



**CALAVERAS COUNTY WATER DISTRICT**  
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## **PRESS RELEASE**

**June 25, 2002**

### **Calaveras County Water District Receives Grant Award for West Point Pipeline**

On June 18, 2002, the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) Office of Water Use Efficiency announced the award of a \$1,925,000 grant to the Calaveras County Water District (CCWD). The grant will provide funding for replacement of the Bear Creek raw water pipeline in West Point. The award was in response to CCWD's application to the Urban Water Conservation Proposition 13 Capital Outlay Grant Proposal Solicitation in March 2002.

In the application, CCWD requested \$3.282 million to replace the Bear Creek raw water pipeline, the Bummerville treated water storage tank and the Bummerville water distribution system. DWR's official notification specifically earmarked the \$1.925 million award for the Bear Creek pipeline replacement project.

CCWD has been seeking grant funding from state and federal sources to cover the cost of completing needed area-wide improvements in the communities of West Point, Wilseyville and Bummerville. This large-scale project would include pipeline and treated water distribution system replacement in all three areas, rehabilitation of Wilson Dam and the regulating reservoir, and repair and replacement of storage tanks, pump stations, and pipelines to convey water from the Middle Fork of the Mokelumne River to the new West Point Water Treatment Plant. These improvements were planned and designed under a \$500,000 DWR Local Projects Feasibility Study Grant awarded to CCWD in 1999. The West Point Water Treatment Plant, a \$1.4 million project funded by a grant from the California Department of Health Services and the United States Department of Agriculture, was completed in February 2002.

West Point and Wilseyville were previously mining and logging communities. Originally, the two areas and Bummerville were served through a series of mining ditches that operated to support those activities. The decline of these industries, which were critical to the area's economy, resulted in CCWD's purchase of the West Point water system from the West Point Ditch Company in 1954. The Bummerville system was connected to the West Point system in 1959. The economic downturn in the area, spurred by the decline of the logging and mining industries, has continued to affect the West Point area for decades. The existing water systems, which serve the three communities and local Native American Reservation, were primarily constructed before 1960 and many system components are inadequate.

Because these small communities have infrastructure rehabilitation requirements that far exceed their financial capabilities, CCWD has been actively seeking funding to assist in the effort to address the current threat to the health, safety, welfare and economy of the area and to reduce or eliminate significant water losses. Based on preliminary designs and specifications, environmental reviews, and detailed cost estimates, the construction cost of necessary improvements will exceed \$10,000,000.

CCWD's \$1.925 million award was the largest of 21 projects selected for funding by DWR in this grant process. All 21 awards totaled \$9.592 million. For more information about the project, contact Kristin Coon at CCWD, (209) 754-3543, extension 29.