Attachment 4

Project Description

Background

The Six Basins are a group of adjacent groundwater basins, located just south of the San Gabriel Mountains in eastern Los Angeles and western San Bernardino Counties (see Figure 1). The groundwater basins are separated by geologic faults that act as partial barriers to groundwater flow. Groundwater is pumped from the Six Basins primarily by public water agencies and mutual water companies that supply water for municipal uses (see Figure 2). The main source of groundwater replenishment is surface water runoff of precipitation that falls on the San Gabriel Mountains and recharges at spreading grounds located along the foot of the mountain range— predominantly at the San Antonio Spreading Grounds (see Figure 2). The water agencies also use imported surface water from the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California for direct uses or for artificial recharge at the spreading grounds.

The pumping rights from the Six Basins were adjudicated in 1998 through a stipulated judgment (Judgment) in the Superior Court of California for the County of Los Angeles. The Judgment prescribes a physical solution for the coordinated management of the Six Basins with the objective that the parties to the Judgment can reliably pump their respective rights and maximize the beneficial use of groundwater. The Judgment also established the Six Basins Watermaster (Watermaster) to implement the physical solution. The Court maintains continuing jurisdiction over the Judgment.

The Judgment is the Groundwater Management Plan (GWMP) for the Six Basins. The main components of the Judgment include the establishment of:

- a Safe Yield of 19,300 acre-ft per year of annual groundwater pumping
- an Operating Safe Yield (OSY) that is determined annually by the Watermaster (17,500 acre-ft for 2012), which is based on the Safe Yield and the current/expected recharge, pumping, and groundwater levels
- the allocation of base annual production rights to the individual Watermaster parties
- Carryover Rights which allow certain unused production rights to be carried over to the subsequent operating year
- the rules and methods for "replacing" groundwater pumped in excess of a party's share of the OSY
- the rules and responsibilities for the continued replenishment of the Six Basins with native surface flows from the San Gabriel Mountains
- monitoring and mitigation measures to protect against the threat of rising groundwater
- guidelines for entering into Storage and Recovery agreements
- the governance structure and rules to conduct and fund Watermaster actions and activities

The Watermaster is a committee of representatives of the parties to the Judgment, which include:

Three Valleys Municipal Water District – the main imported water wholesaler to the Six Basins

Pomona Valley Protective Association – a non-profit corporation that is responsible for conducting replenishment activities at the spreading grounds at the direction of the Watermaster

Golden State Water Company – an investor-owned public utility that serves water in the Six Basins to the City of Claremont

City of Claremont – a City that overlies the Six Basins and has executed an agreement with Golden State Water Company with regard to its groundwater rights

City of La Verne – a municipal water purveyor in the Six Basins

City of Pomona – a municipal water purveyor in the Six Basins

City of Upland – a municipal water purveyor in the Six Basins

Pomona College – an educational corporation that has executed an agreement with Golden State Water Company with regard to its groundwater rights

San Antonio Water Company – a mutual water corporation that pumps groundwater from the Six Basins for use by its shareholders

West End Consolidated Water Company – a mutual water corporation that pumps groundwater from the Six Basins for use by its shareholders

The Watermaster convenes monthly to conduct its business and prepares an annual budget and assessment to fund its operations and activities. The Watermaster maintains a website for the purpose of disseminating important documents and data (meeting agendas and minutes, production and water-level elevation data, guiding documents, Watermaster forms, etc.) to the parties, other stakeholders, and the interested public at www.6bwm.com.

The Strategic Plan for the Six Basins

The Watermaster parties have about 13 years of experience with the Judgment and implementing its physical solution. Some parties have raised questions and concerns about the current rules, regulations, agreements, and practices of Watermaster. In particular, the Watermaster parties desire a stronger technical basis for the determination of storage and recovery agreements (size and rules), the annual determination of OSY, and the rights to pump unproduced groundwater from the prior year. Because of these and other concerns, the Watermaster parties collectively agreed to enhance the management of the Six Basins beyond the execution of the Judgment, and in 2012, the parties initiated the development of a Strategic Plan for the Six Basins. The Watermaster parties envision that the Strategic Plan may result in amendments to the Judgment and a new integrated management plan for the Six Basins.

The work being performed this year (2012) has been termed Phase 1 of the Strategic Plan and is aimed at defining the goals and objectives of the stakeholders, describing the water demands and supplies of the Six Basins, and describing the physical state of the Six Basins (e.g. surface-water availability and quality, recharge, groundwater production, groundwater quality,

groundwater levels, basin boundaries and groundwater barriers, aquifer geometry and aquifer properties, groundwater flow, etc.).

To date, the stakeholders' goals include:

- maintaining and/or improving the OSY of the Six Basins
- maintaining and/or improving groundwater quality—especially in areas where beneficial uses of groundwater are constrained by poor quality
- minimizing groundwater losses due to rising groundwater and/or subsurface outflow to the Chino Basin
- optimizing management of the Six Basins such that all Watermaster parties can reliably pump their share of the OSY
- when and where possible, providing a local water supply to neighboring areas with compensation equally shared by the Watermaster parties
- implementing monitoring programs and improving the hydrogeologic understanding of the Six Basins to help achieve these goals

Phase 2 of the Strategic Plan will begin in 2013 and will be aimed at developing and evaluating the specific components of the Strategic Plan (e.g. project alternatives) to achieve the objectives of the stakeholders.

Evaluation of the Strategic Plan through Computer-Simulation Modeling

Based on what is known and the current work underway, there is a clear and pressing need to predict and evaluate the long-term effects of implementation of the Strategic Plan. This evaluation, which will occur during Phase 2, is necessary to assure that the objectives of the stakeholders will be achieved and, ultimately, to support Federal, State, and/or local environmental compliance work. This evaluation will require the use of computer-simulation models of surface water and groundwater to predict the long-term effects of implementing the Strategic Plan.

The most current computer-simulation model of the Six Basins area was upgraded and re-calibrated by Camp, Dresser, and McKee (CDM, 2006) to assess mitigation alternatives for rising groundwater in the Six Basins. This model is a finite-element model that is proprietary to CDM and not in the public domain.

Finite-element models are no longer industry-standard models. The United States Geological Survey's finite-difference model, MODFLOW, is now considered the *de facto* standard code for aquifer simulations. MODFLOW is a computer code that solves the equation for groundwater flow through aquifers. It is free, written primarily in Fortran, and can compile and run on DOS, Windows, or Unix-like operating systems.

A highly-sophisticated and peer-reviewed MODFLOW model was developed by Wildermuth Environmental, Inc. (WEI) for the Chino Basin Watermaster (WEI, 2007). This model simulates groundwater flow within the adjacent and down-gradient Chino Basin. WEI employs a sophisticated surface-water runoff, routing, and recharge model to provide input data for areal recharge to the MODFLOW model. Figure 3 shows the Chino Basin model domain relative to the Six Basins.

The goal of this proposal is to develop, calibrate, and use a new computer-simulation groundwater-flow model of the Six Basins to evaluate the project alternatives of the Strategic Plan currently being developed. The new model will use MODFLOW and will be joined to the existing Chino Basin model to more accurately simulate important groundwater and surface-water interactions between the Six Basins and the Chino Basin. These interactions are not well understood—improved understanding will be critical to implementing cooperative conjunctive-use projects between the two basins. Such cooperative projects may be a component of the Strategic Plan.

Technical Approach

The accuracy and usefulness of computer-simulation modeling of groundwater basins is highly dependent on the availability and quality of the input data and the methods employed by the modeling team. The technical approach described herein was successfully applied in the development, calibration, and use of the MODFLOW model of the Chino Basin (WEI, 2007). The technical approach is described in detail in the Work Plan (Attachment 5) and summarized below:

(i) *Develop a Conceptual Model of the Six Basins Area.* All necessary data, information, and reports will be collected and compiled. Some of these data are being collected and compiled during Phase 1 (2012) to characterize the physical state of the Six Basins. The existing finite-element model of the Six Basins will be collected and analyzed for useful data and information. The conceptual model consists of a detailed description of its hydrogeology, a description of the groundwater flow systems, and a comprehensive description of the hydrology of the Six Basins area (hydrologic budget). While described individually, there is strong interdependence, and each component must be developed being cognizant of others. Iterating among these efforts is the norm. First, the geology, hydrostratigraphy, and flow systems are developed, and initial estimates of aquifer properties are developed. Next, the hydrology of the Six Basins area is described and the individual recharge and discharge components are estimated for the Historical Period. The term Historical Period, as used in this proposal, is assumed to be equal to or greater than the calibration period. The intent is to review the readily available data and to characterize the hydrology for a reasonable long period. The calibration period will be selected as a subset of the Historical Period and will end in 2012. The hydrologic budget will be developed for the Historical Period, and the calibration period will be selected as long as possible within the Historical Period and ending in 2012. The conceptual model will be more detailed than the industry standard, which will allow for a more direct translation into the numerical model and fewer surprises in numerical model implementation. The deliverable for this task will be a technical memorandum, titled the *Conceptual Model Report*, and will include detailed text, tables, and graphics that describe and document the conceptual model. This report will also contain recommendations for the numerical model design, including the model domain, layering, anticipated range of aquifer and aquitard properties, and a detailed description of the hydrology and an initial hydrologic budget for the Six Basins Area.

(ii) *Build and Calibrate the Numerical Groundwater-Flow Model.* The objectives of this task are to build and calibrate a numerical groundwater-flow model that reproduces the observed changes in groundwater levels and flows over the calibration period. This task will use the results of the conceptual model to build a 3-dimensional groundwater-flow model of the Six Basins and to perform both steady-state and transient flow calibrations. Essentially, this effort is an expansion of the Chino Basin MODFLOW model to include the up-gradient Six Basins. The deliverable for this task will be a technical memorandum that describes and documents the numerical model and its calibration.

(iii) *Develop and Evaluate a Baseline Alternative.* The Baseline Alternative will be a description of the future uncoordinated plans of pumpers in the Six Basins (i.e. pumping in the absence of the Strategic Plan). Various metrics will be used to evaluate the Baseline Alternative, including, at a minimum: changes in groundwater levels (average groundwater-level change over time by model layer by water management agency, time histories at key wells, differences in pumping energy in each water management agency service area), changes in surface water discharge in areas where surface and groundwater interact, and changes in subsurface inflow and outflow at boundaries. The deliverable for this task will be a technical memorandum that describes and documents the evaluation of the Baseline Alternative.

(iv) *Develop and Evaluate Four Alternatives of the Strategic Plan.* Various project alternatives will be developed during Phase 2 of the Strategic Plan process. These project alternatives are currently undefined but may include expanded storage and recovery programs, pump-and-treat facilities and strategies to put poor-quality groundwater to beneficial use, and/or conjunctive-use projects that include the Six Basins and Chino Basin as groundwater storage reservoirs, among others. The same metrics used to evaluate the Baseline Alternative will be used to comparatively evaluate the project alternatives against the Baseline Alternative and against each other. The deliverable for this task will be a technical memorandum that describes and documents the comparative evaluations of the project alternatives.

(v) *Prepare Final Report.* The technical memoranda prepared in the first four tasks will be compiled into a final report along with conclusions and recommendations.

Collaboration with Other Local Public Agencies

The TVMWD and the Watermaster are partners in this grant application. The TVMWD is the formal applicant and proposed administrator of the grant and Watermaster will be the lead agency conducting the project. The TVMWD is a municipal water district and is a party of the Watermaster. The TVMWD collaborates with other parties through the Watermaster process, which includes monthly meetings and workshops and the joint funding of Watermaster's operations and activities.

Strategic Plan workshops are held after each monthly meeting of the Watermaster Board and Advisory Committee. All technical memoranda and the final report will be presented at the workshops and will be published on the Watermaster's website (www.6bwm.com). At a

minimum, updates on the progress to develop, calibrate, and use the numerical model will be given at the monthly Watermaster meetings. The technical consultant that executes the project will present the final report at an annual meeting of the Association of California Water Agencies and at a technical meeting of the Groundwater Resources Association of California. A representative from the TVMWD also attends the monthly meetings of the neighboring Chino Basin Watermaster and the Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster. This representative is given the opportunity to update these Watermasters with information on TVMWD's activities, and will take such opportunities to inform them of the progress on this particular project.

As evidenced by the attached letters of support, the Watermaster parties are eager move forward with this project and work towards the achievement of the Strategic Plan goals and objectives.

Ongoing Use of the Model and Funding Mechanisms

The MODFLOW model developed for this project will be a key tool in the ongoing management of the Six Basins and the implementation of the Strategic Plan. Ongoing work will include periodic re-calibration of the model (likely on a five-year interval, or as needed) and the addition of a water-quality module to simulate the fate and transport of constituents of concern.

The data needed for future model re-calibration and/or the addition and calibration of a water-quality module are collected on an annual basis by the Watermaster as part of its annual operating plan. These data, which include groundwater production, groundwater levels, groundwater quality, and new well construction information, are managed by Watermaster, using an interactive water-resources and environmental data-management tool, Hydrologic Database and Visual Explanations (HydroDaVE). HydroDaVE is a fully interactive, client-server application capable of storing and rapidly displaying data both spatially and temporally. Funding for ongoing data collection and management is included in the Watermaster's Annual Assessment. In 2012, Watermaster's annual operating budget included about $55,000 for data collection, data management, and the maintenance of Watermaster's monitoring facilities. A similar funding level is anticipated for calendar year 2013 and beyond.

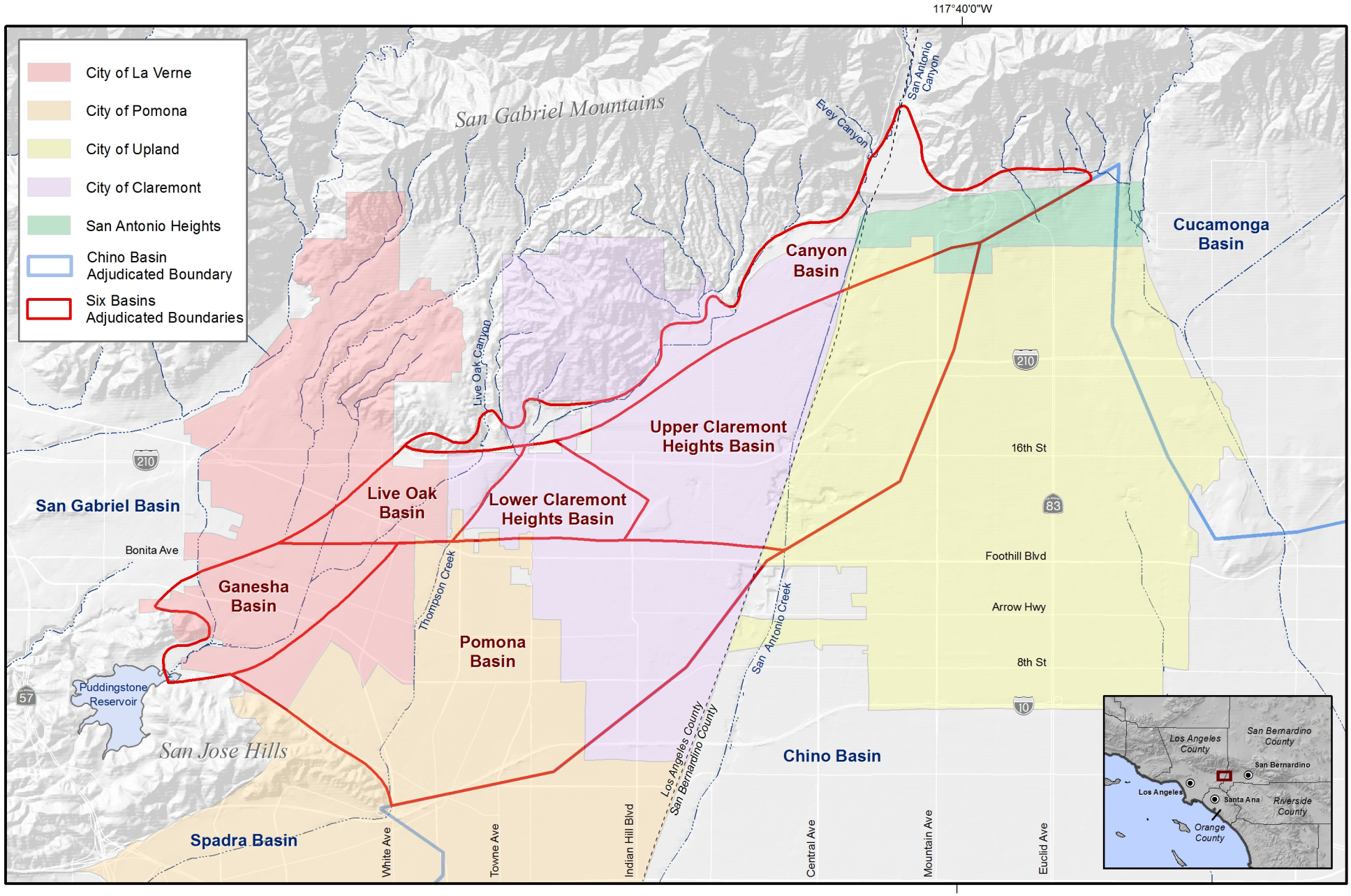
It is very likely that the model results for this project (and results from future use of the model) will reveal areas where additional groundwater-monitoring facilities are needed. And, data collected from such new monitoring facilities would be supplied to the DWR for CASGEM compliance. Essentially, into the future, the monitoring network can continually be improved, as needed, based on model results and analysis.

Future model recalibrations will be funded through annual Watermaster Assessments for capital projects. It is very likely that Watermaster will jointly fund future model re-calibrations with the Chino Basin Watermaster.

References

CDM. 2006. *Mitigation Alternatives to Rising Groundwater Study*. Prepared for the Three Valleys Municipal Water District.

Wildermuth Environmental, Inc. 2007. *2007 CBWM Groundwater Model Documentation and Evaluation of the Peace II Project Description*. Prepared for the Chino Basin Watermaster.



Produced by:

WILDERMUTH ENVIRONMENTAL INC.

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www.wildermuthenvironmental.com

Author: ETL

Date: 20120711

File: Figure 1.mxd

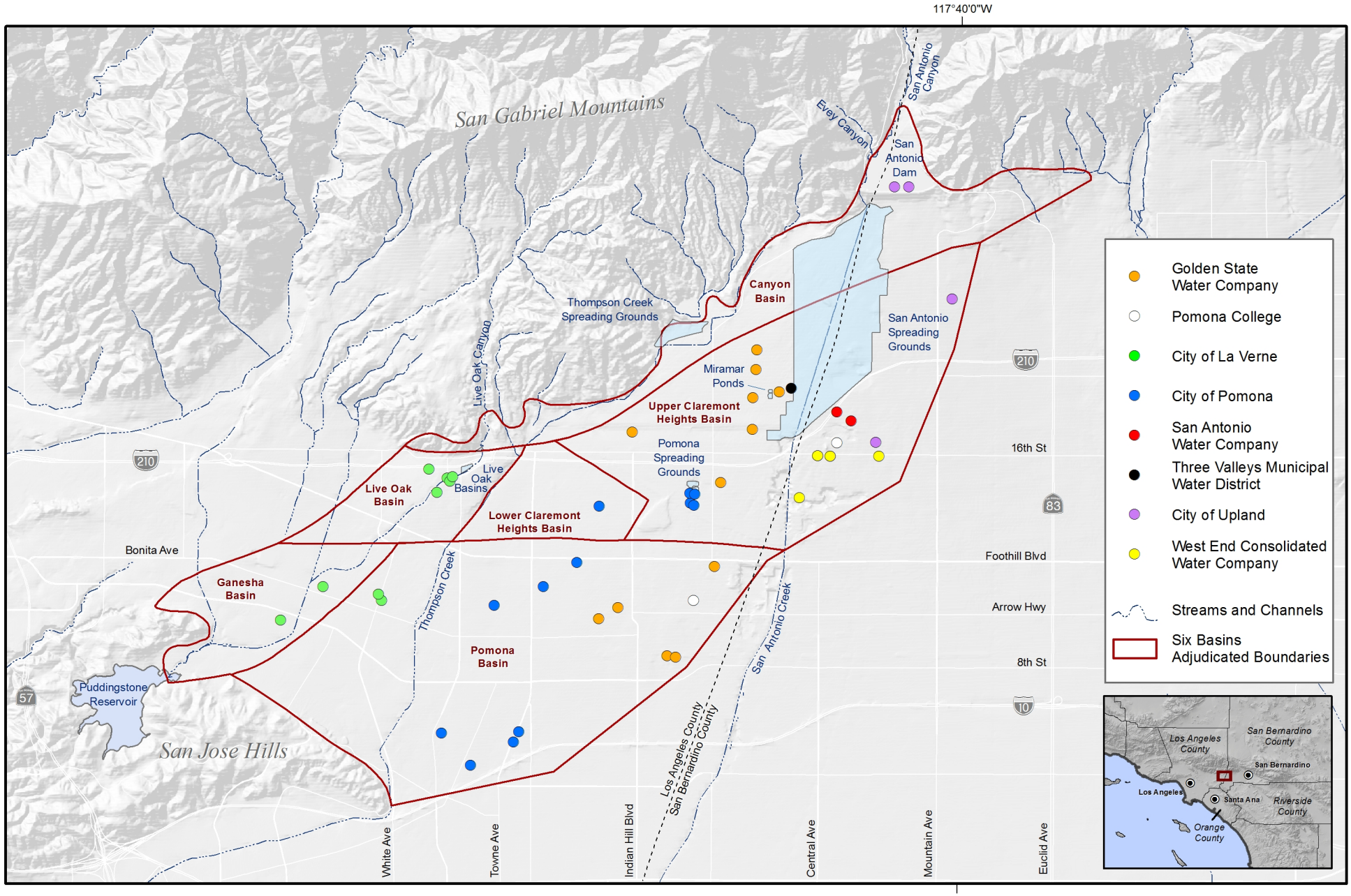
0 1 2 Miles

0 2 4 Kilometers

Location Map

Six Basins Area

Figure 1



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www.wildermuthenvironmental.com

Author: ETL

Date: 20120711

File: Figure 2.mxd

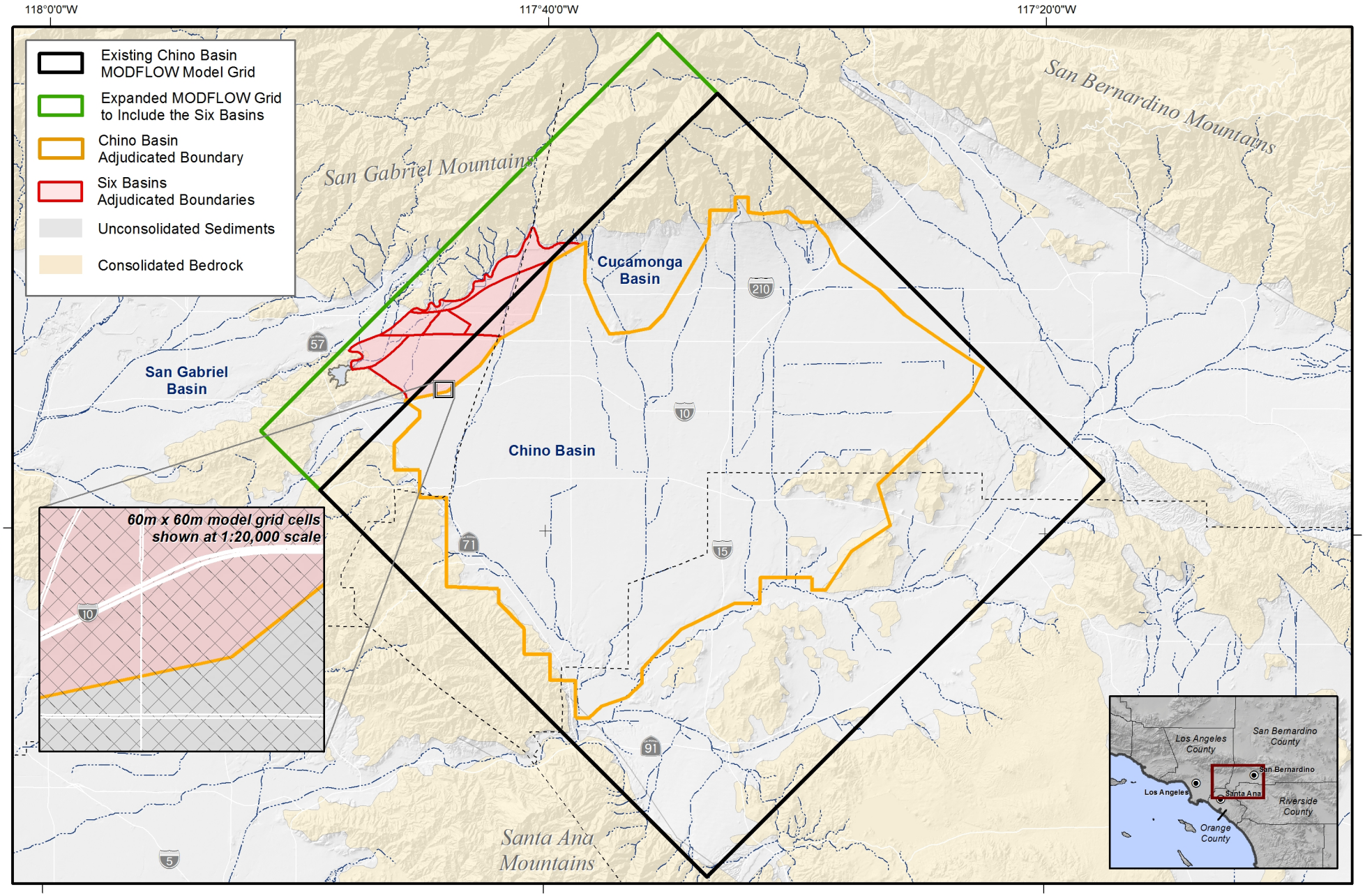
0 1 2 Miles

0 2 4 Kilometers

Well Location Map

Active Production Wells by Agency

Figure 2



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Author: ETL

Date: 20120711

File: Figure 3.mxd

0 2 4 6 8 10 Miles

0 5 10 15 Kilometers

Map of Model Grids

Six Basins Area

Figure 3

CITY OF CLAREMONT

Tony Ramos, City Manager

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City Manager • (909) 399-5441
City Clerk • (909) 399-5460
Community Information • (909) 399-5497
Personnel • (909) 399-5450
Technology • (909) 399-5462

July 10, 2012

Tom Lutterman
California Department of Water Resources
Division of Integrated Regional Water Management
Regional Planning Branch
Post Office Box 942836
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001

Subject: Support of the Three Valleys Municipal Water District's application to the Local Groundwater Assistance Program for the *Development and Use of a Numerical Groundwater-Flow Model of the Six Basins*

Dear Mr. Lutterman:

As a party to the Six Basins Watermaster (Watermaster) and a local agency dependent upon groundwater from the Six Basins, the City of Claremont supports the Three Valleys Municipal Water District's (TVMWD's) application to the Local Groundwater Assistance (LGA) Program for the *Development and Use of a Numerical Groundwater-Flow Model of the Six Basins*. The development, calibration, and use of computer-simulation tools to evaluate local groundwater management activities is a project that is key to the success of the region's long-term plans for local water-supply reliability.

The Watermaster is currently developing a Strategic Plan for the Six Basins. Work being performed this year (2012) has been termed Phase 1 of the Strategic Plan and is aimed at defining the goals and objectives of the stakeholders and the Strategic Plan, describing the water demands and supplies of the Six Basins, and describing the physical water resources of the area. Phase 2 of the Strategic Plan will begin in 2013, and will be aimed at developing the components of the Strategic Plan to achieve the goals and objectives of the stakeholders which broadly include: maximizing the use of local groundwater, increasing stormwater recharge, optimizing the use of groundwater storage capacity, improving groundwater quality, and creating a stable planning environment to develop water-resources management activities.

There is a clear need to predict and evaluate the long-term effects of the implementation of the Strategic Plan to assure that the objectives of the stakeholders will be achieved and to support Federal, State, and/or local environmental compliance work. To ensure success, this evaluation should include the use of computer-simulation tools of surface water and groundwater to predict the long-term effects of implementation of the Strategic Plan on local groundwater resources.

The City of Claremont supports the mission of the LGA Grant Program and believes that the TVMWD's proposal is a great example of a project that will improve groundwater resource management on a local and regional scale. The TVMWD provided exemplary technical and administrative services to the Watermaster between 1999 and 2011 and we are confident that they will successfully manage the scope of work and budget described in the grant proposal.

Sincerely,

Tony Ramos
City Manager
City of Claremont

V:/Ctudor/Water/LetterofSupport

CITY OF LA VERNE
CITY HALL
3660 "D" Street, La Verne, California 91750-3599
www.ci.la-verne.ca.us

July 9, 2012

Mr. Tom Lutterman
California Department of Water Resources
Division of Integrated Regional Water Management
Regional Planning Branch
Post Office Box 942836
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001

Re: Support of the Three Valleys Municipal Water District's Application to the Local Groundwater Assistance Program for the Development and Use of a Numerical Groundwater-Flow Model of the Six Basins

Dear Mr. Lutterman:

As Director of Public Works for the City of La Verne, which is a party to the Six Basins Watermaster (Watermaster) and a local agency dependent upon groundwater from the Six Basins, I fully support the Three Valleys Municipal Water District's (TVMWD's) application to the Local Groundwater Assistance (LGA) Program for the *Development and Use of a Numerical Groundwater-Flow Model of the Six Basins*. The development, calibration, and use of computer-simulation tools to evaluate local groundwater management activities are a project that is critical to the success of the region's long-term plans for local water-supply reliability.

The Watermaster is currently developing a Strategic Plan for the Six Basins. Work being performed this year (2012) has been termed Phase 1 of the Strategic Plan and is aimed at defining the goals and objectives of the stakeholders and the Strategic Plan, describing the water demands and supplies of the Six Basins, and describing the physical water resources of the area. Phase 2 of the Strategic Plan will begin in 2013, and will be aimed at developing the components of the Strategic Plan necessary to achieve the goals and objectives of the stakeholders that broadly include: (1) maximizing the use of local groundwater, (2) increasing stormwater recharge, (3) optimizing the use of

groundwater storage capacity, (4) improving groundwater quality, and (5) creating a stable planning environment to develop water-resources management activities.

There is a clear need to predict and evaluate the long-term effects of the implementation of the Strategic Plan to assure that the objectives of the stakeholders will be achieved and to support Federal, State, and/or local environmental compliance work. To ensure success, this evaluation should include the use of computer-simulation tools of surface water and groundwater to predict the long-term effects of implementation of the Strategic Plan on local groundwater resources.

I support the mission of the LGA Grant Program and believe that TVMWD's proposal is a great example of a project that will improve groundwater resource management on a local and regional scale. The TVMWD provided exemplary technical and administrative services to the Watermaster between 1999 and 2011 and we are confident that they will successfully manage the scope of work and budget described in the grant proposal.

If you should have any other questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me. I can be reached Monday through Thursday between 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. at (909) 596-8741 or via email at dkeesey@ci.la-verne.ca.us.

Sincerely,

Daniel W. Keesey
Director of Public Works

C:\DWK\Letters\LTR CDWR re TVMWD LGA.doc

Golden State
Water Company
A Subsidiary of American States Water Company

July 9, 2012

Tom Lutterman
California Department of Water Resources
Division of Integrated Regional Water Management
Regional Planning Branch
Post Office Box 942836
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001

Subject: Support of the Three Valleys Municipal Water District's application to the Local Groundwater Assistance Program for the *Development and Use of a Numerical Groundwater-Flow Model of the Six Basins*

Dear Mr. Lutterman:

As a party to the Six Basins Watermaster (Watermaster) and a local agency dependent upon groundwater from the Six Basins, the Golden State Water Company supports the Three Valleys Municipal Water District's (TVMWD's) application to the Local Groundwater Assistance (LGA) Program for the *Development and Use of a Numerical Groundwater-Flow Model of the Six Basins*. The development, calibration, and use of computer-simulation tools to evaluate local groundwater management activities is a project that is key to the success of the region's long-term plans for local water-supply reliability.

The Watermaster is currently developing a Strategic Plan for the Six Basins. Work being performed this year (2012) has been termed Phase 1 of the Strategic Plan and is aimed at defining the goals and objectives of the stakeholders and the Strategic Plan, describing the water demands and supplies of the Six Basins, and describing the physical water resources of the area. Phase 2 of the Strategic Plan will begin in 2013, and will be aimed at developing the components of the Strategic Plan to achieve the goals and objectives of the stakeholders which broadly include: maximizing the use of local groundwater, increasing stormwater recharge, optimizing the use of groundwater storage capacity, improving groundwater quality, and creating a stable planning environment to develop water-resources management activities.

There is a clear need to predict and evaluate the long-term effects of the implementation of the Strategic Plan to assure that the objectives of the stakeholders will be achieved and to support Federal, State, and/or local environmental compliance work. To ensure success, this evaluation should include the use of computer-simulation tools of surface water and groundwater to predict the long-term effects of implementation of the Strategic Plan on local groundwater resources.

401 S. San Dimas Canyon Road, San Dimas, CA 91773
Tel: (909) 592-4271 Fax: (909) 592-6690

July 29, 2011

Golden State Water Company supports the mission of the LGA Grant Program and believes that the TVMWD's proposal is a great example of a project that will improve groundwater resource management on a local and regional scale. The TVMWD provided exemplary technical and administrative services to the Watermaster between 1999 and 2011 and we are confident that they will successfully manage the scope of work and budget described in the grant proposal.

Sincerely,

Benjamin Lewis, Jr.
District Manager

San Antonio Water Company

Incorporated October 25, 1882

Serving the original Ontario Colony lands

July 9, 2012

Tom Lutterman
California Department of Water Resources
Division of Integrated Regional Water Management
Regional Planning Branch
Post Office Box 942836
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001

Subject: Support of the Three Valleys Municipal Water District's application to the Local Groundwater Assistance Program for the *Development and Use of a Numerical Groundwater-Flow Model of the Six Basins*

Dear Mr. Lutterman:

As a party to the Six Basins Watermaster (Watermaster) and a local agency dependent upon groundwater from the Six Basins, the San Antonio Water Company supports the Three Valleys Municipal Water District's (TVMWD's) application to the Local Groundwater Assistance (LGA) Program for the *Development and Use of a Numerical Groundwater-Flow Model of the Six Basins*. The development, calibration, and use of computer-simulation tools to evaluate local groundwater management activities is a project that is key to the success of the region's long-term plans for local water-supply reliability.

The Watermaster is currently developing a Strategic Plan for the Six Basins. Work being performed this year (2012) has been termed Phase 1 of the Strategic Plan and is aimed at defining the goals and objectives of the stakeholders and the Strategic Plan, describing the water demands and supplies of the Six Basins, and describing the physical water resources of the area. Phase 2 of the Strategic Plan will begin in 2013, and will be aimed at developing the components of the Strategic Plan to achieve the goals and objectives of the stakeholders which broadly include: maximizing the use of local groundwater, increasing stormwater recharge, optimizing the use of groundwater storage capacity, improving groundwater quality, and creating a stable planning environment to develop water-resources management activities.

There is a clear need to predict and evaluate the long-term effects of the implementation of the Strategic Plan to assure that the objectives of the stakeholders will be achieved and to support Federal, State, and/or local environmental compliance work. To ensure success, this evaluation should include the use of computer-simulation tools of surface water and groundwater to predict the long-term effects of implementation of the Strategic Plan on local groundwater resources.

San Antonio Water Company supports the mission of the LGA Grant Program and believes that the TVMWD's proposal is a great example of a project that will improve groundwater resource management on a local and regional scale. The TVMWD provided technical and administrative services to the Watermaster between 1999 and 2011 and we are confident the scope of work and budget described in the grant proposal will be successfully managed.

Sincerely,

Charles Moorrees
San Antonio Water Company

139 North Euclid Avenue • Upland, California 91786 • 909.982.4107 • Fax 909.920.3047 • Website: sawaterco.com