

NEWS RELEASE
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**Study Shows Santa Clarita Valley Groundwater
to be a Reliable Water Supply Now and for the Future**

Santa Clarita, CA – The Santa Clarita Valley's water suppliers have completed a study of the area's groundwater resources, which shows that groundwater pumping can continue at current rates without the risk of overdrafting water from the local groundwater basins. The study builds on previous groundwater basin yield studies and concludes that continuation of the region's current operating plan is sustainable.

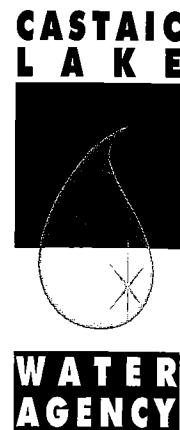
"As the source of about half of our region's drinking water supply, it is imperative that we regularly review our valley's groundwater operations," stated Robert DiPrimio, President of the Valencia Water Company. "The findings confirm we can continue to depend on groundwater without depleting our resources."

The Valley's groundwater comes from local wells, which extend up to 200 feet into the Alluvial Aquifer beneath the Santa Clara River and its tributaries and up to 2,000 feet into the much deeper Saugus Formation. Groundwater is then disinfected and pumped by local water retailers into their distribution systems for delivery to local homes and businesses.

The report was developed by Luhdorff and Scalmanini, Consulting Engineers and Groundwater Solutions, Inc., who modeled both the Alluvial Aquifer and the Saugus Formation and then ran a series of operational scenarios, taking into account both the historic groundwater recharge potential and proposed pumping from the two aquifers. Joe Scalmanini and John Porcello of Luhdorff and Scalmanini and Groundwater Solutions, respectively, presented the results of their study at a joint meeting of the Castaic Lake Water Agency and Newhall County Water District Boards of Directors on Wednesday, August 12, 2009.

"In addition to testing scenarios based on current water use, this updated study also assesses the potential impact of several climate change scenarios," said Steve Cole, General Manager of the Newhall County Water District. "The modeling shows that the groundwater basin yields would be sustained under varying scenarios of climate change and groundwater pumping for at least the next 25 years."

Mauricio Guardado, Retail Manager of the Santa Clarita Water Division, said, "As water resource managers we continually strive to manage and utilize our groundwater resources in a sustainable manner. This study scientifically shows and validates our current operational policies are sustainable and will meet the Santa Clarita Valley's needs for generations to come."



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The new study supports the Valley's 2005 Urban Water Management Plan. The state-mandated plan, which will be updated in 2010, projects the Valley's overall water demands and supplies for the next 30 years.

The Valley's water agencies include the Castaic Lake Water Agency, the CLWA Santa Clarita Water Division, Los Angeles County Waterworks District No. 36, Newhall County Water District and Valencia Water Company.

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