

Appendix 1-9: Groundwater Management Compliance

One project included within this *San Diego IRWM Drought Solicitation Implementation Grant Proposal* requires compliance with or development of a Groundwater Management Plan (GWMP): Sweetwater Authority's Reynolds Groundwater Desalination Facility Expansion. This project will extract brackish groundwater for desalination and use as a potable water supply. As such, Sweetwater Authority has completed self-certification of their Groundwater Management Plan (GWMP) in compliance with CWC §10753. Sweetwater Authority is in the process of developing a GWMP, and is currently using an interim GWMP, included as Appendix E of its UWMP. The Interim GWMP and self-certification is included here as **Appendix 1-9**. A hard copy of the self-certification form has also been submitted to DWR via mail.

Sweetwater Authority Interim Groundwater Management Plan

A. Interim Plan

This interim groundwater management plan shall govern the groundwater management activities of the Sweetwater Authority until a subsequent Groundwater Management Plan is adopted by the Sweetwater Authority Governing Board, pursuant to Water Code Section 10750 et seq. (AB 3030)

B. Groundwater Management Area Boundaries

Sweetwater Authority shall engage in groundwater management in the area of the Sweetwater Valley basin. This basin is as described in the State of California Department of Water Resources Bulletin Number 118 as the Sweetwater Valley Basin Number 9-17. Also included in the groundwater management activities are the watershed of the Sweetwater River and the underlying San Diego Formation within the Service area of the Sweetwater Authority.

C. Groundwater Management Strategies

1. Maintain static groundwater levels

It shall be the policy and goal of Sweetwater Authority groundwater management to extract from the San Diego Formation so as to not cause a decline in the long term static water levels. In the Sweetwater Valley basin alluvial areas, the policy and goal of Sweetwater Authority groundwater management shall be to extract groundwater to not increase seawater intrusion or cause environmental impacts or damage other producers in the alluvial portion of the basin through the operations of Sweetwater Authority's groundwater projects.

2. Protect groundwater from pollution by manmade activities

Sweetwater Authority shall work with the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board (Region 9) to ensure that the groundwater quality within the Sweetwater Valley Basin and the San Diego Formation is protected from contamination.

3. Monitor seawater intrusion

Sweetwater Authority shall monitor groundwater levels, quality and seawater intrusion to ensure that activities of Sweetwater Authority are not causing seawater intrusion.

4. Monitor groundwater quality and quantity

Sweetwater Authority shall periodically monitor the levels and quality of groundwater in the monitoring wells shown in Appendix A. The Authority

shall maintain a database of this periodic information for display on the Sweetwater Authority web page located at www.sweetwater.org.

5. Sweetwater Authority Groundwater Projects

Current Sweetwater Authority groundwater projects include the following:

- a. Existing National City Wells.
- b. Existing Richard A. Reynolds Brackish Groundwater Demineralization Facility and its nine groundwater extraction wells..
- c. Monitoring of existing groundwater monitoring wells and maintenance of a groundwater level and groundwater quality database.
- d. Proposed National City Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) Project.

6. Develop New or Expanded Groundwater Supplies

Staff shall perform activities to develop new groundwater supplies and expand existing groundwater supplies and provide Budget Requests for the Governing Board's approval for these activities, as follows:

- a. Investigate the development of new wells to extract potable or brackish groundwater to facilitate expansion of existing groundwater projects as in paragraph C.5. above.
- b. Investigate new technologies and their application to existing groundwater sources.
- c. Explore conjunctive use activities to augment or expand existing groundwater supplies.

7. Development of relationships with state and local regulation agencies – Bur. Rec. – USGS

Sweetwater Authority has worked and consulted with the Bureau of Reclamation and the United States Geological Survey to receive funding and develop groundwater projects and to study water quality issues. These relationships have been ongoing since 1997. Sweetwater Authority is currently involved with a contract with the USGS to study groundwater quality issues in the San Diego Formation.

D. Implementation

Sweetwater Authority shall work within the watershed of the Sweetwater River, the Sweetwater Valley Basin (Number 9-17) and the San Diego Formation within the service area of the Sweetwater Authority to manage groundwater levels and protect groundwater quality. By adoption of this document, the Sweetwater Authority Governing Board hereby authorizes staff to maintain databases and perform groundwater management activities as described in this interim groundwater management plan.

E. Data Collection and Management

Sweetwater Authority shall maintain a database of groundwater levels and water quality for the existing monitoring wells shown in Appendix A. Staff shall, to the

best of its abilities, carry out groundwater management activities using the strategies in Section C of this interim groundwater management plan.

F. Education

The Sweetwater Authority Stakeholder Survey identifies issues important to stakeholders in the watershed of the Sweetwater River, the Sweetwater Valley basin and the San Diego Formation within the Sweetwater Authority service area. As a part of the groundwater management activities to be carried out under the auspices of this interim groundwater management plan, Sweetwater Authority staff is directed to meet with other public entities and the public interested in the groundwater activities of the Sweetwater Authority. The purpose of these meetings shall be to coordinate information about Sweetwater Authority groundwater management activities and projects, receive input and responses from the public and public entities. Also these meetings shall strive to develop a base of support and a forum for constructive criticism and input to Sweetwater Authority for the groundwater management activities of the Authority.

G. Resolutions of the Governing board, Sweetwater Authority Policy and Legal Authority

1. Resolutions of the Governing Board

Adoption of the attached Resolution 01-19 establishes governing board adoption of this interim groundwater management plan and provides authorization for Sweetwater Authority staff to proceed with the activities described within.

2. Sweetwater Authority Policy concerning groundwater management

Sweetwater Authority's policies regarding groundwater management activities are described within this plan and any subsequent amendments to this interim groundwater management plan authorized by the Governing Board.

3. Legal Authority

Sweetwater Authority operates under the legal authority contained in Irrigation District Law as included in water code section 20500 et seq. Under this authorization the Sweetwater Authority may control, distribute, store, spread, sink, treat, purify, recapture and salvage any water for the beneficial use of the district. Further Sweetwater Authority according to water code 22078 may do any act to put to any beneficial use any water under its control.

Also under water code section 22076 Sweetwater Authority has, though its groundwater management practices have not been previously memorialized in an AB 3030 plan (Water Code section 10750 et seq.) programs that relate to the following:

- a. the control of saline water intrusion
- b. identification of and management of wellhead protection areas and recharge areas
- c. replenishment of groundwater
- d. monitoring of groundwater levels and storage

- e. construction and operation of a brackish groundwater demineralization facility
- f. development of state and federal partnerships in the funding of groundwater management activities
- g. review and coordination of land use permitting with the County of San Diego to access development activities and their impact on groundwater
- h. management of its groundwater resources by Sweetwater Authority as a local agency thereby making state-controlled groundwater management unnecessary

H. Program Coordination

The General Manager and the Operations Manager of Sweetwater Authority shall be responsible to the Governing Board for the performance of the groundwater management activities described in this interim groundwater management plan.

H-4 Groundwater Management program

Sweetwater Authority groundwater management program

Sweetwater Authority has memorialized its groundwater management activities in an Interim Groundwater Management Plan (attached) as adopted by the Sweetwater Authority Governing Board in their Resolution 01-19 (attached). This interim plan directs the staff to continue as they have in the past, performing groundwater management activities, until such time as a formal Groundwater Management Plan has replaced the interim plan. Staff, per this interim plan is managing its groundwater projects so that static groundwater levels do not decline over the long term. It is anticipated that when a formal plan is adopted, it will enlarge upon the scope of the interim plan.

Stakeholder outreach

Stakeholder outreach is a part of the interim plan and will continue to be a part of Sweetwater Authority's decision making process. Sweetwater Authority performed a stakeholder survey in the watershed of the Sweetwater River (Sweetwater Valley Basin 9-17) and the San Diego Formation. Public Notices were advertised and meetings were held with public agencies and individuals to ascertain concerns that existed about Sweetwater Authority's watershed and groundwater management activities. Sweetwater learned that there were no objections to groundwater projects that did not produce groundwater from the most eastern portion of the Sweetwater Valley, near Loveland Reservoir.

Education

Public education continues to be an important part of the Sweetwater Authority public information program. Elementary school children are hosted to tours of The Robert A. Perdue Water Treatment Plant and the Richard A. Reynolds Brackish Groundwater Demineralization Facility. Semi-annual open houses at these facilities give families an opportunity to learn about their water supply agency and its water supply programs. Staff members give informational talks at service clubs and at public events and participate in community fairs to disseminate water supply and water quality information. The new demineralization facility has a public meeting room with video conferencing equipment and is dedicated to educating the public and water professional about water issues.

Monitoring of existing wells and monitoring wells

Sweetwater Authority has a monitoring program which began in the 1930's when there was pumping in the Sweetwater River Valley. Over the years the monitoring has been adjusted to cover new facilities, for example, National City wells in 1952. In 1997 a more formal program was established to monitor the lower Sweetwater River Demineralization Facility wells. Additional wells will be added to the monitoring program for the National City ASR Project.

Installing new monitoring wells

Sweetwater Authority from time to time installs new monitoring wells. In the past year new monitoring wells were installed in the Sweetwater River and near the National City Wells.. The Authority has an existing monitoring program associated with the demineralization project and also maintains other monitoring data throughout the Sweetwater Valley Basin. The National City ASR project will install four additional monitoring wells. The attached Figure __ shows the existing Sweetwater Authority monitoring wells.

Studies

Montgomery Watson Harza is currently under contract to Sweetwater Authority to study the operation of the existing Sweetwater Authority brackish groundwater demineralization facility. They also are performing design for the National City ASR project, including setting up the monitoring program. Other groundwater studies by Sweetwater Authority are contained in Section C-8.

Working with other agencies

Sweetwater Authority has worked with the San Diego County Water Authority's San Diego Formation task force. To date Sweetwater Authority is the only agency with long term, short term or planned groundwater projects in the San Diego Formation (SDF).

Other agencies who attended San Diego Formation Task Force meetings were the City of San Diego Water Utilities Department, California American Water Company and Otay Water District. Of these agencies the City of San Diego Water Utilities Department is the only other agency considering projects in this formation. However no other agency is planning projects in the SDF in the Sweetwater Valley Basin. The projects by San Diego will be in the San Diego River Basin and the SDF.

Agencies who participated in the shaping of Sweetwater Authority groundwater management activities

Sweetwater Authority is a joint powers agency, the result of a Joint Powers Agreement between the South Bay Irrigation District, which includes the western and northern areas of the city of Chula Vista and the Bonita Valley in the County of San Diego and the City of National City. Sweetwater Authority is the successor in interest to the California American Water Company (Sweetwater District), California Water and Telephone Company, Sweetwater Water Corporation, Sweetwater Fruit Company and the Kimball Brother's Water Company dating back to 1869. All of the entities, as well as surrounding water agencies have had a role in shaping the Sweetwater Authority groundwater management activities and policies.

RESOLUTION 01-19

**RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNING BOARD
OF SWEETWATER AUTHORITY
ADOPTING AN INTERIM
GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN**

WHEREAS, Sweetwater Authority and its predecessors have been engaged in groundwater management activities associated with the Authority's groundwater projects in the Sweetwater Valley (Department of Water Resources Basin Number 9-17) and the San Diego Formation for over one hundred and thirty-two years, and

WHEREAS, the Governing Board of Sweetwater Authority, by approval of Budget Project Number 99-21A approved funding of the preparation of a Groundwater Management Plan, and

WHEREAS, Sweetwater has plans to contract with an engineering consultant to work with staff to prepare a formal Groundwater Management Plan pursuant to Water Code Section 10750 et seq. (AB 3030), and

WHEREAS, the Governing Board wishes to memorialize it's existing groundwater management activities as an interim Groundwater Management Plan,

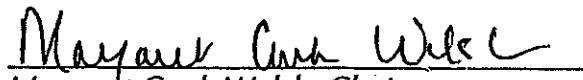
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Board of Sweetwater Authority that, the attached Interim Groundwater Management Plan is adopted to guide the groundwater management activities of Sweetwater Authority until such time as it is replaced by a subsequent Groundwater Management Plan under Water Code Section 10750 et Seq. (AB3030) or other statutes.

PASSED AND ADOPTED at a regular meeting of the Governing Board of Sweetwater Authority held on this 9th day of November, 2001 by the following vote, to wit:

AYES:	Directors Doud, Jarrett, Pocklington, Waters, Welsh, Wolniewicz, and Wright
NOES:	None
ABSENT:	None
ABSTAIN:	None

Attest:


Marisa Farpón-Friedman, Secretary


Margaret Cook Welsh, Chair

California Department of Water Resources
Integrated Regional Water Management Grant Programs

**CERTIFICATION FOR GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN COMPLIANCE
FOR THE
PROPOSITION 84, IMPLEMENTATION AND
PROPOSITION 1E, STORMWATER FLOOD MANAGEMENT
GRANT PROGRAMS**

Grant Program: ☒ Implementation ☐ SWFM
IRWM Region: San Diego IRWM
Agency name: Sweetwater Authority
Project Title (as shown on application form): Reynolds Groundwater Desalination Facility Expansion

Please check one of the boxes below and sign and date this form.

- ☒ As the authorized representative for the agency, I certify under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California, that the agency has prepared and implemented a GWMP in compliance with CWC §10753.7.
- ☐ As the authorized representative for the agency, I certify under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California, that the agency participates or consents to be subjected to an existing GWMP, basin-wide management plan, or other IRWM program or plan that meets the requirements of CWC §10753.7(a).
- ☐ As the authorized representative for the agency, I certify under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California, that agency consents to be subjected to a GWMP that will meet the requirements of CWC §10753.7 and be completed within 1-year of the grant application submittal date.
- ☐ As the authorized representative for the agency, I certify under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the agency conforms to the requirements of an adjudication of water rights in the subject groundwater basin.

I understand that the Department of Water Resources will rely on this signed certification in order to approve funding and that false and/or inaccurate representations in this Certification may result in loss of all funds awarded to the applicant for its project. Additionally, for the aforementioned reasons, the Department of Water Resources may withhold disbursement of project funds, and/or pursue any other applicable legal remedy.

James L. Smyth
Name of Authorized Representative
(Please print)


Signature

General Manager
Title

6-20-14
Date