

Groundwater elements of November Water Bond

The November Water Bond includes many elements which will benefit groundwater management in California.

SGMA implementation. The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act requires that groundwater pumping and recharge be brought into balance. The November Bond Act provides \$675 million as grants to local agencies from the Department of Water Resources.

Grants will be made to local agencies to implement their sustainability plans. Grants are limited to \$20 million. Planning grants may be made up to \$1 million. Up to 20% of the grant may be used to establish a trust fund, the proceeds of which can be used to implement groundwater management plan. A 50% cost share is required, which may be waived for disadvantaged communities.

Priorities for grants include the following

- critically overdrafted basins
- Surface and groundwater interconnected supplies
- disadvantaged communities
- water quality problems
- subsidence
- state owned resources
- recharge projects
- Multibenefit projects
- Modification of existing facilities
- cost effectiveness
- 50% cost share, not for DACs

The Office of Sustainable Water Solutions receives \$10 million.

The following sub-allocations are made from the \$675 million

Borrego Groundwater basin: \$35 million. This is unique groundwater basin with no imported water supply. Overdraft is impacting our largest state park: Anza Borrego.

Research: \$5 million.

Decision support tools: \$10 million

Interagency communication: \$5 million

Flood water utilization: \$10 million

Other groundwater elements in the bond:

Groundwater improvement and storage are mentioned 90 times in initiative, in almost every program.

Groundwater desalting: \$400 million. These funds may be used to remediate underground or surface saline water supplies inland from the coast.

Friant Kern Canal Repair: \$750 million. These funds will remediate damage caused by groundwater overdraft, and may also be used to recharge groundwater with flood water, and undertake other groundwater programs.

Weed management for improved groundwater recharge: \$100 million. Excessive water use by invasive weeds results in a loss of a million acre feet or more of groundwater throughout California each year. Some of the worst plants are yellow starthistle, Arundo, and tamarisk. These funds can be used in matching programs to control these invasive plants.