



Attachment 3 consists of the following items:

✓ **Status of GWMP**

Below is a statement explaining why the Rancho California Water District is proposing to develop a GWMP for the Temecula Valley Groundwater Basin.

Rancho California Water District (RCWD) proposes to develop a GWMP for the Temecula Valley Basin (Basin) for the following reasons:

Development of the Temecula Valley Basin Groundwater Management Plan

RCWD receives groundwater from the Basin, which underlies several valleys in southwestern Riverside County and a portion of northern San Diego County, within the Santa Margarita River Watershed. Two aquifers within the Basin – the Pauba aquifer and the Temecula aquifer – include eight underlying groundwater basins, which are based upon surface water hydrology subbasins.

The Basin has been governed under court jurisdiction 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 Basin.

RCWD has developed agency agreements with the majority of the landowners within RCWD’s service area that operate groundwater wells. These agreements designate RCWD as the exclusive agent for the development and management of water supply.

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 Valley Groundwater Basin.

To further manage water in the region, a Watermaster was assigned by the court to oversee all uses within the Santa Margarita River Watershed, which includes three groundwater basins: the Santa Margarita Groundwater Basin, the Anza Groundwater Basin, and the Temecula Valley Groundwater Basin. These basins underlie portions of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California member agency service areas of San Diego County Water Authority, EMWD and WMWD, and the Pechanga Indian Reservation overlies some of the southwestern part of the Basin. The Watermaster works cooperatively with a steering committee comprised of entities within the watershed and overlying the groundwater basins. The Watermaster prepares the "Santa Margarita Watershed Annual Watermaster Report", which provides annual reporting of water conditions in the watershed, but does not manage the groundwater basins. The Annual Watermaster Report, prepared pursuant to the U.S. District Court Order, March 13, 1989, includes information on surface and subsurface water, imports and exports, water rights, water production and use, threats to water supply, water quality, review of agreements, and Watermaster five-year projection of activities. The Court has retained jurisdiction over all surface flows of the Santa Margarita River Watershed and all underground waters determined by the Court to be subsurface flow of streams or creeks or which is determined by the Court to add to, support or contribute to the Santa Margarita River stream system. Local vagrant groundwaters that do not support the Santa Margarita River stream system are outside the Court jurisdiction.

SDCWA and EMWD do not pump groundwater from the Basin. WMWD pumps groundwater in the old Murrieta County Water District (now part of WMWD) area, the northern portion of the Basin considered Murrieta Valley, for use by their retail water customers overlying that area. While RCWD does not have formal agreements related to WMWD groundwater pumping, RCWD and WMWD share groundwater management data and jointly participate in annual groundwater audit and budgeting activities. In addition, both EMWD and WMWD sit on the seven-member SMR Watermaster Steering Committee, along with RCWD, MWD, Pechanga, Fallbrook Public Utilities District and U.S. Marine Corps Camp Pendleton. Since WMWD's groundwater pumping is fairly small and confined to serving a small retail area and is not anticipated to change, RCWD along with others in the Basin aren't too concerned since demand in that area has always been supplied by groundwater, predominantly by private agricultural pumpers in the past. All significant groundwater pumpers were accounted for in the federal Case 1247 including those private agricultural pumpers in the Murrieta Valley area who were exercising overlying groundwater rights at the time.

Although considered an adjudicated basin based on the judgments, specific water rights have not been assigned and a traditional groundwater management plan has not been prepared. RCWD works cooperatively with the 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 RCWD and/or the Upper Santa Margarita Watershed Planning Region Integrated Regional Water Management Plan, and 3) prepare an annual groundwater hydrogeologic assessment, "*Recommended Ground Water Production*", that continuously guides the management of the 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 Groundwater Basin one of the most studied basin's in the state; yet without a groundwater management plan.

The Basin is also included in Metropolitan Water District of Southern California's Groundwater Assessment Study (September 2007), which the District also utilizes to help manage the Basin.

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 an "equivalent groundwater management plan" pursuant to CWC 10753.7. However, they have not been adopted formally as a GWMP.

While these documents address the following, RCWD proposes to develop, through a stakeholder process, and formally adopt a GWMP in accordance with AB 3030 to address all of the following in a functional plan to manage the Basin:

- 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.

Based on recent resolution of the lengthy and extensive litigation in the watershed on water rights and use, RCWD will seek to work cooperatively with the entities in the affected groundwater basin area toward bringing together the components of the documents listed below that govern surface and groundwater management in the watershed into a single groundwater management plan, while understanding the governing Court documents and agreements remain the authoritative jurisdiction.

Appendix A, provided on CD due to the large volume of pages, contains copies of the following referenced documents:

1. Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, Final Groundwater Assessment Study, September 2007
2. Santa Margarita River Watershed Annual Watermaster Report, Water Year 2009-10, Charles W. Binder, Watermaster, September 2011
3. Recommended Ground Water Production, Fiscal Year July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013, Rancho California Water District, January 10, 2012
4. Permit for Diversion and Use of Water, Amended Permit 7032, Temecula Creek/Santa Margarita River for use in Vail Lake and District M&I by Rancho California Water District, April 22, 2009 and 1946 Application to Appropriate Unappropriated Water.
5. Groundwater Management Agreement, Rancho California and Pechanga Band of Luiseno Mission Indians, December 21, 2006
6. Cooperative Water Resource Management Agreement between Camp Pendleton and Rancho California Water District, March 2002.

Appendix A

Att3_LGA12_GWMP_2of7, 3of7, 4of7, and 5of7:

- Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, Final Groundwater Assessment Study, September 2007

Att3_LGA12_GWMP_6of7:

- Santa Margarita River Watershed Annual Watermaster Report, Water Year 2009-10, Charles W. Binder, Watermaster, September 2011
- Recommended Ground Water Production, Fiscal Year July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013, Rancho California Water District, January 10, 2012
- Permit for Diversion and Use of Water, Amended Permit 7032, Temecula Creek/Santa Margarita River for use in Vail Lake and District M&I by Rancho California Water District, April 22, 2009 and 1946 Application to Appropriate Unappropriated Water.
- Cooperative Water Resource Management Agreement between Camp Pendleton and Rancho California Water District, March 2002.

Att3_LGA12_GWMP_7of7:

- Groundwater Management Agreement, Rancho California and Pechanga Band of Luiseno Mission Indians, December 21, 2006