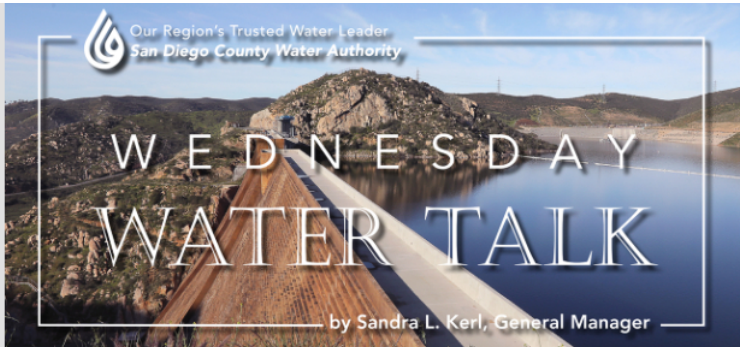




Our Region's Trusted Water Leader
San Diego County Water Authority



Good afternoon, San Diego County leaders.

I'm pleased to announce that the Water Authority has a new slate of Board officers who started their two-year terms Oct 1. New Chair Gary Croucher, a representative from the Otay Water District, will serve with Vice Chair Christy Guerin, a representative from the Olivenhain Municipal Water District, and Secretary Jerry Butkiewicz from the City of San Diego. I invite you to learn more about this distinguished leadership group on the [Water News Network](#).

One of our Board's priorities in recent years has been ensuring the long-term viability of our region's water workforce because **half of the industry's employees in San Diego County will be eligible to retire in the next 15 years**, and many of those workers are in essential positions. In fact, over the next five years, about 1,400 water and wastewater industry jobs are expected to open across the region.

That's why we've just launched [SanDiegoWaterWorks.org](#), **San Diego county's first comprehensive website highlighting regional water and wastewater industry job openings, career path information, and industry education and news in one location.** Created by a regional water industry task force convened to address the "silver tsunami" of Baby Boomers on the verge of retirement, the site's expanded job opportunities and regularly updated information about internships and training opportunities provides a one-stop-shop for anyone interested in a new career or a new role in the water industry. Besides engineers and plant operators, the industry relies on technicians, accountants, electricians, mechanics, information technology specialists and many other occupations with a variety of training requirements.

Additionally, **the Water Authority is proud to be the first public agency in California to partner with the Department of Defense's SkillBridge program** to transition active military personnel into water industry internships and apprenticeships during their last six months of service. For service members, SkillBridge provides an invaluable chance to work and learn in civilian career areas. For industry partners like the Water Authority, SkillBridge is an opportunity to access and leverage the world's most highly trained and motivated workforce.

Our goal with these two programs is to reach underrepresented groups and untapped talent pools to showcase careers in the water industry. Our industry can really benefit by opening the doors to people with diverse backgrounds, educational experiences and skillsets. **We want to make sure our talent pipeline is filled with diverse, highly skilled professionals who can develop the cutting-edge solutions needed to address the pressing challenges of the future.**

Finally, I hope you will **join us in celebrating California Water Professionals Appreciation Week**, designed to highlight the important role of water industry professionals and local public water agencies in ensuring safe and reliable water, wastewater and recycled water operations in California. We're partnering with our 24 member agencies to showcase our extraordinary employees in a social media outreach campaign called "Faces of the Water Industry." **Follow the Water Authority on Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn or Instagram for inspiring photos and stories from the men and women who make sure water always comes out of the tap.**

Thank you to the thousands of water industry professionals across our region. We really couldn't do it without you.

Sandra L. Kerl
General Manager
San Diego County Water Authority

[Visit Our Website](#)



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