Calleguas Regional Salinity Management Project / Hueneme Outfall Replacement

Fact Sheet

The **Calleguas Creek Watershed** has experienced increasing salinity levels in both its groundwater and surface water. Increasing salinity poses a number of problems for the beneficial uses within the watershed, including municipal, industrial, and agricultural water supply, and habitat. In order to use the groundwater for potable purposes, it must be blended with imported water to lower salt concentrations and meet water quality requirements for drinking water. Rising salinity is also harmful to agriculture, primarily for growers of high-value strawberries and avocados, who are increasingly unable to use local surface water or groundwater for irrigation without reducing agricultural productivity. High salinity levels in soils and surface water can also be detrimental to sensitive habitat.

In addition to water quality issues, there are also water supply issues. Like much of Southern California, southern Ventura County is largely dependent on imported water sources, despite the availability of local groundwater. Ventura County's imported water supplies originate in the Bay-Delta and are delivered through the State Water Project (SWP). Unfortunately, local groundwater resources are not readily usable due to water quality concerns, primarily salts. The only way to remove these constituents is through a membrane treatment process, such as reverse osmosis, producing a concentrate which must then be managed and disposed.

Project Description

The Calleguas Regional Salinity Management Pipeline (SMP) is being constructed by the **Calleguas Municipal Water District** and consists of a pipeline to collect concentrate from demineralization of brackish groundwater for municipal, industrial, and agricultural purposes; concentrate from demineralization of potable water for high-tech industrial purposes; and excess high quality recycled water from municipal wastewater treatment plants. The SMP will convey the flows to other areas for beneficial reuse or, when there are insufficient demands for reuse, ocean discharge.

By providing a discharge mechanism, the SMP will enable local brackish groundwater resources to be demineralized and utilized for potable purposes, reducing dependence on imported water and improving local water supply reliability. The SMP will also deliver recycled water to areas where it can be used and export salts out of the watershed to help achieve compliance with total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) for salts.

Ultimately, the pipeline will extend from the city of Simi Valley, at the most easterly point, through the cities of Moorpark, Camarillo, Oxnard, and areas of unincorporated Ventura County. The westerly endpoint of the pipeline would be located in Port Hueneme at the planned Hueneme Outfall. The Hueneme Outfall Replacement is a critical component of the SMP as it enables water to be discharged to the ocean during periods of low demand for suitable beneficial uses. The Hueneme Outfall replacement will consist of a 4,600 linear foot 30-inch pipeline, installed using a combination of horizontal directional drilling (a trenchless technique) and conventional marine construction laying the pipeline on the ocean floor.

Project Benefits

Water Quality Benefits:

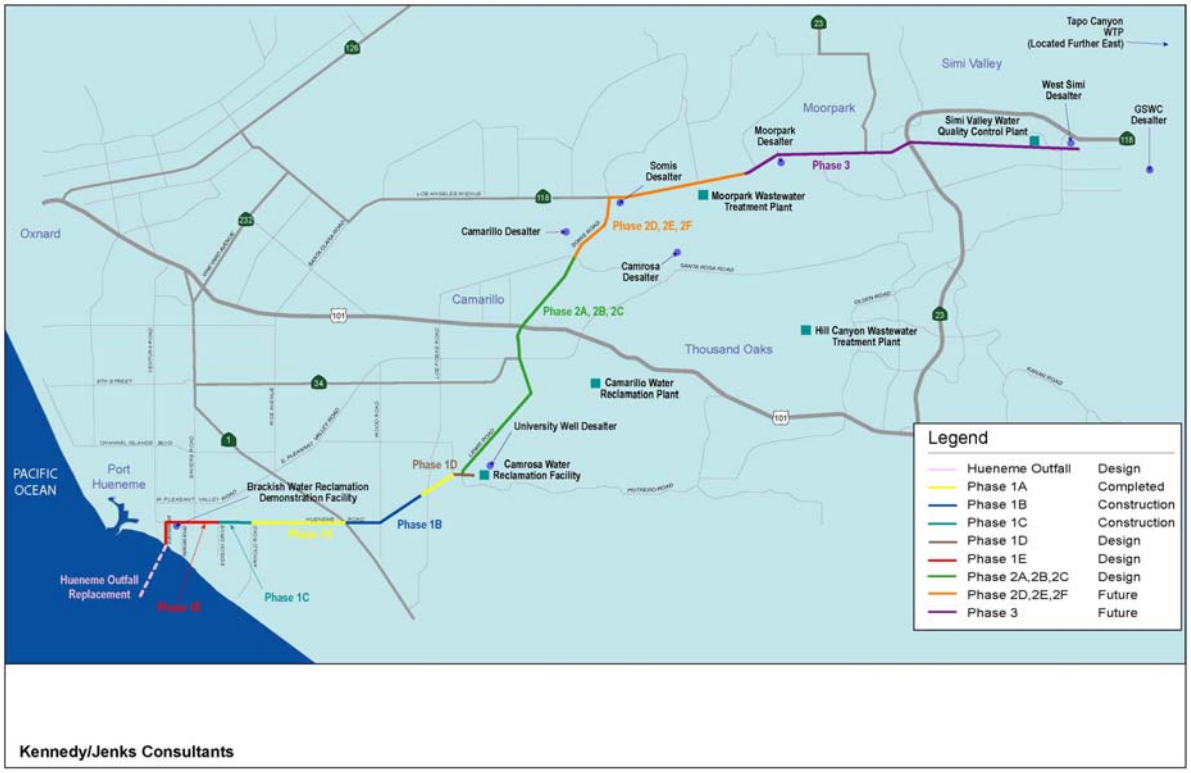
- Protects vital water resources for municipal, agricultural and environmental use.
- Safely removes salts to the ocean where they cause no harm.
- Helps local communities meet water quality standards for Calleguas Creek and its tributaries, avoiding costly fines by enforcement agencies.

Environmental Benefits:

- Improves the water quality of flows into watershed creeks.
- Reduces greenhouses gas emissions by using local water resources instead of imported sources.
- Reduce dependence on imported water from sensitive Bay-Delta eco-system in Northern California.

Water Supply Benefits:

- Improves the region's water reliability.
- Enables Southern Ventura County water agencies to develop new local water from existing poor quality groundwater.
- Expands the distribution of recycled water for irrigation, offsetting the need for municipal supplies.



Funding for this project has been provided in full or in part through an agreement with the State Water Resources Control Board.