



Media Release

Central Coast Water Board Approves Cambria Emergency Drought Project

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The Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board today approved permits that will allow the Cambria Community Services District to operate an emergency water treatment system designed to increase the community's water supplies during the drought.

The system will pull groundwater from an existing well near the District's wastewater disposal ponds, treat the water to drinking water standards using advanced methods to remove impurities, then inject the water back in the San Simeon Creek aquifer where it will be available to the District's existing water supply wells.

"This is an example of how regulators can work together as facilitators to get important projects done quickly," said Board Chair Jean-Pierre Wolff of San Luis Obispo. "This facility will allow the community to improve its water security during the current and future drought periods." Permitting this project was unusual because the Water Boards, working with the City and its contractors, developed the permits in parallel with the design and construction of the project.

The Central Coast Water Board worked closely with the State Water Resources Control Board's new Division of Drinking Water in its review and approval process to protect public health. Governor Brown moved the Division of Drinking Water to the State Water Resources Control Board from the state Department of Public Health on July 1, 2014.

This is the first project in the state to use the Division of Drinking Water's new regulations for direct groundwater augmentation. "The ability of the water board's various programs, water quality, water rights, and drinking water, to seamlessly work together on this project validates Governor Brown's idea of moving the State's drinking water program into the State Water Board," commented Central Coast Water Board Executive Officer Ken Harris.

Central Coast Regional Water Board agendas can be viewed at:
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/board_info/agendas/2014/2014_agendas.shtml

The Central Coast Water Board is responsible for protecting and restoring water quality in the 300-mile-long coastal region from southern San Mateo and Santa Clara counties to the northern part of Ventura County.

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