



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.

With the new year underway, it's worth a few moments to forecast some of the big issues in the water world.

- **Drought.** We're coming off a very wet week locally and around the state, but overall it's been a very dry winter in many major watersheds. The past several dry months offer a good reminder of the investments that our region has made to ensure that even in multiple dry years, the San Diego region has enough water to sustain our economy and quality of life.
- **Partnerships.** We are proud to be a founding partner of a prestigious group of water agencies working with the Scripps Institution of Oceanography at UC San Diego to improve storm forecasting and reservoir management both locally and statewide.
- **Detachment.** Two of our member agencies are seeking to leave the Water Authority and join a Riverside County water agency, saying they want to save money to use for infrastructure upgrades. The Water Authority Board voted to oppose their detachment unless certain criteria were met, including no harm to our other ratepayers. If the agencies leave without covering payment obligations, then the rest of the water ratepayers across the county will pay more. That scenario particularly hurts disadvantaged communities. Currently, San Diego LAFCO is studying the issue, and we look forward to seeing those results.
- **Infrastructure.** We continue to make investments to ensure the reliability of our regional water system. We just completed one of the most complex pipeline projects in Water Authority history – upgrading the treated water section of the First Aqueduct so that it continues to reliably serve the region for many more decades. Other major reliability projects are in process, all part of what residents and businesses pay for through their water bills to keep the water flowing through 310 miles of large-diameter pipes. These investments are necessary to support our region's residents and businesses by keeping the water flowing.

Thank you for your support during these challenging times as we work toward better days ahead.

Sandra L. Kerl
General Manager
San Diego County Water Authority

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San Diego County Water Authority
4677 Overland Avenue, San Diego, CA 92078
(858) 522-6700