



Media Release

Los Angeles Water Board Action Speeds City of Oxnard Recycled Water Effort to provide non potable water to local Agriculture

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Contact: Cris Morris
Phone: (213) 620 2083

The Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (Los Angeles Water Board) took action today authorizing the City of Oxnard to begin providing up to 608 acre-feet of nonpotable recycled water monthly to regional agriculture during this ongoing drought. This effort will lead to less regional reliance on groundwater as a supplementary water source.

By approving amendments to the City of Oxnard's Groundwater Recovery Enhancement and Treatment Program Water Recycling Requirements and Monitoring and Reporting Program and the Calleguas Municipal Water District's Waste Discharge Requirements for the Regional Salinity Management Pipeline, the Los Angeles Water Board will help speed and expand distribution of water produced by Oxnard's Advanced Water Purification Facility.

The adopted amended permits will allow use of the existing Calleguas Regional Salt Management Pipeline to convey the high quality recycled water from Oxnard's treatment facility to the growers in the Oxnard Plain. Rather than wait two years for the permanent piping from the purification facility to the growers to be constructed, this project will utilize existing infrastructure to put high quality water to a critical beneficial use, irrigated agriculture.

"Oxnard's commitment to meet increasing non-potable water demand through water recycling is admirable and a model for water producers in the entire Los Angeles basin," said Los Angeles Water Board Executive Officer Sam Unger.

Beginning next month, the Calleguas Regional Salt Management Pipeline will be used temporarily to convey as much as 165 million gallons or 608 acre-feet of non potable water every month to the growers in the Oxnard Plain. An acre foot of potable water is enough water to supply two California household's water use in any given year.

Pleasant Valley County Water District proposed the innovative plan to use the Calleguas pipeline to deliver the water to offset the loss of agricultural water due to the extended drought. The approved amendments allow the water to be transported into Pleasant Valley's irrigation distribution system from the Oxnard purification facility via the Calleguas pipeline, until a planned permanent pipeline can be completed sometime in early 2017.

Although the Calleguas pipeline is currently being used to convey brine from the Camrosa Round Mountain Desalter, the quality of the blended purification facility treated recycled water and the Camrosa desalter brine, based on the anticipated amount of water needed by the growers, is better than that, of the local groundwater. Implementing this project will not only benefit the growers in the Oxnard Plain by providing a plentiful source of high quality water, it will also make great use of Oxnard's high quality water and benefit the community by encouraging the use of recycled water in lieu of increased groundwater pumping.

Stakeholders present in support of the amended permits included Assemblymember Jacqui Irwin's office, City of Oxnard, Calleguas Municipal Water District, Pleasant Valley County Water District, United Water Conservation District, Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency, local growers and the Farm Bureau.

By adopting these orders, the Los Angeles Water Board continues to demonstrate its commitment to fast track permits for recycled water projects in the region, which is heavily dependent on imported water.

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