

CALIFORNIA

2023

# WATER

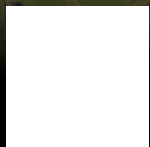
VENTURA COUNTY / NORTH-LOS ANGELES COUNTY EDITION

## DELTA CONVEYANCE NEARS MILESTONE MOMENT

**Santa Clarita Valley Water:  
Restoring Local Supply**

**Las Virgenes MWD:  
Transforming Landscapes**

**LADWP: Focus on  
Groundwater**



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# Delta Conveyance: A Promise for a Sustainable Future

In this latest edition of California Water, we explore a pivotal topic crucial to the future of our state: the Delta Conveyance Project.

This groundbreaking initiative is set to modernize California's water transportation, ensuring a brighter and more sustainable future for residents of Los Angeles County and beyond.



Charley Wilson

At the heart of this transformative endeavor lies a vision to upgrade a crucial section of the State Water Project. This project serves as the lifeline for our state's water supply, supporting the needs of nearly 27 million Californians – including water users in Los Angeles County.

The Delta Conveyance Project will construct a state-of-the-art tunnel, a marvel of engineering, to transport water supplies underneath the fragile Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta ecosystem rather than through it.

The significance of this endeavor cannot be overstated. Not only will it ensure the delivery of clean, reliable, and affordable water for generations to come, but it also represents a steadfast commitment to the preservation of our precious natural resources.

The environmental planning process is ongoing and underscores the state's dedication to safeguarding the delicate balance of our ecosystems while addressing our water needs.

As we explore the intricacies of this groundbreaking project and other critical Los Angeles County infrastructure projects in the following pages, we invite you to join us in celebrating this momentous step forward for California's future.

Delta Conveyance is not just an investment; it's a promise – a promise that we will meet the challenges of the future head on and ensure a sustainable and prosperous California for generations to come.

**Charley Wilson**  
Executive Director

*The Southern California Water Coalition, a nonprofit, nonpartisan public education partnership is dedicated to informing Southern Californians about our water needs and our state's water resources.*



## Regional Water Agencies Await Delta Modernization Report

By Elizabeth Smilor  
Special Sections Writer

By the end of the year, the ongoing effort to modernize water conveyance through the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta for the State Water Project will reach another milestone. The California Department of Water Resources will release the Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR) of the Delta Conveyance Project.

The Final EIR will describe potential environmental impacts, identify mitigation measures that would help avoid or minimize impacts and provide responses to all substantive comments received on the Draft EIR. The draft underwent a 142-day comment period, during which 729 letters and other forms of communications, and 7,300 individual comments were received, according to DWR.

"Metropolitan Water District of Southern California's Board is leading the way on developing a Climate Adaptation Master Plan for Water to respond to climate whiplash and provide resiliency and reliability for all with no one left behind. Southern California's water supplies from the State Water Project play a critical role in our water reliability. As we experience the impacts of a changing climate and weather extremes, we must move and store water when it is available," said Metropolitan General Manager Adel Hagekhalil. "However, stabilizing and

*"As we experience the impacts of a changing climate and weather extremes, we must move and store water when it is available."*

**Adel Hagekhalil**  
Metropolitan  
General Manager

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protecting the Bay-Delta is also a critical element in our future. We look forward to reviewing the Department of Water Resources' Final Environmental Impact Report for the Delta Conveyance Project, so that Metropolitan can fully evaluate the project and support our board's decision-making process."

The proposed Delta Conveyance Project (DCP) would move water from the North Delta through two intakes at a maximum capacity of 6,000 cubic feet per second to a single, underground tunnel running east of the Delta to the existing Bethany Reservoir in the South Delta, which is on the California Aqueduct.

"The Delta Conveyance Project is one of California's key climate adaptation projects. The project will secure water for more than 27 million California residents and 750,000 acres of farmland by fortifying and updating the State Water Project infrastructure– the backbone of California's water network," said DWR Director Karla Nemeth. "Reliable water supplies from the Delta are critical to right sizing recycled water projects and making sure that groundwater basins are clean and sustainable into the future."

The State Water Project (SWP) supplies 30% of Southern California's water. The Delta is at the center of the SWP, 50% of California's water supply flows through the Delta and is delivered to three out of five Californians. Southern California water agencies contract either directly with the SWP as State Water Contractors or as members of Metropolitan for SWP allocations.

"Improving the Delta Conveyance is akin to fixing a leaky roof on your house – neglect it, and the damage increases; address it, and protect your home and family. As Californians, we need to safeguard our water future by modernizing this vital Delta infrastructure," said Executive Director Charley Wilson of the Southern California Water Coalition (SCWC), a nonprofit, nonpartisan public education partnership dedicated to informing Southern Californians about water needs and resources.

Every regional water agency has a water portfolio that defines water supply sources and uses. These portfolios might include recycled water, groundwater and imported water in differing percentages. Water managers stress that every piece of a portfolio is important for a resilient water supply.

"The Delta Conveyance Project is not the only project that water agencies need to make investments in," said General Manager Jennifer Pierre of the State Water Contractors (SWC), a non-profit that represents 27 public water agencies. "There is a clear need for local and regional projects, water conservation, storage projects – those things are necessary. However, the volume of water and the cost at which it can be provided by the SWP cannot be replaced by smaller projects. For most of our members, this is the most cost-effective way to protect their water supply portfolio."

Santa Clarita Valley Water (SCV), a state water contractor, serves nearly 300,000 customers and up to 50% of that supply is imported from the SWP. SCV invests in both local and imported supply projects, including conservation, groundwater banking, surface storage and the DCP.

"While no one source or project can meet the full range of water supply needs, and our focus over the years has been on creating a more diverse water supply portfolio, the State Water Project is absolutely critical to ensuring our region has reliable water supplies," said SCV General Manager Matt Stone. "In addition to addressing the challenge of relying on aging infrastructure, the proposed project would protect against



*"Reliable water supplies from the Delta are critical to right sizing recycled water projects and making sure that groundwater basins are clean and sustainable into the future."*

**Karla Nemeth, DWR Director**

At left, the Department of Water Resources (DWR) has begun installing a bioacoustic fish fence at the junction of the Sacramento River and Georgiana Slough in Sacramento County. Once fully installed, the fence will help sensitive fish species, including Chinook salmon, safely traverse through the Delta. Above, a windy stretch of the East Branch California Aqueduct in Palmdale on May 12. The aqueduct brings water from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta to Southern California as part of the State Water Project.

*Photos courtesy of the California Department of Water Resources.*

climate-driven threats and natural disasters that could disrupt water delivery throughout the state."

Geologists at the U.S. Geological Survey estimate there's a 72% chance of a 6.7 or greater magnitude earthquake in San Francisco Bay area in next 20 years. This type of seismic event could cause the Delta levees to fail and lead to a six- to 12-month delivery outage. Climate change is not only altering weather patterns to a "whiplash" of extremes, it's raising the snowline in the Sierra Nevada Mountains where two-thirds of the state's water originates, and it's raising the sea level, making salt water intrusion into the Delta more likely.

Las Virgenes Municipal Water District, a Metropolitan member agency that provides water to 75,000 residents in Agoura Hills, Calabasas, Hidden Hills, Westlake Village, and unincorporated areas of western Los Angeles County, is investing more than \$360 million in a state-of-the-art potable reuse system called the Pure Water Project Las Virgenes-Triunfo to capture the remaining portion of the region's treated wastewater and purify it. Nevertheless, Las Virgenes' region remains reliant on supplies from the SWP to support its recycling.

"The Delta Conveyance Project is the solution and will shore up the reliability of the State Water Project for the 27 million California residents who rely on it," said Los Virgenes General Manager Dave Pedersen. "The project will also enhance the health of the delta ecosystem by improving the flow regime through the delta with a system of dual conveyance. Doing nothing is not an option."

If the Delta Conveyance Project was operational during the high rain events in January, DWR could have moved 228,000 acre-feet of water into the San Luis Reservoir. That's enough for 2.3 million people for one year or nearly 800,000 households for one year.

"The atmospheric river storms of early 2023 made clear the importance of our efforts to modernize our existing water infrastructure for an era of intensified drought and flood," said Nemeth. "What we need to be positioned to do in California is move water when it's available because moving and storing that water is going to help California weather longer and deeper droughts." ○



At left, the Tujunga Spreading Grounds where enhancements completed by LADWP in 2021 doubled the annual stormwater capture capacity. Above, a rendering of the Los Angeles Groundwater Replenishment Project (LAGWR), which will produce purified recycled water to recharge the San Fernando Basin. At right, the North Hollywood Central response action groundwater treatment system. *Photos courtesy of LADWP*



# Maximizing Our Groundwater Supply

## LADWP Projects Focus on the San Fernando Basin

**R**ecognizing the importance of a sustainable and resilient local water supply, the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) is employing innovative solutions to remediate and replenish the San Fernando Groundwater Basin (SFB), a vital local water resource for the City of Los Angeles (City). The SFB has played an important role for the City, as it has long been a resource the City depends upon to store and use water, especially during drought periods.

With the potential to supply up to 1 million Angelenos with water annually, the SFB is a cornerstone of the City's water supply. However, the SFB has faced several challenges in recent years most notably due to groundwater contamination, preventing the City from fully utilizing this important asset. To remedy this, LADWP has taken proactive steps to maximize this important resource, exemplifying the City's commitment to sustainable management, environmental stewardship, and development of new water resource supplies.

### Importance of Groundwater to the City of L.A.

The City encompasses an area of 472 square miles with a population of nearly 4 million people and an annual average water consumption of approximately 161 billion gallons. Although local groundwater provides approximately 8% of the City's total water supply on average, the City has historically been able to rely on this resource for nearly 23% of the City's total supply in drought years such as in the 1980s and 90s. To restore and ensure long-term health and water quality of the basin to maximize beneficial use, LADWP has invested heavily in groundwater remediation and stormwater

capture, and is now spearheading the Los Angeles Groundwater Replenishment Project (LAGWR), a potable reuse project that will produce purified recycled water to recharge the SFB. "This project is one of the key strategies to help reduce the purchase of imported water and improve our water reliability by developing drought-proof, resilient, local supplies to help meet long-term sustainability goals and address challenges brought on by climate change," said Anselmo Collins, LADWP Senior Assistant General Manager and Head of the Water System.

### Groundwater Contamination and Remediation

To highlight the impacts of the groundwater contamination in the SFB, over 70% of the LADWP groundwater production wells in the SFB are impacted by legacy contamination. A majority of the groundwater contamination is found in the eastern portion of the San Fernando Valley, likely caused by improper storage, handling, and disposal of hazardous chemicals used in the aircraft manufacturing industry, as well as commercial and heavy industrial activities dating back to the 1940s. This groundwater contamination consists of chlorinated solvents such as trichloroethylene (TCE), tetrachloroethylene (PCE) and 1,4 dioxane.

To address the contamination in the SFB, LADWP has invested over \$700 million in groundwater remediation. By 2024, several groundwater remediation projects will be completed to restore the beneficial use of the SFB. These remediation projects are: North Hollywood West; North Hollywood Central; and Tujunga response action groundwater treatment systems. Together, they

can treat approximately 100,000 acre-feet per year (AFY) utilizing pump and treat systems with technologies such as Ultraviolet Advanced Oxidation Process (UV AOP) treatment and granulated activated carbon.

### Groundwater Replenishment

In addition to remediating the SFB, LADWP is putting forth a large effort to replenish the basin and ensure basin health. LADWP intends to do this by utilizing both recycled and storm water. One of the major recycled water projects is the LAGWR Project, which will produce up to 21,000 AFY of purified recycled water for percolation into the SFB at the Hansen Spreading Grounds, equivalent to the potable demand of 250,000 residents.

Expected to be placed in service by 2028, the LAGWR Project is one of the largest recycled water projects in the State, and upon completion will provide a new drought resilient water supply for the City of Los Angeles.

Purified recycled water will be produced and supplied by the planned Advanced Water Purification Facility (AWPF) to be constructed at the Donald C. Tillman Water Reclamation Plant, which is a joint effort between LADWP and Los Angeles Sanitation and Environment (LASAN). This collaborative effort between LADWP and LASAN is a great example of city agencies working together to make progress toward the City's water recycling goals.

The state-of-the-art planned treatment process is proven to meet regulatory standards, remove and inactivate pathogens, and remove chemicals of emerging concern using a combination of technologies such as microfiltration, reverse osmosis, UV AOP, and chemical injection. In addition to the treatment, the AWPF will feature an educational center, inviting the public to tour and interact with educational material on potable reuse. When completed, this project will further strengthen LADWP's ability to provide its residents and businesses with a safe, reliable, and high-quality water supply.

Furthermore, LADWP has been working to comprehensively increase stormwater capture throughout the City, by enhancing infiltration into groundwater basins and by onsite capture and reuse of stormwater for landscape irrigation.

Stormwater runoff from urban areas is an underutilized local water resource. Within the City, a considerable amount of stormwater runoff is directed to storm drains and ultimately channeled into the ocean. As a result of increased urbanization, local groundwater basins that could be replenished by stormwater are receiving less recharge than in previous years.

In Fall 2021, LADWP completed the Tujunga Spreading Grounds Enhancement Project and doubled the annual stormwater capture capacity of the spreading grounds. This expansion has turned out to be an extensive benefit to the City in light of the significant rainfall that was captured earlier this year and resulted in the largest capture of stormwater in the City's history. In 2023, the City captured over 150,000 acre-feet of stormwater, which is enough water for approximately 600,000 single family houses. LADWP will continue to augment stormwater capture to further its mission of providing a safe, reliable, and environmentally responsible water supply for the City of Los Angeles.

As the challenges for dependable water supply continues to evolve – maximizing use of groundwater basins, and especially the SFB, provides LADWP the flexibility to respond to short-term needs and opportunity to develop long-term water management strategies. ○





Before/After: This is a before and after photo of a customer who recently completed their landscape transformation utilizing the LVMWD Landscape Transformation Program.



At left, landscape architect Tom Rau gives a presentation on firescaping to LVMWD customers in the Spring of 2023. Above, Douglas Kent, professor and author, speaks with a class of customers on the principles of turf replacement.

# An Evolved Relationship Bares Fruit for Landscape Transformation

*"We want to provide education to our customers and meet them where they are. Virtual options are essential to accomplishing that."*

**Craig Jones**  
LVMWD Resource  
Conservation Manager

For decades, climate scientists have predicted increasingly extreme weather events, both in severity and frequency. In 2022, these predictions came to fruition. California faced a third year of severe drought and water supplies were stretched to historically low levels, prompting the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) to impose never-seen-before outdoor watering restrictions on several water agencies including Las Virgenes Municipal Water District (LVMWD) – a State Water Project dependent agency within MWD’s service area.

As a result of these conditions, the District deepened its existing commitment to developing a more diverse water supply portfolio of sustainable, drought-resilient water sources to prepare for future drought conditions. For LVMWD, a large part of developing sustainable and diverse water supplies is in the ability to lower demand on imported water through conservation. Up to 70% of water usage throughout the LVMWD service area is used for outdoor irrigation needs – typically residential landscapes. Implementing efficient best practices around outdoor landscapes will function to soften the impact of water usage reductions in the future. As an example, when the mandated one-day-per-week watering restrictions were instituted in the latter part of 2022, LVMWD customers responded by achieving an amazing 37% reduction in water use compared to the same period in 2020.

Customers made sacrifices to comply with the outdoor watering restrictions. LVMWD has reciprocated that effort by establishing a new relationship with customers that prioritized solutions through collaboration. As Californians embrace conservation as a California way of life, a focus is placed on education – specifically on how best to maximize outdoor water use efficiency. Along with education comes the necessary tools or programs to promote successful long-term solutions that encourage using water wisely.

In order to successfully support this partnership, LVMWD began canvassing their customers in March 2023 with an outdoor water conservation-specific survey. The District wanted to determine what obstacles or concerns existed for customers who are considering landscape transformation projects to better understand any gaps, reservations, and motivations. Staff analyzed the responses and based on those results, created educational and incentive programs that would be most impactful to customers.

The District now offers an in-person Sustainable Landscape Workshop series twice per year in the spring and fall. The workshops aim to provide property owners with the knowledge and resources required to take on a landscape transformation project and maintain a sustainable, climate-appropriate garden. This series pulls in industry experts and covers topics including garden design, fire-wise landscaping, native garden maintenance, and how to apply for landscape transformation funding.

The survey also highlighted the desire to have virtual workshops as an option if attending in person was a concern. LVMWD Resource Conservation Manager Craig Jones explained, “offering both in-person and virtual learning options is necessary to reach the widest variety of customers. We want to provide education to our customers and meet them where they are. Virtual options are essential to accomplishing that.” LVMWD partners with MWD and the Green Garden Group (G3) to offer customers free online instructions on all aspects of sustainable landscape design with a rotating schedule.

Once customers are aware of mechanisms they can implement to improve water use efficiency, the District provides a variety of services to help apply that knowledge. Through the District’s partnership with MWD, customers can apply for a free in-person survey of their landscape by certified irrigation professionals to determine where water saving opportunities are.

Additional incentive programs provide further tools for customers and a menu of options and ways to engage with LVMWD.

“Providing a multitude of programs, rebates and incentives around water efficiency helps us to build partnerships through long-term investments that are critical for us to bolster water supplies – the water we conserve today,” Jones explained.

This multi-level approach is headlined by the Landscape Transformation Program, which focuses on the removal of turf grass and replacement with native and drought-tolerant alternatives. These projects are larger in scope and cost, requiring a more complex approach but also offer cost-sharing options starting at \$2 per square foot of grass replaced. This level of commitment may be more than some customers are willing to make but are still looking to improve their water use habits.

The discounted RACHIO smart irrigation controller with professional installation, or the discounted rain barrel that customers can obtain by filling out an online form to receive a voucher in the mail, provide opportunities to partner with LVMWD. “Our goal is to encourage customers to participate in one or more of our programs, because once they experience the turnkey approach to the RACHIO controller program as an example, working through the turf transformation process with us to transform their lawn into a native, climate-appropriate garden isn’t as intimidating.”

Much like a native garden, these programs will grow and evolve over time. LVMWD is looking at piloting a variety of programs to offer irrigation system retrofits, cistern installation support, and landscape design assistance. The newly forged partnership seems to be working, Jones reports, as LVMWD customers have continued to use less water from 2020 and take advantage of the tools LVMWD offers to maximize water savings. ○

**More information on LVMWD programs and educational opportunities can be found by visiting [www.LVMWD.com/Conservation](http://www.LVMWD.com/Conservation)**



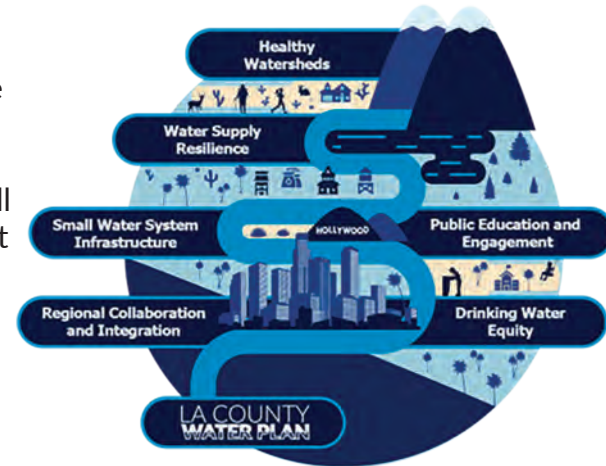


Los Angeles County Public Works developed the Los Angeles County Water Plan (CWP) to work collaboratively with stakeholders to ensure a resilient water supply. Some regional water resources and infrastructure include: Morris Dam, at left, and San Gabriel Dam, above left, on the San Gabriel River; and the Santa Fe Spreading Grounds where water is filtered into the groundwater basin, above right. Below, representatives from Los Angeles County regional water agencies participating in the CWP.

# Comprehensive Vision for LA County's Water Future

Climate change is establishing a “new normal” of more frequent and intense droughts, coupled with less frequent but more torrential rains. Recognizing this new climate reality and the need to be thoughtful stewards of future water supplies, Los Angeles County envisioned the development of a countywide water plan focused on collaborative management of LA County's water resources.

Los Angeles County Public Works (Public Works) developed the Los Angeles County Water Plan (CWP), together with water resources organizations and an array of diverse stakeholders, to ensure a water resilient future for the region and achieve a collective vision of equitable and sustainable water resources. The CWP will target the enhancement of water infrastructure, healthy watersheds, and water resource optimization through actionable targets and strategies.



Water resources in Los Angeles County are increasingly stressed. Climate change has introduced a weather whiplash of intense droughts and torrential rainfall contrasted by years on ongoing drought. Despite the historic rainfall amounts received during the

2022-23 water year, many of the county's groundwater basins are still over-drafted or stressed, and some of the region's most vulnerable communities lack access to safe, reliable water supplies.

## SHARED OPPORTUNITIES FOR WATER RESILIENCE

The CWP outlines a path to achieve a resilient water future for all Los Angeles County residents. It is a living document intended to build upon and complement the many existing local and regional water planning efforts. The CWP aims for sound stewardship of all watersheds and groundwater basins that uplifts all communities by focusing on four key focal areas where new or additional regional collaboration can add value.

### Regional Water Supply Reliability

Improving regional water supply reliability by better leveraging our collective local and imported water resources and infrastructure.

### Groundwater Management and Quality

Realizing our shared groundwater management opportunities by sharing expertise and resources to maintain water quality and availability.

### Small, At-Risk System Resilience and Drinking Water Equity

Ensuring a consistently high standard of water service for everyone in Los Angeles County by providing regional support for small systems, with focused attention to underserved communities.

### Regional Strategies, Regional Benefits

Ensuring that the region has a dependable and consistent water supply to meet its needs, particularly during times of scarcity or crisis.

## ACHIEVING REGIONAL WATER RESILIENCE THROUGH COLLABORATIVE STRATEGIES

With over 200 water supply agencies and numerous other wastewater treatment, flood control, and land management agencies within the county, collaboration on a regional scale is crucial. The County Water Plan will leverage existing efforts like Los Angeles County's “OurCounty” Sustainability Plan, the Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Plan, the L.A. River Master Plan, and Metropolitan Water District's Integrated Water Resources Plan to facilitate the development and implementation of integrated solutions to key water management issues through collaboration with water agencies, stakeholders, and members of the public.



At the onset of CWP development, Public Works proactively reached out to a diverse group of stakeholders to understand the varying water needs of the region's communities. We identified several broad, overarching values for the CWP through these conversations. Some of these values provided core tenets to our overall process of development, while others guided us in establishing targets, strategies, and actions. Other values not directly addressed through the actions in the CWP, will continue to inform and guide on how water resource management across the region is approached.

## OUR ROUTE TO RESILIENCE, TOGETHER

As LA County confronts the challenges posed by climate change and the uncertain future of its water supply, the CWP aims at actionable solutions while articulating a shared, inclusive, regional path towards sustainably achieving safe, clean, and reliable water resources for all county residents. Underscoring the importance of a coordinated effort to achieve water resiliency and sustainability in the region plays a significant role in the program's success.

The CWP is scheduled to be presented to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors for adoption in late 2023. ○

For more information on this and other LA County water-related projects, please visit [WaterForLA.com](http://WaterForLA.com).





A drone image of SCV Water's Rio Vista Water Treatment Plant with a view of the Santa Clarita Valley.

# Investing in the Future:

## SCV Water's Continued Commitment to Restoring Groundwater Quality

In the Santa Clarita Valley (SCV), a battle is being waged against a nearly invisible enemy infiltrating the region's water supply – Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, commonly known as PFAS. These synthetic chemicals, including compounds like PFOA, PFOS, and GenX, have been utilized across various industries for more than 70 years, leaving behind a toxic legacy threatening the purity of drinking water sources worldwide. PFAS chemicals have been used in a range of products from Teflon cookware to waterproofing and stain proofing to food containers to firefighting foam. Over time, health scientists and drinking water regulators have identified health risks and set new standards for water safety. Water providers now test to the parts per trillion level for a few dozen of these chemicals.

SCV Water, the regional water agency serving 300,000 customers in its 196.8 square-mile service area, has been working to combat PFAS through an arsenal of proactive treatment measures, cutting-edge technologies, and a steadfast commitment to transparency.

### Past Investments Are Paving the Way Forward

As PFAS gained prominence, SCV Water was an early adopter to safeguarding its water supply, embarking on a journey to protect the community and its customers from the harmful effects of these chemicals. Proactivity is the cornerstone of the Agency's approach, and the first prong of its strategy involves rigorous testing. Beyond merely complying with state regulations, SCV Water's team took the initiative to regularly sample water from its active wells. Thousands of tests are conducted yearly, and wells surpassing state response levels are promptly shut down to prevent contamination from entering the distribution system.

However, testing alone is not sufficient. The Agency recognized that technology could be pivotal in safeguarding water quality. As advancements in detection methods emerged, SCV Water capitalized on these innovations.

Investing in state-of-the-art lab equipment for PFAS testing, for instance, allowed the Agency to bring this critical capability in-house, saving both time and money. This step further solidified SCV Water's commitment to staying ahead in the battle against PFAS.

Transparency was the third pillar supporting the Agency's efforts. Recognizing the importance of keeping the public informed, SCV Water dedicated itself to open communication. Regular updates and timely communication about PFAS contamination, mitigation efforts, and water quality ensured that the community remains informed and engaged.

"Our three-pronged approach to restoring our groundwater affected by PFAS is the hallmark of our efforts," said General Manager Matt Stone. "Our commitment goes beyond compliance—it's about actively ensuring the safety of the water that our community relies on."

### The Road Ahead: Future Reliability Investments

Looking forward, SCV Water's commitment to addressing PFAS contamination remains unwavering, and the Agency is poised to undertake additional ambitious projects that promise a more reliable and safer water supply for the future.

One such endeavor is the S Wells Water Treatment Facility. This \$16 million project, scheduled to be in construction from July 2024 to January 2026, promises to restore local water quality affected by PFAS. Using ion exchange treatment, the facility will address contamination in three wells, restoring 6,000 gallons per minute of groundwater pumping capacity. By doing so, it's set to cater to the needs of over 10,000 SCV Water households annually, reducing dependence on imported water supplies.

The design of the facility speaks to SCV Water's dedication to the community. Thoughtfully designed with limited visibility from the street and neighboring areas, the facility comprises cutting-edge treatment systems, chemical buildings, and innovative features aimed at providing a local, reliable water supply.



Above, SCV Water staff doing routine maintenance check of the Valley Center Well PFAS Treatment Facility. Top right, SCV Water staff and guests tour the N Wells PFAS treatment facility. At right, a group photo of SCV Water Board of Directors at the Valley Center Well Ribbon Cutting event. Directors (left to right): Beth Braunstein, Kathye Armitage, Bill Cooper, Gary Martin, Piotr Orzechowski and Ken Petersen. Below, drone image of an SCV Water tank.

As SCV Water looks ahead, additional projects currently in design will make a tangible difference. The PFAS groundwater treatment system at the Rio Vista Intake Pump Station exemplifies the Agency's dedication. The project will centrally treat groundwater from three offline wells to the treatment facility, ensuring that residents receive clean, reliable water. This venture, estimated at \$14 million, embodies SCV Water's commitment to cost-effective solutions while safeguarding the local groundwater and community.

"Our dedication to eliminating PFAS contamination stands strong," said Stone. "We're continuing to implement transformative projects that ensure a future of dependable and safe water for the SCV."

### Current Triumphs: Continuing the Legacy of Restoring Local Groundwater

Amid the persistent battle against PFAS contamination, SCV Water has seen significant victories in recent years, reinforcing their commitment to safeguarding the purity of their community's water supply. One triumph is the completion of the \$6 million N Wells PFAS Treatment Facility in late 2020. As the Agency's first PFAS facility, it marked a pivotal milestone in the agency's relentless quest for clean, reliable water.

On average, the N Wells Treatment Facility produces 6,250 gallons per minute of treated water. The facility's output is more than just numbers; it translates to tangible benefits for the community, restoring enough clean water to serve over 10,000 families annually.



Another victory lies in the recently completed Valley Center Well Treatment Facility. Offline since 2019 due to PFAS, this facility now produces 1,200 gallons per minute of clean water, catering to the needs of over 2,000 families annually. With a project cost of \$5.5 million, it stands as a testament to SCV Water's dedication to finding effective, proven solutions to the PFAS challenge.

### A Call for Collaboration and Hope for a Cleaner Future

SCV Water's relentless battle against PFAS contamination is not just a local story – it's a model for proactive engagement that other communities can adopt. The three-pronged approach of testing, technology, and transparency serves as a blueprint for confronting PFAS water quality challenges head on. As SCV Water moves forward with its ambitious projects, the hope for a cleaner, safer water supply becomes a shared vision.

Stone noted, "The fight against PFAS is a reminder that while these chemicals have managed to infiltrate our water sources for decades, their hold can be broken through persistent efforts and strategic investments."

SCV Water's past investments and future projects demonstrate that with dedication, innovation, and community engagement, the tide can be turned in favor of clean, reliable water for all. ○



For more information, visit  
[www.yourSCVwater.com](http://www.yourSCVwater.com)



# Beneath the Surface: LA Sanitation and Environment's Vital Sewer Work

Los Angeles, the City of Angels, is famous for its weather, landmark restaurants, and picturesque coastline. But, did you know that beneath the surface of this iconic metropolis lies an intricate web of sewer systems that plays a crucial role in maintaining the City's quality of life? LA Sanitation and Environment (LASAN) is at the forefront of ensuring that these essential systems work seamlessly, from proactive maintenance and sewer repairs to the daily operation of water reclamation plants. It's mostly funded by the Sewer Service Charge (SSC) you pay on your monthly bill.

## Our Water Reclamation Plants

One might not immediately associate Los Angeles with cutting-edge wastewater treatment, but the City boasts some of the most advanced water reclamation plants in the world. These four facilities, managed by LASAN, are responsible for treating and purifying the vast volumes of wastewater generated by the City's residents, industries, and businesses. The reclamation plants include Hyperion, Terminal Island, Donald C. Tillman, and Los Angeles-Glendale.

At the heart of the operation is the Hyperion Water Reclamation Plant, a true engineering marvel. Hyperion processes 260 million gallons of wastewater daily, transforming it into a valuable resource. The commitment to sustainability now takes center stage, with plans underway to implement innovative technologies for advanced treatment. This technology will produce highly treated purified water to supplement our water supply and help provide a reliable and sustainable local water resource.

Hyperion and the other water reclamation plants protect the City's precious water resources, reduce pollution, and contribute to a more sustainable future. By recycling and reusing wastewater, LASAN helps

alleviate the growing concerns about water scarcity, especially in a region often plagued by drought.

## Proactive Maintenance: The Key to Sewer System Health

While water reclamation plants are vital, they represent just one part of the complex puzzle that is LA's sewer system. Beneath the streets, 6,700-plus miles of pipeline transport the wastewater, and it is LASAN's responsibility to ensure that this intricate network operates efficiently. This is where proactive maintenance comes into play.

Proactive maintenance involves regular inspections, cleaning, closed-circuit camera reviews, and repair work on sewer lines to prevent potential issues before they become costly and disruptive problems. LASAN deploys skilled teams and state-of-the-art equipment to inspect sewer lines, removing blockages and ensuring that they remain in optimal condition.

By investing in proactive maintenance, LASAN not only keeps the City's sewer system running smoothly, but also reduces the risk of sewage spills and backups that could harm the environment and public health. This commitment to proactive maintenance reflects LASAN's dedication to environmental stewardship and the well-being of Los Angeles residents.

## Sewer Repairs: Responding to the Unexpected

Despite proactive efforts, sewer systems can sometimes still face unexpected challenges. Sewer line breaks, pipe failures, and other emergencies can disrupt the flow of wastewater and pose significant risks. In such situations, LASAN's rapid response teams, on-call 24/7, come to the rescue.

These dedicated and well-trained teams are well-equipped to handle emergencies from minor repairs to major sewer line replacements. Their quick and efficient response not only minimizes environmental impacts but

also ensures that essential services like wastewater treatment continue without major disruptions.

**The Importance of LASAN's Work**

In the day-to-day life of a bustling City, it's easy to take the sewer system for granted. However, the work performed by LASAN is nothing short of vital to the City's well-being.

First and foremost, LASAN's efforts protect public health. By safely managing and treating wastewater, they prevent the spread of disease and maintain a clean and healthy environment for Los Angeles residents.



Furthermore, their work safeguards the City's natural resources. The water reclamation process not only conserves water but also helps restore ecosystems by returning treated water to local waterways.

Beyond these immediate benefits, LASAN's work contributes to the sustainability and resilience of Los Angeles. The proactive maintenance and rapid response teams ensure that the sewer system remains functional, reducing the risk of catastrophic failures that could disrupt daily life and harm the environment.

## Everyday Reliability

The tireless efforts of LASAN's teams, from water reclamation to proactive maintenance and sewer repairs, is indispensable to the City's health, environmental stewardship, and future sustainability.

The next time you turn on the tap, flush the toilet, or enjoy the benefits of a functioning sewer system, remember the unsung heroes at LASAN who make it all possible. Their commitment to the well-being of the City and its residents ensures that Los Angeles remains a shining example of urban development that respects both nature and the people it serves. ○

LA Sanitation and Environment offers 24-hour Customer Service by calling 800-773-2489 or using the City's MyLA311 app. Learn more on their website at [www.lacitysan.org/cleanwater](http://www.lacitysan.org/cleanwater).





At left, a rendering of one of the Ballona Creek TMDL Project facilities (Low Flow Treatment Facility #1). Above, a view of LA's historic MacArthur Park Lake, which is slated for revitalization. Below, this rendering is an example of a drywell system paired with new native plants and trees to capture water to improve water quality, increase shade, and green an urban environment for community benefit.

## Stormwater Capture and Water Quality Initiatives in Los Angeles

The City of Los Angeles experiences frequent droughts and unpredictable rainfall patterns, leading to water scarcity concerns. To address these issues, LA has embarked on an ambitious journey towards sustainable water management through the Safe, Clean Water Program (SCWP) administered by LA Sanitation and Environment (LASAN). This initiative focuses on stormwater capture, water quality enhancement, community greening, and innovative projects like the revitalization of MacArthur Park Lake, the Sun Valley Green Neighborhood Infrastructure Project, and the Ballona Creek TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load) Project.

### Stormwater Capture and Its Importance

Stormwater runoff in urban areas often carries pollutants like debris, oil, and chemicals into rivers and oceans, posing a significant threat to water quality and ecosystems. The Safe, Clean Water Program in Los Angeles recognizes the need to capture and treat this runoff to mitigate these adverse effects.

The City's Green New Deal aims to source 70% of its water supply locally by 2035, as such City leadership has placed an emphasis on multi-benefit stormwater capture projects. These projects aim to improve water quality using nature-based solutions that replenish LA's groundwater basins and increase recreational benefits, especially for those neighborhoods where residents already have historically faced economic, health, and environmental hardships.

### Revitalization of MacArthur Park Lake

MacArthur Park Lake's revitalization is part of the Safe, Clean Water Program's mission to improve water quality and create vibrant community spaces, especially in underserved communities. By enhancing the lake's water quality and using stormwater capture techniques, LA Sanitation and Environment aims to create a healthier ecosystem for both wildlife and the community. The MacArthur Lake Stormwater Capture Project diverts and treats portions of wet weather stormwater flows as well as dry weather flows from an existing underground storm drain system. This water is then discharged into MacArthur Lake for storage or returned to the storm drain system.

The project reduces the volume of stormwater and dry weather flows and their associated pollutant loads, that enters Ballona Creek and ultimately Santa Monica Bay. Additionally, the project enhances the park by creating treatment wetlands and provides educational opportunities, such as interpretive signage about stormwater management and park wetlands.

### Sun Valley Green Neighborhood Infrastructure Project

Located in the Upper LA River watershed, Sun Valley sits over a large underground aquifer where the City stores a portion of its drinking



water. Stormwater runoff has historically caused flooding and pollution, affecting the local environment and public health. LASAN has secured funding for the project from the SCWP to install permeable surfaces, bioswales, and dry wells (underground structures that allow water to soak into the ground) to capture and treat stormwater, reduce pollution and minimize the risk of flooding. The Sun Valley Watershed project exemplifies the program's commitment to enhancing water quality, mitigating the impacts of urbanization, and providing nature-based solutions in an area that has been underserved.

### Ballona Creek TMDL Project

The Ballona Creek TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load) Project is being constructed to improve water quality in Ballona Creek and downstream wetlands, to protect the health of people who enjoy beaches downstream, and to assist the City in meeting its water quality limits and supply goals. TMDLs are important water quality regulations that require pollution reduction under the Clean Water Act. As part of this project, the City is constructing two innovative facilities that collect and treat polluted runoff that flows in the creek during dry weather. The smaller of the two facilities uses ozonation processes to treat polluted water from the Sepulveda Channel, a tributary of Ballona Creek, and return the clean water to the creek. The larger facility, sited along the main stem of Ballona Creek, will not only treat and return up to six million gallons per day of clean water to Ballona Creek, but it will also divert up to 23 million gallons per day to the Hyperion Water Reclamation Plant to supplement flows and allow for the runoff to be treated for reuse as local water supply in the future.

### Comprehensive Solutions for a Complex Future

Los Angeles faces complex challenges related to water management, but the Safe, Clean Water Program provides comprehensive solutions. Through the revitalization of MacArthur Park Lake, the Sun Valley Green Neighborhood Infrastructure Project, and the Ballona Creek TMDL Project, the program is actively working to capture and treat stormwater, enhance water quality, and create more sustainable urban environments. As Los Angeles continues to adapt and innovate, it serves as a model for other cities looking to address water resource challenges in an environmentally responsible and community-oriented manner. ○

LA Sanitation and Environment hosts virtual meetings to educate residents and accept feedback regarding proposed and funded projects. Learn more on their website at [www.lacitysan.org/watershedprotection](http://www.lacitysan.org/watershedprotection)

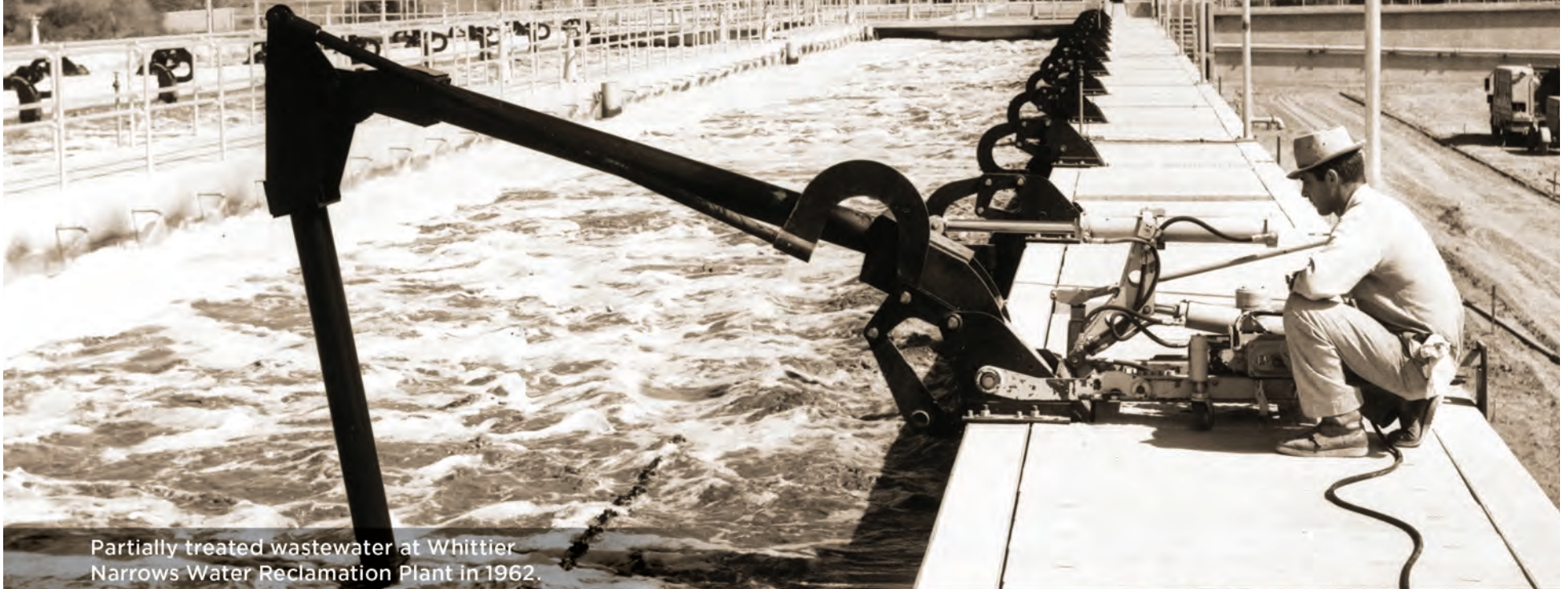


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## FOR WATER-SAVING TIPS & REBATES

# 60 YEARS of Water Recycling



Partially treated wastewater at Whittier Narrows Water Reclamation Plant in 1962.

## OVER 1 TRILLION GALLONS RECYCLED

In Los Angeles County, about half of our drinking water comes from wells pumping up groundwater and the remainder is imported from hundreds of miles away—from the Colorado River and Northern California. In 1962, our Whittier Narrows Water Reclamation Plant began producing recycled water that is used to refill our groundwater basins. Since then, we have been recycling at 10 of our 11 wastewater treatment plants and, along with our water agency partners, have recycled over 1 trillion gallons. That's enough water to fill an 8-foot diameter pipe that circles the earth 23 times! This recycling reduces the need to import water and makes our region more sustainable.

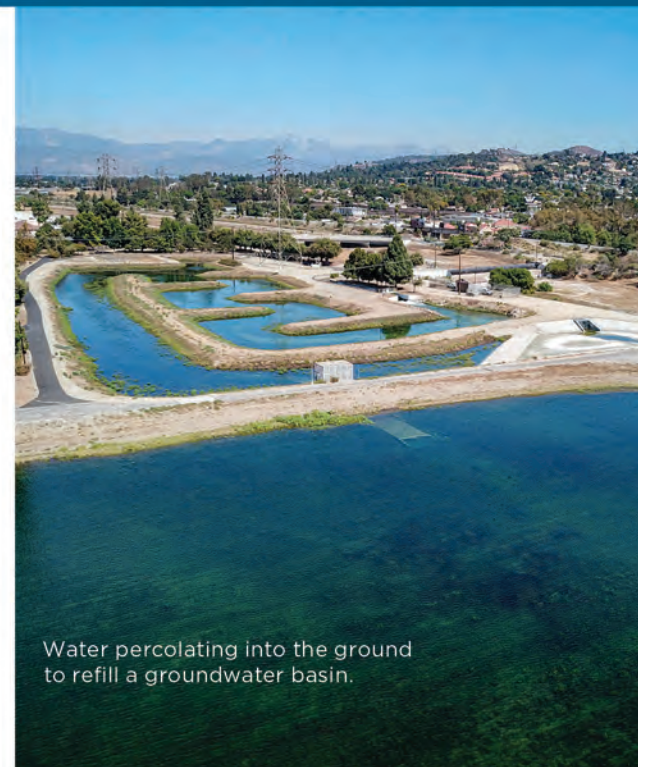
Nonetheless, we are striving to do more. We have partnered with the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California on a project to reuse the water from our 11th treatment plant. **This program could produce enough water for 1.5 million people, making it one of the world's largest water recycling efforts.**

For more info, contact us at [info@lacsds.org](mailto:info@lacsds.org) or 562-908-4288, ext. 2300.  
For more on the new recycling project, visit [www.mwdh2o.com/purewater](http://www.mwdh2o.com/purewater).



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Water percolating into the ground to refill a groundwater basin.