

Responses to the Draft Report
San Bernardino County Flood Control

Attachment 7e



Department of Public Works

- Environmental & Construction • Flood Control
- Operations • Solid Waste Management
- Surveyor • Transportation

Gerry Newcombe
Director

March 31, 2015

RECEIVED
APR 02 2015

LAFCO
San Bernardino County

Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO)
215 North "D" Street, Suite 204
San Bernardino, CA 92415-0490

Attention: Kathleen Rollings-McDonald
Executive Officer

**RE: SERVICE REVIEW FOR WATER CONSERVATION IN THE VALLEY REGION
SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT COMMENTS**

Dear Ms. Rollings-McDonald:

The San Bernardino County Flood Control District (District) is providing the following information to clarify to LAFCO its role in groundwater recharge within San Bernardino County.

Page 11 of the LAFCO service review report contains a statement that "LAFCO staff consulted with the San Bernardino County Flood Control District during the SB Valley WCD service review in 2007 (LAFCO 2919) and the position of the District's administrator was that its purpose was to move water through its facilities as quickly and safely as possible and it did not directly pursue water conservation efforts. No change in position is known at this time." This is incorrect. As recognized elsewhere in the LAFCO report (Pages 38 and 47 specifically) the District has built extensive infrastructure that is used for groundwater recharge throughout the Valley Area.

The District has a history of actively using its facilities for water conservation purposes that dates back to 1939 when the District was formed. A number of the existing storm water detention/water conservation basins originated as spreading grounds for water conservation. The District owns and operates 120 basins that are either debris, detention, conservation basins or a mixture thereof. The District also has ownership of most of the natural creeks and rivers in the valley area where recharge also occurs.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

ROBERT A. LOVINGOOD
Vice Chairman, First District

JANICE RUTHERFORD
Second District

JAMES RAMOS
Chairman, Third District

CURT HAGMAN
Fourth District

JOSIE GONZALES
Fifth District

GREGORY C. DEVEREAUX
Chief Executive Officer

The act that formed the District, California Water Code Appendix 43, gave the District a twofold mission which it has been fulfilling as quoted below:

“ 43-2. Objects and purposes; nature of district; powers

Sec. 2. Objects and purposes. *The objects and purposes of this act are to provide for the control of the flood and storm waters of the district and the flood and storm waters of streams that have their source outside of the district, but which streams and the flood waters thereof flow into the district, and to conserve such waters for beneficial and useful purposes by spreading, storing, retaining, and causing to percolate into the soil within the district, or without the district, the waters, or to save or conserve in any manner all or any of the waters and protect from flood or storm waters, the watercourses, watersheds, public highways, life, and property in the district, and to prevent waste of water or diminution of the water supply in, or exportation of water from the district, and to obtain, retain, and reclaim drainage, storm, flood, and other waters for beneficial use in the district.”*

Due to its limited resources providing flood protection for life and property has been considered the Districts higher purpose, but its secondary mission of water conservation has been considered important as evidenced by the number of basins constructed by the District. A number of these facilities are operated in conjunction with water agencies in order for them to be utilized for the recharge of state project water and recycled water in order to maximize the groundwater recharge since storm water is so variable.

The report mentioned that a Joint Powers Authority (JPA) is proposed for storm water capture and recharge by several of the water agencies. The District has ownership of most of the natural drainage courses in the area and should be consulted regarding the JPA.

Page 28 – The map is missing most of the facilities listed on Page 35.

Page 45 - The District has an easement dating back to 1942 that is overlying the property shown on the map as being owned by the City of San Bernardino and operates and maintains several percolation basins in this area.

Page 47 – The District’s Oak Glen and Wildwood basins need to be added to the Yucaipa area basins.

If you have any questions, regarding our comments, please contact me at (909) 387-7906.

Sincerely,



GERRY NEWCOMBE

Director

cc: Kevin Blakeslee, Deputy Director – Flood Control
Bob Page, Principal Management Analyst, CAO