

Mojave Water Agency

Statement of Qualifications

California Statewide Groundwater Elevation Monitoring (CASGEM)

October 17, 2011

On November 4, 2009 the California Water Code was amended with SBx7-6 by the State Legislature. SBx7-6 mandates a statewide groundwater elevation monitoring program to track seasonal and long-term trends in groundwater elevations. This program requires collaboration between the Department of Water Resources (DWR) and local monitoring entities to collect groundwater elevation data. In response to SBx-7 DWR has developed the California Statewide Groundwater Elevation Monitoring (CASGEM) program to “establish a permanent, locally-managed program of regular and systematic monitoring in all of California’s alluvial groundwater basins.” (CASGEM, 2011) Mojave Water Agency (MWA) has assumed responsibility, via the CASGEM Program, for monitoring many such groundwater basins within the Mojave Desert. This document states the ability and qualifications of MWA to conduct groundwater monitoring functions as a contributing monitoring entity of the CASGEM Program.

As stated in the MWA 2004 Integrated Regional Management Program, “The Mojave Water Agency (MWA) was formed in 1959 by an act of the California Legislature and was activated by a vote of the residents in 1960 to manage declining groundwater levels... Teaming with U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), MWA has constructed monitoring wells to measure groundwater quality and water levels.” (MWA, 2005) MWA and the USGS cooperatively maintain an active monitoring network which includes hundreds of regularly monitored wells. The data collected from these wells have been and will continue to be used to “track seasonal and long-term trends in groundwater elevations.” (CASGEM, 2011)

MWA follows strict defensible protocols in field data collection. As part of MWA’s cooperation with the USGS, MWA field staff is trained and audited annually on data collection techniques by the USGS. The audit focusses on water quality sampling, an essential component of which includes measuring groundwater levels. As a result of this training, the USGS has found that “MWA personnel once again demonstrated sound, defensible water-quality techniques. Water-quality data collection adhered to USGS protocols.” (USGS, 2010). MWA will continue to follow strict defensible protocols in data collection in its’ ongoing monitoring efforts and participation in the CASGEM Program.

REFERENCES

CASGEM, 2011, California Statewide Groundwater Elevation Monitoring (CASGEM), Website: <http://www.water.ca.gov/groundwater/casgem/>, accessed October 13, 2011

MWA (Mojave Water Agency) & Schlumberger Water Services, 2005, Mojave Water Agency 2004 Regional Water Management Plan, Integrated Regional Water Management Plan, Groundwater Management Plan, Urban Water Management Plan, Volume 1: Report, September 2004, Adopted February 24, 2005.

USGS (Ronald Fay), 2010, United States Government Memorandum, Date: September 14, 2010, Reply to Attn of: Ronald G. Fay, Subject: Mojave Water Agency water-quality training and field review August 25-26, 2010, To: The record.



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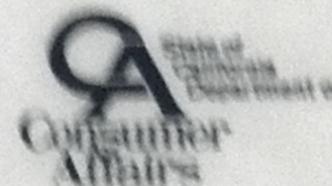


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