

\$3.7 million well project to prepare for buildup

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(Photo: Courtesy of Water and Environmental Research Institute)

A \$3.7 million well installation and monitoring project is set to begin within the next year in preparation of Guam's military buildup.

The well project is a collaboration between the Guam Waterworks Authority, the University of Guam's Water and Environmental Research Institute of the Western Pacific and the U.S. Geological Survey. The project is meant to support the Northern Guam Lens Aquifer, which supplies 80 percent of the island's drinking water.

With the funds, GWA will construct up to seven water wells on the base, while the Water and Environmental Research Institute and USGS will help rehabilitate seven deep-water wells and five water-level monitoring wells throughout the island, according to a UOG news release.

The additional wells will help monitor the aquifer amid increased infrastructure development on federal property to accommodate the relocation of 5,000 Marines from Okinawa to Guam. The relocation is expected to happen around 2025, though plans for construction of the facilities are already in place.

With the new and rehabilitated wells, WERI will analyze the data to develop strategies to maintain Guam's water resources, the release states.

The Naval Facilities Engineering Command Marianas had stated that monitoring wells also will be built within the planned Live-Fire Training Range Complex, in an effort to protect nearby aquifers. The firing range complex is set to be built on Northwest Field, located on Andersen Air Force Base.

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