

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**



FROM: Supervisor Ashley

SUBMITTAL DATE: October 30, 2012

SUBJECT: Water policy for the future - San Gorgonio Pass communities

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Support creation of a Pass Water Policy Panel of representatives in the San Gorgonio Pass area to identify challenges in water supply and water quality for the region, to develop mutually beneficial solutions that include coordinating plans and infrastructure development that ultimately delivers clean, reliable and affordable water supplies for the citizens of the San Gorgonio Pass area for the foreseeable future; and
2. Authorize the 5th District Supervisor to appoint members of the Pass Water Policy Panel and to convene discussion as necessary; and to report Panel findings in a public meeting to be held prior to the Autumn of 2013;

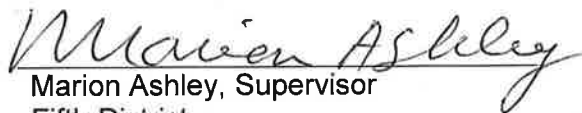
BACKGROUND: In an era of limited public funding for vital water infrastructure sustaining a strong economy and healthy environment, the citizens of Riverside County benefit when agencies cooperate with each other by integrating land use planning and water resource development in ways that deliver multiple benefits in addition to securing a safe, reliable water supply.

Responsible leaders in the San Gorgonio Pass Area recognize a growing need to address coming changes in local water supplies as well as changes in water quality regulations. These changes are expected to accelerate, and in the absence of cooperative action among water resource agencies and land use planning authorities, could negatively impact the quality of life for the residents and businesses of this vitally important region of Riverside County.

The quality of groundwater in some areas of the Pass is already the subject of scrutiny by the Regional Water Quality Control Board responsible for ensuring nitrate levels do not exceed standards of the Clean Water Act. Elsewhere, relative water supply abundance in the western area of the Pass cannot be shared efficiently with drier areas due to lack of regional facilities and institutional concerns. Similar issues between neighboring jurisdictions in the Pass Area impact the efficient use of recycled water supplies.

As a result, planning and investment that may otherwise deliver new supplies of secure, affordable water for the area is failing to move forward. This is not in the best interests of those who live, work and visit the Pass Area, particularly future generations who will benefit most from successful cooperation to achieve peace in water policy matters throughout the Pass Area.

In order to address these concerns and to accomplish the shared mission of all water agencies and land use authorities in the Pass Area, a Pass Water Policy Panel is recommended to open the dialogue and explore the best options available to efficiently deliver clean, reliable supplies of water throughout the Pass Area for the foreseeable future.



Marion Ashley, Supervisor
Fifth District