

**SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
STRATEGIC PLAN TO MEET WATER NEEDS**

**Department of Public Works  
January 2000**

## **GOALS**

**Adopted by Board Order B-99-1042**

1. PROTECT AND PRESERVE EXISTING WATER RIGHTS AND AREA OF ORIGIN RIGHTS
2. RESTORE AND MAINTAIN THE EASTERN SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY GROUNDWATER BASIN
3. PROTECT WATER QUALITY
4. MAINTAIN EXISTING AND DEVELOP NEW WATER SUPPLY TO MEET SOUTHWEST COUNTY WATER NEEDS
5. DEVELOP FINANCIAL PROGRAMS TO MEET THE WATER SUPPLY NEEDS
6. SUPPORT BENEFICIAL WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A sustainable and adequate water supply is a critical component in the overall economic development and well-being of the people of San Joaquin County. Water development and management in San Joaquin County has been the responsibility of the cities, water districts, irrigation districts, water conservation districts and water agencies. The historical and current County role is to support the water interests in efficiently and effectively providing an adequate water supply.

To guide and coordinate Countywide activities, a County Water Policy was developed through cooperative efforts between the diverse concerns of the water community. This Water Policy was adopted by the Board of Supervisors in 1986. Further actions, which have followed the development of the Water Policy, are the development of a Water Implementation Plan which is intended to implement the Water Policy, the expansion of the Board-appointed Advisory Water Commission and the establishment of the position of Water Resources Coordinator. Recently, the Board of Supervisors adopted a Board of Supervisors Mission Statement on Water which reinforces the role of the County with respect to water resource development, water facility development, conservation and Countywide preservation of the quantity and quality of water.

Water Investigation Zone No. 2 was initially established in 1989 and extended in 1995. This Zone, through a Countywide assessment, provides funding for the necessary studies and efforts to develop programs to meet the long-term County water supply needs. As the water supply options mature in the specific projects, separate governance, organizational staffing and funding mechanisms, independent of the County sources, will be required.

Six goals have been developed to quantify the work effort necessary, along with the related costs. The goals are: 1) Protect and preserve existing water rights and area of origin rights; 2) restore and maintain the Eastern San Joaquin County groundwater basin; 3) protect water quality; 4) maintain existing and develop new water supply to meet Southwest County water needs; 5) develop financial programs to meet the water supply needs; and 6) support beneficial water conservation programs. Activities have been identified to meet the goals. Costs associated with these activities have also been estimated.

All activities have been prioritized into the following four categories: 1) Ongoing activities; 2) high priority, short time-frame activities; 3) low priority, short-term activities; and 4) long-term activities. A time schedule and costs of the activities have been correlated to the established priorities in order to set a strategic plan to implement the goals.

Water resources planning and related work to date have emphasized the development analyses of all reasonable alternatives to meet the long-term water supply needs. The past and current budgets were utilized to the maximum extent for this purpose. Currently, the focus of the water resources effort is to narrow the number of options being considered and to develop and concentrate on a preferred water resources development plan. This strategic plan presents a prioritization of the activities and related costs to lead toward a preferred plan. Activities and related costs will be adjusted as policy decisions are made in conformance with funding availability for the various activities.

## GOAL 3 ACTIVITIES

a) ACTIVITY TITLE: *Support the Development of the San Joaquin Valley Master Drain*

### ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION:

*Through actions taken by the State and Federal government, the Water Resources Control Board and other interested parties, support the development of the San Joaquin Valley Master Drain.*

### FUNDING STATUS:

#### FISCAL YEARS

FUNDING	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	FUTURE
COST	20,000	21,000	22,000	22,000	23,000	

### REVENUE SOURCE:

*Water Investigation Zone No. 2*

### REMARKS:

*The San Joaquin Valley Master Drain is a feature that was considered as part of the original facilities necessary to irrigate the central valley. The Master Drain would pick up agriculture run-off and convey it to a destination where impacts of the lower quality water can be dealt with. Problems in the past have been associated with the location of the outfall. The areas considered were into the San Francisco Bay and directly into the ocean. The development to the San Joaquin Valley Master Drain would improve water quality in the south Delta and provide greater assurances for a healthy agriculture community in that area.*