

Director AB 1234 Report
November 17, 2020

Director name: Gary Martin
Meeting attended: ACWA Region 5 Virtual Event
Date of meeting: November 10, 2020
Location: Virtual
SCV Water Board meeting to be presented at: November 17, 2020

On November 10, I attended the final program in the ACWA Regions Event Series, presented by Region 5 and entitled "Continuing the Discussion: Regional Issues Affecting Our Communities." The program included a virtual tour of Vandenberg Village Community Services District (VVCS) which provided a look at its water storage tank rehabilitation efforts, SGMA compliance efforts in the Santa Ynez River Valley Basin area, and the Los Vaqueros Reservoir expansion efforts. Program panelists also continued the discussion on safe drinking water issues affecting disadvantaged communities, and provided their perspectives on how to effectively and efficiently address these issues and how we can better incorporate underserved groups into statewide policy discussions.

Points of Interest:

1. Transient Electromagnetic (TEM) technology is being used to map groundwater levels in the Santa Ynez River Valley Basin area up to 1,500 feet in depth.
2. The Los Vaqueros Reservoir, which is an "off-stream" storage facility is being expanded from its current capacity of 100,000 AF to an ultimate capacity of 275,000 AF in two phases. This will allow for greater storage when storm flows are higher, such as may occur as a result of climate change effects.
3. The panel discussion provided a case study of the community of San Jerardo in Salinas, Monterey County, a 67-unit low income housing facility for 350 residents and farm workers. The Monterey County Department of Public Health required San Jerardo to find a new source of water, as the existing source had high nitrate levels and chemical impacts from the nearby agricultural fields. San Jerardo now has a new system at a cost of \$6 million and is in the process of transferring the system to the County. It was noted that there are many other small systems in disadvantaged areas that need to be upgraded.
4. Ken Sansone of the SL Environmental Law Group made a presentation on representing communities suffering from contaminated groundwater and the process to pursue legal remedies from manufacturers of contaminants. Currently assisting 120 disadvantaged communities and 25 school districts seeking long-term solutions.
5. Cindy Tuck of ACWA made a presentation on the Safe Drinking Water for All program and ACWA's advocacy efforts related to several pieces of legislation now being considered.

I thought it was an interesting and informative program, and I appreciate being able to attend.