

CALIFORNIA

2022

WATER

VENTURA COUNTY / NORTH LOS ANGELES COUNTY EDITION

**THIS DROUGHT
IS NOT GOING
AWAY!**

**REGIONAL LEADERS
DISCUSS SOLUTIONS**

**LA County Waterworks Districts
Educating Residents**

**Las Virgenes MWD
Helps Customers Conserve**

LADWP: How to Save Water Outdoors

SCV Water Invests in Diverse Supply



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Low water drought conditions at Folsom Dam and Lake. Photo courtesy of the California Department of Water Resources

California's Drought: What Comes Next?

California's historic drought is far from over and it has caused a stir throughout the Golden State about what the future of our water supply will look like.

This latest issue of California Water magazine takes on this challenge, tackling the causes behind the drought while also highlighting innovative ways that residents, businesses, and water agencies are stretching water supplies through efficient use, recycling, reuse and more during these hard times.



Charley Wilson

Causes of the Drought

The drought that has gripped California and the Western United States for the past several years has been caused by a combination of factors. Low precipitation levels are obviously a major contributing factor, but other factors such as high temperatures, increased evaporation, and changes in atmospheric conditions

have also played a role. The net result is that reservoirs that California depends on are at dangerously low levels, with some even approaching dryness.

What's Needed Next

To address the water crisis, we need to change both our individual habits and our state policies. On an individual level, we can all do our part to conserve water by making small changes in our daily lives, such as taking shorter showers, watering our plants during cooler hours of the day, and using a broom instead of a hose to clean our driveways and sidewalks. If everyone does their part, it will make a big difference. On a policy level, state leaders need to prioritize investment in infrastructure projects that will ensure the reliability of our state's water supply. Only by working together can we hope to bring an end to this crisis.

Please connect with us on Facebook or Instagram, where you'll find us under the username socialwater. We will love to hear from you!

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 Leaders Advocate for Water Supply Improvements

Business, Labor and Disadvantaged Communities Call for Long-Term Solutions, Investment

By Elizabeth Smilor
Special Sections Writer

The California Department of Water Resources recently announced that current conditions indicate we're heading into a fourth year of drought. This should not be surprising news. Lawns are browning as residents have been asked to limit outdoor watering. Restaurants only serve water upon request. Daily news photos show reservoirs at drastically low levels.

"A cycle of wet and dry years is common in California, but now the storms are more severe and less often. We can't change the weather, but we can prepare for drought years by investing in an 'all-of-the-above' strategy to sustain a reliable water supply for all," said Ray Baca, Executive Director of the Engineering Contractors' Association (ECA), a diverse group of construction contractors and suppliers focused on new water and wastewater infrastructure projects, as well as emergency repair and replacement of aging water infrastructure throughout the Southern California region.

Baca sums up the belief of many regional leaders across the business, labor and construction sectors, and in disadvantaged communities. These leaders, like most Californians, recognize the drought as a long-term challenge in need of diverse solutions.

A majority of Californians see water supply as a big problem in their area, according to a survey by the Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC) conducted in July. About two in three adults or 68 percent and more than three in four likely voters (77 percent) say it is a big problem - up from a year ago (63 percent of adults, 69 percent of likely voters), the survey reported.

The same survey shows that most Californians also believe not enough is being done by local and state governments and by the public in general. Again, the PPIC survey shows 68-69 percent of all adults say not enough is being done in response to the current drought.

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

“California cannot afford to waste time in repairing our aging water infrastructure. California has the tools to secure our water future, and now is the time to use them,” said Marci Stange, Director of Water and Environmental Relations for ReBuild SoCal Partnership. “We need a strong voice in our legislature that will move forward with both short- and long-term infrastructure projects. A secure water future is achievable, if it is made a priority.”

The Rebuild SoCal Partnership (RSCP) consists of 2,750 contractors throughout Southern California that represent more than 90,000 union workers. RSCP is dedicated to working with elected officials and educating the public on the continued need for essential infrastructure funding, including airports, bridges, ports, rail, roads, and water projects.

We are in the midst of our driest year to date with 97.5 percent of the state experiencing severe drought conditions and 40 percent in severe drought, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor. The drought is affecting 37.2 million Californians from farmlands to urban centers. California's DWR estimates that without action, hotter, drier weather could reduce California's water supply by up to 10 percent by 2040, which is roughly 6 to 9 million acre-feet.

Gov. Gavin Newsom introduced the California Water Supply Strategy in August. The plan prioritizes actions to capture, recycle, de-salt and conserve more water.

“The best science tells us that we need to act now to adapt to California's water future. Climate change means drought won't just stick around for two years at a time like it historically has – extreme weather is the new normal here in the American West and California will adapt to this new reality,” Newsom said. Newsom characterized these strategies as “moving away from a scarcity mindset to one more of abundance.”

“How can we take the existing resources and be more resourceful, in terms of advancing policies, and direct our energies to create more water, to capture more water?” he said.

Robert Sausedo, President and CEO of Community Build and a leader of the Groundswell coalition, said the next question should be how to distribute that water more equitably.

“It's really important to look at water justice for disadvantaged communities, because historically we get left out of the discussion and then we take the brunt of the disaster,” he said, citing Flint, California's Central Valley, Vernon and Carson as some examples. Groundswell is a coalition comprised of community groups, faith-based organizations and other stakeholders advocating for new policies that enhance water delivery by supporting small water system operators throughout the state, many serving low-income communities as well as people of color.

“This coalition is designed to address that problem from the Delta all the way down to the border and everything in between to make sure that access to clean water is appropriate, and that as they tap other water sources, communities of concern have a voice at the table so they're not left out in the end,” Sausedo said. “We need policy makers to not pander to groups that call themselves environmental groups when they're really just set up to slow down development and don't do anything to accommodate the need for water rights in communities of concern. The endangered lizard and fly have more water rights than I do.”

Community Build offers many social services and helps develop affordable housing to tackle California's other crisis of homelessness, which Sausedo also ties to water. “In order to build housing, you have to reasonably account for access to water for that building.”

Rich Lambros, Managing Director of the Southern California Leadership Council (SCLC), agreed that water supply is tied to housing and growth.

“Southern California Leadership Council appreciates the important role water availability, affordability and reliability play in supporting economic development, job creation and quality of life in Southern California,” said Lambros. “In particular, water supply security is a critical enabler of growth, development and increased housing supply.”



The ongoing drought is stressing water supply as reservoirs drop to historically low levels. At left, low water conditions surrounding Granite Bay Main Beach at Folsom Lake on Sept. 30. On this date, the reservoir storage was at 35 percent of the total capacity. Above, an aerial view of Loafer Point boat ramp showing Lake Oroville on Aug. 4. On this date, the storage was 1,439,844 reservoir acre-feet, which is 41 percent of the total capacity.

Photos courtesy of the California Department of Water Resources.

Three former Governors (Wilson, Davis and Schwarzenegger) and three dozen President/CEOs of major companies and agencies comprise SCLC, a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization formed to provide leadership on major public policies critical to Southern California's future.

The projects that are of interest and widely supported by business and labor leaders in our region include: The Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conveyance modernization project; recycled water projects including Pure Water Southern California and many smaller projects including one by Las Virgenes-Triunfo Joint Powers Authority and a Central Coast Groundwater Basin project by the Water Replenishment District (WRD) of Southern California; and storage reservoirs including Sites Reservoir in the Sacramento Valley.

“BizFed speaks for warehouses, hospitals, food processing plants, educational institutions, restaurants, hotels, builders, refineries, retail, recreational facilities and other community staples, thanks to our diverse and ever-growing membership. These industries all need clean, reliable and affordable water to thrive and serve Southern Californians,” said BizFed Founding CEO Tracy Hernandez. “We must modernize the region's water distribution system by investing in water infrastructure projects such as the Cadiz Water Project in the Mojave, the Delta Conveyance Project and innovative proposals to harness desalination technology. This is how we ensure the flow of water that our trillion-dollar economy demands.”

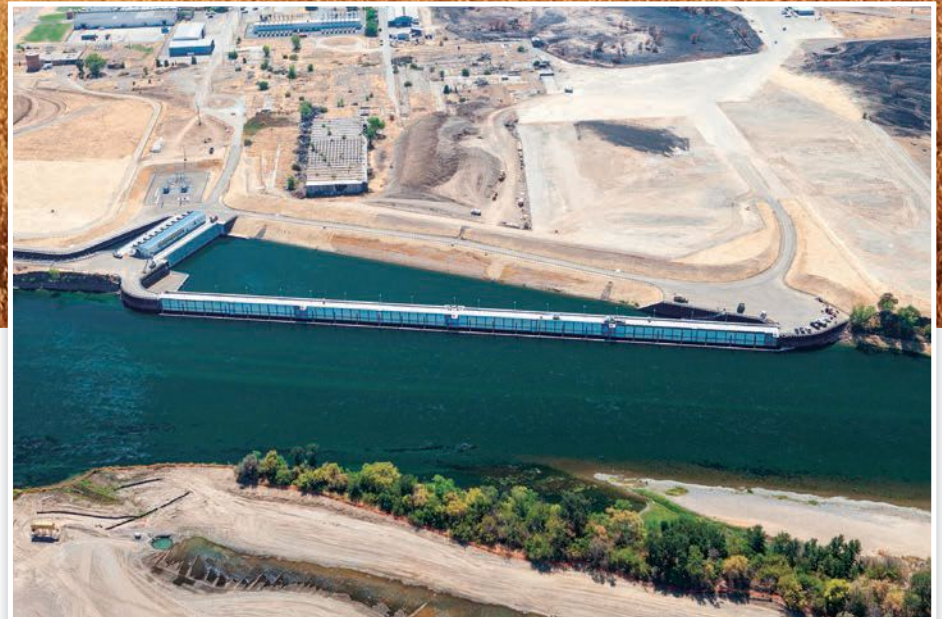
BizFed, the Business Federation of Los Angeles, is an alliance of 225 business organizations representing 410,000 employers and 5 million employees in the greater L.A. area.

Actions included in the governor's water strategy include: Creating storage space for up to 4 million acre-feet of water for dry periods; recycling and reusing at least 800,000 acre-feet of water per year by 2030; freeing up 500,000 acre-feet of water through more efficient water use and conservation; and making new water available for use by capturing stormwater and desalinating ocean water and salty water in groundwater basins.

“While our water agency leaders are doing a good job of bringing forward much needed water projects, these projects are often delayed by a lack of funding or challenged by environmental or NIMBY opposition,” said ECA's Baca. “Because of that, there's a growing need for all of us in Southern California, especially organizations like ECA and our strategic partners in business, labor and construction, to fight for these projects and the funding needed to bring these water supply solutions online.” ○

The Sites Reservoir Project will be situated on the west side of the Sacramento Valley, approximately 10 miles west of Maxwell, Calif., in Glenn and Colusa Counties.

Inset: Existing Tehama Colusa Canal Authority Fish Screens



Sites Reservoir

Is a Solution to California's Megadrought

When it comes to water, California continues to break records, and not the kind we like to brag about. According to a recent study by Nature Climate Change, the West Coast's drought **has worsened so much in one year**, that it is now the driest in at least 1,200 years and is a worst-case climate change scenario playing out live. In fact, it's being labeled as a "megadrought."

As we close out a brutally dry summer, many water suppliers are leaning more on their stored water supplies.

In many ways, Sites is exactly what a state burdened by droughts needs. Sites would capture and store water from the Sacramento River during big, flashy rain storms — after all other water rights and regulatory requirements are met — and is made available to California's environment, communities, and farms when it's most needed — especially during times of drought.

Here in Southern California, we are utilizing all the tools in our toolbox — recycling, conservation, desalination, groundwater replenishment, and yes, more water storage. Although Sites is located in Glenn and Colusa counties up north, public water agencies throughout California have the opportunity to invest in Sites to secure more water for the customers they serve.

Sites Reservoir is looking to make a big impact on water supply while keeping its environmental footprint small. The project does not dam any major river. Sites is designed to help the environment, not cause harm. And a large portion of the water saved in Sites is specifically set aside for fisheries and the environment during dry years. This is a first of its kind and a model for successful future water management.

If Sites had been in place prior to 2021, we could have captured and stored much of the excess prior years flood flows for use in what was a very dry year, and California would have had an additional 1 million acre-feet of water available for use during 2021 when it was badly needed. And a good portion of that water would have been held over for use in 2022 which is an equally bad or worse water year.

Sites can best be described as an insurance policy. And if the scientific projections are correct about the impacts of climate change, then having Sites Reservoir will mean we will be able to collect even more water in the reservoir for use during future extended droughts.

The Sites Project Authority is advancing Sites Reservoir because our state needs more water during dry years. And we're proud the project is supported by local water agencies, irrigation districts, and municipalities across California. We're also proud to have the State and Federal government investing in the project.

It's critical that we continue to invest in a broad range of solutions to ensure a resilient water future, and Sites Reservoir would increase water storage, help alleviate symptoms, and address the impacts of a megadrought. It's time to build Sites now. ○





Photo Courtesy of the California Department of Water Resources



Photo Courtesy of the United States Bureau of Reclamation

At left, an aerial view of the South Fork of Lake Oroville in Butte County on Aug. 2. On this date, the storage was 1,440,432 reservoir acre-feet (AF), which is 41 percent of the total capacity. Lake Oroville is the largest reservoir in the State Water Project and it peaked this year at just over half its capacity. Above, the light-colored ring around Lake Mead shows the decreased water level from years of drought conditions on the Colorado River. The photo was taken on Feb. 16. The reservoir was formed by Hoover Dam and is considered one of the largest artificial lakes in the world with 750 miles of shoreline. The lake helps provide water for 25 million people in Nevada, Arizona, and California. The historic water shortage on the Colorado River will likely lead to mandatory water cutbacks.

Region-Wide Mandatory Water Conservation Possible in 2023

You don't need to be a fortune teller to predict what the future may hold for water availability in Southern California next year. The region's limited imported supplies will prompt water officials to consider region-wide mandatory conservation measures should the ongoing drought continue.

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California's six-county service area normally relies on supplies from Northern California and the Colorado River to cover more than half of the region's water demands. The ongoing drought has reduced supplies from Northern California over the last three years to historic low levels. And the Colorado River is facing its first-ever shortage condition, with a call by federal officials for river users to prepare for deeper cuts next year.

In response, Metropolitan staff has informed its Board of Directors that it is preparing ways to implement mandatory conservation across Southern California, if necessary. The board could consider actions as early as January.

"We need to prepare for this drought to continue," said Metropolitan General Manager Adel Hagekhalil. "Even if the rains return, it will take a lot for the State Water Project system to recover, and the Colorado River will remain in a historic shortage condition. A region-wide response may prove necessary."

Portions of the Metropolitan service area are already facing various mandatory conservation measures because constraints in Metropolitan's distribution system and limited local supplies make them heavily dependent on extremely limited water deliveries from Northern California. Three consecutive years of low supplies from the State Water Project prompted Metropolitan to direct numerous local agencies starting last June to reduce demand. Those agencies are in parts of Los Angeles, Ventura, and San Bernardino counties, affecting six million people.

"We are working closely with these local agencies to manage through this challenge and develop plans to fast-track lasting solutions," Hagekhalil said. "Even with these efforts, supplies will be limited until the State Water Project can deliver more water."

While Southern California's water challenges during this drought have most affected these areas, the worsening shortage on the Colorado River from a decades-long drought could prompt region-wide mandatory conservation as early as next year.

The federal Bureau of Reclamation declared the first-ever shortage condition for the river in August 2021. With storage levels continuing to decrease, Reclamation recently announced that additional cuts would be necessary in

2023. Those cuts have yet to be identified while Metropolitan continues to work with other water users in California, Arizona, and Nevada to negotiate a collaborative response.

In addition to pulling from its local reservoirs, Metropolitan has operated its Colorado River Aqueduct at nearly its full capacity to meet the region's demands this year. In future years, that might not be possible.

Metropolitan staff informed the board earlier this summer that it would develop a plan to enforce mandatory conservation on its 26 member agencies next year, taking into account unique local circumstances. "We are planning for the worst and hoping for the best," Hagekhalil said. "In the meantime, everyone can do their part by never wasting a drop of water."

Although all eyes are on water availability in 2023, Hagekhalil added that the region also must plan for the future and address climate change by increasing supply resiliency through infrastructure investments. "All options must be in our resource mix, from imported supplies, conservation, and recycling to local stormwater capture, recharging and remediating ground water basins and building storage. We also must improve our regional water system to move water across our service area to equitably meet future demands," he said. ○

For more conservation tips, visit www.bewaterwise.com



Metropolitan General Manager Adel Hagekhalil speaks at a news conference about water restrictions. He is flanked by the Metropolitan Board Chairwoman Gloria D. Gray, left, and Chief Operating Officer Deven Upadhyay.



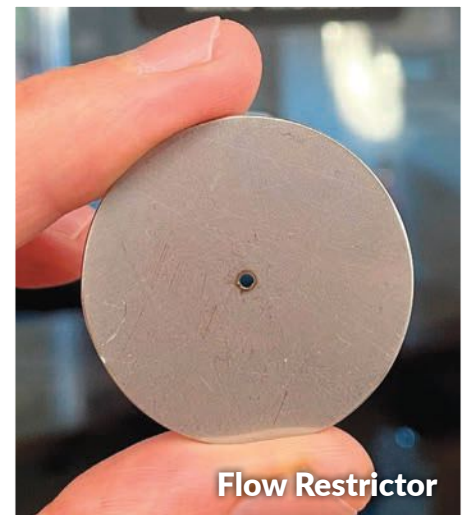
If There are Drought Heroes – *It's LVMWD Customers*

"LVMWD has experienced a significant reduction in water usage with the drought emergency, and the credit goes to our customers for their responsiveness ..."



For decades, the relationship between water agencies and their customers has been largely transactional – the agency supplies the water, and the customers pay for their usage. But with this historic drought, the relationship has evolved into something much more. Not only are water agencies charged with providing safe and reliable water, they are also in the business of educating their customers and providing them with tools to make more informed decisions on how they use water. In turn, customers are taking on a new level of responsibility to make changes in their behavior to adapt to the new normal of hotter, drier conditions in California. And, the customers of Las Virgenes Municipal Water District (LVMWD), serving the westernmost portion of Los Angeles County, are paving the way.

One of the tools that LVMWD is providing to its customers is data made available through the installation of advanced or smart meters. The automated system, along with the infrastructure, provides near real-time water usage data to customers and the District. Each individual customer can review and manage their water use more effectively and with greater responsibility using a mobile-device friendly system called WaterSmart. Leaks can be detected quickly rather than waiting for an entire billing cycle to discover a spike in usage and cost, which helps to conserve water. Not having to manually read 21,000 meters every month also helps to keep fleet vehicles off the roads – reducing carbon emissions.



Flow Restrictor

But advanced meters are not enough. The District has also implemented a comprehensive conservation program due to the historic drought and its disproportionate impacts on our region. The program is designed to provide customers with clear guidelines to follow, a billing structure to incentivize customers to stay within their prescribed water budgets and penalties for those who ignore the conservation requirements.

As of November 2021, the District adopted Stage 3 of its Water Shortage Contingency Plan, which included the declaration of a local emergency and initial reduction of customers' outdoor water budgets by 25 percent. The action was necessary because LVMWD's single source of drinking water supply from the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) and delivered via the State Water Project was not expected to meet the normal demands of the region. In May 2022, after the driest three consecutive winter months in recorded history, outdoor water budgets were further reduced to 50 percent of normal.

Since March 2022, the District has issued exceedance notices to customers who have used 150 percent or more of their water budgets. In addition, customers who have had four exceedances have been informed of the possible installation of a flow restriction device to curb their water usage. The devices are installed on water meters for two weeks for the first exceedance. If water

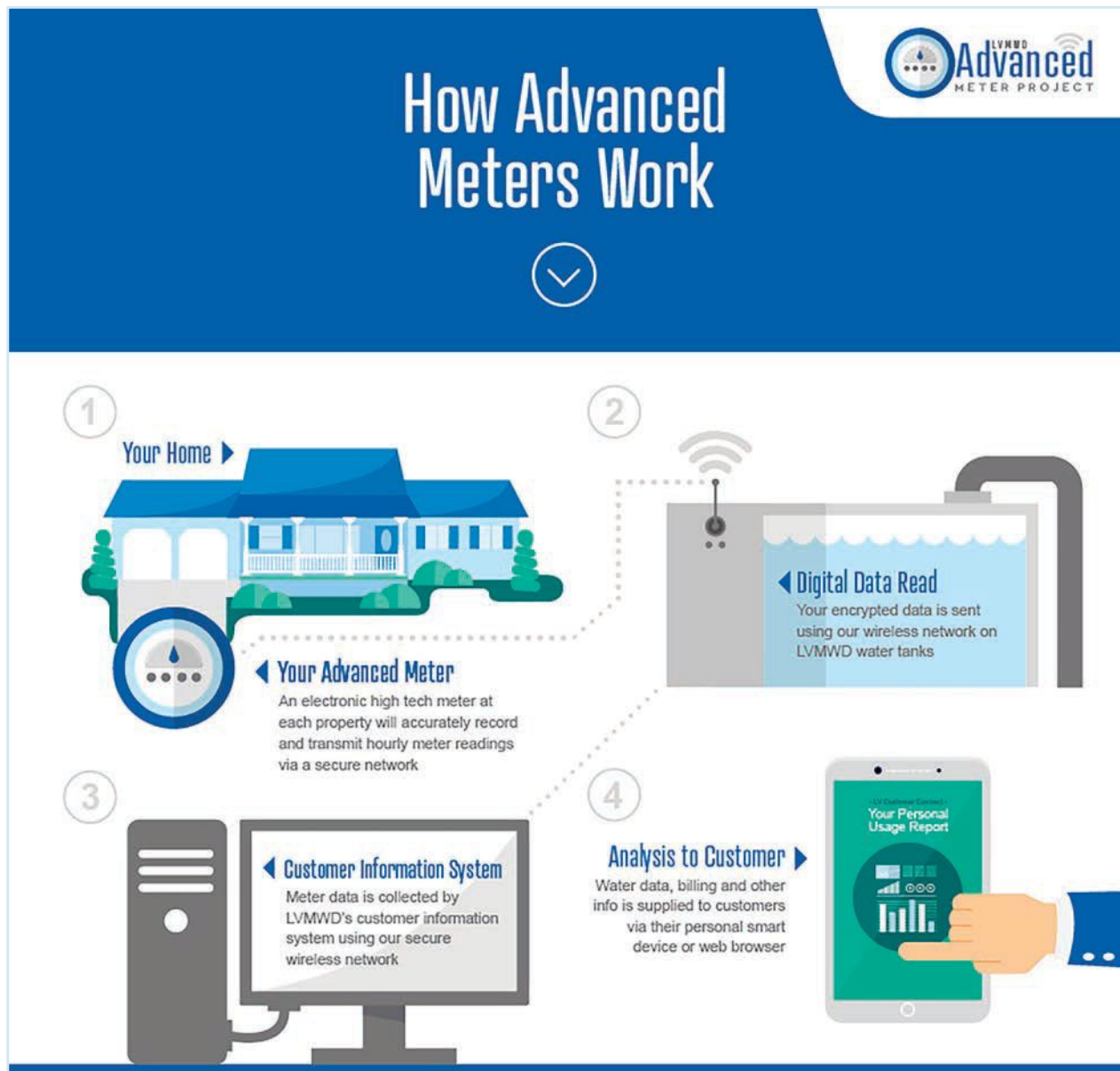
consumption is not substantially reduced and the exceedances continue, the restrictor is reinstalled a second time for three months. For third and subsequent exceedances, it can be installed for up to six months. The program is intended to ensure that all of LVMWD's customers do their part to respond to the critical water shortage. Fortunately, it is working as only 70 flow restriction devices have been installed to-date.

LVMWD has experienced a significant reduction in water usage with the drought emergency, and the credit goes to our customers for their responsiveness, flexibility, resiliency and engagement. Water consumption was down 37 percent in June, 32 percent in July and 36 percent in August 2022, as compared to the same months in 2020. When adjusted to account for the higher temperatures this year, those reduction number correspond to 44 percent, 42 percent and 45 percent, respectively. With a regional reduction target of 35 percent, these conservation results have delayed the need for an altogether ban on outdoor watering. In May 2022, MWD warned that an outdoor watering ban could be instituted as early as September 1, 2022, if conservation objectives were not achieved. The need for such a ban has been pushed off to at least December 1, 2022 and will depend on continued conservation efforts and water supply conditions with the start of the new "rainy" season. For the month of August, 77 percent

of LVMWD's customers were at or below their reduced water budgets. Compared to similar months in 2013, LVMWD's customers have collectively reduced their water use by approximately 50 percent.

LVMWD customers are at ground zero for drought in the United States. Many have already begun planning to transform their landscapes to be drought-tolerant and climate-appropriate for a future that will be hotter and drier. A drive through the service area highlights the overwhelming cooperation and commitment of customers. With all the challenges that our people and planet face, it's refreshing to see a community work together for the good of the whole. Our community will be stronger and more resilient as a result. LVMWD thanks its customers for being drought heroes and commits to do its part to improve water supply reliability for the future. ○

"Water consumption was down 37 percent in June, 32 percent in July and 36 percent in August 2022, as compared to the same months in 2020."





HELPING TO MAKE CONSERVATION A LIFESTYLE ONE CUSTOMER AT A TIME



As our climate continues to warm and drought conditions become more frequent, converting thirsty lawns to drought-tolerant landscaping increases in importance. Currently, roughly one-third of all potable/drinking water is used outdoors on irrigation.

This is why LADWP offers outdoor water conservation programs and resources to help our residential and business customers make the switch from thirsty grass to a beautiful drought-tolerant landscape to save thousands of gallons of water.





TURF REPLACEMENT PROGRAM

Starting October 1, 2022, the turf replacement rebate will be \$5 per square foot to replace your thirsty lawn with drought-friendly landscaping.

Available to Residential and Commercial Customers. **Learn more here:** ladwp.com/landscaping

LANDSCAPE DESIGN SERVICES

Get a free customized, professional design to help you plan your own turf replacement project. Customers receive a planting and irrigation plan, list of low-water use plants, and a rough cost estimate for their project.

Single Family Residential Customers Only. **Learn more here:** designyourgarden.ladwp.com

LAWN BE GONE HANDS-ON WORKSHOPS

Free workshops where customers can learn how to make their garden drought-tolerant and become waterwise gardeners.

Residential Customers Only. **View upcoming classes here:** lawnbegone.ladwp.com

CA NATIVE PLANT LANDSCAPER CERTIFICATE

A free program designed for professional gardeners to educate on proper maintenance of a water-efficient, California-friendly or native garden. Held in partnership with the Theodore Payne Foundation. **Learn more here:** theodorepayne.org/learn/landscaper-certification

ONLINE RESOURCES & INSPIRATION

From downloadable low water use landscape design templates to searchable plant databases to landscape transformation videos, LADWP has the help you need for your next water conservation DIY project. **Learn more at** ladwp.cafriendly/landscaping.com

FREE MATERIALS

Mulch is a great way to save water by keeping the soil around your plants cool and moist. Free mulch is available through our partners at LA Sanitation. **Find a location nearest you at:** lacitysan.org/freemulch

City Plants distributes free trees to residents for yards and parkways. You may be able to receive up to 7 free trees for use on your project and to help save energy and cool your home. **Learn more at** CityPlants.org

NOT READY TO MAKE THE SWITCH?

LADWP also offers rebates on efficient irrigation products like efficient sprinkler heads and weather-based irrigation controllers to help reduce the amount of water used on your existing landscape. **See all our available rebates at** ladwp.com/save

For more information on landscape transformation resources from LADWP, visit ladwp.com/landscaping.



A drone view of Castaic Lake, dam, intake tower, auxiliary spillway, and lagoon. Photo taken Sept. 13. On this date, the storage was 119,442 reservoir acre-feet (AF), which is 37 percent of the total capacity. Photo courtesy of The California Department of Water Resources

Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency's Investment in Resiliency is Decades in the Making

SCV Water and its customers are working together to weather the historic drought facing the State of California and the Santa Clarita Valley (SCV).

SCV Water's approach is two-fold: Investing in and protecting a diverse water supply; and working with customers in using water wisely.

PLANNING YESTERDAY FOR WATER TOMORROW

Before the first reports of widespread drought conditions began, SCV Water had been building a diverse and resilient portfolio of water supplies. These historical investments in supply, storage and treatment have played a critical role in providing some security against the severe drought.

Imported Water

In the 1960s, the community recognized additional water would be needed to supplement local supplies, and contracted with the State of California for water from the State Water Project. SCV Water continues to invest in maintenance and upgrades to the distribution and storage network for that supply. Over the years, SCV Water has invested in additional amounts of State Water Project water to better meet the needs of a growing community. Further investment in other water rights and water banking (more on these below) strengthen the long-term reliability of the imported supply portfolio. In dry years, like the area is experiencing now, SCV Water imports about 7 percent of the total supply from the State Water Project, compared to about 50 percent in a normal water year.

Since this supply fluctuates in years of drought and may be uncertain after a disaster like a large earthquake, the Agency has proactively invested in local water supplies to ensure SCV Water customers have a secure, reliable water source.

Local Groundwater

The Santa Clarita Valley is fortunate to overlie two main groundwater aquifers, which can provide a local, less expensive, and more reliable alternative to imported water to fill part of the community's annual water needs. About half of the SCV's water supply in a typical year would come from groundwater; however, it has been reduced to about 37 percent this year.

Portions of the aquifers have experienced contamination from industrial activities and man-made chemicals. The cause of this reduction began before the current drought, and SCV Water has an aggressive treatment program underway to protect and restore the groundwater.

Of SCV Water's 42 active wells, 17 are removed from service due to contamination from per- and polyfluoroalkyl (PFAS) chemicals. In the last few years, SCV Water strategically and nimbly built two treatment facilities, with several more in process to increase groundwater supply. Several other wells have been impacted by contaminants including perchlorate and volatile organic compounds from the Whittaker Bermite property, a former munitions testing and manufacturing site. Treatment systems have been installed for some wells, and others are undergoing design of new treatment facilities to bring them back into service.

Banked Water and Other Dry-Year Reserves

The Agency's most innovative and valuable investment right now is in water banking programs. SCV Water had the foresight to invest in off-site "water banks" in neighboring Kern County. Much like a savings account for money, water is added during wet years and pumped back out when needed during dry years. SCV Water recently invested in additional infrastructure that increased the amount that can be withdrawn each year. These supplies are critical to lessening the impact of a multi-year drought on the community. The Agency expects to invest in additional water storage projects in the future as part of a long-term strategy for a reliable and sustainable water supply.



Principal Water Resource Planner Rick Viergutz checks equipment that monitors conditions for Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems, as part of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan.

Recycled Water

SCV Water has delivered recycled water to the community since 2003. Unlike groundwater, which can be depleted, or State Water Project water, which is costly and uncertain, recycled water is available as long as wastewater is generated. Several projects are underway to expand capacity almost 20-fold, from 475 up to 8,500 acre-feet per year (just under 3 billion gallons), delivering it to additional large landscape irrigation and industrial users.

In an innovative partnership between SCV Water, the City of Santa Clarita, and the developers of Vista Canyon, a new mixed-use development, a water recycling facility built by the developer will soon provide water for irrigation within Vista Canyon, as well as future landscape customers in the area. At build-out, the project could produce about 392,000 gallons per day.

"A diverse water supply is key to helping our customers weather dry years," said SCV Water's General Manager Matt Stone. "Investments in projects such as off-site storage options across the state, local groundwater management and water recycling ensure our customers always have access to safe, reliable water when needed."

WATER-WISE ACTIONS

A strong partnership with customers recognizes that everyone has a vital role as water stewards to ensure the SCV has enough water now and in the future. Customer vigilance, coupled with robust communications and rebate programs, resulted in an 18 percent decrease in water use in September 2022 over 2020 in the Santa Clarita Valley.



Santa Clarita home, after taking part in the Lawn Replacement Program



WHAT ARE PFAS CHEMICALS?

Synthetic PFAS chemicals have been around for more than 70 years, and are found in thousands of everyday products, including non-stick cookware, shampoo, food wrappers and firefighting foam. The chemicals have existed in the environment due to manufacturing, product use and discharges from local wastewater treatment plants.

Treatment facility opened in 2021, which removes PFAS from 3 groundwater wells in the area.

"More than half of the water used in the average SCV household is used outdoors," said Stone. "And as much as half of that water may be lost to run-off or overspray. Our innovative programs provide resources that allow customers to make small but lasting changes to water use and increase our water savings."

SCV Water is home to many water-saving programs, rebates and resources for its residential and commercial customers. When customers asked for flexibility, the Agency delivered. Take, for instance, the Agency's revamped Lawn Replacement Program (LRP). The new guidelines offer increased economic incentives, bonuses for native plants, options for irrigation upgrades and an expanded list of eligible project areas and sizes.

Information on water- and money-saving options accessible to customers can be found at <https://yourSCVwater.com/save-water-money/>.

From investing in a diverse water supply, using water wisely and restoring local groundwater, SCV Water is poised to meet the community's water needs for years to come. Like the adage that recommends against putting all your eggs in one basket, SCV Water consistently invests in multiple sources of water, to help ensure water supplies in wet or dry years.

"Dry times in California are part of the norm. Thanks to a solid foundation of thoughtful planning and innovative projects and programs, SCV Water is here and ready to provide our customers with a long-term water supply," said Stone. "And we couldn't do it without the diligence of our customers in making permanent changes in water-use habits." ○



For more information, visit
www.yourSCVwater.com



Los Angeles County Waterworks Districts *Puts Forth Efforts to Conserve Water*

Conserve water today for a better tomorrow because every drop counts!

Los Angeles County Waterworks Districts is comprised of five special districts and the Marina del Rey Water System. A division of Los Angeles County Public Works, Waterworks provides an average of 19.5 billion gallons of potable water a year to 280,000 Los Angeles County residents through 70,000 water accounts.

The sources of Waterworks' water supply include local groundwater, imported water from the State Water Project (SWP) and the Colorado River Aqueduct (CRA). Approximately two-thirds of its supply comes from outside the Los Angeles County Region.

District No. 29 is Waterworks' retail water provider for the communities of Malibu and Topanga. It serves potable water to approximately 22,300 people through 7,500 metered connections and has both residential and business customers.

One unique feature of District 29 is that it purchases its entire water supply from West Basin Municipal Water District (West Basin). Water supplied to this district is completely dependent on the availability of imported water from West Basin, whose primary sources include the Colorado River and the California State Water Project (SWP). While imported water supplies can vary from year to year, both the Colorado River and SWP have been significantly impacted by the ongoing drought.

As longer and more extreme periods of drought impact the region as a result of climate change, Waterworks is evaluating water supply vulnerability and investigating ways to make water supplies and the distribution system more resilient. Among those efforts is an extensive public outreach campaign to promote water conservation awareness and support its customers in adopting water smart practices.

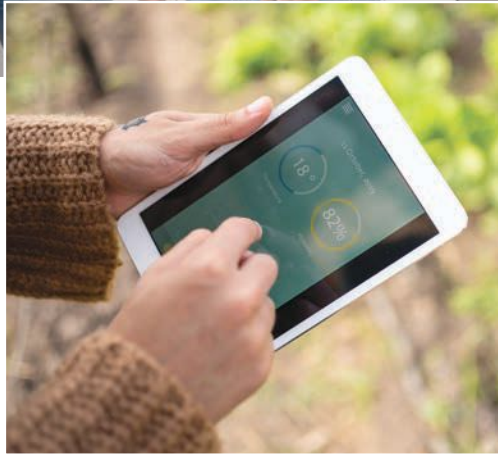
Water conservation directly impacts Waterworks finances, as water sales are its primary source of revenue. To ensure it is able to operate its infrastructure and maintain an exceptional customer experience, Waterworks is exploring additional financial resources, such as grants, to support ongoing capital projects and operations.

Waterworks continues to coordinate with regional partners to decrease future dependence on imported water and mitigate the effects of current and future drought cycles. Water supply availability continues to be a critical issue for the Los Angeles County Region. Waterworks will continue to work with its strategic partners to implement the County Water Plan, the plan will articulate a shared, inclusive, regional path forward to sustainably achieve safe, clean, and reliable water resources for Los Angeles County, <http://lacountywaterplan.org>, and build resilient sources of local water supply.

Waterworks is also continuing to work with regional partners to collaborate on and share consistent water conservation messaging to customers across all Los Angeles County communities.



Los Angeles County Waterworks Districts works with regional partners to lessen dependence on imported water and mitigate drought effects through outreach on conservation. Through social media, newsletters and community meetings, Waterworks helps customers conserve with leak audits, smart irrigation systems and other methods. Waterworks' programs aim to transform residents from passive water consumers to informed water advocates.



In addition to operational improvements throughout the system, Waterworks has implemented Level 2 of its Water Shortage Contingency Plan, which targets a 20 percent reduction in water use. This is facilitated through a series of customer water use restrictions, including limiting outdoor irrigation to two-days a week, requiring shut-off nozzles on hoses, prohibiting water runoff into streets, and requiring restaurants to serve water only upon request. If drought conditions worsen throughout the state, additional water restrictions may be implemented to reduce demand.

Waterworks is helping lead the way through implementation of several actions and programs to build water resilience and address the largest impacts.

Waterworks deployed targeted social media content, billing inserts, automated phone calls, e-blasts, a newsletter and media relations to encourage customers to conserve. It has also implemented water conservation programs that save customers money, including a rebate program for water saving devices, turf replacement, and rain barrels to help customers capture stormwater. Additionally, Waterworks offers its customers a comprehensive and free water audit program. The audits check irrigation systems, appliances, and fixtures for any leaks or inefficiencies.

Water conservation should be practiced by all Los Angeles County residents, including youth. Waterworks is updating its elementary school water conservation education program with interactive class activities and lessons encouraging students to be mindful of water usage in their homes.

Finally, Waterworks is collaborating with Water for LA (waterforla.com), a regional education program designed to transform residents from passive water consumers to empowered and informed water advocates dedicated to sustainability and health for all.



On top of general information distribution, Waterworks is reaching out to the top five percent of residential water users by phone to alert them of their high usage and educate them on ways to conserve. Waterworks is also reaching out to customers who may be wasting water through behaviors like overwatering their lawns and gardens and letting outdoor irrigation drain into the street.



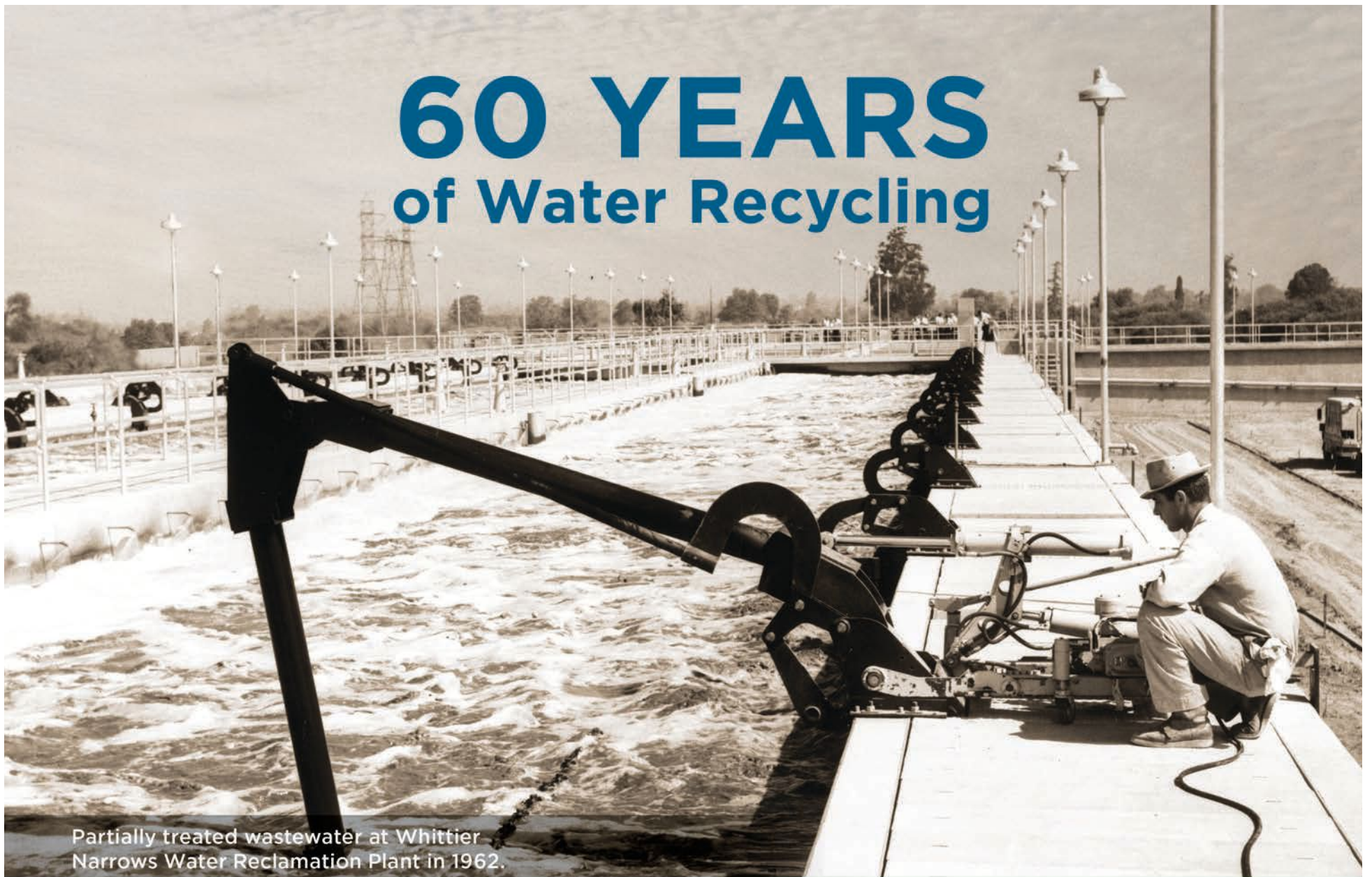
To promote awareness of Waterworks services, staff regularly attend community meetings, town councils and other public venues to promote water conservation, provide drought updates and keep customers informed of ongoing programs and projects. Through these meetings and events, Waterworks endeavors to promote within its customer a sense of shared responsibility for regional water resiliency. ○



**SAFE
CLEAN
WATER**



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.

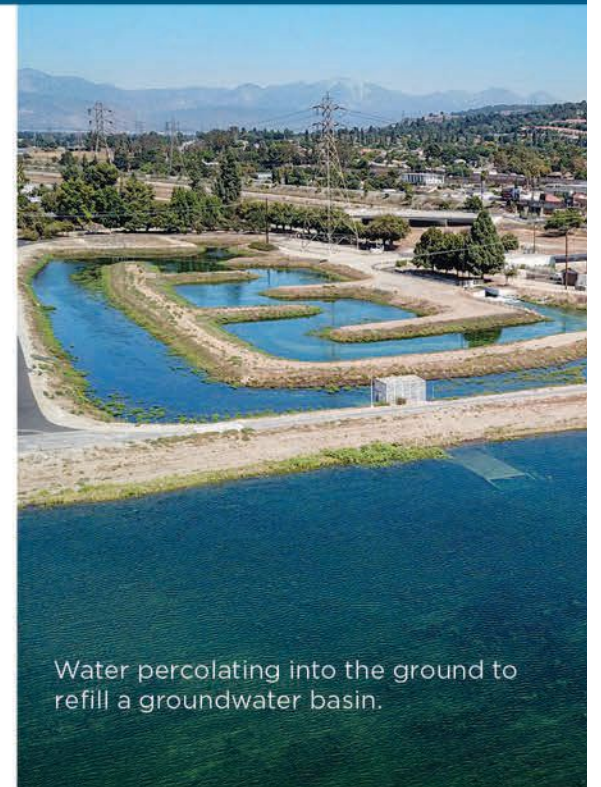
Nonetheless, we are striving to do more. We have partnered with the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California on a project to reuse the water from our 11th treatment plant. This project could produce enough water for 1.5 million people, making it one of the world's largest water recycling projects.

For more info, contact us at info@lacsdc.org or 562-908-4288, ext. 2301. For more on the new recycling project, visit www.mwdh2o.com/rrwp.



**LOS ANGELES COUNTY
SANITATION DISTRICTS**
Converting Waste Into Resources

  SanDistricts
 SanitationDistrictsLACounty
 www.lacsdc.org



Water percolating into the ground to refill a groundwater basin.

Regional Water Leaders Reflect on Hispanic Heritage Month



It's Hispanic Heritage Month, and the Southern California Water Coalition is celebrating by recognizing all Hispanic and Latinx water professionals whose leadership, dedication, and dynamism influence Southern California's water resiliency.

This year, we spoke with regional water leaders about their experiences as Latinos in the water sector and how they are working to promote inclusion and diversity in the industry. Read on to learn more about their stories!



Reflecting on Strong Roots

"What inspires me most is reflecting on my family's history of immigrating to this country. I reflect on the hard work and courage that my maternal grandfather and Dad had as immigrants—the desire to create a new life for themselves and family is a level of courage that I can only hope to honor."

Patty Cortez, Covina City Mayor



Advice for Those Starting Out

"[When I was starting out in my career], there were very few Latinos in professional positions and leadership ranks, but I was prepared to work hard and to learn as much as I could from anyone willing to help me."

Ronald Gastelum, retired General Manager, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California



Sí Se Puede

"In addition to my family, former Senator Art Torres and labor leader Cesar Chavez are great role models who inspired me. Sí se puede — yes, we can."

Jose Solorio, California Water Commissioner



Paving the Way for Future Achievement

"This month is my mother's birthday, and since she passed away, I have used this as a time of remembrance about the sacrifices our families have made to give us opportunities."

Barbara Romero, General Manager, Los Angeles Department of Public Works



Honoring Cherished Role Models

"I look forward to watching the leaders of color emerging in the industry share their energy and wisdom with children, so future generations choose careers in water."

Carol Lee Gonzales-Brady, Board President, Rancho California Water District



Read the full article at socalwater.org for more insights.



What Matters
Water TV & Podcast



HEAR FROM TOP WATER LEADERS

EPISODES

#1 | **Adel Hagekhalil**, General Manager, Metropolitan Water District

#2 | **Joaquin Esquivel**, Chair, State Water Resources Control Board, and **Karla Nemeth**, Director, California Department of Water Resources

#3 | **Ellen Hanak**, Public Policy Institute of California; **Newsha Ajami**, then with Stanford University's Water in the West; **Faith Kearns**, author, Getting to Heart of Science Communications

#4 | **Senator Henry Stern** and **Assemblyman Eduardo Garcia**

#5 | **Martha Guzman**, head of US EPA, Pacific Southwest; **Felicia Marcus**, fellow Stanford University Water in the West.

#6 | **Heather Dyer**, GM, San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District; **Sandra Kerl**, GM, San Diego County Water Authority; **Joone Kim-Lopez**, GM, Moulton Niguel Water District; **Kris Murray**, Chair, Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board

#7 | Sites Reservoir and the Future of California Water Storage

#8 | What's Next for Metropolitan Water District

#9 | A Collaborative Approach to Colorado River Management

www.socalwater.org/podcast/ or
anywhere you download podcasts

