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SSWD Introduces New Water Supply to its South Service Area

Sacramento Suburban Water District (SSWD) has taken a proactive approach to ensure an adequate future water supply for its South Service Area (SSA) customers by purchasing treated surface water from the City of Sacramento. Beginning in early February, the District can acquire up to 20 million gallons of fluoridated surface water per day from the City to help prevent over use of the groundwater aquifer.

"The addition of this surface water source helps us provide additional long-term water supply reliability for our customers," says Robert Roscoe, SSWD General Manager. "This allows us to conserve our groundwater during wet years, when surface water is readily available, and use it in dry years when it is needed most."

Securing an additional water source has been one of SSWD's top priorities. In the SSA, the District currently draws all of its water supply from the groundwater basin. "We have seen a long-term decline in our groundwater levels," says David Githens, President of the SSWD Board of Directors. "In order to ensure our customers always have a reliable supply of water, we needed to find a way to supplement the existing groundwater supply."

To reduce over use of its groundwater supply, SSWD adopted a process known as "conjunctive use," where the District combines the use of treated surface water in wet years, when ample water is available from rainfall and snow pack, with the use of groundwater in dry years, when surface water isn't as readily available. This diversified



approach allows the groundwater basin to recharge, enhancing the reliability of the water supply, yet doesn't use surface water during dry periods when it is needed for fish and other aquatic resources.

Bringing surface water to the SSA is the result of decades of long-range water supply planning, beginning in 1964, when an agreement was made to purchase surface water from the City of Sacramento. To make conjunctive use possible, SSWD built a new reservoir and pump station. The new \$7.8 million Enterprise/Northrop Reservoir and Pump Station includes a five million gallon tank that can store treated surface water purchased from the City of Sacramento. The new reservoir and pump station were built, in part, with a \$3.3 million Proposition 13 grant from the California Department of Water Resources.

Surface water received from the City of Sacramento is fluoridated in accordance with California Department of Health Services (DHS) standards. To maintain an optimal fluoride level in its total water supply and meet DHS standards, SSWD will be adding fluoride to its groundwater supply in the SSA. Capital funding to optimally fluoridate SSWD's SSA groundwater supply comes primarily from the First 5 Sacramento Commission, which uses Proposition 10 (tobacco tax) funds to support the healthy development of children age zero to five. Additional information about the First 5 Sacramento Commission is online at www.sackids.saccounty.net or by calling 916-876-5865.

SSWD's SSA covers most of the area between Capital City Freeway and Highway 50 and between Howe Avenue and Garfield Avenue. For more information on water fluoridation and the SSA, visit SSWD's web site, www.sswd.org or call 916.972.7171.

Sacramento Suburban Water District delivers water to approximately 43,000 customers with an estimated population of 168,000 to areas in the northeast region of Sacramento County. The District's service area encompasses approximately 36 square miles. In February 2002, SSWD was formed as a result of consolidation between the former Arcade and Northridge Water Districts. The District is governed by a five-member elected Board of Directors.