

CALIFORNIA

WATER

INLAND EMPIRE 2024

PLANNING FOR

Water

RESILIENCY

ON THE COVER
East Valley Water District's
Sterling Natural Resource Center

Inland Empire Utilities Agency:
Building for the Future

San Bernardino Valley Water District:
Celebrating the Past Looking to the Future

Eastern Municipal Water District:
Balancing Growth and Affordability

Western Municipal Water District:
Innovating and Collaborating Towards Sustainability



SCAN FOR
DIGITAL EDITION

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Redefining What's Possible

In the golden hues of Southern California's spring months, a quiet revolution stirs. Amidst the bustling metropolis and sunny beaches, the tide is turning on one of our most enduring challenges: the quest for a sustainable water supply. It's a shift that comes laden with hurdles – the balancing of stakeholder interests, the complexity of new technology, the labyrinth of financial models, and the tapestry of policies that underpin our vital water infrastructure.



But here, where innovation is as plentiful as palm trees, we're redefining what's possible. It's a place where ingenuity and tenacity are woven into the very fabric of our communities, driving us to come together for a cause that touches every life.

Charley Wilson This issue of *California Water Magazine* opens a window to the extraordinary water initiatives unfurling across our region. We're unveiling strategies that breathe new life into our groundwater reserves, pioneering recycling technologies that turn today's waste into tomorrow's water, and deploying advanced systems that make every drop count.

But this is more than a showcase of progress. It's a call to re-envision water – not as an endless commodity, but as the heartbeat of our state. Each initiative invites us to ponder the water flowing from our taps, the resilience of our lands, and the heritage we hope to bequeath to future generations.

Our pages celebrate the trailblazers of the Inland Empire and beyond – visionaries ensuring that California's light shines as a beacon of holistic water sustainability and ingenuity.

So let's raise our glasses (of sustainably sourced water) to these champions. Join us in a toast to their vision, their achievements, and the shared journey ahead.

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.



Investments Keep Water Affordable

By Elizabeth Smilor
Special Sections Writer

Collaboration on Many Projects is Necessary

In Southern California, ensuring a resilient and sustainable water supply means making strategic investments across a spectrum of projects, from state infrastructure for water conveyance to innovative recycling and conservation efforts.

"Our communities thrive on the backbone of public infrastructure. To meet our critical needs, it's essential to support projects that ensure a resilient future for our water supply," said Executive Director Charley Wilson of the Southern California Water Coalition, a nonprofit, nonpartisan public education partnership.

The water sector is perpetually bustling with essential projects that, while often overlooked amid more immediate concerns, carry significant economic implications. Negotiations are underway on the Colorado River usage agreement between seven states and dozens of Tribal Nations. Environmental impact reports have been released and certified for the Delta Conveyance Project and Sites Reservoir, both big projects along the State Water Project (SWP) that delivers water from Northern California. The increased snowfall in the Sierra Mountains is a welcome boost to Southern California's water allocation from the SWP, coming after years of drought. In parallel, major recycling initiatives and local supply improvements are in the works, coupled with development of statewide conservation standards that will shape our daily water use.

State Water Project is Most Cost-Effective Water Source

Despite the critical role of new initiatives in bolstering local water supplies, one fact remains clear: the SWP stands out as a highly affordable and cost-efficient water source for California. This was highlighted in a December 2023 study by the California Department of Water Resources and the Berkeley Research Group. When benchmarked

against other water sourcing methods like desalination, water recycling, stormwater capture, and conservation, the SWP's offerings are not only less costly but also scalable to meet larger demands, the research indicates.

The SWP is integral to California, supplying water to 27 million people and 750,000 acres of irrigated farmland. Its economic impact is so substantial that if its service area were a nation, it would rank as the world's eighth-largest economy. This affordable water source is particularly crucial for one in three people living in disadvantaged communities.

"The State Water Project's clean, reliable, and affordable water supply will be vital to adapting our economy to the impacts of climate change," said Department of Water Resources Director Karla Nemeth. "California's disadvantaged communities are particularly vulnerable and State Water Project water will be essential to preserve human health and safety."

As one of the 27 State Water Contractors, San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District delivers SWP water to retail agencies and for regional groundwater replenishment.

"Our Governing Board recently took action, along-side the San Geronio Pass Water Agency, to support the next steps in the Delta Conveyance Project," said San Bernardino Valley General Manager Heather Dyer. "A project that will restore the reliability of this key statewide infrastructure."

Local Projects are Vital in Diversifying Supplies

Local water managers are investigating and investing in a wide array of projects and improvements, statewide and regionally. Agencies also work together to develop infrastructure and help customers conserve.

"While the winter storms over the last two years have alleviated drought pressures, the challenges we've faced over the past few years shed light on the importance and value of increasing production capacity," said Inland Empire Utilities Agency (IEUA) General Manager Shivaji Deshmukh. "The Agency continues to prioritize supporting and developing innovative, collaborative partnerships with local and regional agencies to strengthen long-term water supply needs."

Like many agencies, IEUA offers a variety of conservation rebates and incentives, many in partnership with Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. "It is critically important that, as a community, we continue to exercise waterwise practices to help support long-term water supply needs," said Deshmukh.

IEUA is improving its own facilities to better serve the rapidly growing region. The expansion of Regional Water Recycling Plant No. 5 will raise its treatment capacity by 38%. IEUA also is a partner in the Chino Basin Program, a series of innovative water treatment and storage projects that will provide an additional 15,000 acre-feet of advanced treated, purified recycled water in the Chino Groundwater Basin each year.

"We are continuously implementing sustainability measures to preserve our water resources, including developing programs that will increase resiliency such as the Chino Basin Program, investing in water infrastructure to increase our treatment capabilities, and implementing water-use efficiency programs," Deshmukh said.



"The water that comes from the SWP has to be protected. This is your cleanest, most affordable supply of water. We can't let all of our infrastructure get dilapidated. It's 60 years old and it's time to reinvest."

Jennifer Pierre
General Manager, State Water Contractors

San Bernardino Valley's vision for the future is a diverse, equitable, and resilient water supply and healthy watershed for future generations, said Dyer.

"We benefit today from the innovation and investments of the past, and together we can identify and implement solutions for the challenges we face," she said. "We live in an interconnected ecosystem where success requires the dynamic consideration of the many factors within the system to ensure a holistically healthy watershed, a goal we cannot accomplish alone."

Together with local and regional partners, San Bernardino Valley is constructing the Santa Ana River Enhanced Recharge Phase 1-B Project. This regional effort, based on long-term partnership among Western Municipal Water District, Riverside Public Utilities, San Bernardino Valley Water Conservation District, and San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District, increases the region's ability to capture stormwater during wet periods to store in the local groundwater basin for future use.

"Collaborative projects such as this highlight the ability to make a complex project a reality that will benefit this region for generations to come," said Dyer. "In every project and program that we prioritize at

San Bernardino Valley, we strive to provide cost-effective solutions that optimize operational efficiencies and maximize benefits from taxpayer and ratepayer investments.

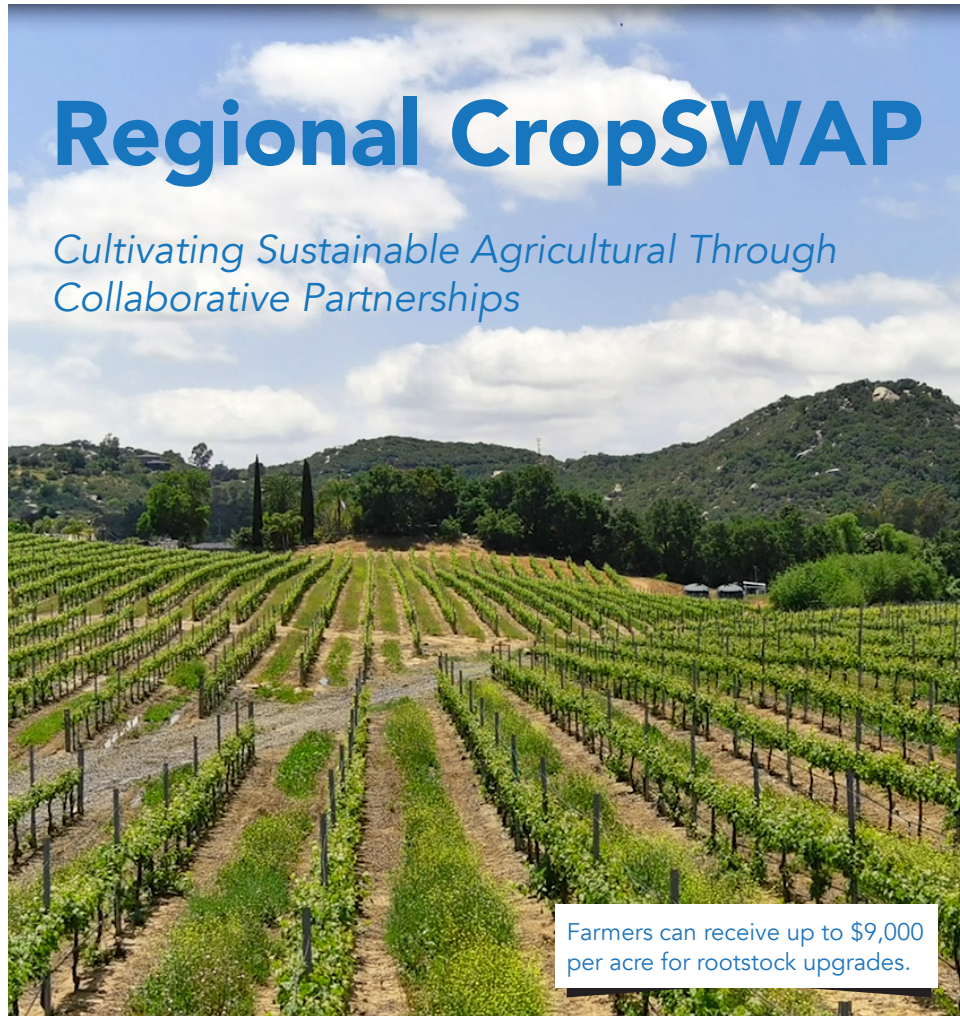
"Looking at the long-term needs, 50 and 100 years in the future, we need to continue taking steps toward proactively managing our diverse water supply portfolio, climate resilience, proactive risk management, and water supply infrastructure projects."

Projects, partnerships and careful planning are needed, water industry leaders say, to keep water safe, reliable and affordable. ○

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

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Farmers can receive up to \$9,000 per acre for rootstock upgrades.

Shepherded by the Rancho California Water District (Rancho Water) and expanded through collaboration with neighboring water agencies, the Regional CropSWAP program empowers farmers to reshape their practices, steering toward a more sustainable future.

Supporting Agricultural Sustainability

Designed to help maximize agricultural efficiency and mitigate the rising costs of imported water supplies, this initiative aims to fortify agricultural sustainability by providing crucial support to farmers. Financial incentives provided through the program are significant, with rebates reaching up to \$22,500 per acre for projects involving conversion to lower water use crops, irrigation system upgrades, and implementation of best management practices. With the support from federal, state, and local agencies, coupled with funding contributions from regional partners and a substantial \$5 million grant from the California Department of Water Resources (DWR), the CropSWAP program is poised for regional expansion, which aims to welcome farmers from neighboring counties, further amplifying the program's reach and impact.

CropSWAP Concept & History

CropSWAP began in 2016 as a response to severe drought conditions and a struggling local agricultural economy. Initially implemented by Rancho Water, the program paid agricultural water users to replace high-water-use crops with lower-water-use varieties, improving water use efficiency, and bolstering the resiliency of local farms. With the infusion of additional resources, the program aims to extend its impact across a larger geographic area, supporting more farmers and promoting more sustainable practices.

The Future of CropSWAP - Regional Expansion

The expanded program not only provides financial incentives for comprehensive crop upgrades but also supports a variety of sustainable agricultural practices, including irrigation equipment upgrades, soil moisture sensors, remote valve control automation, and other regenerative agricultural best management practices such as nutrient management, mulching, and cover crops. Agencies that are partnering with Rancho Water for the expansion include Fallbrook Public Utility District, Rainbow Municipal Water District, the city of Oceanside, and Valley Center Municipal District. Farmers actively involved in agricultural production within the program's designated project area and customers of partner agencies are eligible to participate.

In a drought-prone region prioritizing water conservation and agricultural sustainability, CropSWAP stands as a beacon of transformative change. By participating in this program, farmers not only secure vital support but also contribute to the resilience and prosperity of regional agriculture. The vision is clear – to build a resilient agricultural sector that benefits both farmers and the environment.

Discover more about how the CropSWAP program is shaping the future of sustainable water for agricultural production at RegionalCropSWAP.com



CropSWAP sign stands at a property that has been converted.

Avocado rootstock is one of the available upgrades.

A CropSWAP property in Temecula with new growth.

A CropSWAP farm in Temecula that was converted from avocado to wine grapes.



San Bernardino Valley Water Conservation District

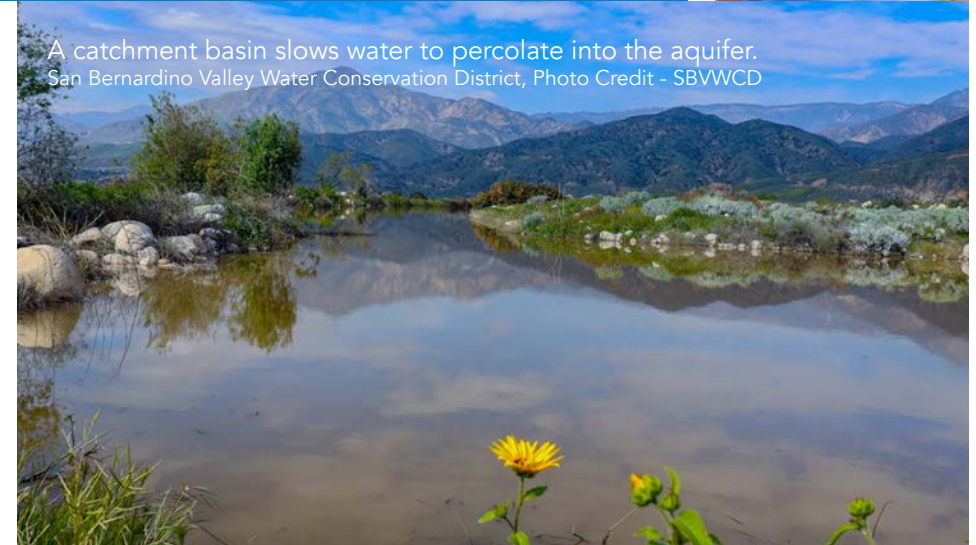
"The power of partnerships is a cornerstone of the district's legacy to protect the natural processes of the Santa Ana River Wash ecosystem,"

Betsy Miller Vixie
General Manager, SBVWCD



A Collaborative Approach to Conserving Water and Habitat in the Upper Santa Ana River Wash

As one of California's oldest groundwater replenishment agencies, the San Bernardino Valley Water Conservation District has conserved more than 459.5 billion gallons of water by diverting the natural flow of the Santa Ana River and Mill Creek into 71 percolation basins that recharge our local aquifer. Since 1912, the district has been combining fiscal stewardship with sustainability to proactively recharge water and improve water supply for the benefit of residents, local businesses, and native flora and fauna in San Bernardino County.



A catchment basin slows water to percolate into the aquifer. San Bernardino Valley Water Conservation District, Photo Credit - SBVWCD

Record-Breaking Water Capture

Thanks to unprecedented levels of winter rain and snow melt in 2023, the San Bernardino Valley Water Conservation District surpassed its highest water recharge record of all time, netting 87,914 acre-feet (AF) of water, or 28.6 billion gallons. This impressive achievement includes local stormflows as well as 15,513 AF imported from the State Water Project. According to data going back to 1912, this is the best yield for the district's history. The high precipitation levels continued into 2024; the February groundwater recharge totals were enough to handle the indoor use needs of 117,000 San Bernardino County residents for a year. Completed at the cost of \$98,000, that is less than \$1 per, person per year.



Water is diverted for recharge into the Bunker Hill Basin San Bernardino Valley Water Conservation District, Photo Credit - SBVWCD

Collaboration – Core Value

"The power of partnerships is a cornerstone of the district's legacy to protect the natural processes of the Santa Ana River Wash ecosystem," says Betsy Miller Vixie, General Manager of the San Bernardino Valley Water Conservation District.

In celebration of collaborative efforts, in 2023 the district hosted U.S. Department of the Interior Secretary Deb Haaland and Congressman Pete Aguilar (D-CA-33) to highlight work to make the Inland Empire more resilient to deadly wildfires as part of the Biden Administration's Investing in America agenda. Secretary Haaland and Rep. Aguilar announced more than \$800,000 from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to support the San Bernardino Valley Community Wildfire Risk Reduction project.

Protecting Endangered Species and Habitat

The San Bernardino Valley Water Conservation District is proud of our Upper Santa Ana River Wash Habitat Conservation Plan which established the Santa Ana River Wash Preserve with 1,660 acres of native natural habitat to protect rare, threatened, and endangered species. This multi-benefit project safeguards the endangered San Bernardino kangaroo rat, endangered slender-horned spineflower, and endangered Santa Ana River woolly star while streamlining permits for critical infrastructure and local economic activities.

For 115+ years, the San Bernardino Valley Water Conservation District has been stewarding the Upper Santa Ana River Wash and the aquifer beneath it. Their commitment to partnerships that span generations has been crucial to ensuring that the water supply and the environment it depends upon will be forever protected and available for the community's use. sbvwcd.org

Celebrating 75 Years of Innovation

Chino Basin Water Conservation District Storing Water for the Future

The Chino Basin Water Conservation District (CBWCD) was formed 75 years ago thanks in part to a group of innovative farmers who sought to secure a long-term supply of water for the region.

“The foresight that our founders had was incredible,” said CBWCD Board President Mark Ligtenberg. “The Chino Groundwater Basin is a critical asset to the sustainability of our region.”

CBWCD, formed in 1949 by a vote of residents, purchased gravel mines and re-engineered them to function as recharge basins along San Antonio Creek. They purchased farmland and dug brand-new basins along the San Antonio and West Cucamonga Creeks. When it rains, water flows into the percolation basins and sinks into the Chino Groundwater Basin, one of the largest aquifers in Southern California. Groundwater supplies make up about half the water used by the communities that CBWCD serves.

CBWCD serves 850,000 people living in Rancho Cucamonga, Montclair, Chino, Ontario, Upland, Chino Hills and Fontana. This focus on recharge allows the region to use the Chino Groundwater Basin as a kind of water piggy bank, storing water during wet years for use during dry years. California is unique in that it tends to have two or three wet years followed by several years of drought, so water capture and storage are a key part of the State’s infrastructure.

“We are already noticing that wet years are getting more dramatic and dry periods are getting longer due to climate change,” said CBWCD General Manager Elizabeth Willis. “It’s crucial that we continue to invest in water capture and storage so that our communities have a robust water supply.”

Like the founders of CBWCD, today’s industry leaders and area constituents are inventive, adaptable and determined to keep this region thriving, healthy and beautiful.

CBWCD Board of Directors



From left: Treasurer Gil Aldaco, Amanda Coker, President Mark Ligtenberg, Vice President Kati Parker, Dr. Hanif Gulmahamad, Teri Layton, Ryan Sonnenberg

Looking to the Future

CBWCD wants residents to get the most from every drop of water in every home, every business, and every neighborhood. One way to accomplish that is with waterwise gardens adapted to California’s sunny climate. It only takes one visit to the Waterwise Community Center in Montclair to see just how colorful and varied a drought-tolerant garden can be.

These beautiful gardens pack a big water savings punch, as about half the water used in the average home is actually used outdoors on traditional East Coast-style lawns.

“While important, five-minute showers only get us so far in water savings – we need to be looking outside,” says Board Vice President Kati Parker, “We need to look towards converting to waterwise landscaping and fixing leaky and inefficient irrigation systems.” California native and waterwise gardens use 1/3 of the water as compared to the average lawn and provide gorgeous habitat for local birds and butterflies.

The Waterwise Garden Planner website, compiled by horticultural and irrigation experts at CBWCD, is a definitive resource for people who are seeking inspiration to upgrade their landscape or are ready to pick out a look and hand it to a contractor. Eight unique design templates are available for different yard sizes. Choose from the lush meadow garden, a shady oak woodland, vibrant Mediterranean, or a modern succulent aesthetic, and more. <https://waterwisegardenplanner.org/>

CBWCD also offers in-person workshops as well as detailed “how-to” YouTube videos for DIYers. If you are seriously interested in how to do an irrigation or landscaping project in your garden, their popular long-form videos are the best way to learn how. <https://www.youtube.com/CBWCD>

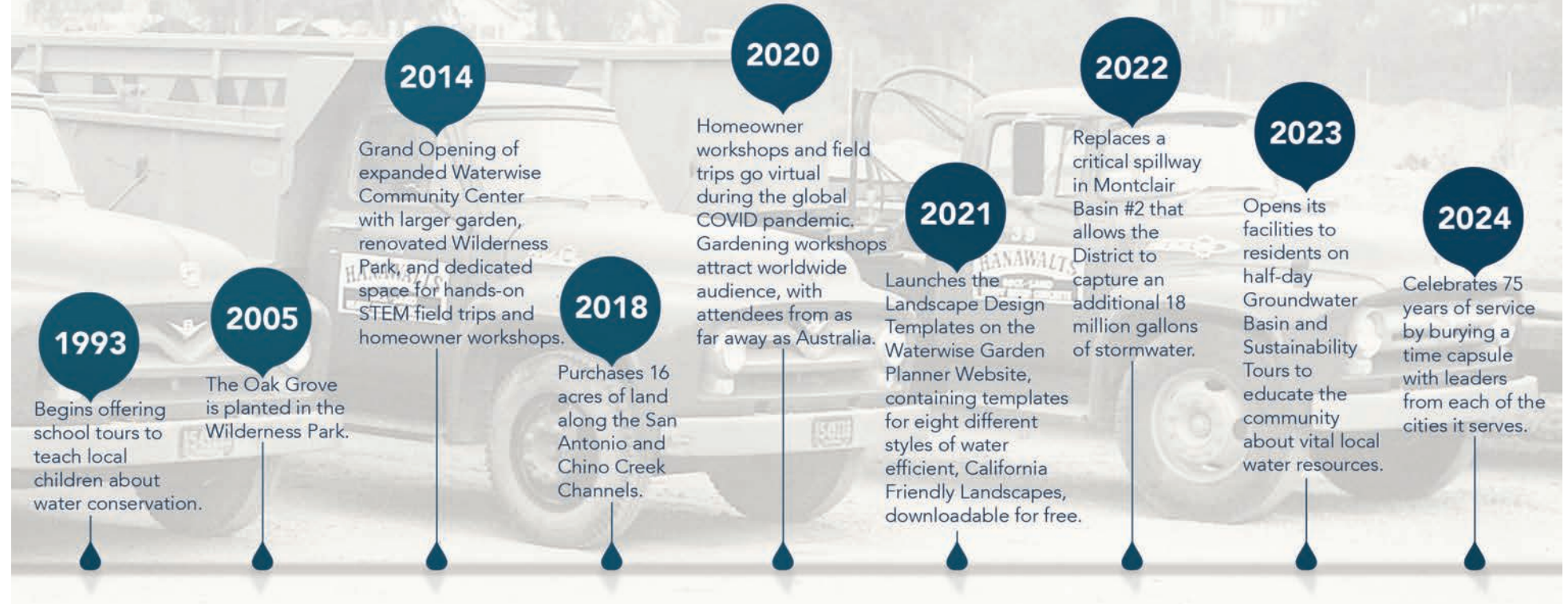
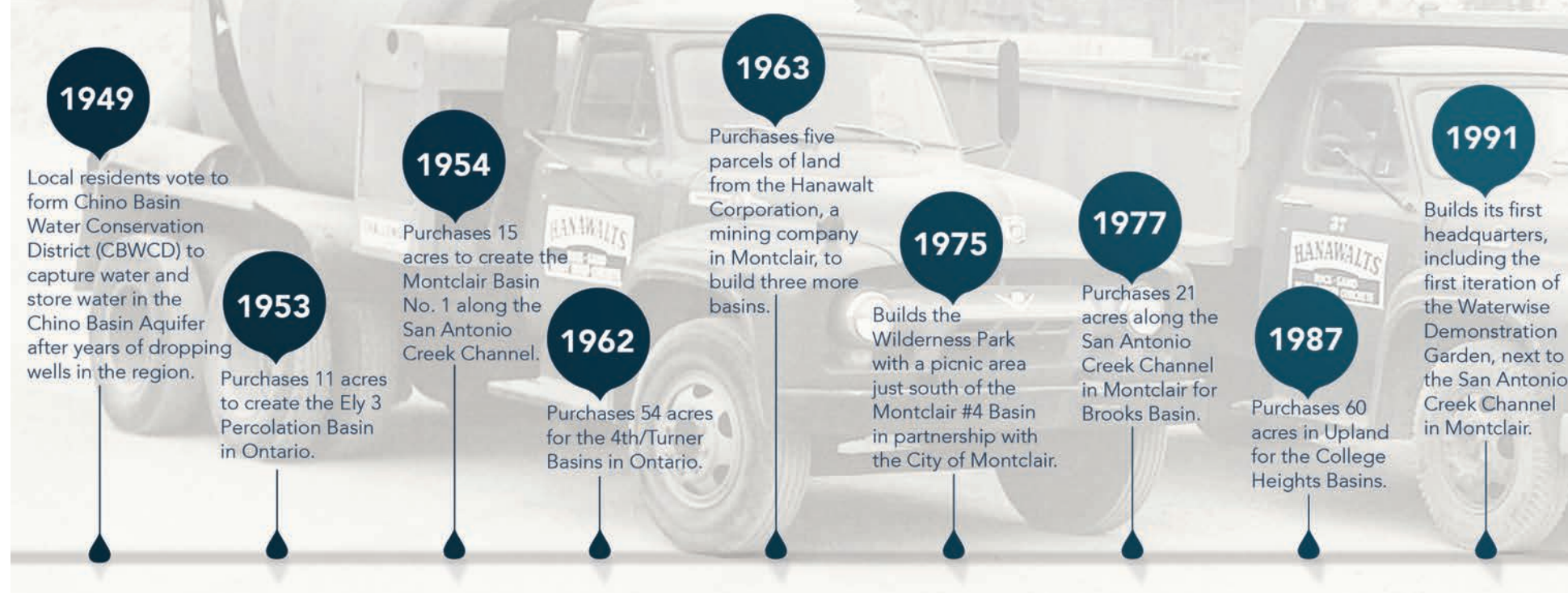
The District is also helping to advance industry knowledge through its California Native Landscaper Certificate program in partnership with Theodore Payne Foundation. CBWCD brought the program to the Inland Empire and educates practicing landscape designers, landscape



maintenance workers, and students entering the landscape industry about how to install and care for California Native landscapes.

Finally, CBWCD is educating the next generation on the importance of water conservation. During the school year, the District hosts local kids for hands-on STEM field trips focused on water, groundwater, and watershed science. Over 5,000 students participate every year.

Since its founding in 1949, the Chino Basin Water Conservation District has protected and replenished this region’s local groundwater through periods of rapid transformation. The District is excited to meet its current challenges and future challenges in the next 75 years. ○





Inland Empire Utilities Agency

Supporting the Needs of Its Service Area and Safeguarding Public Health

The Inland Empire Utilities Agency (IEUA/Agency) is a regional wastewater treatment agency and wholesale distributor of imported water throughout western San Bernardino County. The Agency is committed to supporting the needs of its service area and safeguarding public health through significant investments in a diverse water supply portfolio, reliable municipal/ industrial wastewater collection and treatment services, and other related utility services in a regionally planned and cost-effective manner.

Securing a Reliable Water Future Requires Working Together

Working together with customer agencies and the community is an integral component to ensuring the water system and resources are resilient and reliable. The Agency not only recognizes this notion but embodies collaborative environmental stewardship through an inclusive approach to protecting and preserving our resources.

“As responsible public servants to our 935,000 residents in our service area, IEUA remains committed to leading the way in water resource management and environmental sustainability,” said IEUA General Manager Shivaji Deshmukh, P.E. “But we cannot do this alone – it requires robust collaboration and vigilant communication to ensure we are all doing our part. IEUA will continue to make key investments in critical infrastructure that supports community health while continuing to work with customer and partner agencies and the community to maintain an efficient and reliable system.”

Over 50 years ago, IEUA and its regional partners identified that wastewater is not a waste; it is a resource. Today, IEUA is proud to recycle 100% of wastewater that enters the system, developing either recycled water or high-quality compost. Because wastewater is a precious resource, one of the Agency's priorities is to protect the significant infrastructure that conveys and treats wastewater.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Agency recognized that heightened awareness amongst the community was necessary to protect this resource.

Be Sewer Smart

The Be Sewer Smart initiative was launched, providing residents with a firsthand look at the destruction caused by disposing of fats, oils, and greases (FOG), non-flushable wipes, and other hygiene products marketed as “flushable” down the drain. The impact of FOG and wipes on the regional wastewater system can be catastrophic, resulting in costly infrastructure projects, or even worse – potential impacts to public health should these harmful products cause a sewer spill. IEUA's Be Sewer Smart campaign educates residents and businesses on the proper method of FOG disposal through the slogan ‘collect it, cool it, and can it!’ and reminds residents to check for the “do not flush” symbol on their wipes packaging through its ‘No Wipes in the Pipes’ messaging.

“This important campaign was recently acknowledged by the National Association of Clean Water Agencies for an Environmental Achievement Award. We are honored to be recognized and are proud of our ‘Be Sewer Smart’ campaign that has empowered our community to join

us in safeguarding the pipes in their homes, businesses, and throughout the entire system,” said Deshmukh. “As a community, we are collectively responsible for our future. It is all of our responsibility to protect our wastewater system, as it is not only critical for our public health, but also ensures we can maximize the benefit of this tremendous resource that supports regional resiliency.”

Building for the Future

Another key component of providing a safe and reliable water system is managing a complex infrastructure network of five regional wastewater treatment plants, and more than 270 miles of pipelines, as well as operating the Inland Empire Regional Composting Facility. Currently, the Agency receives approximately 50 million gallons per day (mgd) of wastewater; as the area continues to develop, this number is expected to increase. IEUA's service area is one of the fastest developing regions in California as it continues to transition from agriculture to distribution; this continued population growth prompts new investments required to maintain essential services.



“Foresight and appropriate planning of these necessary projects ensures that we can continue to provide essential services in a cost-effective manner,” said Deshmukh. “We take very seriously the responsibility we have to not only protect our resources, but also support our community's evolving needs. The RP-5 Expansion Project is just one of the many ways we continue to demonstrate our ability to maximize the development of local supplies as we look to support the growth of the region.”

One example is the Agency's efforts to expand treatment capacity at its Regional Water Recycling Plant No. 5 (RP-5). The RP-5 Expansion Project will increase capacity from 16.3 mgd to 22.5 mgd and will include infrastructure to treat an average flow of 30 mgd and a peak flow of 60 mgd. This project also includes the addition of a new solids handling facility. The RP-5 Expansion Project is the largest construction project the Agency has implemented, with a construction cost of approximately \$330 million.

While IEUA continues to make these critical investments in its recycled water program, which proves impactful in increasing water supply reliability, especially through recent periods of drought, it is not the only way the Agency is building a more resilient future.

“It is our goal to continue to support regional resiliency by increasing local supply reliability,” said Deshmukh. “In addition to the development of local supplies, we are also investing in creative projects that will allow us to capture and store stormwater during wetter months, providing increased storage capacity to pull from during drier months.”

Ultimately, regional resiliency requires regional collaboration and IEUA, while a key player in supporting the region's water supply, continues to lead and support partnerships that build a brighter water future. An example of this collaboration is IEUA's partnership in the Chino Basin Program (CBP), a unique water banking program that will support local resiliency while addressing the challenges posed by California's extreme weather fluctuations. Through this program, investments in new infrastructure such as an Advanced Water Purification Facility, will maximize unused regional recycled water supplies to create 15,000 acre-feet annually of purified water. The CBP also includes a series of other projects that will enhance storage capacity within the basin and facilitate conveyance of recycled water supplies.

“IEUA continues to work with partner agencies and community members to support projects and provide services that help to protect our environment, infrastructure, and essential resources,” said Deshmukh. “By working together, we can effectively plan for a sustainable future.”



BE SEWER SMART

Check out these quick tips to be sewer smart in your home!

If disposed improperly, fats, oils, & greases (FOG) can lead to sewer backups and household & city plumbing issues.

Remember to collect it in a heat safe container, cool it, and can it!

Can it be flushed?

- ✗ Wipes
- ✗ Napkins
- ✗ Tissues
- ✗ Paper Towels
- ✓ Toilet Paper

Look for this symbol

IEUA.ORG

Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, Twitter, LinkedIn icons and @IEUAWater



Victoria Recharge Basin

In an era where sustainability and collaboration are paramount, Western Municipal Water District (Western Water) is transforming its approach to water management across Riverside County and beyond.

“The tradition in the water industry has been to protect your castle and build walls around your kingdom,” said Western Water General Manager Craig Miller. “Today, we are breaking down the walls and building bridges. We build as a region instead of building a water supply in isolation. Building and sustaining reliable water supplies requires significant investment. To save our customers money, we must collaborate and share resources rather than reinvest in redundant resources.”

Since its inception in 1954, Western Water has been a reliable provider of water and wastewater services to an extensive region that serves nearly 1 million people, stretching from Corona to Temecula, encompassing cities such as Norco and Riverside and serving multiple water agencies.

Western Water was initially formed to import water to the region. Today, while continuing its original purpose, Western Water’s mission has expanded to advocate for a more resilient statewide system that supplies more than 50 percent of the area’s water. Western Water is also bolstering the local supply that accounts for more than 40 percent of its demands.

“We have evolved to be water warriors for the region, where wise investments and continuous innovation take center stage,” said Western Water Board President Mike Gardner. “For instance, we pioneered Southern California’s first groundwater desalter several decades ago, a decision that continues to yield dividends for our valued customers today.”

Western Water also developed the Combined Desalter Enterprise Pilot Program, an innovative approach to regional water management. It strategically unites the Arlington Desalter with the Chino Desalter through an infrastructure network, including new groundwater wells, reservoirs, conveyance pipelines, and a state-of-the-art pump station.

Furthering their commitment to sustainability, Western Water is investing in groundwater banking and collaborative agreements with neighboring agencies to enhance long-term local water availability.

“A water bank functions much like a personal savings account for water. It allows us to stockpile surplus water underground,” continued President Gardner. “During wetter seasons, we can recharge groundwater basins, effectively ‘depositing’ water. This stored water can be withdrawn during dry periods.”

For two years, the Western Water Board has supported investment in groundwater banking. In 2023, more than 5,500 acre-feet of water was banked — sufficient to satisfy the indoor water needs of up to 20,000 families of four annually.

In addition, Western Water plays a critical role in the Santa Ana River Conservation and Conjunctive Use Program (SARCCUP). This collaborative effort has led to the construction of major



Orange Crest Tank

pipelines and new wells that facilitate the distribution and extraction of banked water across the region.

Western Water has also received a record amount of grant funding over the past two years to support a variety of these projects. Their grant procurement efforts have been successful, with eight new grants totaling over \$23 million received in 2023. Combining this with its 2022 awards of over \$9 million, the grant total is over \$32 million — the highest in Western Water’s history. These grants support projects that improve water recycling, treatment, and conservation.

Beyond local projects, Western Water is leading broader state initiatives, including the CA Water for All effort (Senate Bill 366), which aims to set long-term water supply targets and ensure the development of a comprehensive statewide water plan.

Western Water’s work does not stop there. “We need our communities to value water and demand that California prioritize consistent investment in our water delivery systems first, so that our economy can thrive,” said Western Water’s Assistant General Manager Sarah Macdonald.

Western Water remains committed to innovative, long-term solutions that support local communities and contribute to a resilient, reliable water future for California.

“Every drop of water represents our commitment to high-quality service and a promise of innovation for generations to come,” said Miller. “We are laser-focused on collaboration and partnerships that create California’s sustainable water future to stretch each drop creatively.”

To learn more about Western Water and their initiatives, visit [WesternWaterCA.gov](https://www.westernwaterca.gov)





The First Drop

Sterling Natural Resource Center: Built on the Commitment of Improving Quality of Life and Making Every Source a Resource

East Valley Water District (EVWD, District) started the new year by making a big splash at the Sterling Natural Resource Center with the facility producing its first drop of recycled water.

“While small in size, the first water drop presents a significant milestone for our community and region,” said East Valley Water District General Manager/CEO Michael Moore. “Years of planning, design, construction, and testing came to fruition with that drop. East Valley Water District is now recycling all its wastewater and creating a sustainable future for generations to come.”

The first drop at the Sterling Natural Resource Center (SNRC) was produced in January and was commissioned to full capacity in March 2024. The SNRC is a 20-acre state-of-the-art reclamation facility and community center in San Bernardino that can recycle up to 8 million gallons of wastewater per day. It is the first indirect potable reuse project in the region and will replenish the local Bunker Hill Groundwater Basin, which is a vital source of water for over 600,000 people.

“The Sterling Natural Resource Center was built on the commitment of improving quality of life and making every source

a resource,” said EVWD Board Chairman James Morales, Jr. “This investment was a bold move for the District, and we celebrate this major achievement for our customers.”

East Valley Water District was formed in 1954 and provides water and wastewater services to more than 108,000 residents within its 30.1 square-mile area, including customers in the City of Highland and portions of both the City and County of San Bernardino. Groundwater is the primary source of drinking water for EVWD and 12 other water agencies that pump from the same groundwater basin. The new SNRC water supply will be a drought-proof supply to improve water resiliency in the region.

The new treatment plant, community center, recharge basins, and pipelines were fast-tracked using a design-build delivery method. The \$250 million project was funded by a variety of sources, including low interest loans, grants, and regional infrastructure partnerships have been provided in full or in part by the State Prop. 1 (the Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014), the Clean Water State Revolving Fund, Urban Greening Grant, and San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District (Valley District). Valley District owns and operates the regional recycled water pipeline and new groundwater recharge basins.

EVWD designed the SNRC to be visually appealing and serve as a resource to the community. The SNRC’s Administrative Center, located on the western portion, was completed in July 2022 and includes a customer service center, banquet hall for special events and meetings, and a demonstration garden displaying water-efficient landscape. The garden also features pathways and picnic areas open to the public. In providing benefits beyond the SNRC’s walls, the District has partnered with San Bernardino City Unified School District to provide high school students with hands-on training and career pathway experiences in water and wastewater treatment.

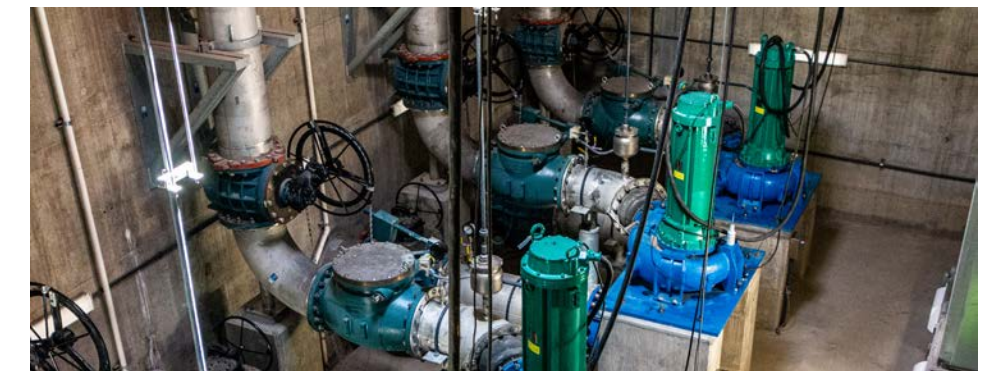
“The Sterling Natural Resource Center provides benefits beyond a sustainable new water source. It was designed to be a place for the community to gather,” Moore said. “The SNRC demonstrates how a highly technical public project can provide the maximum community benefit.”

State-of-the-art technology utilized by the SNRC reclamation plant integrates advanced Membrane Bioreactor (MBR) and Ultraviolet (UV) disinfection technologies to significantly improve groundwater replenishment quality. This approach showcases EVWD’s commitment to technological innovation, environmental stewardship, and enhancing sustainable water management. The combination of leading technology is the first application in California. The use of new technology allowed the treatment plant to be built in an urban environment and minimize footprint and impacts to the surrounding community. Together, MBR and UV technologies offer superior water treatment, aligning with sustainability and efficiency goals.

Striving to make every source a resource, EVWD incorporated co-digestion technology as an enhancement to the facility’s design. The SNRC achieves net-zero energy consumption by producing 3 megawatts on site. Power is generated from wastewater sludge and food waste. By incorporating a food waste receiving system and advanced biosolids processing, the project emphasizes sustainable waste management and resource recovery. Additionally, all the plant processes were designed to be the most energy efficient to reduce greenhouse gases, reflecting a commitment to sustainability and renewable energy. ○



For information about East Valley Water District and the Sterling Natural Resource Center, visit eastvalley.org/SNRC



The Long Game

Appreciating the Past While Looking Ahead to the Next 70 Years



San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District is a regional water agency. What is a regional water agency, you may ask? While most people are more familiar with our counterparts, the local water retailers who deliver water supplies to the tap, regional water agencies are tasked with a large-scale resource planning and projects.



Heather Dyer
CEO/General Manager, SBVMWD

nestled along the foothills of the San Bernardino Mountains, and a population of about 714,000. To sum it up, we aren't in this for today or tomorrow - we are in it for the long game.

Since 1954, residents have entrusted San Bernardino Valley, a government agency known as a municipal water district, with overseeing and implementing long-term water planning programs that are essential to the water supply resiliency needed to sustain the region's people and environment. Municipal water agencies are located throughout California, in particular San Bernardino Valley serves an area that covers 353 square miles in southwestern San Bernardino County,

Seven decades ago, the Agency was originally formed to bring supplemental water as part of long-range water supply planning for the San Bernardino Valley through a special election.

Today, this decision of the voters brings imported water from the High Sierras and Northern California to our region via the State Water Project, which includes the California Aqueduct and Oroville Dam, into the region for both direct delivery to local water retailers and for groundwater recharge. Our taxpayers, over many decades, have invested over \$1 billion in this statewide infrastructure system that delivers a critical piece of our water supply portfolio.

Over the decades, San Bernardino Valley's role has grown beyond simply importing water from Northern California. The Agency has served in a lead role resolving legal disputes, furthering groundwater recharge, creating a state-of-the-art local infrastructure system, leading campaigns for flood control and water storage, developing research tools used by water agencies around the world, and generating long-term environmental compliance tools for nearly a dozen agencies throughout the Santa Ana River Watershed.

"Our internal team and external partners are working together to achieve long-lasting results to help our region's people and the environment through innovative water solutions that will sustain

future generations," said Heather Dyer, CEO/ General Manager. "Recognizing the environment as being interconnected and interdependent to our own sustainability as River-adjacent communities allows for a greater long-term benefits and preservation of the very things that drew people to the Santa Ana River valley in the first place. Shifting from a transactional, one-by-one approach to a more holistic and collaborative model of planning water supply projects has allowed us to find creative, multi-benefit solutions to problems that seemed insurmountable in the past."

San Bernardino Valley is a small, yet nimble organization, that for the last 70 years has made science-based, visionary, and decade-spanning investments for the good of the watershed. Looking ahead at the next 70 years, the Agency is committed to being transformative by living our values: Collaborative, Trustworthy, Innovative, and Driven.

This Agency has always been in it for the long game. Even in the 1950s the Board was making decisions that would bear fruit over decades, even into today. The recent success we have experienced using a fresh approach supports the opportunities to make new connections and adapt to the unknown challenges of the future. Long-term water supply resiliency requires planning through the decades and we are here for it. Here are a few of the large-scale projects on the horizon:



Santa Ana River Enhanced Recharge Phase 1-B Project

Partially operational with construction nearly complete, the Santa Ana River Enhanced Recharge Phase 1-B Project represents a significant milestone in the collaborative efforts to enhance regional water supply reliability while simultaneously preserving and enhancing habitat for multiple endangered species. Once completed by the end of 2024, the project will expand current recharge facilities and allow for up to an additional 80,000 acre-feet per year of recharge of stormflow into the local groundwater basin. The Enhanced Recharge Project is an example of regional collaboration between San Bernardino Valley, Western Municipal Water District, Riverside Public Utilities, and the San Bernardino Valley Water Conservation District.



Delta Conveyance

Residents of the San Bernardino Valley have made significant investments in the State Water Project to convey water captured in Northern California and transport it to this region. Delta Conveyance will improve reliability of transporting our State Water and complete the State Water Project's original vision by constructing a new intake north of the Sacramento Bay-Delta and conveying water through a 40-foot diameter tunnel under the Delta.



Sites Reservoir

Sites Reservoir is a vital part of the solution to improving water supply for generations to come for the people of our region by providing approximately 30,000 acre-feet of new water captured from the Sacramento River during wet years for release and delivery to our service area during dry times. Sites Reservoir will be an off stream storage facility located near Maxwell, California that provides reliable water to statewide water users even in a changed climate, improves flood risks and provides environmental benefits to nearby ecosystems. Once constructed, Sites Reservoir will be one of the state's largest reservoirs and will provide 1.5 million acre-feet of water storage capacity.

What is a regional water agency? One that provides long-term innovative solutions for water supply and management while also being a responsible steward of the natural resources that sustain a region. San Bernardino Valley has a 70-year legacy as a science-based agency envisioning, planning, and constructing projects to enhance the resources of the watershed. For more information about San Bernardino Valley and the ongoing efforts to provide a reliable and sustainable water supply visit www.sbvmd.com



A REGIONAL WATER AGENCY
SINCE 1954

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The Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority (SAWPA) is a Joint Powers Authority serving the 2,650 square mile Santa Ana River Watershed, which includes major portions of Orange, Riverside, and San Bernardino counties. SAWPA works on a watershed-scale to address regional needs and is comprised of five member agencies:

- Eastern Municipal Water District
- Inland Empire Utilities Agency
- Orange County Water District
- San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District
- Western Municipal Water District



SAWPA owns and operates the Inland Empire Brine Line, a 73-mile pipeline system, that protects the watershed's water resources through the responsible management of brine and salty wastewater discharges. In addition, SAWPA and its member agencies work collaboratively to address the water resources needs of the Santa Ana River Watershed, ranging from ensuring water supply reliability and protecting water quality to protecting and restoring the environment. Through these efforts, SAWPA's mission focuses on the long-term sustainability of the Santa Ana River Watershed, securing a healthy and reliable water resource for the region.



Bruce Whitaker
Chair
Orange County Water District



Mike Gardner
Vice Chair
Western Municipal Water District



T. Milford Harrison
Secretary-Treasurer
San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District



Jasmin A. Hall
Commissioner
Inland Empire Utilities Agency



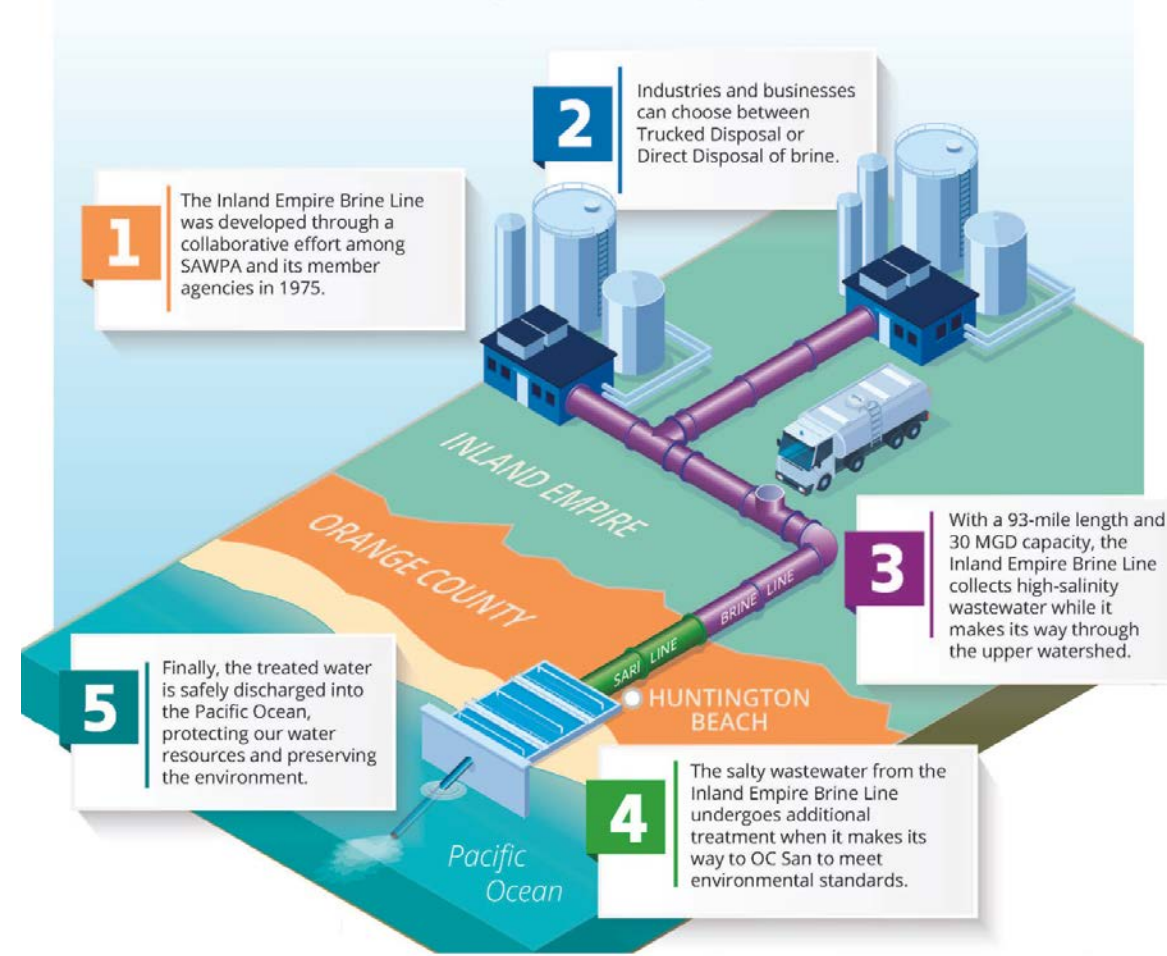
David J. Slawson
Commissioner
Eastern Municipal Water District

SAWPA Commission



INLAND EMPIRE BRINE LINE: Managing Salty Wastewater for a Sustainable Future

The Inland Empire Brine Line, created by SAWPA, offers a cost-effective method for salty wastewater disposal, ensuring water quality and regulatory compliance while emphasizing SAWPA's dedication to sustainability and water resource protection.



SAWPA Secures Grant to Support Climate Adaptation and Resilience

SAWPA was recently awarded a grant from the Governor's Office of Planning and Research's Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program to address regional climate adaptation and resilience. This funding, totaling nearly \$645,000, will be directed towards the creation of the first of its kind Santa Ana River Watershed Climate Adaptation and Resilience Plan. This plan will address critical climate challenges such as droughts, wildfires, rising temperatures, sea level increase, flooding, and builds upon SAWPA's award-winning One Water One Watershed (OWOW) Program, enhancing water reliability and watershed resources for over two decades. But that's not all. This grant enables SAWPA to enhance climate resilience on a regional scale by collaborating with key partners and local community-based organizations across the region. The engagement efforts will emphasize the importance of actively involving communities in the implementation of the climate resilience plan, ensuring a broad-based approach to tackling the challenges posed by climate change.

Grant partners include SAWPA's member agencies, the Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians, and the Inland Southern California Climate Collaborative (ISC3). This strategic partnership will support a more sustainable and resilient watershed by addressing needs and directly involving those most affected by climate issues in the planning and execution process.

To learn more about ICARP and SAWPA's ongoing initiatives, visit sawpa.gov

SAWPA Launches 4-year Cloud-Seeding Pilot Program

In November 2023, SAWPA launched its four-year Santa Ana River Weather Modification Pilot Program, to evaluate the effectiveness of cloud seeding to enhance the region's local water supply, which could increase precipitation by 5-15 percent in targeted areas. Using ground-based seeding methods, including Cloud Nuclei Generators (CNGs) and Automated High Output Ground Seeding (AHOGS), this program is expected to boost the watershed's resilience by augmenting precipitation in high elevation areas to provide additional water supply for capture in the watershed's dams and groundwater aquifers.

SAWPA has partnered with the Desert Research Institute (DRI) for validation of the benefits for the program. By working with local partners, SAWPA's initiative marks a significant step towards securing a sustainable water future for the region, highlighting a commitment to adapt to climate change risks and help sustain the health of the watershed.

For more information and to stay updated on SAWPA's Weather Modification Pilot Program, visit sawpa.gov or contact weathermodification@sawpa.gov



Building Through Affordable Means

Eastern Municipal Water District has balanced significant growth with financial programs designed to maintain affordability and equity among all customers

Throughout the United States and in our own backyards, public water agencies are facing the increasingly difficult challenge of investing in infrastructure and adapting to a changing regulatory environment while also finding ways to address the very serious issue of water affordability.

Eastern Municipal Water District is proud of its approach to successfully manage this industry-wide challenge.

EMWD is California's sixth-largest retail water agency, providing water, wastewater and recycled water service to nearly 1 million people across a 601 square-mile service area in western Riverside and northern San Diego counties. EMWD is widely viewed as an industry leader and one that has been very forward-thinking in its approach to providing cost-effective services through creative solutions.

To help advance a culture of affordability within its service area, EMWD has been a national leader in securing external funding opportunities to reduce the financial burden on its existing and future customers. This includes securing more than \$700 million in grants and low-interest or principal forgiveness loans in the past two decades.

Additionally, EMWD has developed a rate structure in which new development shares an appropriate share of the costs to provide service to the thousands of new households and businesses that are built in its service area each year. EMWD is also a leader in assisting customers most in need through its customer assistance programs.

"EMWD is proud of the steps it has taken to reduce financial impacts on our customers and keep rates low," EMWD Board President Phil Paule said. "By doing so, we are proactively addressing the issue of affordability at a time when this has never been more important for many families."

Funding Focus

EMWD has taken an aggressive approach in securing external funding to return customers' state and federal tax dollars back to its service area.

Over the past few years, EMWD has been awarded more than \$115 million in external funding, which supported a wide range of projects. EMWD routinely meets with local legislators and funding agencies to create mutually beneficial partnerships that help address not only costs, but also ensure a more sustainable water supply future for the region.

Success in Partnership

- EMWD's Perris II Desalination Facility, which opened in 2022, was funded in part by a \$22.5 million grant from the State Water Resources Control Board. This covered approximately one-third of the total project cost of the treatment facility.
- EMWD has been awarded \$62 million in funding from the State Water Resources Control Board for its Perris North Groundwater Program, which will improve groundwater quality in the Moreno Valley area.
- EMWD's Purified Water Replenishment (PWR) program has been awarded \$27.5 million in funding from the United States Bureau of Reclamation, including \$10 million from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. The PWR program will further clean recycled water and use it to replenish our groundwater basins, where it will improve the quality and quantity of groundwater supplies.
- EMWD has received more than \$33 million in funding for water and wastewater projects through the American Rescue Plan Act. This funding was allocated by the County of Riverside and the City of Murrieta for 12 different projects.



San Jacinto Valley Groundwater Treatment Facility



Murrieta ARPA Funded Waterline Project

Equitable Solutions

EMWD is home to California's fastest-growing region and nearly 5,000 homes are built every year in EMWD's service area, which is just 43 percent built-out, based on city and county land use plans.

To address this issue, EMWD has adopted a sophisticated rate structure that ensures new development is paying its fair share.

When new homes or businesses are constructed, they pay a Financial Participation Charge. Typically, on a new home, this is rolled into the cost passed along by the builder. Those fees are restricted by EMWD and are used to develop new infrastructure such as groundwater wells, pipelines, storage tanks, water and wastewater treatment facilities, pump stations and more.

That new development activity funds the development of new water supply sources and the infrastructure to bring it to their new homes and businesses. In doing so, EMWD has created a system in which development pays for development, and new homes are not "taking" water from existing customers, but rather creating new sources of water.

Most importantly, this helps sustain a culture of affordability by ensuring that existing customers do not have to fund infrastructure that is needed to meet the needs of future customers.

Customer Focused

EMWD has been a leading voice for the development of sustainable programs to assist customers who are most in need.

EMWD has secured more than \$7.3 million in funding through various programs to assist its low-income customers. More than 13,000 customers have received assistance, including through the California Water and Wastewater Arrearage Payment Program and the federally funded Low Income Household Water Assistance Program.

EMWD has advocated its legislative contingent to support the creation of a long-term, sustained funding source for low-income households through the Low Income Household Assistance Program. A large portion of EMWD's service area qualifies as economically disadvantaged.

Through all these programs, EMWD is working to address not only the issue of expanding its infrastructure to meet the needs of its growing communities, but also the issue of affordability on behalf of its customers. ○



"We will continue to work tirelessly to do our part in sustaining an equitable financial model that works to address the rising concerns of water affordability. By bringing tax dollars back to our area, and through sound policy decisions, we are proud of the efforts EMWD has made to provide cost-effective water and wastewater services to the people we serve."

Phil Paule
President, EMWD Board





Ensuring Water Sustainability and Reliability

Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District's Commitment for a Thriving Community

In the heart of Riverside County lies the Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District (EVMWD/District), an oasis of innovation and resilience amidst the unpredictable dance of drought and rainfall. With a commitment to serving over 159,000 customers with high-quality water, wastewater, and recycled water services, EVMWD is at the forefront of ensuring the region's vitality. Even as communities grapple with the whims of weather whiplash, EVMWD stands as a beacon of reliability, ensuring the water flows consistently to meet the needs of its residents. Through forward-thinking initiatives, EVMWD is charting a course towards a sustainable future, safeguarding precious water resources, and continues to pressure the State of California to step up with new storage facilities and conveyance abilities.

Protecting Vulnerable Communities

Disadvantaged and severely disadvantaged communities often bear the brunt of challenges, including access to clean water. Recognizing this disparity, EVMWD prioritizes delivering clean, reliable, and affordable water to these communities within the District. However, escalating regulations and increased reliance on imported water sources threaten to drive up costs, making access to water even more challenging. In response, EVMWD remains dedicated to finding innovative solutions to safeguard the well-being of all residents through grant funding and partnerships.

Investments in Infrastructure

Anticipating the demands of a growing population, EVMWD is proactively investing in water and sewer infrastructure. These investments are vital for diversifying our water supply portfolio, enhancing reliability, and ensuring resilience in the face of evolving challenges.

Combating PFAS Contamination

PFAS, short for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, are a group of more than 4,700 synthetic chemicals created to repel water, oil, grease and stains dating back to the 1940s. The presence of PFAS poses a significant challenge to water treatment. Providing safe, reliable water is EVMWD's top priority. EVMWD is tackling this issue head-on with innovative solutions. Through projects like the Lee Lake Wells PFAS Treatment and upgrades at the Canyon Lake Water Treatment Facility (CLWTP), EVMWD is deploying state-of-the-art technologies to ensure the removal of PFAS contaminants, securing the safety of the water supply.



Expanding Reclamation Facilities

As part of our ongoing commitment to water quality, EVMWD is taking proactive steps to ensure the purity and safety of our water supply. Through a dual approach focused on expanding reclamation facilities and combating PFAS contamination, EVMWD is advancing towards a cleaner, more sustainable future for our communities.

The Horsethief Canyon Water Reclamation Facility (HTCWRF) and the Regional Water Reclamation Facility (RWRF) expansion projects mark significant milestones in EVMWD's journey toward sustainable water management. These expansions represent our commitment to recycling 100% of our water, thereby increasing our ability to provide clean water for the community. By boosting treatment capacity and integrating advanced processes, such as Indirect Potable Reuse, we further enhance water quality, meeting and exceeding regulatory standards. Our efforts to increase reclamation facilities' capacity directly contribute to Lake Elsinore's health, as recycled water is safely reintroduced into the lake, nourishing its ecosystem and ensuring its vitality.



Harnessing the Power Beneath Our Feet

EVMWD's Groundwater Storage Program highlights the substantial storage potential within the Elsinore Basin. This capacity is a crucial resource for storing water during wet periods and facilitating extractions in dry seasons. Supported by the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (Metropolitan), recharge projects have been initiated to strengthen groundwater storage efforts. Since 2005, EVMWD has actively participated in the Metropolitan Conjunctive Use Program (CUP), converting eight groundwater wells into dual-purpose injection and extraction facilities.

Typically, Metropolitan delivers up to 3,000 acre-feet per year (AFY) for storage in the Elsinore Basin, facilitated by EVMWD's dual-purpose wells. The maximum storage capacity in the basin is set at 12,000 AF, with Metropolitan able to extract up to 4,000 AFY as part of the CUP program. During dry periods, EVMWD utilizes Metropolitan's stored water, minimizing groundwater extraction. Over the past decade, this program has successfully stored 18,599 acre-feet (AF) and extracted approximately 8,557 AF, showcasing its effectiveness. We

DID YOU KNOW?

How much water is 12,000 acre-feet?

Imagine a football field covered in water about seven feet high. That is approximately 12,000 acre-feet!

are the only water agency in Southwest Riverside County with 10,000 AF of stored water. This proactive approach ensures water availability during dry periods and bolsters our resilience against future water challenges.

A Sustainable Future

As challenges mount and inflation continues to rise, EVMWD remains steadfast in its mission to deliver total water management that powers the health and vibrancy of its communities so that life can flourish. By investing in infrastructure, embracing innovation, and prioritizing community well-being, EVMWD continues to lead the charge for future generations.

In the arid landscapes of Riverside County, the legacy of EVMWD is one of resilience, innovation, and unwavering commitment to the well-being of its residents. As weather patterns continue to oscillate and the specter of drought is never far off, EVMWD continues to put the community first as each decision centers around building and investing in reliable water solutions. ○





From Crisis to Compliance

JCSD's Proactive Response to PFAS Contamination

Five years ago, the Jurupa Community Services District faced a significant challenge when perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances, also known as PFAS, contamination impacted nearly 80% of its wells. This concerning development threatened the safe water supply to thousands of its customers. However, through proactive measures and strategic collaboration, JCSD not only overcame this adversity but also emerged stronger, positioning itself as a leader in environmental management and community service.

Understanding the gravity of the situation, JCSD swiftly implemented comprehensive solutions to address the contamination – prior to any formal regulatory requirements. Advanced treatment systems were installed at two critical sites, which effectively removed PFAS compounds, ensuring that the community continued to receive safe and clean water. These systems, designed with the best available technology, are capable of targeting and eliminating even trace amounts of PFAS, thereby safeguarding public health.

In addition to technological upgrades, JCSD enhanced its resilience through partnerships with neighboring agencies. These cooperative agreements allowed for the sharing of resources, including clean water supplies and treatment technologies, which maximized

efficiency and cost-effectiveness. Such collaborative efforts not only bolstered JCSD's response capabilities but also strengthened regional water management strategies, setting a precedent for inter-agency cooperation.

Today, JCSD stands in a better position than ever before, achieving full compliance with the current stringent environmental standards and demonstrating its commitment to delivering high-quality water services. Successful navigation of PFAS challenges has also instilled a greater sense of security and trust among the community members, who now enjoy one of the most reliable and safe water supplies in the region.

Reflecting on the journey, JCSD's proactive measures have not only resolved a critical issue but also enhanced the district's operational excellence. As JCSD continues to monitor, innovate, and improve, it remains dedicated to upholding the highest standards of water quality and sustainability.



"I'm incredibly proud of JCSD's strategic actions relating to the challenges posed by PFAS, ensuring our community enjoys a safe and reliable water supply for generations to come."

Chris Berch, P.E.
General Manager

Excellence in Wastewater Management

The Jurupa Community Services District has once again demonstrated its commitment to service excellence, this time in wastewater management, earning the prestigious title of California's Wastewater Collection System of the Year. This accolade, awarded by the California Water Environment Association (CWEA), follows JCSD's regional victory in the Santa Ana River Basin highlighting outstanding performance and innovative practices in wastewater collections.

JCSD's proactive approach to maintaining and operating its wastewater system has set a benchmark for the industry. Through regular inspections, proactive maintenance, and the implementation of industry-leading strategies, JCSD has achieved a remarkable record of zero Sanitary Sewer Overflows (SSO) for over six years. This achievement not only reflects the team's dedication to reliability and safety but also underscores its environmental stewardship.

This statewide recognition was recently celebrated on the floor of the California Senate, where Senator Richard D. Roth commended JCSD for its leadership and service excellence. The Senate's acknowledgment serves as a testament to JCSD's role as a model in wastewater management, not just in California, but across the nation. As JCSD continues to lead and innovate, it remains focused on enhancing the well-being of its community through exceptional wastewater management. ○



JCSD has had zero
Sanitary Sewer
Overflows (SSOs)
in over six years!

YEARS



Secure California's Water Future TODAY

Let's invest in climate resilience for a thriving tomorrow

Southern Californians know the value of every drop.

That's why our community leaders are calling for powerful investment in our water infrastructure.

With your support, we can ensure that every community—particularly those of color—has equitable access to clean, safe water now and into the future.

Benefits:

- Infrastructure revitalization
- Climate adaptivity
- Equitable access

Your voice matters. Learn more about the need for climate resilience investment and how you can support Southern California's water infrastructure resilience.

Visit socalwater.org or scan the QR code to get informed.

YOUR VOICE MATTERS...



SCAN ME TO LEARN MORE!

