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PRESS RELEASE

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CCWD Receives Groundwater Investigation Grant Award

On May 31, 2001, the California State Department of Water Resources (DWR) announced the award of a \$241,180 Local Groundwater Assistance Grant to the Calaveras County Water District (CCWD). The grant will provide funding for CCWD to conduct a study of the 70 square mile groundwater basin located in the Camanche/Valley Springs area of Calaveras County.

The grant was awarded through the Local Ground Water Management Assistance Act of 2000, (AB303), which authorizes grants for local public agencies to study groundwater resources throughout California. AB303 is related to the 1992 Groundwater Management Act (AB3030), California Water Code Section 10750, which sets forth a process whereby local agencies can assume authorities in the management of groundwater resources within their jurisdiction.

The study will develop a groundwater monitoring approach that will include a one-year program of well assessment, water level and water quality analysis, while gathering hydrogeologic information about the basin. As part of the study, CCWD will start collecting and identifying the data needed to develop a better understanding of the groundwater resources in the study area. This data will be used to develop the First Annual Groundwater Assessment Report, which will aid in establishing a comprehensive groundwater management plan.

The resulting groundwater management plan will ultimately serve to establish and protect the county's groundwater resources. When completed, the plan will include conjunctive use (combining ground and surface water) issues. The management strategy would provide opportunities for long-term conjunctive water management, including water storage opportunities and identification of water to maintain adequate groundwater levels and quality.

Because the portion of the Eastern San Joaquin County Groundwater Basin that lies in Calaveras County has not previously been studied, this project will result in a more comprehensive understanding of the basin. It has recently been determined that well levels in the Calaveras County area are dropping. Plans are in place to investigate a conjunctive use program that would recharge the area. This grant will be the first step in this investigation, but further studies are anticipated.

For more information about the project, contact Kristin Coon at CCWD, (209) 754-3543, extension 29.