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## Seal Rock Water District

General Manager's Report:  
 Board Meeting – April 9, 2026

This report provides an executive-level update on district operations, source water management, staffing, and ongoing initiatives. Additional details and supporting documentation are available in the full agenda packet.

### Water Treatment Plant & Source Water Operations:

Operators recently received delivery of all 46 replacement membrane modules required for the rebuild of Filtration Skid #1. Staff are currently awaiting delivery of several supporting installation materials, including piping components, U-bolts, and related hardware necessary to complete the installation. Once these materials arrive, operators will coordinate installation activities.

In the interim, operators continue maintaining and operating Filtration Skid #1, which remains available for use when needed. However, the skid has increasingly experienced difficulty successfully achieving the Pressure Decay Test (PDT) required to verify membrane integrity. As a result, staff are closely monitoring system performance and operating the treatment plant in a manner that maintains regulatory compliance and treatment reliability while replacement work is prepared.

District staff will continue coordinating with engineering and technical partners to complete installation of the new membrane modules as soon as materials are available. These efforts are part of the district's ongoing asset management strategy to maintain treatment reliability, protect public health, and ensure long-term system performance.

### Regional Water Conditions Report:

Recent data from the Oregon Water Conditions Report dated April 6, 2026, indicate that much of the state, including the mid-coast basin, is experiencing drier and warmer conditions than normal.

March precipitation was below average across most of Oregon, including coastal areas, and recent trends continue to show lower-than-normal rainfall. At the same time, snowpack levels across the state are significantly below normal. Snow Water Equivalent, which helps supply streams and groundwater during spring and early summer, is currently averaging about 13 percent of normal statewide.

Temperatures have also been higher than average, contributing to drier soil conditions and reducing the natural recharge of water sources. Approximately 49 percent of Oregon is now experiencing moderate to severe drought conditions, with drought expanding into parts of western Oregon.

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Seasonal forecasts suggest that these trends may continue, with a higher likelihood of below-normal precipitation and above-normal temperatures in the coming months.

Although the District's current water supply remains stable, these conditions may reduce water availability as the region moves into late spring and summer. The period between now and June will be especially important in determining how water supplies develop for the remainder of the year.

In response, Seal Rock Water District staff are actively monitoring local and regional conditions, including rainfall, streamflow, and drought indicators. The District is also reviewing our Water Management and Conservation Plan to ensure preparedness should conservation measures become necessary.

In addition, the District is prepared to coordinate with state agencies and regional partners to stay informed and aligned on potential drought response efforts. At this time, no changes to water use are being considered. However, customers are encouraged to remain mindful of their water use and practice efficient water use whenever possible.

If dry conditions persist into early summer, the District may consider additional steps identified in the WMCP, which could include public outreach, voluntary conservation measures, or other actions to help protect the community's water supply.

District staff will continue to provide updates as conditions evolve and remain committed to proactive planning and transparent communication.

#### **SRWD Drinking Water Protection Plan (DWPP) Contingency Plan:**

The Seal Rock Water District's Drinking Water Protection Plan (DWPP) includes a comprehensive Contingency Plan designed to ensure the District can effectively respond to the loss or significant reduction of its drinking water supply, as required under Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR 333-061-0057(5)).

This plan aligns with and builds upon the District's existing planning documents, including the Emergency Response Plan (ERP) (2021), the Lincoln County Hazard Mitigation Plan (2021), and the Water Management and Conservation Plan (2024).

#### **• Key Risk Factors Identified**

The District has identified several potential threats that could disrupt or reduce water supply, including:

- Natural hazards: drought, low streamflow, earthquakes, tsunamis, landslides, wildfire, storms, and flooding
- Water quality risks: saltwater intrusion, chemical applications, septic systems
- Infrastructure and operational risks: major line breaks, facility failures, cybersecurity threats, vandalism
- Human and environmental impacts: encampments, dumpsites, and transportation corridors

- **Water Use Prioritization**

In the event of a supply shortage, the District has established the following priority for water use:

1. **Fire protection and residential use**
2. **Commercial use**
3. **Irrigation and non-essential uses**

- **Emergency Response Framework**

The District's response to water supply emergencies is guided by:

- The Emergency Response Plan (ERP), which outlines procedures for operational, physical, and cybersecurity incidents
- Coordination with local and regional emergency partners, including Lincoln County Emergency Management, public safety agencies, and state regulators
- Participation in mutual aid networks, including ORWARN

The General Manager is designated as the lead authority during emergencies, with responsibility for coordinating response actions and reporting to the Board.

- **Alternative Water Supply Strategies**

**Short-Term Response:**

- Use of interconnections with the Cities of Newport and Toledo
- Reliance on stored water (up to approximately 10 days under average demand)
- Implementation of staged water curtailment measures

**Long-Term Response:**

- Continued reliance on regional interties where feasible
- Infrastructure repair or development
- Potential reactivation of alternative water rights sources, including the Siletz River

- **Water Curtailment Plan (2024 WMCP)**

The District has a four-stage curtailment strategy to reduce demand during shortages:

- **Stage 1 (Voluntary):** Public education and voluntary conservation
- **Stage 2 (Mandatory):** Required conservation measures and operational restrictions
- **Stage 3 (Mandatory):** Prohibition of non-essential uses and stricter limits
- **Stage 4 (Emergency):** Rationing, emergency water distribution, and pursuit of state/federal assistance

- **Preparedness and Coordination**

**Staffing & Training:**

- Certified operators and defined emergency response roles
- Annual emergency exercises and ongoing safety and cybersecurity training

**Public Communication:**

- Use of website updates, mailings, signage, and emergency notification systems (Everbridge)
- Dedicated webpages for outages, conservation, and boil water advisories

**Partnerships:**

- Coordination with local agencies, healthcare providers, utilities, and regulators
- Access to mutual aid and regional response resources

- **Plan Maintenance and Resources**

- The Contingency Plan will be reviewed at least every five years, or more frequently as needed
- The District maintains financial and logistical readiness through:
  - Emergency planning and partnerships
  - Access to state and federal funding (including FEMA)
  - Board-authorized budget adjustments
  - Ongoing investment through the Capital Improvement Plan

- **Key Takeaway for the Board**

The District has developed a robust, multi-layered contingency framework that emphasizes:

- Preparedness and rapid response
- Redundancy and alternative supply options
- Clear prioritization of essential water uses
- Strong coordination with regional partners
- Proactive communication with the public

This planning effort significantly strengthens the District's ability to maintain public health and safety during water supply emergencies while supporting long-term system resilience.

**Additional District Activities & Updates:**

**Staff/Safety Meeting:** Continued emphasis on safety culture and best operational practices.

**Water Conservation Coordination:** Participated in discussions with the Lincoln County Water Conservation Committee.

**Drinking Water Protection Plan:** Staff continue to work with consultants and local stakeholders on development of the SRWD Drinking Water Protection Plan.

**SRWD Employee Handbook:** Ongoing review and updates, working in collaboration with SDAO consultants to ensure compliance with revised state requirements.

**Pay Equity Evaluation:** District staff are working in collaboration with consultants from HR Answers in an effort to perform a Pay Equity Evaluation for the district.

**Mid-Coast Water Planning Partnership:** Participated in the monthly regional partnership meeting.

**Oregon Water Utility Council:** SRWD hosted the March 26th OWUC monthly meeting.

**SDAO Water/Wastewater Legislative Committee:** Chaired the SDAO Legislative Committee Meeting for March.

**SDAO/SDIS Joint Meeting:** Attended the SDAO/SDIS Joint Work Session April 1st through the 3rd.

SRWD continues to actively manage operational challenges, regulatory responsibilities, and infrastructure needs while maintaining our commitment to delivering safe, reliable water service to the community. Staff remain focused on continuous improvement and advancement of district goals.