



SAN GABRIEL BASIN WATER QUALITY AUTHORITY

Ed Royce backs groundwater cleanup

Congressman supports clean and safe water for all

The WQA has assisted in treating more than **1 million** acre-feet of water, removing **70 tons** of contaminants.



Water Quality Authority

Cleaning up contaminated groundwater in the San Gabriel Valley is a far bigger project than any one agency or person could ever hope to achieve.

It was with this in mind that 21 years ago, the California Legislature established the San Gabriel Basin Water Quality Authority (WQA) to develop, finance and implement groundwater treatment programs in the San Gabriel Basin, a large underground aquifer that provides water to 90 percent of the people living and working in the San Gabriel Valley. The water was contaminated in the 1940s and 1950s when defense industry companies disposed of rocket fuel, industrial solvents and other chemicals by pouring them on the ground. Over time, the chemicals seeped down into the groundwater.

As the lead coordinating agency for a long-term cleanup project, the WQA works with various water agencies and cities. The WQA has been fortunate to enjoy support from the San Gabriel Valley's state and federal legislative team, whose members have championed our work and helped the WQA secure adequate funding.

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– Representative Ed Royce

Bryan Urias, Chairman of the WQA's Board of Directors, thanked the San Gabriel Valley's local Congressional representatives for their ongoing support. “Congress has been instrumental in the WQA's efforts to remove harmful contaminants from our



Representative Ed Royce

groundwater. Through the work of local members we have been able to prevent the migration and stem flow of pollutants.”

Urias and the other six WQA Board members wish to welcome Rep. Ed Royce to the team. Royce is serving his eleventh term in Congress representing the 39th District, which now includes parts of the San Gabriel Valley. Previously a State Senator before he was elected to Congress, Royce, a native Californian, has consistently earned honors and awards from

the National Taxpayers Union, Citizens Against Government Waste, the National Federation of Independent Businesses, Watchdogs of the Treasury, Americans for Tax Reform, the United States Chamber of Commerce and other groups.

In Congress, Royce has had many priorities, from addressing the national debt and boosting national security to fighting crime, strengthening education, creating jobs and strengthening Social Security and Medicare.

Providing safe, clean water to his constituents and for the environment is also on his list.

“Clean groundwater is healthy drinking water, which is something that every California family deserves,” Royce said. “As much of California’s groundwater ends up in rivers and streams, clean groundwater facilitates the creation of healthy ecosystems for local wildlife. With the water crisis in California, policymakers at all levels of government need to lend support to local agencies such as the San Gabriel Water Quality Authority.”

Royce stressed the importance of continuing the effort to cleanup the Basin.

“At a time when California finds itself in a historic drought, our groundwater supplies are more vulnerable than ever. Clean groundwater is critical as it serves as an important source of drinking water for millions of Californians and the stream-flow for dozens of California’s rivers and creeks. For 21 years, the WQA has been the leader in finding solutions to bolster our dwindling water supply and has won backing from a variety of public and private entities. I’m pleased to support their efforts in bringing clean and reliable water at an affordable cost to the ratepayer.”

“Congress has been instrumental in the WQA’s efforts to remove harmful contaminants from our groundwater.”

– Bryan Urias, Chairman Water Quality Authority

Royce continued, “The responsibility for the development, management, protection, and allocation of the nation’s water resources is spread among federal, state and local interests. Congress has historically enacted legislation to regulate water quality and facilitate water supply augmentation for the benefit of all.”

WQA Board member Michael Whitehead said, “The WQA looks forward to working with Congressman Royce on maintaining a safe and reliable source of drinking water. We are excited at continuing the tradition of bipartisan support the WQA has received from our San Gabriel Valley Congressional delegation.”

Today, 31 cleanup facilities are working to remove contaminants from the groundwater in six different contamination zones throughout the San Gabriel Valley. Since the WQA’s inception, WQA-sponsored projects have been responsible for removing nearly 70 tons of contaminants from the Basin – almost half of all the contaminants believed to be in the groundwater.

Learn more about the WQA at www.wqa.com.