

NEWS

From Supervisor Gary Ovitt
Fourth District, San Bernardino County



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Board of Supervisors Approves Storm Water Retention Task Force

The Board of Supervisors today approved the creation of a Storm Water Retention Task Force to examine and assess the feasibility of increasing storm water capture to recharge groundwater basins.

Traditional flood control focused on a single purpose – routing storm water away from populated areas and direct the flow to the Santa Ana River and ultimately the Pacific Ocean. While this model serves its purpose well, it also limits local agencies from recharging the groundwater and complying with water quality regulations.

“In 2006 more than 600,000 acre feet of water flowed from the County of San Bernardino to the Pacific. This was water that could have supplied the needs of 1.5 million San Bernardino households. In order to evaluate alternatives for a storm water management plan, the formation of a Task Force is needed to examine the feasibility of storm water capture and retention,” said Board of Supervisors Chairman Gary Ovitt.

The Task Force will be made up of representatives of the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors 2nd and 4th Districts and the Inland Empire Utilities Agency.

The first issue Task Force representatives will examine is improving and increasing Turner Basin groundwater recharge capacity as well as installing California-friendly landscape plantings along Archibald Avenue and developing recreational and educational amenities.

The Task Force will return to the Board of Supervisors at a future date, following their assessment, to present their findings and make recommendations for further actions.

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