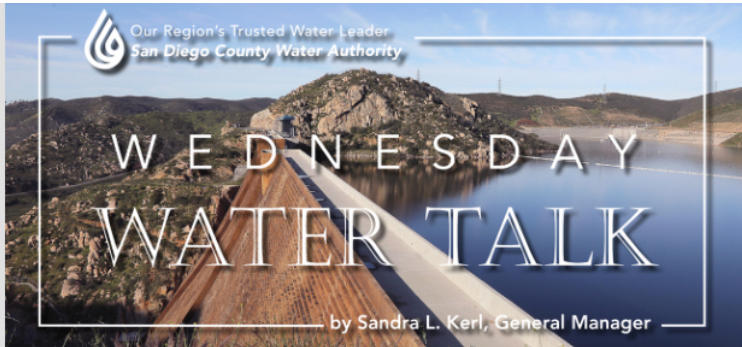




Our Region's Trusted Water Leader
San Diego County Water Authority



Good afternoon, San Diego County leaders.

It's hard to believe we are already in December and planning for 2021. After a year of constant pivoting and adapting, we have all learned a lot about the resilience required to keep San Diego County moving despite the challenges. I know the lessons learned over this past year will make our region stronger in the long run, and I'm proud to partner with you through it all.

As we look ahead to 2021, the Water Authority Board of Directors is holding a **special Board meeting December 10, and we are very excited to welcome State Senate leader Toni Atkins to share her legislative vision and her 2021 policy outlook.** You can watch the webcast at 2 p.m. by [clicking here](#). As you know, Sen. Atkins has represented San Diego for many years and has championed sound water policy throughout her years of public service in state and local government. As the California Senate President pro Tem, she's also in the middle of the public safety and economic recovery issues that impact all Californians.

Welcoming Sen. Atkins is part of the Water Authority's **ongoing effort to connect with our legislators and learn what is happening in Sacramento and Washington, D.C., and how it will affect San Diego County.** Over the years, we have hosted numerous legislative roundtable events to promote collaboration with civic, business, and elected leaders and ensure continued water supply reliability for the region. Past speakers have included Congressmen Scott Peters and Mike Levin, State Assemblymembers Lorena Gonzalez and Marie Waldron, and State Senators Ben Hueso and Brian Jones, to name a few.

I'm hopeful that we'll hear from Sen. Atkins about energy and infrastructure funding and partnership opportunities. This has long been one of the top legislative priorities for water and wastewater agencies – and the pandemic has highlighted the need for continued investments in these projects that produce jobs as well as generational benefits. **We look forward to partnering with state and national agencies to advance shovel-ready water and energy infrastructure projects that can help California's economic recovery gain traction.**

Before we leave 2020 behind, I hope you will consider **joining me and many other water agency employees by supporting the Jacobs & Cushman San Diego Food Bank** as we continue to combat the economic impacts of the pandemic. Though the holiday season looks different this year, I'm confident that better days are ahead.

Sandra L. Kerl
General Manager
San Diego County Water Authority

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