



WATER EDUCATION UPDATE

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

On behalf of the WRD Board of Directors, I would like to extend a sincere thanks to the groundwater pumping community, residents and businesses within WRD's service area for your continued conservation efforts in the face of California's ongoing drought. In January 2014, Governor Jerry Brown declared a drought state of emergency for the entire state. Consequently, water deliveries from the State Water Project were reduced to a mere five percent of normal.

WRD is responsible for ensuring that four million residents, spread across 43 cities, have access to clean, safe, and reliable groundwater. Groundwater makes up 40% of the total water demand in our region. The remaining 60% is imported from Northern California and the Colorado River. While WRD has historically relied upon imported water to replenish the Central and West Coast Groundwater Basins, our agency has steadily invested in programs for locally sustainable water supplies to eliminate our need for expensive imported water.

WRD's Water Independence Now (WIN) Program embodies our effort to eliminate our reliance on imported water to replenish our groundwater supplies. Last year, WRD took another major step towards achieving our WIN goal of complete independence from imported water when we expanded the Leo J. Vander Lans Advanced Water Treatment Facility in Long Beach. WRD now uses 100% locally sustainable water to inject into the Alamitos Seawater Intrusion Barrier that protects the coastal area of the Central Groundwater Basin from saltwater intrusion.

With the purchase of 5.2 acres of land adjacent to the San Gabriel River, WRD is poised to build another advanced treatment facility as part of our Groundwater Reliability Improvement Program (GRIP) which will allow us to become independent of imported water to replenish our groundwater basins by 2018. This is a major step toward developing a locally sustainable water supply to help keep water rates stable for the region.

Thanks to your conservation efforts, our groundwater resources are going further and allowing our region to weather the drought.

WRD Board President

California's new set of education standards, known as the Next Generation of Science Standards (NGSS), is focusing on sciences of the environment, energy, nature, climate, sustainability and the earth. These new standards are intended to help students become literate in basic science concepts and acquire the skills and knowledge to tackle issues like water and energy conservation.



WRD water outreach efforts include educating students within its service area about the importance of groundwater - the largest source of freshwater in the United States. Groundwater makes up 40% of our region's water supply.

CONTACT

If teachers are interested in receiving curriculum materials to further students' knowledge of California's water resources, they should contact WRD Public Affairs Representative Monica Serrano at mserrano@wrd.org or at (562) 275-4234.



FREE ECO GARDENER CLASSES

In Southern California, landscaping irrigation accounts for 60 to 70 percent of urban water use. With this in mind, WRD has taken a leadership role to increase water conservation efforts through its award-winning Lillian Kawasaki ECO Gardener Education Program. Below is a list of Eco Gardener classes and dates. All classes are free to the public.



Classes at WRD Office
4040 Paramount Blvd.
Lakewood, CA 90712
3 pm to 5 pm

- March 19 (Eco Gardener Class-Eco Gardening Concepts)
- March 26 (Eco Gardener Class-Edible Gardening for Beginners)
- April 2 (Eco Gardener Class-Garden Design Features)
- April 9 (Eco Gardener Class-Drought Tolerant Plants)
- April 16 (Eco Gardener Class-Drip & Sprinkler Care)
- April 23 (Eco Gardener Class-Eco Garden Care)

Classes at Lakewood Youth Center
4658 Woodruff Ave.
Lakewood, CA 90712
6 pm to 8:30 pm

- March 5 (Subsurface Drip Irrigation Class)

Classes at South Coast Botanic Garden
26300 Crenshaw Blvd.
Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA 90274
3:30 pm to 5 pm

- March 4 (Eco Gardener Class-Eco Gardening Concepts)
- March 11 (Eco Gardener Class-Edible Gardening for Beginners)
- March 18 (Eco Gardener Class-Garden Design Features)
- March 25 (Eco Gardener Class-Drought Tolerant Plants)
- April 1 (Eco Gardener Class-Drip & Sprinkler Care)
- April 8 (Eco Gardener Class-Eco Garden Care)

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Lakewood, California 90712

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WATER REPLENISHMENT DISTRICT
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

SPRING
NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2015

WELCOME TO WRD'S NEWLY DESIGNED TRIANNUAL NEWSLETTER

The new WRD Newsletter provides a cleaner, focused and richer experience, bringing you the most critical stories about the state of our region's water supply.

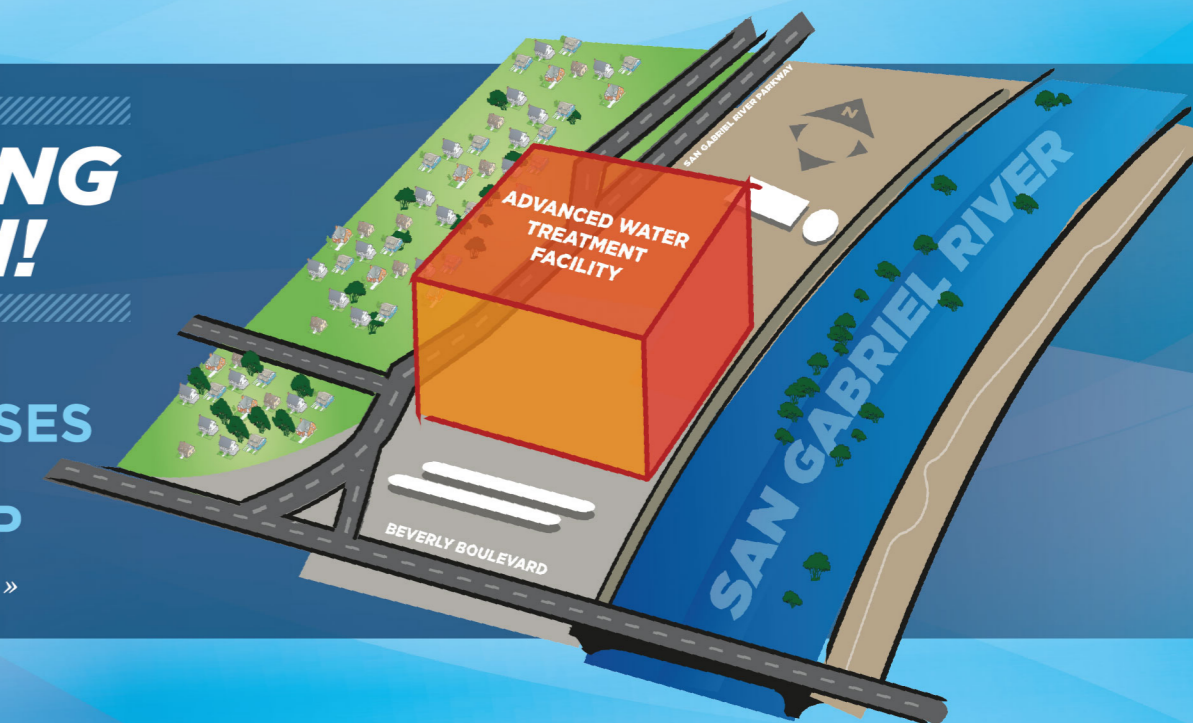
Let California's largest groundwater agency walk you through the most important and up-to-date information regarding water issues impacting the more than four million residents we serve.

We've redesigned our pages so you can get right to information you want with all the current facts you need to know.

COMING
SOON!

WRD
PURCHASES
A HOME
FOR GRIP

[Read More Inside »](#)



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IN THE NEWS

WRD purchases home for GRIP Facility, eliminating need for pipeline construction costs.



Expansion marks complete independence from imported water for protection of Coastal area of the Central Groundwater Basin.



Leo J. Vander Lans Advanced Water Treatment Facility

WRD PURCHASES SITE FOR GRIP

New location eliminates need for \$20 Million Pipeline

WRD continues to pursue projects through its Water Independence Now (WIN) program to develop local and sustainable sources of water for use in groundwater replenishment activities. These efforts have become increasingly important in the face of California's historic drought conditions and restrictions on imported water to Southern California.

Over a decade ago, WRD initiated the WIN program to replace costly imported water with locally produced sources for groundwater replenishment and seawater intrusion barriers. The Groundwater Reliability Improvement Program (GRIP) is the cornerstone of WIN. When fully operational, GRIP will provide nearly 7 billion gallons of local water for groundwater replenishment.

In January, WRD took a major step when it finalized the purchase of a 5.2-acre site in the City of Pico Rivera. The site is adjacent to the San Gabriel River, allowing for direct discharge of purified recycled water to an existing pipeline leading into the Montebello Forebay Spreading Grounds. The land purchase eliminates the need to build a \$20 million pipeline, thereby reducing impacts on the public.

FACILITY EXPANSION ELIMINATES NEED FOR IMPORTED WATER

Advanced Water Treatment Facility protects Central Groundwater Basin

Last December, WRD dedicated the expansion of the Leo J. Vander Lans Advanced Water Treatment Facility (LVLAWTF) located in the City of Long Beach. The distilled-quality water produced at the facility is injected into the Alamitos Seawater Intrusion Barrier, which prevents seawater contamination of the coastal area of the Central Groundwater Basin's fresh water supply.

Historically, WRD was required to use imported water to inject into the seawater barriers. Overtime, WRD began to use advanced treated recycled water to reduce the amount of imported water in the barriers.

To completely eliminate demand for imported water, WRD expanded the production of advanced treated water from 3 to 8 million gallons per day (mgd), thereby eliminating the need of imported water to protect the basins from saltwater intrusion. The expanded advanced water treatment includes additional microfiltration (MF), reverse osmosis (RO) and ultraviolet advanced (UV) oxidation systems increasing the plant's overall efficiency, making it one of the premier treatment plants in the nation.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

The Water Replenishment District of Southern California (WRD) has developed a draft Groundwater Basins Master Plan (GBMP) as a tool to plan for the region's future water demands.

WRD has begun its budget and rate setting process by holding several public meetings to discuss the 2015-16 budget, which takes effect on July 1, 2015.



GROUNDWATER BASIN MASTER PLAN (GBMP)

This plan will serve as a single reference planning document for the public and groundwater purveyors of the West Coast and Central Groundwater basins. The primary goals of the GBMP are to identify a range of projects and opportunities for meeting future replenishment needs in the basins and to evaluate ways to enhance future water supplies and reduce reliance on imported water.



The GBMP is a regional plan aimed at more effectively managing and optimizing the groundwater resources of southern Los Angeles County along with local groundwater interests. As the lead agency, WRD is preparing a Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) to provide the public, trustee agencies, and responsible agencies with information about the potential effects on the local and regional environment associated with the implementation of the GBMP. The Draft PEIR is expected to be out for public comment in March 2015 and approved by the WRD Board of Directors later in the spring.

WRD BUDGET

As part of its budget process, WRD includes a Budget Advisory Committee (BAC) made up of groundwater pumpers in the service area. These groundwater pumpers help determine the replenishment assessment which covers the costs associated with recharging and monitoring the Central and West Coast Groundwater Basins.

"It's important that the public understand that WRD provides among the most transparent fiscal processes where we discuss and analyze every cost which we anticipate will be required to protect the quality and quantity of our groundwater," stated WRD Chief Financial Officer Scott Ota.

More than 70% of WRD's total budget is spent on the cost of water to replenish the District's groundwater basins. WRD has avoided increases to the replenishment assessment in two of the last three years despite California's ongoing drought.

The 2015-16 budget and annual replenishment assessment must be finalized by May 1. WRD will continue to hold a series of public meetings regarding the budget throughout the months of March and April.

UPCOMING

WRD Set to Release GRIP Recirculated Environmental Impact Report.



WRD Hosting 8th Annual Groundwater Festival! Mark your calendars for Saturday, March 14.



GRIP RECIRCULATED EIR

WRD released a Notice of Preparation regarding the public recirculation of the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for GRIP and advanced water treatment facility. The recirculated EIR's release is scheduled for early April 2015 and will give the public an opportunity to review the project's environmental analysis to insure that impacts were adequately studied.

A draft EIR for GRIP was circulated for public review last March. Since then, WRD identified a new project alternative that would construct the advanced water treatment facility (AWTF) on a 5.2-acre property adjacent to the San Gabriel River in the City of Pico Rivera. The recirculated EIR will analyze this new alternative. The public will be able to view the recirculated EIR through WRD's website – www.wrd.org/grip.



This new alternative would replace the previously proposed location at the San Jose Creek Water Reclamation Plant (SJCWRP) evaluated in last year's draft EIR and avoid the need for a \$20 million pipeline.

GROUNDWATER FESTIVAL

WRD Hosting 8th Annual Groundwater Festival

Mark your calendars for Saturday, March 14! We are counting down to the 8th Annual WRD "Treasure Beneath Our Feet" Groundwater Festival and you don't want to miss it. The Groundwater Festival, which coincides with National Groundwater Awareness Week, is a free community event to educate and inspire visitors of all ages. More than 40 exhibitors will offer a wide variety of information and fun activities focusing on earth science, engineering, water conservation and the environment. For more information, call 562-921-5521, or visit www.wrd.org.



See you then!

8th Annual WRD Groundwater Festival
Saturday, March 14, 2015
10:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M.
Water Replenishment District
4040 Paramount Blvd.
Lakewood, CA 90712