



Hemet-San Jacinto
Watermaster

2 Introduction

The Hemet/San Jacinto Groundwater Management Area 2017 Annual Report (Annual Report) was prepared by Eastern Municipal Water District (EMWD) under contract with the Hemet-San Jacinto Watermaster (Watermaster), and is the fifth Annual Report to document the Watermaster activities for the January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2017 period.

Specifically, the Annual Report describes the status of the Management Plan implementation; discusses estimated water supplies and projected demands for the Management Area; reviews and evaluates the 2017 data compiled from the Groundwater Monitoring Programs; documents the recharge program, carry-over accounts, and other activities by the Watermaster during the 2017 budget year. The report is presented in the following chapters:

Chapter 1: Executive Summary – provides a summary of the Annual Report.

Chapter 2: Introduction – provides background information; discusses the authority under which this report is prepared as well as the purpose of the report; and includes information on the Management Plan, groundwater management zones, and current water quality conditions.

Chapter 3: Management Plan Activities – discusses the Watermaster and Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) activities; summarizes agreements, resolutions and task orders issued by the Watermaster; discusses the *Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians Water Settlement Agreement* and the *Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians Water Settlement Act*, and the Integrated Recharge and Recovery Program.

Chapter 4: Current Water Demand – provides a discussion of current water demand in the Management Area including: groundwater; imported water; recycled water; and surface water.

Chapter 5: Projected Demands – discusses future demands and planned development in the Management Area.

Chapter 6: Monitoring, Data Compilation, and Evaluation – provides discussions of monitoring activities; data compilation of groundwater and monitoring well activities; water sources; and applicable evaluations of the data.

Chapter 7: Financial Considerations – provides budget information for the monitoring program, imported water recharge, and carry-over accounts for the year.

Chapter 8: Corrections and Errata – provides updated data for 2016 Hemet/San Jacinto Groundwater Management Area Annual Report.

Chapter 9: Tables of Monitoring Programs Summaries and Trends – provides detail monitoring program information by groundwater management zone for the last 11 years of data (2007-2017).

Chapter 10: Figures and Maps – presents figures and maps of the Management Area, the groundwater management zones, the monitoring programs, and other related maps.

Chapter 11: Appendices – presents Watermaster Board meeting minutes; Technical Advisory Committee meeting notes; copies of agreements, resolutions, and task orders executed; contracts approved by the Watermaster during 2017; policies and procedures; and an independent auditor's report.

2.1 Management Area

The Management Area is located in the western portion of Riverside County, California, within the San Jacinto River Watershed and includes the Cities of San Jacinto and Hemet, as well as the unincorporated areas of Winchester, Valle Vista, and Cactus Valley, as presented in Chapter 10, Figure 10-1.

The Management Area encompasses approximately 90 square miles and overlies four groundwater management zones -- the Canyon, San Jacinto Upper Pressure, Hemet South, and the Hemet North portion of the Lakeview/Hemet North. The groundwater management zones and Basin Plan Objectives are shown in Chapter 10, Figure 10-2. It should be noted that only a part of the Lakeview/Hemet North groundwater management zone is included because only the Hemet North portion is within the Management Area.

With the Regional Water Quality Control Board/Santa Ana Region (RWQCB) adoption of Resolution No. R8-2004-0001 in 2004, the Basin Plan Objectives for the San Jacinto Upper Pressure management zone were established as 320 milligrams per liter (mg/L) for Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) and 1.4 mg/L for Total Inorganic Nitrogen (TIN). Several programs that are integral to the Watermaster are dependent upon recycled water use as an element of water supply management for implementation of the Management Plan. In 2007, EMWD submitted a Maximum Benefit Proposal to the RWQCB which proposed 500 mg/L TDS and 7.0 mg/L TIN water quality objectives for the San Jacinto Upper Pressure groundwater management zone based on maximum beneficial use of this resource in keeping with the State Water Resources Control Board Resolution No. 68-16, a *Statement of Policy with Respect to Maintaining High Quality Waters in California*. EMWD received final approval of its Maximum Benefit Proposal in April 2012 from the State Water Resources Control Board and Office of Administrative Law in Sacramento.

2.2 Background

The Stipulated Judgment estimates the groundwater safe yield of the Management Area to be approximately 45,000 acre feet per year (AFY). The Stipulated judgment also estimates the long-term basin overdraft to be approximately 10,000 AFY.

In June 2001, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) and the local agencies was executed to cooperatively formulate a comprehensive water management plan for the Hemet/San Jacinto area. A Groundwater Policy Committee (PC) comprised of elected officials representing the Cities of Hemet and San Jacinto, LHMWD, EMWD, and representatives of the private groundwater producers was formed. To evaluate available information, the PC formed a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) to compile,

share, interpret, and reach agreement on data, define problems, and provide guidance. The PC also formed the Consultants, Attorneys, and Managers (CAM) Committee to develop contractual agreements, side agreements, and memorandums of understanding; to evaluate the financial impacts on the community; and to provide administrative or policy recommendations to the PC. DWR acted as a facilitator for the PC and brought in an outside consultant to assist the TAC and CAM.

Through a collaborative effort, the TAC developed the data set that provided the basis for understanding the area's hydrology, and has identified potentially feasible initiatives, programs, and projects to enhance the dependable yield of the groundwater management zones. The PC and CAM analyzed, discussed, and debated issues of concern that had been on the table for half a century without resolution.

The Management Plan was released in November 2007. The Management Plan, adopted by the governing bodies of the Management Plan participants, has eight primary goals which are to:

- Address pumping overdraft and declining groundwater levels,
- Provide for Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians' prior and paramount water rights,
- Ensure reliable water supply,
- Provide for planned urban growth,
- Protect and enhance water quality,
- Develop cost-effective water supply,
- Provide adequate monitoring for water supply and water quality, and
- Supersede the Fruitvale Judgment and Decree.

In April 2013, a Stipulated Judgment (Judgment), Case Number RIC 1207274, was entered with the Superior Court of the State of California for the County of Riverside adopting the Management Plan and creating the Watermaster. The Watermaster Board replaced the PC as the governing body for the Management Area and is comprised of elected officials representing the Cities of Hemet and San Jacinto, LHMWD, EMWD, and a representative for the private groundwater producers. The Watermaster Board is supported by a TAC, which provides technical assistance as the Board requires.

2.3 Authority

Stipulated Judgment entered on April 18, 2013, in Riverside County Superior Court (Case No. RIC 1207274) requires preparation of an Annual Report by the Watermaster to document activities in any given year. The Court has jurisdiction to enter this Judgment declaring and adjudicating the rights of the parties to the reasonable and beneficial use of the surface water and groundwater in the Management Area, and to impose a method of managing the water supply of the Management Area to maximize the reasonable and beneficial use of the waters, to eliminate overdraft pursuant to the provisions of the Judgment, to protect the prior rights of the Soboba Tribe, and to provide for the use of all water rights recognizing the participating parties priorities pursuant to law, including California Constitution, Article X, Section 2.

The Annual Report is currently prepared by EMWD under contract with the Watermaster.

2.4 Purpose of the Report

This is the fifth Annual Report for the Management Area by the Watermaster. The purpose of the report is to:

- Describe the status of groundwater in the Management Area;
- Discuss water supplies and projected demands for the Management Area;

- Review and evaluate the 2017 data compiled as a result of the Groundwater Monitoring Programs;
- Present information on recharge programs and other Watermaster activities in the Management Area;
- Review 2017 financial considerations.
- Provide corrections to the 2016 Annual Report that were observed after its publication.