



Report to the Community:

# San Gabriel Basin Water Quality Authority Furtherers its Mission with Prop 68 Funds

*San Gabriel Valley Water Producers Provide Valley Residents with Clean and Safe Drinking Water*

In June 2018, California voters passed Proposition 68, a \$4.1 billion bond measure called the “California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access for All Act of 2018.” The measure authorized \$4.1 billion in bonds for state and local parks, environmental protection projects, flood protection projects, and water infrastructure projects focusing on groundwater recharge and cleanup, flood protection, safe drinking water, and water recycling. Of that, \$74 million was to be spent on projects that reduce or prevent groundwater contamination and provide drinking water.



Randy Schoellerman

If you’re wondering whether your bond funds are being well-spent, the San Gabriel Basin Water Quality Authority (WQA) and the state of California would like to assure you that indeed they are.

*“We are working to restore a critically important asset for everyone...by securing this funding we are advancing our mission.”*

**Randy Schoellerman  
Executive Director  
Water Quality Authority**

The WQA received \$35.3 million from Prop. 68 to help fund 21 of the 32 water treatment facilities for years to come in the Main San Gabriel Basin (Basin), a large underground aquifer that provides drinking water to 90 percent of the people living and working in the San Gabriel Valley. This grant helps the local water producers to successfully clean

contaminated water and provide safe drinking water to the public.

“We are working to restore a critically important asset for everyone,” said WQA Executive Director Randy Schoellerman. “By securing this funding we are advancing our mission.”

WQA Board Chairwoman Valerie Muñoz thanked the state Division of Financial Assistance, which administers the implementation of the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) financial assistance programs which includes Proposition 68 grants. She said, “This is an example of a partnership that works, where state government and a local water agency work together to bring our community safe and clean water.”

**RESTORING THE BASIN**

Contaminants were first detected in the Basin in 1979. The state then began a sampling program to determine the extent. By 1984, over 59 wells in the Basin were found to have elevated levels of volatile organic compounds, a common groundwater contaminant typically comprised of chemical industrial solvents. This led the Environmental Protection Agency to add the Basin to the national priority list for cleanup.

In 1993, the WQA was formed to coordinate the groundwater cleanup, inform the public, work with the responsible parties, prevent or minimize the spreading of contaminants, remove contamination quickly and effectively, protect groundwater resources, and fund the effort with outside money so ratepayers wouldn’t have to fund the bill.



Valerie Muñoz

To date, the WQA’s 32 treatment plants have removed 192,000 pounds of contaminants and treated 1.78 million acre-feet of groundwater.

**PROP. 68 GRANT PROCESS**

After voters passed Proposition 68, the state developed guidelines for project solicitation and evaluation for the SWRCB’s Groundwater Treatment and Remediation Grant Program. The

WQA applied for funds and received an award for 21 different projects, to fund them over the next 4.5 years.

“We considered the Basin as a whole and looked at those projects which were eligible. We applied for 21 projects and it was a very complex application to get done,” Schoellerman said.

The WQA’s Prop. 68 money goes to local cities and water producers helping to fund portions of the cleanup: Alhambra, Arcadia, El Monte, Monterey Park, Monrovia, and South Pasadena; and Valley County Water District, San Gabriel Valley Water Company, Golden State Water Company, and the WQA. Historically, the Basin cleanup has largely been funded by federal dollars and settlements with the responsible parties, with some state money.

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**Valerie Muñoz  
Board Chairwoman  
Water Quality Authority**

The cleanup still has many years to go. More funding will be needed as new contaminants emerge and require removal. Rest assured, the WQA mission will continue.



The San Gabriel Basin has 32 active groundwater treatment plants, including the Baldwin Park Plant B6 above. At top, are spreading basins for water treatment. The Water Quality Authority has coordinated cleanup efforts that have resulted in the treatment of more than 1.7 million acre-feet of water.



Water Quality Authority

Learn more about your water and the WQA’s efforts to keep it safe and clean.

Visit [www.wqa.com](http://www.wqa.com).



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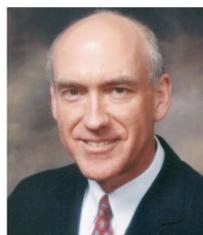
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