

Douglas Headrick, General Manager
(909) 387-9226
douglash@sbvmwd.com

NEWS RELEASE

VALLEY DISTRICT AND OTHER AGENCIES TO BREAK GROUND THIS SUMMER ON A MULTI-PHASE STORMWATER CAPTURE PROJECT TO REPLENISH GROUNDWATER BASINS

Armed with new water rights permits in hand, Valley District and other agencies expect to capture an average of 20,000 acre feet of additional runoff each year, although their permits enable them to capture up to 198,000 acre feet during the wettest years

SAN BERNARDINO, Calif., July 6, 2010 – San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District and other agencies expect to break ground this summer on multi-million dollar project to capture stormwater runoff for groundwater recharge purposes.

The Seven Oaks Dam Stormwater Management Project is a multi-phase, multi-million dollar effort that will enable local agencies to recharge the Bunker Hill and adjacent groundwater basins with previously unobtainable runoff from the San Bernardino Mountains.

Agencies expect to capture an average of 20,000 acre feet of additional runoff each year for groundwater recharge purposes, although recently obtained water rights enable local agencies to capture up to 198,000 acre feet of runoff annually during the wettest years. Initial phases of the project are to be completed in 2011 and 2012.

“These new water rights benefit every water agency in the Inland Empire because every drop of water we capture from our local mountains is one less drop of water we have to import from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta through the State Water Project,” said Pat Milligan, Valley District’s president.

The project will be built in Mentone on land owned by the San Bernardino Valley Water Conservation District and would be the first phase of an effort by the Conservation District to create a wetlands area in the eastern San Bernardino Valley.

The Seven Oaks Dam Stormwater Capture Project is the latest in a series of cooperative groundwater recharge efforts involving Valley District and other Inland Empire agencies. Others include:

- **Doubling the water diversion capability of the Cuttle Weir, a damlike structure below the Seven Oaks Dam that diverts water for groundwater recharge.** Valley District, Western Municipal Water District and San Bernardino Valley Water Conservation District jointly funded the project, which involves raising the Cuttle Weir's existing notches and installing controllable floodgates.
- **Building a dual-purpose flood control-groundwater recharge facility in Yucaipa that could capture 400- to 600 acre-feet of water each year for groundwater recharge.** The project, jointly funded by the City of Yucaipa, San Bernardino County Flood Control District and Valley District along with developer contributions and local SANBAG stimulus funds, is being built along Wildwood Creek just south of the intersection of Wildwood Canyon Road and Holmes Street in Yucaipa. Construction is to be completed by early 2011.
- **Designing an inflatable rubber dam across the Santa Ana River near Colton to slow down the river flow so that more water can be captured and used for groundwater recharge.** The project, which could satisfy the water needs of as many as 24,000 families per year, is in the early planning phases and is expected to be completed in 2012.

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. For more information, please contact Douglas Headrick at (909)387-9226 and visit www.sbvwmwd.com.