

Case Study – Water Supply Reliability (Groundwater Storage)

Local Agency Partnership Program

Groundwater storage is one of the program elements of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program used to address Water Supply Reliability, one of the Program's four primary objectives.

The CALFED Record of Decision (ROD) identified a targeted need of 500,000 acre feet (AF) to 1 million AF of additional storage capacity to be achieved by facilitating and funding locally supported, managed and controlled groundwater and conjunctive management projects. The ROD also identified the need for improving the effectiveness of groundwater management throughout the state.

The Department of Water Resources' (DWR) Local Agency Partnership Program emphasizes the importance of forming partnerships with local agencies and stakeholders to assist in their conjunctive management efforts. DWR works with and provides technical, facilitation and financial assistance to local agencies and stakeholders throughout the state to study the groundwater basins, assess in-basin needs and opportunities for groundwater and conjunctive management.

When the Local Agency Partnership Program commenced in 1999, the Partnerships were focused on efforts within a specific groundwater basin. Over time, the Program has evolved and DWR expanded its efforts through CALFED funding with both local and regional partnership groups for furthering conjunctive and integrated regional water management plans and programs.

Assistance provided to local and regional partnerships has included: technical support for conducting groundwater studies, basin assessments and studies to identify potential conjunctive management projects; independent facilitation services for improving stakeholder involvement, fostering local support for improved groundwater management, and for enhancing stakeholder understanding of local and regional water resource issues and needs; and financial assistance to improve data management, conduct monitoring, and for Groundwater Management Plan development.

Since the inception of the Local Agency Partnership Program, over \$25 million in CALFED funding has been spent to support and provide assistance to local and regional partnership efforts.



Kern Water Banking Authority Recharge Facilities