

WATERMASTER ENGINEER

Antelope Valley Groundwater Basin

(Antelope Valley, CA)





HISTORY

Groundwater rights have been a hotly debated issue in the Antelope Valley Groundwater Basin since the late 1990s. A formal adjudication process was launched in 2004 to resolve the matter. In late 2015, the majority of parties involved agreed to a stipulated judgment for the adjudication of the Antelope Valley Groundwater Basin¹. The Judgment allows seven years, until 2023, for the parties to collectively ramp down pumping and come into compliance with the new groundwater rights.

The Court appointed a Watermaster to administer the provisions of the physical solution. The Watermaster is composed of a five (5) member board representing various landowners and public water suppliers and is supported by an Advisory Committee. Pursuant to the Judgment, the Watermaster must, by unanimous vote and with the advice of the Advisory Committee, select a Watermaster Engineer (Engineer) to perform hydrogeological and technical engineering analysis and water administration functions provided for in the Judgment. In exercising its powers and fulfilling its duties, the Engineer must rely on and use the best available science, records, and data to support the implementation of the Judgment.

THE POSITION

The Watermaster Engineer will report directly to the Watermaster. Depending on activities in the groundwater basin and orders of the Court, the Watermaster Engineer could be a part-time or full-time position. The Engineer will manage an annual administrative budget. The Watermaster Engineer shall undertake and/or make recommendations and provide oversight for managing the groundwater basin which may include, but not limited to each of the following areas as detailed in section 18.5 of the Judgment:

- Monitoring of the groundwater basin Safe Yield
- Reduction in Groundwater Production
- Determination of Replacement Obligations
- Balance Obligations
- Measuring Devices, Etc.
- Hydrological Data Collection
- Purchases of and Recharge with Replacement Water
- Water Quality
- Native Safe Yield
- Change in Production Rights in Response to Change in Native Safe Yield

¹ Judgment, Antelope Valley Groundwater Cases, Los Angeles County Superior Court, Judicial Council Coordination Proceeding No. 4408 (entered Dec. 28, 2015).

WATERMASTER ENGINEER

Antelope Valley Groundwater Basin

- Review of Calculation of Imported Water Return Flow
- Production Reports
- New Production Application Procedure
- Storage Agreements
- Diversion of Storm Flow
- Data, Estimates and Procedures
- Filing of Annual Report

Additional detail is provided in Section 18.5 of the Judgment.

THE IDEAL CANDIDATE

The ideal candidate will be a strong leader who is patient, diplomatic, transparent, and impartial. The individual who leads this effort, whether independently or as part of a team, will be adept at working with diverse and, at times, contentious interests. He/She will have in-depth knowledge of groundwater, hydrology, as well as California water rights and related laws and regulations, in order to analyze issues, present viable alternatives, share straightforward answers, and provide sound guidance. In addition, this person will be able to develop consensus and maintain the integrity of the groundwater management program. In summary, the Engineer must be an excellent communicator with a solid track record of facilitating forward progress within tight budgetary constraints.

Maintaining the trust that has begun to build among the parties on both sides of the adjudication will be very important. Persons and firms that provided testimony in the adjudication and/or provided consultation/expert witness services to parties in the adjudication related to the litigation need not apply. Prior experience in Watermaster engineering and/or administration is highly desirable, but not required.

Education and Experience

The Watermaster Engineer must have a bachelor's degree in engineering, geology, or hydrology. Valid California certification as a professional engineer, geologist, or hydrogeologist is highly desirable. At least ten years of experience in increasingly responsible senior management positions, including seven year's supervisory experience, is required.

The individual or firm selected shall be knowledgeable in watershed management, watershed modeling, water rights, state and Federal legislation and regulations concerning water rights and water quality. In the event a firm receives the Watermaster Engineer appointment, that firm shall designate a lead person who shall be primarily responsible as the Watermaster Engineer and who shall be present at all Watermaster and Advisory Committee meetings.

Skills and Knowledge

The selected candidate should have skills in:

- Communicating with the public, boards, and agencies
- Building consensus
- Performing complex technical analysis and field work
- Complying with regulatory requirements
- Managing highly technical projects

- Leading highly effective teams
- Developing and managing budgets
- Producing reports
- Preparing requests for proposals (RFPs)
- Writing and reviewing contracts
- Negotiations

COMPENSATION

Individuals and firms interested in this opportunity will be asked to submit a brief work plan that complies with Section 18.5 of the Judgment, and a proposed three-year budget based off the existing Antelope Valley Watermaster Draft Administrative Budget. (Calendar Years 2017 - 2019) to Alliance Resource Consulting LLC. This information will be requested soon after your application is received and will be due on or before February 10, 2017.

HOW TO APPLY

Please apply **on-line** by **February 3, 2017**, at www.allianceRC.com. For questions and inquiries, please contact Cindy Krebs or Sherrill Uyeda.

ALLIANCE RESOURCE CONSULTING LLC

400 Oceangate, Suite 480
Long Beach, CA 90802

Telephone: (562) 901-0769

E-mail: ckrebs@alliancerc.com
suyeda@alliancerc.com



<http://twitter.com/Alliancerc>



Alliance Resource Consulting LLC

An Equal Opportunity/ADA Employer