



PALMDALE WATER DISTRICT

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PRESS RELEASE

November 15, 2018
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:

Judy Shay

Public Affairs Director

d: 661-456-1041

c: 661-297-3011

jshay@palmdalewater.org

Laura Gallegos

Public Affairs Specialist

d: 661-441-5944

c: 661-208-2581

lgallegos@palmdalewater.org

PWD, PARTNERS BREAK GROUND AT RECHARGE PROJECT SITE

Palmdale, CA – Palmdale Water District (PWD) officials joined the City of Palmdale, California Department of Water Resources and other local water agencies at today’s groundbreaking ceremony for the Upper Amargosa Creek Recharge Project.

The ceremonial event marks the start of construction of the \$17 million project that will divert water from the California Aqueduct to recharge basins where it will percolate underground. The recharge basins will be located near 25th Street West and Elizabeth Lake Road, where plans also call for a nature park with a walkway bridge.

“We are very excited to be a part of this important project in Palmdale,” said PWD Board Vice President Kathy Mac Laren. “The dual purpose of recharging water and creating a recreational area for the community is a win-win. I am personally thrilled that this project has the potential to put recycled water to good use.”

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The groundbreaking was hosted by the city of Palmdale, the lead agency in the project. In addition to PWD, the Antelope Valley-East Kern Water Agency and the Los Angeles County Waterworks Districts are partners in this recharge project.

Representing PWD at the event were Board directors Mac Laren, Robert Alvarado and Marco Henriquez, GM Dennis D. LaMoreaux and several staff members.

PWD Engineering/Grant Manager James Riley said the recharge project will increase groundwater supply to the District's existing wells, allowing greater operational flexibility in its water delivery system. The recharge capacity is expected to be in the range of 1,600 to 2,300 acre-feet of water per year. PWD's share of the \$17 million cost is \$1.25 million.

The project is divided into two phases. The initial work will involve constructing a 48-inch conveyance pipeline that will be used to divert water from the State Water Project's aqueduct to the recharge site. During the second phase, the construction of recharge basins, Amargosa Creek realignment, habitat restoration, and creation of a nature park for public use will take place. According to the city's plans, recharge basins will be constructed on about 20 acres to the east and west of 25th Street West.

The entire 87-acre project will also have a 38-acre nature park; 22 acres of native habitat and seven acres of open-stream channel.

Today's groundbreaking marks the official start of construction and the installation of the cofferdam in the aqueduct. The cofferdam will keep water out of the area where the aqueduct

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turnout and conveyance pipeline are being built. If plans go accordingly, the project should be completed in about one year.

Since 1918, the Palmdale Water District has provided high-quality water at a reasonable cost. We pride ourselves on providing great customer service; advocating for local water issues that help our residents; educating the community on water conservation; and leading our region in researching and implementing emerging technologies that increase operational efficiency. For more information about PWD, visit www.palmdalewater.org.

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