



Rancho
California
Water
District

RANCHO CALIFORNIA WATER DISTRICT
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SUBJECT: *Rancho California Water District Awarded \$750,000 for Groundwater Project through the WaterSMART Grants: Drought Response Program from the Bureau of Reclamation*

Temecula, CA July 31, 2019 – The Rancho California Water District (RCWD/District) Board of Directors is pleased to announce the procurement of a \$750K WaterSMART grant from the Bureau of Reclamation. Designed to help communities prepare for drought, the highly competitive WaterSMART grant program is available to the entire Western United States and RCWD's project was one of 18 selected, securing the maximum amount allowed per application. The WaterSMART grant will be used to finalize completion of our ongoing *Upper Valle De Los Caballos* (Upper VDC) four phase project. The Upper VDC are groundwater ponds and wells located east of Anza Road and north of Pauba Road. The completion of the project will help optimize RCWD's groundwater recharge and treatment facilities and increase groundwater recharge and recovery capability.

The District has already completed the first two phases of the project and the grant will be used for phases 3 and 4 which includes design, environmental compliance work, permitting, final design and construction. Upon completion of phases 3 and 4, RCWD will have increased recharge capacity at the Upper VDC facilities by 223%. Making these improvements will improve drought resiliency by improving the reliability of water supplies during future droughts

and emergencies. Local water is one of RCWD's most important asset as it provides the lowest cost for customers.

"Rancho California Water District continues to take significant, forward-thinking steps to ensure its ratepayers have access to reliable and affordable water supply. The financial resources provided by the Bureau of Reclamation are a valuable investment to our infrastructure," said Jeff Armstrong, RCWD General Manager. These federal dollars allow the District to continue sustainability efforts to the groundwater supply in the Temecula Valley. The entire project is scheduled for completion by September 2021.

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Formed in 1965, Rancho California Water District supplies an area consisting of approximately 150 square miles. The District serves the area known as Temecula/Rancho California, which includes the City of Temecula, parts of Murrieta, and other contiguous lands. The District is separated into two divisions: the Santa Rosa Division generally west of I-15 and Rancho Division generally east of I-15. The District currently provides sewer service to the Cal Oaks and Bear Creek areas.

"The mission of the Rancho California Water District is to deliver reliable, high-quality water, wastewater and reclamation services to its customers and communities in a prudent and sustainable manner."