



# Putah Creek Water Management Annual Pumper Meeting

**Date:** Tuesday, February 18, 2025 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

**Location:** Solano County Water Agency, Board Room, 810 Vaca Valley Parkway, Suite 202

**Total Participant Count:** 14

## Meeting Objectives:

1. Promote open communication between pumpers and SCWA staff to enhance coordinated management of Putah Creek flows.
2. Discuss and outline strategies for managing Putah Creek flows in 2025: flow meter installation, fish ladder timing, and summer flows.
3. Provide an opportunity for participants to discuss and seek solutions for any ongoing or anticipated creek management challenges.

## Meeting Overview:

Pumpers along Putah Creek met with Solano County Water Agency (SCWA) staff and other local partners to discuss coordinated management of creek flows. Successes from 2024 included creating and installing a fish ladder, communicating between multiple pumpers to ensure flows stayed in the necessary window for fish passage, and developing an understanding of when and how wheeling impacts flow rates. In 2025, SCWA intends to install 10-12 flow meters to improve measurements. Participants discussed communication methods for sharing when pumps are turned on and off. ARiver Partners representative shared about their upcoming grant and recruitment for a Technical Advisory Group.

## Meeting Materials

View the Participants Agenda [here](#).

View the Meeting Presentation [here](#).

## Meeting Notes

Max Stevenson, Putah Creek Streamkeeper, presented on current, past and future activities intended to further fair creek management. His points, along with comments from participant discussion, follow.

1. Current Activities
  - a. Current water conditions are high because of recent rains. Flows peak after rainstorms then drain for a few months.
  - b. Green lidar flight successfully completed at the end of January; results not yet received
  - c. SCWA pulled out the fish ladder to prevent upstream flooding or bridge overflow
2. Accord Review
  - a. Putah Creek has riparian users, fish, and losses to groundwater recharge
  - b. During certain times of the year, 90% of water in creek is wheeling water, not Putah Creek flow
  - c. SCWA is managing the creek like a canal, due to the multiple users and coordination needed

- d. Ideal Putah Creek flows mimic nature, more in spring, less in fall
  - i. Prior to coordination and information exchange, flow issues included insufficient flow for juvenile fish at Los Rios check dam and a dry creek bed in between compliance check points even though check point flows were sufficient.
- 3. Flow meter installation
  - a. SCWA intends to install 10-12 strap on flow meters in 2025
  - b. There are 41 pumps along Putah Creek. SCWA prioritized which to meter first and staff are ready to install.
  - c. Pumpers should inform SCWA staff if they have meters already installed and can share their data.
- 4. Pumper Communication
  - a. Text or call Zach Hyer when turning pumps on and off. This helps him keep track of when and how much water is flowing.
    - i. If pumpers don't call, the water they use is usually allocated for another use
  - b. SCWA suggestion: some kind of web platform so users know when others are pumping and are aware of each others' actions, this tool could be divided by reach.
  - c. Pumper suggestion: group text with a few users who are in the chat. They can see each other's use, stay updated and coordinate their own use more easily. Zach can transfer data to other SCWA staff. This may inform a later web tool.
  - d. Pumpers request to know when the river is going to flood, so they can pull out their pumps
- 5. River Partners grant: Northern Bypass Channel
  - a. River Partners representative Maddie presented on the first steps of the planning grant.
  - b. They are forming a Technical Advisory Group and welcome new participants; reach out to Maddie if you want to be part of the group.
  - c. Stillwater Sciences helping with hydrological surveying
  - d. No construction will occur until post 2027