



District News

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Workshop launches benchmark study plan on sustainability of water supply project
Experts provide insight on testing methods to determine impact of Cadiz Water Project.

CLAREMONT, CA – More than 30 scientists, water industry officials and regional stakeholders gathered at Three Valleys Municipal Water District (TVMWD) on Thursday, October 10, for a workshop to kick off a rigorous scientific study plan to determine the effects of a proposed water supply project for Southern California.

TVMWD commissioned the independent evaluation in June to address critics' concerns about whether pumping at the Cadiz Water Project in the Mojave Desert would impact the adjacent Bonanza Spring. As a potential customer of the project, the District wants to ensure operations would be sustainable.

Hydrologist Anthony Brown was selected to develop a detailed study plan, based on input from Thursday's workshop attendees and a study team involving a geophysicist, geochemist and ecologist. The team visited the spring and surrounding area for the first time on October 9.

"We are here to do science. We have not come with any agenda," said Brown, founder of aquilogic, an environmental and water resources consulting firm based in Costa Mesa, CA.

The public can access the plan, test results and background materials online at www.aquilogicstudy.org

The plan will be developed over the next month, then TVMWD's Board of Directors will vote on whether to proceed with a study. If approved to go forward, a final report would be delivered to the District next fall. The work is being funded by the project applicant.

The study is a follow-up to recommendations made earlier this year by an independent review panel led by Brown. The panel determined that a groundwater monitoring and mitigation plan approved by the County of San Bernardino is adequate but recommended additional testing to conclude whether there is a hydrologic connection between the project and the spring 11 miles away.

Brown has served as a consulting hydrologist around the world and is an expert on sustainable groundwater management, water rights adjudication and groundwater remediation. His clients include water districts, State agencies, non-profit organizations and large landowners.

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In 1950, Pomona Valley Municipal Water District (PVMWD) was formed under State law for the purpose of annexing to the Metropolitan Water District (MWD), thereby entitling the area to receive water imported to the region. The district changed its name to Three Valleys Municipal Water District in 1981.

TVMWD, a wholesale water agency is governed by an elected Board of seven officials and covers approximately 133 square miles. The present population is about 525,000. Since its formation the Three Valleys Municipal Water District has installed some 37,000 feet of pipeline and delivered more than 150 billion gallons of water.