VALLEY OF THE MOON WATER DISTRICT
A Public Agency Established in 1962
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Valley of the Moon Water District Legislative Priorities: Sonoma Valley Water Supply Resilience

Over 2 million gallons per day of local emergency water supply is currently unavailable in Sonoma Valley due to PFAS contamination and the closure of the Sonoma Developmental Center water system. Restoring these supplies would significantly improve drought resilience, emergency preparedness, and water reliability for Sonoma Valley.

Valley of the Moon Water District provides drinking water and fire protection to Sonoma Valley and serves approximately 23,000 customers via 7,000 connections. The District relies on a combination of imported Russian River water from Sonoma Water (about 80%) and local groundwater wells (about 20%).

Emergency Water Supply Currently Offline:

Source	Estimated Capacity
PFAS-impacted groundwater wells (3 wells)	~0.5 MGD
Former Sonoma Developmental Center water system	~1.8 MGD
Total Local Supply Currently Offline	~2.3 MGD

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Issue 1: PFAS Treatment & Local Water Supply

Recent PFAS detections have forced Valley of the Moon Water District to remove three leased groundwater wells from service in early 2026. These wells represent roughly half a million gallons per day of local supply capacity that historically provided critical redundancy during droughts and emergencies.

Estimated Treatment Costs:

- $300,000 to $700,000 per well for treatment installation
- Ongoing monitoring, testing, and media replacement
- Long-term regulatory compliance

Why It Matters:

Local wells provide critical redundancy when imported supplies are constrained or when earthquakes, wildfires or power outages disrupt regional infrastructure.

Legislative Ask:

1. Expand grant funding for PFAS treatment infrastructure for small and mid-size water systems.
2. Support regional PFAS mitigation funding programs.
3. Continue holding PFAS manufacturers accountable for cleanup costs.

Issue 2: Sonoma Developmental Center Water System

The former Sonoma Developmental Center was a State-owned site that historically operated its own water system including surface diversions, reservoirs, and treatment facilities. The District had a long-standing agreement for access to that water in emergencies, and even had a metered intertie with the system. When the campus closed, this system was taken offline.

As a result, roughly 1.8 million gallons per day of potential local water supply is currently unavailable to the Sonoma Valley community.

Opportunity:

Transferring water rights and infrastructure from the SDC site to Valley of the Moon Water District would restore this supply and ensure long-term professional operation by a public water provider.

Benefits:

- Restore ~1.8 MGD of local emergency supply
- Support redevelopment and housing at the SDC site
- Improve regional water supply resilience
- Ensure qualified long-term system management
- In the future, this system could also be a great source of sustainable water for use in ASR wells (see issue 3 below)

Legislative Ask:

1. The District requests legislative support to ensure water rights and key infrastructure at the former Sonoma Developmental Center are transferred to Valley of the Moon Water District as the long-term public water provider for the site.
2. Support funding to rehabilitate the water system and return it to service.

Issue 3: Aquifer Storage & Recovery (ASR)

Aquifer Storage and Recovery allows water agencies to store water underground during wet years and recover it during drought. Valley of the Moon Water District was extremely fortunate to receive a $3 million grant from DWR to study and construct two ASR wells capable of storing imported Russian River water in local aquifers. That grant is wrapping up now, and we are excited to have the first ASR wells approved for use in Region 2, (San Francisco Bay) of the Regional Water Quality Control Board.

Why ASR Matters:

- Increases drought resilience
- Stores water without constructing new reservoirs
- Protects groundwater basins
- Maximizes use of available surface water during wet years

The Challenge:

- To build reserves, water must be purchased and injected during wet years. For smaller agencies, the upfront cost of purchasing water for storage can limit the ability to fully utilize ASR infrastructure.
- After injection, much of the stored water will benefit the broader groundwater basin rather than returning directly to District customers. As a result, it is difficult to ask our ratepayers to fund these water purchases alone.

Legislative Ask:

1. Provide funding assistance for water purchases used for ASR injection.
2. Support regional groundwater banking and drought resilience programs.