



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

# WEDNESDAY WATER TALK

by Sandra L. Kerl, General Manager



## Good Afternoon, San Diego County leaders.

While 2020 was turned upside-down in almost every way, I'm proud to report that the staff and Board of the San Diego County Water Authority proved equal to the many challenges we faced. In fact, we accomplished a lot over the past 12 months. Here are a few highlights:

- We seamlessly **transitioned three-quarters of our staff to remote work** while maintaining our core business functions and delivering high-quality water to sustain the region.
- We enhanced our outreach and education efforts to assure the public that COVID-19 does not threaten our water supplies. **You can Trust the Tap.**
- Our Board took **significant steps to conclude the rate case litigation** with the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, following the MWD Board's approval of \$350 million in grant funds for local water projects.
- We took several strategic actions to **limit rate increases and minimize the impact on residents** during the pandemic-induced recession.
- The Board also approved the creation of a new, permanent agricultural rate program to **support our region's farm industry**, and it approved the next phase of a study to assess **potential cost-saving options for delivering water** to San Diego County.
- On the ground, our work crews never missed a beat despite the uncertainty of the coronavirus. Emergency **repairs were completed, new infrastructure projects broke ground**, and innovative upgrades were made throughout our facilities.

It's clear that 2020 has stretched us in new ways -- but the region's water suppliers embraced the changes in this era of opportunity, rising to the challenge through innovation, resilience and partnerships. Of course, the Water Authority could never do this alone, and we extend a **sincere thanks to our 24 member agencies and all of the many stakeholders** for their collaboration and communication.

On a final note, **I think you'll enjoy this compelling and informative video** -- "[Made Here: Water in a Day](#)" featuring host [Scott Eastwood](#) and our partners at the [Olivenhain Municipal Water District](#). It explains what goes into delivering safe and clean tap water to residents throughout the region every day. It also answers the question: Which is better, bottled water or tap?

A happy and safe holidays to you. As 2020 draws to a close, please consider joining me and many other water agency employees by **supporting the San Diego Food Bank as we continue to support those in need during this difficult time.**

**Sandra L. Kerl**  
**General Manager**  
**San Diego County Water Authority**

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