



SAN BERNARDINO VALLEY
WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
EST. 1932

February 24, 2026



You are being provided a copy of this notice because our records reflect you are the owner or operator of a groundwater producing well in the San Bernardino Valley Water Conservation District's ("District") jurisdictional boundaries. This is a notice pertaining to the District's annual groundwater charge rate setting procedures, and the public review process for the District to set its rate for the 2026-2027 water year.

The District has completed the 2026 Engineering Investigation (EI) of the Bunker Hill Basin. The Draft EI was presented to the Board at its February 12th Board Meeting and will be presented to the Board for approval at its March 11th Board of Directors meeting to be held at the District Office, 1630 West Redlands Boulevard, Suite A, Redlands CA 92373 at 1:30 p.m. This report is completed in connection with the Board of Directors' consideration of a groundwater charge on groundwater production within the Conservation District's boundaries. Article 1, Section 75560 of the California Water Code, requires that a water conservation district that proposes to levy or continue a groundwater extraction fee "...shall annually cause to be made an engineering investigation and report upon groundwater conditions of the District." A copy of the Conservation District's 2026 EI report is available for review online at the District's website at <https://sbvwcd.org/document-repository/reports-and-data/engineering-investigation/> or at the District's office at 1630 West Redlands Blvd., Suite A, Redlands, CA.

This notice is provided to advise all interested parties that District staff has recommended a rate increase of 5% for the upcoming water year in the base groundwater; the District's Board of Directors has approved this rate for noticing. The staff proposes a unitary groundwater charge for 2026-2027 of \$19.62 per acre-foot (af) for all groundwater production. The rates proposed pertain all groundwater production from July 1, 2026-June 30, 2027. The groundwater charge is not imposed on a property parcel basis, but rather is a per acre-foot charge, which relates directly to the amount of groundwater produced from wells overlying the groundwater basin within the District's boundaries. Consequently, the ultimate amount of groundwater charge to be paid by individual operators cannot be precisely identified now, because it will depend directly upon the amount of groundwater such individuals produce in the basin from July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027. The estimated total amount of revenues from the groundwater charge is approximately \$1,652,309, based on estimated production of 84,196 acre feet for the 2026-27 water year. The District uses the proceeds of the

1630 W. Redlands Blvd, Suite A
Redlands, CA 92373
Phone: 909.793.2503
Fax: 909.793.0188
www.sbvwc.org Email: info@sbvwcd.org

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**GENERAL
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Betsy Miller

groundwater charge to fund ongoing groundwater replenishment of the basin, including direct water recharge, facility operations repairs and maintenance, and related costs.

A public meeting and public hearing on the proposed groundwater will be held in the District's Board Room located at 1630 West Redlands Blvd., Suite A, Redlands, CA 92373. The date and time for the public meeting will be April 8, 2026, at 1:30 pm. The date and time of the public hearing will be held on April 22, 2026, at 1:30 pm. The District will also be asked on April 22, 2026 to finalize the levy and amount of the groundwater charge, and to make a finding that the imposition of the groundwater charge is exempt from CEQA, under title 14, C.C.R. Sections 15273, 15301, and 15306.

You are invited to attend the public meeting and public hearing and may submit any objection or protest you may have to the charge, or any evidence concerning groundwater conditions, water supplies of the Conservation District, rates, the CEQA exemption findings, or any matter relating to the proposed groundwater charge. You may also submit such matters to the District in writing any time at or before the 1:30 pm scheduled time of the Public Hearing on April 22, 2026, by providing such written communication to the District's Administrative Specialist, Allison Zecher, at the address given above, for hard copies, or for digital transmissions, to azecher@sbvwcd.org. Late submissions will not be considered. Please be advised that in any later judicial or other action challenging the groundwater charge, you may be limited to those grounds raised either in writing or in person prior to the close of the public hearing, and the administrative record of the proceedings on the consideration of the charge. Please also be advised that pursuant to California Government Code section 53759 and other provisions of law, there is a 120-day statute of limitations for challenging any new, increased, or extended fee or charge, including the District's proposed groundwater charge covered in this notice.

Further inquiries regarding the report or the groundwater charge, or requests for further documents or information, may be directed to Betsy Miller at 1630 West Redlands Blvd., Suite A, Redlands, CA 92373, or by telephone at (909) 793-2503.

Sincerely,



Betsy Miller,
General Manager