

Gene Tautges, President/Chairman
Alex Boehmer, Vice President/Treasurer
Bill Hudson, Secretary



Glenn Walsh, Director
Bruce Jones, Director

MEMORANDUM

TO: Josh Pike
FROM: Justin O. Ramsey, PE
CC: Andrew Connor, Cyndi Foster, Justin Stone, Renee Lewis, Kyle Tjelmeland
DATE: April 27, 2026
RE: Drought Update

Below is the PAWSD Drought Stage Trigger worksheet.

Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District
Drought Stage Trigger Points
Data Entry Sheet

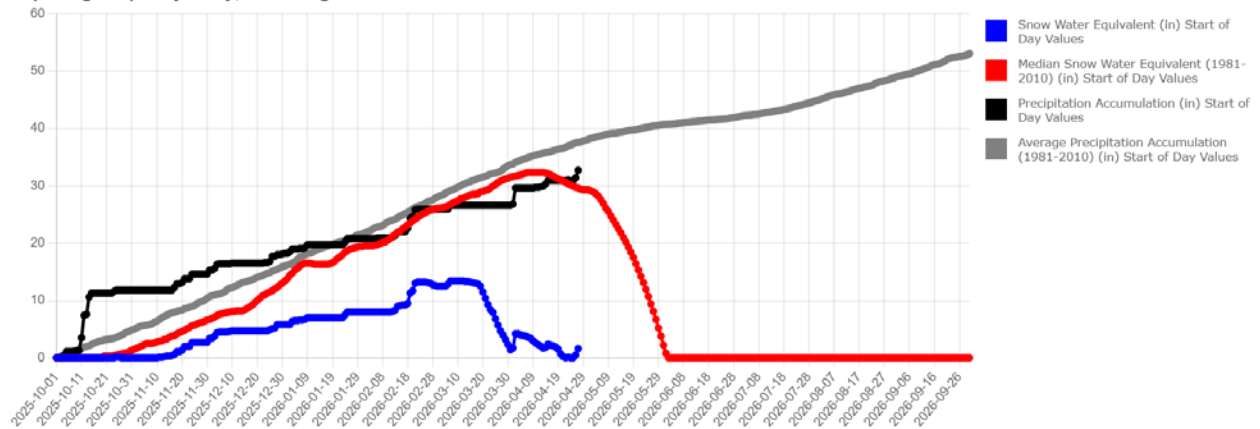
Today's Date	:	4/27/2026
Date of SWE at 0"	:	4/22/2026
Four Mile Call:	:	4/23/2026
Early Drought Stage	=	Stage 1

Fourmile Creek went into administration call on April 27, 2026. The median date for call is June 15. When there is “a call” on the creek the senior water right holders are not getting their full decreed water right thus the water commissioner from the State Engineers Office curtails the use of water from junior water right holders. The District will no longer be allowed to divert water from Fourmile Creek into Hatcher or Stevens Reservoirs and all lake levels will begin to drop.

The Snow Water Equivalency (SWE) rose to 1.6 inches over the weekend, the median SWE on this day is 29.6”.

Due to the date of the call on Fourmile Creek the District will remain in the Drought Stage 1 watering schedule. Stage 1 limits irrigation between the hours of 6:00 PM and 9:00 AM and a tier rate multiplier will be applied to flows above 5,000 gallons of water per billing cycle for residential users.

Upper San Juan (840) Colorado SNOTEL Site - 10140 ft
Reporting Frequency: Daily; Date Range: 2025-10-01 to 2026-09-30

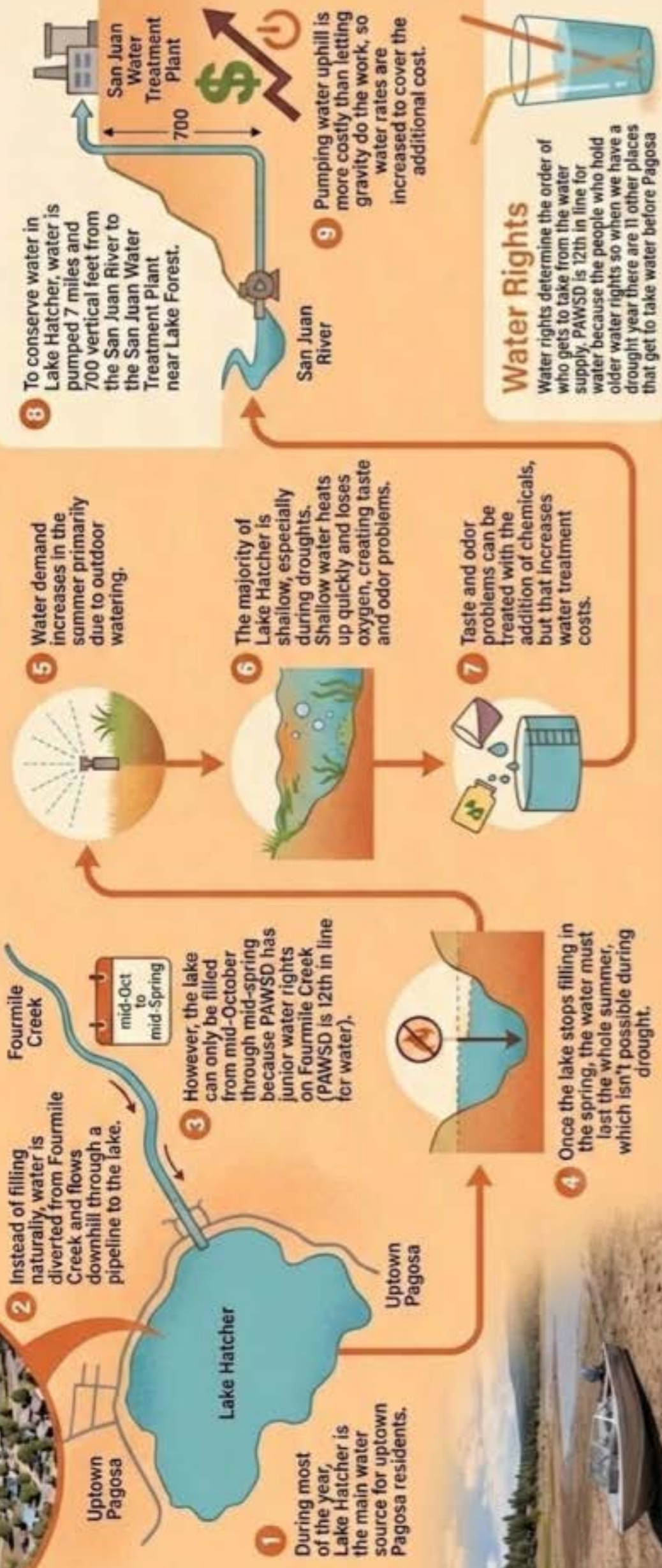


The District greatly appreciates everyone's continued diligence in conserving water. If you have any questions regarding the current Drought Management Plan, it can be found on the website at <https://www.pawsd.org/water-service/water-conservation/>

The attached graphic was created by students from the school district and it graphically shows our current water situation.

Why is my Water Bill Higher? PAWSD Summary

In short, Lake Hatcher's water demand is out of sync with the water supply. The lake's water quality deteriorates as water levels decline, increasing treatment costs. To meet the increased summer demand, water from the San Juan River is used, which also increases water costs.



Water Rights

Water rights determine the order of who gets to take from the water supply. PAWSD is 12th in line for water because the people who hold older water rights so when we have a drought year there are 11 other places that get to take water before Pagosa

