

## **Palmdale Regional Groundwater Recharge and Recovery Project - Summary**

### **Planning for Palmdale's Water Future**

An important project to aggressively replenish the region's diminished groundwater supply, continues to move forward with a Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) now available for public review and comment.

### **Palmdale Regional Groundwater Recharge and Recovery Project**

Palmdale's challenges are not unique. Historic drought conditions have magnified problems associated with dependence on a groundwater supply that is lowering at alarming rates, and a lack of infrastructure to bring in new water resources and replenish the groundwater aquifer. The **Palmdale Regional Groundwater Recharge and Recovery Project** addresses this challenge, maximizing use of imported water and recycled water, and banking water for future dry periods.

"This project is crucial to the future of long-term water reliability in Palmdale," said Dennis D. LaMoreaux, PWD general manager. "Based on water supply and growth projections, our water supply could be running at a deficit by 2021. That is not far off. With this project, we are in a position to prevent that deficit from occurring, giving us piece of mind for years to come."

The recharge and recovery project would deliver water from the California Aqueduct to 80 acres of recharge basins on an undeveloped 160-acre site in northeast Palmdale. The project includes pipelines to carry water to the recharge site, recovery wells to extract water, and pumping stations to either deliver water to PWD customers or pump water back to the California Aqueduct. The project plan calls for recycled water to be mixed with surplus State Water Project (SWP) water, and stored during normal and wet years, allowing for the efficient utilization of SWP water.

### **About Recycled Water**

For the customers of Palmdale Water District, recycled water describes the reuse of water from our homes, businesses and industries that has been treated through processes to remove contaminants and impurities to ensure public health. Recycled water is already used locally, primarily to irrigate crops, with a small portion used to irrigate parks and landscaping. But there are a number of other beneficial uses, such as indirect potable reuse, where recycled water is used to replenish the groundwater basin, creating a new water supply for all to use.

### **Evaluating Potential Environmental Effects**

The District is currently preparing an EIR as part of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) to examine potential environmental effects associated with the recharge and recovery project. The draft report is now available for public review and comment and identifies potentially significant effects related to biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, hydrology and water quality, and noise from project implementation. The Draft EIR indicates that all potentially significant impacts would be reduced to a less than significant level through implementation of mitigation measures

## **About the EIR Process**

The Palmdale Water District has prepared a draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) as required by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for the Palmdale Regional Groundwater Recharge and Recovery Project. The purpose of the EIR is to assess the potential environmental effects of the proposed project. The Draft EIR identifies potentially significant effects related to biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, hydrology and water quality, and noise from project implementation.

## **Public participation is an important part of the CEQA process**

Prior to preparation of the draft report, an environmental scoping period occurred, during which PWD invited input on the types of environmental issues, mitigation measures and alternatives to address in the EIR. This took place in June and July of 2015, with a public meeting held on July 11, 2015.

The second public review period occurs after publication of the Draft EIR. During the Draft EIR public review period, the public has the opportunity to review and comment on the environmental analysis. For the Palmdale Regional Groundwater Recharge and Recovery Project, the Draft EIR public comment period runs from Nov. 25, 2015 until January 11, 2016.

The District encourages community members to review and comment on the report. At the close of the comment period, the District will collect and review comments and prepare a Final EIR to be considered and acted upon by the PWD Board of Directors at a public hearing. A Final EIR is scheduled to be completed in Spring 2016.

## **Blue Ribbon Panel**

Separate from the EIR process, the District is hosting a **Blue Ribbon Panel** of technical experts, providing objective third-party analysis of the project to help ensure compliance, safety and feasibility. Together, these experts boast decades of experience in water treatment and planning, along with in-depth knowledge of the unique challenges facing water issues in Southern California.

The panel, which will complete its work in Spring 2016, is comprised of Robert Emerick, Ph.D, an environmental engineer with experience in wastewater treatment and water reuse; Andy Campbell, P.G., Deputy Manager of Planning and Water Resources for the Inland Empire Utilities Agency; Jason Dadakis, P.G., Director of Health and Regulatory Affairs for the Orange County Water District; and, George Tchobanoglous, Ph.D, Professor Emeritus, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, UC Davis.

## **Next Steps toward Reliable Water Supply for Palmdale**

Following completion of the EIR and the work of the Blue Ribbon Panel, the District will continue field analysis and permitting activities, with a plan to go to full project design in late 2016. The District will continue to share information with customers and community groups throughout the planning process and appreciate public input during this Draft EIR comment period.

If you have been following the Palmdale Water District's (PWD) Palmdale Regional Groundwater Recharge and Recovery Project, you know how crucial it is to the future of sustainable water reliability in the region. The Antelope Valley Groundwater Basin, a critical source of the region's supply, has been

“overdrafted” – with more taken out than could be put back in – since 1930. But now, with the Palmdale Regional Groundwater Recharge and Recovery Project, the infrastructure to recharge year round and refill that basin to meet future needs will be put in place.

### **Download Available**

You can download a copy of the **Palmdale Regional Groundwater Recharge and Recovery Project** draft EIR and appendices at [DRAFT EIR Palmdale Water District Regional Recharge and Recovery Project](#)

**Notice of Availability for the  
Palmdale Regional Groundwater  
Recharge and Recovery Project  
Environmental Impact Report**



The Palmdale Water District (PWD) has prepared an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) to evaluate the potential environmental impacts from the Palmdale Regional Groundwater Recharge and Recovery Project to help meet future water demands and improve reliability. The proposed project would develop groundwater banking with new spreading grounds to recharge imported water and recycled water, as well as recovery facilities. Facilities would be located generally in the northeastern portion of the City of Palmdale.

**Public Review Period**

Copies of the Notice of Availability (NOA), Draft EIR, and appendices are available for public review and comment beginning November 25, 2015.

Find all documents:

- At <http://www.palmdalewater.org/>
- At Palmdale City Library:  
700 East Palmdale Blvd, Palmdale,  
CA 93350
- By appointment at Palmdale Water District: 2029 E. Ave. Q, Palmdale, CA 93350. For appointment, contact Matt Knudson at [mknudson@palmdalewater.org](mailto:mknudson@palmdalewater.org)

**The Palmdale Water  
District welcomes  
your input!**

Comments will be accepted up to  
January 11, 2016

**To submit comments:**

Via U.S. mail:  
Matt Knudson  
Assistant General Manager  
Palmdale Water District  
2029 E. Ave. Q  
Palmdale, CA 93350

Via email:  
[mknudson@palmdalewater.org](mailto:mknudson@palmdalewater.org)

**FOR PROJECT  
INFORMATION, VISIT:**  
<http://www.palmdalewater.org/>

The Draft EIR identifies potentially significant effects related to biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, hydrology and water quality, and noise from Project implementation. All potentially significant impacts would be reduced to a less than significant level through the incorporation of mitigation measures presented in the Draft EIR.

**Aviso de Disponibilidad para la Palmdale Regional  
Proyecto de Recuperación y recarga de aguas  
subterráneas Reporte Impacto Ambiental**



La Palmdale Water District (PWD) ha preparado un informe de Reporte Impacto Ambiental (EIR) para evaluar los posibles impactos ambientales del Palmdale Regional el Proyecto de Recuperación de la recarga de las aguas subterráneas y para ayudar a satisfacer la futura demanda de agua y mejorar la fiabilidad. El proyecto propuesto desarrollar nuevas operaciones bancarias con aguas subterráneas extendiendo motivos para recargar agua importada y agua reciclada, así como las instalaciones de recuperación. Instalaciones sería situado generalmente en la parte nordeste de la ciudad de Palmdale.

**Período de Revisión Pública**

Copias del aviso de disponibilidad (NOA), proyecto de EIR y apéndices están disponibles para revisión y comentarios públicos a partir de Noviembre 25, 2015.

Buscar todos los documentos:

- <http://www.palmdalewater.org/>
- A la Biblioteca de la ciudad de Palmdale:  
700 East Palmdale Blvd,  
Palmdale, CA 93350
- Por nombramiento en Palmdale Water District: 2029 E. Ave. Q, Palmdale, CA 93350. Para una cita, póngase en contacto con Matt Knudson,  
[mknudson@palmdalewater.org](mailto:mknudson@palmdalewater.org)

**La Palmdale Water District  
celebra su comentarios!**

Se aceptarán comentarios hasta el 11 de enero de 2016

**Enviar comentarios a:**

través del correo de los Estados Unidos:

Matt Knudson  
Subgerente General  
Palmdale Water District  
2029 E. Ave. Q  
Palmdale, CA 93550

A través del correo electrónico a:  
[mknudson@palmdalewater.org](mailto:mknudson@palmdalewater.org)

**Para información sobre  
el proyecto, visite:**

<http://www.palmdalewater.org/>

El proyecto Reporte de Impacto Ambiental (Environmental Impact Report, EIR) identifica los posibles efectos significativos sobre los recursos biológicos, los recursos culturales, geología y suelos, la hidrología y la calidad del agua, y el ruido de la ejecución del proyecto. Todos los posibles impactos significativos se reducirían a menos que un nivel significativo a través de la incorporación de las medidas de mitigación presentadas en el proyecto Reporte de Impacto Ambiental.