GROUNDWATER RESOURCE ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

INTRODUCTION

Any proposed project subject to CEQA where the District finds that there is potential for groundwater quantity or quality impacts should provide a groundwater assessment that will need to be reviewed. Examples of land use decisions that could impact groundwater and may require a groundwater assessment include:

- Increases in water demand (whether that demand will be served by on-site wells or potentially change the quantity of water pumped by retail water suppliers)
- Land use changes that could impact the quantity or quality of water percolating into the groundwater resource on site such as changes in impervious surface area or the use of dry wells or other stormwater infiltration facilities
- Use of on-site wastewater treatment
- Use of underground chemical storage facilities.

SUBMISSION OF GROUNDWATER ASSESSMENT

The groundwater assessment should be submitted to the District for review. Groundwater assessment before a project starts will help the District anticipate groundwater management impacts and ensure that groundwater resources, both quantity and quality, are sustained and protected. The required groundwater assessment should include:

General:

- A description of the groundwater basin or basins over which the project lies;
- Identify whether the site is located in a recharge area of the groundwater basin;
- Identify any existing active or abandoned wells on site.

Water Supply:

- Is groundwater expected to be a source of supply to meet the water demand for the project? If so, provide pumping locations and quantities for the proposed project;
  - Describe potential impacts to groundwater recharge on site (due to changes in pervious and impervious surfaces for example);
- Is there currently or will the proposed project be using recycled water? For what uses?

Water Quality:

- Are there any existing contamination sites or plumes?
- Information on the geo-hydrology of the site, including historical depth to water at the site (in different years, seasons, or different hydrologic conditions if known); is the shallowest groundwater part of the drinking water aquifer or perched water above a confining lens or confining layer?
- Identify active drinking water sources and protection zones within the proposed project limit;
  - If known, the vulnerability of the local groundwater to any possible contamination that might occur at the site (the physical barrier effectiveness to use the Drinking Water Source Assesment and Protection Program terminology): what the groundwater gradient is on site, the ability of the soil materials to transmit or delay the movement of contamination to the water table;
- Identify locations and risk rankings of possible contaminating activities within the limit of the proposed project area. These include storm runoff devices, other infiltration devices (such as septic or leach fields), chemical storage tanks (for example, dry cleaners and gas stations);
- Provide the information on Best management practices (BMPs) applied within the proposed project area for protecting groundwater and surface water that are used or potentially used as sources of drinking water.