

## Council to review water plan support

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PALMDALE - Municipal staff are recommending City Council approval of a regional water plan for the Antelope Valley.

The council will consider granting that approval Wednesday.

Failure to do so would signal that the city no longer wishes to participate in the Regional Water Management Group, the organization of local government agencies that assembled the plan over the past 20 months.

Failure to obtain the approval of the group's 11 lead agencies by Jan. 28 will prevent water officials from seeking up to \$25 million in grant funds to implement some of the water-conservation efforts identified in the Integrated Regional Water Plan/Groundwater Management Plan for the Antelope Valley.

Thursday, a water consultant told members of the council during a special workshop that without the regional plan, Palmdale will not have the water resources needed to accommodate future growth.

On Jan. 2, the City Council postponed its decision on the plan until after Thursday's workshop. In the interim, Palmdale Mayor Jim Ledford raised concerns about proposals in the plan to use reclaimed waste water to supplement the Valley's underground supply of clean water.

In a report to the council for Wednesday's meeting, city staff noted that adopting the plan "does not legally bind the city of Palmdale to approve or perform any implementation or project" that is included in the document.

"Furthermore, any approval of any project suggested in this plan - including but not limited to the use of recycled water for direct groundwater recharge - will require regulatory approvals and full environmental and public review," the report showed.

As of Monday, only three of the 11 lead agencies had voted to approve the water document. The council will consider the document's adoption when it meets at 7 p.m. Wednesday in its chambers at City Hall, 38300 Sierra Highway, Suite B.

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