

San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency

DATE: December 15, 2025

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Lance Eckhart, General Manager

BY: Lance Eckhart, General Manager

SUBJECT

Consideration of Professional Services and Cost-Share Agreements for Preparation of Technical Memorandum on Recycled Water Recharge Basin Siting and Liability

RECOMMENDATION

Authorize the General Manager to execute a professional services agreement with T.R. Holliman & Associates for preparation of a technical memorandum addressing recycled water recharge basin siting and liability considerations. Further authorize the General Manager to negotiate and execute a cost-share agreement with the City of Beaumont providing for a 50-percent cost share, and to proceed with executing the professional services agreement upon approval of the cost-share agreement by both the San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency and the City of Beaumont and final review by their respective counsels.

PREVIOUS CONSIDERATIONS

No previous considerations, although consistent with years of collaborative discussions regarding the local utilization of recycled water and regional benefits.

BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS

The San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency (SGPWA), in coordination with the City of Beaumont and regional partners, continues to explore the long-term use of recycled water including indirect potable reuse via groundwater recharge. A hybrid solution, recycling water for both non-potable use and groundwater recharge, has emerged as the preferred approach. However, further evaluation is needed to identify suitable recharge locations and assess regulatory liabilities related to the use of recycled water within the Beaumont Basin.

T.R. Holliman & Associates (TRHA) has submitted a proposal to develop a Technical Memorandum (TM) that addresses both technical siting and regulatory concerns. The proposed scope builds upon recent interagency planning and will inform future implementation strategies. SGPWA and the City of Beaumont plan to share costs equally, and execution of the consultant contract will be contingent upon finalization of the cost-share agreement.

The proposed work will:

- Identify and map potential recharge basin sites on City, SGPWA, and BCVWD properties within the Beaumont Basin.
- Evaluate the infrastructure requirements to convey recycled water to candidate recharge sites, including pipelines and pump stations.
- Assess how recharge at various locations may impact existing and planned production wells.
- Prepare a recommendation matrix summarizing viable recharge options, including site suitability and regulatory considerations.
- Coordinate with the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) and Division of Drinking Water (DDW) to assess liability and compliance issues related to the use of recycled water.
- Deliver a final Technical Memorandum to support CEQA review, interagency agreements, and next steps for regional implementation.
- This deliverable will inform future Board decisions related to project development, regulatory pathways, and grant opportunities.

STRATEGIC PLAN NEXUS

This effort supports the Agency's Strategic Plan in the following areas:

- Strategic Goal 1: Align with the current and future water landscape.
 - ✓ *Objective 1:* Sustain infrastructure investment to provide a robust regional water distribution and storage system.
- Strategic Goal 2: Ensure a reliable delivery system that advances efficiency and resiliency.
 - ✓ *Objective 2:* Investigate additional opportunities to increase water storage capabilities, including through groundwater recharge using local sources.

FISCAL IMPACT

The total cost of the professional services agreement with T.R. Holliman & Associates is \$57,260. The funds for this agreement will come from the General Fund (the Green Bucket), line item 'Local Recharge Feasibility Studies' (line #82). The budgeted amount for FY 25-26 is \$750,000. As of November 30, 2025, about \$18,000 has been expended.

It is anticipated that these costs will be shared equally between the San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency and the City of Beaumont pursuant to a forthcoming cost-share agreement, resulting in an estimated Agency share of \$28,630. Execution of the professional services agreement is contingent upon approval and execution of the cost-share agreement.

Because the Agency is the lead agency, the total cost of the study will be recognized and charged to the line item mentioned above. Reimbursement from the City of Beaumont will be recognized in the line item 'Gov't Contributions' (line 5) and netted at the conclusion of the fiscal year.

ACTION

Authorize the General Manager to execute a professional services agreement with T.R. Holliman & Associates for preparation of a technical memorandum addressing recycled water recharge basin siting and liability considerations. Further authorize the General Manager to negotiate and execute a cost-share agreement with the City of Beaumont providing for a 50-percent cost share, and to proceed with executing the professional services agreement upon approval of the cost-share agreement by both the San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency and the City of Beaumont and final review by their respective counsels.

ATTACHMENTS

- Proposal for Technical Memorandum – Groundwater Recharge Basin Siting Study and Liability Evaluation; T.R. Holliman and Associates – November 7, 2025



November 7, 2025

Lance Eckhart, PG, CHG
General Manager/Chief Hydrogeologist
San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency
1210 Beaumont Ave.
Beaumont CA 92223

Subject: Proposal for Technical Memorandum - Groundwater Recharge Basin Siting
Study and Liability Evaluation

Dear Mr. Eckhart,

The T.R. Holliman and Associates, Inc. (TRHA) is pleased to submit this proposal to prepare a Technical Memorandum to review potential groundwater recharge location opportunities in the Beaumont Basin, and address statements made by the Regional Water Quality Control Board - Santa Ana Region (RWQCB) relative to potential liability for the mis-use of recycled water from the City of Beaumont Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant (AWTP).

We understand the importance of maximizing the use of recycled water in the Beaumont Groundwater Basin but also realize that there are regulatory, institutional, and political issues that must be identified and addressed. TRHA has recently been working with San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency (SGPWA), the City of Beaumont (City), and the Beaumont Cherry Valley Water District (BCVWD) on a regional plan for recycled water so we are familiar with the study area and have already obtained and reviewed many of the documents which will be used for this effort. We believe that our experience in recycled water master planning, groundwater recharge, and regulatory compliance will allow us to develop a Technical Memorandum that will address your concerns.

Local Knowledgeable and Responsive Project Team

Our Project Manager, Tom Holliman, has over 40 years of professional experience including over two decades of local experience in the Inland Empire, recently serving as Engineering and Operations Manager for the East Valley Water District in Highland, CA. He has also served as District Engineer for the SGPWA as part of Boyle

Engineering, (now AECOM) from 2003 to 2005. TRHA recently completed a three-way analysis of the use of recycled water from the City's AWTP that identified an optimum path forward for the use of recycled water in the Beaumont Basin and a technical memorandum identifying the issues related to groundwater recharge with recycled water. That technical memorandum included a discussion of the existing groundwater recharge basins and the impact of introducing recycled water to the basins. The siting study portion of this technical memorandum will expand the evaluation of potential recharge options to include City, BCVWD, and SGPWA properties which could be used to develop additional recharge basins. Mr. Holliman has worked on multiple groundwater recharge projects in his 40 years including those operated by the Long Beach Water Department and Water Replenishment District of Southern California.

Unique combination of Public and Private Recycled Water Planning Experience

For this project Mr. Holliman will be joined by Mr. John Robinson, who has over 30 years of experience in recycled water systems. He is also considered an expert in recycled water conversions and regulatory compliance, and has assisted clients in receiving multiple grants for recycled water projects. Mr. Robinson has multiple years working with the different regulatory agencies and is uniquely qualified to answer the questions regarding liability for the mis-use of the recycled water from the City of Beaumont's AWTP. These would include, but not be limited to, the Regional Water Quality Control Board - Santa Ana Region and the State Water Resources Control Board Division of Drinking Water.

Scope of Work

TRHA will prepare a Technical Memorandum that will review additional recharge basin opportunities beyond those currently being operated by SGPWA and BCVWD. It will also address the question of the City's liability for the mis-use of the recycled water produced at the AWTP. The tasks will include, at a minimum:

- 1.0 Coordinating a Kickoff Meeting and a TM Review Meeting
 - 1.1 Kickoff Meeting with SGPWA (plus others invited by SGPWA)
 - 1.2 TM Review Meeting with SGPWA (plus others invited by SGPWA)
- 2.0 Completion of a Recharge Basin Siting Study
 - 2.1 Collect information regarding the boundaries of the existing Beaumont Groundwater Basin. Prepare a map with a boundary encompassing the full area covered by BCVWD, SGPWA, and the City with the current groundwater contours shown. This will be used in Task 2.3 to determine if there are additional, suitable, recharge sites

2.2 Map all existing BCVWD, SGPWA, and City undeveloped properties located within the boundary developed in Task 2.1, and existing and planned recharge basins. Map all existing BCVWD and SGPWA facilities used to move recharge water into their basins. Map all existing groundwater wells by owner in the Beaumont Basin.

- a. BCVWD to provide shape files and/or coordinates for BCVWD recharge facilities and existing potable, non-potable, and monitoring wells.
- b. SGPWA to provide shape files for Beaumont Basin boundaries, SGPWA recharge facilities, monitoring wells, and hydraulic contours of the Beaumont Basin.
- c. City to provide shape files and/or coordinates for each of the City-owned sites which might be considered for recharge basins.

2.3 Identify parcels which are currently recharge basins, or could be developed into additional recharge basins. Geotechnical evaluations of the potential sites are not included in the scope of this project but the team will attempt to identify and show sensitive receptors at these potential recharge basin locations. At the meeting with BCVWD, SGPWA, and the City on October 29, 2025, it was discussed that there are five (5) existing or potential locations and this task will include those and any additional locations.

2.4 Based on the location of each potential recharge site, evaluate potential benefit the groundwater basin, and the facilities needed to utilize the recharge sites. Existing recharge facilities will be shown. Any new pipelines and pump stations needed to move water to proposed recharge basins will be developed and shown. Sites along the lower boundary of the Beaumont Basin will be disqualified because of the limited recharge potential.

2.5 Evaluate which existing production wells will be impacted by recharging into the different potential recharge basins.

2.6 Provide a matrix showing the existing and recommended potential recharge sites with a final recommendation for which sites should be considered.

3.0 Coordination with RWQCB and Division of Drinking Water (DDW)

TRHA will conduct meetings with the RWQCB and DDW regarding the issue of "liability" under a "misuse" of recycled water scenario. This will include:

- a. Preparing a formal response to the email from Julio Lara, Chief from the Regional Water Quality Control Board - Santa Ana Region regarding penalties for the misuse of recycled water.

- b. Conducting up to three (3) meetings with representatives of the RWQCB and DDW with the goal of identifying key concerns, and sharing examples of existing contracts between wholesale recycled water producers such as the Orange County Water District, Inland Empire Utilities Agency, and local retail water purveyors like the City of Chino, City of Ontario, and others with a focus on recycled water producers and retailers within the Regional Water Quality Control Board - Santa Ana Region.
- c. Providing a final recommendation for addressing the City's concerns regarding liability.

4.0 Preparation of a Technical Memorandum summarizing all of the information from Tasks 2 and 3, and conduct a final review meeting with SGPWA.

We are confident that we can complete the scope of work within 120 days of receiving a Notice to Proceed and receiving all of the background materials requested in Section 2.2 above. Our not-to-exceed fee for this work is \$57,260 as outlined in the attached fee breakdown. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me, at (909) 573-6802 or at tomh@trholliman.com.

Sincerely,
T.R Holliman and Associates, Inc.



Thomas R. Holliman, PE
President/Managing Engineer

San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency - Groundwater Basin Recharge Siting Study Technical Memorandum

Not-to-Exceed Fee

Task	Project Tasks	Tom Holliman, PE Project Manager	John Robinson Principal Planner	GIS Tech	Sr. Admin. Support	Total Hours	Total Labor	ODCs	TOTAL FEES
	Hourly Rate	\$210	\$170	\$125	\$100				
1.0	Kickoff Meeting and TM Review Meeting								
	Kickoff Meeting with SGPWA	2	2		1	5	\$860	\$50	\$910
	TM Review Meeting with SGPWA	2	2		1	5	\$860	\$50	\$910
2.0	Siting Analysis								
2.1	Data Collection	16	12			28	\$5,400	\$100	\$5,500
2.2	Map existing recharge facilities, production wells and monitoring wells.	12	8	24		44	\$6,880		\$6,880
2.3	Identify potential recharge sites	12	8	16		36	\$5,880		\$5,880
2.4	Analysis of potential recharge sites	24	24			48	\$9,120		\$9,120
2.5	Evaluate existing wells which might be impacted by RW recharge	12	12			24	\$4,560		\$4,560
2.6	Provide matrix showing all potential sites with final recommendations for additional recharge basins.	8	8		2	18	\$3,240		\$3,240
3.0	Coordination with RWQCB and DDW								
	Discussions and conclusions from RWQCB and DDW	20	40			60	\$11,000		\$11,000
4.0	Prepare Technical Memorandum								
	Prepare technical memorandum	24	16	8	4	52	\$9,160	\$100	\$9,260
	Subtotal	132	132	48	8	320	\$ 56,960	\$ 300	\$57,260
	Total Not-to-Exceed Fee								\$57,260

Prepared by T. R. Holliman (11/6/2025)