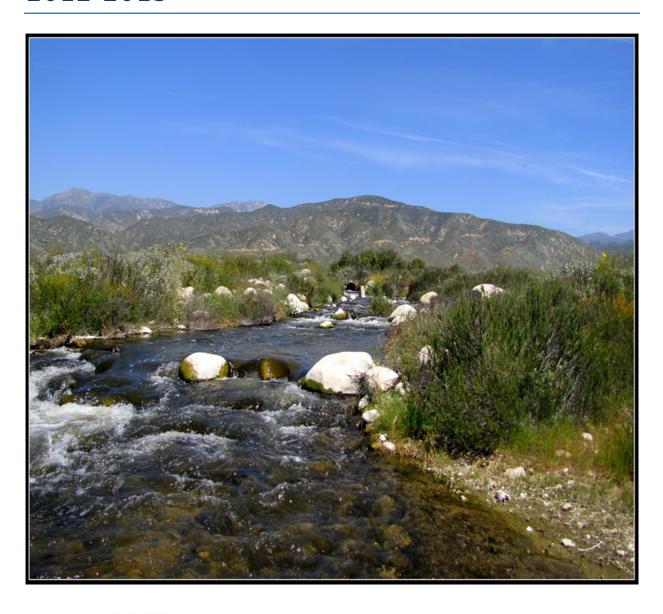
# San Bernardino Valley Water Conservation District Community Strategic Plan 2012-2013





Final Approved May 15, 2013

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# 1 Introduction and History

# 1.1 Introduction

This Community Strategic Plan for the San Bernardino Valley Water Conservation District ("District") was developed during 2012 and early 2013 as a Community Strategic Plan built on the Board's 2010 Strategic Plan. The purpose of the update was to assess progress from the 2010 plan and to evaluate certain elements of the 2010 plan for community support and financial feasibility. The Strategic Plan completed in 2010 was created to assist the District Board and Management in the development of a vision for the District shortly after the efforts to consolidate the District were not upheld. Certain expansion strategies and financial issues were of concern to various communities and partners. The Board set aside the approved plan and commenced with the short term actions and seeking community and partner feedback on the Community Strategic Plan.

During 2012, the Board of Directors and General Manager reviewed various issues in the Community Strategic Plan and better developed elements that lacked detail. The 2012-2013 Strategic Plan was presented at the January 2013 Board meeting in PowerPoint summary form. The plan described in the following pages expands on details and documents the plan for final review by the Board and the District partners, communities and stakeholders.

# 1.2 District History

The District has a long history in water management in the east end of the San Bernardino Valley. A long drought from 1898 to 1903 brought sustainable water supplies for the Santa Ana River to the forefront of attention for San Bernardino, Riverside and Orange Counties. A private Water Conservation Association (WCA) was formed in 1909; led by Francis Cuttle, the Manager of the Riverside Water Company. This group pushed for surface water flows to be stored underground for future use. In 1909 four entire sections were set aside by the Federal Government for water conservation.

Percolation ponds were dug, and the Cuttle Weir was completed by 1914. The current District was formed by the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors on January 4, 1932 by a vote of landowners to obtain water for conservation purposes as a special purpose District under §74000

California Water Code
Water Conservation District
Act of 1931, and shortly
thereafter the WCA
dissolved. The District has
fee ownership, water
recharge easements,
and/or permitted use on
more than 3,650 acres. The
District, as an agency,
serves a total of
approximately 50,000
acres.



**Cuttle Weir Diversion Structure Dedication** 

This water mission, which is the origin of the District, continues to be critical to the water basin and to the farmers, communities and stakeholders of the region as they were when the District began.

# 1.2.1 Recent History

Relevant to the history of the mission of the District is its interaction with the region. In 2005, the Local Agency Formation Commission ("LAFCO") eliminated the District's Sphere of Influence signaling it intended to consolidate the District. In 2009, LAFCO proposed consolidation of the District into the San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District, despite the objections of the District. The LAFCO Commission did not approve the consolidation and the District operates today having implemented most of the recommendations made by LAFCO, short of consolidating. The District has greatly improved its financial ability to provide recharge and related conservation services as well as cooperation with partners and communities for shared services and access to facilities. The District has recently filed to reinstate a sphere of influence for the District. Additionally, the District has continued to strengthen relationships and open lines of communications with water agencies, cities and its partners in the region.

# 1.2.2 Recent Changes and Accomplishments

In 2011, the District addressed several governance issues and developed an enterprise financial system to separate the District's activities into distinct enterprises providing transparency and accountability in the District's financial dealings. In 2011 and 2012 the Groundwater Charge was increased by 25% and 15% respectively to allow the groundwater enterprise to raise adequate revenue to operate the Water Enterprise facilities within its financial ability without subsidy from the District reserves or other enterprises. The District also developed a concise reserve policy to provide clarity to the development, maintenance and use of reserves.

2012 marked the completion of the District's Enhanced Recharge Agreement with Western Municipal Water District ("WMWD") and San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District ("SBVMWD"). This agreement, dubbed the Collaborative Agreement, was developed to cooperatively provide existing recharge facilities, and develop and operate new facilities on District lands. This agreement is a cost effective method for additional recharge within the Basin for all three districts.

In October 2012, the District took the final steps to implement SB-235, a bill sponsored by the District, to allow it to reduce from seven board members to five Board members. The Board adopted five new Division boundaries, based on the 2010 Census.

Finally, 2012 marked the decision by the Board to proceed with Phase 1 of the Wash Plan, which would renegotiate the conservation

San Bernardino Valley Water Conservation District Division Boundaries

Division 1: 45,532 - 4,37%
Division 3: 45,592 + 1,17%
Division 3: 45,592 + 1,77%
Division 3: 45,592 to 1,0004%
Division 3: 45,764 to 1,0004%
Division 4: 45,764 to 1,0004%
Division 5: 45,764 to 1,0004%
Division 5: 45,764 to 1,0004%
Division 6: 45,764 to 1,0004%
Division 6: 45,764 to 1,0004%
Division 6: 45,764 to 1,0004%
Division 7: 45,764 to 1,0004%
Division 8: 45,764 to 1,0004%
Divi

strategy and gain agreements needed to proceed with completion of the Wash Plan in accordance with the shared cooperative structure under the Wash Plan Task Force.

# 1.2.3 Summary of Community Strategic Plan Goals

This Community Strategic Plan provides background and context to the efforts and goals in the plan. The following table summarizes the Community Strategic Plan goals as described in more detail as they relate to the District's mission in the rest of the plan.

# No. Community Strategic Plan Goal

- 1 Increase and enhance basin water resources and conservation management through core mission efforts and enhancement projects
- 2 Provide effective stewardship of District lands for environmental, water conservation and habitat management through the Wash Plan, the Districts land use planning effort
- 3 Continue to develop and improve financially sound and efficient District organization with secure foundation to better serve District Partners and Communities
- 4 Deliver services and programs to improve non-retail outdoor water use efficiency and new groundwater recharge in the valley watershed.
- 5 Support trails and outdoor recreation identified in the Wash Plan and in cooperation with District Partners and Communities where financially viable
- **6** Develop staff and District organization to support District mission and regional projects and programs
- Support and lead regional efforts related to water conservation and management of natural resources with District partners and communities

# 2 Core Mission and Activities

While the District has the tag line "our name is our mission", the formal adopted mission of the District approved in 2001 is shown below:

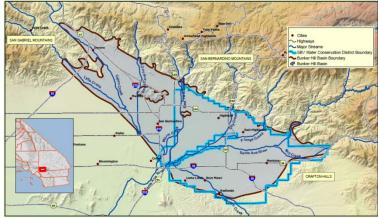
The mission of the San Bernardino Valley Water Conservation District is to ensure recharge of the Bunker Hill Groundwater Basin in an environmentally and economically responsible way, using local native surface water to the maximum extent practicable. We strive to improve the supply and quality of groundwater, balancing such demands with those of land, mineral, and biological resources.

The core water mission is but one of the District's important efforts undertaken by the District. The section below describes several of the core activities of the District that are ongoing.

# 2.1 Water Activities

Water conservation management and recharging the groundwater aquifer are the core water activities of the District. These vital functions have been provided by the District and its predecessor association for

over 100 years. The District has recorded



**Bunker Hill Groundwater Basin** 

more than one million acre feet of water recharged in its history which equates to approximately 325 billion gallons.

# 2.1.1 Water Facilities Management

The facilities of the District for water recharge are a diverse collection of weirs, diversion structures, gates, canals, recharge basins and overflows. Field operations personnel are adept at utilizing and enhancing the capabilities of the existing facilities. While many of these facilities were constructed many years ago, annual cleaning, maintenance, and upgrades are critical to achieving the strategic goals in this area. As the population of the District has grown, Enhanced Recharge facilities have been

planned to support the additional needed recharge in a financially efficient manner through shared facility uses with SBVMWD and WMWD.

In 2012, the District updated its Operations and Maintenance Plan and Manual. This update significantly enhanced the documented information about the facilities and their operations. The manual describes the field functions for all facilities, equipment and operations. It also provides information on the many coordinated efforts and partnerships related to the District's operations.



**District Percolation Basins in Mill Creek** 

# 2.1.2 Water Facilities Partnerships

The District is an active participant in several regional partnerships related to the water mission. These separate efforts are related by the District's position in the watershed and its independent purpose in the region. These partnerships and shared services assist the public and other agencies as much as they do the District. They enable all entities to

operate more efficiently and ensure adequate services are available to the public.

# 2.1.2.1 Big Bear Watermaster

The District is one of the three court-appointed Watermaster members with Big Bear Municipal Water District and Bear Valley Mutual Water Company. The District's primary role is as an unbiased representative of the groundwater basin to ensure the basin is kept whole in the operations of the Big Bear Dam facilities and water management activities. This strategic partnership supports the working relationships between the mountain communities, their water supply and the water supply for the valley and its users.

# 2.1.2.2 Exchange Plan

The Exchange Plan is an existing program cooperative measurement and documentation of surface waters that are directed and divided above, on and around District lands. The District field staff monitors Santa Ana River and Mill Creek water diversions, transfers, exchanges and the amount of water recharged for the benefit of the basin on a daily basis. This is summarized in Daily and Monthly Flow Reports provided to water managers and the public through email and the District website. These efforts support strategic goals for many agencies and ensure documentation and efficient surface flow deliveries.

# 2.1.2.3 Facility Improvements

In addition to annual cleaning and maintenance, the District has made a number of changes and improvements in the facilities over time. These changes increase the efficiency of operations and reduce likelihood of injury and damage to facilities. Gates and other control structures have been improved and updated as well as overflows to recharge basins. Many of these improvements have been done in coordination with partners to accommodate additional flows, such as State Water Project imported water recharged on behalf of the District's water partners.



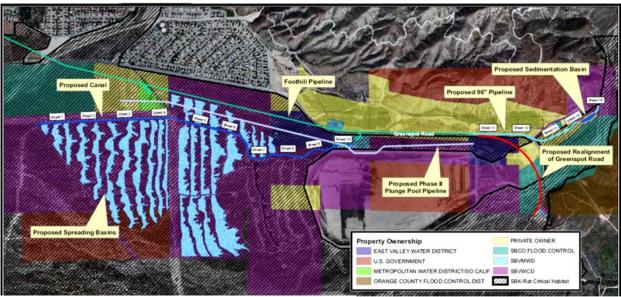
**Diversion Maintenance Activities** 

The Enhanced Recharge joint project with SBVMWD and WMWD will improve and increase capacity needed to support present and projected population needs as well as the current capacity of the District's facilities. In partnership, SBVMWD led the second phase of the project developing a design for additional recharge of water that was demonstrated to be available through the water rights application approved by the State Water Resources Control Board. This project is further described in Section 2.2.1 below.

# 2.2 Strategic Efforts Related to the Water Mission

# 2.2.1 Enhanced Recharge

The joint cooperative project initiated in 2008 and codified in a three party, 50 year lease agreement is one of the District's most significant strategic goals. The productive combination of capital and water rights from WMWD and SBVMWD with the District's ideally suited lands and operations capabilities create significant value for the San Bernardino Basin Area (SBBA). This effort expands recharge capacity on District lands by more than 100 acres of new facilities supporting current reliability and projected growth. The agreement also requires the District to efficiently maintain the facilities as it does the existing recharge basins. Collaboratively developing this expanded capacity is one of the District's most significant strategic element activities.



**Enhanced Recharge Plans and Land Ownership** 

This 50 year agreement allows the benefit of use of the shared facilities to reduce the cost and increase operational efficiency for the public. This agreement also sets the stage for additional shared services and support between the upper watershed agencies.

# 2.2.1.1 Resource Implications

The District currently allocates enhanced recharge funding toward the Groundwater Enterprise field efforts. The agreement also requires the District to hold, in reserve, money from the lease payment to prepare for basin cleaning. This revenue is generated from the annual payments as provided for in the lease agreement with WMWD and SBVMWD for the expanded facilities with revenue also allocated to the Land Enterprise. This additional revenue increased the financial ability of the District to provide these and other critical public services.

Current efforts include coordinating engineering, environmental and other planning. In 2013 and 2014, the District will be supporting the final design, permitting, construction, and initial operations of the Enhanced Recharge facilities. The District will support these efforts with current field staff and contract personnel. Upon completion of the facilities and initial operations, the District will budget to add an additional field staff person to assist in the operations and maintenance of the new facilities, as needed.

# 2.2.2 Enhanced Security and Habitat Management

An important strategic goal is to increase the security of the facilities and lands the District owns or manages under easement. The increases in metal theft, trespassing and off road vehicle traffic damage the District's lands, facilities and habitat. Reducing illegal access is a strategic long term effort of the District in order to reliably provide services and safeguard facilities. Additionally, increasing appropriate legal access to the District lands is an important goal as well. While these goals may seem in opposition, properly designed and managed trail access can actually reduce illegal access in some areas while providing an important amenity to the Communities within the District. Issues related to habitat are discussed in the Land Management Section, but controlling access to sensitive habitat areas will be critical to the success of that program as well. Significant efforts will be planned to place barriers, increase enforcement, and other cooperative efforts with public safety entities.

# 2.2.2.1 Resources Implications

The District currently budgets funding for Security Enhancements, primarily in the area of maintaining fencing, destruction of nuisance buildings and development of better perimeter control to discourage illegal entry by vehicle. Current funding is primarily focused on the groundwater facilities and funded from the Groundwater Enterprise. Future funding and coordination with the East Branch Extension II (EBX2) work will be associated

**District Main Canal to Santa Ana Basins** 

with the Land Enterprise. Currently and for the near term, field staff will support this effort on a time

available or needed basis. Future efforts associated with the Wash Plan will require additional staffing and funding.

# 2.2.3 Water Use Efficiency Efforts

The District has had a limited role in retail customer water use efficiency; as discussed, its primary role is in diverting surface water to recharge groundwater. The Board has a strategic goal to efficiently expand its water use efficiency efforts to more fully implement its mission within its financial ability. To accomplish this in an effective manner, these efforts will seek opportunities in which it can partner with others or to work in areas not served by retail water providers.

# 2.2.3.1 Communication with Groundwater Producers

Because the retail water providers are the District's partners and pay the Groundwater Charge, it is more efficient for them to communicate with retail water users. The District can fulfill this part of its strategic goals by partnering with them to assist where needed in reaching their customers. Additionally, there are partners not currently adequately served by retail water suppliers, communities or others who are engaged in current conservation programs. These are producers who are likely our non-governmental Groundwater Charge payees and may not be receiving a message about conservation. This is an area the District can assist and provide these services.

### 2.2.3.2 Educational Outreach

The Board has authorized the District to participate with the Inland Empire Resource Conservation District ("IERCD") in its Elementary School Education efforts. This mature program is in need of additional support to reach more students. By partnering with the IERCD, the District can convey messages about conservation and its efforts to help while supporting the existing programs. This cost effective program shares staff and facilities, and achieves multiple goals at a low cost.

# 2.2.3.3 New Recharge Projects

Just as with the other conservation elements, developing additional water recharge facilities is a strategic goal of the District in order to provide adequate recharge to the public. In 2012, the District was selected for a One Water One Watershed grant under the SAWPA Integrated Regional Water Management Planning program. This project seeks to increase water recharge and endangered habitat in the Upper Plunge Creek. This project developed in conjunction with the San Bernardino Flood Control District, San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District and US Fish and Wildlife service will support increased recharge, significantly improve habitat and help restore the healthy function of Plunge Creek. As a collaborative project, its shared benefits efficiently provide services to the region

and it is an opportunity to work together with the resources agencies and habitat managers in the region.



Plunge Creek Habitat and Water Conservation Project – restoration areas shown in green

# 2.2.3.4 Conservation Education and Outreach

The Board identified an opportunity to help develop and provide conservation education to landscapers and gardeners who manage water at the many facilities they maintain. This unmet conservation gap could have a significant impact on outdoor water usage from municipal waters, but more importantly from small agricultural groves and facilities that obtain water from mutual water companies or private wells. This sector is not currently served or targeted for education in the District's area. Staff was tasked to better characterize the opportunity and coordinate with District partners and communities to determine the feasibility and approach to fill this service need. Resource needs are not identified at this time but believed to be limited, due to cooperation with other agencies for development and implementation.

# 2.2.3.5 Resources Implications

The District currently budgets very limited funding toward conservation education and outreach efforts. The strategic goal of increasing conservation reduces the water demand on the basin and the amount of water recharge needed to maintain the groundwater basin. By cooperating with others for shared services and with our groundwater producers that do not have existing programs, we can very cost effectively reach groups who do not otherwise get these messages. Projects like the Plunge Creek Conservation Project bring funding for efficient expanded recharge services at a low cost to the District with significant benefits for natural resources of the region.

# 3 Land Resource Management

In 2011, the District established a Land Management Enterprise to better clarify the roles of the District and to provide better accountability of the sources and use of funding provided in the various areas of the District's efforts. Components and tasks are described below along with several strategic goals related to this effort.

# 3.1 Land Management Enterprise

The Land Management Enterprise holds the District's land holdings not directly related to current water recharge activities. Revenue related to this enterprise includes mining royalties, land leases, commercial property leases, and easement payments for encroachments and encumbrances. These revenues enhance the District's financial position through one time and recurring revenue opportunities which can support the District's core functions and augment reserves to stabilize rates and allow funding of improvements.

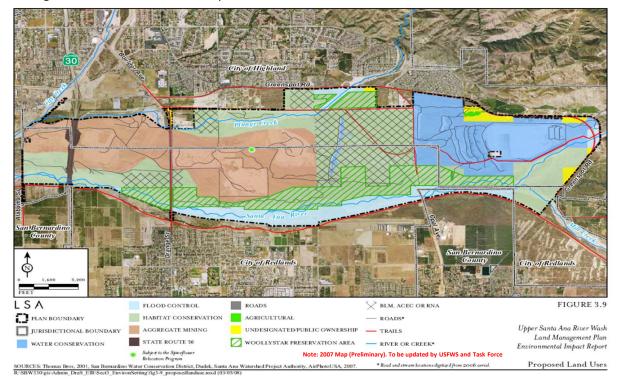
# SEVWCD

Blooming Santa Ana Woolly Star, an endangered species

# 3.2 Long Term Wash Planning and Management

A key planning and management effort related to the land management enterprise is Plan B or the Santa Ana Wash Plan. This plan is a long term management approach to create a comprehensive program to manage the Wash Area shown on the following page. The development of this plan is

difficult and requires the participation of the Task Force, made up of stakeholder communities and partners as well as resource agencies such as US Fish and Wildlife Service, the Bureau of Land Management and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.



**District Wash Plan Showing Proposed Land Uses** 

While time consuming and difficult to complete, this plan is critical to permitting mining operations beyond their current boundaries, accommodating enhanced recharge facilities, documenting and permitting maintenance functions the District undertakes as well as supporting our community and partners local projects with impacts to endangered and threatened species present in the wash.

# 3.2.1 Strategic Goals Related to the Wash Plan

Several strategic goals related to this planning effort are summarized by the Wash Plan's commitments to effective stewardship of District owned and managed easement lands. Habitat management and enhancement in accordance with the Wash Plan is both a requirement and an opportunity for the District. Implementing the Wash Plan is a key element to sustainability of water recharge in the wash area. Current strategic examples include:

- Development of Conservation Strategy
- Wash Plan Phase II implementation
- Continue to develop projects with partners and communities
- Expand partnerships for water use efficiency and recharge efforts
- Support the Wash Plan with District capabilities as needed and funded

# 3.2.1.1 Community Resources and Recreation

From the work with the Task Force, the Wash Plan incorporates community use of District Land Resources. The development of trails which connect to the Santa Ana River Trail and open District lands to hikers, runners and off road bicycles is an element of the Wash Plan that creates a community recreational resource opportunity. The Board has embraced this opportunity as a strategic goal to coordinate and support its communities in ways that are financially viable for the District to provide access. These efforts would likely be implemented with the Communities and County as partners, as appropriate, to bring expertise and potentially commitment of support.

# 3.3 Mining, Land Use and Development

Responsibly planning, managing and developing the District's lands are key to the sustainability of the District and its land holdings.

# **3.3.1 Mining**

An example of these development proposals is aggregate mining leases which pay royalties to the District.

Additionally, they make aggregate material available to the local



Mining in the Santa Ana River Wash seen from the air

communities at a lower cost and a lower carbon footprint than hauling it from longer distances. Furthermore, these mining efforts also pay tax or royalties to the surrounding communities' general funds. In 2011, the District negotiated a revised agreement with CEMEX to provide Minimum Annual Guaranteed revenue to the District in the case that they did not mine the resources. The District also has agreements with Redlands Aggregate for permitted aggregate mining. Even in the mining area, the District facilitated an agreement with CEMEX and the County of San Bernardino to provide an easement allowing the County to cooperatively operate on District lands for processing sediment from flood control facilities. The District continues to maximize opportunities for new amenities for District community partners and better land use not currently being mined or when mining is complete.

In addition, the District has a contract with Robertson's Ready Mix, including a prepaid royalty, which provides for mining on District property when permitting is completed. A prepaid royalty has been provided to the District to hold this opportunity until permitting is completed under the Wash Plan.

# 3.3.2 Land Use and Development

In a given year several proposals will be presented to the District to participate in related development on District lands or in nearby communities. These proposals, where consistent with the Wash Plan and District policy, can be accommodated if in the best interest of the District or its communities and partners. Easement and fee proposals to develop District lands not needed for water conservation are received and may be solicited under certain conditions. A strategic goal related to this area is to continue to develop alternate long term funding mechanisms for the District to mitigate rates for groundwater producers and to fund District land management needs.

# 3.4 Sustainability and Resource Management

The District is also committed to sustainably managing the lands it owns and uses with its partners and communities. In prior strategic plans the District has provided vision for community parks and recreational amenities. Additionally, wetland areas were suggested for water quality issues. Currently there is no driving need or funding to support these projects but the Board believes that these amenities may fit into broader future resource management efforts with partners in the region. It is important to keep these efforts in mind when discussing resources management for the region.



**District Lands and Native Habitat** 

# 4 Agency and General Fund

While a majority of the strategic goals are related to projects of the District, some are primarily related to the District operations and are listed in this section.

# 4.1 Annual and Short Term Efforts

The prior Community Strategic Plan contained a number of efforts which were short term, generally less than one year. Beginning in 2011, the Board began setting priorities at the beginning of its calendar year to allow these priorities to be implemented during the calendar year. Some of these items were normal District efforts that required special attention or were infrequent projects. Other priorities are more related to providing direction and accountability for the staff and Board by being tracked and reported upon. These items are no longer contained in the Community Strategic Plan.

# 4.2 Organizational and Financial Improvement

The District has the strategic goal of continuing to develop a more efficient District governance and organization with a secure organizational and financial foundation. Enhancing this status and continuing to build relationships are a strategic goal intended to provide better, more reliable service to the District's partners and communities.

An example of this strategic goal accomplished in 2012 was the development of the groundwater charge rates which are adequate to fund the District's groundwater recharge services.

Current strategic effort examples include:

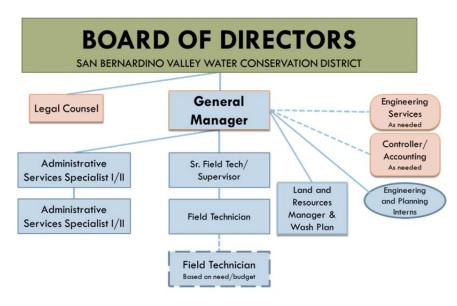
- Managing costs and expenses to ensure cost effective service
- Rebuilding reserves from revenue opportunities to stabilize District costs and service levels
- Application to reinstate the District's Sphere of Influence and demonstration of improvements in the Municipal Service Review (MSR) process
- Working with regional partners and supporting projects, common needs and shared facilities
- Developing cooperative agreements to support mutual needs

 Demonstrating the value of the District's role and services in supporting and enhancing community and partner resources

# 4.3 Develop Staff and Organizational Capacity

The Board recommended a strategic goal of developing staff and the District's capability to support

key regional programs such as the Wash Plan, and Natural Resources Management in cooperation with the District's partners. This development will be done as needed and as they are financially viable. The 2013 organizational chart is shown here. Expansion of training for existing staff, use of interns and consultants, and collaborative staff sharing with neighboring agencies and communities will be used. Based on this strategic goal the District staffing plan may need to be revised.



**District Organization Chart** 

# 5 Strategic Revenue Initiatives

The District has recently come out of a difficult financial time which began in 2008 and continued through 2011. This situation mirrored the overall economic slow-down; however, the effect on the District was more severe because all sources of the District Revenues were impacted at the same time. Since this time, the District has revised its financial structure, reduced costs, and implemented various policies that will reduce the likelihood and severity of these occurrences in the future. This will allow the District the financial ability to adequately provide its core public services. The District implemented cost reductions documented in the annual budgets including the reduction from Seven to Five Divisions for the Board of Directors as allowed by SB-235. The District also adopted the Enterprise Financial structure and reserve policies to limit the future impact of the broader economic times on the District, since drought happens in good and bad economic times. The District revenues are described briefly below, categorized as renewable and non-renewable.

# 5.1 Renewable

Renewable revenues are generated every year in varying levels based on the source and conditions.

# 5.1.1 Groundwater Charge

The District has increased its Groundwater Charge in both of the past two years with the support of the District partners and communities; no rate changes are anticipated for the present year. The rates per acre-foot are still very low and affordable to the water producers in the basin.

# **5.1.2** Investments

The District reserves are adequate to ensure future operations and the variability of its revenue sources. The District's investments include significant funding provided as a prepayment of royalties. Investment of these cash reserves provides a small but sustainable amount of revenue to the District.

# **5.1.3** Rental/Lease Income

The District owns fee lands and office and residential space beyond the current needs of the District. The District manages these investments to reduce its operating cost and provide public opportunities for local communities.

# 5.1.4 Service Fees and Other Income

The District provides a number of services and allows use of its land for compatible purposes. Recharge and other services performed for others are ongoing sources of stable revenue. Additionally, the District gains other revenue from sales of materials that are generated from the cleaning of basins or placement of materials for storage or processing on District lands.

# **5.1.5** Property Tax

The District has a minimal amount of General Fund property tax it receives related to its share of county collected taxes. The annual property tax of the past few years is approximately \$75,000. This cost is adequate to pay for elections in years when Board Members are challenged in elections.

# 5.2 Extractive or Non-Renewable

Certain funding sources are not renewable and when used or spent are no longer available to the District.

# **5.2.1** Mining Royalties

Mining royalties from extracted material are priced based on a market rate negotiated with the company mining the lease. The material that is permitable and minable is finite and cannot be easily expanded. The Wash Plan conservation strategy provides for a large increase in minable area and although increased, will be finite. Additionally, the lands after mining are less useful and more difficult to reclaim for productive purposes.

# 5.2.2 Property Sale Easement or Mitigation Revenue

District fee lands can be sources of revenue to the District if well managed. Various public and private organizations seek easements which are generally compatible with the use of the land for recharge and habitat lands. However, once a pipeline or road is developed in the land, that generally precludes other uses of the land. Additional mitigation for habitat may be required due to District or other party



**Collaborative Use of District Lands** 

actions. The District may be able to provide offsetting mitigation for its own projects, easement projects or partners' requirements. These offsets for habitat are likely to generate revenue, but are unlikely to generate revenue significantly above the costs required to maintain the land. Careful

consideration should be given to the acceptance or use of these revenues due to the loss of alternative opportunities for the property and funding.

# 6 Community Strategic Plan Input and Feedback

The community based process uses the elements of the April 2010 Strategic Plan to develop the Community Strategic Plan. Upon receiving input from water partners, community partners, and wash plan stakeholders, staff will develop a draft for review and comment. By enlisting participations from these key contributors, it will enable a better understanding of their needs and an opportunity to create a shared vision.

# 6.1 Process and Feedback

The District used an open process and actively solicited feedback on this Community Strategic Plan to better understand the community's needs. The draft document was circulated and presented in summary for water, community and other partner's feedback. During the development of the plan staff and/or Directors met with:

- Groundwater Recharge Partners and Water Agencies
- Land Stakeholders and Wash Plan Task Force Members
- Mining Partners
- Resource Agencies
- Districts, Cities and the County of San Bernardino
- Community Stakeholders

# 6.2 Approvals

The Board of Directors reviewed the Circulation Draft Community Strategic Plan and approved it for circulation and comment. Staff modified the document to reflect the recommended changes, community feedback and comments to produce the final draft. The Board approved this final version for implementation based on community feedback and comment May 15, 2013.

# 6.3 Implementation and Revision

Staff will implement the Community Strategic Plan with direction from the Board of Directors and in cooperation with the District's partners and communities. The Community Strategic Plan will assist with the development of the Annual Priorities List and the Annual Fiscal Budget for the District. It is recommended that staff and the Board review the Community Strategic Plan related to critical decisions and formally review and potentially revise the plan at least every three years.

If you have questions or comments please feel free to contact the District.

**Daniel Cozad, General Manager** 

dcozad@sbvwcd.org 909-793-2503 1630 Redlands Blvd. Suite 1 Redlands, California 92373