



REAL ESTATE | JOBS | CARS | DEALS | CLASSIFIEDS | PLACE AN AD | SIGN-IN/SIGN-UP | SUBSCRIBE | E-REGISTER | CUSTOMER SERVICE | TODAY'S PAPER

SEARCH SITE

SURF REPORT/CAMS | 69.0°F in Santa Ana | LIVE TRAFFIC

NEWS

HOME | NEWS | SPORTS | BUSINESS | ENTERTAINMENT | LIFE | TRAVEL | OPINION

Blogs | California | City-by-City News | Columns | Crime and Courts | Data Central | Education | Immigration | Military | Nation | Obituaries | OC Watchdog | Photos | Politics and Government | Science | Technology | Videos | World

Published: Aug. 17, 2011 Updated: 3:04 p.m.

Text: [+] [-] [e] Next Article »

Waste to drinking water: Drilling to start

Drilling of a new well that will inject purified wastewater directly into Orange County's drinking-water aquifer will begin within weeks -- and will likely mean months of noise for nearby residents.

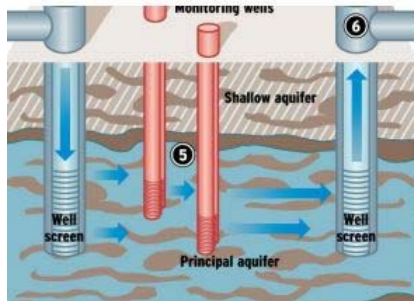
8 | Uhfirp p hgg | Share | Comments 0 | Email | Share

Ohh 9

By PAT BRENNAN / ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

Drilling of a new well that will inject purified wastewater directly into Orange County's drinking-water aquifer will begin within weeks -- and will likely mean months of noise for nearby residents.

The long-planned, \$3.7 million project will raise sunken groundwater levels in Santa Ana and Fountain Valley, diverting water from the [Orange County Water District's Groundwater Replenishment System](#) in Fountain Valley.



But the drilling must continue 24 hours a day, seven days a week, said Jason Dadakis, the Water District's director of regulatory affairs.

"We really are not wanting the hole to collapse before we've gotten the casing in the well," he said.

The project, at a county-owned site on the Santa Ana River, actually involves drilling three wells: the main "injection" well along with two monitoring wells.

Drilling of the first monitoring well could begin as soon as next week, Dadakis said, although work on the main well won't start until next month.

That likely means constant noise for nearby residents from mid September to late November.

The site will be enclosed on three sides with 24-foot sound walls, and sound-monitoring equipment will be installed.

Only a small number of nearby homes, along with an apartment complex, are close enough to receive a significant amount of noise, said Water District spokeswoman Gina DePinto.

But the district has sent notices to some 650 dwellings within two miles of the site. DePinto also is meeting with community groups to explain the project.

The Groundwater Replenishment System uses a series of specialized treatments, high-powered filters and ultraviolet light to turn sewer water into highly purified drinking water.

It produces about 65 million gallons per day, and sometimes as much as 70, with plans in the works to expand its capacity to 100 million gallons per day.

ADVERTISEMENT

AdChoices | Toshiba's fully thought-through LED HD TV. TOSHIBA Leading Innovation >>> LEARN MORE

About half the water produced is pumped into an underground "seawater intrusion barrier" near the coast to keep salt water from entering the aquifer.

The other half is pumped to settling ponds in Anaheim, where it percolates into the aquifer.

But the new well is needed because the ponds are sometimes filled with rainwater.

"When it does rain, we try to capture all the water that is coming down the river," Dadakis said.

Joey's Smokin' BBQ
50% off! \$5 for \$10 worth of food at Joey's Smokin' BBQ in Tustin

ADVERTISEMENT

OC Foreclosures
Over 28 years OC experience
We show all the loans
Free consultation & mentoring
We help you buy below value
5 days for 5 dollars
Try Our Site
CountyRecordsResearch.com
CLICK FOR INFORMATION

More from Science

- Dense fog, then O.C. heats up 1 hour & 17 minutes ago
- Gypsy moths cause turn-away of Japanese ship 3 hours & 31 minutes ago
- How much Japan radiation? Scientists answer 1 hour & 54 minutes ago

Recommended for You

- Tension between O.C.'s 'Storage War' stars
- 'Austin Powers' actor on trial in rape case
- From 31 to 64, Suzanne Somers stays young
- 2 men arrested on suspicion of stealing from vehicles
- Police: Fatal Saturday shooting likely gang-related
- Photos: Ross opens different type of O.C. store
- 2 injured in rollover crash in Fountain Valley

Powered by newstogram

ADVERTISEMENT

The injected water also will help raise water levels in the middle part of the county's groundwater basin.

"The depth to which those cities have pumped is lower," Dadakis said. "And it's far away from recharge sources."

The new well should be injecting water into the aquifer by spring. It will blend with existing water below, moving slowly through the aquifer to reach drinking-water wells in about five years.

If it succeeds, the project could be expanded to as many as 10 injection wells, Dadakis said.

"This is a new area for us," he said. "Before we go ahead and do a large project with lots of these wells, we'd really like to get information from both the engineering standpoint and the regulatory standpoint on how one performs."

COMMENTS | PRINT | EMAIL | SHARE

[More from Science »](#)

Reader Comments

Comments are encouraged, but you must follow our [User Agreement](#).

1. **Keep it civil and stay on topic.**
2. **No profanity, vulgarity, racial slurs or personal attacks.**
3. **People who harass others or joke about tragedies will be blocked.**

Share your thoughts about this story
You must be logged in to leave a comment. [Login](#) | [Register](#)

To leave a comment, you need to sign up.

[Sign up](#)
[Log in](#)

[Forgot password?](#)

powered by Pluck

[View Article](#) | [Article Data](#)



[Home](#) | [News](#) | [Sports](#) | [Business](#) | [Entertainment](#) | [Life](#) | [Travel](#) | [Opinion](#) | [Real Estate](#) | [Jobs](#) | [Cars](#) | [Deals](#) | [Classifieds](#) | [Place An Ad](#)

[Return to Top](#)

ADVERTISE OPTIONS	CONTACT OCREGISTER	OCR SERVICES	NEWS YOUR WAY	ADVERTISING	PARTNERS
Self Service	About Us	Archives	Blogs	Classifieds	KDOC-TV
Place an Online Ad	Careers	Buy Our Photos	E-Mail Newsletters	Cars	MSNBC
Place a Print Ad	Contact Us	California Lottery	E-Register	Deals	OC Excelsior
Place a Classified Ad	Corrections	Deals	Mobile	Jobs	Coast Magazine
Media Kit	Customer Service	OCRegister Fanshop	RSS	Real Estate	Preferred Destination
Advertising Contact Info	Subscribe Today	Orange County Businesses	Article Map	Place a Classified Ad	OrangeCounty.com
	Subscriber Services	Register Insider	Site Map	View our Media Kit	FreedomPolitics.com
	Site Help	Register in Education	Video	Interactive	
	Site Feedback	Obituaries			



Copyright © 2011 Orange County Register Communications. All Rights Reserved.
[Privacy Policy](#) | [Site Help](#) | [User Agreement](#) | [Site Map](#)