



**SAN BERNARDINO
VALLEY** | A REGIONAL WATER
AGENCY SINCE 1954

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS WORKSHOP - RESOURCES/ENGINEERING
2:00 pm Tuesday, March 12, 2024**

In Person:

380 East Vanderbilt Way
San Bernardino, CA 92408

Online via Zoom:

<https://sbvmwd.zoom.us/j/82492309440>

Meeting ID: 824 9230 9440

PASSCODE: 3802020

By Telephone:

Dial-in Info: (877) 853 5247 US Toll-free

Meeting ID: 824 9230 9440

PASSCODE: 3802020

If you are unable to participate online or by telephone, you may also submit your comments and questions in writing for the District's consideration by sending them to comments@sbvmwd.com with the subject line "Public Comment Item #" (insert the agenda item number relevant to your comment) or "Public Comment Non-Agenda Item". Submit your written comments by **6:00 p.m. on Monday, March 11, 2024**. All public comments will be provided to the Board President and may be read into the record or compiled as part of the record.

IMPORTANT PRIVACY NOTE: Online participants **MUST** log in with a Zoom account. The Zoom app is a free download. Please keep in mind: (1) This is a public meeting; as such, the virtual meeting information is published on the World Wide Web and available to everyone. (2) Should you participate remotely via telephone, your telephone number will be your "identifier" during the meeting and available to all meeting participants; there is no way to protect your privacy if you elect to call in to the meeting.



SAN BERNARDINO VALLEY MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT
380 E. Vanderbilt Way, San Bernardino, CA 92408

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' WORKSHOP - RESOURCES/ENGINEERING
2:00 PM Tuesday, March 12, 2024

CALL TO ORDER

1) **INTRODUCTIONS**

2) **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Members of the public may address the Board regarding any item within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Board; however, no action may be taken on off-agenda items except as authorized by law. Each speaker is limited to a maximum of three (3) minutes.

3) **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS**

3.1 Quarterly Groundwater Management Update(30 min) - Page 2
[Staff Memo - Quarterly Groundwater Management Update](#)

4) **FUTURE BUSINESS**

5) **ADJOURNMENT**

6) **CLOSED SESSION**

6.1 CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - ANTICIPATED LITIGATION Significant exposure to litigation pursuant to paragraph (2) or (3) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9: One case.



DATE: March 12, 2024
TO: Board of Directors' Workshop – Resources/Engineering
FROM: Michael Plinski, Chief of Water Resources
Adekunle Ojo, Manager of Water Resources
SUBJECT: Quarterly Groundwater Management Update

Recommendation

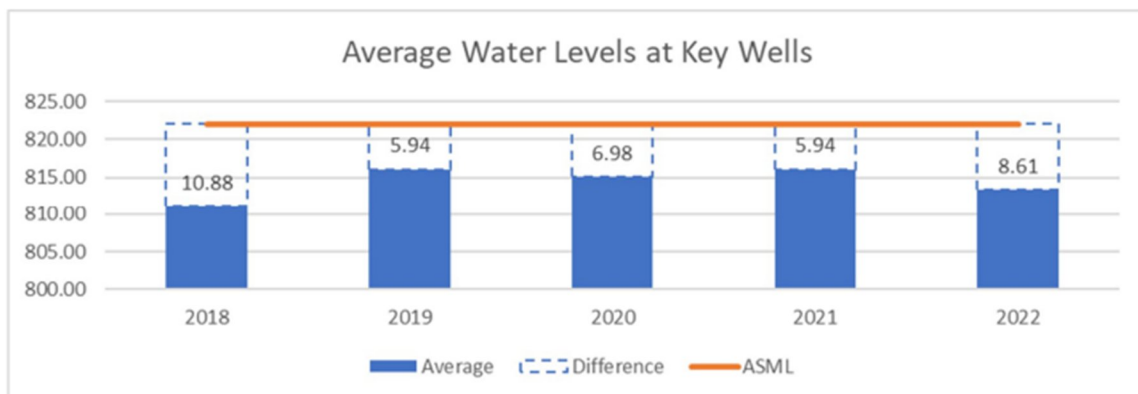
Informational Item; Receive and File

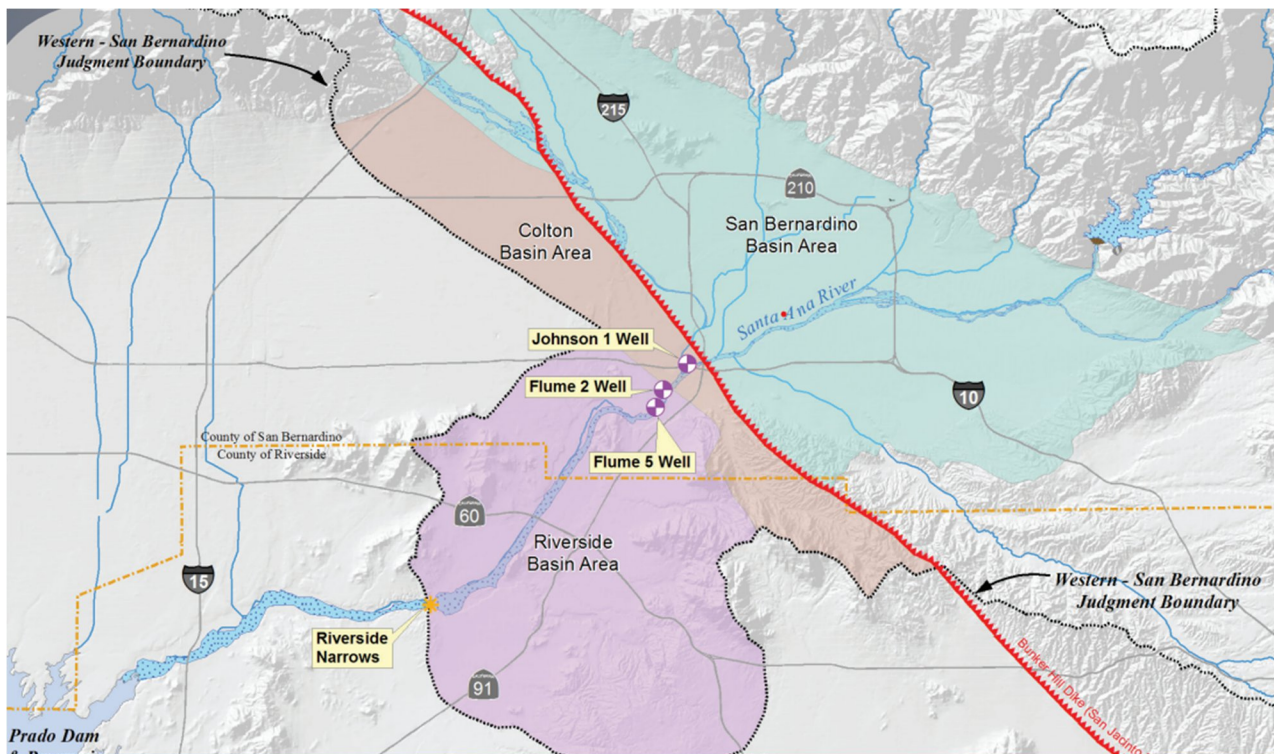
Summary

This report summarizes the conditions of groundwater basins in the San Bernardino Valley service area and the activities of their respective Basin management bodies.

Colton Basin Area, and Riverside Basin Area in San Bernardino County

One of the requirements of the 1969 Western-San Bernardino Judgement is that San Bernardino Valley, on behalf of the San Bernardino parties, must maintain the 1963 average static groundwater surface elevation of 822.04 feet above mean sea level (AMSL) as measured at three key wells (Johnson 1, Flume 2, and Flume 5) in the Colton and Riverside Basin Areas. The index wells, located just downstream of the San Bernardino Basin, are a composite indicator of precipitation and groundwater storage in the Upper Watershed. After many years of drought in our region, in 2018 the static water level at the three key wells fell below 822.04 feet AMSL, which meant San Bernardino Valley was out of compliance with the water level requirement in the Colton and Riverside Basin Areas.





In November 2023, the Watermaster parties conducted the annual key well measurements. For calendar year 2023, the average “non-static” water level elevation was 847.23 feet AMSL, or 25.19 feet above the requirement. Therefore, San Bernardino Valley will be in compliance with the water level requirements for the Colton and Riverside Basin Areas in the 2024 Western-San Bernardino Watermaster Report that is due to the Court by August 1, 2024. The improved water level results are due to the wet year locally, resulting in a high level of in-stream recharge of local runoff in the Santa Ana River, in combination with the large amounts of imported state water recharged in multiple facilities in 2023. Although the 2023 water levels are welcome news, it is important to remember that the groundwater conditions are highly dependent upon local rainfall and a more durable plan needs to be in place for long-term compliance. The Western-San Bernardino Watermaster work group is preparing a Mitigation Plan that will identify possible solutions to address low water levels should they occur at the index wells in the future.

Rialto Basin Groundwater Council

Through a collaborative effort of San Bernardino Valley, Fontana Union Water Company, West Valley Water District, City of Rialto, and City of Colton, a global “Settlement Agreement” was reached in February 2019 to resolve prior disputes and to promote sustainable management of groundwater in the Rialto-Colton Basin. The parties then developed the Recitals of the Rialto Basin Groundwater Council (RBGC) and began work to complete the Framework Agreement. That agreement has been executed by all four parties of the RBGC.

Pursuant to the Settlement Agreement, the Parties committed to cooperate and collaborate on groundwater replenishment and establishing a groundwater sustainability council, with each other and other producers, to promote long-term sustainable and reliable water supplies for the beneficial use of their collective customers. The Rialto Basin Groundwater Council has been established along with a Technical Advisory Group. They have hired a consultant to prepare the Rialto Basin Management Plan which is expected to be completed in 2024. San Bernardino Valley, in coordination with the RBGC agencies, is working with San Bernardino County Flood Control on an agreement to allow State Water Project (SWP) recharge at the Cactus Basins. Fontana Union Water Company continues to provide funding for SWP water purchases as required by the Settlement Agreement.

As a part of the aforementioned agreement, San Bernardino Valley is working with San Bernardino County to develop a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and a corresponding Adaptive Management Plan (Plan) for recharge of SWP water at the Cactus Basins. After CEQA documentation is completed and the County approves the Plan and San Bernardino Valley completes the remaining facilities to facilitate recharge, recharge can start at the Cactus Basin when water is available. Recharging the 61,000 acre-feet funded by the Fontana Union Water Company and any additional recharge by RBGC should restore the Basin to the path of sustainability and allow Basin producers to maximize the use of the Basin.

San Bernardino Basin

The San Bernardino Basin Groundwater Council (SBB GC) was established in FY 2018-19 to collect funding for SWP purchases on an annual basis, so when wet years or high SWP allocation years occur, the region is prepared to purchase water for recharge into the San Bernardino Basin. Water levels have been on a steady decline for more than 20 years and supplemental water from the SWP is one approach to help build resiliency and increase reliability for local groundwater. Below is a table that summarizes the activities of the SBB GC by fiscal year.

Summary of Groundwater Council Activities

FY	Funding Collected for SWP Purchases	SWP Deliveries (AF)	Fiscal Year Expenditure	Balance within the GC Account	Notes:
2018-19	\$ 2,162,917	39,678	\$ 4,714,901	\$ (2,551,984)	-
2019-20	\$ 2,778,852	11,055	\$ 1,298,884	\$ (1,072,016)	-
2020-21	\$ 2,353,316	7,626	\$ 895,914	\$ 385,385	-
2021-22	\$ 2,719,340	0	\$ -	\$ 3,104,726	-

2022-23	\$ 2,281,789	5,685	\$ 673,045	\$ 4,713,470	-
2023-24	\$ 1,918,594	31,772	\$ 3,761,842	\$ 2,870,222	Through FEB 2024
2024-25	\$ -	24,242	\$ 2,870,222	\$ -	Proposed
Total	\$ 14,214,808	120,058	\$ 14,214,808		

Since the establishment of the SBB GC, San Bernardino Valley was able to recharge more than 95,800 through February 2024 of SWP water to the San Bernardino Basin. The goal is to recharge the remaining 24,200 acre-feet within calendar year 2024. The San Bernardino Valley Water Conservation District recharged approximately 85,400 acre-feet in calendar year 2023 comprising of basin percolation, in-stream recharge, and imported water recharge for the GC. It is no surprise then that the preliminary change in groundwater storage calculation for fall 2023 shows an increase in storage of approximately 220,000 acre-feet, a 4% increase in storage. Collaboration in wet years to maximize local and imported water recharge improves water levels, water quality, and the long-term health of the basin.

The SBB GC Framework Agreement was amended in 2023 to extend the term until June 30, 2024, allowing participants time for additional analysis and deliberations regarding its potential longer-term renewal and potential changes that should be made to the program in the future. Some of the analysis and deliberations will take place in the context of the upcoming Phase 2 of the Basin Optimization and Stewardship Program; the Basin Optimization Framework (Phase 1) is scheduled for completion at the end of March 2024.

Yucaipa Basin

The Yucaipa Basin Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) was approved by the California Department of Water Resources on January 18, 2024, after a two-year review process. At its January 24, 2024 meeting, the Yucaipa Sustainable Groundwater Management Agency reviewed Water Year 2023 Conditions of the Basin and the status of GSP implementation. Water Year 2023 was the wettest in recent years for the Basin and all four management areas are tracking well with the three GSP management actions. The Yucaipa Valley Water District also recharged the Basin with 5,270 acre-feet of imported water in Calendar Year 2023 and has ordered a similar amount for recharge in Calendar Year 2024 subject to final Table A allocation. The GSA is currently working on its annual report, which is due to DWR by April 1, and will document the progress made towards sustainability in 2023.

Status of GSP Implementation after 2023 WY

Management Actions	Conditions	2023 Water Year
#1: Reduce Net Use of Groundwater when Levels Fall Below Measurable Objectives	Water levels decline below measurable objectives at 50% of RMPs for 2 consecutive years	No Management Areas with 50% or more RMPs below MO.
#2: Sustainable Yield Pumping Allocations and Groundwater Replenishment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pumping credits earned when production < allocation 5-year rolling pumping credit Transferability of credits under discussion by GSA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> South Mountain @ -403 AF No supplemental water available, reduce net use of groundwater 5-year window to offset exceedance
#3: Surplus Supplemental Water Spreading	Surplus supplemental water spreading available to purveyor that purchased and spread the water	4,554.5 AF SWP water purchased by YVWD and discharged to Wilson Creek and Oak Glen Creek spreading basins in 2023 WY. 1% loss = 4,509 AF available to YVWD in NBMA.