



# Media Release

## **State Water Board Helps Disadvantaged Community Connect to New Sewer System**

***Leaky septics will be a thing of the past in Enchanted Heights***

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More than 1,500 residents of the Enchanted Heights community near Perris in Riverside County will get sewer hookups, thanks to \$5 million in principal forgiveness from the State Water Resources Control Board's Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) Program.

The money is part of a \$16.5-million project to bring sanitary sewer service to the area. Additional funding is coming from the California Department of Public Health.

The Enchanted Heights community, about 70 miles east of Los Angeles, on the western edge of the City of Perris, has suffered from failing septic systems due to the age of the systems, poor soil conditions, and a high groundwater table.

The failing septic systems threaten public health, groundwater supplies in the area and water quality in the San Jacinto River and Canyon Lake. Storm water runoff from Enchanted Heights flows into the river and then the lake. The lake has shown excessive concentrations of bacteria, nitrogen and phosphorus, constituents present in septic waste.

A septic tank moratorium was declared in the area in 2005 by Riverside County and the City of Perris, due to widespread septic system failure.

The funding from the State Water Resource Control Board's Division of Financial Assistance will pay the cost of hooking the individual homes to the new sewer system. The 170-acre community includes 446 homes, with approximately 1,561 residents.

Since Enchanted Heights is classified as a small disadvantaged community, the funds will be provided as "principal forgiveness" with no repayment required. The 2010 median household





income (MHI) in Enchanted Heights is approximately \$39,324, about 63 percent of the statewide MHI.

The project is unique for the Water Board because it will fund sewer laterals, which cross private property to hook individual homes to a public sewer system. The Enchanted Heights project requires that all homeowners sign a “right of entry” agreement allowing the work on their property before construction starts.

The project is expected to be completed in January 2015.

For more information, visit

<http://www.cityofperris.org/enchantedheights/index.html>

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