



Update on Groundwater Banking Projects

Water Supply and Demand Management Committee
June 8, 2026

Background

Groundwater banking critical

- Manage excess imported supplies
- Meet drought demands
- Maintain imported supplies reliability

Manage groundwater banking program at Semitropic

Explore new partnerships



Semitropic Water Bank

Valley Water's only current groundwater banking program

- 350,000 AF of storage
- ~31,500 AF/yr of minimum put/take

Semitropic evaluating treatment for 1,2,3-TCP



Willow Springs Water Bank

Proposed in AVEK service area

Permitted capacity

- 1 MAF of storage
- 250,000 AF/yr of recharge
- 225,000 AF/yr of recovery

Est construction cost: \$581M

- Public benefit functions provide state grant funding



Willow Springs Water Bank

Key project feasibility factors:

- Conveyance capacity to the project
- Exchange capacity in dry years
- Contribution to public benefits
- Operating cost

Irvine Ranch Water Bank

2024 VW-IRWD Water Exchange Program Agreement:

- 10,000 AF of storage capacity for return to Valley Water
- 3,333 AF/yr of return, second priority
- Term through 2035
- No up-front costs for storing water

Agreement amended for Metropolitan Water District approval of the Program

- Water to be returned through the exchange of Metropolitan's supplies instead of SWP supplies