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Summer 2026

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

California Water Journal Summer 2026, Vol. 46

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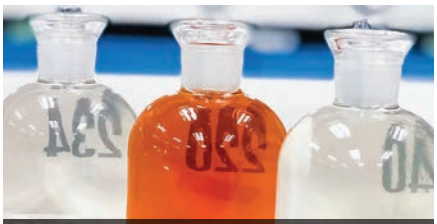
6 2026 Expo Highlights



20 The Four Pillars of a Good Sampling Program

24 Understanding AB 54

Executive Director's Message

Hundreds of attendees from across the state gather at Expo 2026. All images courtesy CRWA.

By Dan DeMoss

Greetings all,

I want to say thank you to all the folks who attended the CRWA conference held the last week of April. We had a record turnout in attendance and vendor hall participation. The numbers for the vendor hall were well over 600, and at lunch, we served 415 conference attendees and vendors. 2026 is a year we can continue to build on, and I want to let you know what's in store for 2027.

The facilities and staff at Caesar's and Harrah's have been great partners over all these years, but we have simply outgrown their available space. The vendor hall was at capacity, and we have had a waiting list to exhibit for the last several years. The classrooms have also been at capacity for about the last five years.

The 2027 conference will see us utilizing Bally's Lake Tahoe Hotel and Casino as the host hotel for the conference, and the Tahoe Blue conference center will be hosting the vendor hall and classes on Wednesday. The Tahoe Blue center has the ability to host 140 vendors in a 10x10 space with curtain and rod booth set-ups. This will allow for the growth of the vendor hall and provide a great atmosphere and modern environment for the conference.

The hotel features seven classrooms with an average capacity of 110 people, set in classroom-style seating with tables. All the classrooms are centrally located with the registration desk and other meeting facilities all in the same area.

This hotel venue features an old Vegas show theater atmosphere and will be a fun change for the attendees of the conference. Tuesday night's banquet and awards ceremony will be held in the showroom, which seats a large capacity with theater booths and tables facing a large stage where we hope to have some entertainment for your enjoyment.

Next year's conference dates are Monday, May 10, through Thursday, May 13, 2027. We look forward to hosting you all at next year's event, and we will keep you updated on conference activities and early bird registration specials as we get closer to the conference. CWJ

Dan DeMoss is the Executive Director of the California Rural Water Association.

Dustin Hardwick addresses the taste test judges.

Every sample entry is carefully evaluated.

Attendees participate in exceptional educational opportunities during the conference.

Educational classes cover critical topics affecting water operators.

Judges sample entries during Best Tasting Water competition.

EPA Updates Guidance on Safe Destruction and Disposal of PFAS Waste

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has released updated interim guidance on the destruction and disposal of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), providing states, utilities, waste handlers, and communities with the latest science-backed recommendations for managing these persistent chemicals safely.

The guidance identifies three existing technologies as having the lowest potential for environmental PFAS release: Class I underground injection wells, RCRA-regulated hazardous waste landfills, and hazardous waste combustors operating under specific conditions. A new technology evaluation framework is also included to assess emerging disposal methods.

For rural water and wastewater operators managing PFAS-impacted waste streams, the updated guidance offers practical, authoritative direction at a time when regulatory requirements are evolving rapidly.

EPA is accepting public comments for 60 days following Federal Register publication, with submissions welcomed at Regulations.gov under Docket ID EPA-HQ-OLEM-2020-0527.

EPA Revitalizes Water Workforce Initiative to Address Sector Shortages

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is revitalizing its Water Workforce Initiative, originally launched in 2020, to address a growing shortage of qualified workers across the drinking water and wastewater sectors. EPA Assistant Administrator for Water Jess Kramer announced the effort at a Washington, D.C., roundtable with water sector leaders during Water Week.

The initiative aims to connect individuals to water sector careers, expand public awareness, develop apprenticeship and education programs, and invest in current workers' skills — particularly as retirements accelerate and modern systems demand new technical competencies including cybersecurity.

For rural water systems, which often struggle most with operator recruitment and retention, the initiative holds particular relevance. NRWA CEO Matt Holmes highlighted the critical role small and rural utilities play in public health and national security, reaffirming NRWA's commitment to partnering with EPA on workforce development.

A new round of Innovative Water Workforce Development Grants is expected later this year.

EPA Launches PFAS OUT Initiative to Accelerate Drinking Water Protections

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has launched PFAS OUT (PFAS OUTreach), a proactive initiative to help drinking water systems reduce exposure to PFOA and PFOS ahead of federal compliance deadlines. The effort will directly engage approximately 3,000 water systems nationwide with known PFAS challenges, connecting them with funding resources, technical assistance, and location-specific guidance through webinars and interactive tools.

The initiative is especially significant for rural water operators, as small, rural, and disadvantaged systems are explicitly identified as a priority — recognizing that these communities often have fewer resources to navigate complex contamination challenges. Technical assistance is available through EPA's RealWaterTA program.

PFAS OUT builds on EPA's broader drinking water protection agenda, which also includes the recently released draft Sixth Contaminant Candidate List covering microplastics, pharmaceuticals, PFAS, and disinfection byproducts.

New USDA Tool Simplifies Rural Development Program Eligibility Checks

USDA Rural Development has launched a modernized Eligibility Lookup Tool, now integrated into its existing eligibility website, giving rural communities a streamlined way to check program eligibility across multiple initiatives simultaneously.

The tool covers five program areas, including the Water and Environmental Program, Community Facilities, Electric, OneRD Guarantee, and Rural Business and Cooperative Services. Powered by current geospatial technology, the consolidated mapping tool allows users to determine eligibility based on location across all applicable programs in a single session — reducing staff workload and improving accessibility. For rural water and wastewater operators and their communities, the tool offers a practical first step in exploring federal funding options.

The new lookup tool is accessible directly via USDA's eligibility site or through a dedicated ArcGIS link.

USGS Launches Tool to Forecast Droughts

The U.S. Geological Survey has released River DroughtCast, a machine learning (ML) tool that forecasts streamflow drought conditions up to 90 days in advance at more than 3,000 streamgage locations nationwide.

Trained on data from USGS streamgages — some with over a century of continuous records — the tool predicts when rivers and streams will drop to abnormally low levels, giving water managers, farmers, and municipalities valuable lead time to act. Forecasts are most reliable in the first four to six weeks, with approximately 75% accuracy for the first week of severe or extreme drought conditions.

For rural water systems that depend on surface water, the tool could prove especially valuable, enabling proactive conservation measures and supply planning well before shortages materialize.

River DroughtCast was developed in partnership with NOAA's National Integrated Drought Information System, and future versions will expand coverage to areas without existing streamgages.

Expo 2026 South Lake Tahoe: Success Personified!

By Candice Jackson

Water professionals gather for four days of education, networking, and collaboration. All photos courtesy CRWA.

The 2026 Expo and Exhibitor Conference, held April 27–30 in beautiful South Lake Tahoe, marked a milestone moment of success for our organization and the rural water community. With unprecedented attendance exceeding 600 participants, this year's event brought together operators, managers, industry leaders, and solution providers from across the region for four days of education, networking, and collaboration. The energy throughout the conference reflected a shared commitment to strengthening water and wastewater systems and supporting the professionals who keep them running.

Attendees experienced a robust lineup of technical training sessions, hands-on learning opportunities, and valuable discussions focused on current challenges and emerging solutions in the industry. The exhibitor hall was bustling with activity, providing direct access to innovative products, services, and expertise that support system efficiency and reliability. From first-time attendees to long-time participants, the feedback was overwhelmingly positive, reinforcing the Expo's reputation as a must-attend event.

A highlight of the conference was the celebration of our apprenticeship program graduates. These individuals represent the future of the industry, and their dedication, hard work, and achievements were proudly recognized. Their success is a testament to the strength of the program and the importance of investing in workforce development.

Adding to the excitement, the ATV raffle drew significant attention throughout the event. Congratulations to Ian Sanderson from the City of Fort Bragg, who took home the prize. Moments like these brought an extra level of enthusiasm and community spirit to an already memorable event.

Overall, the 2026 Expo was a complete success—driven by strong attendance, meaningful engagement, and a shared sense of purpose. We extend our sincere thanks to all attendees, exhibitors, sponsors, and staff who made this event possible.

We look forward to building on this momentum and making future events even more impactful. CWJ

Candice Jackson is the Events & Membership Services Manager for CRWA.

Participants can obtain their certificate of completion after submitting the event survey. To access, scan the QR code or visit register.gtrnow.com/California_Rural_Water_Association_Education_and_Exhibitor_Show_2026/surveys.

CRWA Executive Director Dan DeMoss and ATV raffle winner Ian Sanderson, City of Fort Bragg.

AWE Scholarship winner Bonnie Mullaney and Dan DeMoss.

Water Operator of the Year Eric Alcala, Lake of the Woods MWC, and Dan DeMoss.

Wastewater Operator of the Year Royce Shields, Herlong PUD, and Dan DeMoss.

120Water was named 2026 Preferred Provider of the Year. Pictured L-R: Jonathan Cuppett, Stevie Upchurch and Craig Herman with 120Water; CRWA's Dustin Hardwick and Luis Carmona.

Best Tasting Water winner City of Dunsmuir. Pictured L-R: Dustin Hardwick; Luis Carmona; Dennis DellaBona and Steven Schmidt, City of Dunsmuir; Dan DeMoss.

2026 Graduating Apprenticeship Class and CRWA Board. Pictured L-R: John Covington, CRWA Board President and NRWA Director; Maddie Saenz; Josh Hinds; Teresa Tanaka, CRWA Board Director; Bill Massey, CRWA Board Director; Dan DeMoss; Deb Sedwick, CRWA Board Director; Andrew Avila; Doug Heinrichs, CRWA Board Director; Caleb Allen; Jacob Anzaldua; Jon Curry, CRWA Board Director; Alex Cruz; Flip Boerman, CRWA Board Director.

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New Court of Appeal Decision Adds Clarity Regarding Mutual Water Company Water Rights

By Alex Rinkus and James Ciampa

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A recent California Court of Appeal decision, *Las Posas Valley Water Rights Coalition v. Ventura County Waterworks District No.* 1, addresses an important question for mutual water companies: when a company pumps and delivers groundwater to its shareholders, does the company itself own the underlying groundwater rights, or is it instead acting only as a trustee or agent for the landowners who continue to hold those rights? The answer, according to the court, is that California law recognizes both models, and which model applies depends on the facts of the particular company and its relationship with its shareholders.

TWO TYPES OF MUTUAL WATER COMPANIES FOR WATER RIGHTS PURPOSES

Before specifically discussing mutual water company water rights ownership, it is helpful to understand the nature of water rights at issue. As applicable to this discussion, there are two basic categories of water rights: (1) **overlying right**, which is the right of a landowner to pump groundwater from beneath their land for use on that land; and (2) **appropriative right**, which generally refers to the taking of water for use other than as an overlying landowner. Overlying rights are generally senior to appropriative rights, although they remain subject to the rules of reasonable and beneficial use and are correlative with the rights of other overlying landowners. Overlying rights are restricted to use on the land that overlies the groundwater. Appropriative rights are available only if there is surplus water available after senior users have exercised their groundwater rights.

In *Las Posas*, the court explained that, in general, when a mutual water company actually owns water rights in its own name, it is treated as an appropriator rather than as the holder of a coequal overlying right. The court also recognized that, in some circumstances, a landowner may sever an overlying groundwater

right from the land and transfer that right to a mutual water company. Where such a severance occurs, the company may truly be said to "own" the water right rather than simply administer it for the shareholder-landowner. However, the court further explained that the company does not receive the same overlying right the landowner originally had. Instead, the company becomes an appropriator (i.e., the water right has shifted from an overlying right to an appropriative right). The practical significance of that distinction is that, although the shareholder-landowner may be prevented from later attacking the company's use of that water, the company's use may still be challenged by other overlying landowners.

The dispute in *Las Posas* concerned a mutual water company that argued it owned the relevant water rights itself and therefore should receive the water allocation directly rather than having the water rights allocated to its shareholders-landowners. The trial court and Court of Appeal disagreed. On the facts before it, the court concluded the company was instead acting as a trustee or agent for its shareholders-landowners who had retained their own overlying rights. The court quoted earlier authority explaining that this type of mutual water company is formed when landowners "join together to form a company to effect economy and promote convenience by use of joint production and distribution facilities." In that arrangement, the shareholders-landowners do not give up their underlying rights. Rather, they simply choose to receive water through the company's shared pumping and distribution system.

WHY IT MATTERS

The court took care to explain why this distinction matters. A shareholder's right to receive water delivery from a mutual water company is not the same thing as the landowner's overlying right to groundwater. Those are separate interests. A landowner may own land over a groundwater basin and therefore possess an overlying groundwater right whether or not the landowner takes delivery through the mutual water company. Conversely, the shareholder's right to receive water through a mutual water company's facilities depends on the company's own governing documents, service arrangements, and corporate structure. For that reason, the court rejected the argument in *Las Posas* that recognizing landowners as the holders of the underlying rights would somehow override the company's bylaws or force the company to provide service beyond its agreed service area. In the court's view, that argument confused the underlying water right with the separate right to receive delivery of water from the mutual water company.

Put differently, a landowner's overlying right may continue to exist even if the landowner is also a shareholder in a mutual water company. Membership in the company does not automatically extinguish the overlying right. The landowner may, depending on the history of the water rights at issue, the company's rules and the facts of the basin, still hold that overlying water right as a landowner rather than just as a mere contractual recipient of company water service. At the same

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time, the fact that a landowner may in some circumstances sever and transfer an overlying right does not mean the landowner may transfer the company's separate delivery obligation or require the company to deliver water in a way that is inconsistent with its bylaws. The court's point was that the underlying water right and the delivery relationship are distinct, and one cannot be used to rewrite the other.

In deciding the mutual water company in *Las Posas* was acting as a trustee or agent rather than as owner of the underlying overlying water rights, the court did not announce a rigid formula. Instead, it relied on a number of practical facts that supported its conclusion. Those facts included the absence of any clear written transfer of the landowners' overlying rights to the company (such as a deed or agreement that transferred the water rights to the mutual water company), the company's control over the shared facilities used to extract and distribute water rather than control over the underlying rights themselves, the company's own statements reflecting that it acted for the benefit of shareholders, and the fact that shareholders were not barred from drilling their own wells or otherwise exercising groundwater rights independently of the company. The court also found it significant that the company's historical delivery practices did not reflect ownership of the underlying rights and that allocating the water directly to the company could have produced extreme and inequitable results among shareholders.

PRACTICAL TAKEAWAYS

The *Las Posas* decision is important for its determination that a mutual water company does not automatically become the owner of the same groundwater rights held by its shareholders simply because it pumps and distributes water to those shareholders. Where the facts show that shareholders retained their overlying rights and the company merely operated the common facilities for their benefit, a court will conclude that company is acting only as a trustee or agent. In that circumstance, the shareholders' overlying rights remain primary, and any appropriative rights the company may claim are secondary. In a groundwater basin experiencing shortage or overdraft, that distinction can matter a great deal because overlying rights generally take precedence over appropriative claims. The court also reaffirmed the separate principle that a party asserting a right to pump as an appropriator based on claimed "surplus" water bears the burden of proving that such a surplus exists, which was not the case in *Las Posas*. CWJ

James Ciampa, Lagerlof LLP, has formed numerous corporations, limited liability companies and partnerships, and currently represents many of those business entities. He also represents wholesale and retail water purveyors and various public agencies throughout Southern California.

Alex Rinkus, Lagerlof LLP, is an associate attorney who specializes in corporate matters including M&A, entity structuring and dissolution, related tax issues, and an emphasis on public agency work.

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Countdown to Lead and Copper Rule Improvements (LCRI) Compliance

By Jonathan Cuppett

The compliance deadline for the Lead and Copper Rule Improvements (LCRI) is November 1, 2027. On this date, the transition to a new national regulation will be complete and water systems will need to start complying with the variety of new elements and updates to existing requirements that are in the LCRI. Water systems should start their LCRI readiness now to ensure a compliance strategy is in place before the requirements take effect.

LCR/LCRR/LCRI TIMELINE AND REQUIREMENTS

Before water systems can develop a compliance plan it is critical to understand the timing of the LCR-LCRR-LCRI regulatory transition and what is required when. Figure 1 provides a timeline that captures specific deadlines and the associated requirements. Water systems should ensure they understand three key timeframes that are listed in Figure 1:

1. What LCR/LCRR requirements are currently in effect: **October 16, 2024**, to **November 1, 2027**
2. What LCRI elements need to be submitted on the LCRI compliance date: **November 1, 2027**
3. What LCRI programs may impact your system in the future: **After November 1, 2027**

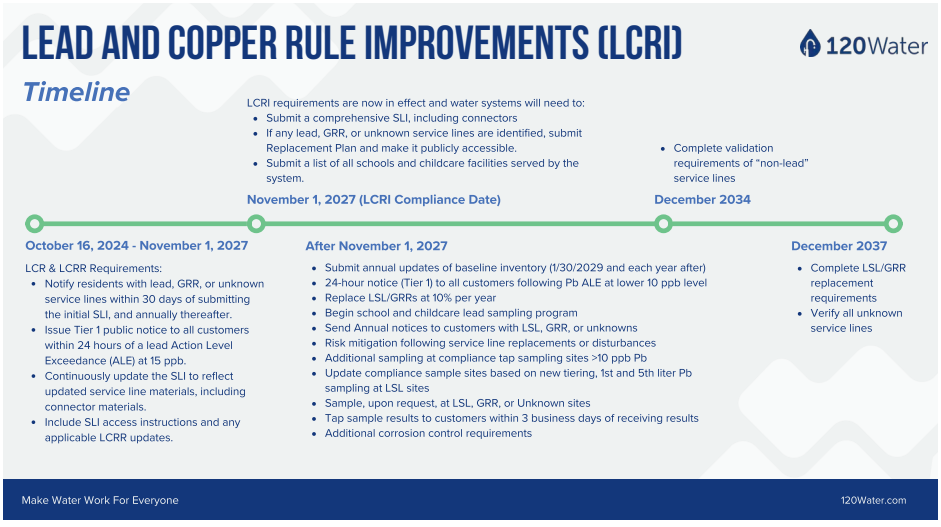

Figure 1. LCR/LCRR/LCRI Timeline

WHERE TO START: PREPARE FOR ELEMENTS DUE ON THE COMPLIANCE DEADLINE

With all the regulatory requirements and timelines, just determining where to start can be a challenge. Water systems can prepare by ensuring they are ready for the three elements that are due on the compliance deadline.

1. **Baseline Service Line Inventory:** The initial service line inventory was submitted in 2024. An updated version (baseline inventory) is required to be submitted to the state by November 1, 2027. In addition to tracking service line materials, the baseline inventory will require water systems to identify connector materials. Connectors, commonly referred to as pigtails or goosenecks, are short segments of piping not exceeding three feet that can be bent and are used for connections between service piping, typically connecting the service line to the main. Water systems should continue to verify any unknown service lines and identify connector materials in preparation for the LCRI compliance deadlines.

2. **Service Line Replacement Plan (SLRP):** Water systems with one or more Lead,

Galvanized Requiring Replacement (GRR), or Unknown service lines on their 2027 baseline inventory submission must submit a SLRP to the state and make it available to the public by November 1, 2027. The SLRP is not required for water systems with all non-lead service lines. Water systems that anticipate being required to submit a SLRP should begin evaluating responses to the variety of elements in the plan. Key elements that must be included in the SLRP are listed below:

- Strategy for determining unknowns
- Full SL replacement SOP and Flushing SOP
- Strategies for informing customers before full/partial SL replacement
- SL replacement prioritization strategy
- Funding strategy (no requirement for system to fund private side)
- SL replacement program communication strategy
- Laws/regulations that impact access to conduct Full SL replacement
- Strategy to determine prevalence of lead lined galvanized, if LLG has already been identified
- 10-year replacement extension documentation, if requesting

3. **School and Childcare Facility List:** The LCRI requires water systems to take an active role in monitoring lead at school and childcare facilities. The first step in that process is to submit a list of all school and childcare facilities served by the system by November 1, 2027, to ensure water systems understand what facilities to target with their testing in 2028 and beyond. California has state laws that required historical testing in school and childcares (Assembly Bill 746 and Assembly Bill 2370). The LCRI does allow program waivers based on past sampling in school and childcares. However, waiver restrictions do apply depending on when and how the sampling was conducted. Water systems should begin researching if there was recent lead testing at any school or childcares they serve and how this may impact submission of their facility list and testing requirements in the future.

THE PATH FORWARD

All of the LCR-LCRR-LCRI required elements may feel overwhelming. However, getting started NOW and focusing on near-term LCRI requirements should be a priority. The three elements due on the compliance deadline are simply the beginning and being prepared for them will allow water systems to continue focusing on other LCRI that will impact their system in the future.

The LCRI is a data-intense regulation, with data management playing a critical role in overall compliance success. As your system works to meet LCRI's many requirements and multiple deadlines, consider digital solutions that can help organize and manage the variety of data throughout your compliance journey. CWJ

Jonathan Cuppett is Director of Water Quality Compliance for 120Water.

Asset Management for Aging Water Infrastructure

By Mohammad Danishyar, EIT

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Asset management for aging water infrastructure is a structured and data-driven approach used by water utilities to manage physical assets throughout their lifecycle. These assets, including pipelines, storage tanks, wells, pumps, and treatment facilities, gradually deteriorate due to age, environmental conditions, operational stress, and material limitations. Without a proactive strategy, this deterioration can lead to increased failures, higher maintenance costs, regulatory challenges, and disruptions in service.

A well-developed asset management plan enables utilities to transition from reactive repairs to proactive planning. Instead of responding to failures as they occur, utilities can anticipate issues, allocate resources efficiently, and ensure long-term system reliability. The core objective is to deliver safe and reliable drinking water while minimizing lifecycle costs and financial burden on the community.

This process integrates engineering, financial planning, and operational practices into a unified framework. Key elements include developing a comprehensive inventory of assets, evaluating their condition and performance, estimating remaining useful life, and prioritizing rehabilitation or replacement. Asset management plans support sustainable infrastructure investment and informed decision-making.

INVENTORY OF ASSETS

A comprehensive asset inventory is the foundation of any asset management program. It involves identifying and documenting all components within a water system in a systematic and organized manner. This inventory provides the baseline data required for evaluating performance and prioritizing rehabilitation or replacement of assets. The inventory should include detailed information such as:

- Asset type (pipeline, valve, pump, tank, etc.)
- Size, capacity, and dimensions (diameter, volume, length)
- Material type (e.g., ductile iron, PVC, steel, concrete)
- Construction/installation date or age
- Manufacturer and model information
- Operational characteristics and service function

Accurate and complete asset data allows utilities to understand the composition and extent of their infrastructure systems. It also enables comparison between assets and supports the identification of trends such as recurring failures in specific materials or age groups.

Geographic Information Systems (GIS) are commonly used to manage and visualize asset data spatially, while simple database and asset management software store detailed attributes. The quality of the asset inventory directly affects the reliability of all subsequent analyses, making it critical to maintain and update regularly.

EVALUATION OF ASSETS

Once an inventory is established, the next step is to evaluate each asset systematically. Asset evaluation provides insight into the current condition and expected performance of infrastructure components and establishes a foundation for prioritizing rehabilitation and replacement efforts.

This evaluation process considers multiple factors, including asset age, physical condition, operational performance, and maintenance history. By combining these elements, utilities can develop a realistic understanding of how long each asset is expected to remain functional.

The evaluation process is not a one-time effort but an ongoing activity, adapting as system conditions and asset performance change over time. Field inspections, maintenance records, and operational data all contribute to refining asset assessments over time. The goal is to reduce uncertainty and improve the accuracy of lifecycle predictions.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

To ensure consistency and reliability, asset evaluation is based on a set of defined criteria that quantify asset condition and performance. These criteria provide a standardized framework for comparing assets across the system.

EXPECTED USEFUL LIFE

Expected useful life represents the typical lifespan of an asset under normal operating conditions. It is usually expressed as a range—from a minimum to a maximum value—based on industry standards, regulatory guidance (such as EPA references), and manufacturer data.

This range accounts for variability caused by factors such as material quality, installation practices, environmental conditions, maintenance levels, and usage intensity. For example, a well-maintained pump operating intermittently is likely to reach the upper end of its lifespan, while one under continuous use with poor maintenance may wear out closer to the lower end.

SERVICE HISTORY

Service history reflects the operational and maintenance record of an asset and provides direct insight into its current condition. This includes:

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- Frequency of repairs or failures
- Inspection results and condition ratings
- Evidence of corrosion, leakage, or structural degradation
- Operational performance issues such as reduced capacity or pressure

Assets with frequent failures or poor inspection results are considered to be in worse condition than those with stable performance and minimal maintenance needs.

ADJUSTED USEFUL LIFE

Adjusted useful life is a refined estimate of an asset's lifespan based on its actual condition and service history. Rather than relying solely on standard lifespan ranges, this metric adjusts expectations to reflect real-world performance.

For assets in good condition, the adjusted useful life trends toward the upper end of the expected range. Conversely, assets in poor condition are assigned values closer to the lower end. When condition or service history is unknown, a conservative approach is applied by assigning a lower value within the expected range.

REMAINING USEFUL LIFE

Remaining useful life represents the estimated time before an asset will require replacement or rehabilitation. It is calculated as:

Adjusted Useful Life – Current Age = Remaining Useful Life

This metric is one of the most critical outputs of the asset evaluation process. It allows utilities to forecast when assets are likely to fail and to plan accordingly. Assets with little or no remaining useful life are prioritized for immediate attention, while those with longer remaining useful life can be scheduled for future planning cycles.

PRIORITIZATION OF ASSETS

After evaluating assets, the next step is to prioritize rehabilitation and replacement efforts. Given limited financial and operational resources, it is not feasible to address all needs simultaneously. Prioritization ensures that the most critical assets are addressed first. This process considers several key factors:

- Remaining Useful Life: Assets with the shortest remaining useful life are generally given higher priority, as they are more likely to fail in the near term. However, remaining useful life alone does not determine priority; it is considered alongside other factors including redundancy and consequence of failure.
- Redundancy: This refers to the availability of backup systems or alternative pathways that can maintain service if an asset fails. Assets with little or no redundancy are more critical because their failure would result in immediate service disruption. For example, a single transmission main supplying an entire community has high criticality, while a distribution pipe in a looped system is a lower priority due to alternative flow paths and smaller impact.
- Consequence of Failure: Consequence of failure evaluates the impact that an asset's failure would have on the system, public health, and the community. This is typically categorized into four levels:
  - Catastrophic: Results in complete system shutdown, major regulatory violations, or significant financial loss. Requires immediate response and replacement.
  - Major: Causes substantial disruption, reduced system capacity, or significant compliance risks. Requires urgent repair or replacement.
  - Moderate: Leads to localized service issues with limited system-wide impact. It can be addressed through planned maintenance or scheduled replacement.
  - Minor: Minimal impact on overall system operations. Replacement can be deferred and addressed through routine planning.

By combining consequence of failure with likelihood of failure (derived from remaining useful life and condition), utilities can develop a risk-based prioritization framework.

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT AND CAPITAL PLANNING

Once priorities are established, assets are grouped into projects based on urgency, location, and functional similarity. Smaller assets with similar characteristics are often bundled into a single project to improve efficiency and reduce costs.

Each project typically includes:
- Preliminary design considerations
- Planning-level cost estimates
- Implementation timelines
- Identification of construction constraints

These projects form the basis of a subsequent Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), which outlines major infrastructure investments over a multi-year period. A well-developed asset management plan ensures that infrastructure investments are planned proactively rather than reactively.

IMPLEMENTATION AND PROGRAM UPDATES

Implementing an asset management plan involves executing prioritized projects, tracking performance, and continuously updating data. The asset management plan is updated as the water system changes and new information becomes available.

Although asset planning considers long-term horizons based on expected asset life, projections beyond 10 years tend to carry increasing uncertainty. Changes in system demand, regulatory requirements, environmental conditions, and funding availability can all affect long-term planning accuracy.

For this reason, asset management plans should be reviewed and updated on a regular cycle, typically every 5 to 10 years. Updates allow utilities to:

- Reassess asset conditions using new data
- Adjust priorities based on system performance
- Refine cost estimates and funding strategies
- Incorporate completed and newly identified projects

Regular updates ensure that the plan remains relevant and responsive to changing conditions while maintaining financial sustainability.

LIMITATIONS AND FUTURE CONSIDERATIONS

Asset management plans are typically developed under the assumption that assets will be replaced with components of similar capacity and function. However, this approach does not account for potential changes in system demand, population growth, regulatory requirements, or technological advancements.

As a result, utilities should complement asset management planning with additional studies, such as:

- Hydraulic modeling to evaluate system demand and capacity
- Master planning for future growth and demand
- Resilience planning for climate and emergency scenarios

Integrating these considerations ensures that infrastructure investments not only maintain existing service levels but also support future needs.

CONCLUSION

Asset management for aging water infrastructure provides a comprehensive framework for maintaining reliable and sustainable water systems. By developing a detailed inventory, evaluating asset condition, estimating remaining useful life, and prioritizing investments, utilities can make informed decisions that balance performance, risk, and cost.

Through effective planning and regular updates, asset management enables water systems to proactively address aging infrastructure challenges while protecting public health and minimizing financial impacts on the communities they serve. CWJ

Mohammad Danishyar, EIT, is an Associate Engineer with California Rural Water Association.

The Four Pillars of a Good Sampling Program

A framework for moving from DIY sample scheduling to confident compliance

By Audi Findley

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I've spent more than 25 years in this industry—as a certified operator, a utility manager, and now working alongside hundreds of water and wastewater teams at Waterly. In that time, I've seen many sampling programs. Most of them are managed through spreadsheets, calendars, whiteboards, and a lot of institutional knowledge.

Here's what almost all of them had in common: the people running them knew exactly what was required. The state provided the regulatory framework and frequency of collection. Even the sample site plans had been approved. This aligns with the objective of the Safe Drinking Water Act, in which the EPA requires primacy agencies to establish monitoring schedules and maintain approved sample site plans. This framework is critical and well known. Yet industry research, including AWWA's utility benchmarking studies, consistently identifies documentation gaps and staff turnover as leading contributors to compliance exceptions at small and medium-sized systems.

The problem was never knowing *what* to do. The problem was *having the right tools* to actually manage it with less stress and more confidence.

Most of the time the goal of sampling programs is to check the regulatory box—get the schedule built, get the samples collected, get the results back. Done. Move on.

However, a great sampling program does more than that. It transitions from a date on a calendar to a managed sampling event: scheduling → collection → lab → reporting. And it is designed so the structure can be built once, monitored consistently, and adjusted when needed—not chased down every week. That is the transition from a patchwork of tools to real management and real confidence.

PILLAR ONE: PLAN

Water professionals consistently prove themselves a resourceful, resilient group. When the right tools are not available, they build systems out of spreadsheets, calendars, whiteboards, and shared notes.

Those systems can work, but they are hard to defend and even harder to transfer. Planning is not just about putting a date on a calendar. It is about **managing the full sample event** before anyone leaves the building: who is going, where they are going, what bottles they need, which lab is receiving the sample, and what collection procedure they are expected to follow.

That kind of structure matters because improvised systems tend to be fragile. When the person who built them leaves,

Figure 1. Sampling Schedule. Image courtesy Waterly.

the process often becomes even harder to follow.

If your lead sampler called out tomorrow, would someone else know exactly what needs to happen before they even got in the truck? A solid plan answers yes.

PILLAR TWO: COLLECT

Collection is where plans either hold up or fall apart, and it is the pillar where defensibility matters most. A strong collection process creates consistency. Location, instructions, bottles, lab destinations, and documentation should all be tied directly to the event record. A new technician should not need a veteran walking them through it for months. The process itself should be the teacher.

This is also where transparency and accountability become real. If someone asks how a sample was collected, where it was taken, and how the process was followed, the answer should be in the record—not only in someone's memory.

PILLAR THREE: LAB ANALYSIS

Lab analysis should preserve the same clarity and defensibility established in the field. This is where the chain of custody remains central. Paper forms can work, but digital records can create a stronger, more transparent account of what happened, when it happened, and how the sample moved through the process. Digital chains-of-custody can collect defensible data like date/timestamps, GPS coordinates of the sample collection, digital signatures, and bottle labels printed with these details. This all builds a defensible collection and hand-off procedure stronger than paper itself.

The other challenge is speed and continuity. Many utilities still receive results as a .PDF or .CSV, then manually handle the information from there. A

A Simple Evaluation Tool

1. If your lead sampler were out tomorrow, could someone else carry out the event correctly?

2. Can we prove where, when, and by whom each compliance sample was collected?

3. When results come back, do they live alongside operational data in a way that helps us learn from trends?

stronger system allows results to move back into the operational platform through a digital connection, reducing delays and avoiding unnecessary re-entry.

That capability is no longer theoretical. Electronic data deliverables and electronic records have long been part of EPA quality-system guidance.

PILLAR FOUR: REPORT

Getting results back is only half the step. For many utilities, results are confirmed and then filed away. But operational data and lab results often still live in separate places, which makes it harder to see trends and learn from them over time.

The value is not in any single result. It is how the sample and operational data relate in context. When lab results and operational data live in the same environment—whether through .CSV import or a more automated connection—results do not just arrive. They become part of the operational record and help build a clearer picture of system performance over time.

The best systems would reduce the manual transfer of sample results into the operational record. For instance, Waterly Samples connects with our Rounds application to automatically import the sample results, providing cleaner data and fewer manual errors.

That is what connected sampling data can give a utility: not just compliance confirmation but a clearer window into system health.

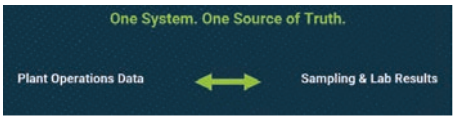

Figure 2. Source of Truth. Image courtesy Waterly.

THE PROGRAM BEHIND THE PILLARS

Sampling programs are stressful not because operators do not care or do not know what is required but because managing the full workflow has not always been easy.

Purpose-built programs like Waterly Samples are built to support all four pillars in one connected program: structured planning, standardized field collection, digital lab collaboration, and results that flow directly into the operational record.

But the tools matter less than the mindset. A sampling program that covers all four pillars is more defensible, more transparent, more informative, and more valuable to the team running it.

Set it. Monitor it. Learn from it. CWJ

Audi Findley is a certified water operator in southern Indiana. He joined the Waterly team in July 2023 to help water and wastewater operators simplify data entry, reporting, and operational decision-making.

Understanding AB 54

Ethics training for mutual water company board members in California

By Michael Sims

AB 54 is a California law designed to strengthen ethical governance within mutual water companies by ensuring that board members understand their legal and moral responsibilities. Enacted in 2012, the law reflects the state's commitment to transparency, accountability, and responsible decision-making in organizations that manage essential public resources such as drinking water.

WHAT IS AB 54?

AB 54 requires all directors of California mutual water companies to complete **two hours of ethics training every six years**. This training is mandatory and applies to both newly elected and long-serving board members. The goal is to equip directors with the knowledge needed to carry out their duties ethically, legally, and in the best interests of the communities they serve.

WHY ETHICS TRAINING MATTERS

Board members of mutual water companies hold positions of trust. They make decisions that directly affect water quality, rates, infrastructure investments, and long-term sustainability. Ethical dilemmas can arise when balancing these responsibilities alongside personal relationships, financial considerations, or competing stakeholder interests.

Common ethical challenges include:

- **Conflicts of interest**, such as situations involving personal or financial gain;
- **Fiduciary responsibilities**, including the duty of care, loyalty, and obedience to the organization;
- **Financial oversight**, such as budgeting, audits, and capital improvement planning;
- **Regulatory compliance**, particularly with laws like the Safe Drinking Water Act.

AB 54 training is intended to help board members recognize these challenges early and respond appropriately.

KEY TOPICS COVERED IN AB 54 TRAINING

The required ethics training typically addresses a broad range of topics relevant to board service, including:

- Fiduciary duties of board members
- Avoiding and disclosing conflicts of interest
- Financial responsibilities and long-term planning
- Compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act
- Key terminology related to governance and regulation
- Contracts and procurement considerations
- Technical, managerial, and financial (TMF) capacity
- Cybersecurity awareness for water systems
- An overview of related legislation, including AB 240, AB 1077, AB 656, and others
- A clear explanation of the **difference between AB 54 and AB 1234**, which applies to local government officials rather than mutual water company directors

WHO PROVIDES AB 54 TRAINING?

Organizations such as the California Rural Water Association (CRWA) play a vital role in helping mutual water systems comply with AB 54. CRWA offers approved ethics training and technical assistance tailored specifically to the needs of rural and mutual water systems. Rather than being a topic of public debate, AB 54 is widely recognized as a settled legal requirement, and CRWA serves as a trusted partner in helping boards meet their obligations.

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LOOKING AHEAD: BOARD LEGACY AND COMMUNITY IMPACT

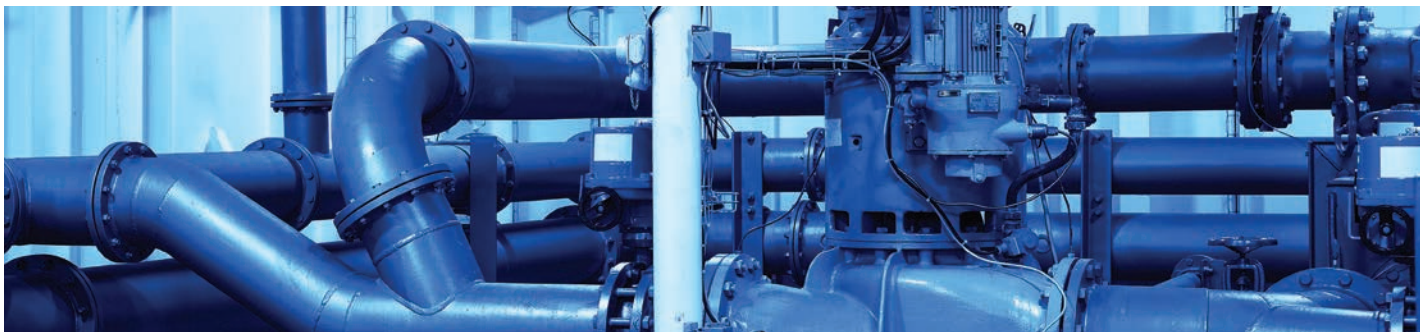
A useful question for any mutual water company board is: *Five years from today, what will our constituents consider the most important legacy of the current board?*

Compliance with AB 54 is a foundational step toward that legacy. Boards that prioritize ethics training demonstrate a commitment to transparency, sound governance, and responsible stewardship of community resources. Over time, this commitment builds trust, strengthens organizational stability, and helps ensure safe, reliable water service for generations to come. CWJ

Michael Sims is a Source Water Protection Specialist with California Rural Water Association (CRWA).

How Water Agencies Can Turn Operational Flexibility into Budget Stability

By Emily Osuna



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As California enters another summer of high temperatures, tighter grid conditions, and increased energy demand, water agencies are facing a familiar challenge: how to maintain reliable operations while managing rising energy costs.

Pumping schedules, storage management, and treatment operations create significant energy demand during the same periods when the grid is under the most stress. At the same time, these facilities play a critical role in maintaining service reliability for their communities and cannot simply "shut down" when demand response events are called.

That is where a more strategic approach to demand response can create real value.

Demand response is often misunderstood as a request to turn off operations during emergencies. In reality, successful participation is built around planning, flexibility, and visibility. For water agencies, that often means adjusting pumping schedules, using available storage capacity, and sequencing equipment in a way that reduces peak demand without disrupting customer service.

This is especially important during California summer conditions, when Flex Alerts and Energy Emergency Alerts (EEAs) can signal elevated grid stress. Agencies that understand these conditions ahead of time can respond proactively rather than reactively, helping avoid unnecessary operational strain while supporting grid reliability.

For many rural water agencies, expanding or upgrading water storage is one of the most capital-intensive investments they face. Whether it's increasing reservoir capacity, adding tanks, or modernizing infrastructure, these projects are often justified by long-term reliability and operational flexibility—but they can take years, or even decades, to fully pay off.

Demand response introduces a financial lever that can help shorten that return-on-investment timeline.

Water storage creates a unique advantage. Facilities that can strategically shift pumping to off-peak periods or temporarily rely on stored capacity during high-demand events are often well positioned to participate in demand response programs while protecting service obligations.

One California water district serving more than 190,000 customers implemented this type of strategy by establishing a pump sequencing plan for voluntary curtailment events. Rather than relying on manual shutdowns during demand response events, the district identified a structured approach that minimized operational impact while maintaining customer supply requirements.

The result was both operational and financial. The agency created a new revenue stream through participation, and automated portions of its response process. Demand response became another tool the district could use to support operations, improve planning, and create more stability in its budget.

"As energy costs continue to rise and grid conditions become less predictable, demand response is becoming a more practical part of long-term planning for water agencies."

As energy costs continue to rise and grid conditions become less predictable, demand response is becoming a more practical part of long-term planning for water agencies.

Rural water facilities that understand where they have flexibility, whether through storage, pumping schedules, or operational visibility, are often better positioned to protect reliability, improve budgeting, and respond with confidence during periods of high system demand. CWJ

Emily Osuna is Sales Director at Enersponse, which focuses on demand response programs for water facilities.

Training on Your Schedule!

Photo courtesy CRWA.

When it comes to training your team, convenience matters. That's where the California Rural Water Association Contract Training Program delivers.

Designed to bring high-quality instruction straight to your facility, CRWA's contract training allows systems to train multiple staff at once without the time, cost, and hassle of travel. It's a practical, efficient way to build skills while keeping daily operations running smoothly.

Each training is tailored to your system's specific needs. Whether your team needs certification prep, hands-on technical training, or a refresher on key topics, CRWA works with you to customize the content and schedule. Courses can range from a few hours to multi-day sessions, making it easy to find the right fit.

Led by experienced instructors who understand real-world challenges, these trainings focus on practical knowledge your team can apply immediately. It's not just about checking a box. It's about building confidence and strengthening your system from within.

If you're looking for a smarter, more flexible way to train your staff, CRWA's Contract Training brings the classroom to you.

To learn more about upcoming trainings or to schedule a contract training for your system, visit CRWA's website (calruralwater.org) or contact the training coordinator, Ashley Foltz, directly at afoltz@calruralwater.org. CWJ

Why Water Systems Need Directors and Officers Insurance

By Dustin Hardwick

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Public Officials and Management Liability, often referred to as Directors and Officers Insurance (D&O), is an important but relatively unknown coverage. It's especially important to water systems, who operate in a highly regulated and high-stakes environment. While most organizations recognize the importance of General Liability (GL) insurance, many underestimate the critical role of D&O insurance. The two cover very different types of risk, and relying on GL coverage alone can leave gaps.

D&O insurance is an essential complement to GL coverage for water systems, as it protects the individuals responsible for governance and decision-making. What's more, this coverage doesn't have to break the bank. When offered in a package policy, it can cost as little as $500/year.

UNDERSTANDING THE DIFFERENCE

General Liability Insurance primarily protects against claims of bodily injury, property damage, and related incidents. For example, if a contractor is injured at a treatment facility or a break in your service line damages nearby property, GL coverage typically responds.

Directors and Officers (D&O) Insurance, on the other hand, protects the board members, officers, and sometimes the organization itself from claims arising out of management decisions, governance issues, and alleged wrongful acts.

WHY GENERAL LIABILITY ISN'T ALWAYS ENOUGH

Water systems face increasing scrutiny from regulators, customers, employees, and the public. Many of the most serious risks they face today are not physical; they are managerial, financial, and regulatory. These exposures fall outside the scope of GL policies.

Without D&O coverage, board members and leadership could be personally liable for claims related to their decisions. Here are some key risks that D&O Insurance helps cover:

1. Regulatory and Compliance Decisions
Water systems must comply with complex federal and state regulations related to water quality, reporting, and infrastructure. If customers allege that leadership failed to meet regulatory obligations, or made poor decisions in response to compliance issues, those claims are typically directed at the board or management. D&O insurance helps cover legal defense costs and potential settlements tied to these allegations.

2. Financial Management and Rate Decisions
Setting water rates, managing reserves, and allocating capital improvements are inherently sensitive decisions. Ratepayers may claim mismanagement, lack of transparency, or unfair practices. These disputes are not covered by GL policies, but they are a core exposure addressed by D&O coverage.

3. Employment-Related Claims
Many D&O policies include Employment Practices Liability. This can cover claims such as wrongful termination, failure to hire, discrimination, and harassment. Comprehensive policies will even extend to claims made by volunteers. So, even small water systems without employees can benefit from this coverage, protecting themselves from having to foot the bill for significant legal defense costs.

4. Contractual and Governance Disputes
Disagreements with vendors, partners, or even within the board itself can escalate into legal action. Allegations may include breach of fiduciary duty,

misrepresentation, or failure to act in the best interest of the organization. D&O insurance is specifically designed to address these types of governance-related claims.

5. Public Accountability and Community Pressure
Water systems operate in a highly visible role, especially in disadvantaged communities or drought-prone regions. Decisions around water quality, conservation measures, and infrastructure investments can trigger public backlash. Even if claims are unfounded, the cost to defend against them can be substantial. D&O coverage ensures that board members are not personally exposed to these costs.

PROTECTING BOARD MEMBERS PERSONALLY

One of the most important aspects of D&O insurance is personal asset protection. Many water systems rely on volunteer board members to serve in governance roles. Without D&O coverage, these individuals may be reluctant to serve, knowing their personal assets could be at risk in a lawsuit. D&O insurance provides reassurance that:

- Legal defense costs are covered
- Settlements or judgments (within policy limits) are covered
- Personal financial exposure is minimized

Having D&O coverage in place signals that the organization takes governance seriously. It helps attract qualified board members and retain experienced leadership who might otherwise hesitate to take on risk without protection.

CONCLUSION

It's important to view D&O insurance as a complement to, not a replacement for, General Liability coverage. Together, they provide a more complete risk management structure, and without both, a water system and its Board of Directors is only partially protected. For water systems looking to build a comprehensive risk management strategy, D&O coverage is not optional, it is essential.

For inquiries and expert guidance pertaining to water insurance coverage and risk management, you are encouraged to contact me, Dustin Hardwick – Managing Agent of URIS/Executive Director of California Rural Water Risk Management Authority, or one of our dedicated licensed specialists with a distinct focus on this sector of insurance. CWJ

Dustin Hardwick is Deputy Director, California Rural Water Association (CRWA).

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Preferred Provider
A Member Benefit of the California Rural Water Association

Snapshots

Over the years, CRWA's Preferred Provider Program has grown from nine agencies at the time of its inception to the current sixteen. The Preferred Providers offer a multitude of services to CRWA member agencies across the state. The program is designed to collectively leverage our members' buying power, providing significant benefit to California's rural systems. It has had continued success in offering discounts on various value-added products and services to members of CRWA since 2009. The table below provides a brief description of the products and services offered by the 2026 Preferred Provider Program members.

120Water	Digital water solutions that protect public health now and in the future by combining cloud-based software, digital sampling kits, and regulatory expertise to help execute water safety, compliance, and wastewater monitoring programs.
American Leak Detection	Accurate, non-destructive detection of hidden water, sewer and gas leaks in residential, commercial, and municipal buildings.
Cannon	Provides electrical engineering services.
CoBank	A national cooperative lender that supports the borrowing needs of U.S. agriculture and rural infrastructure across rural America.
Enersponse	Demand response program for water operators with no minimum pump size requirement. It provides a simple and convenient energy reduction program, which saves customers the utmost energy and money possible through rebates and incentives.
GovCard with Evolv	A zero-cost solution for collecting payments.
Lagerlof, LLP	A full-service law firm located in Pasadena, California, that specializes in the water and municipal law field, particularly in representing special districts and mutual water companies.
NV5	Provides the following services: Operational advice; district engineering services; AB54 system mapping; design of water supply, distribution and treatment systems; wastewater collection and treatment engineering; recycled water engineering; construction management/oversight; regulatory and funding agency assistance; start-up and trouble-shooting services; surveying, staking and mapping; structural engineering; asset management; geotechnical engineering; materials and compaction testing; USDA and state funding assistance; and electrical engineering.
Onterris	Specializes in providing comprehensive analytical chemistry services with a focus on environmental testing. They offer a wide range of services, including soil and water sample analysis, on-site sample collection, regional courier service, and superior customer support.
RealTime Aquifer Services (RAS)	A small business offering consulting, data interpretation and technical field services for the characterization, monitoring, remediation and management of aquifers and groundwater systems, including the performance and optimization of water supply wells.
Resource Monitor	Remote water monitoring that actually works. Purpose-built for small and rural water systems, Resource Monitor pairs drop-in smart meters and retrofit adapters with an operator-friendly platform that detects leaks in hours instead of weeks, eliminates manual meter reads, and exports data directly to your billing system. Ten-year battery life, zero infrastructure required, and a team that actually answers the phone. Plus, your customers get access to a user-friendly portal that shows their individual usage aligned with your system's billing cycle, helping you reduce customer complaints and confusion.
Schneider Electric	A global leader in energy management and industrial automation, helping water and wastewater utilities modernize operations through secure, open, and software-defined automation. Schneider Electric enables utilities to improve reliability, cybersecurity, and operational efficiency while supporting long-term sustainability goals.
SCS Engineers	Aids clients in the use and management of surface and groundwater resources.
ServLine	Insurance that provides coverage for excess water charges and excess sewer charges, which the customer owes the utility for a qualifying leak in the customer's water lines; helps utilities generate a revenue from lost water via leaks.
USG Water Solutions	A fully integrated professional service and contracting firm dedicated to providing sustainable products and services for potable water distribution systems and sewage collection systems, such as rehab and asset management.
Waterly	Waterly is an affordable, easy-to-use app that offers solutions for data management and asset management. With Waterly Core, you can replace error-prone spreadsheets and clipboards and time-consuming monthly reports with simple data entry and one-click reports. With Waterly Assets, you can take the guess work out of your asset management with digitized asset hierarchy, work orders and preventative maintenance reminders.

For more information on our service providers, please visit our website at calruralwater.org/membership/members-area/preferred-provider-program or contact CRWA's Resource Development Department at 916.553.4900.

National Rural Water Association Awarded USDA Circuit Rider Contract

Flagship technical assistance program has helped systems since 1980

The National Rural Water Association (NRWA) is pleased to announce it has been awarded the five-year, competitive contract for the Circuit Rider Technical Assistance Program through the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development.

The Circuit Rider Program has been a flagship program for NRWA, with continuous contract operations since 1980. The program fields 132 Circuit Riders across all 50 U.S. states and Puerto Rico. This group of boots-on-the-ground experts has an average of 23 years of experience in the water sector, and 43% of rural Americans benefit from their work.

> "Circuit Riders are an essential resource for our nation's small and rural drinking water systems."
>
> *—Matt Holmes, CEO, NRWA*

"Circuit Riders are an essential resource for our nation's small and rural drinking water systems," said NRWA Chief Executive Officer Matt Holmes. "The recognition by USDA Rural Development of our boots-on-the-ground experts throughout the country and the work they accomplish is truly gratifying. We look forward to continuing our partnership with the agency and to helping ensure small and rural communities have access to safe drinking water."

The USDA Farmers Home Administration, now USDA Rural Development, established the Rural Water Circuit Rider Program in collaboration with NRWA. This program provides a nationwide team of drinking water experts to provide training and technical assistance to water utility managers, boards, and operations specialists, protecting USDA Rural Development's current water utility infrastructure investments and helping them plan for a more sustainable future.

> "The renewal of the Circuit Rider contract is an achievement that speaks to the strong partnership between NRWA and USDA."
>
> *—Michele Brooks, Assistant Administrator, USDA Rural Utilities Service*

"The renewal of the Circuit Rider contract is an achievement that speaks to the strong partnership between NRWA and USDA," said USDA Rural Utilities Service Assistant Administrator Michele Brooks. "Circuit Riders are often the first line of defense for small, rural water systems, and their unwavering support builds a lasting impact on each community they serve. We eagerly anticipate our continued collaboration to provide access to clean, safe drinking water across rural America."

NRWA operates the program in all 50 States and Puerto Rico, supporting rural water systems with technical assistance, including but not limited to:

- Identifying and evaluating affordable solutions to drinking water problems in rural areas
- Assisting systems to rapidly respond and recover after natural and man-made emergencies such as hurricanes, earthquakes, tornadoes, floods, wildfires, and ice storms
- Protecting the environment and public health by improving treatment processes
- Promoting the economic vitality of rural communities through protection and expansion of water and wastewater infrastructure, which is vital for businesses
- Improving financial sustainability through better management the practices, more efficient operations, and assistance with financial loan/grant applications
- Enhancing compliance with federal regulations
- Aiding with all aspects of water utility management, finance, operation and maintenance, regulatory compliance, energy efficiency, cybersecurity, and loan/grant applications

To learn more about the Circuit Rider Program and NRWA, please visit nrwa.org.

NRWA™
Celebrating 50 Years

SWING CHECK VALVE

Flomatic® Valves has released a new AIS- and BABA-compliant 12-inch Flo-Flex® 745SC Surge-Stopper® swing check valve for municipal, industrial, and wastewater systems. Designed to meet ANSI/AWWA C508 full waterway requirements, the valve helps protect pipelines by minimizing water hammer and slamming during rapid flow reversals. A ductile iron body and rapid-closure stainless-steel spring reduce disc travel, while a Buna-N flapper provides bubble-tight sealing at low pressure, including vacuum service. The valve supports horizontal or vertical (flow-up) installation, offers optional SCADA-ready position monitoring, and allows field maintenance without removing the valve from the line. Manufactured in the USA with U.S.-sourced materials.

FLOMATIC VALVES
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ADJUSTABLE S-TUBE FOR TANDEM SETTINGS

The patent-pending adjustable S-tube from Ford Meter Box is designed to simplify tandem setter installations. This innovative fitting adjusts up to 2" to accommodate a wide variety of pressure reducing valves (PRVs) or other devices in tandem applications. The adjustable S-tube can be ordered separately for retrofit projects or specified on new tandem setter assemblies.

FORD METER BOX
fordmeterbox.com

ROI CALCULATOR

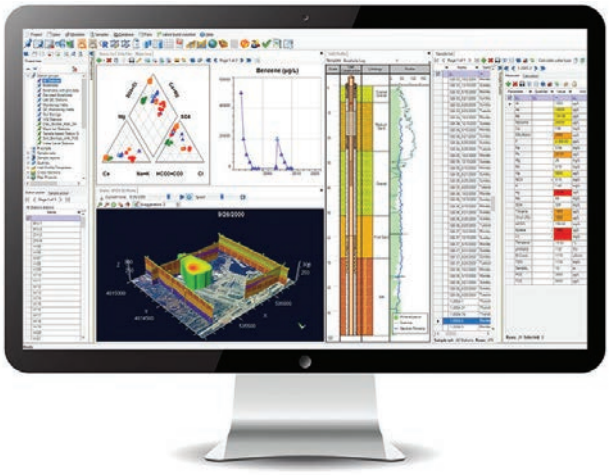
Oldcastle Infrastructure has introduced the CivilSense™ ROI Calculator, a digital planning tool designed to help rural utilities and municipalities make clearer, data-driven water infrastructure decisions. Part of the CivilSense platform, the calculator turns system data into practical financial scenarios, helping operators quantify the real costs of aging assets. Users can estimate non-revenue water losses, project leak frequency, assess the financial impact of water main breaks, and model the long-term value of infrastructure investments. With a user-friendly interface and project-specific inputs, the tool quickly generates reports that strengthen the business case for repairs, replacements, and system upgrades—helping utilities better prioritize projects and recover dollars lost to inefficiencies.

OLDCASTLE INFRASTRUCTURE
oldcastleinfrastructure.com

SEPTIC TANK SAFETY GATE

Infiltrator Water Technologies has introduced the Infiltrator Guardian™, a safety gate designed to prevent unauthorized entry into septic tanks. Installed permanently within a tank riser system, the Guardian provides full access for maintenance when lifted, while remaining secured when closed via a stainless-steel screw and spring-loaded latch requiring 50 pounds of force to open. Compatible with Infiltrator's EZsnap, EZset, and 24-inch riser systems, the Guardian is available at minimal cost—reflecting Infiltrator's commitment to septic system safety across North America.

INFILTRATOR WATER TECHNOLOGIES
infiltratorwater.com



ENVIRONMENTAL DATA MANAGEMENT & VISUALIZATION

Hydro GeoAnalyst (HGA) from Waterloo Hydrogeologic gathers project data in one place to efficiently manage and report on critical items over the lifetime of a project. With the latest release of version 14.0, HGA brings in new functionality including cloud databases, bulk data import across multiple sources, and multiple plotting enhancements. HGA is built for geologists, geochemists, and environmental professionals who need more speed, flexibility, and confidence in their data. Environmental data is only as powerful as your ability to manage and interpret it — HGA 14.0 makes it easy.

WATERLOO HYDROGEOLOGIC
waterloohydrogeologic.com/hydro-geoanalyst

SINGLE DIAPHRAGM DOSING PUMPS

Blue-White announces new enhancements to its CHEM-FEED® C2 Single Diaphragm Dosing Pumps. All C2 models can now be ordered with optional 4–20 mA input/output and motor-active relay capability. In addition, all C2 pumps are now NSF61 listed, supporting compliance in potable water applications while maintaining proven performance and reliability. New features, including the sturdy and long-lasting DiaFlex diaphragm and Diaphragm Failure Detection with built-in leak detection, make the CHEM-FEED C2 a superior dosing pump with maximum durability.

BLUE-WHITE INDUSTRIES
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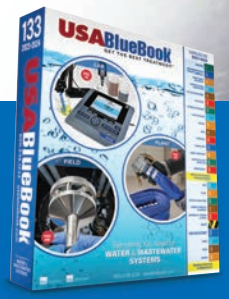

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