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CALFED FUNDS FIVE LOCAL GROUNDWATER PROJECTS

Governor Davis Signs Bill to Help Finance Local Agency Groundwater Management and Monitoring

Sacramento – The CALFED Bay-Delta Program announced today the funding for five local conjunctive use projects (coordinated use of surface and groundwater).

The five projects were reviewed by a selection panel and chosen based on their ability to meet the CALFED Grant Program's objectives of increasing water supply reliability and restoring ecosystem health to the Bay-Delta system. They are located in the Sacramento, San Joaquin and Salinas Valleys.

Funding was authorized by the federal Bay-Delta Act, and each project will receive a maximum amount of $500,000. The grants will be awarded by CALFED through the Department of Interior.

The following projects were selected: Kern-Tulare Conjunctive Use Project; Anderson-Cottonwood Irrigation District CU Program; City of Tracy Aquifer Storage and Recovery Project; Murphy Crossing Project; and the North San Joaquin Water Conservation District Pilot Recharge Project. (See the attached page for project descriptions.)

In a related development, Governor Davis has signed AB 303, Thomson, to help finance local agency groundwater management and monitoring activities. This measure, which received wide-ranging support in the Legislature, authorizes the Department of Water Resources to make grants to local agencies, based on recommendations from a broad-based technical advisory panel. Groundwater management, conjunctive use of ground and surface water, and local control of these resources are key elements of the CALFED Record of Decision that was signed by federal and state agencies earlier this month.

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AB 303 builds on existing law (AB 3030, 1992) that authorizes local agencies to adopt and implement groundwater management plans. The funding provided by AB 303 will enhance the scientific underpinning of groundwater management plans.

Groundwater resources are vital to the economic and ecological needs of the state. Even so, few regions have good data on how groundwater moves underground, how fast it recharges, how much can be withdrawn before subsidence occurs, or how vegetation is affected by groundwater pumping.

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NOTE: See attached sheet for further conjunctive use project information.

FUNDED CALFED CONJUNCTIVE USE PROJECTS
September 2000

Kern-Tulare Conjunctive Use Project

By Kern-Tulare Water District
Amount recommended: $462,000

This project proposed to use existing facilities to recharge the groundwater basin with existing contract rights during wet years. Grant funds would be used to construct extraction wells to withdraw the recharged water during dry periods.

Anderson-Cottonwood Irrigation District CU Program

By Anderson Cottonwood Irrigation District
Amount recommended: $300,000.

This project proposes to use grant funds to construct up to 12 monitoring wells as part of the first phase of a two phase project. The monitoring wells would be used to characterize canal seepage, groundwater flow direction ad rate of movement, changes in water levels and the economic, institutional, and environmental impacts of developing a supplemental groundwater supply. Phase 2, a staged implementation of a conjunctive use program, would include extraction wells to provide a 10,000 acre feet supplemental supply to the district per recommendations that result from Phase 1 activities.

City of Tracy Aquifer Storage and Recovery Project

By the City of Tracy
Amount recommended: $$462,500

This project proposes to construct an Aquifer Storage and Recovery well, four monitoring wells, and pipelines to store treated surface water in the Tracy area aquifer. The project would bank 2,000 acre feet per year of treated Delta Mendota Canal contract water. Extraction will depend on dry year needs and storage availability.

Murphy Crossing Project

By Pajaro Valley Water Management Association
Amount recommended: $462,500

This project proposes to construct facilities to divert water from the Pajaro River during high flow, convey the water to recharge basins for groundwater storage, and then extract the water when needed. Water is available from the Pajaro when flow exceeds 90 cubic feet per second, generally mid-January through mid-May.

North San Joaquin Water Conservation District Pilot Recharge Project

By North San Joaquin WCD
Amount recommended: $462,500.

This project proposes a five-year pilot project involving wet-year water from the Mokelumne River. Wet-year water ithat is surplus to the needs of the lower river and Delta would be spread on four acres of ponds. Up to 50 percent of the recharged water, minus losses, would be available for extraction by wells for discharge into the Mokelumne River during dry and critically dry years. The impact of DPCP on

groundwater quality and its implications for larger-scale conjunctive use projects would also be evaluated.