

THE GRACE F. NAPOLITANO
PUREWATER
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

CALIFORNIA

WATER

LONG BEACH/ SOUTH BAY 2024

LADWP Delivering High Quality H2O

Los Angeles County
Securing Reliability

Long Beach Utilities
Recycling for the Future



U.S. Senator
Alex Padilla


INVESTING IN AMERICA



SCAN FOR DIGITAL EDITION

ADVERTISING SUPPLEMENT TO THE LOS ANGELES TIMES, LONG BEACH PRESS TELEGRAM, THE DAILY BREEZE AND WHITTIER DAILY NEWS. PUBLISHED BY CIVIC PUBLICATIONS, INC.

This supplement did not involve any editorial staff.

 Printed with recycled paper.



Quenching California's Future

As we transition into fall, the lingering effects of a record-breaking summer heat wave still resonate across Southern California. While the air may feel a bit cooler, the challenges we face regarding water management are heating up more than ever.

Just as the invention of air conditioning in 1902 revolutionized how we stay cool during heat waves, the innovative water recycling projects in California are poised to transform how we secure a reliable water supply in the face of droughts and climate change.



Charley Wilson

Extreme temperatures and prolonged droughts have become the new normal. Our water supplies are feeling the pinch and it's becoming crystal clear that we need innovative solutions to secure our water future. That's what this issue of

California Water dives into, exploring the cutting-edge efforts being made to build a resilient water supply.

Building water infrastructure is a big job and let's give a round of applause to Senator Alex Padilla, who has been doing some heavy lifting to help us tackle these water challenges.

Thanks to his work on the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, Southern California is getting a massive boost—\$99 million, to be exact—for the Pure Water Southern California project, which will be the world's largest water recycling facility. This is going to recycle so much water, it's going to ensure that we squeeze every use out of every drop of water.

With Senator Padilla's forward-thinking approach, we're moving toward a future where our water is reliable and sustainable, even in the face of heat waves that melt ice cream cones in seconds flat.

So, keep cool, and enjoy this issue while we work on making sure your next glass of water is as reliable as your air conditioner was this past summer.

Sincerely

Charley Wilson is the executive director of the Southern California Water Coalition, a nonprofit, nonpartisan public education partnership dedicated to informing Southern Californians about our water needs and our state's water resources.



Water: An Investment for the Long Haul

Federally Funded Projects to Produce a More Resilient, Local Resource

By Kathleen Lund
Special Sections Writer

As Southern California faces a future of extremes – from soaring temperatures to flooding – water and legislative leaders say water resiliency will only be assured by a collaborative effort with a decades-long perspective, along with billions in infrastructure investment.

A recent \$159 million federal funding package in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law will go toward the development of large innovative projects, with a focus on purifying and recycling wastewater and turning it into a drinkable resource.

"The historic funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law must be a down payment to help us address the challenges before us, because more investment will be needed if we are going to deliver on our commitment to ensure water for all Californians," said U.S. Senator Alex Padilla, who along with other California federal legislators advocated for the funding.

Publisher Sean Fitzgerald
Editor Elizabeth Smilor
Art Director Rachel Maples
Contributors Charley Wilson
Kathleen Lund

CALIFORNIA WATER | SOUTHEAST LA
is an advertising supplement published by
[Civic Publications, Inc.](#) ©2024, owned
and operated by Chris Lancaster.

For comments or questions,
email Sean Fitzgerald at Sean@VoxCivic.com.



From left to right: Congresswoman Grace Napolitano, U.S. Senator Alex Padilla, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Commissioner Camille Calimlim Touton, LACSD Chief Engineer and General Manager Robert Ferrante, Metropolitan Board Chair Adán Ortega Jr., and LADWP CEO and Chief Engineer Janisse Quiñones.

Padilla was the keynote speaker at the 2024 Water Infrastructure Networking Summit in Orange County earlier this summer that brought together water industry leaders, water advocates, private entities, and elected officials from five Southern California counties — Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, and San Diego.

Charley Wilson, Executive Director and CEO of the Southern California Water Coalition, said the funding is a good start. "This is not a one-shot deal. It's a long-term investment...no different than the discussion about transportation and housing."

The funding comes from the newly established Large-Scale Water Recycling Program, funded through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, which provides \$450 million over five years to large water recycling projects in the West. The 2024 grants include just over \$99 million for Pure Water Southern California, a joint water recycling project of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (Metropolitan) and the Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts; \$30 million for Ventura Water Pure, a water reuse project by the city of Ventura; and \$30 million for a groundwater replenishment project by the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP).



Anatole Falagan
Assistant General Manager,
City of Long Beach Utilities Department

"Sen. Padilla has stepped up to really be a champion for water," said David Pedersen, President of WaterReuse California, part of a national association that advances the case for water recycling. He said state water interests represented for decades by the late Sen. Dianne Feinstein were immediately taken up by Padilla when Feinstein died last September. Padilla now chairs the Senate Environment and Public Works Subcommittee on Fisheries, Water, and Wildlife.

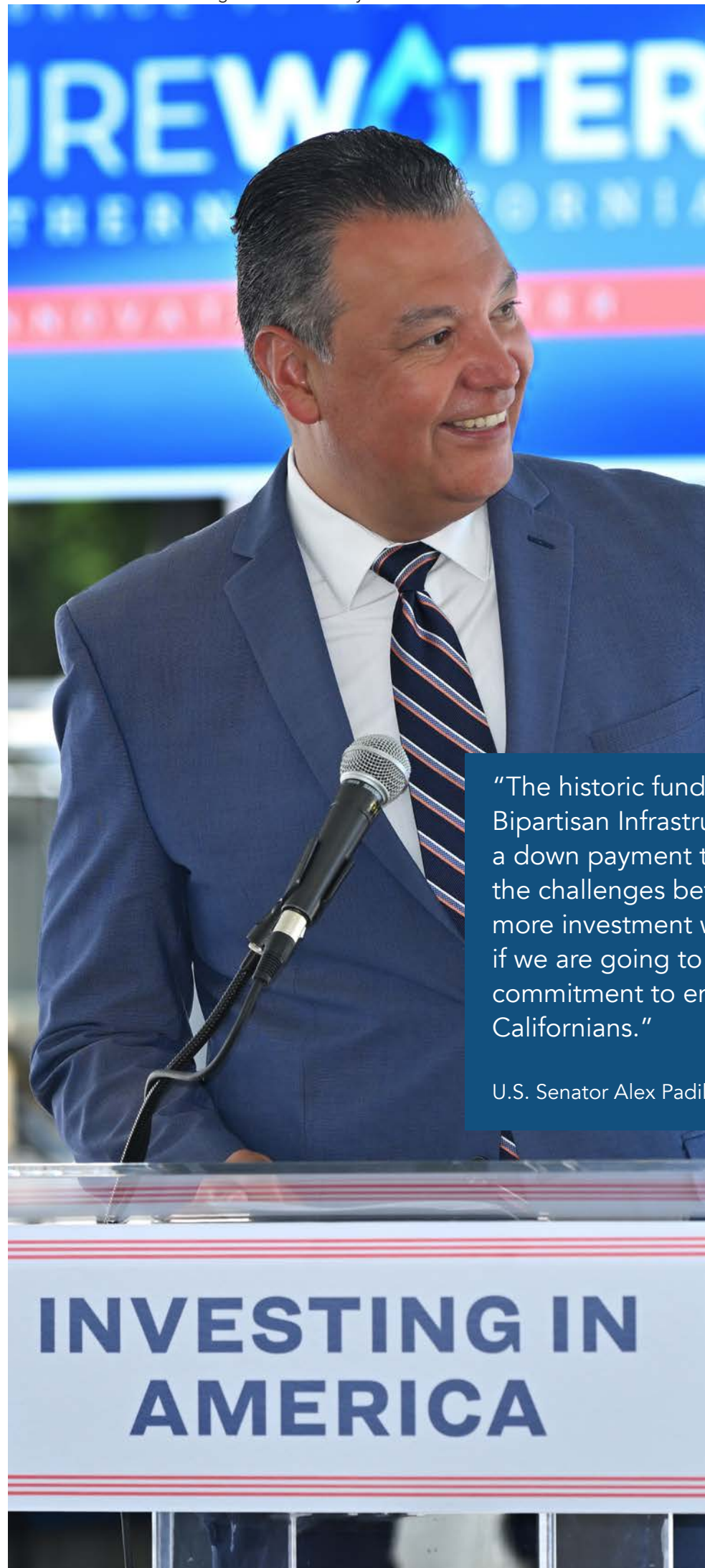
"California is one of the most water-challenged states, and water is critical to its economy and the well-being of its 40 million residents," said Pedersen, who is also General Manager of the Las Virgenes Municipal Water District in Calabasas. "We have been facing unprecedented climate change, and we have had to respond to challenges in a way we did not really prepare for."

These regional projects will create a local source of water, reducing Southern California's dependence on the Colorado River and snowmelt from Northern California via the State Water Project. The State Water Project is projected to lose up to 23% of its supply as a result of climate change over the next 20 years, according to a recent state Department of Water Resources report.

"Climate change poses a more volatile and uncertain future for imported water supply sources that Southern California relies on," said Assistant General Manager Anatole Falagan with the City of Long Beach Utilities Department. "By investing in local drought-proof sources of water – like

See Pure Water, page 4

"By investing in local drought-proof sources of water – like the Pure Water Southern California project – utility agencies can take a climate resilient approach for a more secure and reliable water supply for the region. Long Beach Utilities supports projects like Pure Water and other similar innovative water reuse projects to prepare communities for the challenges we face ahead."



“The historic funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law must be a down payment to help us address the challenges before us, because more investment will be needed if we are going to deliver on our commitment to ensure water for all Californians.”

U.S. Senator Alex Padilla

From Pure Water, page 3

the Pure Water Southern California project – utility agencies can take a climate resilient approach for a more secure and reliable water supply for the region. Long Beach Utilities supports projects like Pure Water and other similar innovative water reuse projects to prepare communities for the challenges we face ahead.”

When completed, Pure Water Southern California in Carson will be one of the largest such facilities in the world. At full-scale it will produce 150 million gallons of purified water per day from wastewater that currently flows into the Pacific Ocean -- enough to meet the water demands of 1.5 million people. Metropolitan Board Chair Adán Ortega Jr. said the \$99 million, which follows \$80 million in state funds granted in 2022, will help get the project to its “launching point.” Construction could begin as early as 2026, depending on negotiations with the federal government and his board’s recommendations at the end of 2025. The project is expected to cost about \$6 billion, with the first water delivered as early as 2032.

“Our agency knows water is too precious to use just once. Along with our partners, Los Angeles County Public Works and the Water Replenishment District, in the early 1960s, we pioneered groundwater replenishment and that steady supply of groundwater has been going on ever since and growing,” said LACSD Chief Engineer and General Manager Robert Ferrante.

Water purification and recycling is a key part of Gov. Gavin Newsom’s Water Supply Strategy, according to E. Joaquin Esquivel, chair of the State Water Resources Control Board. And it is just one of many strategies being pursued by various agencies in California, including cleanup of salty groundwater (the LADWP project mentioned earlier), stormwater capture, desalination and groundwater storage and management.

Another important aspect of the state’s plan is conservation. Water customer Jodi Regan of Agoura Hills said that when she and her husband, Bill, heard about the free irrigation system retrofit offered by the Las Virgenes Municipal Water District earlier this year, they saw participation as their civic duty.

“We do what we’re asked to do,” she said, explaining that a consultant came out and changed two sprinkler heads in their back yard and suggested a drip system for their back wall. “We are big believers in science and trying new things to see if they work. We all have to cut back. If I’m on a walk and I see someone’s sprinkler is shooting up, I knock on the door or leave a note.”

Ortega pointed out that in Mexico City, where water sources have been over-drafted, there have been daily water shortages. Water is delivered to giant cisterns at the homes of wealthier residents. To avoid that situation here, he said the public must be willing to invest in infrastructure over the long run.

“I believe that by recycling all the water we can, we will create an endless river,” he said. “We can do it with creativity. ... It’s going to cost money, but it will be worth it.” ○



Building a Better Water Future: Inside the Delta Conveyance Project

In the 21st episode of the Southern California Water Coalition’s *What Matters Water* TV and Podcast series, we dive deep into one of California’s most critical water infrastructure projects: The Delta Conveyance Project.

Join us as we talk with:



Graham Bradner,
Executive Director of the Delta Conveyance Design and Construction Authority



Carrie Buckman,
Delta Conveyance Program Manager at the California Department of Water Resources



David Sunding,
UC Berkeley Emeritus Professor

Tune in to discover:

- The benefits of the Delta Conveyance Project
- How it will improve water resilience
- Why it’s essential for California’s water future



Don’t miss this important discussion! **Watch or listen now** by scanning the QR code.



LONG BEACH: READY FOR A RECYCLED WATER FUTURE

As California faces ongoing water supply challenges, local municipalities like the City of Long Beach look to recycled water as a potential solution. While recycled water already serves a multitude of non-potable uses in Long Beach, we have yet to tap into its viability as a lasting supply of potable water. For Long Beach to best prepare for a recycled water future to meet the needs of its growing 460,000-resident population, it requires the community's full understanding of what recycled water is, what it is not, and the embracing of recycled water's possibilities to create a climate-resilient future.

Expanding Recycled Water's Impact

Since the 1990s, Long Beach demonstrated that our community could thrive using less potable water and has discovered more applications for recycled water or also known as "purple pipe" water. For instance, 30 years ago only one city park was irrigated with recycled water. Today the city's recycled water system irrigates over 15 city parks and supports several large-scale operations in the construction industry, used for power plant cooling towers, and is a source to create seawater barriers for protecting our local groundwater supplies. Water efficiency and conservation have truly become a way of life in our city.

To begin, Long Beach's "purple pipe" water is produced by treating wastewater from the cities of Long Beach, Lakewood, Cerritos, and Hawaiian Gardens at the Long Beach Water Reclamation Plant. This facility, while found in the City of Long Beach, is owned and operated by the Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts (LACSD). The facility is designed to receive and treat up to 25 million gallons of wastewater per day, which is enough to replace 100% of imported potable water that currently supports local oil operations off the coast of Long Beach.

While the Long Beach Water Reclamation Plant and the "purple pipe" water have been well-received by the community, its applications are currently limited to irrigation and industrial uses. Over time, we have also seen less and less wastewater as the community embraces water conservation. The good news is "purple pipe" water is no longer the only game in town when it comes to recycled water in Long Beach.



Advent of Advanced Treated Recycled Water

In Long Beach, approximately 55% of the city's potable water is sourced by local groundwater. As we extract groundwater, that water must be replenished to support the health of our local underground aquifers. To achieve a new source of potable water for replenishment, Long Beach Utilities relies on advancements in water treatment technologies, hydraulic modeling, and updated state regulations.

Advanced treated recycled water offers an incredible opportunity to "keep our water local;" converting local wastewater to replenish local groundwater supplies—which then can later be extracted as drinking water—allows Long Beach to supply the community with water in the same way we have done over the last 100 years. In 2024, Long Beach Utilities recently kicked off its Groundwater Augmentation Study, a project aimed to identify how recycled water resources can be used to replenish the groundwater basins. Using recycled water for groundwater augmentation allows the City to sustainably use the resources that we draw from, thus creating a path toward climate-resiliency.

New state regulations now allow water that is produced through an advanced water treatment process to be used for direct and indirect potable reuse, i.e. drinking water, showers, toilets, and additional essential uses of water. New direct potable reuse regulations are also paving the way for even more advanced uses of recycled water in lieu of imported water. Long Beach Utilities strongly supports efforts by the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts, and City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power to regionally treat wastewater at scale and re-distribute that water as future sources of drinking water.

Building the Foundation for a Resilient Future

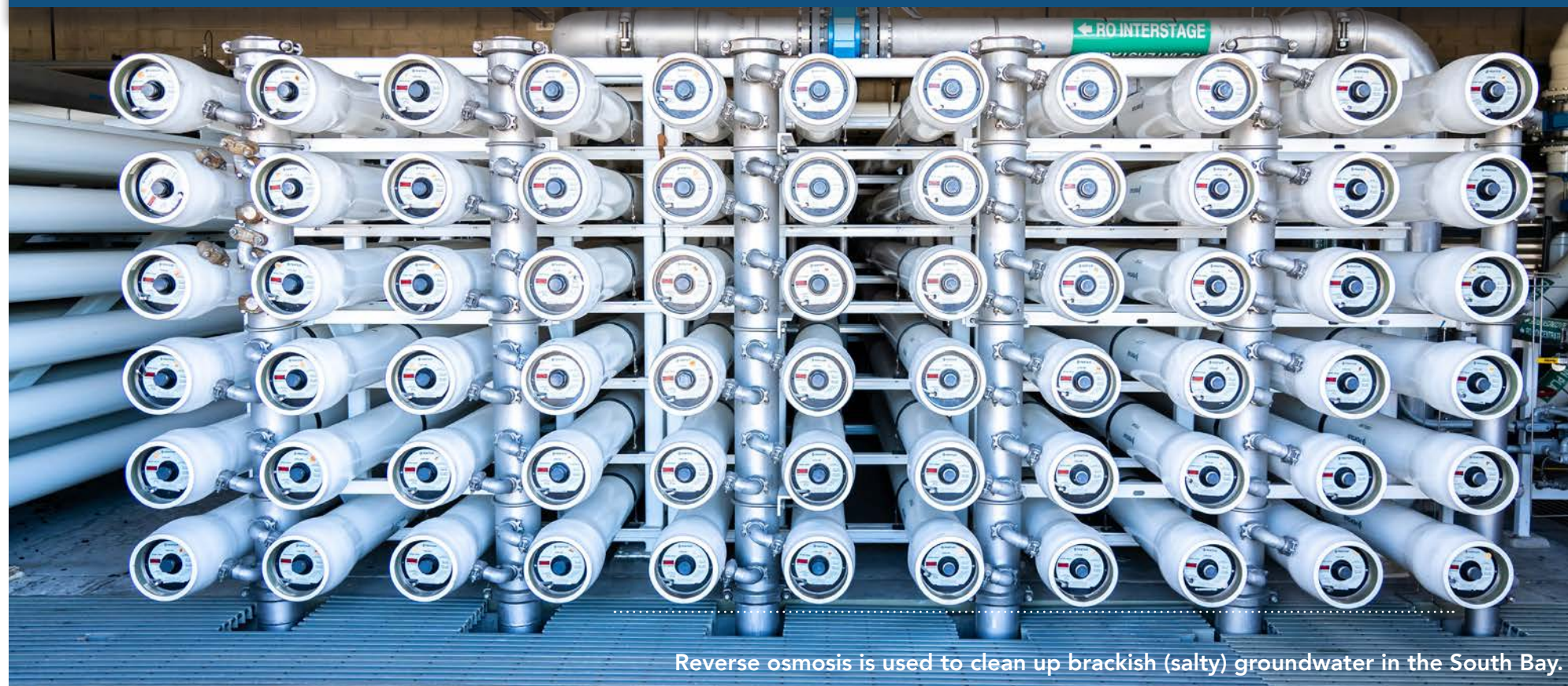
While there are many challenges that come from managing decreased recycled water supplies with increasing demands, maintaining aging infrastructure, and striving to provide recycled water to areas of the city that do not currently have access to this resource, Long Beach Utilities is up to the task. In 2026, Long Beach Utilities will update its current Recycled Water Master Plan: a roadmap of projects, programs, and partnerships ushering us to a new era of recycled water.

For years to come, Long Beach Utilities will continue to safely integrate recycled water into the city's overall water management strategy with the belief that all water, including wastewater, can be used again, and again, and again. ○

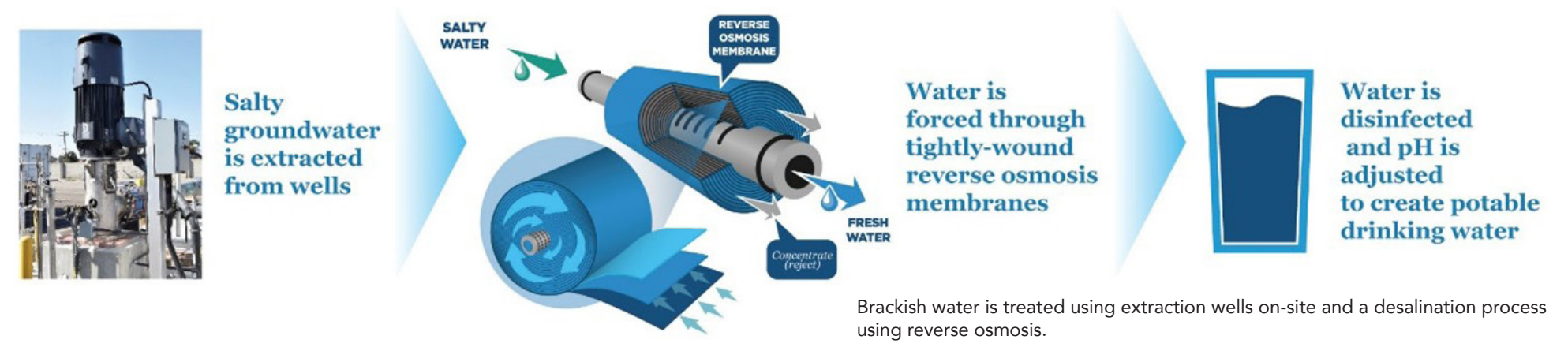
To learn more about Long Beach Utilities, please visit LBUtilities.org.



TURNING CHALLENGES INTO OPPORTUNITIES



Reverse osmosis is used to clean up brackish (salty) groundwater in the South Bay.



Brackish water is treated using extraction wells on-site and a desalination process using reverse osmosis.

WRD's Brackish Groundwater Reclamation Program & the Torrance Groundwater Desalter Expansion Project

Southern Los Angeles County is home to the Water Replenishment District (WRD), a critical groundwater management agency overseeing a 420-square-mile service area. The 43 cities in the service area rely heavily on WRD, which manages the Central and West Coast Groundwater Basins which provide nearly half of the drinking water for nearly four million people. With groundwater pumping rights established decades ago allowing more groundwater extraction than natural replenishment, WRD has embarked on numerous projects to ensure the sustainability of this precious resource.

State-of-the-Art Facilities for Water Replenishment

WRD's infrastructure includes the Albert Robles Center for Water Recycling & Environmental Learning located in Pico Rivera, which purifies 14.8 million gallons of water daily, enhancing drought resilience and providing a sustainable local water supply. In Long Beach, the Leo J. Vander Lans Advanced Water Treatment Facility, with its 8 million gallons per day capacity, addresses seawater intrusion and supplements groundwater replenishment. Additionally, the Groundwater Desalter in Torrance uses reverse osmosis to treat up to 5 million gallons of brackish (salty) groundwater daily, supplying 25% of the city's water needs.

Addressing the Brackish Water Challenge



The 14-square-mile saline plume located under the South Bay is the result of the over-extraction of groundwater in the early 1900s. This caused seawater to intrude into the groundwater basin where it mixed with freshwater; making that groundwater too salty to be used.

WRD's Brackish Groundwater Reclamation Program (BGRP) aims to transform this challenge into an opportunity. By cleaning up the salty groundwater, WRD creates a new and sustainable drinking water supply and enhances groundwater use and storage capacity for freshwater. This initiative is crucial for regional water independence and sustainability.

Significant Support and Opportunities

In June 2024, WRD received a \$25 million grant from the United States Bureau of Reclamation for the Torrance Groundwater Desalter Expansion (TGDE) project. This investment is a testament to WRD's support from environmental groups, local public agencies, and the federal government as part of its strategy to protect the local groundwater basins. This project marks a significant milestone in WRD's efforts to ensure a sustainable and resilient groundwater supply for the region that will allow full use of groundwater pumping rights, decrease the need for imported water, and provide more storage space for freshwater supplies.

Key to the BGRP is the expansion of the Torrance Groundwater Desalter facility. Currently, the Torrance Groundwater Desalter facility can treat up to 5 million gallons of brackish water per day using reverse osmosis. The expansion project, designed to clean up the southern portion of the 14-square-mile plume, will nearly double the facility's capacity, creating almost 2 billion gallons of drinking water annually.

In April 2024, WRD awarded the design and construction contract for the TGDE to a McCarthy-Jacobs Joint Venture. This progressive design-build project will expedite the schedule and foster close collaboration between WRD and the construction teams. Meanwhile, a pilot unit testing treatment technologies is already operational and providing critical data for the expansion's design.



An early rendering of what the expanded Torrance Groundwater Desalter may look like. The expanded facility will include additional pretreatment and reverse osmosis as well as automated strainers to protect the reverse osmosis systems.

The Process of Groundwater Desalination

WRD uses the cutting-edge technology of reverse osmosis to cleanup salty groundwater. To do so, WRD pumps up brackish groundwater, pressurizes the water, then forces it through reverse osmosis membranes which removes salts and cleans water at the molecular level. The water is then disinfected and its pH is adjusted to produce fresh drinking water. Groundwater desalination through reverse osmosis differs from ocean desalination because brackish groundwater is significantly less salty than ocean water. Therefore, groundwater desalination uses less energy, has inland underground intakes, and produces less brine. This makes WRD's project unique, environmentally sound, and supported by local environmental groups.

A Vision for Sustainable Water Management

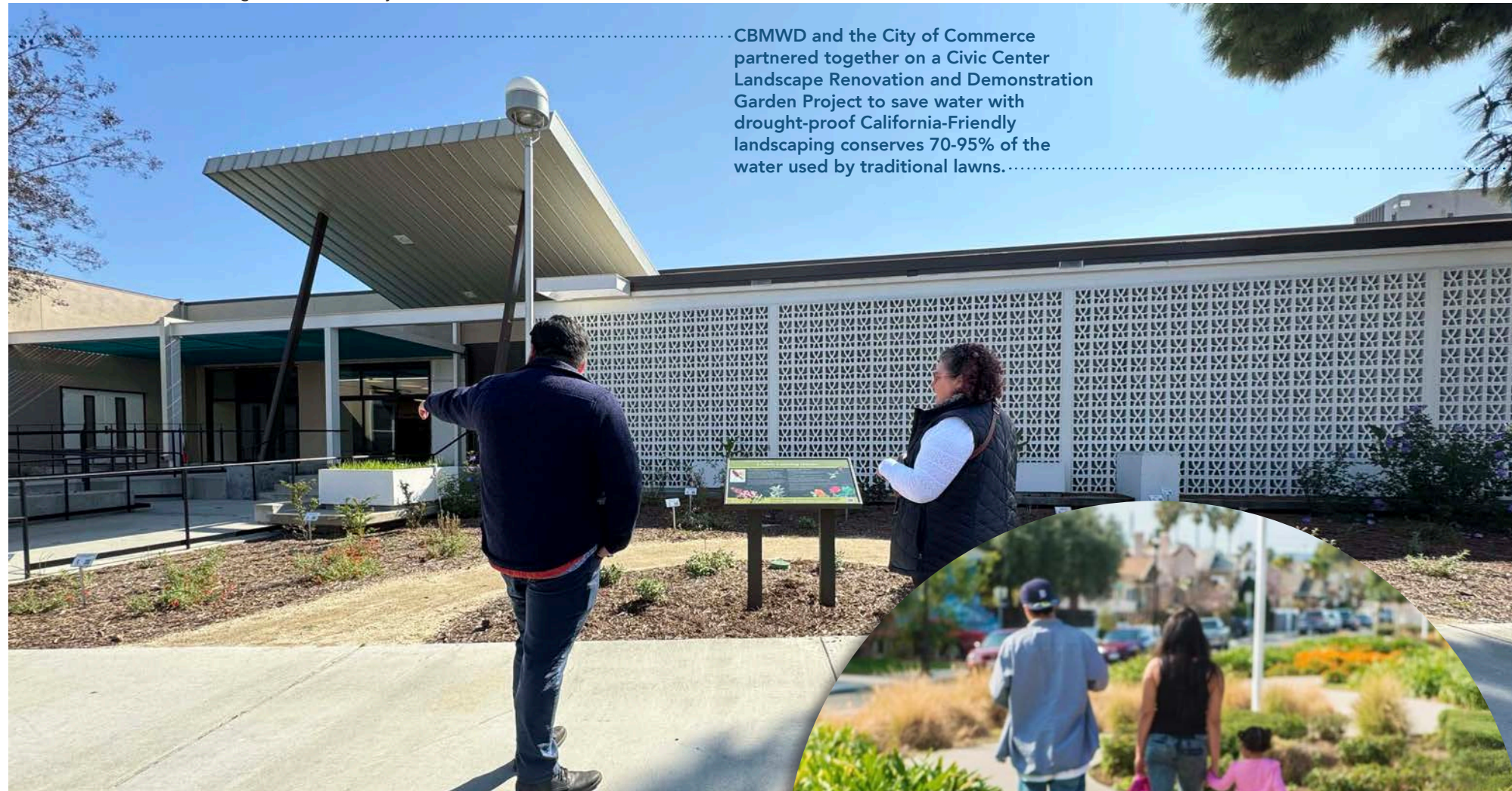
WRD's innovative initiatives, particularly the Brackish Groundwater Reclamation Program and the Torrance Groundwater Desalter Expansion project, exemplify forward-thinking water management strategies essential for southern Los Angeles County. By harnessing advanced technology and collaborative approaches, WRD is addressing current water challenges and paving the way for a sustainable and resilient water future for millions of residents. To learn more about the Brackish Groundwater Reclamation Program, visit the website at www.wrd.org/brackish-groundwater-reclamation-program or scan the QR code. ○



Instagram Facebook YouTube @WRDsocal

4040 Paramount Blvd. Lakewood, CA 90712

www.WRD.org



CBMWD and the City of Commerce partnered together on a Civic Center Landscape Renovation and Demonstration Garden Project to save water with drought-proof California-Friendly landscaping conserves 70-95% of the water used by traditional lawns.

California's recent climate has vividly illustrated the state's extreme variability, newly coined "climate whiplash" or "weather whiplash." Between Water Years 2020 and 2022, California endured its three driest years on record, followed by an exceptionally wet and snowy Water Year 2023. Luckily, water utilities, with their long history of being experts at adapting to California's water scarcity issues and growing population pressures, are well-equipped to handle such challenges. Central Basin Municipal Water District (CBMWD) is a prime example of this.

CBMWD was founded in 1952 to mitigate the over-pumping of underground water resources in the region. In 1954, CBMWD began its partnership with Metropolitan Water District (MWD) as a Member Agency to wholesale imported water from the Colorado River Aqueduct and the State Water Project to curtail the use of diminishing groundwater supplies. Today, CBMWD serves nearly 2 million residents across its 227-square-mile service area, which includes various cities and retail water agencies.

Embracing the One Water Concept

CBMWD is committed to innovative water management, embodying the One Water concept promoted by MWD. This holistic approach to water management prioritizes efficiency, innovation, and equity while fostering adaptive management and collaborative solutions.



In 2015, CBMWD took a pivotal step to diversify its water portfolio by launching its recycled water program. Utilizing recycled water for non-potable uses such as landscape irrigation, agriculture, parks, schools, golf courses, and industrial applications is critical for conserving precious drinking water while providing a reliable, drought-resistant water source.

The recycled water supplied by CBMWD is produced by the Los Angeles County Sanitation District (LACSD). LACSD adheres to stringent federal and state regulations to ensure the recycled water meets all public health and safety guidelines. Currently, CBMWD operates approximately 90 miles of recycled

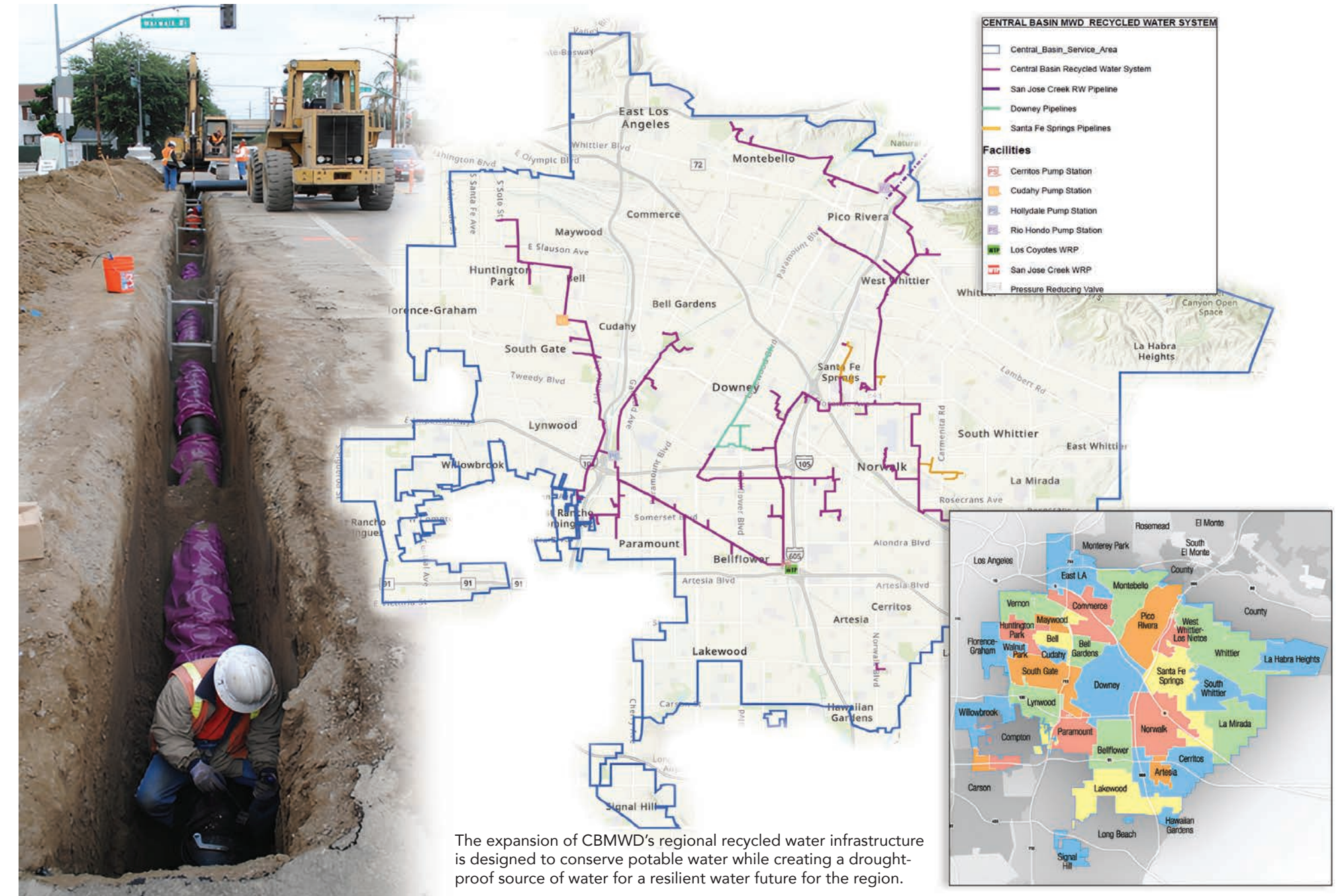
water pipeline and serves nearly 400 recycled water customers. In fiscal year 2023-24, CBMWD successfully offset 3,200 acre-feet of potable water with recycled water—a testament to the collaborative efforts with water retailers, LACSD, the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, and its dedicated customers, all of whom share CBMWD's vision for a resilient water future.

A Vision for the Future

Looking ahead, CBMWD's Capital Improvement Plan consists of three key recycled water projects. More specifically, it includes upgrading the oldest pump station in Pico Rivera, constructing a new pump station to support a residential development in Montebello, and implementing a \$1.55 million grant project from the Department of Water Resources to connect 11 public sites in disadvantaged communities. These projects are expected to increase the demand for recycled water by 350 acre-feet annually. CBMWD also offers conservation programs to water agencies and cities within its service area, including turf replacement projects, water-efficiency retrofits, and innovative technology for testing

water meters for efficiency. Through its partnership with MWD, CBMWD provides a variety of conservation rebate programs for residents, businesses, and public agencies. For more information on conservation programs or new recycled water projects, visit the CBMWD's website at www.centralbasin.org.

CBMWD has been providing reliable, high-quality water and service for over 70 years. The agency remains committed to innovative approaches to water management locally and regionally to meet challenges from climate change. ○



The expansion of CBMWD's regional recycled water infrastructure is designed to conserve potable water while creating a drought-proof source of water for a resilient water future for the region.

The Los Angeles County Water Plan: Securing Our Water Future

Los Angeles County faces a complex web of challenges in ensuring a sustainable and reliable water future for its diverse and growing population. From managing groundwater quality to ensuring equitable access to clean drinking water, the stakes are high, and the solutions require an integrated approach. [The Los Angeles County Water Plan](#) (CWP) is at the heart of this effort, bringing together nearly 200 water management agencies, nonprofits, and other key stakeholders in a collaborative strategy designed to tackle the most pressing water issues head-on.

Through coordinated efforts and shared responsibility, the Los Angeles region is leading the way in creating a resilient water system that benefits every community, from urban centers to the most rural and vulnerable neighborhoods.

Strengthening Regional Water Supply Reliability

Los Angeles County's water supply has long depended on imported sources like the Colorado River and the Sierra Nevada. Exacerbating challenges to find solutions for a sustainable regional water supply, the County and over 200 water agencies in the region grapple with a complex water crisis driven by climate change and shifting weather patterns. Prolonged droughts interspersed with intense rainfall are threatening water supply reliability and emphasizing the need for long-term, coordinated planning. This "new normal" underscores the urgent need to enhance the countywide water infrastructure and management strategies.



Progress is evident through various initiatives by water agencies throughout the county, including benchmark potable reuse projects aimed at boosting the drinking water supply with Pure Water So Cal and Pure Water Los Angeles, and the Safe, Clean Water Program, which funds 137 stormwater projects and counting to enhance water quality, improve water supply, and provide community benefits.

Why It's Important: Diversifying and localizing water sources helps reduce reliance on external supplies, which can be unreliable or restricted due to environmental or political factors. By developing local resources such as recycled water, stormwater capture systems, and enhanced groundwater recharge, we aim to create a more resilient water system that can better withstand the test of climate change.

Protecting Vital Groundwater Resources

The region's groundwater basins are essential for maintaining a reliable water supply, especially during drought conditions. These underground reservoirs help meet the region's water needs year-round by storing and providing local water. As climate change leads to less frequent and more intense periods of rainfall, capturing and storing stormwater in these basins becomes crucial for overcoming water supply challenges.

However, the capacity of these groundwater basins is often limited by factors like over-extraction, water quality issues, sea level rise, and increasing operational costs. Impaired groundwater requires additional purification to become usable, and many small water systems and disadvantaged communities simply lack the resources to take on this effort.

Regional collaboration among the more than 200 water-related agencies in Los Angeles County is key to addressing shared challenges and maximizing groundwater potential. By pooling resources and expertise, water managers can better utilize existing infrastructure to treat and deliver groundwater where it is most needed.



Why It's Important: A coordinated approach helps build a more resilient water system, reducing reliance on imported water and ensuring more communities have access to reliable, high-quality drinking water.



Protecting groundwater quality is equally crucial to prevent contamination from pollutants and chemicals, which can have severe health implications and diminish the usability of this water source. Proper management and protection of groundwater means that residents can trust their water sources to be safe and reliable. By investing in groundwater recharge and pollution control measures, we can collectively ensure that this essential resource remains abundant and clean, supporting public health.

Ensuring an Equitable Water Future for All Communities



In Los Angeles County, the vision of an equitable water future is one where every person and community enjoys equal access to, safe, clean, reliable, and affordable water. With so many water suppliers in the region, each faces unique challenges, but the need for reliable, high-quality water is universal. Small water systems, often serving underserved or vulnerable populations, face challenges and not everyone has equal access to reliable water services.

We are taking decisive steps to address these challenges in a collaborative effort to ensure that no community is left behind. A key focus of this initiative is supporting at-risk communities and small water systems that struggle with aging infrastructure, limited funding, and in some cases, a sole reliance on a single water source.

The county has set ambitious targets to ensure water equity. These include eliminating at-risk water systems, particularly in disadvantaged areas, and ensuring every small water system has access to alternative water sources during emergencies.

Why It's Important: In Los Angeles County, an equitable water future means more than just access - it means safe, clean, reliable, and affordable water for everyone, especially those in the most vulnerable communities. Bolstering the resilience of small water systems and

addressing disparities in water access supports public health and social equity by reducing disparities between communities and ensuring that everyone benefits from high-quality water services.

Watershed Sediment Management: Protecting Water Sources

Los Angeles County's reservoirs are facing significant challenges due to excessive debris and sediment accumulation. This buildup reduces the reservoirs' capacity to store water, impacting the flood protection system's effectiveness and potentially increasing risk to our downstream communities. Debris like fallen trees, dirt, and boulders occupy valuable water storage space, and impair the flood protection system's ability to manage severe storm runoff.

The problem has worsened with recent winter storms, leaving an estimated 15 million cubic yards of sediment in the County's 14 reservoirs. Removing this sediment is crucial for improving flood protection and increasing water storage capacity. Nearly five million cubic yards of sediment and debris were removed between 2019 and mid-2024. The county aims to clear all 15 million cubic yards by 2038. This task requires significant resources, with costs estimated between \$500 and \$710 million.



Why It's Important: Sediment buildup can affect water quality, reduce reservoir storage capacity, and lead to increased maintenance costs. By proactively managing sediment-related issues, the CWP helps maintain the overall health of water sources, which benefits residents by ensuring flood protection, cleaner water, reducing maintenance costs, and supporting the long-term functionality of local water systems.

Looking Ahead

As Los Angeles County continues to grow and face evolving challenges, the County Water Plan provides a regional path forward to navigate these complexities. Water agencies across the county are adopting the County Water Plan, and we are already working hand in hand with our partners to advance these critical initiatives. As the County Water Plan unfolds, residents and communities all across the region can look forward to a future where water resources are managed wisely, ensuring that safe, clean, reliable water remains available for generations to come.○



Delivering High Quality Drinking Water for a Healthy, Active Los Angeles!

When It Comes to Saving Water, Angelenos are Conservation Heroes!

216

Hydration stations installed/refurbished around the city

Over 25,000

Water quality samples taken to ensure all primary drinking water standards are met

144B

Gallons of treated, drinking water supplied annually

\$1B

Annual investments in water capital projects

33%

Less water per person per year used in last 15 years

30+

Years of mandatory water conservation

55.2M

Square feet of turf replaced

3.9M+

High-efficiency water devices provided or rebated since 2015



FIVE-TIME COLLISION AWARDS WINNER!



The Southern California Water Coalition's video "*Protecting Every Source: Southern California's Water Story*" has taken the industry by storm, winning FIVE prestigious Collision Awards! Our video, created in partnership with the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, proudly earned Gold for Art Direction & Motion Design and Silver in Marketing & Communications, Non-Profit, and Sustainability & Environment categories.

Explore how we protect and sustain every source of Southern California's water through innovation, collaboration, and dedication to a thriving future.



Catch the award-winning video and see the story come to life!

