

## Farmington Groundwater Recharge Program: Section: Program Supporters

From its launch in 1996, the Farmington Groundwater Recharge Program has included participation and support by numerous landowners, elected officials, government agencies, water agencies and environmental organizations. Organizations that originally supported Stockton East Water District and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in the program included:

- City of Stockton
- San Joaquin County
- Central San Joaquin Water Conservation District (CSJWCD)
- North San Joaquin Water Conservation District (NSJWCD)
- California Water Service Company (Cal-Water)
- San Joaquin County Flood Control and Water Conservation District
- City of Lodi
- Woodbridge Irrigation District
- Central and South Delta Water Agencies
- San Joaquin Farm Bureau



To view comments of program supporters, please click on the below links:

### Elected Officials & Government Agencies

*"The Farmington Program is the beginning of several water storage programs as Eastern San Joaquin County water planners take control of their local water supply. This includes efforts to secure funding for the Mokelumne River Regional Water Storage and Conjunctive Use Project."*

Jack Sieglock, San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors and chairman of the North San Joaquin Groundwater Banking Authority

*"The Farmington Groundwater Recharge Program is a proven and readily repeatable effort and the state should reassess its conservative approach to larger, more complex projects. San Joaquin County is at the forefront of directly addressing groundwater replenishment in the Central Valley."*

U.S. Rep. Dennis Cardoza (D-Modesto)

*"The Farmington Groundwater Recharge Project gives us the flexibility to address our water quality and quantity needs for the future. It is one step in addressing the overdraft problems San Joaquin County faces."*

U.S. Rep. Richard Pombo (R-Tracy)

*"This project is an excellent opportunity to provide sustainable top quality water critical for Central Valley agriculture and our growing communities now and in the future."*

Assemblyman Greg Aghazarian (R-Stockton)

*"Building water storage projects in harmony with agriculture and the environment is a complex task. I congratulate the Corps for its efforts and for adding this valuable layer of service to California."*  
Assemblywoman Barbara Matthews (D-Tracy)

*"Stockton East Water District has taken a positive step in providing much-needed water to area landowners. Working with local, state and federal agencies, the Farmington Groundwater Recharge Program is an example of local agencies coming together to help meet the vital water needs of a growing community."*

State Sen. Charles Poochigian (R-Fresno)

*"The construction, maintenance and protection of such a diverse wetland project near the city of Stockton would be an invaluable addition to the area by contributing critical wintering or breeding habitat for migratory or resident waterfowl. Depending on its location a new wetland could also potentially provide a buffer zone between the growing housing, commercial and industrial development within the core of Stockton, and open agricultural and native lands on the periphery of the city. I applaud your efforts to increase the availability of wildlife habitat in the Central Valley."*

Dale Garrison, Program Manager  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Sacramento

*"Since the availability of surface water for Stockton and much of eastern San Joaquin County is limited, restoring an abundant supply of high quality ground water in the area is essential for meeting the growing demand for potable water that supports public health. The Farmington Groundwater Recharge Project is an important step in restoring both the quantity and quality of ground water that has been negatively impacted by decades of ground water overdraft."*

Joseph Spano, Regional Manager  
District Engineer, California Department of Health Services, Drinking Water Program

*"What Stockton East Water District is doing for Eastern San Joaquin County is incredible. They are aggressively working towards solving one of the most serious resource problems facing this region through construction of groundwater recharge facilities that will provide water supply reliability for the future, and, therefore, sustain San Joaquin County agriculture."*

David Simpson, Stockton Division district conservationist,  
Natural Resources Conservation Service.

## **Growers & Landowners**

*"The AG Spanos Companies are in support of all projects including groundwater recharge whose goals are to increase the availability of potable water."*

AG Spanos Co.

*"The 60-acre groundwater recharge project at SEWD is the first of many such projects envisioned for the Farmington Program, which together with practical leadership and sound water management will secure economic prosperity and environmental balance to our farms and communities for us now and future generations."*

Tom McGurk, Landowner and board president of Stockton East Water District

*“Stockton East and its neighboring water districts have been aggressive in trying to resolve the critical issues faced by landowners in the Eastern San Joaquin Valley. Without a water recharge program, the water table will continue to plummet, creating a bigger expense for landowners.”*

Grant Thompson, Landowner and chairman of the Central San Joaquin Water Conservation District

*“Water is our life blood. With saline intrusion from groundwater overdraft, we need to reverse this trend so that we have good, fresh potable water for our future. We have developments in the State of Nevada where we don’t have enough potable water, so I am very sensitive to this issue. We have been spoiled in this valley for having good water, but that is a luxury we are in danger of losing. Once it’s gone we will really miss it.”*

John Verner, owner, Verner Construction, Stockton, Calif.

### **Water Agencies and Organizations**

*“The Farmington Groundwater Recharge Program is a great first step towards a major groundwater recharge program for the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Basin.”*

Ed Steffani, president, North San Joaquin Water Conservation District

*“The critical decline in the Eastern San Joaquin water table demands that we stop talking and begin to take positive steps to replenish this dwindling resource. Stockton East Water District is to be commended for their positive action through the Farmington Program.*

*“North San Joaquin Water Conservation District has also begun a recharge program. Our project is financed from tax funds secured from local growers, following the successful passage of an acreage tax assessment last year. We support Stockton East, and stand ready to work with them to develop further recharge projects in our area.”*

Fred Weybred, president, North San Joaquin Water Conservation District

*“As a long time resident of Stockton, I am pleased that investor owned Cal Water, that has served Stockton since 1926, is cooperating with public entities to ensure for the availability of water for future generations of San Joaquin County citizens.”*

Robert W. Foy, Chairman of the Board  
California Water Service Company