



Sustainable Groundwater Management Program Alternative Assessment Summary Coastal Plain of Orange County Basin

Determination: APPROVED

Submitting Agencies:

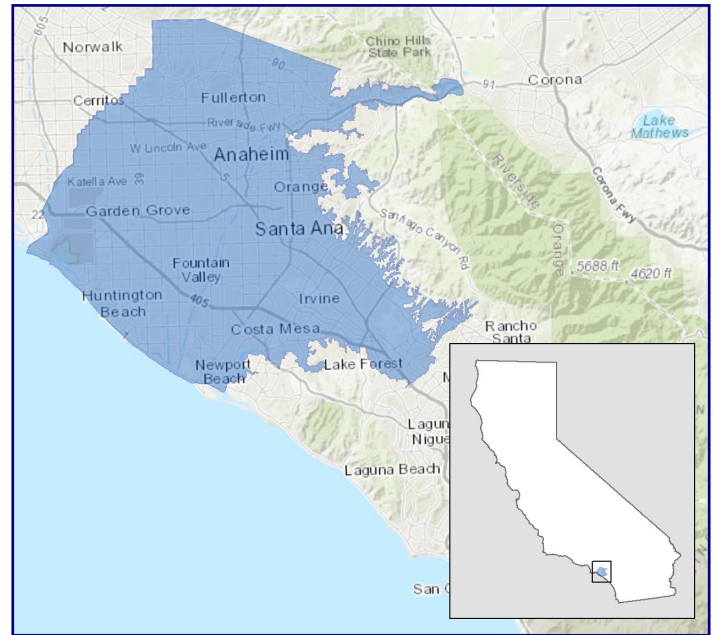
Orange County Water District (OCWD)
City of La Habra
Irvine Ranch Water District

Alternative Type:

Analysis of basin conditions demonstrating operation within the sustainable yield for at least 10 years

Assessment Summary:*

- The alternative prepared by the submitting agencies satisfied the objectives of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) by successfully demonstrating that the Coastal Plain of Orange County Basin operated within its sustainable yield for a period of at least 10 years. Operation within the sustainable yield means groundwater use in the basin did not cause any of the six undesirable results identified in SGMA during that 10-year period.
- The alternative demonstrated an acceptable understanding of groundwater conditions and sustainable management in the basin. Submitting agencies showed they used evidence-based thresholds, projects and management actions to address historical overdraft experienced in the early 1900s through the mid-1960s.
- OCWD demonstrated that groundwater storage remained within the desired sustainable range for at least 10 years, thereby preventing undesirable results.
- OCWD is not a Groundwater Sustainability Agency, but does manage groundwater under its existing authority. That authority is sufficient to continue implementation of the necessary projects and management actions to maintain groundwater sustainability.
- The Department of Water Resources provided recommendations related to water budget, management areas, timing of basin operations and depletion of interconnected surface water for OCWD to address in its first five-year update to the alternative, which is due in January 2022.



*For more details, refer to the staff report at <https://www.water.ca.gov/Programs/Groundwater-Management/SGMA-Groundwater-Management/Alternatives>.