

Water Transmission System Budget FY 2026-2027 Draft, February 2026

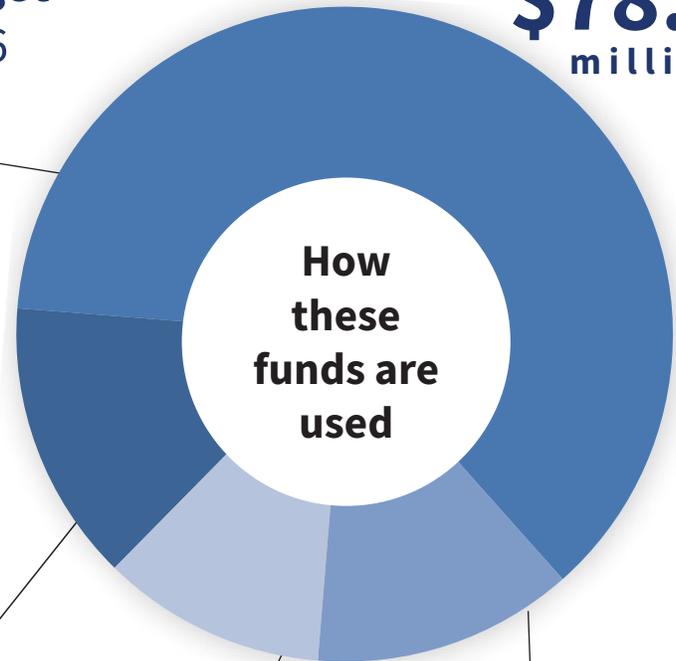
\$78.41
million

\$48.75 million

Operations and Maintenance budgeted for operations and maintenance to protect, improve and maintain system reliability.

Projects: Aqueduct Cathodic Protection, Emergency Inventory Procurement, SCADA Improvements, and Tank Rehabilitation Program & Tank Maintenance Programs.

Planning: Asset Management Plan, Hydrogeologic Investigations, Natural Hazard Reliability Study, Regional Water Supply Resiliency Implementation, Transmission System Comprehensive Plan, Transmission System Condition Assessment and Water Quality Studies.



About Sonoma Water

Sonoma Water, an independent special district formed in 1949, provides drinking water to Cotati, Marin Municipal Water District, North Marin Water District, Petaluma, Rohnert Park, Santa Rosa, Sonoma, Valley of the Moon Water District and Windsor. These cities/districts in turn deliver drinking water to more than 600,000 residents in portions of Sonoma and Marin counties (customers receive their drinking water and water bill from their local city or water district). Sonoma Water maintains over 100 miles of water aqueducts and pipelines, as well as numerous pump stations, storage tanks, production wells and other critical equipment as part of its water transmission system.

\$10.09 million

Biological Opinion Compliance, Water Supply Planning, Water Conservation to advance long-term water sustainability: Environmental studies, water supply planning activities and water conservation outreach tools and programs.

\$8.67 million

Debt Service for previous bonds issued to fund long-term capital projects.

\$10.90 million

Capital Projects budgeted for hazard mitigation projects to reduce risks: Bennett Valley Fault Crossing, River Diversion Structure (RDS) Upgrade Project, Seismic Retrofit of Storage Tanks, and Wilfred Booster Station; and for other capital projects to increase resiliency: Kawana-Ralphine Sonoma Booster Station Pipeline, Wohler Road Storage Facility, Warm Springs Dam Hydropower Retrofit and multiple phases of the Water Treatment System Modernization Project.



Kastania Tank before recoat



Kastania Tank after recoat

Proposed Rates for FY 26-27



Mission

To provide reliable water supply, wastewater management and flood protection — essential services for a thriving community and a healthy environment.

Vision

Ensuring resilient water resources now and for future generations.

Strategic Plan 2023-2028

The final 2023 Strategic Plan is a five-year roadmap for the future and includes six goals focused on planning and infrastructure, emergency preparedness, climate resiliency, organizational excellence, environmental stewardship and community engagement. To review the full plan, go to: SonomaWater.org/StrategicPlan.

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Proposed Rates for FY 26-27

Charge / Aqueduct	Santa Rosa	Petaluma	Sonoma
Deliveries (Acre-Feet)	41,776		
O&M	\$1,106.05	\$1,106.05	\$1,106.05
Water Management Planning	\$2.63	\$2.63	\$2.63
Watershed Planning & Restoration	\$95.41	\$95.41	\$95.41
Recycled Water and Local Supply	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Water Conservation	\$72.13	\$72.13	\$72.13
Total O&M	\$1,276.22	\$1,276.22	\$1,276.22
Storage & Common Bond/Loan Charges	\$228.65	\$228.65	\$228.65
Petaluma Aqueduct Bond/Loan Charge		\$27.55	
Sonoma Aqueduct Bond/Loan Charge			\$166.46
Prime Contractors	\$1,504.87	\$1,532.42	\$1,671.33
<u>Discretionary Charges</u>			
Capital Charges - to build fund balance for future projects	\$11.00	\$10.00	\$34.90
Total Prime Contractors	\$1,515.87	\$1,542.42	\$1,706.23
Total Overall Increase:	8.21%	8.97%	8.72%

Budget Overview

Sonoma Water’s proposed Fiscal Year 2026-2027 budget is \$78.41 million which is \$3.62 million less than the prior year. It proposes applying \$14.64 million from various grants, fund balances and the use of bond proceeds to help mitigate rate increases.

This year, Sonoma Water is replacing failed equipment at the Warm Springs Hydropower system. The replacements will allow the system to return to service producing approximately 9,000 megawatt-hours (MWh) of energy annually to offset purchased electricity. Sonoma Water’s wholesale rates, which are the charges for water contractors, are some of the lowest in the greater Bay Area. Future proposed budgets will continue to prioritize ongoing infrastructure maintenance, replacement and improvement to ensure a sustainable source of water for the communities served. This budget overview is for water transmission system services only. Sonoma Water also provides sanitation, flood protection and other services.

Infrastructure Investments

Sonoma Water’s critical infrastructure, including aqueducts, pipelines, pump stations, storage tanks and wells, are gradually aging after decades of service. We have taken steps to reduce costs by deferring some lower priority nonroutine maintenance and capital projects while continuing to maintain system reliability and public health and safety. In addition, grants, bond proceeds, and our fund balance contribute \$14.64 million, keeping the total cost per gallon at \$0.005. These investments ensure that our aging infrastructure remains safe, dependable, and ready to meet future needs, providing long-term savings and water security.

