



UPPER LOS ANGELES RIVER AREA WATERMASTER
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REPORT OF ULARA WATERMASTER

STATUS CONFERENCE of JUNE 17, 2016 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 2013-2014 is in progress. The Watermaster and the A/C Committee formed a subcommittee to streamline and simplify the text and current appendices in the Annual Report, while still retaining the more important information and basic data published in the report. A Draft of that report is also in progress.
2. The Annual Groundwater Pumping and Spreading Plan for the 5-year period of Water Years 2013-14 through 2017-18 has been published.
3. The Watermaster submitted information to DWR's Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) website in compliance with SGMA. Such data uploads will occur annually.
4. The Watermaster provided a Powerpoint Presentation and was a panelist on an all-day conference on 6/15/16 at UCLA: "Workshot #2 – LA's Water Resource Future; Understanding Local Groundwater Storage Potential." The Watermaster's presentation described the ULARA groundwater basins and the status of groundwater storage in the basins, as well as the efforts by the Parties to increase stormwater recharge in the basins.
5. The Watermaster has provided a Draft of a report for the Parties on the issue of Hill and Mountain pumping in the watershed of ULARA. As part of that work, the Watermaster also contacted the Glendale office of the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) to obtain the driller's logs of all wells constructed in those regions. Driller's logs, as of 2015, are no longer considered "confidential" by DWR. DWR says it could take a few weeks to fulfill this recent request, because of the backlog of requests by others to this newly-changed State law. Further, an all new online database for all driller's logs is being created by DWR, but the redacting of the well owner's name/address on each log is taking a long time (the online database may be operable in \pm 6 to 9 months, per DWR).
6. 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 most recent data upload to the CASGEM website for ULARA occurred in May 2016 for all data collected the month of April, 2016.



7. 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.

Recently, LADWP has expressed interest in streamlining this process as it relates to Watermaster approval to reduce the amount of time dedicated to Watermaster review, while maintaining Watermaster involvement; the Watermaster supports this change. The Watermaster and key LADWP staff met with the Bureau of Sanitation on October 15 to discuss the matter further. LADWP is now reviewing the matter internally. The adjoining cities of Burbank, Glendale, and San Fernando continue to provide their own in-house review of LIDs within their respective cities.

8. The Watermaster has worked closely with the City of Burbank during their negotiations with a local cemetery to convert their irrigation operations to using recycled water, instead of using groundwater from their own onsite water well(s). At this time, the conversion to recycled water use at the cemetery has now been completed. The Watermaster supports increased use of recycled water within ULARA.

B. Salt & Nutrient Management Plan (SNMP)

The Watermaster continues work for the SNMP for the four 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 on May 25, 2016, and the next meeting is scheduled for June 22, 2016. Key RWQCB-LA representatives are 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. Most recently, the ULARA Watermaster and Todd Groundwater met with the RWQCB on June 6, 2016 to present the progress of the mixing modeling effort.

A Draft of the entire SNMP document is to be provided to the RWQCB this year.