



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.

First things first... Happy St. Patrick's Day! The year is flying by with spring just around the corner, and the Water Authority is carefully tracking California's progress toward returning to more routine working conditions. **I am confident that as we continue to receive good news about the COVID vaccine rollout our economy will come roaring back to life in the second half of the year, and the Water Authority will be ready.**

In fact, we recently released our draft 2020 Urban Water Management Plan that highlights how regional investments in a "water portfolio approach" to supply management and a sustained emphasis on water-use efficiency mean San Diego County will continue to have sufficient water supplies through the 2045 planning horizon – even during multiple dry years. The bottom line is that our diversification strategy that began in the 1990s continues to pay off: **We have ample water to sustain the economy and quality of life under multiple scenarios that could impact supplies.**

The draft plan shows that decades of regional investments mean we don't need to secure more regional supply sources for the foreseeable future. Instead, **we are focused on helping our member agencies develop local supplies and looking for other ways we can continue to ensure supply reliability at a reasonable cost for ratepayers.**

The next major source of local supply is potable reuse. Two projects are under construction in San Diego County: The City of San Diego's large-scale water recycling project, Pure Water San Diego; and the City of Oceanside's advanced water purification project, Pure Water Oceanside. A third project, the East County Advanced Water Purification Program is a combined effort by the City of El Cajon, Padre Dam Municipal Water District, the County of San Diego, and the Helix Water District. That project is in the design/pre-construction phase.

If you'd like to learn more about our region's water future, you can read the plan at <http://bit.ly/Water-Authority-UWMP>. The current 60-day public comment period includes a public hearing at our Board of Directors meeting on March 25.

The Water Authority is proud to serve San Diego County through these projects and many others that sustain our region's economy and quality of life with safe, reliable water. **We look forward to moving ahead with you in coming months to support the region's post-pandemic economic recovery.**

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