

STAFF REPORT

To: Coastside County Water District Board of Directors

From: Mary Rogren, General Manager

Agenda: March 10, 2026

Report Date: March 6, 2026

Agenda Title: Pilarcitos Dam and Reservoir Improvements Project: Status Update – Presentation by San Francisco Public Utilities Commission

Recommendation/Motion:
Information Only.

Background:

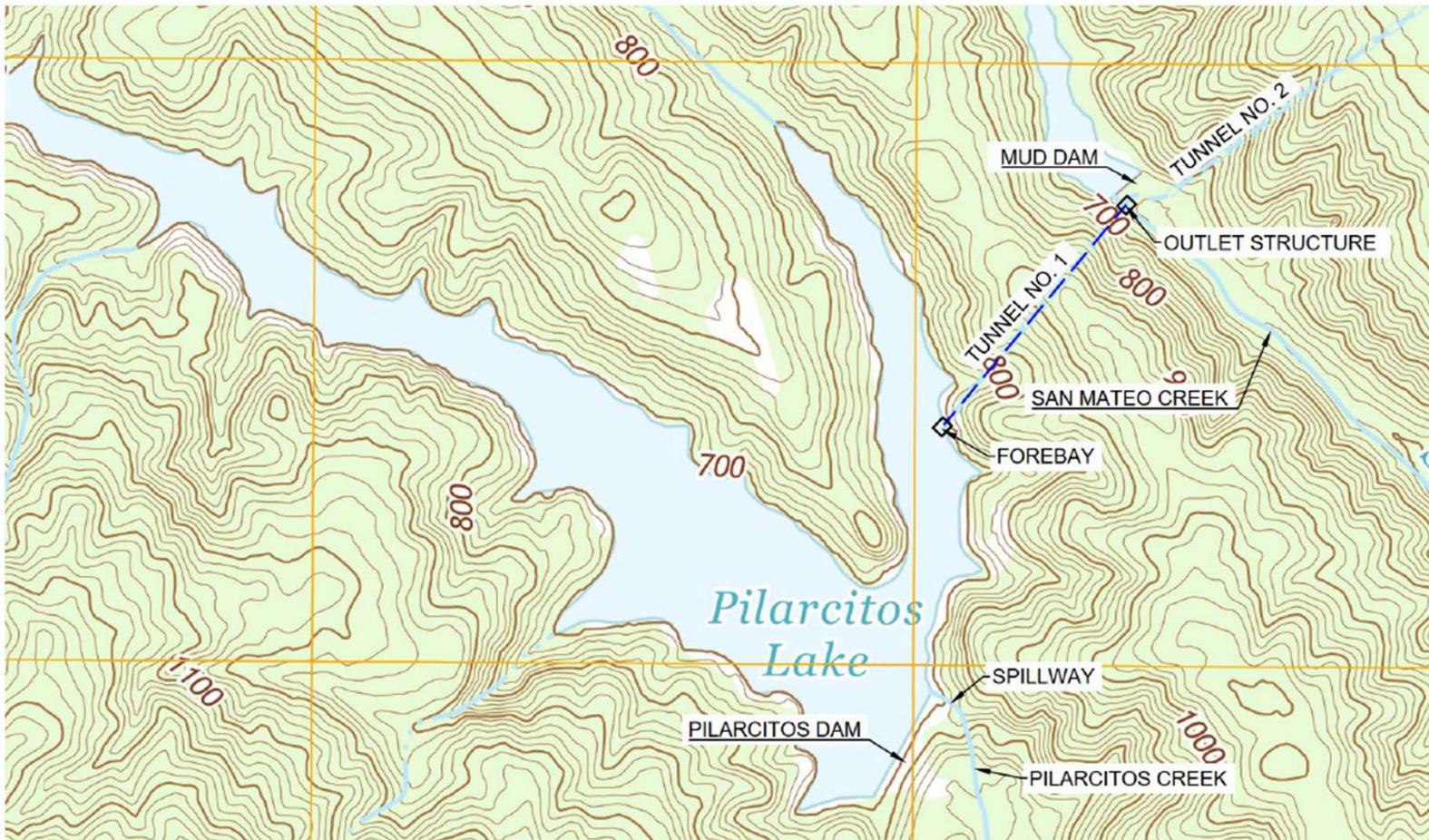
Pilarcitos Reservoir is a primary SFPUC water source for the District and has been since 1949. The Reservoir was originally built in 1866, and the California Division of Safety of Dams (DSOD) has been in recent communications with SFPUC about the proposed timing for completion of upgrades to the dam to improve its stability.

Steve Ritchie, Assistant General Manager, Water, SFPUC and Alison Kastama, BAWSCA and Wholesale Customer Liaison, SFPUC will join the Board Meeting on March 10 in person to provide a Project Status Update of the Pilarcitos Dam and Reservoir Improvements Project.

Update on Pilarcitos Dam

**Coastside County Water District
March 10, 2026**

Pilarcitos Dam and Reservoir





Division of Safety of Dams (DSOD) Concerns

- DSOD has rated Pilarcitos Dam as ‘Poor’ due to concerns regarding emergency release, spillway, and dam structures.
- October 9, 2025 Meeting with DSOD –
 - Discussed proposed Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for Regional Dams
 - Feedback from DSOD:
 - As a “Poor” dam, Pilarcitos is a high priority for them
 - Initial proposed CIP schedule – longer and farther out than they anticipated
 - Consider smaller interim projects that can be accomplished in short term
 - Prioritize improvements to the outlet works
- Updated CIP Plan letter sent to DSOD – February 2, 2026
- DSOD site visit to the three Regional Dams – April 2026



Updated Implementation Schedule

	Facility/Project Name	Proposed Start Date	
		Planning	Construction
Outlet Works Improvements Program	San Andreas Dam Interim Blow-Off	7/1/2026	4/1/2029
	Pilarcitos Dam Outlet Works Retrofit Project	7/1/2026	5/1/2033
	Turner Dam Outlet Works Additional Studies	7/1/2026	TBD
Long-Term Capital Improvement Projects	San Andreas Dam Facility Improvements	On-Going	3/1/2039
	Pilarcitos Dam Facility Improvements	On-Going	10/1/2042
	Turner Dam Facility Improvements	On-Going	10/1/2052

Pilarcitos Dam Facilities - Interim Upgrades

- Pilarcitos Outlet Works Retrofit Project
 - Planning Work – On-Going
 - Identifying options to provide reliable outlet works at Pilarcitos Dam
 - Approximate CIP Budget ~ \$34M



Photograph 1. Pilarcitos Forebay Structure (Ca. 1913?)



Pilarcitos Dam Facility Improvements – Long-Term Upgrades

- Planning Phase – On-Going
 - Evaluating downstream considerations at Stone Dam
- Conceptual engineering to retrofit existing Pilarcitos facilities completed for Two Alternatives
- Preferred Alternative – Permanent Reservoir Restriction
 - Restricted Reservoir
 - New Lowered Spillway
 - New Lake Tap
 - Approximate Proposed Budget: \$190M





Pilarcitos Long-Term Upgrades (Cont'd.)

- Pilarcitos Dam Facilities Improvement Project
 - Second Alternative – New Facilities
 - New Embankment
 - New Enlarged Spillway
 - New Outlet Works through Dam Abutment
 - Approximate Proposed Budget: \$350M+

Pilarcitos Current Operations

- Temporarily Restricted Reservoir Elevation – El. 681.5'
- Discharge to Pilarcitos Creek ~ 2.5 cfs (through two siphons) for CCWD and stream releases
- Divert flows to Crystal Springs Reservoir through San Mateo Creek



Questions?