



SAN GORGONIO PASS
WATER AGENCY
A California State Water Project Contractor

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State Grant Supports Advanced Knowledge of Water Beneath Our Feet

New groundwater monitoring wells will support Human Right to Water for underserved areas

BEAUMONT, CA (September 29, 2023) – The San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency (SGPWA), as part of the San Gorgonio Pass Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (SGPS GSA), was awarded state funding of more than \$2 million for a project that will help address pressing regional groundwater concerns for residents who rely on it.

The project will install four nested casing monitoring wells in the San Gorgonio Pass Subbasin, which serves Disadvantaged Communities including the City of Banning, Banning Heights, Cabazon and the Morongo Band of Mission Indians.

Among other benefits, the project helps meet the state’s Human Right to Water initiative, which recognizes every individual’s right to safe, clean, affordable and accessible water. Due to the Apple Fire in 2020, Banning Heights now relies exclusively on groundwater. Data collected will reveal crucial supply and quality information for this area and the other communities served by the subbasin.

The project will expand the SGPS GSA groundwater observation network to fill data holes that are key to supporting sustainability of the subbasin, which encompasses approximately 35,965 acres.

“The monitoring wells will provide critical insight into groundwater levels, quality, and flow patterns for the area,” said Vice President Mickey Valdivia. “Groundwater is essential to securing reliable supplies for current and future water users, and we are committed to understanding and safeguarding this precious resource.”

The multi-year endeavor will evaluate the subbasin’s groundwater, including quantity, movement across basin boundaries, geologic faults, and storage unit boundaries that need to be better understood. The project will identify spatial data gaps and pinpoint geologically unique areas within the subbasin. This knowledge is vital for making informed decisions about the local water resources.

The project represents a group effort by the SGPS GSA. Member agencies of the SGPS GSA include SGPWA, Banning Heights Mutual Water Company (BHMWC), Cabazon Water District (CWD), the City of Banning, Desert Water Agency (DWA), and Mission Springs Water District (MSWD). Together, the entities are working toward improved groundwater management in the region.

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Scheduled to be completed by March 2025, the project's data will inform the SGPS GSA's 2030 Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) update.

The grant is part of the Department of Water Resources (DWR) Sustainable Groundwater Management (SGM) Grant Program Implementation Round 2, which recently recommended funding of \$187 million to 32 groundwater subbasins.

To learn more, visit 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.