



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON THE GROUNDWATER REPLENISHMENT SYSTEM FINAL EXPANSION PROJECT

The public is invited to attend a hearing on the Groundwater Replenishment System Final Expansion (GWRSFE) Project ('Project'). The hearing is being held in accordance with the California Code of Regulations Title 22, Division 4, Chapter 3, Section 60320.202 (Title 22).

Background: Orange County Water District (OCWD) is a public agency formed by a special act of the California Legislature in 1933 for the purpose of managing the supply and protecting the quality of the Orange County Groundwater Basin (the Basin). Since its inception, OCWD has implemented numerous programs to achieve these goals, including groundwater recharge, water reuse, seawater intrusion control barriers, and groundwater quality and resource management projects.

The Final Expansion Project is an expansion of the existing Groundwater Replenishment System (GWRS), which is jointly sponsored by the OCWD and Orange County Sanitation District (OC San). OC San is a public agency formed in 1946 under the County Sanitation District Act of 1923 as a single purpose entity, providing wastewater collection, treatment, and disposal for north and central Orange County. OC San provides treated sewage (secondary effluent) to OCWD for use as source water for the GWRS.

The existing GWRS is a water supply project that augments other water supplies by providing a reliable high-quality source of water to recharge the Basin and protect it from further degradation due to seawater intrusion. OCWD operates the GWRS, which has been in service since January 2008. The GWRS currently produces up to 100 million gallons per day (MGD) of purified recycled water using advanced water treatment processes (microfiltration, reverse osmosis, advanced oxidation/photolysis/disinfection, decarbonation, and lime stabilization). Pumping stations and pipelines convey the purified recycled water to injection wells located in the Cities of Fountain Valley, Huntington Beach, and Santa Ana, as well as surface spreading basins in the City of Anaheim.

Project: The GWRSFE Project will expand purified recycled water production capacity from 100 to 130 MGD using the same advanced water treatment processes. The additional source water for the Project will be conveyed from OC San Plant No. 2 in Huntington Beach to the expanded GWRS. This requires construction of headworks segregation, secondary effluent flow equalization storage, and a pump station at Plant No 2., as well as conveyance pipeline rehabilitation.

Additional groundwater recharge capacity is also a component of the Project. Existing recharge facilities located within the Cities of Anaheim (Burris Basin, Riverview Basin, Lower Santa Ana River), Santa Ana (Lower Santiago Creek), and Orange and Villa Park (Santiago Basins, Upper Santiago Creek) will be added as permitted locations for GWRS recycled water recharge.

The OCWD GWRSFE Project Addendum No. 6 Final Program Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement & CEQA-PLUS Federal Consultation Review was completed and certified by the OCWD Board of Directors on September 21, 2016, for compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). An additional Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Water Conveyance Facilities portion of the Project was completed and certified by the OCWD Board of Directors on April 4, 2018. CEQA documentation for a new GWRS pipeline turnout to the Burris Basin and associated projects is expected to be complete by late 2021 or early 2022.

Available Information: A copy of the GWRSFE Project Title 22 Engineering Report (Engineering Report) may be viewed online at <https://www.ocwd.com/working-with-us/public-notices/> or as a hardcopy at the offices of the OCWD, 18700 Ward Street, Fountain Valley, CA 92708. In addition to the Engineering Report, an independent advisory panel report (IAP Report) will be available which will provide guidance to OCWD on a limited number of regulatory issues presented in the Engineering Report. Both locations will also post copies of the IAP report when it becomes available on or about November 10, 2021. Questions regarding the Project can be directed to Jason Dadakis at (714) 378-3200 or jdadakis@ocwd.com.

Public Hearing: OCWD will conduct the public hearing as part of the Title 22 approval process with participation by the California State Water Resources Control Board's Division of Drinking Water (DDW). The hearing will begin with brief presentations about the Project, followed by opportunity for public comments and questions.

Date: Thursday, December 2nd
Time: 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm

Location: Virtual Hearing via Zoom
<https://ocwd.zoom.us/j/82049861845>

Specific language translators can be made available at the hearing. For individuals with disabilities, assistive services such as sign-language interpretation, real-time captioning, live transcription, training/meeting materials in Braille, large print, or universal serial bus (USB) flash drive will be provided. To obtain such services or copies in one of these alternate formats, please contact Jason Dadakis at the above telephone number or email no later than ten (10) working days prior to the hearing.

Public Comments: All public comments on the GWRSFE Project must be submitted in writing and received no later than 5:00 p.m. on December 10, 2021 via mail, email, or phone to:

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