



The residents of Ridgecrest and surrounding communities need a reliable and affordable water supply

Understanding SGMA

In 2014, the State of California adopted the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) to address the critical issue of groundwater overdraft. SGMA requires the formation of local Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) to develop and implement plans for sustainable groundwater management by 2040. The IWVGA is one such agency, tasked with creating a plan to balance the region's groundwater use.

Searles Valley Minerals (SVM) is one of the region's leading economic contributors. SVM produces compounds used in everyday products, including glass, detergents, flat-screen monitors, electronic parts, and fiberglass insulation. The company provides hundreds of high-wage jobs that fuel growth and opportunity for the residents of Ridgecrest and Kern County.



Richard Chapman

President and CEO
Kern Economic
Development Corporation

The Community Relies on Companies like Searles, and Searles Relies on Affordable and Sustainable Water Supply

- The company is proud to be the largest employer in the Searles Valley.
- The employees are the backbone of the company – many have 20+ years of service and generations of families have worked for Searles.
- Searles supports a total of 1,189 jobs in the region, including both direct and indirect jobs.
- Approximately 75% of the employees live in Ridgecrest, contributing significantly to the local economy.
- Searles supplies water to the community of Trona, ensuring essential resources for local residents.

Collaborative & Fair Approach Needed

- In 2024, Searles Valley Minerals created Protect Our Valley's Water to gather more community support calling for a more just and equitable process – one that respects Searles' historic water rights and recognizes the invaluable role the company plays in supporting the region's economy and quality of life.
- Protect Our Valley's Water agrees that all must work together to balance the Valley's groundwater basin. However, implementing measures without concrete plans for our water supply future undermines the stability of our community and local economy.

HOW CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION?

To request to be added to our email list, email info@protectourvalleyswater.com.