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Groundwater Work Underway to Protect Vulnerable Communities

BANNING, CA (January 7, 2026) – San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency (SGPWA), in partnership with the United States Geological Survey (USGS), is expanding groundwater well monitoring in Banning to strengthen water security for local disadvantaged communities (DACs). This represents the next step in building a sustainable water future, ensuring that every community has access to high-quality groundwater resources.

“Reliable groundwater is a lifeline for our communities,” SGPWA Board President Robert Ybarra said. “Disadvantaged communities continue to face greater risks from water insecurity. This project is about changing that. SGPWA is proud to invest in local groundwater monitoring to protect the health, stability, and future of every resident who depends on this resource.”

Groundwater monitoring well installation will take place near Ramsey Street and Sunset Avenue in Banning, beginning January 12, 2026, and continuing for up to four weeks. Construction will occur between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m., with crews implementing full traffic control during active work hours. While the project may cause temporary traffic delays, no homes or businesses will be directly affected. SGPWA and USGS are committed to minimizing disruptions and completing this essential work as safely and efficiently as possible.

This critical project is supported by a \$2 million Sustainable Groundwater Planning (SGWP) Grant from the Department of Water Resources, advancing the goals of the San Gorgonio Pass Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP).

Groundwater monitoring wells collect essential data about the water beneath our feet. SGPWA will use this information to better understand water quality and resources for DACs across the San Gorgonio Pass Subbasin, including areas of Banning, Cabazon, and the Morongo Band of Mission Indians Reservation.

Groundwater monitoring wells track water levels, flow, and quality to assess the health and movement of groundwater. The data they collect strengthens local water resilience. Each installation site is carefully selected to protect the water supply, and once in place, the wells will operate with no impact or disruption to the community.

SGPWA expects to complete the drilling in Ramsey Street and Sunset Avenue by mid-February. Find more information on sgpwa.com.

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About San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency

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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.