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## Seal Rock Water District

General Manager's Report:  
 Board Meeting – May 14, 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:

During the week of May 18th, SRWD operators will be working collaboratively with WesTech to replace the membrane modules on Skid 1. In conjunction with this work, staff will also be completing the build out and associated improvements for Skid 2 while the treatment plant is offline.

To safely complete this work, the District will temporarily shut down the Water Treatment Plant for the duration of the replacement and integration process. The district has coordinated with the City of Newport to use the emergency intertie connection during this time period. Staff currently anticipate the work and system modifications to take approximately three to four days to complete.

In addition to the physical installation work, staff and WesTech will also be updating and refining system programming and operational controls to accommodate the increased treatment flow capacity associated with the upgraded membrane system. District staff have been coordinating operational planning to help ensure the work is completed efficiently while maintaining system reliability and adequate water storage throughout the shutdown period.

### Regional Water Conditions Report:

The State of Oregon is currently experiencing historically low snowpack and below average precipitation conditions across much of the region. According to the Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD), statewide snowpack conditions this year are among the lowest ever recorded, with several basins throughout Oregon reporting snowpack values well below seasonal averages. Recent reports from OWRD, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), and Oregon climatologists continue to project a warmer and drier than normal summer with reduced streamflow conditions anticipated throughout many watersheds statewide.

Along the Oregon Coast, rainfall totals have also trended significantly below average this year, with some regional monitoring stations reporting precipitation deficits approaching approximately 30% below normal seasonal conditions. State hydrologists have expressed concern that reduced snowpack combined with prolonged dry conditions may contribute to earlier seasonal streamflow declines, increased wildfire risk, and heightened pressure on water supplies throughout the western United States.

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Despite these concerning regional conditions, SRWD's Beaver Creek source is currently performing well for this time of year. As of May 5th, Beaver Creek streamflow was measured at approximately 40 cubic feet per second (CFS), which remains consistent with historic May flow conditions for the watershed. District staff continues to closely monitor watershed conditions, source water availability, treatment capacity, storage levels, and long-range weather forecasts as part of the district's routine operational planning and drought preparedness efforts.

While the District is currently in a stable operational position, these statewide conditions present an important opportunity to further educate and engage our community regarding the value of water and the importance of long-term resource stewardship.

Water is one of our region's most precious natural resources. Historically, communities along the Oregon Coast have benefited from abundant rainfall and reliable water supplies; however, recent climate patterns continue to reinforce the importance of responsible water management, infrastructure investment, watershed protection, and conservation awareness. The long-term sustainability of public water systems will increasingly depend on proactive planning and thoughtful stewardship to help ensure reliable and resilient water supplies for future generations.

SRWD has made substantial investments in recent years to strengthen the resiliency and reliability of the district's water system, including source water development, treatment plant upgrades, storage improvements, emergency preparedness planning, and water quality protection initiatives. These investments position the district well to responsibly manage periods of drought and changing environmental conditions while continuing to provide safe and reliable drinking water for our customers.

As we move into the summer season, staff will continue monitoring regional water conditions and will keep the Board and our community informed of any significant operational developments or emerging concerns. Staff also believe this may be an appropriate opportunity for the district to continue promoting voluntary conservation awareness and public education efforts that reinforce the shared responsibility of protecting and conserving our water resources.

### **American Water Works Association (AWWA) Water Matters Fly-In:**

I would like to provide the Board with a brief update regarding last month's participation in the American Water Works Association (AWWA) Water Matters Fly-In held in Washington, D.C. at the United States Capitol. I attended as the GM of SRWD and a representative of the Oregon Water Utility Council alongside other members of Oregon's water sector. The schedule was extremely busy and productive, with meetings held with all eight members of Oregon's congressional delegation or their staff. We were warmly received by each office, and there was clear recognition of the importance of investing in water infrastructure and supporting utilities that provide safe, reliable drinking water service to communities across Oregon and the nation.

During these meetings, we discussed several priority issues affecting water systems, including:

- Strengthening the nation's water infrastructure through full funding of the Drinking Water and Clean Water State Revolving Funds, as well as the WIFIA program.
- Supporting the "Polluter Pays" principle for PFAS cleanup so that manufacturers and polluters, not water ratepayers, bear the financial responsibility for contamination and remediation.

- Re-establishing a federal low-income household water assistance program to help families maintain affordable access to water service.
- Improving cybersecurity, resilience, and preparedness for water systems facing increasing cyber and natural hazard risks.

Overall, the trip was successful, worthwhile, and time well spent. It provided an excellent opportunity to advocate directly for the needs of small rural water systems just like ours, while helping ensure that Oregon communities continue to receive support for essential water infrastructure and public health protections. I appreciate the Board's continued support of these advocacy efforts and look forward to discussing the trip further at an upcoming meeting.

### **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. The district hosted a public meeting to receive public comment regarding the plan on April 29<sup>th</sup>.

**SRWD Employee Handbook:** Ongoing review and updates, working in collaboration with SDAO consultants to ensure compliance with revised state requirements. The plan has been forwarded to HR Answers for review.

**Annual SRWD Budget Committee Meeting:** Staff coordinated and prepared for the annual SRWD Budget Committee Meeting on April 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Pay Equity Evaluation:** District staff continue working 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 April 23<sup>rd</sup> OWUC monthly meeting.

**Attended the AWWA Water Matters Fly-in:** Represented SRWD and OWUC at the annual AWWA Fly-IN in Washington, D.C., April 12 through the 16<sup>th</sup>.

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.