

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to wish you a joyous spring season.

Since last fall, there had been growing anticipation for the rains that "El Niño" would bring to California. Scientists compared the warmer than normal Pacific Ocean water temperatures to historic weather patterns. The results seemed to point to an above normal rainy season that California, and other western states, desperately needed after five consecutive years of drought conditions.

Unfortunately, the rainy season which begins on October 1 and continues through September 30 has not delivered the rains for which we had all hoped in our region. With the heaviest part of the rainy season nearly over, the fact is that the rain is likely to evade Southern California again.

Not all news has been bad news, however. Indeed, Northern California received a substantial amount of rain, enough to refill many of the reservoirs throughout the northern region.

**By no means does this mean that the drought is over. Not by a long shot**

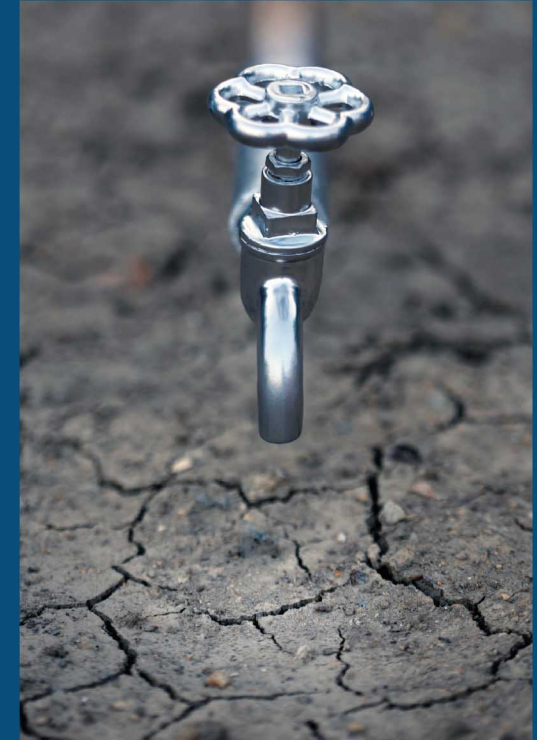
Here in Southern California, and particularly in the region of southern Los Angeles County that WRD serves, groundwater levels remain well below desired levels. But those levels are significantly higher than they would otherwise be thanks to an initiative established over 12 years ago known as the Water Independence Now (WIN) program, a suite of projects designed to drought-proof the region.

Through the diligent work of WRD's staff and Board of Directors, development efforts are underway to build Los Angeles County's most important water project in decades – the Groundwater Reliability Improvement Project or GRIP. As you have read in previous newsletters, GRIP will eliminate our region's need for imported water to refill our local groundwater basins and secure the long term safety of our groundwater resources.

Construction of the new GRIP facility will commence this fall and residents can look forward to an operating advanced water treatment facility in 2018. Be assured, WRD's Board of Directors remains committed to delivering for your water needs.

## THE DROUGHT ISN'T OVER

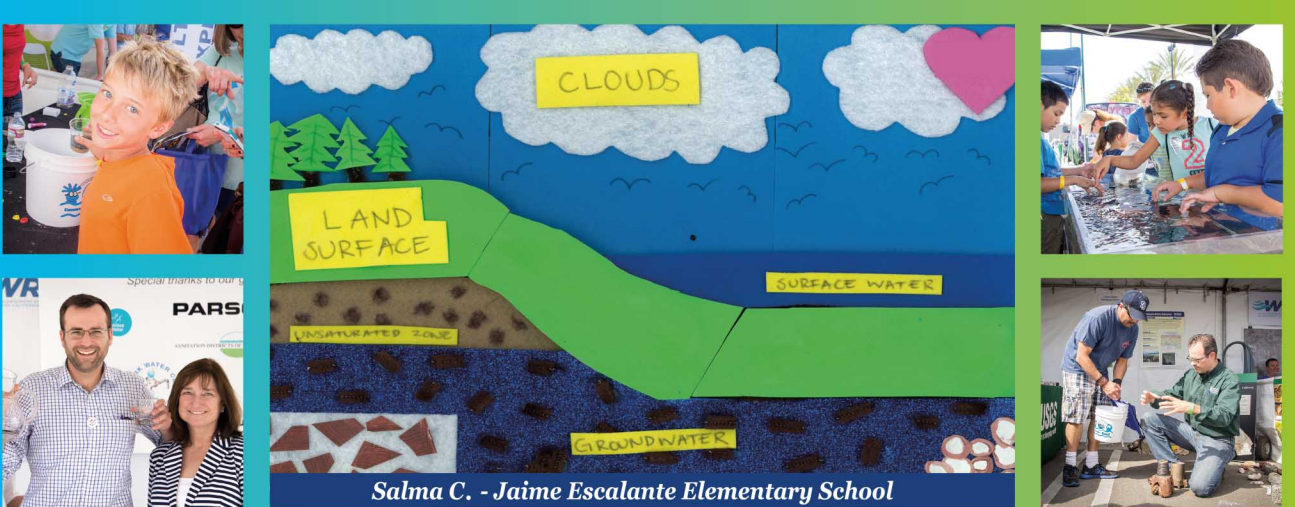
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## 9th Annual

# GROUNDWATER FESTIVAL

## Treasure Beneath Our Feet



The Water Replenishment District of Southern California (WRD) is proud to present the 9th annual Groundwater Festival on Saturday, May 21, 2016. Please join us in this family friendly event full of activities, education booths, food, and prizes!

**WHERE**  
WRD  
4040 Paramount Blvd.  
Lakewood, CA 90712

**WHEN**  
Saturday,  
May 21, 2016  
10:00 AM - 2:00 PM



As a community partner providing quality news coverage to Southern California, NBC4 will join WRD at the Groundwater Festival where General Assignment Reporter Patrick Healy will serve as the emcee.

## FOOD, PETTING ZOO, FACE PAINTING, AND MORE!

For more information please contact Monica Serrano at mserrano@wrd.org or call WRD at (562) 921-5521

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

-  Willard H. Murray, Jr.  
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-  John D. S. Allen  
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-  Albert Robles  
Division 5
-  Robb Whitaker  
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# WRD'S COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY & SAFETY

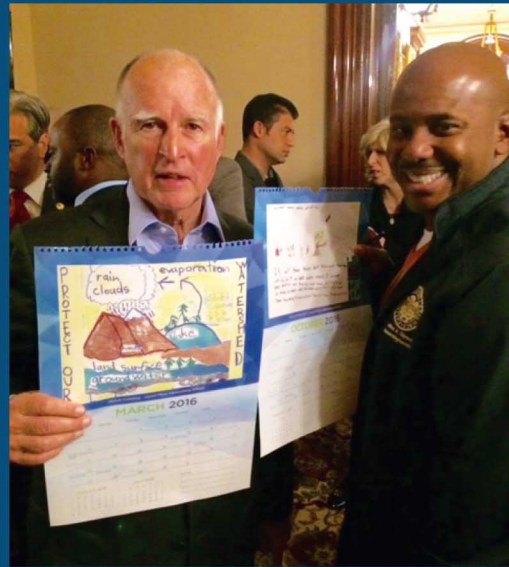
AND MUCH MORE [Read More Inside »](#)



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- » GRIP UPDATE

## IN THE NEWS



Governor Jerry Brown with Assemblymember Mike Gipson holding the WRD Calendar Art Contest Winner

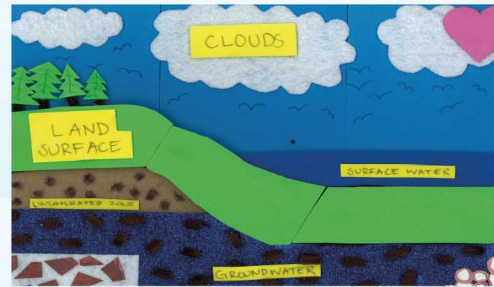
"I'm excited about WRD's plans to build an advanced water treatment facility to create local supplies of water and cut our demand on imported water. The Groundwater Reliability Improvement Project, like the expansion of the Robert W. Goldsworthy groundwater desalter plant in Torrance, is another example of an essential project aimed at achieving water independence for Southern California and WRD is on the cutting edge of both."

State Senator  
**Ben Allen**

### STUDENT ART CONTEST IS A SMASHING SUCCESS

We are pleased to announce the winners of our 2015-2016 Student Art Contest, "Treasure Beneath Our Feet." WRD's Board of Directors chose 14 entries out of 200 received from elementary and middle school students from throughout the WRD service area.

Winning entries came from Jaime Escalante Elementary, Academia Moderna, McKibben Elementary, 232nd Place School, STEAM Academy at Burke Middle School, Miles Elementary, Middleton Elementary, Rio Hondo Elementary, and Lucille Roybal-Allard Elementary School.



Salma C. - Jaime Escalante Elementary School

In addition to being featured on our 2016 calendar and other materials, the winning art pieces will be on display at the 9th Annual WRD Groundwater Festival on Saturday, May 21, 2016, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the WRD headquarters located at 4040 Paramount Boulevard in Lakewood.

### MEET OUR STATE SENATOR, BEN ALLEN

In 2014, California State Senator Ben Allen was overwhelmingly elected to represent the 26th Senate District, which consists of the Westside and coastal South Bay communities of Los Angeles County, stretching from Pacific Palisades to the Palos Verdes Peninsula and from Venice to Hollywood.

Senator Allen serves as chair of the Senate Elections and Constitutional Amendments Committee as well as the legislature's Joint Committee on the Arts. He is a member of the Natural Resources and Water Committee, the Transportation and Housing Committee, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee, the Budget Subcommittee on Education and the Veterans Affairs Committee.

Senator Allen has been a leader in protecting California's environment, particularly our water. In his first year, Sen. Allen co-authored the Senate's climate change legislation, the most aggressive in the country, which requires California to generate 50% of its energy from renewable sources, and double energy efficiency in buildings, by 2030. The impacts of climate change have been particularly harmful in California as demonstrated by the prolonged drought.



In addition, Governor Brown signed another bill the senator authored, SB 637, a landmark measure regulating a hazardous form of mining that has polluted many of our state's rivers for decades.

Last year, WRD was proud to honor Senator Allen with the WRD Groundwater Champion Award at the Annual Groundwater Festival and look forward to continued years partnering on important groundwater issues, like the Water Independence Now program and GRIP.

## WHAT'S HAPPENING

### Robert W. Goldsworthy Desalter Expansion Project



On February 11, 2016, WRD joined officials from the City of Torrance to kick off the expansion of the Robert W. Goldsworthy Desalter facility. The project allows the City to clean brackish (salty) groundwater and use it for drinking water. Once completed, the facility will double its current treatment capacity to five million gallons of water per day.

### New Toll-Free Hotline for Project Information

As work begins on our Groundwater Reliability Improvement Project (GRIP) in the City of Pico Rivera, and our Robert W. Goldsworthy Desalter in the City of Torrance, we've installed a new toll-free project information hotline. The hotline is available 24/7 to anyone with questions or concerns about construction issues, and is currently available to English and Spanish speakers. Anyone with questions about work being done at WRD facilities is encouraged to call the easy to remember hotline number:

**888-555-5WRD.**

### WRD AND SCIENCE DAY GO HAND-IN-HAND

Paramount Unified School District (PUSD) and The Water Replenishment District of Southern California partnered to bring Science Day to Roosevelt Elementary School in the City of Paramount, California.



The six activities that students participated in were themed around groundwater and water conservation. Roosevelt Elementary teachers facilitated the activities which were structured to include a science literacy component and an application of content for deeper understanding. The activity exercises included using data points on a globe to identify patterns, building a model to describe the water cycle, using a level meter to measure the depth of water in artesian wells, filtering chemicals from water, moving water through a maze to simulate aqueducts, and making a take-home bracelet by pledging to conserve water.

PUSD initiated the event as a platform to bring awareness of the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) to the elementary school level. The purpose of the day was to engage young students in the Science and Engineering Practices (SEPs), a dimension of NGSS, to better understand the real-world issues regarding California's water supply shortage. The SEPs, along with Disciplinary Core Ideas, and Crosscutting Concepts, constitute the 3-dimensions that the NGSS envisions for students to learn science.

The success of Science Day at Roosevelt Elementary is a clear indicator that teachers are ready to make the conceptual shifts needed to effectively use the NGSS and that parents are committed to promoting positive engagement of students in science! Science Day events allow students to witness first-hand that science is not only applicable to events in the classroom, but that it extends to their experiences at home and in the community.

### FIREFIGHTERS & WRD - A NEW PARTNERSHIP IS FORMED

Los Angeles County Fire Department crews conducted training exercises in Pico Rivera over the course of several days, in partnership with the Water Replenishment District (WRD) of Southern California.

Hundreds of LA County firefighters utilized several abandoned structures at the future location of the state-of-the-art GRIP facility that WRD plans to start building in the fall. The firefighters came from all over the county because of the unique training opportunity provided by the buildings on the property.

"We want to thank WRD for providing our firefighters with a place to test their skills," said Los Angeles County Fire Department Inspector Randall Wright. "This partnership with WRD will definitely help enhance the safety of Pico Rivera residents and residents in surrounding communities."

Firefighters practiced laddering, using forcible entry techniques to access locked premises and sawing ventilation holes in rooftops to allow heat and smoke to escape "burning" buildings, though none of the exercises involved live fires. This allowed firefighters to practice life saving strategies with significantly reduced risk.

Later this year construction of WRD's Groundwater Reliability Improvement Project (GRIP) plant will begin at this same site. The GRIP plant will use advanced treatment techniques to totally purify recycled water from the San Jose Creek Water Reclamation Plant so it can be used to refill our groundwater basins.

To see video or photo clips from those exercises, please visit our Facebook page or WRD's YouTube channel.



## UPCOMING

### An Environmentally Friendly Demolition

Work is under way at the future home of the Groundwater Reliability Improvement Project in Pico Rivera



The site of the future home of our Groundwater Reliability Improvement Project is the current home to several old, rundown buildings and lots of ugly, cracked, weed-filled asphalt. This 5.2 acre parcel in the City of Pico Rivera is currently being wiped clean to make way for our GRIP Advanced Water Treatment Facility. But, this won't be your typical demolition, creating mountains of rubble that will end up in a landfill. This more ecologically sound method of demolition will actually deconstruct the concrete, brick, metal, and wood materials and either recycle or reuse them. Once demolition is complete, the bare site will be graded and mulched to minimize dust until construction of the beautiful, new facility begins.

When completed in 2018, the GRIP Advanced Water Treatment Facility will annually produce nearly 7 Billion gallons of pure water for use in replenishing the groundwater supplies of south Los Angeles County. This purified water will benefit millions of Californians by replacing the expensive and environmentally sensitive water we currently purchase that is imported from the Northern California Bay Delta and the Colorado River with sources that are both local and affordable.

### STAY UPDATED ON THE GROUNDWATER RELIABILITY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

GRIP will provide water for the future using a highly efficient and cost effective method of project delivery



WRD's Groundwater Reliability Improvement Project (GRIP) Advanced Water Treatment Facility (AWTF) just took a giant step forward. Nestled on a 5.2 acre parcel in Pico Rivera, this facility will produce nearly 7 Billion gallons of pure water to replenish the groundwater supplies of south Los Angeles County. This locally purified water will replace the same amount of water we currently purchase from the California Bay Delta and the Colorado River.

The GRIP AWTF construction schedule has numerous critical path project milestones that must be met in order to achieve the overall completion date objective of 2018. One of those milestones includes the selection of an entity to design and build the facility (design-build entity). Design-Build is an alternative method of project delivery in which one entity (the Design-Build Entity, or DBE) works directly with the owner (WRD) to complete the project. This means one contract and one unified flow of work from initial concept through completion. Because of its streamlined nature, design-build can be the most time efficient and cost effective method of project delivery.

On March 24, 2016, after a nine month DBE selection process, the top two entities presented their final proposals. Following each entity's two-hour presentation, WRD Board members, the Procurement Advisory Team and WRD's Project Representative evaluated, rated, and ranked the final proposals. The recommendation was presented to the Board of Directors at its April 7, 2016 meeting, and the J.F. Shea Company was selected as the DBE to construct the GRIP AWTF.



J.F. Shea Construction Company representatives at the April 7, 2016 WRD Board Meeting.

Look out for future newsletters to follow the latest progress on GRIP.