

BREAKING GROUND ON OUR WATER FUTURE



WRD and the City of Torrance marked the groundbreaking of the Torrance Groundwater Desalter Expansion project with a celebratory event, bringing together community leaders and partners to highlight this important step toward securing the region's water future.

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**WRD IS
DEVELOPING THE
NEXT GENERATION
OF WATER
PROFESSIONALS!**



A MESSAGE FROM BOARD PRESIDENT SERGIO CALDERON

One achievement stands out as a defining milestone for our region: the groundbreaking of the Torrance Groundwater Desalter Expansion Project, a key component of WRD's Brackish Groundwater Reclamation Program (BGRP). This historic milestone represents years of planning, collaboration, innovation, and advocacy to transform a long-standing water-quality challenge into a sustainable local water-supply solution.

Once completed, the project will use advanced reverse osmosis technology to remove salts from groundwater and produce up to 7,100 acre-feet of high-quality drinking water each year for local communities. Equally important, it will create additional groundwater storage capacity, strengthening the long-term sustainability and resilience of our groundwater basins. Projects like the BGRP also serve as powerful economic investments, creating high-quality jobs and helping develop the skilled workforce needed to meet Southern California's growing water infrastructure demands.

While we celebrate this landmark achievement, we remain equally committed to educating and engaging the communities we serve. This year, WRD proudly hosted its 16th Annual Groundwater Festival, welcoming thousands of students, educators, and families from across our service area for a day of hands-on learning. Events like these inspire the next generation of environmental stewards while highlighting the importance of groundwater, water conservation, and sustainable resource management.

This issue also showcases WRD's continued investment in the future through workforce development programs that prepare tomorrow's water professionals, community outreach initiatives that empower residents to become active environmental stewards, and educational opportunities like our Student Art Calendar Contest, which encourages Kindergarten through sixth-grade students to learn about the vital role groundwater plays in our everyday lives.

Together, these efforts reflect a shared vision: protecting our groundwater resources, advancing innovative water solutions, strengthening our regional economy, and building a more sustainable future for generations to come.

Sincerely,

Sergio Calderon, President of the Board

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE NEW WATER LEADERS ACADEMY AND OUR PARTNERSHIP WITH COMPTON UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT AND TOMORROW'S TALENT IN THIS ISSUE.



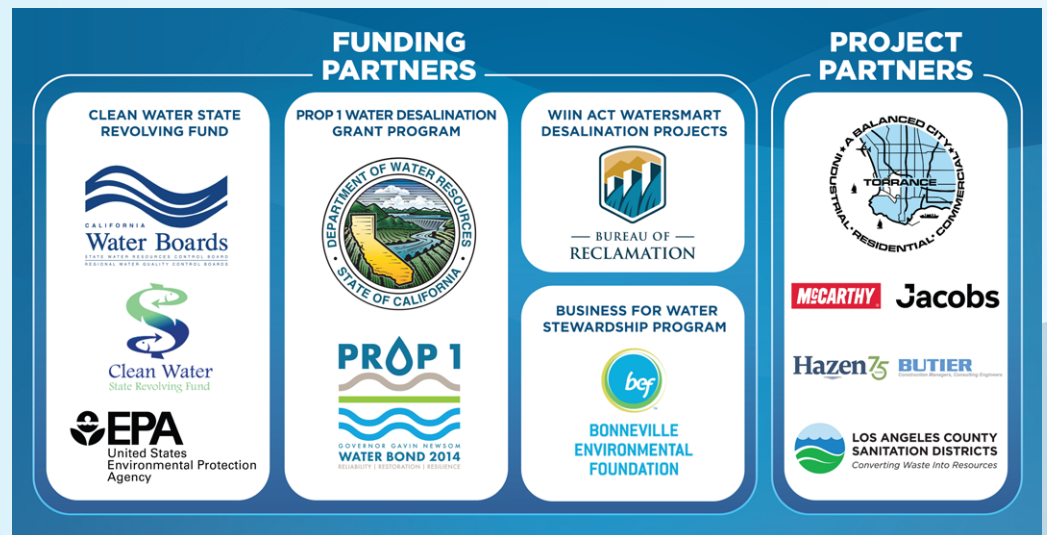
BREAKING GROUND ON A MORE SUSTAINABLE WATER FUTURE

In partnership with the City of Torrance, WRD celebrated a historic milestone with the ceremonial groundbreaking of the Torrance Groundwater Desalter Expansion Project (TGDEP). As a cornerstone of WRD's Brackish Groundwater Reclamation Program (BGRP), the expansion represents one of the most significant water infrastructure investments in Southern Los Angeles County and the largest capital project in WRD's history. The event brought together elected officials, community leaders, and state and federal funding partners to celebrate a shared commitment to advancing regional water independence, groundwater sustainability, and long-term water reliability.

Upon completion in 2029, the expanded Robert W. Goldsworthy Desalter facility will nearly double its treatment capacity, producing up to 7,100 acre-feet (2.3 billion gallons) of high-quality drinking water annually for the South Bay. By converting a 14-square-mile brackish (salty) groundwater plume into a reliable local drinking water source while creating additional groundwater storage capacity, the project exemplifies the power of regional collaboration to reduce reliance on imported water and build resilience against future droughts. As part of WRD's WIN 4 ALL initiative, the Torrance Groundwater Desalter Expansion Project is a transformative investment in the region's water future, helping secure sustainable, locally sourced water supplies for generations to come. The next phase of the project includes connecting the additional pipelines and installing new wells that will feed into the facility being expanded.



WRD's General Manager Stephan Tucker spoke on the significance of this project and recognized the funding and project partners during the groundbreaking event.



TO LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR TORRANCE GROUNDWATER DESALTER EXPANSION PROJECT, VISIT: WWW.WRD.ORG/BRACKISH-GROUNDWATER-RECLAMATION-PROGRAM

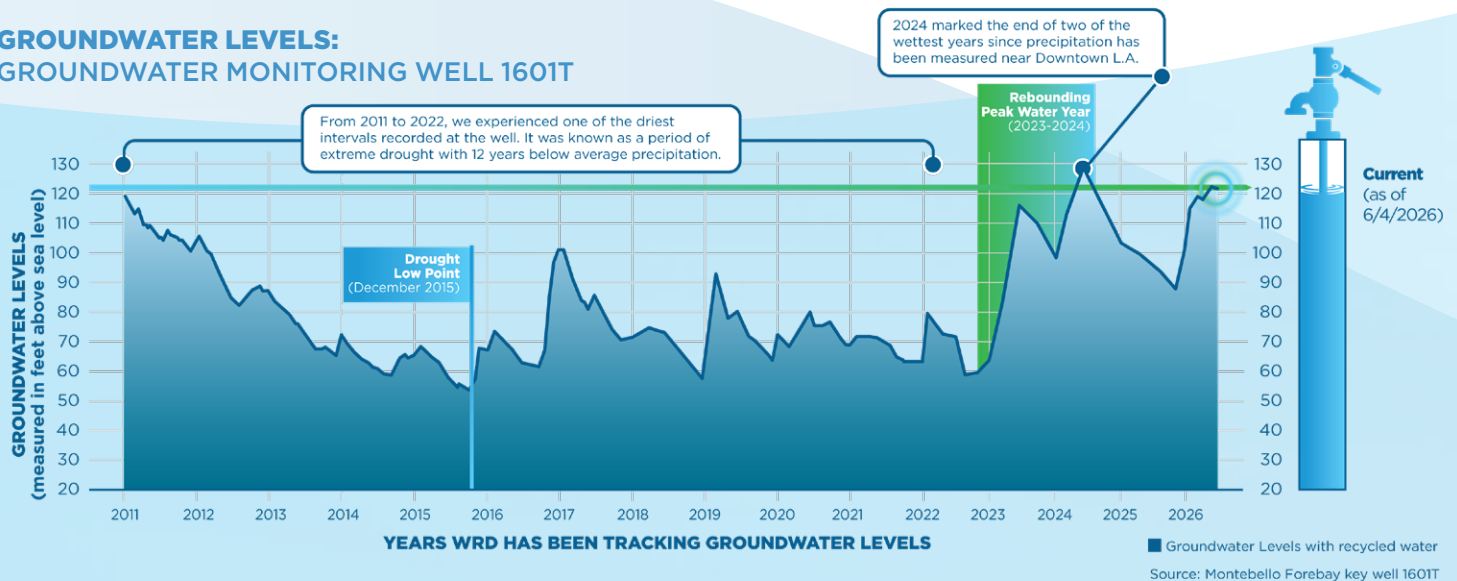


GROUNDWATER BASIN UPDATE

WRD's staff monitor groundwater conditions year-round throughout the Central and West Coast Groundwater Basins to ensure the long-term sustainability of the region's water supply. Through May 30, 2026, the WRD Precipitation Index recorded 17.36 inches of rainfall, marking an above-average water year and providing a welcome boost to local groundwater resources. Rainfall, together with highly treated recycled water, plays a critical role in WRD's groundwater replenishment program by helping recharge the basins and sustain the local groundwater supply that serves nearly four million people. By maximizing these local water sources, WRD continues to strengthen regional water reliability while reducing dependence on imported water.

While local conditions remain encouraging, California continues to experience significant climate variability. Which is why WRD also continuously tracks groundwater elevations through a network of monitoring wells, including groundwater monitoring well 1601T, which provides valuable data to help assess basin conditions and guide sustainable groundwater management. By planning for both wet and dry years and investing in local water supply projects, WRD is ensuring the region remains prepared for future climate challenges while protecting a safe, reliable groundwater supply for generations to come.

GROUNDWATER LEVELS: GROUNDWATER MONITORING WELL 1601T



STAY INFORMED: WRD PUBLISHES MONTHLY GROUNDWATER BASIN UPDATES WITH THE LATEST GROUNDWATER CONDITIONS, PRECIPITATION DATA, AND BASIN MONITORING INFORMATION. VISIT WWW.WRD.ORG/GROUNDWATER-BASIN-UPDATE



STORMWATER SOLUTIONS: PARTNERSHIP FOR RECHARGE



WRD presented at the LA Waterkeeper *Recharge L.A. Workshop* to collaborate with community and agency leaders on the Safe Clean Water Program, which seeks to capture stormwater throughout Los Angeles County. The audience learned about the geology of the Los Angeles Basin and where the best opportunities for groundwater recharge are. WRD is active in the Safe Clean Water Program, participating on the Scoring Committee that assesses proposed projects and on three Watershed Area Steering Committees which recommend projects for approval and implementation.

The workshop also included a panel discussion on *How to Optimize Water Supply Benefits*, featuring industry experts from WRD's Watermaster & Water Resources Department, the Metropolitan Water District, Craftwater, the Los Angeles County Sanitation District, the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, and Green Gardens Group.

ECO GARDENER PROGRAM



For 20 years, the Eco Gardener Program has inspired communities to create beautiful, water-wise landscapes and transform everyday outdoor spaces through sustainable gardening practices.

Explore practical, hands-on workshops designed for every level of gardener, with topics like:

- **Edible Gardening** – Grow your own fresh fruits and vegetables right at home.
- **Garden Design** – Transform any space, big or small, into a beautiful and functional garden.
- **Pest & Weed Management** – Discover innovative ways to protect your garden from pests and unwanted visitors.

Each workshop includes expert-led instruction, interactive demonstrations, and garden-themed giveaways that help bring your new skills to life.

"Last year, we grew delicious tomatoes and giant grey stripe sunflowers from WRD seeds. The tomatoes are heirlooms and very tasty. I salvaged the seeds from several tomatoes and planted them earlier this year. The photo is a second-generation WRD tomato. Thanks, WRD!"

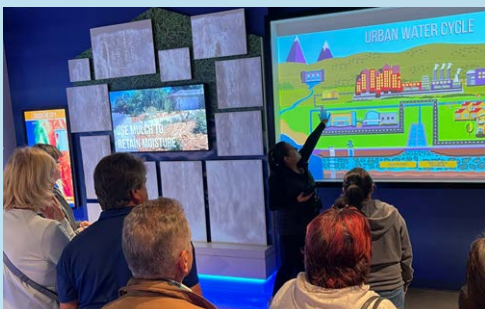
- Mr. Gould,
Active Eco Gardener Participant



SCAN THE QR CODE TO EXPLORE UPCOMING WORKSHOPS NEAR YOU!
WWW.WRD.ORG/ECO-GARDENER-PROGRAM

PUBLIC TOURS!

Have you visited the Albert Robles Center for Water Recycling and Environmental Learning yet? Get a FREE tour of ARC and explore our state-of-the-art water purification facility. The tour 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



BUILDING TOMORROW'S WATER LEADERS



From classroom to career, WRD's workforce development programs are creating pathways for the next generation of water professionals.

This summer, WRD hosted 19 rising scholars from Compton Unified School District for its inaugural Water Leaders Academy – a paid internship for incoming high school seniors to learn about career pathways in water. Developed as a pilot program in partnership with Tomorrow's Talent, the students engaged in professional development, behind-the-scenes tours of key water infrastructure, and completed a capstone project to showcase what they learned. We are proud of how far they've come and look forward to seeing them join the water industry in the future!

OUR PARTNERS:



WRD'S PAST INTERNS- WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Through WRD's internship program, students gain hands-on experience, professional mentorship, and a firsthand look at the many career paths within the water industry. Whether working in public affairs, hydrogeology, operations, or engineering, these former interns transformed their experiences at WRD into meaningful careers dedicated to serving their communities.



Shane Hardy

WRD Intern
2019 – 2021

Current Role:
Public Affairs Representative,
Water Replenishment District

What did your WRD internship teach you?

As an intern at WRD, I learned many things that I can apply throughout my professional career. Some key takeaways were: time management, never be afraid to ask questions, triple check everything, and presentation is key. My favorite is, your network is your net worth. As a communicator, it's important to maintain relationships, especially the professional ones - you never know when you're going to need something that can better serve your agency in a positive way.



Hannah Fitzpatrick

WRD Intern
2023–2024

Current Role:
Environmental Hydrogeologist,
GSI Environmental Inc.

How did the experience shape your career goals?

Before WRD, I knew I wanted to work in groundwater, but I didn't have a clear picture of what that career would look like. Seeing Managed Aquifer Recharge, basin monitoring, and brackish-water reclamation in practice showed me what I was looking for: time in the field, solid data behind decisions, and problems tied to a whole basin, not just a class project. That direction carried me into graduate research on coastal aquifers and fiber-optic sensing, and recently into environmental consulting at GSI on the Water Resources and Groundwater Modeling team.



Hideo Ferrante

WRD Intern
2024-2025

Current Role:
Assistant Engineer,
Hazen and Sawyer

What is your role and how are you making an impact?

At Hazen I work as an engineer in the reuse group. I help design advanced water treatment facilities and have been able to apply my experience working onsite at WRD's facilities to inform my designs. I'm even working on projects for WRD making me a key player on my project team.



My Vu

WRD Intern
2018 -2019

Current Role:
Mechanical Engineer,
Long Beach Utilities Department

What did your WRD internship teach you?

Through the internship, I learned the importance of workplace professionalism, clear communication, accountability, and preparation. I was introduced to many essential aspects of engineering and project management, including preparing for a Request for Proposal, evaluating bid packages, reviewing design drawings and specifications, processing invoices, tracking budgets and project performance, and communicating effectively with project stakeholders and team members. Beyond the technical skills, WRD taught me how to carry myself in a professional environment with humility, curiosity, and responsibility.

LEARN MORE ABOUT WRD'S PAST INTERNS ON OUR CAREERS IN WATER WEBPAGE:
WWW.WRD.ORG/WRD-INTERNS-WHERE-ARE-THEY-NOW



16TH ANNUAL GROUNDWATER FESTIVAL



Congresswoman Linda Sanchez served as the keynote speaker at the Groundwater Festival, where WRD directors honored community leaders for their significant contributions to local water stewardship and advocacy.

WRD welcomed thousands of students, educators, families, and community partners to its 16th Annual Groundwater Festival, celebrating another successful year of inspiring the next generation of water stewards. Through hands-on science activities, educational demonstrations, and engaging presentations, attendees learned about the importance of groundwater, water conservation, and sustainable water management. The festival continues to be one of WRD's signature outreach events, connecting communities across Southern Los Angeles County with the vital role groundwater plays in our everyday lives while encouraging students to explore future careers in the water industry.

WRD IN THE COMMUNITY



Director Calderon provided welcome remarks in Torrance during the groundbreaking ceremony for the Torrance Groundwater Desalter Expansion Project.



Director Katherman joined the Container and Planter Gardening Eco Gardener Workshop, hosted in partnership with the City of Torrance at the Madrona Marsh Preserve and Nature Center.



Directors Allen, and DeWitt presented Assemblymember Jose Luis Solache with WRD's Grace Napolitano – Groundwater Champion Award.



Director Allen and staff were proud to partner with Lakewood High School's LHS One World Club - Water Walk during #EarthWeek!



Director Langford and General Manager Tucker met with federal agencies and legislators in D.C.



Director DeWitt and WRD staff visited the Reyes Coca-Cola Bottling plant in Downey.



STUDENT ART CONTEST

ALL NEW TOPICS!

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

- #1 **EVERY DROP COUNTS:**
Small Actions, Big Water Savings
- #2 **GUARDIANS OF OUR GROUNDWATER:**
Protecting the Basin for Generations
- #3 **NATURE'S WATER HEROES:**
Plants, Animals, and People Working Together



WRD Water Nerd

SUBMIT YOUR ARTWORK
FOR OUR 2027 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 1, 2026, 11:59 pm.
- #3 Include parental/guardian consent.

DEADLINE: SUN, NOV 1, 2026

SUBMIT TODAY:

EACH SUBMISSION INCLUDES ARTWORK
AND PARENTAL APPROVAL FORM (PAF)

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2026, 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:

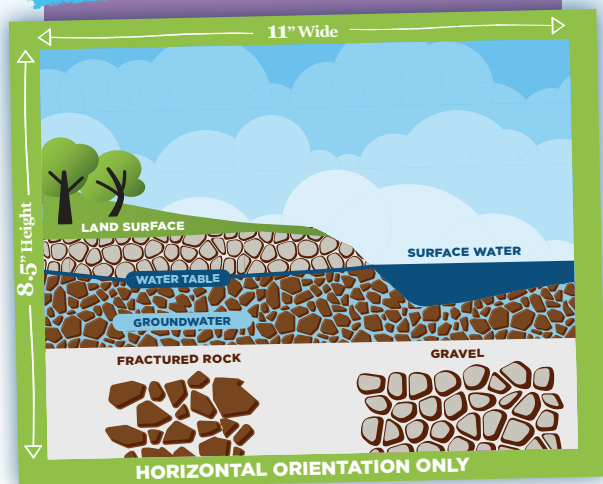
- ▶ Contestants must reside in, or attend a school within, the boundaries of WRD's 43 city service area and must be in kindergarten through 6th grade.
- ▶ Don't get disqualified! Artwork must be original (no computer-made, or copyrighted material such as superhero characters), and submitted on white 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@wrd.org

www.wrd.org/StudentArtContest



STUDENT ART CONTEST

* Prizes provided by sponsors



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Division 2



John
D. S. Allen
Division 3



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Division 5

Stephan
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