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Escalon Times News

Tuesday, January 13, 2004

Farmington program web site goes online

Eastern San Joaquin County landowners can now self-evaluate whether their property is suitable for inclusion in the Farmington Groundwater Recharge Program by visiting a new web site launched by Stockton East Water District (SEWD) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE).

Located at www.FarmingtonProgram.org, the site is geared to provide a comprehensive review of the program, a SEWD led effort to stabilize the region's underground water supply from continued overdraft and saline intrusion.

"Having a reliable, high quality supply of groundwater is vital for San Joaquin County's future," SEWD Board President Tom McGurk said. "Through this web site, landowners will learn the history of the Farmington Program and how they can contribute to solving Eastern San Joaquin County's water supply problem."

Tools and resources located on the site include an overview of the candidate property selection process; a description of the recharge process; on-line enrollment form; comments by area landowners and elected officials; frequently asked questions; and various information resources for the media and other interested parties.

The Farmington Groundwater Recharge Program is a \$33.5 million effort lead by Stockton East Water District in partnership with the Sacramento District U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to contribute to restoration of the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Basin and to repel saline water intrusion. The Program seeks to rotate water with other land-uses via short- and long-term agreements with landowners, and may develop permanent recharge facilities. The Program goal is to spread an average of 35,000 acre-feet of water annually on 800 to 1,200 acres of land generally bound by Jack Tone Road on the east, Highway 99 to the west, the Mokelumne River in the north and Temple Creek in the south.

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