



# Central Basin

Municipal Water District

December 8, 2011

**TO:** Agencies, Organizations and Interested Parties

**RE: REVISED NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY FOR A PROGRAM ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT**

**LEAD AGENCIES:** Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the CBMWD, as the Lead Agency, has prepared a Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) for the project identified below. This Notice summarizes the purpose and location of the proposed Program, and provides a brief description thereof as well as a revised schedule.

**PROJECT TITLE:** Central Basin Groundwater Storage Plan: A Blueprint for Future Reliability

**PURPOSE:** CBMWD is preparing a Draft PEIR, pursuant to CEQA, to evaluate the potential environmental effects of implementing the proposed Central Basin Groundwater Storage Plan (Program) to improve water supply reliability throughout the Central Groundwater Basin (Central Basin or Basin), located in Los Angeles County, California. This action is needed because of increasing human and environmental demands on existing water supplies, especially during drought years.

**LOCATION:** The Study Area for this Draft PEIR encompasses the Central Basin, which covers an area of about 270 square miles in the Los Angeles County Coastal Plain. The Central Basin is bounded on the northeast and the east by the Elysian, Repetto, Merced, and Puente Hills. The southeast boundary is along Coyote Creek, which is used to separate the Central Basin from the Orange County Groundwater Basin. The southwest boundary is the Newport-Inglewood fault system and uplift which separates it from the West Coast Basin. The Lead Agency's service area includes 24 cities and unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County, covering a total of 227 square miles and serving over 2 million residents. The Study Area includes the entire Central Basin because the California Water Code explicitly authorizes CBMWD to store water in the Basin. Specifically, Water Code Section 71000 provides CBMWD with the statutory authority to "acquire, control, distribute, store, spread, sink, treat, purify, recycle, recapture and salvage any water, including sewage and storm waters, for the beneficial use or uses of the District, its inhabitants, or the owners of rights to water in the District."

6252 Telegraph Road  
Commerce, CA 90040-2512

Phone: 323.201.5500  
Fax: 323.201.5550  
[www.centralbasin.org](http://www.centralbasin.org)

**Board of Directors**

**Division I**

Edward C. Vasquez

**Division II**

Robert Apodaca

**Division III**

Arturo Chacon

**Division IV**

Rudy C. Montalvo

**Division V**

Phillip D. Hawkins

**General Manager**

Art Aguilar

**Serving the Cities of**

- |                  |                          |
|------------------|--------------------------|
| Artesia          | Lynwood                  |
| Bell             | Maywood                  |
| Bellflower       | Montebello               |
| Bell Gardens     | Monterey Park            |
| Carson           | Norwalk                  |
| Cerritos         | Paramount                |
| Commerce         | Pico Rivera              |
| Compton          | Santa Fe Springs         |
| Cudahy           | Signal Hill              |
| Downey           | South Gate               |
| East Los Angeles | South Whittier           |
| Florence-Graham  | Walnut Park              |
| Hawaiian Gardens | West Whittier-Los Nietos |
| Huntington Park  | Whittier                 |
| La Habra Heights | Willowbrook              |
| Lakewood         | Vernon                   |
| La Mirada        |                          |

**DESCRIPTION:** The mission of CBMWD is “to acquire, sell and conserve imported and other water that meets all required standards and to furnish it to our customers in a programmed, timely and cost-effective manner that anticipates future needs”. Further, California has a constitutional mandate that water resources be put to the beneficial use to the fullest extent to which they are capable and for the greatest public benefit.

CBMWD, as the Lead Agency, is committed to this mission to provide long-term sustainability and reliability of high quality water to its customers. The Federal and State water quality regulations will also continue to dictate some of the Lead Agency’s long-term programming objectives.

Specifically, if approved by the CBMWD Board of Directors, the proposed Program includes acquiring and storing water in the Central Basin to improve the reliability of CBMWD’s water portfolio. Once fully implemented, the proposed Plan would utilize some portion of the available groundwater storage space in the Central Basin. This storage generally would serve emergency, operational and pre-delivery needs for local water agencies and purveyors. CBMWD will also ensure that the economic benefits of this valuable local and regional asset are distributed equitably throughout its service area and the region and that any state and federal funds that are available to develop this resource are optimized.

Local groundwater, recycled water distributed to customers, and imported water are the three current components of CBMWD’s water supply portfolio. The local groundwater and the recycled water components are reliable. The imported water, however, has become significantly less reliable in two ways. First, non-interruptible deliveries of treated water for potable use have become subject to cutbacks. These cutbacks are called shortage “allocations”. In 2009, a 10% shortage allocation was implemented. It was rescinded in April of 2011. Shortage allocations of up to 50% are possible under the current MWD Water Supply and Demand Management Plan.

The second way that imported water has become less reliable is that interruptible replenishment water will be available less frequently in the future. Imported replenishment water is needed to meet the total artificial replenishment needs of the basin and to meet some of the blend requirements for the use of recycled water in the spreading basins.

The proposed Program addresses this reduced reliability by storing water when weather conditions are wet and extracting water when it is dry. The source of the stored water could be imported water, recycled water, storm water and/or other sources of new water. Water supply sources considered in detail include:

- 1) **Conservation:** This includes water conservation and other water efficiency measures above and beyond the extensive program already implemented by CBMWD as described in the June, 2006 Conservation Master Plan.

- 2) **Recycled Water:** Use of recycled water directly on the surface through CBMWD's existing and planned distribution system and/or recharge into the groundwater basin with injection wells or through spreading facilities. This will include regulatory and treatment issues.
- 3) **Irrigation Return Flow Credit:** A portion of the imported water used to irrigate lawns eventually finds its way to the groundwater basin, replenishing it with an artificial source of recharge.
- 4) **Gray Water:** Recent regulations for gray water use have been streamlined, making it a potential way to save water, reduce wastewater and save energy.
- 5) **Stormwater Capture:** Stormwater capture could be increased beyond the current capture and spreading of stormwaters already performed annually by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works.
- 6) **Desalination:** Evaluation of desalination of seawater and brackish water to create a new source of supply, including disposal of concentrates and brines.
- 7) **Imported Water:** Imported water includes the treated water and replenishment water already used by CBMWD.
- 8) **Contaminated Groundwater Remediation and Recovery:** Treatment and use of contaminated groundwater that currently does not meet state and federal drinking water standards could constitute a new source of water.

Water used to implement the proposed Program would be acquired using a combination of supply sources and demand management measures. These combinations are assembled into portfolios that meet the projected future demands. The intent is to identify all practical methods to make CBMWD's water supply more reliable. The proposed Program includes a screening process to narrow down these sources to those that best meet the needs of the CBMWD and its customers. The screening process considers factors such as cost, reliability, environmental impact, sustainability, energy use, environmental justice, public acceptance and other issues identified during the CEQA process.

**SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS ON THE ENVIRONMENT:** The only significant environmental effect identified in this first-tier analysis of the proposed Program is to air quality, including Greenhouse Gas emissions. Additional analyses of site-specific impacts will be conducted as part of the second-tier CEQA review to be conducted on individual projects associated with the Program.

**PEIR REVIEW PROCESS:** CBMWD held two scoping periods for the PEIR. The first extended from February 23, 2011 through April 8, 2011. The second extended from July

21, 2011 through August 19, 2011. This draft PEIR includes responses to comments received during these scoping periods.

The views of your agency, relative to the statutory responsibilities of your agency in connection with the proposed Program, are being solicited in an effort to ensure that environmental impacts associated with the proposed Program have been fully disclosed in the environmental document. **CBMWD is now holding a 110-day review period for the PEIR from November 10, 2011 to March 1, 2012, accounting for Holidays.**

The Draft PEIR is available for public review online on CBMWD's website at: [www.centralbasin.org](http://www.centralbasin.org) and at the following locations:

Central Basin Municipal Water District  
6252 Telegraph Road  
Commerce, CA 90040-2512  
Phone: 323-201-5500

South Whittier Library  
14433 Leffingwell Road  
Whittier, CA 90604-2966  
Phone: 562-946-4415

Huntington Park Library  
6518 Miles Avenue  
Huntington Park, CA 90255-4388  
Phone: 323-583-1461

Artesia Library  
18722 S. Clarkdale Avenue  
Artesia, CA 90701  
Phone: 562-865-6614

Leland R. Weaver Library  
4035 Tweedy Boulevard  
South Gate, CA 90280  
Phone: 323-567-8853

Downey City Library  
11121 Brookshire Avenue  
Downey, CA 90241-7015  
Phone: 562-904-7360

**An additional meeting (first meeting held on November 30, 2011)** to receive input on the proposed Program and PEIR will be **noticed and convened** at the CBMWD Headquarters on Telegraph Road.

#### **RESPONSE TO NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY/FOR FURTHER INFORMATION**

Written comments should be sent ***no later than 5 p.m. on March 1, 2012*** to:

- Mr. Dave Hill, Central Basin Municipal Water District, 6252 Telegraph Road, Commerce, CA 90040-2512, telephone: 323.201.5501, fax: 323.201.5550

Please include your name and address so that CBMWD may contact you directly if clarification is needed.