



# Groundwater: Local Regulatory Perspective

San Diego Integrated Regional Water  
Management

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# Agenda

- Groundwater Use in San Diego County
- Brief State Overview
- Groundwater Regulatory Issues:
  - SNMP
  - CASGEM
  - Antidegradation Policy
- Agency Groundwater Project
- Potential Future Groundwater Projects



# San Diego Area Aquifers:

Ability to  
augment  
groundwater  
is limited





# State of Groundwater

- Drought reduces surface supplies, increases reliance on groundwater
- Record numbers of water wells being constructed (tapping deeper levels)
- Heavy drilling in San Joaquin Valley...drilling backlogs of a year or more
- More groundwater being extracted than replaced. Leads to:
  - New or increased overdraft
  - Land subsidence of a foot or more per year
  - Permanent loss of aquifer storage space
  - Damages to surface infrastructure





# Groundwater Regulatory Issues – Salt Nutrient Management Plans

- Recycled Water Policy required SNMPs be prepared for each Calif. groundwater basin or sub-basin
- Intent of SNMPs: promote statewide recycled water use while providing for groundwater quality protection
- Calif. Antidegradation Policy was basis for SNMPs (more on this...)



# Groundwater Regulatory Issues – Salt Nutrient Management Plans cont.

- San Diego Region responsible for half of the SNMPs completed by the May 2014 deadline!
  - Four of the 5 Salt Nutrient Management Plans have been “Accepted” by Regional Board
  - Ramona MWD’s Plan Evaluated for Possible Basin Plan Amendment for Nitrates
- Agencies should look into requesting completion extensions from Respective Boards
- Build in completion time for outside “Peer Review”
- Strongly Request Regional Board Engagement & Review throughout Process....Avoid “Surprises”



# Groundwater Regulatory Issues - CASGEM

- Calif. Statewide Groundwater Elevation Monitoring (CASGEM) Program:
  - Nov. 2009 State legislature amended Water Code with SBX7-6 – mandated statewide, locally-managed groundwater elevation monitoring programs
  - Program objective to track seasonal & long-term trends in groundwater elevations in Calif.'s groundwater basins
- For Grant Funding, CASGEM compliance is key for 2014
- CASGEM compliance required for medium/high priority basins

# Groundwater Regulatory Issues - CASGEM cont....

- Local “Medium” priority basins included:
  - San Luis Rey Valley
  - San Pasqual Valley
  - Santa Margarita Valley
  - San Diego River Valley (SDRV)
- Formation of a “Monitoring Entity” to meet CASGEM requirements for SDRV currently investigated by:
  - City of San Diego
  - Padre Dam MWD
  - Helix WD
  - Lakeside WD
- If DWR assumes CASGEM functions, parties become ineligible for water grants or loans



# Groundwater Regulatory Issues – Antidegradation Policy

- “Statement of Policy with Respect to Maintaining High Quality Waters in California” (Resolution No. 68-16)
- Incorporated into all regional water quality control plans
- Requires that existing high quality be maintained to the maximum extent possible
- Only state policy applies to activities that could lower groundwater quality, e.g.
  - Waste discharge requirements and waivers for discharges that could impact groundwater quality
  - Basin planning and cleanups related to groundwater

# Groundwater Regulatory Issues – Antidegradation Policy cont...

- SWRCB considering preparation of a Implementation Plan Appendix to existing Anti Deg Policy or...
- Additional policy to address application of Anti Deg Policy to groundwater
- White paper is expected from State and Regional Boards in Oct. 2014
- Working Group and Executive Management Team Meetings, and add'l focused stakeholder group meetings expected in Fall/Winter 2014
- Get engaged if recycled/groundwater development is, or will be, a part of your future....





# City of Oceanside

- Mission Basin Groundwater Purification Facility - desalting treatment facility that provides 15% of city's water supply
- Facility uses reverse osmosis (RO) to treat local brackish groundwater extracted from Mission Basin
  - RO treatment process reduces salt concentrations in groundwater
  - Additional treatment removes iron and manganese
- Facility put into service in 1992 (capacity of 2.0 mil. gallons per day (MGD))
- Expanded to its current capacity of 6.4 mgd in 2002

# Mission Basin Groundwater Purification Facility







# Proposed New/Expanded Groundwater Projects

- Fallbrook PUD -Santa Margarita Conjunctive Use Project
- Olivenhain MWD - San Elijo/ San Dieguito Groundwater Basin Project
- Rainbow MWD -San Luis Rey Groundwater Development Project
- Ramona MWD - Lake Ramona IPR Project
- Rincon Del Diablo MWD - Escondido Valley Basin Groundwater Development Project
- City of San Diego and Sweetwater Authority - Richard A. Reynolds Brackish Desalination Facility
- City of San Diego - San Diego Formation Groundwater Facility
- Valley Center MWD - Lake Turner Wells Project
- Valley Center MWD - 80's Pipeline and Wellfield Rehabilitation Project



# Questions?

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