**About Yuba Water Agency**

Yuba Water Agency is a public agency responsible for reducing flood risk and ensuring a sustainable water supply in support of the environment and the people of Yuba County.

The agency’s annual operating expenses are estimated at $62 million, with another $10 million a year dedicated to investing in the community in ways that can improve the quality of life and economic prosperity for the people of Yuba County. Revenue can vary significantly from year to year due to uncontrollable factors, including weather and the market price for electricity. Yuba Water’s current revenue ranges from about $70 million to $110 million per year.

**Revenue Sources**

Yuba Water’s primary sources of revenue include the sale of hydroelectric power generated as part of its Yuba River Development Project and out-of-county water transfers. Yuba Water does not receive any revenue from taxes.

**Reserves**

Due to the extreme variability in revenue, the board of directors has set a reserve goal of $200 million and implemented a clear reserves policy. There are four accounts that collectively comprise the agency’s reserve fund, to save the capital needed to cover regulatory requirements, emergencies and planned projects.

**Routine Operating Expenses**

Yuba Water’s routine operating expenses reserve account ensures the agency has enough set aside to meet basic operating expenses for one year, to cover critical flood protection, hydropower and water supply infrastructure, and approximately 80 employees made up of engineers, operators, maintenance workers, managers, scientists, administrators and other staff.

**Levee Bond Repayment**

The agency is committed to an annual $5.6 million levee bond repayment through 2038 to cover significant levee improvements in an area hit hard by flooding in 1986 and 1997.

**Emergency**

The emergency reserve account ensures adequate funding is available for unforeseen needs or catastrophic events such as infrastructure failures, urgent levee repairs, wildfire or other natural disasters that could threaten the agency’s water supply or facilities, such as 2017 flooding that caused $11 million in unanticipated storm damage. This reserve is set at a minimum amount to cover immediate needs in case of a crisis.
Designated Capital Projects

The final reserve account designates funding for those projects that the agency is actively working on or has approved for implementation in the near future. This includes actions that will be required as part of the agency’s Federal Energy Regulatory Commission license, flood risk reduction investments and other projects with significant community benefit. Among the larger, more impactful projects are:

- **Secondary Spillway at New Bullards Bar Dam:** An estimated $225 million secondary spillway at New Bullards Bar Dam will substantially reduce flood risk for Yuba County, enhance dam safety and potentially improve water supply management.

- **Forest Health:** A $1.5 million multi-year commitment helps fund ecological forest management and restoration in the Yuba River Watershed. This long-term investment reduces catastrophic wildfire risk in the region, improves forest resilience to climate change and protects rural communities and water quality.

- **FERC License Requirements:** The agency will invest as much as $230 million over the next 30 years to implement actions required to secure a FERC license. Yuba Water anticipates needing $50 million in the first 10 years of the license and another $5 million per year over the term of the license.

- **Fish Habitat Enhancement:** Yuba Water is a partner on several fish habitat improvement projects including the Hallwood Side Channel and Floodplain Restoration project and is planning for more as part of the voluntary agreements for the Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan and the new Federal Energy Regulatory Commission license to operate the Yuba River Development Project.

- **Lower Yuba River Fish Screen:** Yuba Water is working with four of its partner irrigation districts to permit and construct a new $17.5 million south diversion fish screen on the lower Yuba River that complies with state and federal fish screening criteria. This project will protect fish and ensure a reliable water supply.

Transparency and Accountability

Yuba Water's decision-making takes place during twice-monthly public meetings of the board of directors. Its projects are supported by justification sheets that include a problem statement, alternatives analysis and budget estimates. As part of its commitment to responsible fiscal management and planning, the agency is annually audited by a third-party with findings posted on the agency’s website yubawater.org.