



For Immediate Release

Newhall County Water District Announces Participation in Comprehensive Water Management Plan

Newhall County Water District, working in conjunction with a number of other agencies and stakeholders in the Santa Clarita Valley, will be developing a comprehensive plan that addresses region-wide water management and related issues.

The purpose of the plan is to integrate planning and implementation efforts and facilitate regional cooperation with the goal of improving water supply reliability, water recycling, conservation, recreation and access, flood control, wetlands enhancement and creation, and environmental and habitat protection within the Upper Santa Clara River watershed.

A watershed is an area of land where all the water that is under it or drains off of it goes into the same place like a river (also called a drainage area).

“The objective of this far-reaching plan is not to duplicate existing and ongoing plans, but to better integrate these efforts for maximum benefits,” according to Steve Cole, general manager of Newhall County Water District. “It is in keeping with our District’s mission to provide reliable, quality water at a reasonable price to the Santa Clarita Valley.”

The District will be working with Castaic Lake Water Agency, Valencia Water Company, CLWA Santa Clarita Water Division, City of Santa Clarita, Santa Clarita Valley Sanitation District of Los Angeles County, Los Angeles County Flood Control District and stakeholders throughout the watershed to develop and implement the plan.

To improve coordination and assist in inter-agency planning to maximize resources, the agencies are planning to hire a consulting firm with extensive experience in preparing Integrated Regional Water Management Plans.

“Previously, each agency had its own localized planning programs,” says Cole. “But by pooling our resources, we can accomplish more on a larger scale and provide benefits for the entire watershed,” he says, adding that each agency will be contributing funds to develop and implement the plan.

The plan will be prepared in accordance with the Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Act of 2002, also known as Proposition 50. An approved plan will assist in obtaining state funds from both Proposition 50 and the recently passed Proposition 84.

Areas covered by the plan include the San Gabriel mountains to the south and southeast, the Santa Susana mountains to the southwest, the Liebre mountains and Transverse ranges to the northeast and northwest, westward to the Ventura County line; the uppermost areas of the watershed, such as the Acton and Ague Dulce areas, and a portion of northern Los Angeles County.