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Field Investigation Scheduled for the Greenspot Recharge Project

Studies will help inform project design and future placement of recharge basins

October 2, 2026:

Starting around October 22, 2026, engineers for the Big Bear Area Regional Wastewater Agency (BBARWA) Greenspot Recharge Project will conduct preliminary field tests (geotechnical investigations) at the proposed recharge site in Erwin Lake. Results will build on earlier studies, providing additional information on soil and groundwater conditions that will help the project team determine the optimal size and location of recharge basins.

This work is not construction of the project; it is part of the project's design process. The BBARWA Governing Board has not approved funding and construction of the project so no construction can begin.

“We know local residents have questions about how the basins would be designed and where they would go,” said BBARWA General Manager David Lawrence. “This will give us better data to eventually answer those questions, and we've planned the work to keep disruptions in the neighborhood to a minimum.”

Depending on the results, additional temporary infiltration testing may be completed later this year or next spring. BBARWA will post updates before any future fieldwork.

To learn more about the Greenspot Recharge Project and keep up with the latest news, visit www.BBARWA.org/Greenspot.

Residents with questions can email admin@bbarwa.org or call (909) 584-4018.

What to expect:

- Work is expected to take approximately one week and scheduled work hours are 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- Engineers will be conducting preliminary field tests (geotechnical investigations) including geophysical surveys with shallow excavations and exploratory drilling (boring) at up to 13 locations across the site.
- Each shallow excavation and boring will be opened and filled the same day.
- Crews will apply water to control dust from digging and vehicles.
- No significant traffic impacts are expected.
- Noise associated with vehicles will be intermittent throughout the day.

About the Project

- **Greenspot keeps water local:** Millions of gallons of highly treated water currently leave the valley each year instead of being reused here. If approved, Greenspot will keep more water local by purifying it and putting it back into the ground for future use.
- **Greenspot helps reduce drought impacts:** Big Bear depends entirely on groundwater for drinking water; however, frequent drought and more variable precipitation have reduced how much water naturally recharges the groundwater basin, leaving the community vulnerable to water shortages. If approved, Greenspot (which isn't dependent on the weather) is expected to increase the local groundwater supply by 500 acre-feet per year. That's equivalent to what 2,700 average households in the Big Bear Valley use each year.
- **Greenspot protects public health:** Purified water goes through multiple treatment steps and routine testing to ensure it meets or exceeds strict state and federal water quality standards. The recharge site will be fenced, and site design will be developed with neighborhood input.