



SAN GORGONIO PASS  
WATER AGENCY  
*A California State Water Project Contractor*

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### **Local Groundwater Gets Major Security Boost**

*20-year Sustainability Plan Details Six Projects to Safeguard Regional Water Supply*

BEAUMONT, CA (December 26, 2023) – The Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) for the Coachella Valley – San Gorgonio Pass Subbasin was approved by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) this fall, a vital step toward maintaining the stability of the subbasin for the local residents who rely on it.

The subbasin encompasses about 35,965 acres and is a water source for several local communities, nearly all in disadvantaged or severely disadvantaged communities.

The GSP is designed to balance water demand with available water supply by 2042, protecting future water reliability. The plan identifies six projects that will improve groundwater conditions, including stormwater capture, recharge programs, new pipelines, increased imported water access and spreading, and municipal water conservation measures, such as rebates.

The plan was a joint effort between the San Gorgonio Pass Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA), Desert Water Agency GSA and Verbenia GSA. Members of the GSAs include San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency (SGPWA), Banning Heights Mutual Water Company, Cabazon Water District, the City of Banning, Desert Water Agency, and Mission Springs Water District. The Morongo Band of Mission Indians is also an active participant in the GSP's working group.

"Through the power of partnership, we have produced a remarkable and actionable plan for preserving the groundwater of the San Gorgonio Pass Subbasin and fueling its conservation over the next two decades," SGPWA Treasurer Chander Letulle said. "The future of the surrounding communities will be safeguarded with a sustainable water source through the protection of the subbasin."

The GSP meets the sustainability criteria for groundwater levels, storage, quality, or interconnected surface water laid out by the DWR Sustainable Groundwater Management Program.

The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act was signed into law by Governor Jerry Brown in 2014 to create a framework for groundwater management of high- and medium-priority basins in California. The act includes the formation of GSAs and the requirement of GSPs. The San Gorgonio Pass Subbasin is a medium-priority basin.

For more information, visit [www.sgpgsas.org](http://www.sgpgsas.org) or [www.sgpwa.com](http://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.