



Water Planning and Stewardship Committee

# Update on Metropolitan/AVEK High Desert Water Bank Program

Item 6b

June 13, 2022

# Background

- East Branch of CA Aqueduct
- Downstream of Edmonston PP
- Table A: 144,844 AF



# About the Program

- Board authorized in April 2019
- Program size:
  - Storage capacity of 280,000 AF
  - Put/take capability of 70,000 AFY
  - Doubles existing direct pumpback
- Agreement term: 2019 - 2037
  - 20-year no cost option to extend



# Program Benefits



## Reliability

- Improves water supply reliability during dry years
- Provides emergency reliability to SWP Dependent Areas downstream of Edmonston Pumping Plant
- Could provide reliability to West Side Member Agencies through LA Aqueduct



## Operational Flexibility

- Provides greater operational flexibility to help meet demands



## Partnership

- Strengthens relationship with a key State Water Contractor



## Cost Competitive

- Unit cost is competitive to other groundwater banking programs

## Program Costs



- Capital costs of up to \$131 million
- Recovery usage fee of \$100/AF; no fee to store
  - Escalated annually
- O&M and site power costs
- Estimated unit cost of \$320/AF in 2019

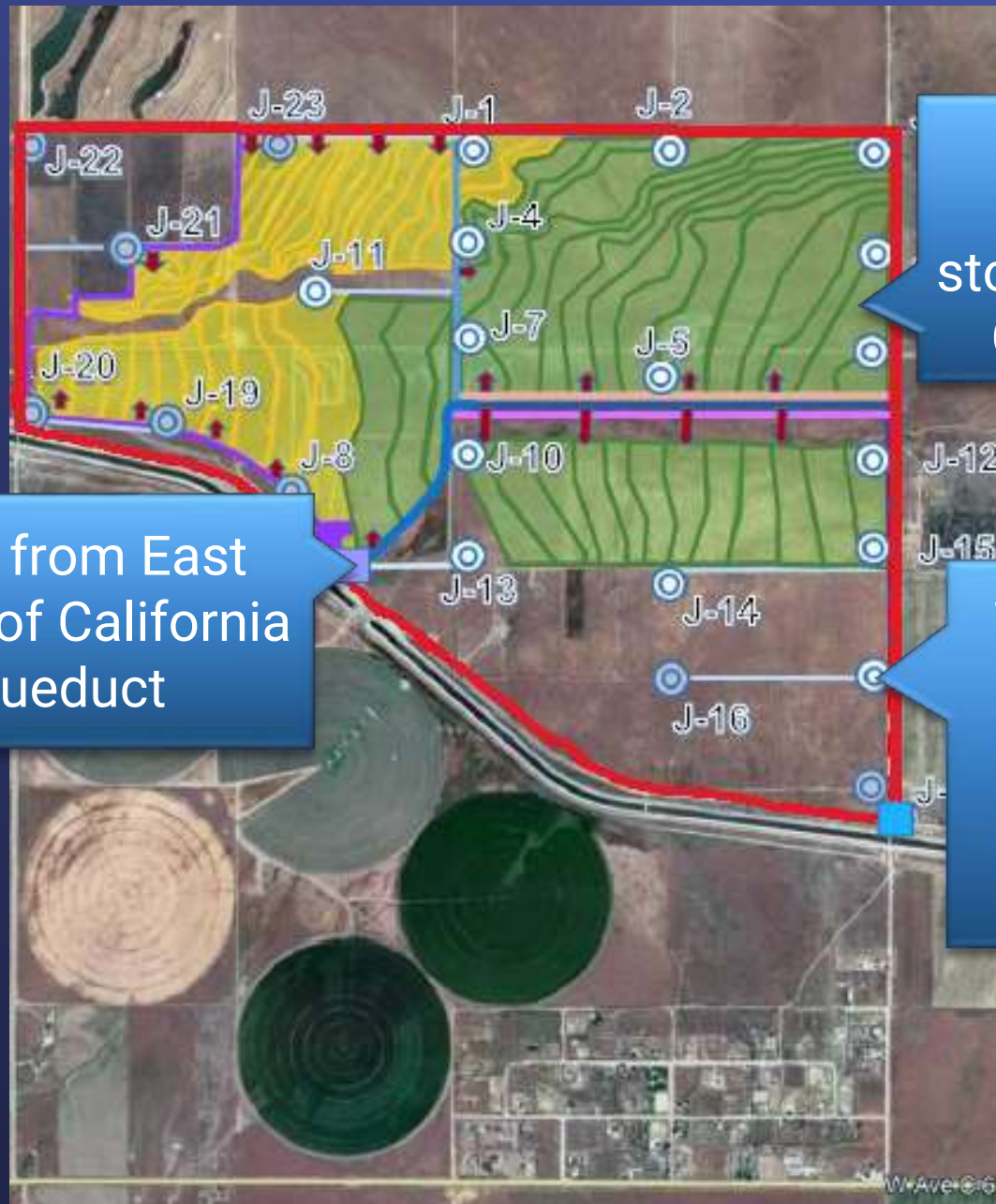


# How the Program Works

Water from East Branch of California Aqueduct

Water piped to recharge basins to store in Antelope Valley Groundwater Basin

Water pumped from groundwater wells and returned to CA Aqueduct for Metropolitan use



- Gravity Recharge
- Pumped Recharge

## Where We Are Today

- Provided \$25 million to-date
  - Largest expenditures expected in FY2023 & FY2024
- Four pilot recovery wells successfully constructed
- Turn-in/out structure and next phase of wells under construction
- On schedule to commence operation in 2023 (recharge) and 2025 (recovery)



## Potential Changes

- Potential increases in cost
  - Off-site electrical costs not included in original estimate
  - Hydraulic uncertainty
  - Inflation higher than anticipated
- Evaluating options to minimize cost increases while maintaining performance
- Future discussion with Board
  - Options and next steps
  - Request authorization for additional funding, if needed



# Extraordinary Drought Operation



## What is it?

- Operating new HDWB wells to pump in water to CA Aqueduct from existing storage account



## How much water?

- About 6,000 AFY
- Up to 20,000 AF over 3 years



## How much does it cost?

- Estimated additional costs of \$3 million
- Costs include design, installation, power, staff



## How soon?

- Following up on unexpected water quality results

## Recent Activities

### Inspection Trip on May 17, 2022

- Hosted by Director Glen Peterson and Las Virgenes MWD
- Visited MWD infrastructure enhancement sites, AVEK intertie to SWP Canal, and LADWP Neenach pump station



## Next Steps

- Continue to evaluate water quality impacts
- Continue to meet with AVEK
  - Monthly and as needed
- Monitor progress and potential changes
  - Cost and schedule
- Provide updates to Board on project progress

