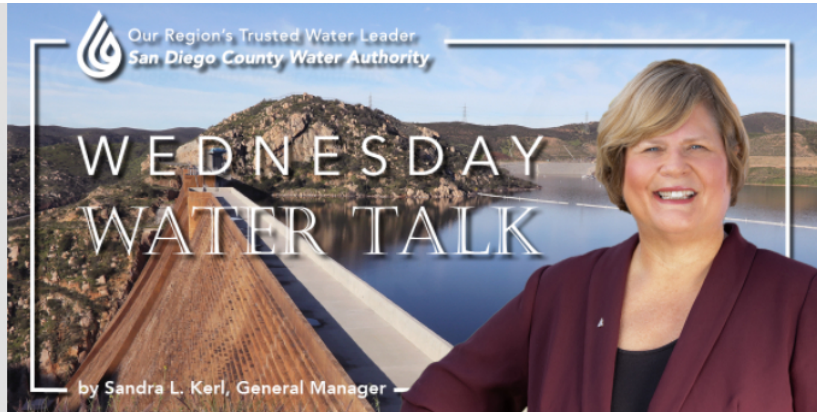




Our Region's Trusted Water Leader
San Diego County Water Authority



by Sandra L. Kerl, General Manager

Good afternoon, San Diego County leaders.

The Water Authority and our 24 member agencies have been pushing forward on several priority issues, remaining vigilant in our mission to provide safe and reliable water to the San Diego region. **One of our priorities is advancing water purification projects that will provide another drought-resilient, locally controlled water supply for our region.**

Last week, our Board of Directors unanimously approved a formal resolution reaffirming its longstanding support for potable reuse and water recycling projects developed by local member agencies across the region. **For more than two decades, the Water Authority has promoted water recycling and reuse in San Diego County as part of the region's water supply diversification and reliability strategy.**

We have sponsored and supported legislation to speed the development of potable reuse regulations in California. In addition, Water Authority investments in high-priority, highly reliable water from the Colorado River **support the development of local resources by delivering a low-cost baseload of water that can be recycled and repurified.** The Water Authority also has advocated for robust funding in state bond measures, and **we helped secure nearly \$500 million for local projects** from the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California in 2019 and 2020 – with most of that money targeted for potable reuse here in San Diego County.

Roughly 33,000 acre-feet of recycled water is expected to be reused within the Water Authority's service area annually by 2025. **By 2045, new and expanded potable reuse plants are projected to produce more than 112,000 acre-feet per year of new drinking water supplies, enough to meet nearly 18% of the region's future water demand.**

Three potable reuse projects are now underway in San Diego County:

- The City of San Diego's large-scale water recycling project, Pure Water San Diego is under construction.
- The City of Oceanside's advanced water purification project, Pure Water Oceanside, is also under construction.
- The East County Advanced Water Purification Program – a combined effort by the City of El Cajon, Padre Dam Municipal Water District, the County of San Diego, and the Helix Water District – is in the design/pre-construction phase.

The Water Authority is proud of these efforts by its member agencies to bring local, sustainable and drought-proof supplies to our region.

Sandra L. Kerl
General Manager
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