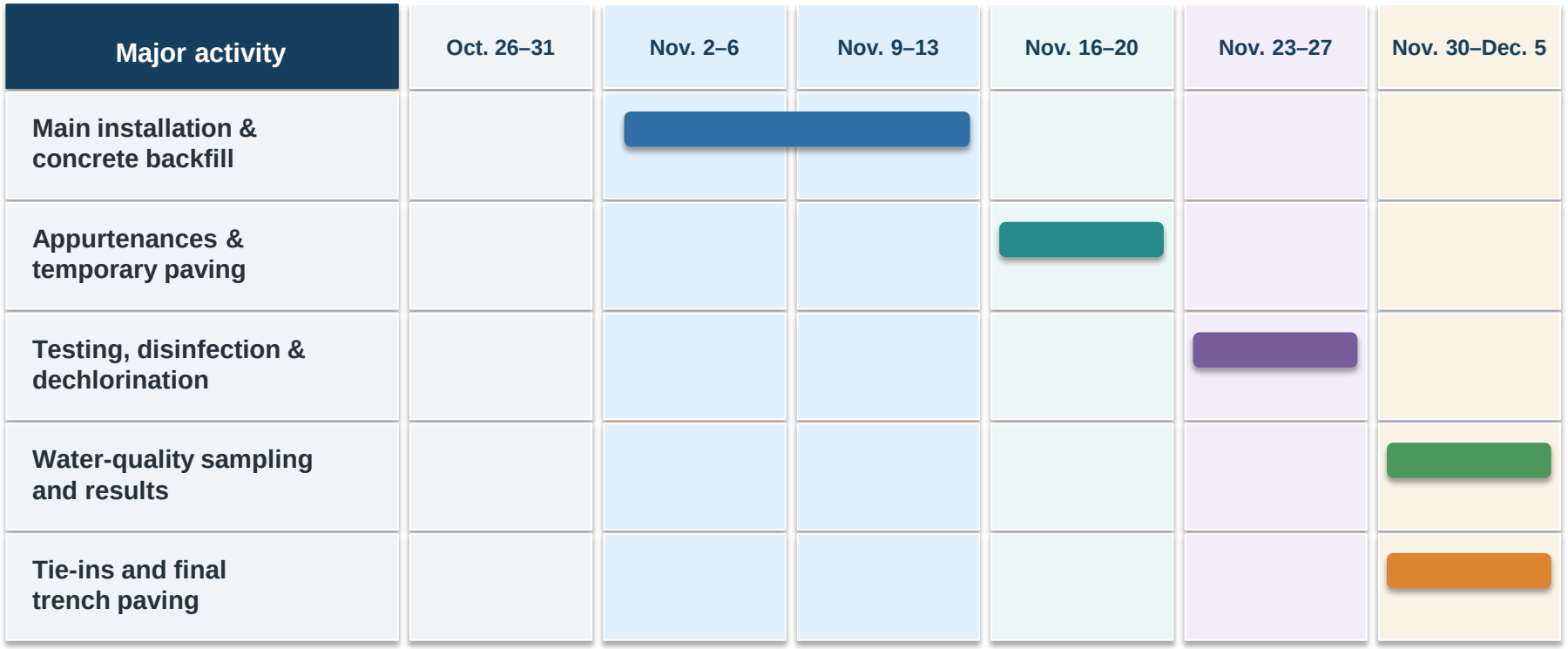
PROJECT UPDATE

Six-Week Look Ahead Schedule*



*subject to weather, permits, testing, and field conditions.

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CUSTOMER SERVICE

Meter Connections to New Water Main

Connection notification

Affected property owners received lateral reconnection notification letters on May 5, 2026. Seven (7) laterals could be connected to the new main.

Transition approach

The existing main remains in service as needed until affected properties have been successfully connected to the new distribution main.

What customers can expect

New meters will be installed and ready for connection in the next few weeks. Notification letters will be sent to affected property owners.

Customer Inquiries

Project Related Questions:
Call County DPW at 650-363-4100 and ask for Milton Wong or Tiffany Deng.

Permit Related Questions:
Call County Building Department at (650) 599-7310.

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Project in Progress

Current planning, design, and preparedness work to strengthen CSA 7 system reliability.

FINAL DRAFT

Emergency Response Plan

System-specific emergency-response procedures are in development.

Final draft is nearly complete and will support coordinated response, communications, and recovery planning.

County staff will finalize implementation and update protocols as needed.

DESIGN IN PROGRESS

Raw Water Intake Rehabilitation

Replace the aging single intake pump with two 7.5 HP pumps in a duty/standby configuration.

Install a new vault, piping and valves, pump controls, and safer access stairs at the Alpine Creek intake.

Automatic pump alternation will improve reliability and balance operating hours.

PLANNING & DESIGN

Raw Water Tank Transition

The 70,000-gallon redwood raw-water tank is beyond its expected useful life and lacks seismic restraint.

The new concept bypasses the existing tank and supports its future demolition following design, permitting, and construction planning.

A new 12,000-gallon HDPE tank is proposed to provide raw-water storage or accommodate emergency potable-water deliveries.

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SEASONAL READINESS

Winter Preparedness and System Reliability

Before winter

- Inspect priority assets and access routes
- Confirm emergency materials and contractor availability
- Review generator, tanker-delivery, and communications readiness
- Identify construction areas requiring temporary protection (Proper BMPs)

During winter

- Monitor source, treatment, storage, and distribution conditions
- Communicate planned and emergency service impacts
- Coordinate response to access, erosion, or road-surface concerns
- Maintain customer and agency escalation contacts
- Keep treated tank levels full

Customer communication

County DPW Contact: 650-363-4100
County Dispatch Center: 650-363-4000
Bracewell Engineering: 831-673-5508

COUNTY OF SAN MATEO

Financial Situation

Significant County Investment

- Approximately $3.95 million in Measure K funding (~$61k per account based on 65 active accounts*) committed to CSA 7 infrastructure replacement.
- An additional $1.33 million Measure K allocated to emergency preparedness improvements shared between CSA 7 and CSA 11.
- County funding has supported major infrastructure upgrades while limiting the financial burden on water customers.

Current Financial Challenges

- Water service revenues are not sufficient to cover ongoing operating, maintenance, and engineering costs.
- FY 2025–26 ended with a fund balance deficit of $106,000. A $130,000 General Fund loan was secured to address the funding shortfall, creating an additional repayment obligation.
- Projected deficit of $18,640 for FY26/27 based on latest financial report

* Note that some parcels may have more than one water service account.

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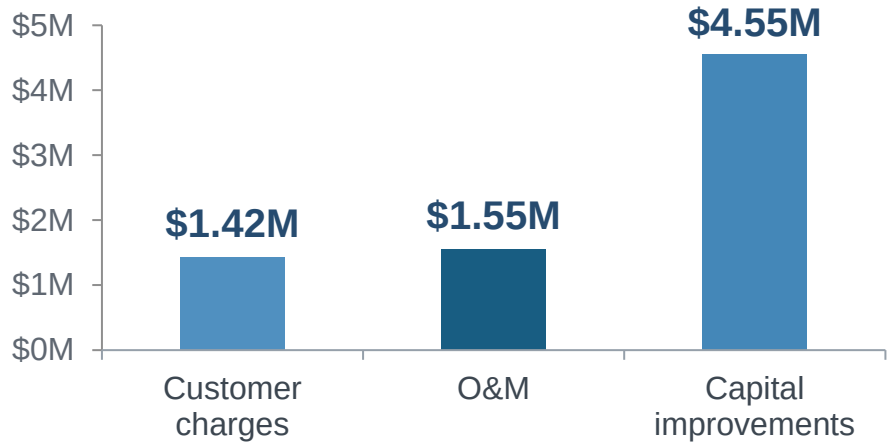
Customer Charges vs. Capital Improvements

Funding Comparison (FY 2014/15 to FY 2025/26)



Customer charges = $770,265 water sales + $652,541 service charges

CIP Projects	To date
Sand filter media replacement	**$1,340,782**
Northern Area distribution system	**$1,202,316**
Treatment/storage improvements	**$1,109,482**
Flocculation chamber recoating	**$440,986**
Other projects*	**$452,644**
Total capital expenditures	**$4,546,209**

*Other projects: feasibility study, 2017 storm response, looping water main, and additional raw-water source exploration.

Total expenditures exceeded customer charges by

$4.68 M

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Future Water Rate Considerations

Moving Toward Financial Sustainability

- Begin billing County Parks for water consumption to improve cost recovery.
- Address outstanding financial obligations and establish adequate operating reserves.
- Evaluate future water rate adjustments to support long-term operations and system reliability.

Planning for the Long-Term Sustainability of CSA 7

- The County is evaluating future water rate adjustments to support the continued operation, maintenance, and improvement of the CSA 7 water system.
- Future rate adjustments would support
  - ongoing operations, maintenance, and regulatory compliance
  - repayment of County's General Fund loan
  - long-term capital improvement needs, including repair or replacement of aging infrastructure
  - establishment of adequate emergency and operating reserves

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Future Water Rate Considerations

What Happens Next?

- The County has completed a comprehensive water rate study.
- Potential rate adjustments will be evaluated with consideration for customer affordability and the system's long-term needs.
- A separate public meeting and formal Proposition 218 process will provide details on proposed rates and opportunities for community input.

No new rates are being proposed for adoption at this meeting.

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Questions & Comments

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Emergency Response and Billing Related Inquiries

Emergency Response:24 Hours a Day, 7 Days a Week

Any of the following constitutes an urgent matter or emergency:

- **No water or low water pressure**
- **A water main break**
- **A faulty backflow device**
- **Odor or murky water**

Bracewell Engineering Inc. on-call – (831) 673-5508

Billing Related Inquiries – (650) 363-4100

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THANK YOU!

CSA 7 Website

https://www.smcgov.org/publicworks/csa-7-county-service-area-7