

## **The Tulare County Pilot Project (SB1xx)**

*DWR will award \$2 million for Tulare County to develop an integrated water quality and wastewater treatment program plan for disadvantaged communities in the Tulare Lake Basin.*

### ***What's the goal of the pilot project?***

To develop integrated water quality and wastewater treatment plans to address the drinking water and wastewater needs of disadvantaged communities in the Tulare Lake Basin. The pilot project will look for sustainable solutions and prioritize the improvement of safe drinking water delivery and wastewater treatment services on an integrated, regional basis.

### ***Who will implement the project?***

The money goes to Tulare County to conduct assessment and feasibility studies necessary to develop the plan. However, the County must consult with a stakeholder group including representatives from disadvantaged communities when preparing the plan. Once the plan is submitted to DWR, that agency must consult with DPH and submit the plan to the legislature.

### ***What does the plan need to include?***

The plan should include assessments of the drinking water and wastewater treatment needs of disadvantaged communities and identify feasible, sustainable solutions in the region.

Specifically the plan should include the following:

- An assessment of existing needs, assets, and integrated solutions in the region.
- An evaluation of and specific recommendations for regional infrastructure solutions to disadvantaged community water needs, including the feasibility of the following:
  - Community-to-district and community-to-community inter-ties
  - Connections to cross-Valley and inter-Valley pipelines and/or canals
  - Regional drinking water treatment facilities
  - Regional wastewater treatment facilities
  - Conjunctive-use sites and groundwater recharge improvement
  - Improved and new wastewater and drinking water distribution infrastructure
- An evaluation of and specific recommendations for regional and joint cost sharing and management structures for projects to ensure that Tulare Lake Basin disadvantaged communities will have funding and expertise available to operate and maintain drinking water and wastewater systems, while maintaining affordable rates.

### ***What are the deliverables?***

In consultation with the DPH, DWR must submit the plan to the state legislature by January 1, 2011. The plan must include recommendations for planning, infrastructure, and other water management actions. It must also include specific recommendations for regional drinking water treatment facilities, regional wastewater treatment facilities, conjunctive use sites and groundwater recharge, groundwater for surface water exchanges, related infrastructure, and cost-sharing mechanisms. These recommendations should be aimed at improving the planning, infrastructure, and water management decisions in the region to maximize existing assets and create long-term, sustainable solutions.

**The full text of SB-1xx is available at [http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/pub/07-08/bill/sen/sb\\_0001-0050/sbx2\\_1\\_bill\\_20080930\\_chaptered.pdf](http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/pub/07-08/bill/sen/sb_0001-0050/sbx2_1_bill_20080930_chaptered.pdf)**