



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

San Pasqual Basin

San Pasqual Brackish Groundwater Desalination Project

FACT SHEET



A water resource strategy that includes conservation, recycled water, and groundwater supplies will help meet future water needs.



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Developing Potable Water Supplies

One of the top priorities of the City of San Diego is developing new local water supplies and storage. The use of groundwater contributes to regional efforts to reduce demands for imported water.



Basin Overview

The San Pasqual Basin is located approximately 25 miles northeast of downtown San Diego. Sutherland Reservoir is located upstream of the basin, and Lake Hodges is located downstream. The total surface area of the groundwater basin is approximately 4,540 acres.

Basin Capacity

Approximate storage capacity is 58,000 acre-feet (AF) and approximate yield is 5,800 acre-feet per year (AFY). A Groundwater Management Plan for the San Pasqual basin was adopted by the City Council in 2007.

Project: San Pasqual Brackish Groundwater Desalination Project

Estimated Project Cost: \$45 million

Estimated Project Timeline: 4-5 years

Planning Study Cost: \$3 million

Planning Study Grant Funding: Approximately \$1.5 million

The brackish groundwater desalination project would extract and desalinate native groundwater through reverse osmosis treatment. The desalinated water would then be conveyed directly to the City's potable water system. The project would produce 5,000 AFY of potable water and 800 AFY of brine, requiring disposal.

A planning study, which includes a small-scale demonstration project, is underway to research the feasibility of building a desalination facility and identifying brine disposal alternatives. The study cost is projected at \$3 million, and approximately \$1.5 million in state grant funding has been acquired.