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"To provide a sufficient supply of high quality groundwater in the Central and West Coast Basins through progressive, cost effective and environmentally sensitive basin management."

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the Source



I N F O R M A T I O N U P D A T E S S P R I N G 2 0 0 1

Welcome to "The Source" (formerly known as "GroundWater"), the quarterly newsletter of the Water Replenishment District of Southern California (WRD), a regional agency committed to ensuring a sufficient supply of high quality groundwater in the Central and West Coast Basins.

Our newsletter has a brand new look, but our goal remains the same: to provide you with the latest news and information about WRD projects and programs that help bring clean water to your community.



Granular-activated carbon (GAC) treatment system.

WRD Spearheads Effort to Clean Up and Minimize Contamination in the Central Basin

Committed to protecting a clean water supply throughout its service area, the WRD has kept a watchful eye on the San Gabriel Valley since 1984, when the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) officially declared the area a Superfund site. The concern: groundwater contamination from the San Gabriel Valley migrating into the Central Basin through Whittier Narrows. While the EPA has taken steps to prevent migration at the Narrows, some contamination has gone past the Narrows and has migrated into the Central Basin.

In an effort to prevent any further contamination migration, the WRD initiated a joint effort with the Southeast Water Coalition (SEWC) to create the SEWC/EPA Central Basin Early Remediation Project. The goal of this alliance is to quickly begin significant removal of the San Gabriel Valley contamination plume into the Central Basin. As the regional groundwater manager, the WRD has provided local perspective, technical expertise and government outreach to gain top priority for the project.

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Agency Explores New Methods to Maintain Groundwater Supply

One of the ways the WRD fulfills its goal to provide clean water to the four million residents it serves is by exploring new and innovative methods to protect and maintain our current and future groundwater supply. To that end, the WRD is a member of the Association of Ground Water Agencies (AGWA), which was formed in 1994 to promote interagency solutions that enhance the effective management of groundwater resources.

One of AGWA's primary focuses has been a process referred to as "conjunctive use." Conjunctive use is the coordinated management of surface water and groundwater. The process optimizes existing water supplies by storing excess

water underground during "wet" years (when we have an above average amount of water due to rainfall) for use during "dry" years (when drought conditions cause water shortages). Storage of water in the underground aquifers is economical, and an environmentally viable alternative to the construction of new dams and reservoirs.

The population of Southern California is projected to increase to approximately 47.5 million by 2020, which will significantly increase water usage and impact water supply. The WRD will utilize conjunctive use as part of a solution to help meet this anticipated future demand for water in our region.

cover story continued

This plan consists of the installation of a well and a granular-activated carbon (GAC) treatment system. Treated water will be transmitted to a storm drain, where it will be released into the Rio Hondo or San Gabriel rivers and ultimately returned to the Central Basin aquifers.

The well for the SEWC/EPA Central Basin Early Remediation Project will be designed so that it can be utilized by the Central Basin Municipal Water District's HR 910 Central Basin Protection Project once that project goes online. The HR 910 project will treat water from three wells and distribute the water for potable use.

The WRD is confident that this plan, and the combined resources of the multi-agency effort, can facilitate prompt contamination removal and ensure the safety of the Central Basin water supply.

Working to Serve You Better WRD Establishes New Group

The WRD is pleased to announce the creation of its Water Quality Program Group, a new section specifically charged with oversight of the agency's existing programs and projects related to the safety and quality of your water. Under WRD Program Manager Hoover Ng, this group formalizes the WRD's longstanding efforts to ensure a safe supply of groundwater for the four million residents served by the agency.

The Water Quality Program Group will continue to administer the District's Wellhead Treatment Program, which develops and implements treatment programs for contaminated drinking wells to restore them to production of safe, clean water.

The Group will also investigate potential contamination problems affecting groundwater; evaluate activities and programs that may have an impact on the basins; and

monitor any changes in water quality throughout the District's service area.

The WRD created the Water Quality Program Group to further protect the quality of your drinking water, and to ensure the continued delivery of safe and reliable water to you and your family.

Talking the Talk

We know that many people are not familiar with "water lingo." So here are a few frequently used words that describe different types of water and water-related items:

- **Aquifer** Underground formation of soil, rocks and gravel that allow for the movement and storage of water
- **Groundwater** Water beneath the land surface stored in aquifers
- **Potable Water** Water that is suitable for drinking, which meets all state and federal drinking water standards

If your expanded vocabulary isn't enough to impress your friends and neighbors, try these fun facts about water.

- The Earth has the same amount of water now as it had when it was formed. So, the water from your faucet could be the same water that the dinosaurs drank.
- You can live a few weeks without food, but only a few days without water.
- Water regulates the earth's temperature.
- Seventy-five percent of the human brain is composed of water.

Rio Hondo spreading grounds.