



San Gabriel Basin Water Quality Authority

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March 5, 2009

Honorable David Dreier
United States House of Representatives
233 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Dreier,

I would like to thank you for your unwavering support in the effort to clean-up of the groundwater contamination problem in the San Gabriel Valley. Your leadership over the past decade on this critically important health issue facing our community has been invaluable, and the San Gabriel Basin Water Quality Authority (WQA) is again requesting your support for an appropriation of \$10 million in Fiscal Year 2010 funds to the San Gabriel Basin Restoration Fund.

As you are aware, the San Gabriel Basin Restoration Fund was established pursuant to Public Law 106-554, as amended, and is administered cooperatively by the San Gabriel Basin Water Quality Authority and the Bureau of Reclamation. The federal and non-federal monies contributed to the fund continue the design, construction, and operation of water projects to contain and treat the spreading groundwater contamination in the San Gabriel and Central Groundwater Basins. In 1999, the WQA projected the cost of cleaning up the San Gabriel Basin at \$320 million based on the level of contamination of the five original Operable Units of Baldwin Park, El Monte, South El Monte, Whittier Narrows and Puente Valley. Since that time however, the contamination levels have dramatically increased in the South El Monte and Puente Valley Operable Units. This discovery has increased both the capitol and operation and maintenance costs of the projects significantly.

The San Gabriel Groundwater Basin covers more than 160 square miles in Los Angeles County and is the primary source of drinking water for over 1.2 million people. Furthermore, natural groundwater flows from the San Gabriel Basin are allowing the contamination to spread into the Central Groundwater Basin, a vast 277 square-mile underground aquifer that provides drinking water to over half of Los Angeles County. This regional problem, if not addressed quickly, is going to grow more dangerous and much more costly. The timely appropriation of these authorized funds is critical to protecting our drinking water in Los Angeles County, and we look forward to working with you and your staff to ensure the projects success in the coming year.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. If you have any questions about the groundwater contamination problem in the San Gabriel Valley or the San Gabriel Basin Restoration Fund, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Grace J. Kast". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right from the end of the name.

Grace J. Kast
Executive Director
San Gabriel Basin Water Quality Authority