



Oxnard Forebay Groundwater Contaminant Elimination Project, College Park Phase

Fact Sheet

The **Oxnard Forebay Groundwater Contaminant Elimination Project**, College Park Phase, will abandon septic systems in the Oxnard Forebay area that have been identified as a source of contamination, as well as meet the mandate by the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (LARWQCB), which phases out septic tanks in the El Rio West and College Park communities in the City of Oxnard and El Rio, Strickland Acres, and Saticoy in Ventura County by January 1, 2008.

This project includes construction of the new sewer main and laterals to the residential property lines for connection to the City of Oxnard's collection system. Eventually, this significant project will result in effluent from more than 1600 septic systems in the **unincorporated communities of El Rio, Strickland Acres and Saticoy, as well as 250 dwellings in the College Park neighborhood in Oxnard**, being transported to the Oxnard Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Primary Objectives

There are three primary project objectives:

- Meeting the compliance deadline prohibiting septic systems as of 2008.
- Protecting the Oxnard Forebay and the groundwater aquifers that it recharges.
- Protecting surface water segments impacted by septic systems in the upper aquifer system.

Septic System Prohibition

The LARWQCB mandated phasing out septic tanks in the El Rio and College Park communities by January 1, 2008 (Resolution 99-13 passed on August 12, 1999, and Title 23, Division 4, Chapter 1, Article 4, Section 3934 of the California Code of Regulations). Failure to meet this prohibition may result in residential fines of up to \$10,000 per day.

Oxnard Forebay

The Oxnard Forebay (Forebay) is a vital area for groundwater recharge. Over 6,000 acres provide the primary area of recharge to an 11.0 million acre-foot aquifer; and over 200,000 people rely on this aquifer for drinking water. Existing beneficial uses of groundwater underlying the Oxnard Forebay include: Commercial, institutional and

industrial supply; agricultural supply; and municipal and domestic supply.

Background

Over 15,000 people reside in the Forebay in areas that encompass approximately 800 acres, including El Rio West and College Park. The main water quality concern in the Forebay is the presence of nitrate, at varying locations and times, in concentrations that exceed drinking water standards. The sources of the elevated levels of nitrate in the Forebay area, as determined in a RWQCB study, were on-site wastewater treatment systems (septic systems) and agricultural operations. This study led to an Amendment to the Water Quality Control Plan for the Los Angeles Region for a Prohibition of Septic System Discharges in the Oxnard Forebay (July 29, 1999).

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