

Douglas Headrick, General Manager **NEWS RELEASE**
(909) 387-9226
douglash@sbrvmwd.com

EIGHT INLAND EMPIRE AGENCIES REACH AGREEMENT ON GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM FOR BUNKER HILL BASIN

The program was developed to ensure that pumping and recharge activities do not interfere with groundwater cleanup efforts stemming from U.S. Army activities before and after World War II

SAN BERNARDINO, July 7, 2010 – The cities of San Bernardino, Riverside and Colton have reached an agreement with San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District and four other water agencies on how to extract and replenish water from the Bunker Hill basin without interfering with federally mandated groundwater cleanup efforts.

Other agencies participating in the agreement include West Valley Water District, East Valley Water District, Riverside Highland Water Company and Western Municipal Water District.

Although the agreement must be approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and state Department of Toxic Substances Control before it becomes final, officials from each of the participating cities and water agencies planned to attend a Valley District board meeting at 2 p.m. today to celebrate the accord.

“This is a significant accomplishment because it demonstrates the extent to which the cities and water agencies across the Inland Empire can work together to solve common problems,” said Pat Milligan, Valley District’s president.

Local agencies have spent the past 4.5 years developing a groundwater management plan for the Bunker Hill Basin in response to a federal settlement agreement in 2005, which requires the city of San Bernardino to operate and maintain a systems of wells and treatment facilities to remove tetrachlorethylene (PCE) and trichloroethylene (TCE) from a portion of the basin. The contamination was allegedly caused by U.S. Army activities during and after World War II.

The federal court judgment, termed a Consent Decree, obligates the city of San Bernardino to set up a groundwater management and permit program to ensure that the activities of other agencies do not interfere with federally mandated cleanup efforts.

The new agreement, formally called the Institutional Controls Groundwater Management Program, requires local agencies to maintain water levels throughout the Bunker Hill Basin to optimize water extractions, while also preventing high groundwater conditions. Agencies have also agreed to

coordinate their groundwater extraction and recharge activities so as not to interfere with groundwater cleanup efforts. The agencies are basing their activities on updated and refined groundwater models, which will help them make sound decisions concerning the location and installation of new or reconstructed wells and spreading basins within the Bunker Hill Basin.

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.sbvmd.com.