CALIFORNIA

WATER

VENTURA/ NORTH LA COUNTY **2024**

Las Virgenes MWD
Bringing Water Full Circle

Los Angeles County
Securing Reliability

SCV Water
Banking for the Future

LADWP
Delivering High Quality H20

U.S. Senator
Alex Padilla

SCAN FOR DIGITAL EDITION

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SCWC

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

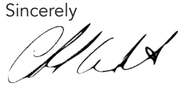
Extreme temperatures and prolonged droughts have become the new normal. Our water supplies are feeling the pinch and it's becoming crystal clear that we need innovative solutions to secure our water future. That's what this issue of California Water dives into, exploring the cutting-edge efforts being 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.

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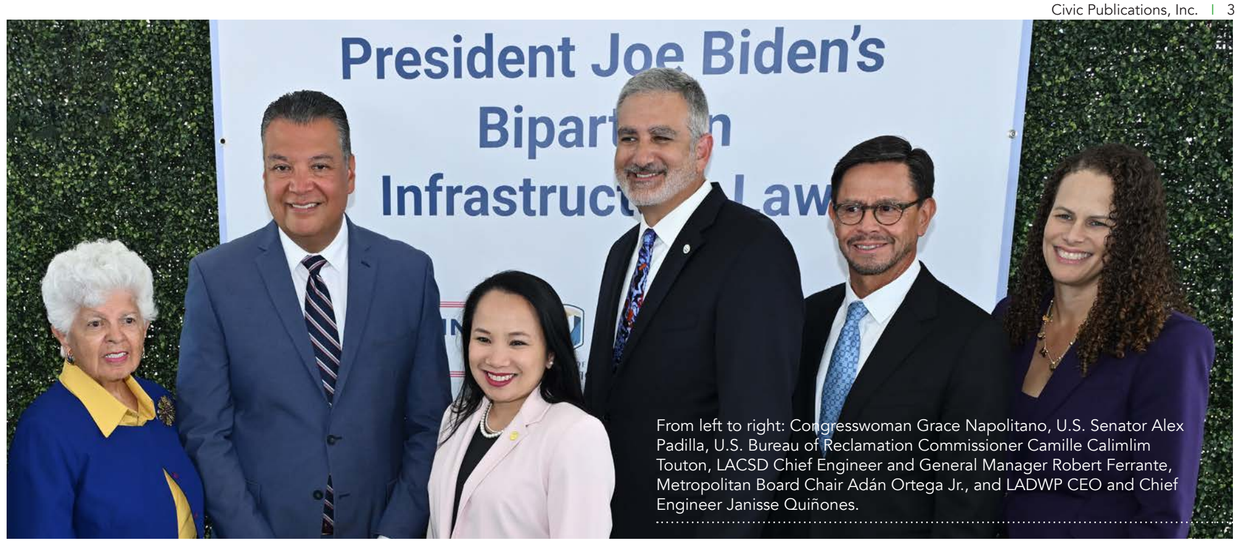


From left to right: Congresswoman Grace Napolitano, U.S. Senator Alex Padilla, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Commissioner Camille Calimlim Touton, LACSD Chief Engineer and General Manager Robert Ferrante, Metropolitan Board Chair Adán Ortega Jr., and LADWP CEO and Chief Engineer Janisse Quiñones.

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).

"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."

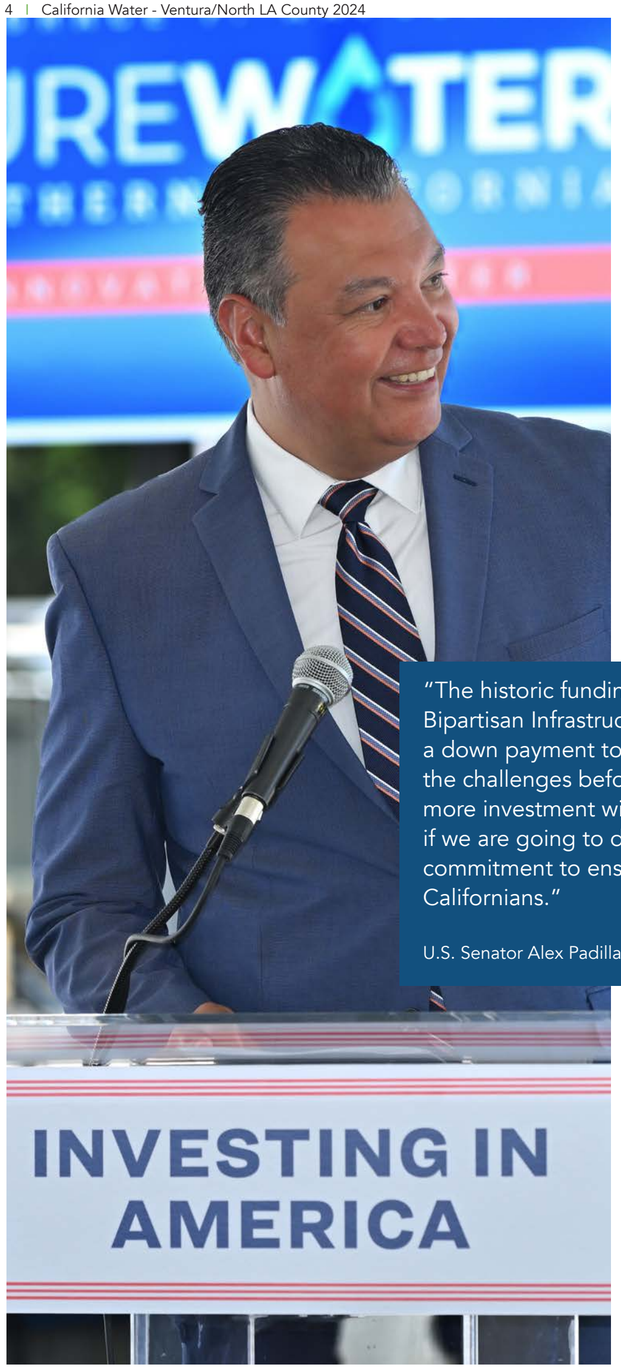
These regional projects will create a local source of water, reducing Southern California's dependence on the Colorado River and snowmelt from Northern California via the State Water Project. The State Water Project is projected to lose up to 23% of its supply as a result of climate change over the next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

David Pedersen
General Manager,
Las Virgenes Municipal Water District

"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. We have been facing unprecedented climate change, and we have had to respond to challenges in a way we did not really prepare for."



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.

> "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

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." ❍

DIVERSIFYING WATER SUPPLY:

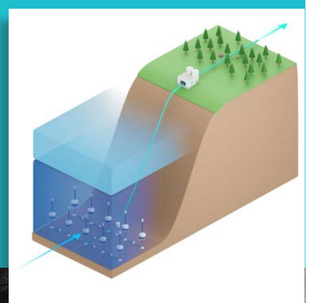
Innovations and Strategies for a Sustainable Future

In the face of growing challenges caused by climate variability, a diversified water supply portfolio is crucial for improving resiliency and sustainability for any region. The Las Virgenes – Triunfo Joint Powers Authority (JPA) – comprised of Las Virgenes Municipal Water District (LVMWD) & Triunfo Water & Sanitation District (TWSD) – is hard at work to achieve this through both innovation and strategic partnerships.

The JPA exemplifies this approach through their partnership with the Natural OceanWell Company (OceanWell) in the development of their groundbreaking Blue Water Farm. This technology offers a novel solution to freshwater production by harnessing the power of hydrostatic pressure to drive reverse osmosis. This approach reduces electricity consumption drastically compared to traditional desalination methods and minimizes environmental impacts.

Recently receiving a grant of $236,877 from the Bureau of Reclamation's (BOR) "Pitch to Pilot" program, this environment first initiative is just one part of LVMWD's sustainability efforts where "human progression meets environmental integrity." The BOR grant funding will support the transition of this technology from laboratory experiments to real-world applications. A pilot deployment in Las Virgenes Reservoir will provide the opportunity to validate the system's performance over extended periods before scaling up to ocean-based implementations.

The collaboration with OceanWell is a testament to the promising opportunities possible through public-private partnerships and could potentially provide up to 15% of LVMWD's drinking water supply.



Pure Water Project Las Virgenes – Triunfo

The future of water is upon us. Just like mother nature has done for billions of years through the hydrologic cycle, the Pure Water process simply uses the natural blueprint to recycle used water through an expedited process to create a safe, healthy, and reliable local water source. This Indirect Potable Reuse (IPR) option for water agencies that are either dependent upon imported water or do not have access to a groundwater supply provides resiliency to customers and businesses in the face of climate change impacts and other natural disasters.

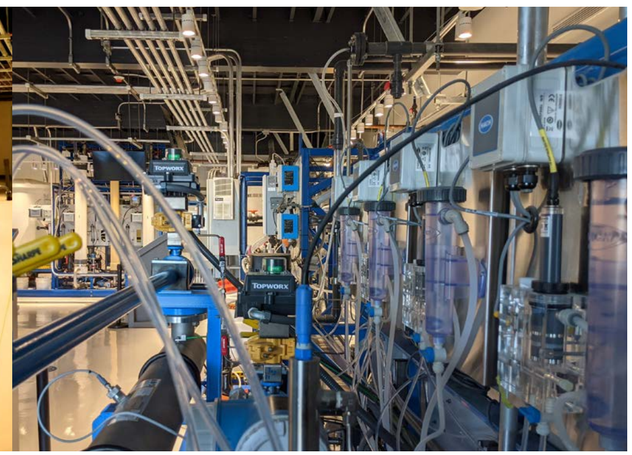
Now entering the implementation phase, the JPA is making significant strides with the Pure Water Project (PWP). Following Board approval of the Programmatic Environmental Impact Report (PEIR), the JPA embarked on a thorough selection process for a firm to execute the progressive design-build of the full-scale Advanced Water Purification Facility (AWPF). A team comprised of Walsh Engineering, Brown and Caldwell, and Carollo Engineers was determined as the best comprehensive team to deliver the project, and planning toward a 2026 groundbreaking is now underway.

The JPA continues to make strides toward funding the PWP, thanks in part to a $42.5 million agreement with the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD). The agreement reflects MWD's ongoing commitment to supporting local water sustainability projects through its Local Resources Program (LRP), which incentivizes innovations in water recycling, groundwater recovery, and seawater desalination. This investment is pivotal for the operation of the AWPF, scheduled to go online by 2028 and source up to 30% of the region's water supply locally, enhancing resilience against climate variability and drought. The JPA has also secured a $10 million grant from the Bureau of Reclamation and is in the process of securing other grants and low-interest loans that total more than $300 million.

Enhancing Conservation Initiatives

Perhaps the most vital partnership is between LVMWD and our customers through conservation initiatives that build wide-spread water usage efficiency. This will always remain a top priority. LVMWD customers, during the last historic drought, achieved more than a 30% reduction in water usage compared to 2020, and remains at more than a 25% reduction today. To continue that efficiency momentum, the District launched the full-scale Irrigation Efficiency Retrofit Program in August 2024.

The District initially tested the program as a pilot in December 2023, and the overwhelmingly positive response from customers prompted the Board to approve an additional $250,000 in funding to expand the program and serve more residents & businesses.



The program offers residential customers up to $1,500 for efficient irrigation system upgrades, including smart controllers, while commercial clients can benefit from up to $3,000 for various eligible enhancements. These upgrades not only promote water conservation but also align with LVMWD's broader goal of incentivizing customers to transform landscapes or upgrade their irrigation systems.

Additionally, LVMWD initiated the Advanced Meter Project in December 2022, with the accompanying WaterSmart Portal. The portal offers a comprehensive suite of online tools to help customers manage their water use 24/7 in near real time, set budgets, and receive alerts for leaks or high consumption. This proactive approach not only helps in identifying and addressing issues promptly but also contributes to reducing overall water consumption and the need to use vehicles to manually read meters – reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

By providing these essential tools, education, and incentives, LVMWD fosters a collaborative approach where both the organization and our customers work together to ensure sustainable water use and long-term reliability.

Ultimately, embodying the principle of "One Water" recognizes the interconnectedness of all water sources and emphasizes a holistic strategy of water supply management. By closing the sustainability loop and continuously innovating, LVMWD and the JPA strive to enhance water reliability for our customers and secure a resilient water future.

Through these collaborative efforts, LVMWD and the JPA – supported through significant partnerships with local and regional agencies – are taking a forward-thinking approach to addressing water supply challenges. Through technological advancements, strategic funding, and community engagement, these initiatives pave the way for a more sustainable and resilient water system, benefiting both current and future generations in a cost effective and environmentally sensitive manner. ❍

LAS VIRGENES MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT

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. ❍

SCV WATER

Leading the Charge for Resilient Water Management

Aerial view of SCV Water's E. G. "Jerry" Gladbach Water Treatment Plant in Santa Clarita.

SCV Water Background

SCV Water is a regional water agency about 35 miles north of Los Angeles, serving nearly 300,000 people in the Santa Clarita Valley.SCV Water's supply portfolio includes imported water supplies, such as the State Water Project (SWP) and banked water, as well as local supplies like groundwater and recycled water.

The community's average annual demands are about 70,000 acre-feet per year, and these demands are met using a combination of imported and local supplies. However, SWP supply availability is highly dependent on precipitation and snowpack in Northern California, reducing the availability of imported water during drought years.

To account for water availability challenges, SCV Water has proactively developed a robust water supply portfolio. This includes investment in programs like groundwater banking, local groundwater sustainability, recycled water, water purchases, exchanges, and other programs of Statewide significance, like Sites Reservoir and the Delta Conveyance Project. All of which are designed to increase the resiliency and reliability of our community's water supplies.

Partnership for Resiliency

SCV Water maintains dry-year reserves through partnerships with two existing groundwater banking programs in Kern County: The Semitropic Stored Water Recovery Unit Banking Program (SWRU) and the Rosedale-Rio Bravo Water Storage District (RRBWSD) Banking Program.

These banking programs, combined with other water purchases and exchanges, allow SCV Water to store surplus SWP water in wet years, which is then available to draw on in dry years. The benefit of these programs was particularly critical during the dry conditions in 2020-2022, when banking and exchange storage accounted for up to 41% of total demand.

Semitropic Banking Program

Semitropic has developed a groundwater banking program that takes available SWP supplies in wet years and returns the water in dry years. To return water in dry years, Semitropic can either leave its SWP water in the aqueduct for delivery to a banking partner and increase its groundwater production for local farmers, or pump groundwater from banked storage into a Semitropic canal, through reverse pumping plants, to the California Aqueduct.

In 2015, SCV Water entered into an agreement with Semitropic to store and recover water within a 15,000 AF storage account, in addition to a previously grandfathered stored supply of 35,970 AF. SCV Water increased its storage by more than 14,000 AF between 2017 and 2023. During the drought years from 2020-2022, a total of 15,000 AF was withdrawn, leaving more than 35,000 AF banked within this program at the end of 2023.

Semitropic Water Storage District facilities in Wasco, in Kern County.

Rosedale-Rio Bravo Banking Program

Adjacent to the Kern Water Bank, RRBWSD offers another strategic water banking partnership. Since 2005, SCV Water has maximized its storage capacity in this program, reaching 100,000 acre-feet by 2012. Withdrawals totaling 4,782 acre-feet from the water bank occurred in 2014 and 2015. Additional storage opportunities in 2016 brought the storage account back to the maximum storage capacity of 100,000 AF.

Withdrawals totaling 41,582 acre-feet were needed in 2020-2022, leaving stored supplies at 58,800 AF at the start of 2023. In 2023, the combination of a high State Water Project allocation from record-breaking snowpack and low demands, which occurred due to continued conservation, regulations, and above-normal precipitation, allowed SCV Water to switch from recovery to recharge and maximize replenishment of dry year reserves. Working with its partner, SCV Water was able to recharge its RRBWSD Banking account by 17,480 AF, leaving the total in the bank at 76,280 AF at the end of 2023.

Enhancing Local Supplies with the Pinetree Groundwater Recharge Project

In addition to working with regional groundwater banking partners, a recent feasibility study concluded in January 2024 that explored groundwater recharge opportunities within the local groundwater basin. The study collected geologic site-specific information and tested recharge capacity at potential locations within SCV Water's service area. This project also aims to store water locally for use during dry years. The completed high-level feasibility study identified a site on the east end of the local groundwater basin that is capable of recharging 10,000 AF per year.

Following the completion of the feasibility study, the project is now transitioning into the Planning and Design phase. This phase will include engineering analysis, water quality characterization, development of permitting strategies, stakeholder engagement, easement/land acquisition analysis, additional modeling, and cost estimation. All with the goal of developing a viable cost-effective project that enhances the local groundwater basin's long-term sustainability. ❍

A few key benefits of implementing a local groundwater recharge program include:

- **Increasing the resiliency, reliability, and sustainability of local groundwater supplies to better tolerate climate change and drought conditions.**
- **Alleviating some of the operational and economic pressure of importing supplies during drought years.**
- **Providing an additional location for SCV Water to store available surplus supplies.**
- **Providing a local resource available for use during emergencies, including earthquakes impacting the State's water system.**

Water pumps at the Rosedale-Rio Bravo Water Storage District.

Amidst the challenges posed by climate and drought, SCV Water is continuing to evaluate and invest in a diverse water supply portfolio, demonstrating its ongoing commitment to innovative water management solutions.

For more information about these and other SCV Water programs, please visit yourSCVwater.com.

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

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

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

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

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IEUA Director Appointed as Alternate to Colorado River Board

IEUA Director and Metropolitan Vice Chair Michael Camacho, second from right, is sworn in as an Alternate Board Member to the Colorado River Board by (from left): Jim Madaffer, San Diego County Water Authority Board Director and Colorado River Board Vice Chairman; JB Hamby, Imperial Irrigation District Vice Chairman and Colorado River Board Chairman; and Gloria Cordero, Metropolitan Water District Board Director and Colorado River Board Director.

Inland Empire Utilities Agency (IEUA) Director and Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (Metropolitan) Vice Chair Michael Camacho has been appointed as an Alternate Board Member to the Colorado River Board (CRB) of California under Gov. Gavin Newsom, giving the fast-growing region a voice in critical discussions that shape the future of water supply resiliency. Camacho joins Metropolitan's current CRB representative Gloria Cordero from Long Beach Utilities.

"While my role on IEUA's Board calls for a comprehensive focus to challenges and opportunities within IEUA's service area specifically, my position on Metropolitan's Board calls for a broader approach to water supply challenges across Southern California," Camacho said. "This appointment requires me to combine my experience from both positions to make informed decisions to advance California's long term water supply strategy through effective collaboration with our western state partners."

Metropolitan Board Chair Adán Ortega Jr. shared, "I recommended Vice Chair Camacho as Metropolitan's alternate on the CRB because he has the knowledge, skills, and expertise to support and carry forward the CRB's mission to protect California's rights and access to the critical water resources provided by the Colorado River."

Michael Camacho
IEUA Director
Metropolitan Vice Chair

"It is important to me that our water management strategies align with broader regional goals that contribute to sustainable, reliable water solutions for future generations."

While IEUA does not currently utilize Colorado River supplies, many communities and agricultural areas rely on this resource for their water. Limited or restricted access to this supply inadvertently affects agencies and residents connected to State Water Project water, as that water will then need to be allocated to sustain those affected by the reduced Colorado River access.

"Vice Chair Camacho's role on the CRB combined with his role as a Vice Chair of our board will enhance our efforts to address water supply challenges across the West through continuous, well-informed management of the Colorado River. His leadership will support decision-making on strategic investments in infrastructure to implement innovative solutions," said Chair Ortega.

"During my time on the Board, I will work collaboratively to address the challenges and opportunities of the Colorado River to ensure that IEUA and Southern California can continue to provide critical resources to maintain the health of our communities," Camacho said. ❍

Inland Empire Utilities Agency
A MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT

The Inland Empire Utilities Agency (IEUA/Agency) is an innovative, forward-thinking Agency serving 242-square miles in western San Bernardino County. The Agency is committed to supporting the needs of its service area and safeguarding public health through its significant investments in developing a diversified water supply portfolio, developing reliable municipal/industrial wastewater collection and treatment services, and other related utility services in a regionally planned and cost-effective manner. IEUA's mission ensures long-term success for the region and its customer agencies which include Chino, Chino Hills, Cucamonga Valley Water District, Fontana, Fontana Water Company, Montclair, Monte Vista Water District, Ontario, San Antonio Water Company, Upland, and West Valley Water District.

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.

Collision Awards

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