

Re: City of Los Angeles vs. City of San Fernando, et. al.  
Case No. 650079 – County of Los Angeles

## QUARTERLY REPORT OF ULARA WATERMASTER

### STATUS CONFERENCE OF JUNE 20, 2013 TO THE SUPERIOR COURT, DEPARTMENT 52 HONORABLE SUSAN BRYANT-DEASON

#### A. Ongoing Watermaster Activities

1. The Watermaster finalized his report on the Re-Assessment of the Safe Yield of the Sylmar Groundwater Basin. The process involved:
  - Collecting and analyzing various types of subsurface data;
  - Reviewing previous safe yield re-assessments by prior Watermasters;
  - Preparing data tables and figures to help document the new report and its conclusions and recommendations;
  - Attending meetings with representatives from the cities of Los Angeles and San Fernando to discuss the initial draft, and the final draft, respectively,
  - Obtaining acceptance of the final draft by the 2 cities and Mr. Blevins (Special Consultant to the Watermaster);
  - The Stipulation, the Final Safe Yield Re-assessment Report, and supporting documents were recently submitted to the Court by counsel for San Fernando.
  - The principal conclusions of the re-assessment are:
    - i. The total safe yield of Sylmar Basin has been increased by 330 AF/yr, to a new value of 7140 AF/yr, for Water Years 2011/12 through 2015/16, and based on certain contingencies. Hence, the annual pumping rights of the 2 parties in this basin (i.e., the cities of Los Angeles and San Fernando) have been increased by 165 AF/yr each, to a new value of 3570 AF/yr.
    - ii. Beginning with the 2011-2012 Water Year, the method of calculating and accumulating stored water credits for Sylmar Basin has been updated to more closely reflect the method described in the Judgment.
2. The Annual Watermaster Report for 2011-2012 was completed and filed with the Court on May 15, 2013. The Watermaster wishes to acknowledge, once again, the continued technical support and assistance in this endeavor provided by LADWP staff, in particular, Messrs Hadi Jonny and Greg Reed and Ms. Fatema Akhter and Ms. Araceli Carrillo.
3. The Annual Groundwater Pumping and Spreading Plan for Water Years 2012 – 2016 is currently being prepared by the Watermaster for submittal to the Court in July 2013.
4. As the official Monitoring Entity (ME) for DWR's California Statewide Groundwater Elevation Monitoring program (known as CASGEM) for the four groundwater basins within ULARA, the Watermaster continues to work on complying with the DWR CASGEM requirements.

5. Continue to review and either approve or deny the plans prepared by various consulting engineers who are trying to meet City of Los Angeles requirements in regard to Low Impact Development (LID) for the possible infiltration of stormwater collected at all new developments and re-developments in the City portion of the San Fernando and Sylmar groundwater basins.
6. Continue to review quarterly groundwater monitoring reports prepared by various consultants for contaminated sites in the San Fernando and Verdugo basins.
7. Continue to attend meetings with various agencies regarding such diverse issues as groundwater contamination, stormwater conservation and capture, flow in the Los Angeles River, and recycled water in ULARA. This Watermaster continues to recommend the future use of injection wells to inject highly treated recycled water into the San Fernando Basin following required upgrades to Tillman Wastewater Treatment Plant.

#### **B. Salt & Nutrient Management Plan (SNMP)**

The Watermaster has prepared a detailed outline for the SNMP for the 4 groundwater basins within ULARA; this outline was submitted to and accepted by the RWQCB. Each Party has established a 2-member group to serve on a SNMP subcommittee for ULARA; this subcommittee will have meetings with the Watermaster every two months, at a minimum. A RWQCB person will occasionally be invited to these meetings to maintain liaison and to remain informed of the progress of the study.

The Watermaster is also in the process of retaining outside consultants for assistance with certain issues regarding the CEQA, public participation/outreach and the recycled water elements that need to be included in the SNMP. A Draft of the entire SNMP document for ULARA is due for review and comment by the RWQCB in 2014.

The Watermaster continues to attend occasional meetings with the RWQCB and/or with LADWP, and/or with MWD and other agencies and/or groups to help verify various aspects of the SNMP process that are still being redefined by the RWQCB.

#### **C. New Database for ULARA**

To help better manage the ULARA groundwater basins on an active basis, and to obtain sufficient types and amounts of surface and subsurface data for a possible future safe yield study of the San Fernando Basin, the Watermaster continues to obtain various types of data. These data are then being input into an electronic database that will eventually include driller's logs, geologic logs, and electric logs as available from water-supply wells, wildcat oil wells, and key groundwater monitoring wells in the four ULARA groundwater basins. This database, when completed, will complement EPA's existing database for monitoring wells, groundwater levels and groundwater quality.

These data collection efforts are part of an ongoing Watermaster program to generate a viable, useable and up-to-date database on subsurface conditions for use by all Parties, future investigators and researchers.

**D. Finding a “Home” for ULARA Court Documents**

The Watermaster picked up the 2 banker boxes that contained numerous ULARA reports previously filed with the Court and has turned those boxes over to the librarian for the UCLA Geology, Science and Engineering Library.

**E. The Watermaster Website**

The Watermaster website is being updated and refreshed by the Watermaster to make it more user-friendly and to increase the amount of information available to the public (<http://ULARAWatermaster.com>). This updated website should be “live” in August 2013. This “refresh” will also allow for faster and easier editing/changing of the page and addition of data by the Watermaster.

**Additional Watermaster Activities**

1. Working with the five Parties to implement programs to verify the accuracy of the flow meter at each of their active water-supply wells. To date, LADWP has submitted an interim letter in regard to the Watermaster’s prior request for data on flow meter calibration for their numerous water-supply wells in San Fernando Basin. Watermaster will re-contact the other four Parties about their specific flow meter calibration program.
2. Working on developing a more comprehensive data request letter to the five Parties regarding: construction data for their wells (casing depths and diameters, sanitary seal depths, perforation intervals, depth of pump settings, etc); pump data (Hp, flow meters, etc), booster pumps (locations, etc); methods and frequencies for their monitoring of well data (flow rates, flow volumes, static water level levels, pumping water levels, specific capacity and well efficiency).
3. Scheduling field visits to certain monitoring wells (like No. 27711, located at the downstream terminus of the entire ULARA area) and to certain surface water runoff gages (like Gage F-57, at the southern terminus of ULARA), to help verify that they are viable monitoring sites and that the appropriate data are being accurately monitored and recorded.