



WATER REPLENISHMENT DISTRICT PRESS RELEASE

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California Attorney General Rob Bonta & WRD Board of Directors Celebrate 50th Anniversary of the Clean Water Act



WRD Board members John Allen, Vera Robles DeWitt and Joy Langford welcome Attorney General Bonta to ARC

October 31, 2022 – The Water Replenishment District’s (WRD) Board President John D. S. Allen, Director Vera Robles DeWitt, and Director Joy Langford proudly welcomed California Attorney General Rob Bonta at the Albert Robles Center (ARC) on October 27th. This momentous occasion celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Clean Water Act (CWA) which became law on October 18, 1972.

ARC is WRD’s landmark facility that ensures a completely locally sustainable source of water for groundwater replenishment. This facility produces up to 14.8 million gallons of purified water per day, which is used to replenish groundwater aquifers in the Central and West Coast Groundwater Basins. Water from these basins provides 50% of the drinking water for over 4 million people in southern Los Angeles County. The project also features a state-of-the-art learning center focused on the region’s water sources and distribution methods.

In response to visiting ARC, Attorney General Rob Bonta shared, “To see how WRD has leveraged funding that originated from the Clean Water Act is impressive. WRD built ARC to create a local and drought-resilient water supply. This facility is a clear demonstration of how the Clean Water Act promotes environmental justice. WRD’s innovative planning will curtail the challenges that climate change poses for decades to come.”

“We are proud to share ARC’s success with Attorney General Rob Bonta,” said WRD Board President John D. S. Allen. “This facility is the cornerstone of WRD’s decades-long effort to build a sustainable water supply for the communities we serve.”

Director Joy Langford was also pleased to welcome Attorney General Bonta and said “Attorney General Bonta is a champion of environmental justice. It was an honor to share with him how the legacy of the Clean Water Act has made an impact on WRD’s service area and disadvantaged communities in the region.”

When WRD was first established, 100% of the water supply used to replenish groundwater basins was imported. With the completion of ARC, 100% of the water used to replenish the groundwater basin at the spreading grounds is a combination of groundwater and recycled water. WRD and partner agencies produce enough locally recycled water to offset the need for imported water to replenish the basins. Not one drop of water is imported by the district to replenish the basin at the spreading grounds.

The Clean Water Act paved the way for California’s Clean Drinking Water State Revolving Fund which provided an \$80 million low-interest loan and a \$15 million grant to pay for ARC’s approximately \$140 million cost of construction. WRD was delighted to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the CWA with Attorney General Bonta.

The Water Replenishment District of Southern California is the regional groundwater management agency that protects and preserves the quantity and quality of groundwater for two of the most utilized urban basins in the State of California. The service area is home to over ten percent of California’s population residing in 43 cities in southern Los Angeles County. WRD is governed by a publicly elected Board of Directors which includes Joy Langford, Rob Katherman, John D. S. Allen, Sergio Calderon, and Vera Robles-DeWitt.