

Optimum Basin Management Program Status Report 2007-1: January to June 2007

Introduction

This status report covers the period January 1, 2007 through June 30, 2007. The bulk of this report describes the activities that occurred and status of the work conducted for each program element of the Optimum Basin Management Program (OBMP). However, there are additional significant efforts that occurred during the reporting period to include:

- The Sunding macroeconomic study entitled “Analysis of Aggregate Costs and Benefits of Hydraulic Control, Basin Re-Operation and Desalter Elements of Non-Binding Term Sheet” was accepted. It measured the economic costs and benefits of achieving hydraulic control through re-operation of the Chino Basin.
- Revision of Watermaster’s Groundwater Models. Watermaster’s groundwater models are being revised to incorporate new information obtained through OBMP investigations and monitoring, to extend the planning period from the current 25-year period to 60 years, and to incorporate subsidence explicitly.
- Preparation of Engineering Alternatives for Desalter Expansion. Consultants to the City of Ontario and the Western Municipal Water District presented alternatives for the capacity expansions of the Chino I and Chino II Desalters.
- Ongoing Work to Prepare the 2006 State of the Basin Report. The draft SOB report was prepared by Watermaster consultants and released for review by interested parties.

Program Element 1: Develop and Implement a Comprehensive Monitoring Program

Groundwater Level Monitoring

Watermaster has three active groundwater level monitoring programs operating in the Chino Basin: 1) A semiannual basin-wide well monitoring program, 2) A key well monitoring program associated with the Chino I/II Desalter well fields and the Hydraulic Control Monitoring Program (HCMP), and 3) A piezometric monitoring program associated with land subsidence and ground fissuring in Management Zone 1 (MZ-1). The frequency of groundwater level monitoring varies with each program; depending on the needs of the data analyst. These groundwater level monitoring programs also rely on municipal producers, other government agencies, and private entities to supply their groundwater level measurements on a cooperative basis. Watermaster digitizes all these measurements and combines them into a relational database for general usage. During this period, Watermaster purchased and installed 4 pressure transducers/data loggers at key wells; principally in the northern portions of Chino Basin where more detailed groundwater level data are needed.

Groundwater Quality Monitoring

During this reporting period no wells were sampled, as all wells had already been sampled during the first half of FY 2006-07. Watermaster continues a comprehensive data collection program whereby water quality data from other sources are routinely collected, QA/QC'd, and loaded into Watermaster’s database.

Watermaster and the Inland Empire Utilities Agency (IEUA) are working closely with the Appropriative Pool members and their state-certified laboratories to obtain water quality data as an electronic data deliverable (EDD), which can be entered directly into Watermaster’s relational database.



Groundwater-Production Monitoring

All active wells (except for minimum user wells) are now metered. Watermaster reads the production data from the meters on a quarterly basis and enters these data into Watermaster's relational database.

Surface Water Monitoring

Water Quality and Quantity in Recharge Basins. Watermaster measures the quantity and quality of storm and supplemental water entering the recharge basins. Pressure transducers or staff gauges are used to measure water levels during recharge operations. In addition to these quantity measurements, imported water quality values for State Water Project water are obtained from the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWDSC) and recycled water quality values for the RP1 and RP4 treatment plant effluents are obtained from IEUA. Watermaster monitors the storm water quality in the eight major channels (San Antonio, West Cucamonga, Cucamonga, Deer Creek, Day Creek, San Sevaire, West Fontana, and DeClez) usually after each major storm event. Combining the measured flow data with the respective water qualities enables the calculation of the blended water quality in each recharge basin, the "new yield" to the Chino Basin, and the adequate dilution of recycled water.

Surface Water Monitoring in Santa Ana River (SAR). Watermaster measures the discharge of the river and selected water quality parameters to determine those reaches of the SAR that are gaining flow from Chino Basin and/or, conversely, those reaches that are losing flow into the Chino Basin. These bi-weekly flow and water quality measurements are combined with discharge data from permanent USGS and Orange County Water District (OCWD) stream gauges and discharge data from publicly owned treatment works (POTWs). These data are used in groundwater modeling to assess the extent of hydraulic control.

HCMP Annual Report

In January 2004, the RWQCB amended the Water Quality Control Plan (Basin Plan) for the Santa Ana River Basin to incorporate an updated total dissolved solids (TDS) and nitrogen (N) management plan. The Basin Plan Amendment includes both "antidegradation" and "maximum benefit" objectives for TDS and nitrate-nitrogen for the Chino and Cucamonga groundwater management zones. The application of the "maximum benefit" objectives relies on Watermaster and the IEUA's implementation of a specific program of projects and requirements, which are an integral part of the OBMP. On April 15, 2005, the RWQCB adopted resolution R8-2005-0064; thus approving the Surface Water Monitoring Program and Groundwater Monitoring Program in support of maximum benefit commitments in the Chino and Cucamonga Basins. Watermaster and the IEUA completed the 2006 Annual Report, which summarizes the results for those two programs, and submitted it to the RWQCB on April 16, 2007 in partial fulfillment of maximum benefit commitments. .

Chino Basin Recycled Water Groundwater Recharge Program

The IEUA, Watermaster, Chino Basin Water Conservation District, and San Bernardino County Flood Control District jointly sponsor the Chino Basin Recycled Water Groundwater Recharge Program. This is a comprehensive water supply program to enhance water supply reliability and improve the groundwater quality in local drinking water wells throughout the Chino Groundwater Basin by increasing the recharge of stormwater, imported water, and recycled water. The recharge program is regulated under RWQCB Order No. R8-2005-0033 and Monitoring and Reporting Program No. R8-2005-0033.

Recharge Activities. On going recycled water recharge occurred in the Turner 1&2, Turner 3&4, Ely, Hickory, and Banana Basins during this reporting period.

Monitoring Activities. Watermaster and the IEUA collect weekly water quality samples from basins that are actively recharging recycled water and from lysimeters installed within those basins. During this reporting period, approximately 600 basin and lysimeter samples were collected. Monitoring wells located down gradient of the recharge basins were sampled every two weeks during the reporting period for a total of about 100 samples.

Construction Activities. Lysimeters and monitoring wells associated with the RP-3 Basins were installed during this reporting period; monitoring wells associated with the 8th Street Basins and Brooks Basin were installed during this reporting period. Lysimeters associated with 8th Street, Brooks, and Declez Basins will be install during fiscal year (FY) 2007/08, and monitoring wells associated with Declez Basin will begin construction during fiscal year 2007/08.

Reporting. Watermaster and the IEUA completed the following required reports concerning the recharge program during the reporting period:

- Hickory Start-Up Report – February 2007
- Turner 1&2, Turner 3&4 Start-Up Reports – Not yet submitted
- 4Q06 Quarterly Report – February 2007
- 1Q07 Quarterly Report – May 2007
- Annual Report for 2006 Recycled Water Groundwater Recharge Program – May 2007

Land Surface Monitoring

Watermaster developed a multifaceted land surface monitoring program to develop data for a long-term management plan for land subsidence in Management Zone 1 (MZ-1). The monitoring program consisted of three main elements:

- An aquifer system monitoring facility consisting of multiple depth piezometers and a dual bore extensometer.
- The application of synthetic aperture radar interferometry (InSAR) to measure historical land surface deformation.
- Benchmark surveys to measure land surface deformation, “ground truth” the InSAR data, and evaluate effectiveness of the long term management plan.

Following three years of data collection and analysis, Watermaster submitted the MZ-1 Summary Report in February 2006, which contained Guidance Criteria to minimize subsidence and fissuring. The Guidance Criteria included a listing of Managed Wells and their owners subject to the criteria, a map of the so-called Managed Area, an initial threshold water level (Guidance Level) of 245 feet below the top of the PA-7 well casing, and a plan for ongoing monitoring and notification. Since February 2006, the MZ-1 Summary Report and the Guidance Criteria contained therein have been discussed extensively by the parties involved, and were adopted by the Watermaster Board at its May 2006 meeting. The final MZ-1 Subsidence Management Plan was adopted by the Watermaster Board at its June 2007 meeting.

The MZ-1 monitoring program continues unabated. Ground level surveys and InSAR data were collected as scheduled during the spring of 2007. Water level monitoring expanded to the central regions of MZ-1 with the installation of transducers/data loggers at selected wells owned by the City of Chino, the Monte Vista Water District, and the City of Pomona. This expansion of the water level monitoring program is the initial effort to better understand the mechanisms behind ongoing land subsidence in this region.

Program Element 2: Develop and Implement a Comprehensive Recharge Program

Construction on the Chino Basin Facilities Improvement Project (CBFIP) Phase I was completed by December 31, 2005 at a cost of \$38M; 50% from a SWRCB Proposition 13 Grant, and 25% each from Watermaster and the IEUA. A CBFIP Phase II list of projects was developed by Watermaster and the IEUA, including monitoring wells, lysimeters, recycled water connections, SCADA system expansions, three MWDSC turnouts, and berm heightening and hardening. At a cost of approximately \$10.5M, these Phase II facilities will be financed through a 50% Grant from DWR and 25% each from Watermaster and the IEUA.

In FY 2005-2006, the CBFIP Phase I facilities were able to recharge 49,000 AF of storm and supplemental water. With the completion of the Phase II facilities in FY 2008-2009, the total recharge capacity will be about 75,000 AF. By the start of FY 2009-2010, most of the basins will be able to operate on a 12 months per year basis with combinations of storm, imported, and recycled water, with occasional downtime for silt and organic growth removal. Operations and basin planning are coordinated through the Groundwater Recharge Coordinating Committee (GRCC) which met monthly during this reporting period.

Program Element 3: Develop and Implement Water Supply Plan for the Impaired Areas of the Basin; and

Program Element 5: Develop and Implement Regional Supplemental Water Program

Construction on the Chino I Desalter Expansion and the Chino II Desalter facilities was completed in February 2006 and an application has been made for \$1.6 M in Proposition 50 funds to add 8 MGD of ion exchange capacity to the Chino II Desalter. As currently configured, the Chino I Desalter provides 2.6 MGD of treated (air stripping for VOC removal) water from Wells Nos. 1-4, 4.9 MGD of treated (ion exchange for nitrate removal) water from Wells Nos. 5-15, and 6.7 MGD of treated (reverse osmosis for nitrate and TDS removal) water from Wells Nos. 5-15 for a total of 14.2 MGD (16,000 AFY). The Chino II Desalter provides 4.0 MGD of ion exchange treated water and 6.0 MGD of reverse osmosis treated water from 8 additional wells for a total of 10.0 MGD (11,000 AFY).

Consultants to the City of Ontario and Western Municipal Water District recently completed their evaluation of three alternative configurations for expansion of the Chino Desalters. Their results are presented in the report "Chino Desalter Phase 3 Alternatives Evaluation," dated May 2007. Essentially, they found that the preferred alternative would be to construct a 10.5 mgd (10,600 AFY) expansion to the existing Chino II Desalter, with raw water coming from the existing Wells Nos. 13, 14, and 15. A new Chino Creek Well Field, required for hydraulic control of the basin, would replace the raw water lost from the Wells Nos. 13, 14, and 15. Negotiations are currently underway between the City of Ontario, WMWD, and JCSD to determine capacity allocations and cost sharing for the new facilities.

Program Element 4: Develop and Implement a Comprehensive Groundwater Management Plan for Management Zone 1

In February 2006, Watermaster completed the MZ-1 Summary Report, including the Guidance Criteria. Since then the impacted parties have had numerous meetings to transform the Summary Report into a Long-term Management Plan. The Summary Report and the Guidance Criteria were adopted by the Watermaster Board in May 2006, and the Long-term Management Plan was adopted in June 2007.

Program Element 6: Develop and Implement Cooperative Programs with the Regional Water Quality Control Board, Santa Ana Region (Regional Board) and Other Agencies to Improve Basin Management; and

Program Element 7: Develop and Implement a Salt Management Program

A Water Quality Committee meeting was held on December 13, 2006 to discuss the status of the investigations of the three major water quality plumes in the Basin (Chino Airport, Ontario Airport, and Stringfellow Hazardous Waste Site) in the Basin. On going discussions are being held with the RWQCB and the San Bernardino County Department of Airports in order to determine the engineering solution and costs for remediating the TCE plume at the Chino Airport. The consulting engineer for the SBCDA is currently characterizing the extent of off-site contamination and investigating remedial alternatives. For the Ontario Airport (OIA) plume, the Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs) have been working with Watermaster to quantify the depth and extent of the TCE plume. The PRPs submitted a Work Plan for installing and sampling four groundwater monitoring wells, with two wells down gradient of the OIA and two wells down gradient of the Milliken Landfill. Watermaster and the RWQCB have reviewed the Workplan and are providing comments to the PRPs in July 2007. At the Stringfellow site, the consultants to DHS have been investigating whether the perchlorate plume from the site adds to the existing perchlorate levels in the Santa Ana River, or whether the perchlorate plume is diverted towards the Chino II Desalter well field. The results of their investigation, together with further discussion of the Chino Airport and OIA plumes will be the key topics of the Water Quality Committee meeting on July 19, 2007. Lastly, Watermaster continues to monitor the activities of General Electric's (GE) remediation at the Flat Iron facility and their efforts to develop a new location for recharge of their treated effluent.

MZ-3 Monitoring Program.

The former Kaiser plume has been incorporated into an overall monitoring program for the MZ-3 area. The MZ-3 monitoring program is also assessing the groundwater quality impairment from total dissolved solids (TDS), nitrate, and perchlorate. The perchlorate may have originated from the Mid-Valley Landfill (in Rialto Basin, across the Rialto-

Colton fault) or it may be a non-point source that resulted from the historical application of Chilean fertilizer. Four rounds of quarterly samples were collected from 22 wells, including former Kaiser wells that Watermaster previously renovated: MP2 and KOFS. The MP2 cluster of wells (four depths) was in the heart of the Kaiser plume when the well was constructed; while KOFS was just beyond the leading edge of the plume. MP2 continues to show an impact from the Kaiser plume and the KOFS well is now impacted. Based on the analytical results, locations were identified for two new triple nested monitoring wells, which were constructed during this reporting period. Quarterly samples will be collected from the two new monitoring wells and annual samples will now be collected from the 22 wells to help recharacterize the Kaiser plume. The next sampling event is scheduled for August of 2007.

Ontario International Airport (OIA) Volatile Organic Chemical Plume.

During meetings in the last reporting period, Watermaster provided water quality, water level, and well construction data from more than 400 private wells and 200 public wells to the RWQCB, which in turn forwarded the database to the PRPs pursuant to their request. After the PRPs had an opportunity to review the data, and historical aerial photos, they presented a conceptual site model to the RWQCB on April 5, 2007. Based on their model, they recommended the construction of four groundwater monitoring wells to fill in data gaps in characterizing the location and extent of the plume. Subsequently the PRPs submitted their sampling work plan and health and safety plan for the well installation and sampling. Watermaster will review the work plan and provided comments to the regional board in July 2007.

Chino Airport VOC Plume.

Watermaster met with the RWQCB, the San Bernardino County Department of Airports, and their consultant Tetra Tech on April 18, May 25, and June 26, 2007 to discuss a joint remediation of the VOC plume from the airport. Such a joint remediation would help address other issues in the southwestern portion of Chino Basin such as maintenance of hydraulic control and the provision of high quality drinking water in an area of increasing demand. As a result of these meetings, Watermaster agreed to provide a database containing well construction information, water quality, water levels, and production for wells located southwest of the Chino airport. In addition, Watermaster provided results from sampling all the wells in this location to provide up-to-date analytical data on all the possible contaminants in these wells. These data are being reviewed with Tetra Tech to begin the engineering of appropriate remedial actions.

During this reporting period (early 2007) Tetra Tech submitted a work plan and conducted the associated work for offsite characterization of the groundwater plume. Preliminary results of this investigation were presented during the April 18th meeting.

GE Flat Iron Remediation.

Finally, with respect to the GE Flat Iron remediation, GE conducted a screening of options for the disposal of treated effluent from their operational pump and treat facilities. Currently, GE discharges their effluent into the Ely Basins, where it percolates back into the groundwater. However, this operation limits Watermaster's ability to recharge recycled water into the Ely Basins and, consequently, Watermaster has asked that GE develop alternative disposal means. As a result of their screening, GE has decided to investigate, in detail, the construction of groundwater injection wells that would be operated in conjunction with their own recharge basin. GE completed their planning in December 2006 and began detailed design based upon the RWQCB's approval of the concept.

TDS and Nitrogen Monitoring Pursuant to the 2004 Basin Plan Amendment

Pursuant to the 2004 Basin Plan Amendment and the Watermaster/IEUA permit to recharge recycled water, Watermaster and the IEUA have conducted groundwater and surface water monitoring programs. Quarterly HCMP reports that summarize data collection efforts were submitted to the RWQCB in January and April 2007. An annual HCMP report for 2006 was submitted to the RWQCB in April 2007.

Program Element 8: Develop and Implement a Groundwater Storage Management Program; and

Program Element 9: Develop and Implement a Storage and Recovery Program

In March 2006, Watermaster submitted a proposal to the San Diego County Water Authority regarding SDCWA use of storage in the Chino Basin. Subsequently, in May 2006, Watermaster staff and legal counsel attended a meeting with SDCWA staff to discuss Watermaster's proposal. During the current reporting period, the SDCWA began discussions with the Watermaster to develop a storage and recovery program in the Chino Basin. Watermaster has also begun discussions with the Castaic Lake Water Agency and with the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (Metropolitan) regarding new storage and recovery programs in the Chino Basin.

The existing Watermaster/IEUA/Metropolitan Dry Year Yield (DYY) program continued on during the reporting period. As of June 30, 2007, more than 88,400 acre-ft had been stored in the Basin in Metropolitan's DYY account. The construction statuses of local facilities included in the DYY program for the participating parties are as follows:

- City of Ontario – Wellhead treatment facility: final design review completed in April 2007. DYY Wells: Drilling on Wells Nos. 45, 46, and 47 complete.
- Cucamonga Valley Water District – Completed design, site grading, and CEQA for four new wells (Nos. 39-42): construction started for well Nos. 44 and 45, but discontinued because of non-producing aquifer area.
- Upland – New IX treatment facility constructed and online.
- City of Pomona – Expansion of existing IX treatment facility: final design completed in April 2007, construction underway with completion scheduled for March 2008.
- City of Chino Hills – Refurbish Pellisier well and construct new treatment facility: design underway
- Monte Vista Water District – Well No. 31: well construction completed July 2006 and wellhead equipment procurement is underway. Well No. 33 and treatment facility (joint MVWD/Chino project): Well construction was completed and wellhead equipping specifications are at 90 % completion..
- Jurupa Community Services District – Expansion of the Teagarden IX facility completed in October 2006 and facility is now online.