

ANTELOPE VALLEY STATE WATER CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES AND OBJECTIVES

Three public agencies serving the Antelope Valley, (alphabetically) Antelope Valley - East Kern Water Agency, Littlerock Creek Irrigation District, and Palmdale Water District (Agencies), have executed contracts with the State of California, Department of Water Resources for entitlement to and delivery of water from the State Water Project. Each has capacity rights in the East Branch of the California Aqueduct, which traverses the Antelope Valley, and combined these entitlements total approximately 158,000 acre-feet per year. Furthermore, the combined boundaries of the Agencies encompass almost all of the Antelope Valley; each operates to fulfill its duty to develop and secure reliable water supplies within its boundaries; each recognizes the potential benefits of cooperation on their individual duties and the Antelope Valley at large; and each recognizes the need to optimize the utilization of water resources and protect surface water and groundwater storage against adverse effects in order to enable landowners and residents in the Antelope Valley to have a safe water supply provided in the most economical and efficient manner.

The Agencies desire to form an association to be known as the Antelope Valley State Water Contractors Association whose objective shall be to facilitate the coordinated development and implementation of plans and programs to satisfy their obligations consistent with their legal authority. As a framework for the Association's activities, it declares the following Statement of Principles and Objectives:

- 1) To make optimum use of available water supplies to meet current and anticipated demands through the following:
 - a) Encourage the use of imported water, when and where appropriate.
 - b) Encourage conservation of local surface water and groundwater.
 - c) Optimize the use of available surface and subsurface water storage capacity.
 - d) Identify the most suitable locations for replenishment and storage of available water.
 - e) Consider all means of groundwater recharge.
- 2) To confirm that the Association will not take away any water rights within the Antelope Valley.
- 3) To develop plans for maximum cooperative use of available water resources.

- 4) To establish an equitable means of apportioning the benefit and burdens of water resource management.
- 5) To prevent the export of native surface water and groundwater from the Antelope Valley and develop reasonable limitations upon the export of any other water from the Antelope Valley.
- 6) To provide a mechanism for the storage and recovery of water.
- 7) To encourage the protection and preservation of surface water and groundwater quality.
- 8) To develop conservation plans to promote reasonable beneficial use of water.
- 9) To respect existing jurisdictional authority of the public agencies and water suppliers in the Antelope Valley.
- 10) To solicit and welcome the advice, counsel and support of interested parties and the public in the implementation of these principles and objectives.
- 11) To conduct regularly scheduled Association meetings to advance these principles and objectives and discuss other matters of common interest.

Nothing herein shall be construed as a transfer or compromise of any rights, property or legal authority owned or held by any member of the Association. Each member shall retain legal authority to act independently of the other members, and to assert its individual rights as against the other members, unless otherwise agreed by separate written instrument.