

Wells 21 and 22 Project

The Wells 21 and 22 Project received \$11.6 million in American and Recovery Act funding, and state and local partners added \$28.1 million. Reclamation partnered with the Irvine Ranch Water District. The project pumps and treats brackish groundwater that is then used for potable purposes. The existing wells 21 and 22 were constructed in 1992 but were never placed into production because the groundwater was too brackish.

The project includes several components. Both wells were equipped with pumps and motors. A raw water pipeline was constructed to convey the brackish groundwater to a new advanced water treatment facility that includes reverse osmosis membranes. A product water pipeline was constructed to deliver the treated water to the district's potable water system, and a brine disposal pipeline was constructed to convey the waste brine to a sewage system.

The project provides about 6,300 acre-feet of new potable water annually. This replaces water that would otherwise be imported from the Colorado River and the Bay/Delta region of Northern California.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding allowed construction of this entire groundwater recovery system within a few years. This results in the production and use of product water much sooner.

