

Fall/Winter 2025

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Project updates

Storage project on schedule

The San Benito County Water District's Accelerated Drought Response Project (ADRoP) has made great strides this year, and is progressing on schedule and within budget. The expansion of the West Hills Water Treatment Plant is half complete, including the construction of new water treatment basins, sand filters, and chemical storage. The upgrade will increase treatment capacity by 2.2 million gallons, from 4.5 to 6.7 million gallons per day.

During wet years, when we receive our full allocation of imported surface water, we will be able to treat more water and store the surplus in 1000-foot deep aquifer wells which are being built on the north side of Hollister.

Two of the four wells are drilled, and a fifth site has been identified for possible future expansion.

Construction to connect West Hill to the wells began in October.

The \$50 million ADRoP project has received grants from the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) and US Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) totaling \$21.5 million, and an additional \$6-8 million of grant money is anticipated.

Once complete in November of 2026, ADRoP will be able to store 6-acre feet of treated surface water which we can draw on during times of drought. This will help ensure a resilient, high-quality water supply for Sunnyslope Water District and the Cities of Hollister and San Juan Bautista, while also conserving our groundwater. *(Cont. on flip side)*



Sunnyslope Principal Engineer Rob Hillebrecht and Quality Control Inspector Lupe Silva oversee construction at the West Hills plant.



¿Prefieres tu newsletter en español?

Por favor, visite sunnyslopewater.org y haga clic en el enlace del boletín para ver o descargar.
¡Muchas gracias!

Win a \$100 gift card when you sign up for paperless billing or autopay!



Get two chances to win when you sign up for both! Just click on the contest icon at sunnyslopewater.org to enroll, and you'll be automatically entered to win a \$100 gift card to The 19th Hole steakhouse and saloon in Tres Pinos. We congratulate our most recent winners, Claudia and Juan Cortez, and thank our many conscientious customers who have signed up to save time and money, and reduce their carbon footprint.

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It's time to reset your irrigation controller

Your landscape needs less water in winter when we have rain, shorter days, and cooler temperatures. Save money and conserve water by resetting your irrigation controller, and turning it off when storms are frequent. Our local Water Resources Association San Benito County can help you program your controller for maximum benefit, and check for leaks and inefficiencies. Please contact Lundi at (831) 637-4378, or lbarroso@sbcwd.ca.gov.



Sign up to receive immediate leak alerts! Just visit sunnyslopewater.org and tap on this icon!



Sunnyslope Water District

Providing reliable, high-quality, cost-effective water and sanitary services to our community, to protect human health and the environment

3570 Airline Hwy, Hollister, CA 95023
(831) 637-4670 • sunnyslopewater.org
Open Monday-Friday, 8 am to 5 pm

Free 24-hour emergency service:

If you think your water meter is leaking, or you see water gushing in the street, it is an emergency. Do not hesitate to contact us at (831) 637-4670, day or night! Our on-call staff will return your call immediately.

The public is welcome to attend Sunnyslope Water District board meetings, held every fourth Tuesday of the month at 5:15 pm. To attend remotely via Zoom, please click the board meeting link at sunnyslopewater.org.

Board of Directors

Mike Alcorn, President
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Success with solar!

Sunnyslope's 500 kilowatt solar array located at the Ridgemark Wastewater Treatment Plant has exceeded expectations, generating over 1 million kilowatts of power since installation. We expect the array to cover 70-80 percent of the total annual PG&E bill for Sunnyslope's entire water delivery system. Total project cost was \$1,540,000, of which \$462,000 will be reimbursed through the federal 2022 Inflation Reduction Act. With savings calculated, we expect the project to pay for itself by 2030.



The Sunnyslope solar array fully powers the Ridgemark Wastewater Treatment Plant (in background).

In addition, the solar panels on the roof of the Sunnyslope Water administration building are providing all power needed for our two new electric, emission-free step vans, which we acquired free of charge thanks to a grant from the Monterey Bay Air Resources District. We also plan to replace our office backup generator with a battery bank that will keep us off-grid even at night and during emergencies. That will make our administration building 100 percent solar powered, bringing that PG&E bill to zero. Sunnyslope Water will continue to seek creative ways to reduce our carbon footprint, support environmental sustainability, and save money to keep water rates as low as possible.

Project updates (Cont. from page 1)

Annexations provide safe drinking water

With the Best Road Mutual Water Company (BRMWC) annexation now complete, we are focused on bringing the three remaining consolidations into the Sunnyslope Water service area: Tres Pinos Water District, the Stonegate water system, and Venture Estates. Currently the projects are out to bid, with construction beginning early next year and completion slated for late 2026.

These projects received grants from the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) Urban Community Drought Relief Program because wells were running dry or residents were having to use bottled water due to unsafe arsenic levels. Sunnyslope administered a \$2.2 million grant to construct the BRMWC annexation, and we are now overseeing construction for the Tres Pinos, Stonegate, and Venture Estate projects using a \$13.6 million DWR grant.

These annexations bring approximately 1,000 of our neighbors—300 homes and businesses—into the Sunnyslope system to share costs, without new development, and at no expense to existing customers. Once complete, the projects will protect human health and preserve property values by

ensuring that all local residents have equitable access to safe, reliable, high-quality water which meets all state water quality regulations.



Workers install rebar for new filtration basins at the West Hills Water Treatment Plant (see story on page 1). The expansion will allow us to treat more water during wet years so we can store it for use during times of drought.