



**NEWS RELEASE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**New Groundwater Wells Under Construction to Help Prepare  
 SF Bay Area for Earthquakes and Drought**

*Historic Agreement between Regional Partners Critical for Project*

**Millbrae, CA** – Representatives from the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, the City of San Bruno, City of Daly City, and California Water Service Company commemorated the upcoming 26<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Loma Prieta Earthquake by highlighting new groundwater wells being constructed in northern San Mateo County and San Francisco to improve water supply availability after earthquakes and during droughts.

The \$113 million Regional Groundwater Storage and Recovery Project creates an underground reservoir in the South Westside Groundwater Basin on the Peninsula. Through a landmark agreement between the aforementioned water providers, San Bruno, Daly City, and California Water Service Company would reduce their groundwater pumping in wet and normal water years and offset the reduced pumping with additional Hetch Hetchy supplies. This will allow the aquifer to naturally recharge with up to 20 billion gallons of groundwater that could be used in an extended drought or other emergency. That volume is equivalent to the maximum water storage available at the SFPUC’s Crystal Springs Reservoir.

“All of the water in the world will do no good during an emergency if it can’t reach the people who need it,” said SFPUC General Manager Harlan L. Kelly, Jr. “That is why this Regional groundwater project and our San Francisco project are so important for ensuring a reliable water supply in an extended drought or after a major earthquake.”

Construction for this project is underway on 13 well facilities including chemical treatment equipment, tanks, pumping systems, and associated pipelines that will work together to ensure we can deliver water to customers when they need it most. Once complete, this project will be able to provide 7.2 million gallons of water per day to customers, which could serve up to 24,000 households after an earthquake or during a drought.

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**Harlan L. Kelly, Jr.**  
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A one of a kind agreement and partnership between the SFPUC, City of Daly City, City of San Bruno and California Water Service Company enabled this project to move forward.

“Each individual municipality cannot function after a major emergency on its own, said Patricia E. Martel, City Manager of Daly City. “Collaborative partnerships such as this one are critical to diversifying the water supplies for all of the residents and businesses in the region.”

“During this week of the Loma Prieta Anniversary, we are reminded of the ever present risk of a major earthquake happening in the near future,” said Connie Jackson, City Manager of the City of San Bruno. “We owe it to the region’s residents to be as prepared as possible for that inevitable day. This project is a great step in that direction.”

“Diversification is key when it comes to water supplies during droughts or emergencies,” explained Mike Utz, Interim District Manager of California Water Service Company. “The benefits of this project for the greater Bay Area will be long lasting.”

The Regional Groundwater Supply and Recovery Project is an important piece of the SFPUC’s \$4.8 billion Water System Improvement Program (WSIP), and the project is expected to be complete in 2018. Launched by the SFPUC together with their wholesale partners in 2003, the WSIP’s goals include providing a reliable emergency water supply to customers within 24 hours after a major earthquake, ensuring high water quality and meeting water supply goals during an extended drought. Comprised of 83 projects, WSIP is currently about 90 percent complete.

Also contributing to the SFPUC’s water supply diversification efforts is the San Francisco Groundwater Supply Project, now under construction. This project will use up to four million gallons of water per day from the North Westside Groundwater Basin and blend it with our supply at Sunset and Merced Manor Reservoirs. This work should be completed in spring of 2017.

***For an interactive map of the regional groundwater well sites, click here:***

***<http://goo.gl/eqMo3v>***

***For more project information, visit:***

***[www.sfwater.org/gsr](http://www.sfwater.org/gsr) or [www.sfwater.org/groundwater](http://www.sfwater.org/groundwater)***

***To access photos and videos of construction on these projects, use the SFPUC’s Google Drive at: <https://goo.gl/nUdBb9>***

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