



Central Basin
Municipal Water District
P U B L I C A T I O N S

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Recycled Water Expansion Planned for Southeast LA

In an effort to conserve the area's groundwater and reduce reliance on imported water, Central Basin Municipal Water District is moving forward with the Southeast Water Reliability Project (SWRP). Since Southern California is a semi-desert region, water conservation is vital to ensuring a safe and reliable water supply. Using recycled water for commercial, industrial and landscape-irrigation applications instead of drinking water is an important component in Central Basin's conservation plan.

With industrial sites as the largest single user of potable water, SWRP would provide recycled water for the large industrial and irrigation sites in the cities of Vernon and Montebello. The 12-plus mile pipeline will extend from Pico Rivera through Montebello, Commerce and southeast

Los Angeles County areas, connecting to the existing system in Vernon. Additionally, the project will enhance the operation reliability of the current system by completing an actual "loop" of existing pipelines. Once completed, SWRP will conserve more than 4.2 billion gallons of water annually.

This type of project is vital to sustaining a reliable supply of water for Southern California, which imports most of its water from Northern California and the Colorado River. With these sources of water becoming increasingly limited, agencies such as Central Basin are working to develop a plan to reduce dependency on imported water sources. Recycled water offers a viable solution. As recycled water becomes available throughout Los Angeles County, it can be used for commercial, industrial and landscape-irrigation pur-

poses, conserving the region's potable water supply.

Central Basin's ability to produce recycled water locally also means less impact on fragile ecosystems, less energy to pump imported water long distances and a reliable water supply for the region. As an added benefit, Central Basin's recycled water can be purchased for less than potable water and is virtually drought-proof, providing an economic incentive for businesses in the area to use recycled water. The lower cost of water will also attract more businesses to the area, providing an economic benefit to the area. SWRP was designed through Central Basin's proactive approach to water conservation and environmentally-sound practices and will be a great benefit to southeast Los Angeles County. It is expected to be completed in 2007. ❖

Surviving Disasters In Case of Emergency, It's Best to Be Prepared



The hurricanes that rocked the gulf coast last year reminded all of us that we need to be prepared in case of an emergency. Disaster can strike without warning, so Central Basin would like to remind you to have an emergency supply of food and water set aside.

A person can't survive much longer than a week without water and needs at least 2.5 quarts of water each day to remain healthy. Because of this, water should be a top priority. A three-day supply of water, about a gallon per day, should be stored for each member of your family. Don't

ration water consumption during an emergency. Drink the amount that you need for each day. Minimize the amount of water your body needs by reducing activity and staying cool.

If you are caught without a supply of water, there

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Surviving the Storm *Continued from page 1*

are sources in your home that you can utilize, such as your hot water heater tank, pipes, ice cubes and the water in the reservoir tank of your toilet (not the bowl). To use the water in your pipes, turn on the faucet in your house at the highest level. A small amount of water will trickle out. Then, you can obtain water from the lowest faucet in the house. To use the water in your hot water tank, turn off the gas and electricity and open the drain at the bottom of the tank. Start the water flow by turning off the water intake valve and turning on a hot water faucet. Pool or spa water can be used for hygiene needs to conserve drinking water for human consumption.

Before disaster strikes, make sure you know the location of your incoming water valve. You might need to shut it off to prevent contaminated water from entering your home in case of a broken water or sewage line. If you need to purify con-

taminated water, boiling it for 3-5 minutes is the safest way. You can also disinfect using 16 drops of regular household bleach with no dyes or colors per gallon of water. If the water doesn't have a slight bleach odor after letting it stand for 30 minutes, repeat the dosage.

All of these tips can help you in case you find yourself trapped without water for several days. Preparing an emergency supply of food and water will make you feel better, knowing that if disaster strikes, you and your loved ones will be cared for. ❖

How to Store Water

Store your emergency supply of water in thoroughly washed plastic, glass, fiberglass or enamel-lined metal containers. Plastic containers, such as soft drink bottles, are the best. Seal containers tightly and store in a dark, cool place. Rotate every six months.



Emergency Kit *supplies*

- Water
- First aid kit
- Small battery radio
- Water-proof matches
- Flashlight with extra batteries
- Ready-to-eat food and can opener

Do You Know? *The Value of Water*

- On average, a person pays about 25 cents a day for their tap water.
- Bottled water is up to 1,000 times more expensive than tap water.
- You can refill an 8 ounce glass of water approximately 15,000 times for the same cost as a six-pack of soda.
- A person must consume 2.5 quarts of water each day to maintain their health.
- A person can live more than a month without food but only a week without water.

New Reservoir Provides Stability and Recreation



Preparing for an emergency isn't just the responsibility of each individual person. Water agencies such as Central Basin are also responsible for safeguarding the water supply in case of emergency. Through the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, of which Central Basin is a member, water agencies have found a way. The Diamond Valley Lake reservoir located in Riverside County holds 260 billion gallons of water, enough to meet Southern California's emergency needs for six months.

In addition to storing enough water to meet the emergency needs of Los Angeles County, Diamond Valley Lake has also become an area for the recreational needs of Southern California's residents. The lake can be used for fun activities such as water sports and the land can be developed for walking trails and nature areas. The Southwestern Riverside County Multi-Species Reserve, which contains more than 13,500 acres of open space, was created south of the lake to protect at least 16 sensitive, endangered or threatened native California bird, animal and plant species. The lake area also includes swimming pools and sports fields.

There's something for everyone at Diamond Valley Lake. It's a place that people can go to vacation or just enjoy a weekend away from the city. But it also provides a much more important role – storing an emergency supply of water for an area of more than 18 million people.

For more information on Diamond Valley Lake, please visit MWD's web site, www.mwdh2o.com. ❖

Kid's Page

Education Snapshot

In its focus on shaping the attitudes of the next generation, Central Basin continues to inform children about the water supply through its education program. In the last year, the District has introduced several new programs that will expand the knowledge being passed onto our youth.

Water Wanderings

Water Wanderings is a collaborative classroom visitation program between the District and the S.E.A. Lab in Redondo Beach. This hands-on classroom program takes fourth and fifth graders on a 2 1/2-hour journey through California's water. The program is correlated to many of the state standards

for science and social studies. Also included in the program is a "touring tide pool," a van outfitted with touch tanks that enable students to touch live marine creatures and plants.

Think Earth It's Magic

Think Earth It's Magic is a collaborative program with the District, the County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County and the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California to stage environmental magic shows for elementary schools. Each year, elementary schools throughout the District's service area enhance their Think Earth curriculum with this exciting magic show. It is an opportunity to reinforce

the classroom lessons and remind students about the importance of implementing environmentally-sound practices around their homes and schools.

Sewer Science

Sewer Science is a hands-on laboratory program that teaches high school students in the District's service area about wastewater treatment. During a week-long lab course, students create fake wastewater and employ physical, biological and chemical treatment methods and procedures to test its quality. Sewer Science correlates to the California State Content Standards in the following high school science categories: chemistry, physics and microbiology. ❖

Water Word Scramble

Unscramble the words below to learn more about your water!

1. The _____ is the place in the house where we use the most water. **hmortabo**
2. A person could live a _____ without water. **ekwe**
3. A person wastes two _____ by running the water while brushing his or her teeth. **lsgloan**
4. Water makes up 70 percent of the human _____. **nriba**
5. Three aqueducts transport water to California: the Los Angeles Aqueduct, the Colorado River Aqueduct and the _____ Aqueduct. **ioifacInar**
6. To help conserve water, fix any _____ in your faucet. **ksale**
7. An _____ is 70 percent water. **nheepIta**
8. 97 percent of the water on the Earth is too _____ to drink. **syIta**
9. To make the most of our water supply, we must use it _____. **syleiw**
10. To spread the word about water conservation, we must _____ our friends. **nmifro**

Answers will appear in the next edition!

Water Word Find

Search for water-related words

ACRE-FEET: how water is measured, equal to about 326,000 gallons

AQUEDUCT: structures and pipelines that transport water to Southern California

CONSERVATION: how we can help save water for future generations

DESALINATION: how salt is removed from ocean water so we can drink it

DESERT: where we live – Southern California is a semi-desert region

DRINKING: what we do with our water

RECYCLING: what Central Basin does to help conserve millions of gallons of drinking water

WATER: what this newsletter is about

D	T	A	Q	U	E	D	U	C	T	C	H
X	E	Y	W	R	J	I	Z	T	S	O	I
D	E	S	W	A	T	E	R	R	I	N	G
Q	F	W	A	R	L	A	C	E	O	S	N
W	E	A	T	L	L	I	N	R	N	E	I
T	R	T	E	Y	I	O	M	T	R	R	L
R	C	Y	C	C	D	N	K	Y	L	V	C
E	A	C	V	E	P	E	A	N	W	A	Y
C	D	O	S	C	S	T	O	T	C	T	C
C	D	E	I	F	S	P	I	B	I	I	E
B	R	R	O	K	H	X	O	M	J	O	R
T	R	G	N	I	K	N	I	R	D	N	N



Central Basin

Municipal Water District

Central Basin serves a population of more than 2 million people living within 24 cities in southeast Los Angeles County.

We're Reaching Out

If you're interested in learning more about water issues and Central Basin, we'll come to you. We have speakers available for community events and organizations to talk about Central Basin's programs, water quality standards and reliability of water supply issues. For more information on requesting a representative to speak at your organization, please call Sandi Linares at (310) 660-6211.

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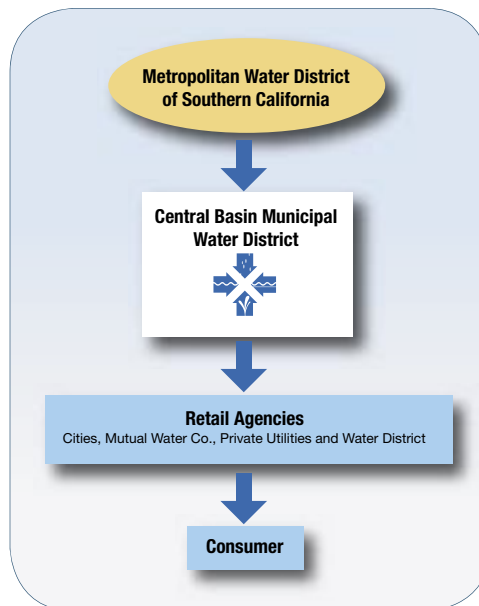
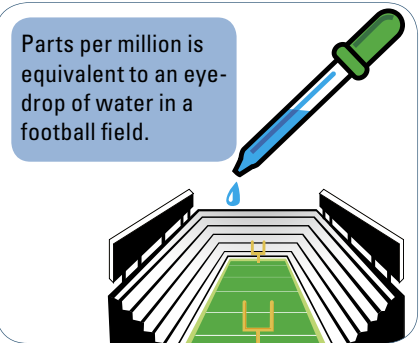
Digital Synergy

Creating Confidence in Tap Water

Many people spend thousands of dollars each year on bottled water because they don't believe their tap water is safe. However, that couldn't be further from the truth. Water agencies are required by law to conduct up to hundreds of tests annually to ensure that the water from the tap meets the strictest state and federal standards.

In Southern California, the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) provides water that is imported from the Colorado River and Northern California to water wholesalers, such as Central Basin. The water is treated at MWD's facilities before being distributed. Central Basin then wholesales the water to the purveyors, who in turn sells the water directly to homes and businesses. The water is tested at various points throughout the system to ensure safety and quality. Each year, every purveyor releases a report to their consumers that discusses the results of the tests.

The Federal Environmental Protection Agency sets the national standards for drinking water, but the State of California adopted even more stringent standards, which are the strictest in the country. Water quality constituents, such as minerals and contaminants, found in the drinking water are measured in parts per million and even parts per trillion. Chemicals such as perchlorate and MTBE, which are currently unregulated by the national standards, are already regulated in California. Constituents are considered for regulation both at the state and federal level on an ongoing basis.



There are more than 70,000 contaminants that have been identified by governmental regulating agencies. These contaminants are monitored regularly. Water that comes to homes and businesses is treated and disinfected, and new rules are being created all the time to protect the water supply. This is to ensure that the public can turn on the tap with confidence, knowing that the water flowing out has met strict national and state standards, which exceed most standards around the world.

For a copy of your Consumer Confidence Report, contact your water purveyor.