

Antelope Valley Water Plan to be pushed

Draft document will be discussed at public meeting

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PALMDALE - An Antelope Valley planning group will discuss regional water usage issues this week in a public stakeholder meeting.

The group seeks to advance the draft of an Antelope Valley Water Plan at the meeting, which will be held at 9 a.m. Wednesday in Lancaster City Hall.

The planning group is made up of representatives of several water agencies and public officials.

The group released a draft of its water plan last month.

The plan calls for increasing supply, promoting conservation, improving water quality and providing environmental safeguards.

The water plan would satisfy state grant requirements.

Unabated population growth and the driest season in recorded history have put a spotlight on regional water usage issues.

Rainfall from July 1, 2006, to June 30 measured just 0.65 of an inch in Palmdale and 1.4 inches in Lancaster, according to the National Weather Service.

Normal rainfall for both cities for the same time period is more than 7 inches.

The meeting will include presentations by the groups from Santa Ana and Las Vegas that city officials say have addressed similar challenges.

A draft of the water plan can be viewed on the Internet at www.avwaterplan.org.

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