



Westlands  
Water District

# Pasajero Groundwater Recharge Project

## About the Project

The Pasajero Groundwater Recharge Project (Project) will revolutionize water management for the Westlands Water District (Westlands). By bolstering water supply reliability, enhancing water quality, and improving groundwater conditions, this initiative is a cornerstone in the District's journey towards sustainability.

Phase 1 of the Project features a new 30 cubic feet per second (cfs) conveyance turn out from the Coalinga Canal, six basins, and results in up to 21,000 acre-feet (af) per year of recharge capacity. The second phase of the Project will include the addition of up to 10 dry wells to convey surface water directly into the aquifer.

As a key management strategy outlined in the Westside Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) and in the San Joaquin Valley Integrated Regional Water Management Plan, this project aims to increase groundwater storage and levels, supporting a sustainable water future for Westlands and California.

## Project Benefits

### **Climate and Drought Resiliency**

Enhancing water supply reliability to withstand climate changes, and providing essential water storage opportunities.

### **Water Quality**

Improving groundwater quality in the Westside Subbasin.

### **Statewide Collaboration**

Maximizing flexibility for partnerships with other communities and water agencies.

### **Critical Infrastructure Protection**

Avoiding further subsidence of aqueduct and roads.

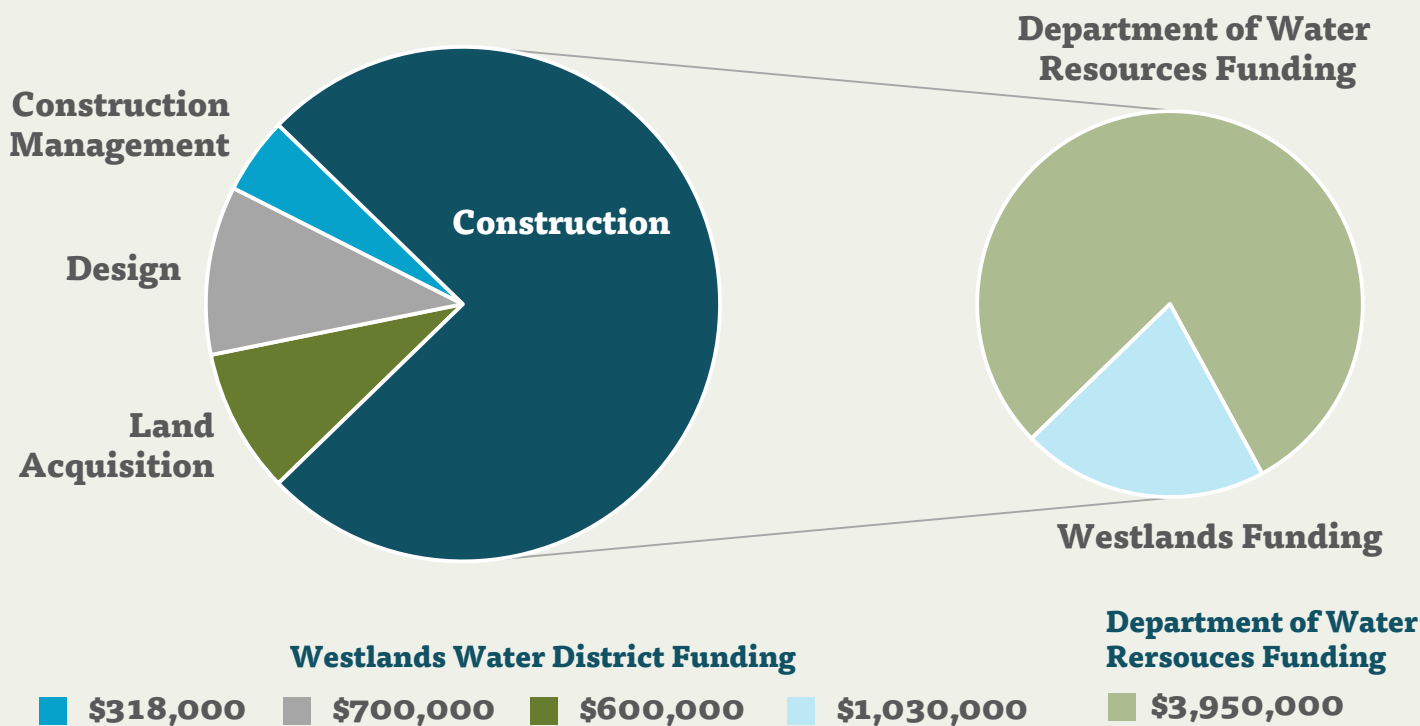
### **Economic Opportunity**

Protecting our agriculture jobs and economy for future generations

### **Preserving Agricultural Land**

Reducing amount of fallowed land

# Funding for Phase 1



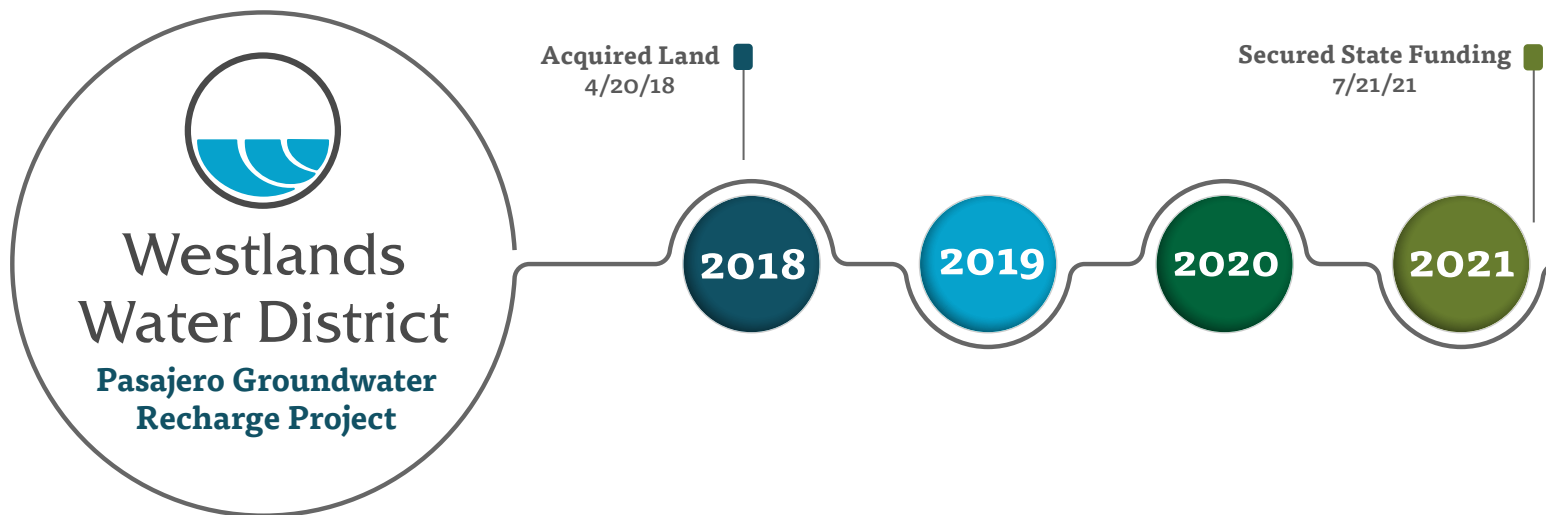
## State Funding from the Department of Water Resources - \$3,950,000

- Proposition 68 Implementation Grant Program Round 2

## Local Funding from Westlands Water District - \$2,647,000

- Water and Land Acquisition Fund
- 2021, 2022 & 2023 Operation and Maintenance Rates

**Total Project Cost as of June 2024: \$6.38M**

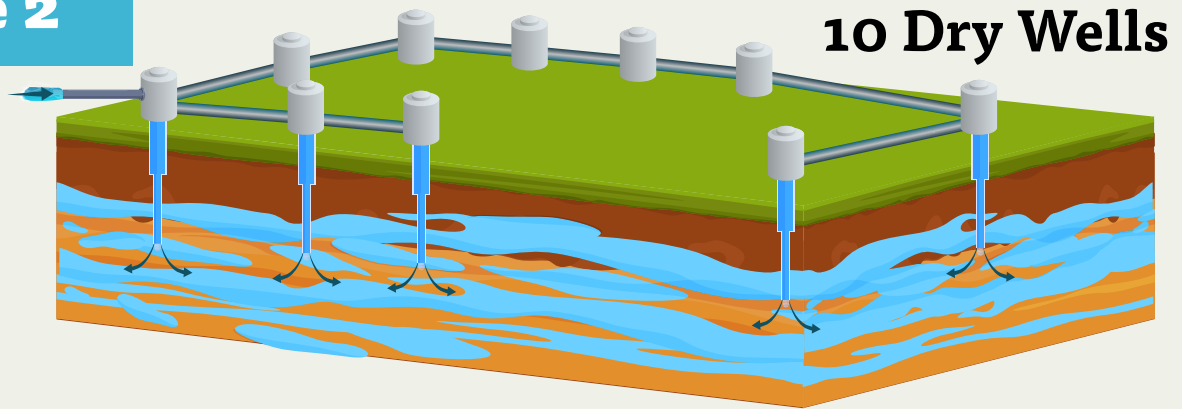


# Phase 1



Recharge Potential up to 21,000 af - 29 Acres

# Phase 2



Recharge Capacity up to 5,000 af - 10 Dry Wells

Basin & Turnout Design  
9/29/21 - 6/1/23

NEPA Complete  
8/10/22

Dry Well Design  
1/1/26 - 6/1/26

CEQA Complete  
8/9/22

TODAY

2022

2023

2024

2025

2026

2027

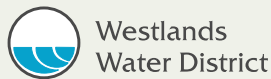
Finding of No Significant  
Impact (FONSI) and  
Environmental  
Assesment (EA)  
5/17/22 - 8/10/23

Construction of  
Basin & Turnout  
8/21/23 - 7/31/24

Construction  
of Dry Wells  
1/2/27 - 6/30/27

# South of Delta Collaboration

Collaboration is key to advancing California's water goals. Westlands has engaged in productive conversations with Metropolitan Water District and Friant Water Authority, culminating in a Memorandum of Understanding, agreeing to work together towards solutions to shared interests such as developing water storage. In addition, we are also a signatory to a Memorandum of Understanding with Metropolitan Water District as a member of the San Joaquin Valley Blueprint. Both MOU's advance collaboration on goals, including water banking and conveyance. The Pasajero Groundwater Recharge Project will provide groundwater banking and exchange for Westlands and other entities.



# Long-Term Drought Plan

On May 21, 2024 U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and South-of-Delta CVP contractors signed a Memorandum of Understanding outlining the framework for a Long-Term Drought Plan. The Plan includes creation of a "drought pool" where South-of-Delta water users contribute water to be stored for future use in dry years. The Pasajero Groundwater Recharge Project increases the flexibility for storing water outside of the San Luis Reservoir. Recognizing the need for drought relief infrastructure investment, Westlands was awarded \$25 million from the federal Inflation Reduction Act to fund similar recharge projects that would help advance the Plan's framework.

