

Extraction Barrier Brackish Water Treatment



Location:

An extraction barrier and brackish water treatment system will be constructed on the coast at Naval Base Ventura County Point Mugu. The treated water will be used as potable supply by the U.S. Navy; the remainder will be recharged or delivered for beneficial use in the Oxnard and Pleasant Valley basins.



Project Description:

Extract groundwater from aquifers near the coast to remediate effects of past seawater intrusion, develop a hydraulic barrier by intercepting landward flow of seawater, and desalinate the extracted groundwater for direct use or recharge due to the fact that brackish groundwater with high salinity is not suitable for agriculture or human consumption.



CURRENT STATUS

United has gathered and interpreted available geologic data in the project area and refined their existing groundwater flow model to include solute transport and refined aquifer layering. As part of a Proposition 1 planning grant, various scenarios for project scale, well locations and distribution of product water were completed in 2021. Initial modeling indicates pumping 3,500 acre-feet per year (AFY) can mitigate inland intrusion in the Upper Aquifer System, and larger projects are likely feasible.

Under a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) and two license agreements with the United States Navy, United has initiated design and permitting work, including field investigations. In 2024, United installed 21 monitoring wells at five locations at Navy Base Ventura County Point Mugu. United has secured State grant funding to support Phase 1 of the project. Construction is anticipated to begin early 2027.



BENEFITS/YIELD

Phase I:

- Controls seawater intrusion with a groundwater extraction barrier
- Restores offshore groundwater gradients in coastal areas
- Removes saline and brackish groundwater from the Oxnard Plain and improves groundwater quality
- Supports and increases the sustainable yield of the Oxnard-Pleasant Valley basins

Phase II:

- Enhances drought resiliency of local water supplies (e.g. unaffected by droughts) providing alternate water supply
- Treated water provides a high-quality water source available for all users including municipal, industrial, and agricultural customers, small mutual water companies, and disadvantaged communities
- Enables Naval Base Ventura County to meet its water resiliency goals



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Estimated Cost:

The capital cost is estimated at \$439.6 million for construction. State grant funding has already been secured for some of the Phase 1 design, feasibility studies and monitoring costs. Additional federal grants and financial support are being pursued to minimize capital costs. When the sustainable yield improvements to the basin are considered the capital and operation costs are lower due to the regional benefit of the project.



Current Funding Sources:

State Water Resources Control Board - Groundwater Grant Program

- \$122,563 - Round 1 Planning Grant
- \$8.45 million - Round 3 Implementation Grant

Department of Water Resources (DWR) - Sustainable Groundwater Management Grant Program

- \$1,317,900 for monitoring well construction

Potential Funding Sources:

- United States Bureau of Reclamation - Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN) and WaterSMART
- Department of Defense (DOD) - Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation (OLDCC) - Defense Community Infrastructure Program (DCIP)
- DOD - Energy Resilience & Conservation Program (ERCIP)

Ask from United to Regulators, Legislators, Local Agencies, and Stakeholders:

Support for permitting this innovative project; funding assistance.

