

Desert Valley Times Free

The Virgin Valley's No. 1 Source for News

Tuesday, November 22, 2011

www.dvtonline.com

VVWD seeks federal study

Bob Challinor
Desert Valley Times

The water district received board approval last Tuesday to apply for a 2012 U.S. Bureau of Reclamation basin study the federal agency is offering at up to half the cost.

Virgin Valley Water District received an announcement from the Bureau of Reclamation Nov. 7 that the agency was beginning its 2012 Basin Studies selection process. The program will offer support for two to four studies from \$2.5 million in funding, with the bureau providing up to 50 percent of the cost for the studies.

"We have looked at the selection criteria and the scope of the studies, and it appears that our basin would be an ideal candidate for such a study," stated Ken Rock, VVWD general manager, in a letter to Virgin River Basin stakeholders dated Nov. 14.

Rock presented a brief background summary, writing that VVWD recently commissioned two studies: a Virgin River Basin Evaluation and VVWD Groundwater Resources Technical Memorandum by civil engineering consultant Bowen, Collins and Associates, and a Secondary Water System Feasibility Study by Forsgren Associates, Inc.

"Both studies came to the conclusion that to move forward with planning and development, it is essential that water resources within this hydrologic basin be accurately assessed."

Rock stated he also agreed with the conclusion from both studies that "all those who have a stake in the findings should be involved in the determinations."

VVWD's letter of interest for preliminary evaluation by the bureau is due Nov. 30.

"I spoke with Bob Frisby (general manager of Beaver Dam Water Company) and the Arizona Department of Water Resources, and they both seemed to receive this well," said Aaron Bunker, VVWD hydrologist, last



Off and running

Runners in the Mesquite Tri-State Marathon (above) head down Old Highway 91 Saturday morning toward Beaver Dam and then Mesquite. More than 400 athletes took part in the marathon, the half-marathon and the 5K race. The group included a husband and wife who are both doctors, an 86-year-old, and three generations of the Sand family. At right, Heath Burchinal of St. George grabs water five miles into the marathon. He placed third in his age group, the men's 35-39 marathon division.

Story, more photos on Page B1.



Theresa Worthington / Desert Valley Times