

# PROTECTING GROUNDWATER IN A PANDEMIC



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Board President,  
**John D. S. Allen**  
Division 3



Board Secretary,  
**Willard H. Murray, Jr.**  
Division 1



Board Treasurer,  
**Robert Katherman**  
Division 2



Board Vice President,  
**Sergio Calderon**  
Division 4



Boardmember,  
**Vera Robles DeWitt**  
Division 5

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Friend,

As President of the Board of Directors, I am proud to present this newsletter to share updates on the Water Replenishment District's (WRD) recent successes. With continued coronavirus infections in the region, we at WRD want you to know we are working 24/7 to protect our local groundwater basins. Our job and mission is to provide, protect, and preserve high-quality groundwater for 43 cities and 4 million residents in southern Los Angeles County.

The Board of Directors are strong advocates for innovative projects that support our community. We are proud to report that since July 2020, WRD has been awarded over \$11.8 million in federal and state grants. When WRD is awarded money, we invest it into our community. We have successfully initiated a \$34 million grant program that supports water providers seeking to build water treatment facilities. This will ensure that you and your neighbors continue to receive an uninterrupted supply of safe and clean high-quality tap water.

Because students are learning virtually, WRD has moved its outstanding educational programming online. We offer virtual field trips to students in the region and online resources for teachers. We also regularly provide eco-gardener classes for people of all ages through Zoom and YouTube. These classes offer tips on how to save water by planting a sustainable garden. We are thrilled to announce that our Student Art Contest was a success with hundreds of submissions. The 23 winners have been announced and their artwork showcases the important role water plays in our every-day lives. The winning art pieces were published in the 2021 Water Awareness Calendar.

We look forward to seeing you at one of our online events. For more information on our upcoming programming, please visit [www.wrd.org](http://www.wrd.org).

Stay Well,

**John D. S. Allen**  
WRD Board President



HONORING WRD BOARDMEMBER

**WILLARD H.  
MURRAY, JR.**  
WRD BOARD PRESIDENT EMERITUS

WRD Boardmember Since 1998

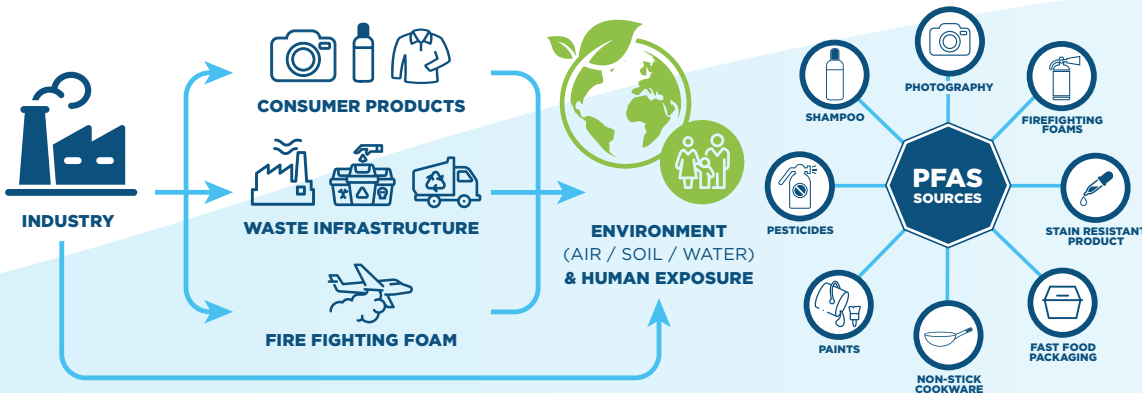


Director Murray  
addresses the crowd  
at WRD's Annual  
Groundwater Festival

The WRD Board of Directors was proud to name Director Willard H. Murray, Jr. as WRD Board President Emeritus. Elected to the Board of Directors in 1998, Director Murray has spent over two decades as a member of the governing body of the Water Replenishment District. Director Murray has served as Board President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

# WRD INNOVATES

## \$34 MILLION GRANT PROGRAM FOR COMMUNITY WATER PROVIDERS



PFAS compounds can contaminate the air, soil, and water in a variety of ways. Typically, contamination may happen when certain consumer products, waste, or firefighting foam come into contact with the environment. Many popular consumer products contain PFAS (diagram to the left). The good news is water treatment technology has been proven effective at removing PFAS from groundwater.

The WRD Board of Directors has approved a \$34 million per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) Remediation Program. The program offers grants to water providers seeking to treat groundwater affected by PFAS. The goal is to encourage water providers to proactively build PFAS treatment systems to reduce public exposure to the chemical.

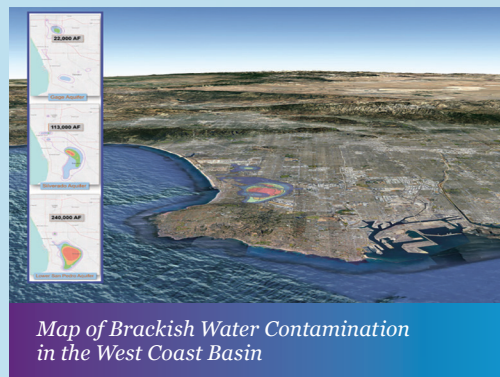
PFAS are chemicals that are found in products that we use every single day, such as fast-food wrappers, Teflon cookware, stain resistant products and some beauty care items. Excessive exposure to PFAS may cause adverse health conditions.

Water purveyors are currently serving water that meets all regulations mandated by the Division of Drinking Water and is safe to drink. WRD's extensive network of 335 groundwater monitors can detect over 120 contaminants that may be present in the water basins, including PFAS. We are actively working with our partners to ensure that all water continues to meet regulatory drinking water standards.

Through our Regional Groundwater Monitoring Program and PFAS Remediation Program, WRD will continue to ensure high-quality groundwater to over 4 million residents in southern Los Angeles County.

## REGIONAL BRACKISH WATER RECLAMATION PROGRAM

Thanks to WRD's Water Independence Now (WIN) Program, water used to replenish the Central and West Coast Basins is completely locally sustainable. Building upon the successes of WRD's WIN Program, the District initiated the WIN 4 ALL program to take advantage of available groundwater storage space to further increase the region's use of sustainable groundwater supplies.



Map of Brackish Water Contamination in the West Coast Basin

WRD's Regional Brackish Water Reclamation Program (RBWRP) is the main component of WIN 4 All. The RBWRP will create a new drinking water supply in southern Los Angeles County by treating salty groundwater with state-of-the-art technology. Brackish water is groundwater that is less salty than seawater, but too salty to drink. Brackish water made its way into our groundwater basins when water providers pumped too much water in the early 1900's.

Through WRD's Regional Brackish Water Reclamation Program, water will be treated to provide over 18 million gallons of water to local water customers each day. Removal of salty groundwater will create groundwater storage where freshwater can be stored for use in dry years.

### Program Benefits:

- Increases local sustainability & drought resiliency

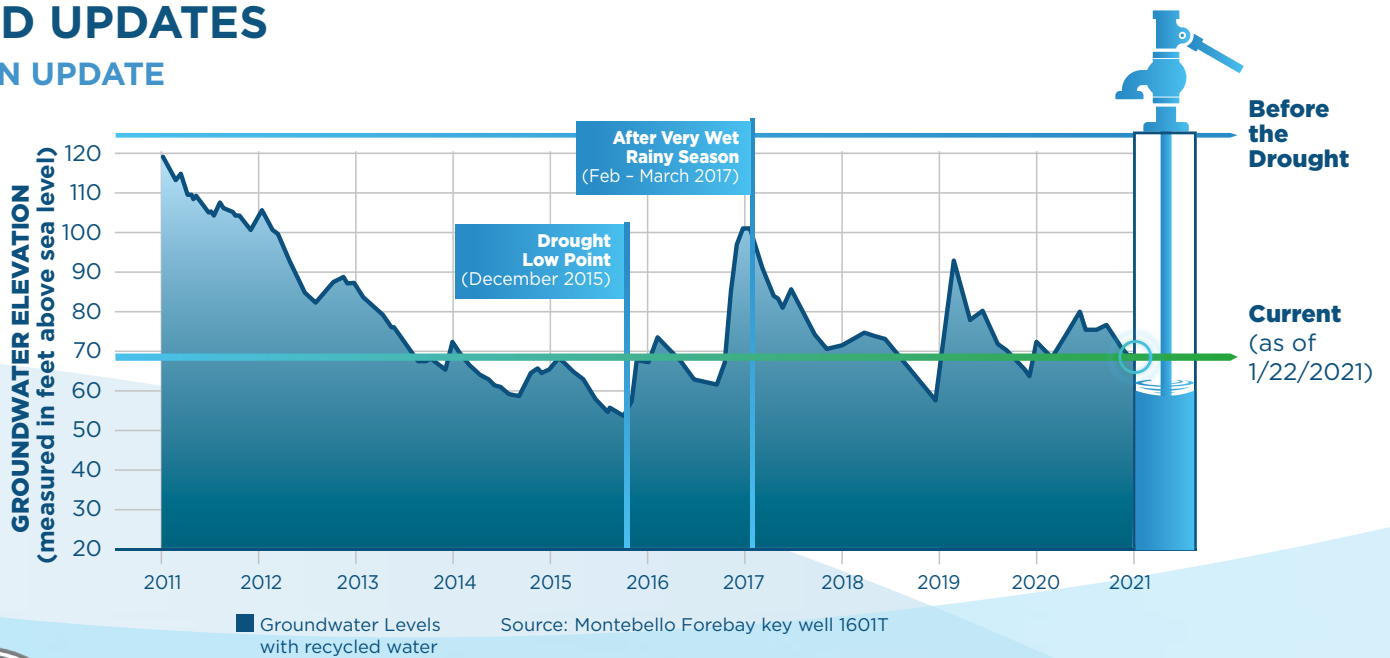
- Protects groundwater quality for the future

- Helps alleviate drought impacts

- Assists local agencies in meeting long-term water supply needs

# WRD UPDATES

## BASIN UPDATE



## ALBERT ROBLES CENTER: LEED PLATINUM CERTIFIED



Entrance of WRD's Albert Robles Center for Water Recycling and Environmental Learning (ARC).



Aerial view of ARC's advanced water treatment facility, learning center, sustainable gardens, and solar panels.



View of WRD's Lillian Kawasaki Demonstration Garden where visitors can learn about California native plants and sustainable landscaping.

WRD is proud to announce its Albert Robles Center for Water Recycling and Environmental Learning (ARC) was awarded Platinum Certification by the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) program. This is the highest rating offered to environmentally sustainable buildings. Only 5.7 percent of LEED projects in the US have achieved this distinguished designation.

ARC achieved a Platinum Certification for the LEED program through its innovative design to optimize the efficient use of water and energy while minimizing waste. At least 20 percent of the facility was built with recycled content.

Most notably, ARC:

- Produces 14 million gallons of advanced treated water per day
- Generates onsite energy with 995 solar panels
- Uses a low-flow irrigation system that uses recycled water

## UTILITY OF THE FUTURE



We are proud to announce that WRD has been accepted into the "Utility of the Future" program. This program honors water resource agencies for modernizing agency operations through innovation and technology. WRD is excited to participate in this program and collaborate with partners on how to propel water operations into the future.

# WRD ADVOCATES

## \$6 MILLION BUREAU OF RECLAMATION GRANT



WRD's advanced water treatment facility at the Albert Robles Center in Pico Rivera.

The United States Bureau of Reclamation has recommended WRD for new grant funding totaling \$6 million for the Albert Robles Center. This innovative facility has received nearly \$125 million in grants and low-cost loans saving rate-payers millions of dollars. ARC is a 5.2-acre facility in the City of Pico Rivera. It recycles 3.25 billion gallons of water annually and is home to a state-of-the-art learning center with over 40 digital water exhibits.

## SAFE DRINKING WATER PROGRAM UPDATE



Clean Water is Our Mission, Healthy Communities is Our Commitment

Too often, small water operators do not have the resources needed to successfully obtain grant funding. WRD offers technical support to water operators through the Disadvantaged Community (DAC) and Safe Drinking Water Programs (SDWP). WRD has helped water operators secure over \$12.3 million in grants to improve water quality in their service areas.

### Tract 349 Mutual Water Company



WRD helped the Tract 349 Mutual Water Company obtain funding to treat discolored water. Tract 349 services Cudahy, CA, where 34.2% of families live below the federal poverty level. Thanks to SDWP, Tract 349 will be able to treat their groundwater to ensure its safety without adding financial burden to their customers.

### Maywood Mutual Water Co. #2

WRD was awarded nearly \$3 million in grants from the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB). Funding is being used to build a groundwater treatment plant for Maywood Mutual Water Company No. 2. This project is scheduled to come on-line in the Spring of 2021 and will help provide clean and safe drinking water to Maywood residents.



Construction underway at the Maywood Mutual Water Company No.2's groundwater treatment plant.



From left: Director Robert Katherman, Director Vera Robles DeWitt and Director John D. S. Allen receiving a check for \$1.59 million from the SWRCB. This check was part of a series of payments for the \$3 million grant.

# 2021 CALENDAR CONTEST WINNERS!



2021 Calendar winner!

The 6th Annual Student Art Contest received hundreds of thoughtful and creative submissions which focused on the importance of groundwater and water conservation. Congratulations to our 23 winners who had their artwork published in the 2021 Water Awareness Calendar! To see the digital calendar and all of our winners' artwork visit:

[www.wrd.org/StudentArtContest](http://www.wrd.org/StudentArtContest)

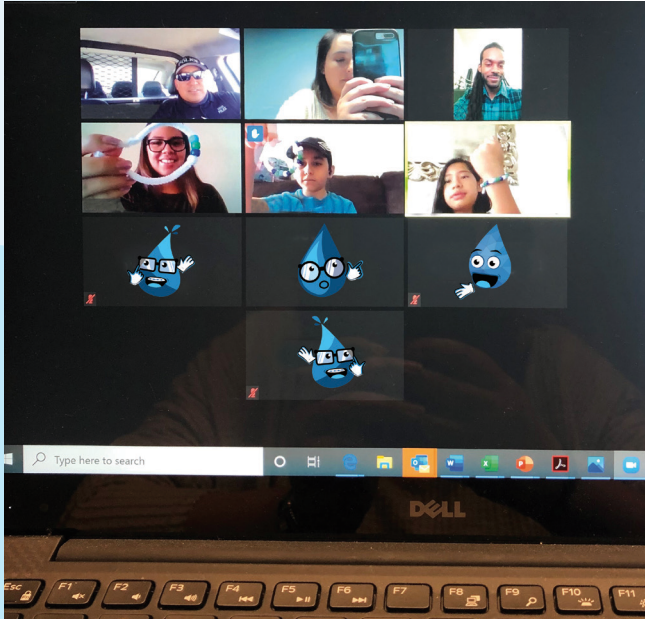
### Grand Prize Winner 6th Grade - Leah - Casimir Middle School

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| Kindergarten - Sakura - Fern Elementary School      | Grade 3 - Mason - Carver Academy                    |
| Kindergarten - Chloe - Waleria Elementary School    | Grade 3 - Olivia - Lincoln Elementary School        |
| Grade 1 - Emily - 232nd Place Elementary School     | Grade 4 - Ajoon - Frank C. Leal Elementary School   |
| Grade 1 - Liam - 232nd Place Elementary School      | Grade 4 - Emily - San Antonio Elementary School     |
| Grade 1 - Sahasra - Joseph Arnold Elementary School | Grade 4 - Sara - Intensive Learning Center School   |
| Grade 1 - Brandon - Waleria Elementary School       | Grade 4 - Chetan - Victor Elementary School         |
| Grade 2 - Dagny - Montemalaga Elementary School     | Grade 5 - Aria - St. Philomena School               |
| Grade 2 - Veronica - St. Benedict School            | Grade 5 - Amber - Eastwood Elementary School        |
| Grade 2 - Penelope - St. Philomena School           | Grade 5 - Mukta - Hickory Elementary School         |
| Grade 2 - Aabha - Victor Elementary School          | Grade 6 - Sarina - Helen Wittmann Elementary School |
| Grade 3 - Kailani - Victor Elementary School        | Grade 6 - Helen - Madrona Middle School             |

# WRD EDUCATES

The Water Replenishment District's Education Program features interactive student activities that present engaging lessons on the importance of groundwater, water treatment, and conservation. All workshops are held in a virtual format and are available to schools, scout troops, and other youth groups. Contact us at [info@wrd.org](mailto:info@wrd.org) for more information.

## WATER CONSERVATION BRACELET ACTIVITY



*A Zoom tutorial with local students from Pico Rivera on how to use WRD's Water Conservation Bracelet and how to conserve water.*

WRD's Water Conservation Bracelet activity teaches students how to conserve water during their everyday activities. Request your free conservation bracelet kit and start your water saving journey today! For more information, please email [info@wrd.org](mailto:info@wrd.org).

## STORY TIME WITH A WATER NERD



*One of WRD's very own "Water Nerds" teaching students about water.*

Do you need someone to read to your class? We have Water Nerds that want to share their love for water related stories. Reading sessions will be conducted virtually. To schedule a reading session with WRD, visit [www.wrd.org/TeacherLounge](http://www.wrd.org/TeacherLounge).

## VIRTUAL TOURS OF THE ALBERT ROBLES CENTER FOR WATER RECYCLING AND ENVIRONMENTAL LEARNING



*Photo of WRD's Albert Robles Learning Center (ARC). At the rainfall exhibit, visitors can learn about the "Fate of Rain" as it travels through the cities of Los Angeles and Pico Rivera.*



*ARC's Learning Center features 40 fully interactive and bilingual exhibits. Visitors can learn about groundwater, recycled water, and water conservation through touch screen displays.*

Students can take a live-hosted virtual field trip of ARC and experience a unique state-of-the-art water education center. Field trips are available to schools and youth organizations. To schedule a virtual tour visit [www.wrd.org](http://www.wrd.org).



# ECO GARDENER VIRTUAL CLASS

With more time for home projects, why not plant a garden that saves water while creating a productive ecosystem? The WRD Eco Gardener program teaches participants about the multiple benefits of planting a sustainable garden through a series of 1-hour classes. Classes will be held online and led by a live instructor who can answer questions. Below are two of our most popular classes! RSVP today to receive a link to these FREE classes.

**WHERE:**  
**Online, from  
the comfort  
of your home**



## SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPE DESIGN

Look to nature for the answer! This class explores the philosophy of natural watershed design which uses minimal resources while increasing the aesthetics, and possibly the value, of your property.



## IRRIGATION BASICS

Learn how to get the most out of your irrigation so that you can conserve water, live more sustainably, and save money while you're at it.

WRD continues to provide its Eco Gardener classes online. Throughout the year, hundreds of Eco Gardener class participants learn how to design, plant, and care for a water-efficient, climate-friendly landscape.

Upcoming classes will include Sustainable Landscape Design, Drought-Tolerant Plants, Irrigation Basics, and Edible Gardening. The class schedule is updated monthly. Please check our website for the most up-to-date class availability!

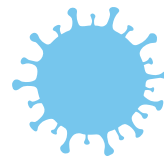
**RSVP HERE:**



**WWW.WRD.ORG/EcoGardenerRSVP**

**Space  
is limited!**





## A MESSAGE FROM WRD REGARDING COVID-19



COVID-19 **WILL NOT** ENTER THE WATER SUPPLY



TAP WATER IS TESTED AND MONITORED REGULARLY TO ENSURE WATER IS FREE FROM CONTAMINANTS AND PATHOGENS, INCLUDING **99.99% OF VIRUSES.**



*Both the Environmental Protection Agency and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention confirm that Coronavirus is not transmitted through water.*

The Water Replenishment District understands that these are anxious times for you and your family. We wanted to assure you that **coronavirus is NOT in the tap water** that comes from your faucet.

WRD personnel remain on duty 24-7, committed as always to making sure your water is safe and reliable. We hope you and your family stay well during this uncertain time.

*The Water Replenishment District (WRD) is the largest groundwater agency in the State of California, managing and protecting local groundwater resources for four million residents. Visit [www.wrd.org](http://www.wrd.org) to learn more.*

**Water Replenishment District's service area in southern Los Angeles County**



### BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**Willard H. Murray, Jr.**  
Division 1



**Robert Katherman**  
Division 2



**John D. S. Allen**  
Division 3



**Sergio Calderon**  
Division 4



**Vera Robles DeWitt**  
Division 5

**Robb Whitaker**  
General Manager