



**News Release**

Contact: Evelyn Reyes  
626-969-7911  
ereyes@sgvmwd.com

**SGVMWD Joins Kern County Water Agency and State Water Contractors  
in Lawsuit vs. State of California**

*Suit Maintains the State's New "Incidental Take Permit" for Operation of  
the State Water Project Decreases Availability of Water and Increases District Costs*

June 1, 2020; Azusa, California – The Board of Directors of the San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District (the “District”), at its May 2020 Board meeting, voted to join Kern County Water Agency and State Water Contractors in a suit against the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) and California Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) over the Incidental Take Permit (ITP) issued on March 31, 2020, by DFW to the DWR for the long-term operation of the State Water Project. The ITP is a permit required under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA) and relates to protection of four fish species found in the Delta area. The ITP issued by DFW would restrict how much water is available from the State Water Project.

While protection of endangered and threatened fish species and eco-systems is of paramount concern to the District, which is a steward of environmental and water resources, the District concurs with Kern County Water Agency and State Water Contractors that the ITP violates the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and CESA. The District believes the ITP unjustifiably and excessively imposes cumbersome and counter-productive new conditions and mitigation measures that exceed CESA requirements, are not based on best available science, inhibit environmental adaptation and improvements, decrease availability of water to the District, and increase District and other State Water Project contractors’ costs.

“Since 1959, the District has focused on providing reliable and sustainable supplemental water to our member cities. We do not relish litigation with partners such as DWR and DFW, however, the ITP is further reducing the availability of our water supply and increasing our operational costs,” stated Darin Kasamoto, General Manager, SGVMWD. “The ITP has left us no choice but to join Kern County Water Agency and State Water Contractors in their litigation against the State of California. We remain committed to working with state and federal partners to find a more balanced and equitable solution that addresses environmental concerns and allows us to continue importing water into the San Gabriel Valley in a cost-effective and sustainable manner that is in the best interest of our member cities. Hopefully, this litigation can prompt negotiations

that will result in a more fair and mutually beneficial solution with respect to the State Water Project's long-term operations," Kasamoto added.

###

About the San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District

*The mission of the San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District is to provide reliable supplemental water for the communities of Alhambra, Azusa, Monterey Park and Sierra Madre in a cost-effective and environmentally responsible manner.*

*The District was formed in 1959 after winning approval from the voters of Alhambra, Azusa, Monterey Park, and Sierra Madre. In anticipation of its long-term water needs, the District entered into a contract with the State of California Department of Water Resources in 1962 for the import of 25,000 acre-feet of water per year (now 28,800 acre-feet per year) from the State Water Project to supplement local water supplies in the San Gabriel Valley. The District is one of 29 State Water Contractors who obtain water from the State Water Project. The District operates the 38-mile Devil Canyon-Azusa pipeline which connects to the State Water Project, as well as several other facilities including a hydroelectric plant. The District also provides extensive public education and water conservation services throughout its service area. The Board of Directors meets regularly the second Monday of each month at 8 a.m. at District headquarters in Azusa. For more information please visit our website: [www.sgvmd.org](http://www.sgvmd.org).*