



# Media Release

**Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board**

## **Los Angeles Water Board Takes Action to Expedite Groundwater Cleanups, Generating up to 90,000 Acre-Foot of Potable Water**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Los Angeles** - The Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board), in collaboration with the San Gabriel Basin Water Quality Authority (WQA), took action Thursday to expedite groundwater cleanups in the San Gabriel Groundwater Basin. The permit adopted by the Regional Water Board will facilitate the treatment of groundwater to serve up to 180,000 families and offset the need for imported water supplies.

Toxic chemicals were discovered in the San Gabriel Groundwater Basin drinking water wells in the 1970s. Since that time, an aggressive program of activities has been implemented through the U.S. EPA Superfund Program and the Regional Water Quality Control Board Well Investigation and Remediation Program. The WQA was created by legislation in 1993 to coordinate the activities of state and federal agencies and facilitate restoration of the groundwater basin.

The WQA worked with the Regional Water Board to develop the permit that was adopted on Thursday, which will expedite cleanups and generate an additional potable water supply. "This important effort is long awaited and will serve to facilitate the continued management of the groundwater supply in the San Gabriel Valley region of Los Angeles County," said the San Gabriel Valley Legislative Caucus, chaired by Senator Ed Hernandez, in a letter to the Regional Water Board.

The new general permit will pave the way for important groundwater cleanup projects in the San Gabriel Valley which will treat up to 90,000 acre-feet of ground water per year to drinking water standards for public use. The new potable supplies created by the projects represent a significant portion of the local groundwater supply. The permit also provides a model for long term collaboration of local agencies to implement integrated solutions to stormwater recharge and groundwater management.

"The Regional Board is committed to facilitating efforts to cleaning up our local supplies and providing clean drinking water to the citizens of our region. This is especially important during this significant drought and to ensure reliable local water supplies into our uncertain water future," said Charles Stringer, Chair of the Regional Water Quality Control Board.

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