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## NEWS RELEASE

### **SAN BERNARDINO VALLEY MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT TO STUDY STORM WATER RUNOFF THAT COULD BE CAPTURED FROM 13 SAN BERNARDINO MOUNTAIN STREAMS**

SAN BERNARDINO, Nov. 18, 2009 – San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District has hired a consulting engineering firm to quantify the amount of storm water that could be captured from 13 San Bernardino Mountain streams.

Valley District and its partner agencies have been working diligently to develop projects that capture additional runoff from the local mountains. A nearly 20-year effort by Valley District and Western Municipal Water District of Riverside County to secure water rights on the Santa Ana River culminated successfully last month with the issuance of a water rights permit from the State Water Resources Control Board. This latest effort builds on that success and will help Valley District reach its goal of increased water supply reliability for its 700,000 customers.

The study will provide critical information on facility sizes and water capture amounts to assist in the design of the water supply projects needed to maximize the use of our native water supplies. This and other Valley District led efforts will reduce our dependence on water supplies delivered through the fragile Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.

“Once the amount of storm water runoff has been quantified, we would then be in a position to identify existing and new facilities that could be used to maximize the capture and use of this storm water to replenish the underground basins,” said Randy Van Gelder, Valley District’s general manager.

The \$186,000 contract was awarded to La Verne-based Geoscience Support Services Inc. with a final report due to Valley District by April. Valley District will pay for 72 percent of the costs of the study, with the balance being covered by Western Municipal Water District and Riverside Public Utilities.

Valley District and Western are court-appointed watermasters of the Bunker Hill and Lytle Creek groundwater basins and regularly share the costs of studies and improvements to water facilities that help them manage and maintain the basins.

Van Gelder said Geoscience Support Services will study the water flows of 13 tributaries of the Santa Ana River in a 15-mile area arching from San Timoteo Canyon to Lytle Creek. These tributaries include Mill Creek, Plunge Creek, City Creek, San Creek, East Twin Creek, Waterman Canyon Creek, Devil Canyon Creek, Cable Creek, Cajon Creek, Warm Creek, Lytle Creek, San Timoteo Creek and Mission-Zanja Creek.

*San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District was formed in 1954 as a regional agency to plan a long-range water supply for the San Bernardino Valley. It imports water into its service area through participation in the State Water Project and manages groundwater storage within its boundaries. Valley District's customers include 13 retail water agencies from Rialto to Yucaipa, which collectively have more than 700,000 business and residential customers. Valley District's 350-square mile service area spans the eastern two-thirds of the San Bernardino Valley, the Crafton Hills, and a portion of the Yucaipa Valley and includes the cities and communities of San Bernardino, Colton, Loma Linda, Redlands, Rialto, Bloomington, Highland, East Highland, Mentone, Grand Terrace, and Yucaipa. Additional information is available at [www.sbvmd.com](http://www.sbvmd.com).*