

New Water Supply Programs

- Property Owners and Water Suppliers within the AVEK service area may be negatively impacted by the groundwater use restrictions contained in the Antelope Valley Groundwater Adjudication Judgement
 - Some Property Owners and Water Suppliers may be short on groundwater supplies during the rampdown
 - While other smaller pumpers usually on individual lots might find it difficult to drill a new well and to develop their property using groundwater supplies
 - Some vacant land property owners may find it even more difficult since their access to groundwater supplies was prohibited by the Judgement and water wells can not be drilled to supply groundwater



New Water Supply Programs

- Some vacant land property owners may find it even more difficult since their access to groundwater supplies was prohibited by the Judgement and water wells can not be drilled to supply groundwater
- For Water Suppliers, reliable access to water is key to reliably serving their customers;
- Access to water supplies can have an impact on property values;
- And everyone is concerned about the price of serving water



New Water Supply Programs

- The Antelope Valley Groundwater Adjudication Judgement affects the use of groundwater supplies for all AVEK Property Owners and Water Suppliers
- The AVEK ACT passed by Legislature in 1959 grants every Property Owner and Water Supplier in the AVEK service area access to Imported Water Supplies
- The AVEK ACT requires that the Board allocate water based on the proportional share of the taxes paid by each property owner
- The question then becomes can AVEK develop new water supply using imported water that can replace groundwater supplies that are restricted or no longer available



New Water Supply Programs

- This is the basis for two proposed programs to assist our Property Owners and Water Suppliers to address water supply issues associated with the Antelope Valley Groundwater Adjudication Judgement
 - Replacement Water
 - AVEK Water Supply Program for small and non pumpers
- These program would not be viable without the Boards vision and investment in water banking infrastructure over the last ten years



Replacement Water Program

- This program is for any Groundwater Producer (Property Owner or Water Supplier) that is within the AVEK service area that is required by the AV Watermaster to acquire or pay for Replacement Water
 - This Program, subject to approval by the Watermaster Board would allow any Property Owner or Water Supplier within the AVEK service area to acquire replacement water from the AVEK water banks to satisfy their replacement water obligations to the Watermaster.
 - The program is fairly straight forward. AVEK would import water from outside the area and place water within the groundwater basin via the water banks operated by AVEK.



Replacement Water Program

- When AVEK receives a request from a Property Owners or Water Supplier for Replacement Water, AVEK would notify the Watermaster that an equivalent amount of banked water would be released to the groundwater basin satisfying the replacement water obligation for the property owner or Water Supplier.
- Additional provisions would need to be established for pumping reductions within the cone of depression to assure that the replacement water benefits would be realized in this area
 - There are several ways to accomplish requirement that would need to be further developed as the plan evolves



Replacement Water Program

- AVEK is bound to recover costs only, therefore with this program the cost would be limited to cost of importing the water to the AVEK service area and any distribution and banking costs
- The current agricultural water rate for non treated raw water is consistent with the recovery costs necessary to facilitate this program
- This is the agency's lowest water rate
- Groundwater banking has a loss factor of 10% for incidental losses in the banking process
- This additional cost of 10% would need to be added to the agricultural rate
- The Cost recovery for Replacement Water is proposed to be \$424 per acre foot



AVEK Water Supply Program for Small and Non Pumpers

- This program is designed to assist small and non pumpers that need water supplies other than groundwater to serve their properties
- This program would generally be used by individual lot owners within the AVEK service
- This program would operate similar to the Replacement Water program and imported water from outside the area would be placed in the AVEK groundwater banks
- Small and Non Pumpers that would like to access this water would sign up with AVEK and enter into water supply agreement



AVEK Water Supply for Small and Non Pumpers

- An AVEK meter would be installed on existing wells and new wells approved by the Watermaster that will use imported water supplies as their source
- AVEK would read the meter and bill the property owner as is the current practice
- AVEK would provide the Watermaster with the meter readings and the corresponding releases of banked water to the groundwater basin
- As with the Replacement Water program area within the cone of depression would require special provisions



AVEK Water Supply for Small and Non- Pumpers

- The cost recovery for this program is the same as the Replacement Water Program, \$424 per acre foot
- Assuming one acre foot per household the monthly cost would be \$35.33 month plus electric costs for pumping



Program Benefits

- AVEK Property Owners and Water Suppliers would have access to imported water supplies to meet groundwater use restrictions contained in the Antelope Valley Groundwater Adjudication Judgement
- Help to maintain property values within the AVEK service area
- Help the Watermaster Board to comply with the Judgement requirements



Next Steps

- AVEK Board to conceptually approval to direct Staff to move forward with further refinement of the programs
- Seek consistence determination from the Watermaster Board that Programs will not provide material harm to the groundwater basin and are consistent with the Judgement
- Conduct appropriate CEQA processes
- Prepare final Program details and document each program in an easy to follow brochure



Questions

