



# COUNTY SANITATION DISTRICTS OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY

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State Water Resources Control Board  
Division of Financial Assistance  
Proposition 1 Groundwater Quality Funding Programs  
Submitted via electronic mail to: [gwquality.funding@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:gwquality.funding@waterboards.ca.gov)

To Whom It May Concern:

## **Proposition 1 Groundwater Quality Funding Programs -- Scoping Comments**

On behalf of the Santa Clarita Valley Sanitation District (District), thank you for the opportunity to submit comments regarding the State Water Resources Control Board's Proposition 1 Groundwater Quality Funding Programs. The District provides wastewater treatment services to the City of Santa Clarita and unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County in the Santa Clarita Valley. The District owns and operates the Valencia and Saugus Water Reclamation Plants, which provide tertiary treatment to produce high-quality recycled water that is reused or discharged to the Upper Santa Clara River. To comply with the Upper Santa Clara River Chloride Total Maximum Daily Load, the District must implement a set of projects that include installation of ultraviolet disinfection and microfiltration/reverse osmosis treatment facilities. In addition to ensuring compliance with surface water quality standards for chloride in the Santa Clara River, these treatment improvements are also intended ensure protection of local as well as downstream groundwater basins. The project will also have supplemental surface and groundwater water quality benefits associated with reductions of other pollutants.

The purpose of this letter is to ask that the Proposition 1 Groundwater Quality Funding Programs include as a high priority projects that will prevent contamination of groundwater, such as the water quality improvement projects that the District is pursuing. In Southern California, in soft-bottom streams, there is often a surface water-groundwater connection, which is recognized in Regional Water Quality Control Plans (i.e. "Basin Plans") through designation of the Groundwater Recharge (GWR) beneficial use. Projects that improve surface water quality where the GWR use occurs also protect groundwater basins, and this benefit should be both recognized and incentivized through eligibility under the Proposition 1 Groundwater Quality Funding Programs. Most groundwater basins in or near urban areas in Southern California are used for drinking water purposes, and, if not contaminated, are usually vulnerable to potential contamination. Thus, we support several of the proposed priorities mentioned in the Groundwater Quality Funding Fact Sheet, including potential of project to recharge vulnerable, high-use basins, and potential of project to enhance local water supply reliability. In terms of the

contaminants that should be prioritized, we strongly recommend that byproducts of disinfection (e.g. N-nitrosodimethylamine, trihalomethanes, haloacetic acids), salts and nutrients all be considered high priority for funding awarded under the Groundwater Quality Funding Programs. We also support the 2-step application process that Water Board staff have proposed.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the scope of the Groundwater Quality Funding Programs. We look forward to reviewing the draft funding guidelines.

Very truly yours,

Grace Robinson Hyde



Sharon Green  
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SNG:djm