


## MEMORANDUM

**Date:** December 8, 2025

**To:** Mayor and City Council

**From:** Gerry Beaudin, City Manager   
Siew-Chin Yeong, Director of Public Works  
Todd Yamelo, Utility Planning Manager

**Subject:** Joint Groundwater Wells Project - Phase 1 Feasibility Study Update

### SUMMARY

This memorandum provides an update on the Phase I Feasibility Study for the Joint Groundwater Wells Project (Project), a collaborative effort between the City of Pleasanton (City) and Zone 7 Water Agency (Zone 7) to evaluate potential new groundwater wells in the Bernal Subbasin. The preliminary findings of the technical feasibility study confirm that the proposed well locations can produce groundwater that can increase Zone 7's groundwater production capacity and drought resiliency for the overall Tri-Valley region, recover the City's groundwater production quota (GPQ), and meet and exceed all State and federal water quality standards. Zone 7 and City staff are continuing efforts to finalize the recommended Project configuration, prepare a basis of design with Project cost estimates, and negotiate preliminary terms for Project design, construction, and operation. City staff will evaluate this Project versus independent implementation options and return to the City Council in Spring 2026 with recommendations.

### BACKGROUND

On October 17, 2023, the City Council authorized staff to proceed with the planning and development of new groundwater wells in the Bernal Subbasin to regain use of the City's Groundwater Production Quota (GPQ) of 3,500 acre-feet per year.

On June 18, 2024, the City Council approved an agreement between the City and Zone 7 to investigate the feasibility of constructing a joint project with Zone 7 with the goals of providing cost savings and reducing operational complexity. The Phase I scope includes well siting analysis, exploratory test drilling, technical feasibility evaluation, and the development of draft terms for Phase II design and construction and Phase III operation. The well siting analysis recommended three City parks as target well locations for further testing: Tennis and Community Park, Hansen Park, and Del Prado Park. Field work for test well construction and subsequent water quality and yield testing occurred between December 2024 and June 2025. Field efforts took approximately six months longer than anticipated due to delays in Zone 7 contractor procurement and drilling activities.

## **DISCUSSION**

Zone 7 presented an interim update on the Regional Groundwater Facilities Project Phase I to its Board on June 18, 2025. A copy of the presentation was sent to City Council on June 13, 2025 via bi-weekly Q&A updates and follow-up with an email from the City Manager on June 19, 2025. (Attachment 1)

Analysis of field testing and groundwater modeling was completed in September 2025, with Zone 7 finding that implementation of new wells would not have an impact on groundwater basin sustainability, including PFAS concentrations over a 20-year time period predicted to remain below regulatory levels in the area of the wells.

On October 20, 2025, Zone 7 presented preliminary findings and recommendations from the technical feasibility study at the Tri-Valley Water Liaison Committee Meeting. Note that these preliminary findings and recommendations were presented prior to City staff receiving the draft feasibility report and that report is still under development and review with the report expected to be finalized in December 2025. Zone 7 did note during the meeting that the presentation reflected Zone 7's perspective on the Project and did not represent that of the City. (Attachment 2)

### **Preliminary Findings from the Phase I Feasibility Study Draft Report:**

- Water from all three test wells are anticipated to meet State and Federal water quality standards without the immediate need for treatment beyond chloramination.
- Zone 7's production target of 7,000 acre-feet per year, which includes the City's GPQ of 3,500 acre-feet per year, can be achieved through combinations of well sites.
- Groundwater modeling results indicate that groundwater production from the proposed wells will not impact the sustainability of the groundwater basin or influence PFAS migration in the basin over a 20-year time period.
- Four different project configurations were evaluated, all of which would pump groundwater to Zone 7's Hopyard Facility for chloramination and be delivered to the City via Zone 7's transport system and turnouts. The four project configurations include wells as follows:
  1. One well at Tennis and Community Park
  2. One well at Tennis and Community Park and one well at Hansen Park (total of 2)
  3. One well at Tennis and Community Park and one well at Del Prado Park (total of 2)
  4. One well each at Tennis and Community Park, Hansen Park, and Del Prado Park (total of 3)
- A comparative analysis was performed of each configuration that considered criteria including community and environmental impacts, capital cost, water quality/treatment impacts, implementation schedule, operation flexibility and resilience, and operation and maintenance cost. Preliminary analysis has identified one well at Tennis Park and one well at Hansen Park as the recommended project.

## **NEXT STEPS**

Next steps include finalizing the feasibility study report including confirmation of recommended project configuration and preparing a basis of design report for the recommended project configuration that includes cost estimates. The final report is anticipated to be completed in December 2025. In parallel to the report, the City and Zone 7 are in the process of developing draft terms for implementation of the design, construction and operation of the Project if both agencies elect to proceed.

Starting in January 2026, City staff will also conduct an independent analysis for utilizing its GPQ that includes the following options:

- a. Continuation of the partnership with Zone 7 for joint groundwater wells
- b. Construct two new wells in the Bernal subbasin, independently as a City project.

Staff anticipate completing this analysis by Spring 2026 and are aiming to return to the City Council in April 2026 with findings and recommendations. Upon receiving City Council direction, staff will pursue external funding opportunities, including State Revolving Fund loans and State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) grant programs, to support the selected alternative.

## **FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

The total budget for Phase I is \$1.5 million. This includes the cost-share with Zone 7 of \$1,283,231, and additional City's cost of \$261,769. On December 12, 2024, the City received a \$1,000,000 grant from the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) applicable to the Phase I Feasibility Study. The City's budget contributed from the Water Enterprise Fund (Fund 421) is \$283,231. To date, the City has received \$753,779 in reimbursements from the State grant and has submitted nearly the remaining balance for final reimbursement.

Staff also initiated discussions with the SWRCB regarding potential funding for design and construction phases. Preliminary feedback from SWRCB staff was positive, and the City is encouraged to apply for grants that could fund up to 50 percent of the total project cost, with a maximum of \$20 million, for Phases II and III.

Attachments:

Attachment 1 - June 18, 2025, Presentation to Zone 7 Board

Attachment 2 - October 20, 2025, Subcommittee Meeting Minutes and Presentation to Zone 7 Subcommittee