

California Department of Water Resources



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HAYFIELD GROUNDWATER STORAGE AGREEMENT SIGNED

SACRAMENTO - The Department of Water Resources and the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California have signed an agreement providing \$35 million in State funding to MWD for design and construction of the Hayfield Groundwater Storage and Dry-Year Supply Project. The funding is to be used for installation of recharge, extraction, and distribution facilities for a groundwater conjunctive use program in the Hayfield basin, east of the City of Indio, near MWD's Julian Hinds Pumping Plant.

The project will recharge approximately 150,000 acre-feet per year of Colorado River water, when surplus water is available, to groundwater storage. The stored water will be extracted in dry years for delivery to MWD's service area via the Colorado River Aqueduct.

The funding was authorized by 1998 State legislation intended to help implement projects or programs specified in California's Colorado River Water Use Plan. The Plan, available at <http://www.crb.ca.gov>, describes actions California will take to reduce its use of Colorado River water from historical levels of more than 5 million acre-feet annually to California's basic interstate allocation of 4.4 MAF.

California has historically been able to use part of the water apportioned to Nevada and Arizona, but those states are now taking their full apportionments. In the absence of hydrologic conditions making surplus water available, MWD's Colorado River water supplies would be reduced by about half at the 4.4 MAF basic apportionment level.

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The Department of Water Resources operates and maintains the State Water Project, provides dam safety and flood control and inspection services, assists local water districts in water management and water conservation planning, and plans for future statewide water needs.

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