

NEWS RELEASE

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SAN GORGONIO PASS WATER AGENCY AUGMENTS REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY

The San Geronio Pass Water Agency has struck a deal to bring even more State Water Project water to the Pass this year. Its Board has voted to approve an exchange agreement with the City of Ventura and the Casitas Municipal Water District to deliver an additional 2000 acre-feet of water from the Project in 2019. That is enough for approximately 4000 families for a year.

The Agency, charged with ensuring that Pass-area groundwater basins are not depleted even with the tremendous growth projected for the Pass, approved the deal at its Board meeting on August 5. "Even in a wet year when we are getting 75% of our contracted amount of water from the State Water Project, we still do not have enough to meet our customers' requests for water this year. This deal enables us to do that, at a very good price," said Ron Duncan, Board President and Banning resident.

The deal, which still must be approved by the California Department of Water Resources, allows the Agency to take the water this year and sell it to customers who will store it in the ground for future use. The terms of the deal, known as an unbalanced exchange, require the Agency to return half the water over the next ten years. In the meantime, the initial water will be in storage, waiting for the next drought to hit.

The exchange is part of an ongoing effort by the Agency to bring additional supplies to the region in order to drought-proof the Pass. Climatologists have warned that in the future, droughts will be longer and more extreme. The Agency, along with water agencies throughout the state, are taking steps now to store more water to help during those extreme droughts.

The San Geronio Pass Water Agency is a regional wholesale agency and State Water Contractor serving water agencies from Calimesa to Cabazon. It is based in Beaumont and holds Board meetings on the first and third Monday of each month at 1:30 pm.

For more information, contact General Manager Jeff Davis at 951-845-2577.