

New water group to take shape

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PALMDALE - Eleven local water agencies have formed a new Regional Water Management Group and will meet with interested stakeholders, such as water agencies, businesses and private citizens on Wednesday to discuss ways to maximize water resources in the Antelope Valley and potentially bring millions of dollars to the region for infrastructure.

The group will prepare an Integrated Regional Water Management Plan, with input from more than 45 stakeholder agencies from federal, state, county and local governments; mutual water agencies; environmental groups; disadvantaged communities; and private businesses. The plan will provide a framework for area agencies to coordinate programs and projects to address regional water supply needs, to protect and improve water quality, to provide flood management and to protect the environment.

"Once the plan is finished, the group will be eligible to bring tens of millions of dollars in state grants to the Antelope Valley under Propositions 50, 84 and 1E," Palmdale's Director of Public Works Leon Swain said.

The group includes the Antelope Valley-East Kern Water Agency, the Antelope Valley State Water Contractors Association, Lancaster and Palmdale, Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts Nos. 14 and 20, the Littlerock Creek Irrigation District, the Los Angeles County Waterworks District No. 40, the Palmdale Water District, the Quartz Hill Water District and the Rosamond Community Services District.

The meeting will be from 9 to 11:30 a.m. at the Larry Chimbole Cultural Center, 38350 Sierra Highway.

For details, call Heather Gallardy at (626) 300-3324 or visit www.avwaterplan.org.