



PALMDALE WATER DISTRICT

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PRESS RELEASE

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PWD JOINS PARTNERS AT UPPER AMARGOSA CREEK RECHARGE PROJECT RIBBON-CUTTING

Palmdale, CA – Minutes after the red ribbon was cut today by dignitaries including Palmdale Water District (PWD) Board directors, gushing water from the California Aqueduct flowed into the recharge basins at the Upper Amargosa Creek Recharge Project.

The christening of the basins was the highlight of the event celebrating the near completion of the \$17 million recharge project that is resulting from the collaboration of PWD, California Department of Water Resources, the city of Palmdale, Antelope Valley-East Kern Water Agency and the Los Angeles County Waterworks Districts. The city of Palmdale, which hosted the ribbon-cutting, serves as the lead agency on the project.

“We are honored to be a partner in this important community project,” said PWD President Vincent Dino. “The purpose of this recharge is two-pronged – to serve as a resource for Antelope Valley’s water banking

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needs and to provide residents with a prime recreational area. This is a prime example of how agencies are working together to secure water for the future.”

The project will divert water from the California Aqueduct to recharge basins where it will percolate underground. The recharge basins are located near 25th Street West and Elizabeth Lake Road, where there also will be a nature park with a walkway bridge.

For PWD, the recharge project will increase groundwater supply to the District’s existing wells, allowing greater operational flexibility in its water delivery system. The recharge capacity is expected to be in the range of 1,600 to 2,300 acre-feet of water per year. PWD’s share of the \$17 million cost is \$1.25 million. There is potential for future use of recycled water at the site.

Construction of the project, which started in late 2018, was divided into two phases. The first phase involved the construction of a 48-inch conveyance pipeline to divert water from the State Water Project’s aqueduct to the recharge site. During the second phase, the construction of the recharge basins, Amargosa Creek realignment, habitat restoration, and creation of a nature park for public use took place. According to the city’s plans, the recharge basins were constructed on about 20 acres to the east and west of 25th Street West.

The entire 87-acre project will also have a 38-acre nature park; 22 acres of native habitat and seven acres of open-stream channel.

“This collaboration is what good governance is all about,” said Palmdale Director of Public Works Chuck Heffernan. “It is agencies working together for the benefit of the citizens of California, Antelope Valley and city of Palmdale.”

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Since 1918, the Palmdale Water District has provided high-quality water at a reasonable cost. We pride ourselves on providing great customer service; advocating for local water issues that help our residents; educating the community on water conservation; and leading our region in researching and implementing emerging technologies that increase operational efficiency. For more information about PWD, visit www.palmdalewater.org.

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