



SAN GORGONIO PASS
WATER AGENCY
A California State Water Project Contractor

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Water Agency Secures Vital Resources for Regional Water Systems
*San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency and California Rural Water Association
join forces to support local agencies*

BEAUMONT, CA (July 25, 2023) – San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency (SGPWA) has partnered with California Rural Water Association (CRWA) to assist regional small water systems in securing critical funding and resources.

In 2021, SGPWA and CRWA fostered a local pilot program, assisting Banning Heights Mutual Water Company (BHMWC) in preparing a grant application for the Department of Water Resources (DWR) Small Community Drought Relief Program. This included administrative support to ensure BHMWC was equipped with the technical, managerial, and financial capacity to execute a grant. In August 2022, DWR awarded a \$3.7 million grant to BHMWC. The success of this program has paved the way for SGPWA and CRWA to help other regional small water systems gain access to state and federal funding.

This support is crucial — nearly a million Californians face challenges in obtaining clean drinking water because smaller water systems often struggle to attract outside funding due to resource constraints. Sometimes, these water systems coincide with Disadvantaged Communities (DACs) causing an even greater detrimental impact. In order to position small water systems to attract and manage well-resourced grant programs, state and federal funding entities often work with regional agencies and nonprofits. That’s where SGPWA and CRWA can step in and make a difference.

SGPWA collaborates with local partners like CRWA to ensure growing regional water needs are met, optimizing the use of existing resourcing without impacting local groundwater basins adversely.

CRWA, a nonprofit that assists small water and wastewater systems with technical assistance services across the state, has focused its efforts on working with regional agencies to assist smaller water systems in attracting funding and becoming more resilient.

With BHMWC's grant success, SGPWA will continue to partner with CRWA to aid additional smaller water systems in the region in accessing funds and resources.

For more information, visit www.sgpwa.com.

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About San Geronio Pass Water Agency

Formed in 1961, SGPWA is a State Water Contractor that serves a 225-square-mile area of western Riverside County. The service area includes the cities of Calimesa, Beaumont, and Banning, and the communities of Cherry Valley, Cabazon, and the Banning Bench. In addition to importing State Water Project (SWP) water from Northern California to augment local groundwater sources, the Agency builds local system infrastructure, participates in water transfers, partners in statewide water projects and collaborates on regional water reliability and conservation efforts.