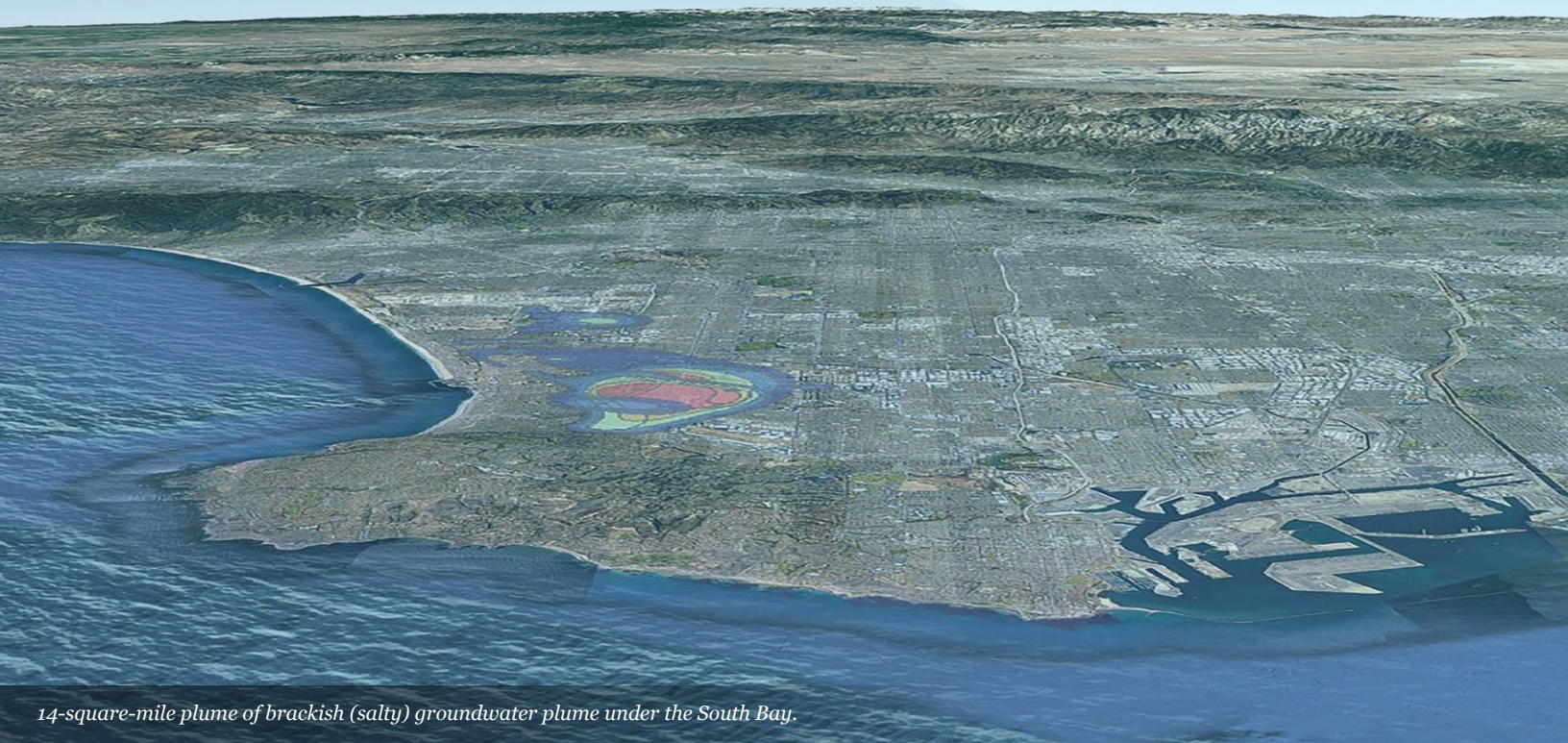


TURNING CHALLENGES INTO OPPORTUNITIES



14-square-mile plume of brackish (salty) groundwater plume under the South Bay.

IN THIS ISSUE:

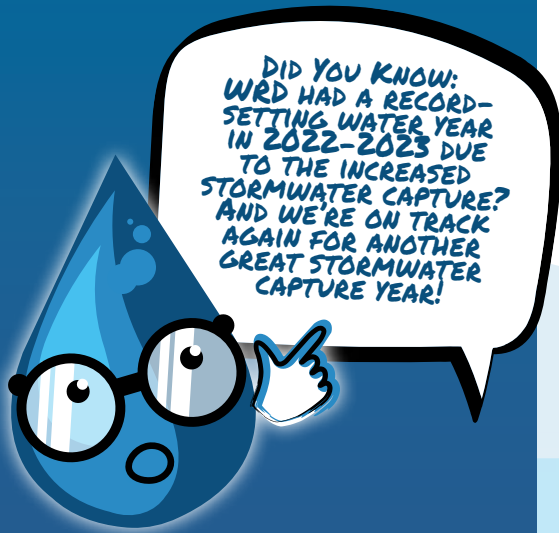
**\$25 MILLION FOR
BRACKISH GROUNDWATER
CLEANUP PROJECT**

**PROP 68
GRANT
UPDATE**

**LEARN ABOUT
CAREERS
IN WATER**

**WRD LAUNCHES
GROUNDWATER
ACADEMY**

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Neighbor,

I am delighted to share exciting updates and highlights in our Fall Newsletter. The Water Replenishment District (WRD) has been awarded \$25 million in funding from the United States Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) for our Brackish Groundwater Cleanup Project. This significant grant will help us increase drinking water supplies for residents in the South Bay, furthering our commitment to ensuring a sustainable and reliable water future for our community by creating a new water supply, increasing groundwater use for the region, and increasing storage space for recycled water.

WRD had the honor of hosting USBR Commissioner Camille Calimlim Touton at the Albert Robles Center for Water Recycling and Environmental Learning (ARC). During her visit, Commissioner Touton toured our Robb Whittaker Advanced Water Treatment Facility and witnessed firsthand the innovative processes we use to purify water and replenish the groundwater basins using the local spreading grounds.

I invite you to join one of our public tours at ARC. These tours offer a unique opportunity to see the advanced technology in action and understand the recycled water journey. We also encourage you to participate in our groundwater education programs to learn how WRD works tirelessly to make our region more resilient in future droughts.

Additionally, the 14th Annual Groundwater Festival we hosted in May was a tremendous success, with an outstanding turnout of over 2,000 community attendees. Thanks to your enthusiastic participation, the festival was bustling with engaging booths, diverse vendors, and a vibrant atmosphere. We look forward to next year's event and invite you to save the date for the 15th Annual Groundwater Festival, scheduled for May 2025. We anticipate another fantastic gathering and can't wait to celebrate with you again.

Thank you for your continued support and engagement. We look forward to welcoming you to our facility and upcoming events.

Warm regards,

Joy Langford
WRD Board President



Board President,
Joy Langford
Division 1



Board Vice President,
Robert Katherman
Division 2



Boardmember,
John D. S. Allen
Division 3



Board Treasurer,
Sergio Calderon
Division 4



Board Secretary,
Vera Robles DeWitt
Division 5



USBR's Commissioner visited ARC and learned how WRD purifies nearly 14.8 million gallons of water a day and has a state-of-the-art learning center meant for community members to learn about groundwater replenishment.

PROJECT UPDATE: BRACKISH GROUNDWATER RECLAMATION PROGRAM

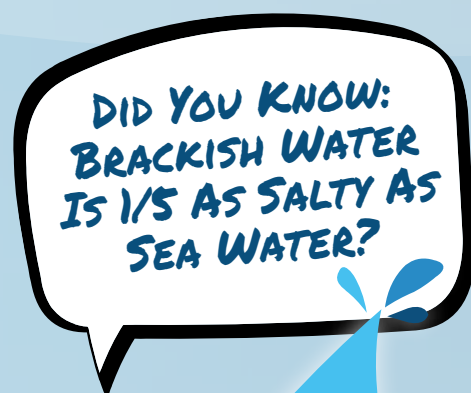


An early rendering of what the expanded Torrance Groundwater Desalter may look like. The expanded facility will include additional pretreatment, reverse osmosis, and automated strainers to protect the reverse osmosis systems.

The Brackish Groundwater Reclamation Program (BGRP) is an initiative to clean up an area of salty groundwater that was created in the early 1900s as over-pumping allowed seawater to seep into the region's groundwater basins. By cleaning up the salty groundwater, we create a new water supply, increase groundwater use for the region, and create more storage space for freshwater supplies.

A critical step in achieving the objectives of BGRP is to expand WRD's Torrance Groundwater Desalter facility. The current facility treats up to 5 million gallons per day of brackish (salty) water using reverse osmosis. The expansion project will clean up the southern portion of the 14-square-mile brackish (salty) water plume and provide up to 2.3 billion gallons (7,100 acre-feet) of additional drinking water per year.

WRD awarded a contract for the design and construction of the Torrance Groundwater Desalter Expansion (TGDE) to a McCarthy-Jacobs Joint Venture in April 2024. Concurrently, the construction was completed on a pilot unit to test treatment technologies that will be utilized in the expanded facility. The pilot unit is operating, and critical data is being collected to inform the TGDE design. In June 2024, WRD was awarded \$25 million from the United States Bureau of Reclamation for this project.



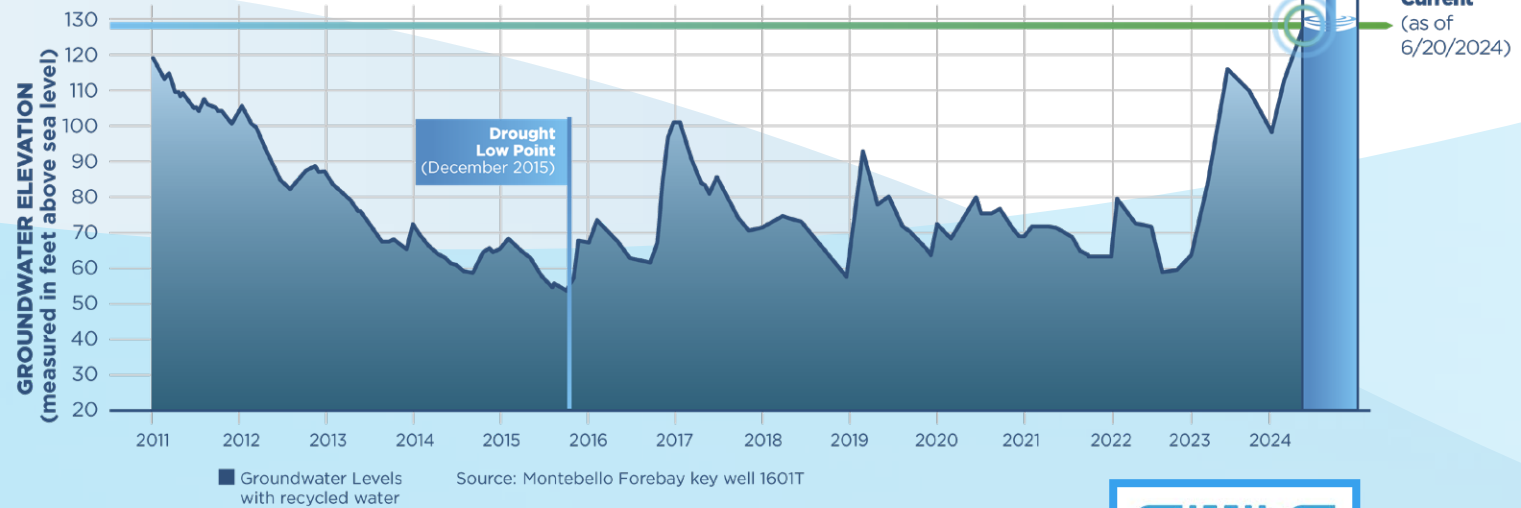
**TO LEARN ABOUT THE HISTORY OF
BRACKISH WATER IN THE GROUNDWATER
BASINS, SCAN THE QR CODE OR VISIT:**

 WWW.WRD.ORG/BRACKISH-GROUNDWATER-RECLAMATION-PROGRAM

GROUNDWATER LEVELS UPDATE

After an unprecedented, nearly two-decade-long drought, groundwater levels have returned to historic highs in one of our key groundwater monitoring wells (see below) located in the Montebello Forebay. Recycled water and stormwater are used for replenishment in the Montebello Forebay. This area of the basin contains sand and gravel that allow water to percolate into the deeper aquifers managed by WRD. From October 2023 through April 2024, a total of 124,200 acre-feet or 40 billion gallons of replenishment water (recycled and stormwater) have been used for recharge replenishment in the Montebello Forebay.

GROUNDWATER LEVELS UPDATE: CENTRAL BASIN REBOUNDS AFTER HISTORIC RAINFALL



TO ACCESS OUR MONTHLY GROUNDWATER BASIN UPDATE REPORTS, SCAN THE QR CODE OR VISIT:

WWW.WRD.ORG/GROUNDWATER-BASIN-UPDATE



PROP 68 GRANT UPDATE

The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) awarded \$3.07 million under Proposition 68 to fund three years of operations and maintenance for three water treatment systems in our service area. The funding helps the City of Commerce's Well 4-L and Maywood Mutual Water Company's Wells 1 and 3.

Specifically, Proposition 68 Groundwater Drinking Water Treatment Operations and Maintenance Funding Program supports underserved communities by funding the maintenance of groundwater treatment systems that provide clean drinking water. The Water Replenishment District was chosen as a Technical Assistance Provider. Our role is to help these water systems with grant administration and ensure they meet the program's goals.



City of Commerce's Well #4-L Treatment System



Maywood Mutual Water Company No. 2's Well 1 Treatment System



Maywood Mutual Water Company No. 2's Well 3 Treatment System

WRD LAUNCHES ITS GROUNDWATER ACADEMY PROGRAM FOR ELECTED OFFICIALS



Groundwater Academy participants at the Los Angeles County Public Works Spreading Grounds.



Participants visited the Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts' San Jose Creek Water Reclamation Plant in April.

WRD is excited to have launched the Groundwater Academy program for elected officials and their staff this past spring. The program is designed to equip elected officials with a comprehensive understanding of our region's water infrastructure. This program offers a unique blend of site visits and expert guest speakers, providing participants with invaluable insights into the complexities of groundwater stewardship.

Participants had the opportunity to explore key facilities such as the Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts' San Jose Creek Water Reclamation Plant, the WRD Leo Vander Lans Advanced Water Treatment Facility, and the Los Angeles County Public Works Spreading Grounds. These site visits offered a firsthand look at the innovative technologies and practices being implemented to manage and conserve groundwater resources.



PUBLIC TOURS!

Have you ever wondered where your water comes from? In southern Los Angeles County, half of that water comes from ancient aquifers right under our feet!

Join us for a **FREE** tour of the Albert Robles Center for Water Recycling and Environmental Learning (ARC) to see how we purify water for groundwater replenishment. ARC features an interactive learning center and is open to all ages.

REGISTER FOR AN UPCOMING TOUR BY SCANNING THE QR CODE OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT:

RSVP HERE:



WWW.WRD.ORG/FACILITY-TOURS



WRD IN THE COMMUNITY



Director Vera Robles DeWitt joined USBR Commissioner Camille Calimlim Touton and staff on a tour of ARC in May.



The Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board visited WRD's Perchlorate Cleanup project in the L.A. Forebay.



Director John D. S. Allen joined the City of Long Beach for Pride in their annual Parade.



General Manager Stephan Tucker, President Joy Langford, Director Rob Katherman in Washington, D.C. talking to legislators about WRD's drought resiliency projects.



Director Vera Robles DeWitt met with the Dominguez Homeowners Association to share information on WRD's projects and programs.



Assistant General Manager Rob Beste, Staff, Director Vera Robles DeWitt, President Joy Langford and General Manager Stephan Tucker met with legislators in Sacramento to advocate for water recycling project funding.



Directors Joy Langford, John D. S. Allen, Rob Katherman, and Vera Robles DeWitt recognized the 2024 Student Art Calendar Contest winners at the Groundwater Festival in May.



SAVE THE DATE!

15th Annual

GROUNDWATER FESTIVAL

Treasure Beneath Our Feet



Mark your calendars for May 2025 as WRD invites you to join in on all the family-friendly activities, education booths, and so much more!

For more information, email info@wrd.org.

Follow us on social media for the official event announcement.



SIGN UP FOR AN ECO GARDENER CLASS!

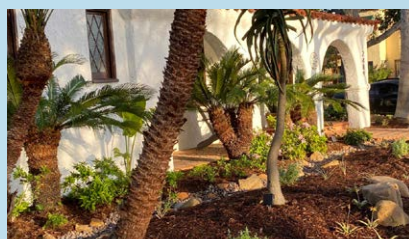
WRD offers **FREE** sustainable gardening classes both in-person and online. Sign up today to exercise your green thumb and contribute to our urban ecosystem!



EDIBLE GARDENING



DROUGHT TOLERANT GARDENS



WATERSHED WISE LANDSCAPING BASICS



SMALL SPACE GARDENING

RSVP HERE:



[WRD.org/
EcoGardener](http://WRD.org/EcoGardener)



(562) 275-4265



Scan QR Code

STUDENT ART CONTEST

SUBMIT YOUR ARTWORK
FOR OUR 2025 CALENDAR!

www.wrd.org/StudentArtContest



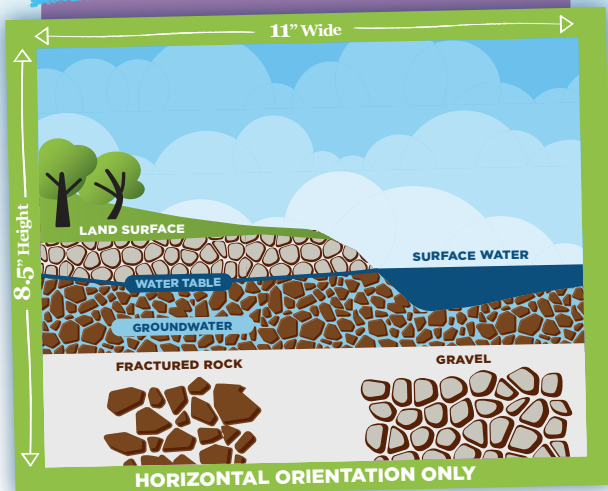
TO ENTER, YOU MUST:

- Be in Kindergarten - 6th Grade**
- Live in WRD Service Area**

TO WIN, YOUR ARTWORK MUST:

- #1** *Demonstrate the importance of groundwater and/or water conservation.*
- #2** *Be submitted on 8 1/2" x 11" paper in horizontal orientation by Sunday, November 3, 2024, 11:59 pm.*
- #3** *Include parental/guardian consent.*

DEADLINE: SUN, NOV 3, 2024!



ALL NEW TOPICS!

Create a piece of art that speaks to any of the following topics:

- #1 GUARDIANS OF THE AQUIFER:**
Protecting Our Groundwater
- #2 TAPPING INTO SOLUTIONS:**
Saving Water in My Community
- #3 EVERYONE NEEDS WATER:**
There's Life in Every Drop!



WRD Water Nerd

SUBMIT TODAY:

**EACH SUBMISSION INCLUDES ARTWORK
AND PARENTAL APPROVAL FORM (PAF)**

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2024, 11:59 PM

- Submit Online:**
www.wrd.org/StudentArtContest
(Upload picture of your artwork but keep your original!)
- Submit by Mail or Drop-Off:**
Attn: WRD Art Contest
4040 Paramount Blvd., Lakewood, CA 90712
(Include original artwork and signed PAF)

CONTEST RULES:

- ▶ Contestants must reside in, or attend a school within, the boundaries of WRD's 43 city service area and must be in kindergarten through 6th grade.
- ▶ Don't get disqualified! Artwork must be original (no computer-made, or copyrighted material such as superhero characters), and submitted on white 8 1/2" x 11" poster board or paper in landscape (horizontal) orientation.
- ▶ Crayons, markers, ink, poster paint, chalk, water color, cut paper, or fabric may be used.
- ▶ For online submissions: keep your original work! Winners will need to send in their original work in order to claim their prize.
- ▶ One entry per student. All entries become property of WRD upon receipt.
- ▶ Winners will have their artwork printed in the calendar and receive a \$75 Amazon gift card*, a certificate, and other school related prizes.
- ▶ For more info contact info@wrdd.org



* Prizes provided by sponsors

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Joy Langford
Division 1



Robert Katherman
Division 2



John D. S. Allen
Division 3



Sergio Calderon
Division 4



Vera Robles DeWitt
Division 5

Stephan Tucker

General Manager



4040 Paramount Blvd.
Lakewood, CA 90712

www.WRD.org