



# SAN BERNARDINO VALLEY WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Established 1932

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Date: February 14, 2018

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING AND HEARING RE GROUNDWATER CHARGE RATES

TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN GROUNDWATER PRODUCTION WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF THE SAN BERNARDINO VALLEY WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT:

The San Bernardino Valley Water Conservation District ("District") has completed the 2018 Engineering Investigation (EI) of the Bunker Hill Basin. The Draft EI was presented to the Board at its February 14<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting and will be presented to the Board for approval at its March 14<sup>th</sup> Board of Directors meeting to be held at the District Office at 1:30 p.m. This report is completed in connection with the Board of Directors' consideration of a groundwater charge on groundwater production within the Conservation District's boundaries. Article 1, Section 75560 of the California Water Code, requires that a water conservation district that proposes to levy or continue a groundwater extraction fee "...shall annually cause to be made an engineering investigation and report upon groundwater conditions of the District." A copy of the Conservation District's 2018 EI report is available for review online at the District's website at <http://www.sbvwcd.org/reports-and-data/engineering-investigation.html> or at the District's office at 1630 West Redlands Blvd., Suite A, Redlands, CA. This notice is provided to advise all interested parties that District staff has recommended a rate increase of 4% for the upcoming water year and the use of rate stabilization reserves to the District's Board of Directors who approved this rate for noticing. The staff proposed unitary groundwater charge for 2018-2019 of \$12.56 per acre-foot (af) for all groundwater production. The Board is considering a three year phase-in of the unitary rate for various non-municipal agricultural uses. The groundwater charge rate under this phase-in would be \$6.51 per acre-foot in year one for eligible non-municipal agricultural producers. The rates are proposed pertain to municipal and non-municipal agricultural groundwater production from July 1, 2018-June 30, 2019. The groundwater charge is not imposed on a property basis, but rather is a per acre-foot charge, which relates directly to the amount of groundwater produced from wells overlying the groundwater basin within the Conservation District's boundaries. Consequently, the ultimate amount of groundwater charge to be paid by individual operators cannot be precisely identified now, because it will depend directly upon the amount of groundwater produced in the basin from July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019. The total amount of revenues from the groundwater charge is estimated at approximately \$958,497 based on production reported for the 2017-2018 water year. The groundwater charge is collected on a semi-annual basis, based on production statements operators submit for their groundwater production. The District uses the proceeds of the groundwater charge to fund ongoing groundwater replenishment of the basin, including direct water recharge, facility operations repairs and maintenance, and related costs. A public meeting and public hearing on the proposed groundwater charge will be held in the Conservation District's Board Room located at 1630 West Redlands Blvd., Suite A, Redlands, CA 92373. The date and time for the public meeting will be April 11, 2018, at 1:30 pm. The date and time of the public hearing will be held on April 25, 2018, at 1:30 pm. The District will also be asked on April 25, 2018 to make a finding that the imposition of the groundwater charge is exempt from CEQA, under title 14, C.C.R. Sections 15273, 15301, and 15306. You are invited to attend the public meeting and public hearing, and may submit evidence concerning groundwater conditions, water supplies of the Conservation District, rates, the CEQA exemption findings, or any matter relating to the proposed groundwater charge. Please be advised that in any later judicial or other action challenging the groundwater charge, you may be limited to those grounds raised either in writing or in person prior to the close of the public hearing. Further inquiries regarding the report or the groundwater charge, or requests for further documents or information, may be directed to Daniel B. Cozad at 1630 West Redlands Blvd., Suite A, Redlands, CA 92373, or by telephone at (909) 793-2503.

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