

Groundwater Management Compliance

The groundwater users that will receive funding from the IRWM Implementation Grant include the following, although only the RCWD project affects groundwater:

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Project Affecting Groundwater

The proposed project that will directly affect groundwater quality is the Wellhead Treatment Facilities–Well No. 102 Project, specifically benefiting local water supply and quality in the Temecula Valley Basin and its sub basins. RCWD has provided a

Agency Responsible for Implementation of Proposed Project

The Project will be implemented by the Rancho California Water District (RCWD). RCWD has provided a completed GWMP self-certification form in **Appendix E**.

Brief Project Description

The Project will consist of construction of a wellhead treatment facility at existing Well No.102. The proposed treatment facility is required to restore reliable (potable) groundwater production from the RCWD's South Murrieta Hydrogeologic Subunit (subunit). There are three (3) existing operational wells within this subunit; Wells No. 101, 102 and 118. These wells have long suffered from poor water quality, in particular, issues with elevated Iron (Fe) and Manganese (Mn) concentrations. Recently, water quality mandates from the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) require RCWD to permanently address the elevated iron and manganese concentrations as a condition to continue potable water production.

This Project addresses that mandate and ensures that high quality local water supply can be sustained long-term from this groundwater subunit. The Project funding requested will assist RCWD in proceeding immediately to bidding and construction of the treatment facilities and allow RCWD to fully utilize and better manage the available supply from the underlying groundwater basin. The Project will facilitate the reliable and responsible use of a locally available supply, reducing the potential need for an additional 1,000 to 1,500 acre-feet per year (AFY) of non-local imported supply that is often strained by drought conditions. The Project will also concurrently enhance water quality by removal of elevated Fe and Mn concentrations.

Status of Groundwater Management Plan (GWMP) Compliance

The Temecula Valley Basin is under federal adjudication and has been since 1928, as part of the Santa Margarita River Watershed system. In 1940, a San Diego Superior Court Stipulated Judgment (“1940 Judgment”) was issued directing the use and allocation of groundwater in the region. In 1963, a Final Judgment and Decree was issued further defining the use of groundwater in the region, and in April 1966, a Modified Final Judgment and Decree (U.S. v. Fallbrook Case 1247/“Fallbrook Case”) was entered incorporating interlocutory judgments and the 1940 Stipulated Judgment. Additional actions for water use include the following: Application No. 11518 for Appropriation Permit 7032 was filed in 1946, Permit 7032 was issued in 1948 and the State Water Resources Control Board issued the Amended Permit 7032 to RCWD in 2009.

These judgments followed by years of disputes over their interpretation by multiple parties, including the Federal government (U.S. Marine Corps Camp Pendleton) over water use in the watershed basins, citing the judgments did not fully meet the needs of the parties for effective water management. Finally, after many years, a settlement agreement, “*Cooperative Water Resource Management Agreement between Camp Pendleton and Rancho California Water District*”, was reached and executed in March 2002. This agreement more effectively implements the previous judgments (1940 Judgment and Fallbrook Case) and remains in place today to manage surface water flow in the Santa Margarita River and use of the Temecula-Murrieta Basin.

Further, in December 2006, a ‘Groundwater Management Agreement between Rancho California Water District and the Pechanga Band of Luiseno Mission Indians’ was executed to govern the management of groundwater pumping from the Wolf Valley Groundwater Basin in a manner not to exceed the safe yield that protects groundwater resources in the Wolf Valley Groundwater Basin for present and future uses. The Wolf Valley Groundwater Basin is a sub-basin of the Temecula-Murrieta Basin.

Although considered an adjudicated basin based on the Court judgments, specific water rights have not been assigned and a traditional groundwater management plan has not and is not required to be prepared. Rather, the District works cooperatively with the Santa Margarita Watershed Watermaster to 1) manage the basin on a watershed-wide basis through the Court jurisdiction, using the Annual Watermaster Report, groundwater management agreement, and cooperative water resource agreement, 2) implement projects through the Upper Santa Margarita Watershed Planning Region IRWM Plan, and 3) prepare an annual groundwater hydrogeologic assessment, “*Recommended Ground Water Production*”, that continuously guides the management of the Temecula Valley Basin on a sustainable safe yield basis. As a result of the extensive litigation, the annual groundwater production report includes a comprehensive groundwater model covering the area of the region’s watershed, making the Temecula Valley Basin one of the most studied basin’s in the state.

Collectively, the Court judgments, groundwater management and cooperative agreements, RCWD’s annual groundwater production reports, Watermaster annual report, and MWD’s Groundwater Assessment Study meet the requirements of a groundwater management plan pursuant to CWC 10753.7. These documents address the following:

- Basin management objectives;
- Monitoring and management of groundwater levels;
- Monitoring of inelastic land surface subsidence;
- Monitoring protocols;
- Groundwater quality;
- Surface flows and quality;
- Map of the groundwater basin and the area subject to requirements of groundwater management; and
- Cooperatively working with public entities within the watershed and overlying the groundwater basin.