

NEWS RELEASE



Farmington Groundwater Recharge Program

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FARMINGTON PROGRAM RECOGNIZED BY SJCOG

Locally-lead groundwater recharge program receives its second award

The Farmington Groundwater Recharge Program has been given the San Joaquin Council of Governments judges award for its effort to stabilize and restore the Eastern San Joaquin County groundwater basin.

Locally-lead by Stockton East Water District, the Farmington Program is an effort to restore the region's groundwater supply and stop saline intrusion from the west through field flooding groundwater recharge using surplus flood flows from area rivers and streams. SEWD Board Vice President Paul Sanguinetti received the award on behalf of the Farmington Program.

In accepting the award, Sanguinetti thanked the San Joaquin Council of Governments and urged attendees to keep groundwater recharge a regional priority.

“Without groundwater crops die, industries fail and the quality of life Stockton area residents value ends,” Sanguinetti said. “And without it, the critical economic building blocks that the San Joaquin Council of Government deals with on a daily basis will not succeed.

“With your continued involvement in programs like the Farmington Groundwater Recharge Program, we will ensure San Joaquin County continues to have reliable supplies of high-quality water,” he said.

The SJCOG award is the second honor given to the Farmington Program. On Feb. 20, the American Society of Civil Engineers, Sacramento Section, named the program its Water/Environment Project of the Year, 2003.



Stockton East Water District Board Vice President Paul Sanguinetti (left) and District Board Member Ray Latimer receive San Joaquin Council of Governments award for the Farmington Groundwater Recharge Program.

The Farmington Program is a joint effort of SEWD and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Sacramento District, to recharge an average of 35,000 acre feet per year to the Eastern San Joaquin County groundwater basin through field flooding of up to 1,200 acres of land. Property enrolled in the program will be compensated for their use at market rates, thereby making water a crop for landowners.

In addition to a 60-acre pilot-scale recharge facility at SEWD headquarters, the Farmington Program is evaluating a dozen candidate parcels ranging from 20 to 120 acres. If fully enrolled in the program on short and long-term agreements, these parcels would meet approximately one-half of the planned recharge goal. The concept and technology for the Farmington Program was developed by SEWD, Corps and the Sacramento office of MWH Americas Inc., a worldwide consulting firm that specializes in water resources and environmental engineering, power generation, facilities development, laboratory services, construction, multi-sector program management, asset management, financial services, IT consulting, government relations and applied science.

For more information visit www.FarmingtonProgram.org, or call 209-948-0333.

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About the Program: 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.