



UPPER LOS ANGELES RIVER AREA WATERMASTER  
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## **REPORT OF ULARA WATERMASTER**

### **STATUS CONFERENCE of MARCH 9, 2015 SUPERIOR COURT, DEPARTMENT 52 HONORABLE SUSAN BRYANT-DEASON**

#### **A. Ongoing Watermaster Activities**

1. A Draft of the past due Annual Watermaster Report for Water Year 2012-2013 was provided to the Parties on February 27, 2015; the Watermaster expects to finalize this report and file with the Court within the next 10 days. Preparation of the 2013-2014 Annual Watermaster Report is in progress.
2. The Annual Groundwater Pumping and Spreading Plan for the 5-year period of Water Years 2014-2018 is in progress.
3. The Watermaster has been in contact with DWR regarding new requirements as part of new groundwater sustainability legislation in California. As an adjudicated region, the possible reporting requirements for the Watermaster to DWR will likely only include the submittal of the Annual Watermaster Report and a copy of the original Judgment.
4. The Watermaster has met a few times in the past several months with the USEPA, LADWP, key PRPs in the North Hollywood Operable Unit (NHOU), and with key consultants for those PRPs, regarding the Second Interim Remedy (NHOU2IR). The key issue continues to be the basic progress of computer modeling of the SFB by others, and the proposed cleanup of groundwater contamination in the NHOU. These meetings are for technical representatives only; attorneys are not invited.
5. The Watermaster continues to maintain compliance with DWR on its California Statewide Groundwater Elevation Monitoring program (known as CASGEM) for the four groundwater basins within ULARA. The next data collection event is scheduled to occur in mid-March, 2015.
6. The Watermaster continued to attend meetings with various agencies and/or NGOs with regard to: possible uses of runoff within the Los Angeles River; the possibility of using recycled water for artificial recharge in the San Fernando Basin via spreading basins and injection wells; and stormwater conservation and capture.
7. The Watermaster has attended meetings and field visits with Crescenta Valley Water District (CVWD) in regard to its Stormwater Recharge Facility Study (Study). The consultants to CVWD for this Study will gather data and geologic information that is essential to determining the feasibility of capturing and infiltrating stormwater and dry-weather flow to CV County Park to help recharge the Verdugo Basin. To this

end, the Study will monitor groundwater levels, test the recharge capacity of the soil, gage flow and quality of source water, and model groundwater flow.

Stormwater recharge in the Verdugo Basin could achieve the goals of increasing groundwater supplies; improving local water supply reliability, particularly during times of drought; and improving groundwater quality, by reducing surface water runoff from the existing parking areas of CV County Park.

8. The Watermaster reviewed and either approved or denied, based on site-specific conditions, the Low Impact Development (LID projects within the City of Los Angeles portions of ULARA (i.e., San Fernando & Sylmar basins). These LIDs are for new developments and/or redevelopments in L.A. County, and are based on NPDES regulations promulgated by the RWQCB in 1990 to help minimize the impacts on the Los Angeles River, and ultimately the Pacific Ocean, by reducing the volume and improving the quality of storm water runoff from storm events.

From a hydrogeologic perspective, and in the opinion of the ULARA Watermaster, whenever and wherever (with certain exceptions) deep percolation (infiltration) of stormwater can be appropriately enhanced, then recharge to the groundwater basins can be beneficially increased.

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

The Watermaster continues work for the SNMP for the 4 groundwater basins within ULARA. Each Party has a 2-member group to serve on the SNMP subcommittee formed by the Watermaster. This subcommittee most recently met in February 2015, and the next meeting is scheduled for March 2015. A RWQCB-LA staff person is routinely invited to these meetings to maintain liaison and to keep them informed of the progress of the study.

The Watermaster has also subcontracted with 4 outside consultants for assistance with certain issues regarding the CEQA, public participation/outreach, recycled water elements, and spreadsheet modeling, all of which also need to be included in the SNMP. Currently the focus of the SNMP work is compiling the data necessary to begin the analytical modeling process.

#### **C. The Watermaster Website**

The Watermaster website continues to be regularly updated and refreshed, as needed, by the Watermaster to make it more user-friendly and to increase the amount of information available to the public (<http://ULARAWatermaster.com>). For instance, there is a page dedicated to the SNMP process (<http://ULARAWatermaster.com/SNMP>), through which the public can access public documents generated during the development of the ULARA SNMP.