

Community Focus Statement D: Improve Lucerne Valley’s water and sewer infrastructure with a focus on the community’s sustainability.

Action Statement D.4: Coordinate with the State Department of Water Resources (DWR) to have the agency update its analysis of the Lucerne Valley Groundwater Basin.

D4

Benchmark: Verified that the California Department of Water Resources has completed the 2020 Comprehensive Bulletin 118 Update, including an update on the analysis of the Lucerne Valley Groundwater Basin.

Champion: Volunteer group or person or can be identified by the community

Estimated Cost: \$500–\$1,000



LVEDA states that the area is under the jurisdiction of the Mojave Water Agency (Watermaster) as an adjudicated basin therefore, the Este Subarea Advisory Committee to the Watermaster is the best forum for this Action Item.

Groundwater is water from rainfall, snowmelt, lakes, and/or streams that seeps into the ground. The water collects in the spaces in materials like sand and gravel, similar to water in a sponge. It can also collect in fractures in hard rock. These underground “ponds” are called aquifers. All of the local water purveyors servicing Lucerne Valley obtain water from groundwater wells.

Because groundwater is underground and out of sight, various chemicals used or dumped on the ground’s surface can infiltrate into the ground, or leak from septic systems, and end up in the groundwater. Once these pollutants enter groundwater, they can be difficult to detect by taste or smell and are difficult to remove. They can then end up in drinking water and water used for irrigation.

The California Department of Water Resources publishes Bulletin 118, which identifies 223 alluvium-filled valleys believed to contain usable groundwater, including Lucerne Valley. For more information, visit: <http://www.water.ca.gov/groundwater/bulletin118/index.cfm>

A report on the Lucerne Valley Groundwater Basin was last prepared by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) in February 2004 as part of Bulletin 118, which is California’s official compendium on groundwater statewide. Bulletin 118



defines the boundaries and describes the hydrologic characteristics of California's groundwater basins and also provides information on groundwater management and recommendations for the future. With the passage of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014, Bulletin 118 now serves an additional role by providing groundwater sustainability agencies with three critical pieces of information regarding groundwater basins: critical conditions of overdraft, basin boundaries, and basin priority.

In 2017, DWR commenced with work on the 2020 Comprehensive Bulletin 118 Update. The Lucerne Valley & Johnson Valley Municipal Advisory Council should work closely with DWR throughout this process to update the analysis of the Lucerne Valley Groundwater Basin in order to better understand how the groundwater is recharging so as to maintain a sustainable supply of water for Lucerne Valley's growing population.



Action	Action Leader	Timeline	Resources
1. Create a Water Task Force	Champion	Months 1	San Bernardino County Department of Public Works/Water Resources Division
2. Coordinate with the County, which is also the Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) for the Lucerne Valley Groundwater Basin, to ensure that the County is complying with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SWGA) and the 2016 Bulletin 118 Interim Update process.	Water Task Force	Months 1–2	http://cms.sbcounty.gov/dpww/floodcontrol/waterresources.aspx California Dept. of Water Resources, Bulletin 118
3. Assist the GSA with the collection of any data for the preparation of a groundwater sustainability plan and/or any community outreach needed for the plan.	Water Task Force	Months 1–12	http://www.water.ca.gov/groundwater/bulletin118/index.cfm Sustainable Groundwater Management mailing list
4. Coordinate with the California Department of Water Resources to receive Bulletin 118 notices and information and to subscribe to the Sustainable Groundwater Management mailing list.	Water Task Force	Month 1	http://www.water.ca.gov/groundwater/sgm/subscribe.cfm Mojave Water Agency
5. Encourage the County to use data in the updated Bulletin 118 when assessing development proposals.	Water Task Force	Upon completion of Bulletin 118 update	http://www.mojavewater.org/ Frequently Asked Questions about the Mojave Basin Area Adjudication https://www.mojavewater.org/files/Mojave-Basin-Area-Adjudication-FAQs.pdf Mojave Water Agency Este Subarea Hydrograph Map http://www.mojavewater.org/files/estehydro_2018.pdf