EXHIBIT 5

Santa Margarita Water District - Current Web Information on Urban Runoff, Recycled Water, and Pesticide Testing

Purpose of this compilation

This exhibit compiles two current Santa Margarita Water District (SMWD) webpages that document: (1) SMWD's use of urban return (runoff) water from Oso Creek, Dove Creek, and Horno Creek as an additional source blended with recycled water for irrigation; and (2) SMWD's statement that it does not routinely test recycled water for pesticides and herbicides because such testing is not required by Order No. 97-52.

Accessed: September 4, 2026

A. SMWD FAQ - Urban Return Water Blended With Recycled Water

Source: Santa Margarita Water District, Frequently Asked Questions, Your Water

URL: https://www.smwd.com/m/faq?cat=21

> SMWD is also a leader in using recycled water for landscape irrigation and has been successful in obtaining water from additional sources in the local area to supplement supply. The District uses recycled water for irrigation of slopes, parks, golf courses, schools and medians within its service area. Water is recycled at SMWD's three treatment plants, producing over 2 billion gallons of recycled water each year for landscape irrigation to homeowner associations and other municipalities within the District. **In addition, SMWD collects urban return (runoff) water from Oso Creek, Dove Creek, and Horno Creek to blend with the recycled water as an additional source for irrigation.** The use of recycled water and urban return flows from the creeks offset the need to import drinking water from MWD for irrigation.

Relevance

This SMWD statement directly documents the runoff-to-recycled-water pathway described in the SPARC submission and identifies Horno Creek, Oso Creek, and Dove Creek as sources of urban return water blended with recycled water for irrigation.

B. SMWD Water Quality: Ladera Ranch - Recycled Water Monitoring

Source: Santa Margarita Water District, Water Quality: Ladera Ranch

URL: https://smwd.com/627/Water-Quality-Ladera-Ranch

SMWD describes recycled water use in its service area as follows:

> Recycled water is water supplied for approved uses other than drinking and typical household uses. It is not intended for human consumption. Within the District's service area, this includes recycled water used for landscape irrigation, construction (dust-control), and other approved uses. Recycled water is kept physically separate from the drinking water system.
>
> The District's recycled water is highly treated wastewater that undergoes tertiary treatment, including filtration and disinfection, and meets California's requirements for disinfected tertiary recycled water under Title 22 of the California Code of Regulations. ... This high level of treatment allows recycled water to be safely used for a wide range of approved non-potable purposes, including irrigation of parks, schools, golf courses, residential common areas, medians and other publicly accessible landscapes.

SMWD specifically addresses pesticide and herbicide testing:

> **Does SMWD routinely test for pesticides and herbicides in recycled water?**
>
> **No.** This is not required by Order No. 97-52 recycled water permit issued by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego. However, the District has done supplemental testing based on project and operational needs.

Relevance

This current Ladera-specific SMWD webpage confirms that recycled water is used in publicly accessible landscapes, including parks and schools, and states that SMWD does not routinely test recycled water for pesticides and herbicides under the existing permit requirements.

Compilation note: This document was prepared as an evidentiary exhibit from text appearing on the official SMWD website as accessed on September 4, 2026. It is not an SMWD-issued PDF. The source URLs are provided above so DPR can verify the current webpages directly.