

District to apply for DWR Local Groundwater Assistance Program Grant

District staff is preparing a grant application to fund a basin soil sampling project at 27 basin sites throughout Clovis and Fresno. These sites are among more than 80 used for groundwater recharge, in addition to their primary function of stormwater capture.

Some basins recharge faster than others, and the rate at which water percolates through the soil into the aquifer is determined by the permeability of the soil in the basin floor. For example, clay is the least permeable, and looser soils like sand are the most permeable and allow water to recharge at a faster rate.

Building a database of soil profiles in different areas of town can be useful in determining which of the more than 150 basins in Clovis and Fresno should be used for groundwater recharge, and whether groundwater recharge rates can be improved by altering basin soils by over-excavating and backfilling with more permeable soils.

The District will approach other agencies responsible for water management and request letters of support for its DWR (Department of Water Resources) grant application. If the project is funded, study data will be shared with these agencies in an effort to help create a more regionally complete picture of soil characteristics and groundwater recharge in the Fresno/Clovis area.

The DWR grant application is due April 1, 2010. It is estimated that grant awards notifications will be made in July, 2010. If the District's application is successful, neighbors of the 27 basin sites included in the project will be notified and provided a schedule of boring work as a courtesy. Boring will be confined to the basin sites and will not impact neighborhood traffic.

More information:

- [Map of 27 basin project sites](#)
- [Notification letter to basin neighbors](#)
- [Request for letter of support from other agencies](#)
- [DWR Local Groundwater Assistance Program grant web page](#)