Issues & Insights

SUMMIT SPECIAL EDITION

Ventura County's supply of water news

United Water Conservation District

Meet the Experts:

UWCD's Team of Water Leaders

At UWCD, we are dedicated to thinking outside the box and forming unique partnerships to ensure the local water system is sustainable for years to come. Our team of water experts is the foundation that supports our mission to manage, protect, conserve and enhance the water resources of the District. With our staff's daily high-level scientific contributions, we advance critical infrastructure projects while producing a reliable groundwater supply for Ventura County.

Dr. Maryam Bral

Chief Engineer and Water Resources Leader
Improving water supply through project leadership

As UWCD's Chief Engineer and Water Resources Leader, Dr. Maryam Bral leads a staff of exceptional engineers and scientists with one common goal: to make an impact in the region. She supervises the Engineering and Groundwater Departments and manages critical projects that help the management, protection, conservation, and enhancement of groundwater resources. Some of these projects include Santa Felicia Dam Safety Improvement Project. El Rio Iron and Manganese Treatment Facility Project, and the Extraction Barrier and Brackish (EBB) Water Treatment Project.

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Maryam has a PhD in Chemical Engineering from Technical University of Denmark, but she fell in love with water science early in her education. Her entire career has focused on water, water treatment and water resources management.

Dr. Bram Sercu
Principal Hydrologist
Maximizing diversions and recharge

Dr. Bram Sercu, UWCD's Principal Hydrologist, has been with UWCD since 2015. His expertise lies in surface water, managing river and reservoir water supply, and tracking water resources in the Santa Clara River watershed.

Bram directs the UWCD's surface water hydrology monitoring program and performs surface water modeling, data analysis and reporting to assist with the District's water resources acquisition, planning and regulatory compliance. He received a PhD in Applied Biological Sciences from Ghent University and completed a postdoctoral program at UC Santa Barbara.

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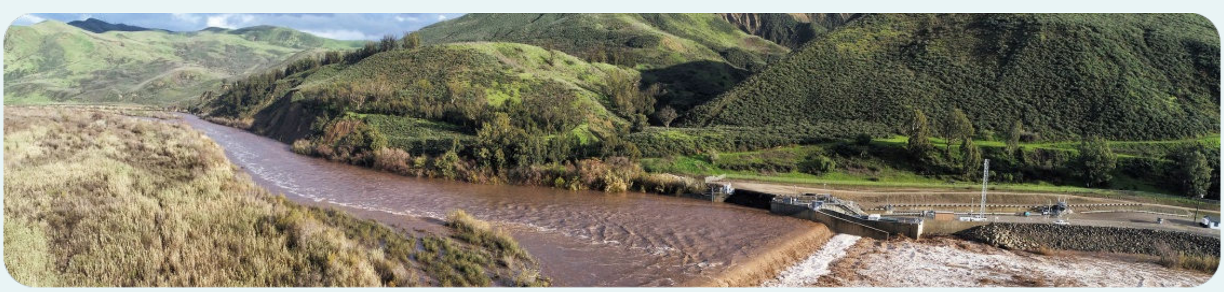
For Bram, the fun part of the job is the immediate impact: When the District diverts a lot of water, groundwater levels visibly go up.



Robert Richardson
Engineering Manager
Working to save every last drop

As UWCD's Engineering Manager, Robert Richardson's goal is to maximize every bit of water available for potable and irrigation uses. He serves as a project manager, coordinating UWCD's internal team with consultants in design, environmental permitting, surveying, geotechnical exploration, and construction management permitting.

One of Robert's primary focuses is recycled water, an underutilized source on the Oxnard plain. He works to safeguard this continuous, sustainable part of UWCD's baseline supply. Ultimately, Robert dreams that we never see drops of water carried away and wasted in the ocean.

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John Lindquist

Water Resources Supervisor

The hydrogeologist at heart

John Lindquist, UWCD's Water Resources Supervisor, has been with the District for nearly a 10 years. He came to the role after a few decades of consulting and working with the EPA. When he saw the position for a hydrogeologist open at UWCD, he realized it was a place where he could do local work that made a difference.

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John spends his days helping staff better develop projects and make the best use of District resources so that they make the most cost-effective decisions for customers. As a geologist, John marvels at how water is essential to the very way the planets formed.

Dr. Jason Sun

Supervisory Water Resources Engineer

The architect of UWCD's groundwater model

As the Supervisory Water Resources Engineer, Dr. Jason Sun ensures the accuracy and efficacy of UWCD's regional groundwater model and its applications. UWCD's groundwater model covers seven groundwater basins in Ventura County and offers the best tool to study groundwater issues such as seawater intrusion.

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Jason has always been interested in water resources with several decades in the field and a Ph.D. in Hydrology and Water Resources Science from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). Whether it was surface water or groundwater, he knew water was the life force of our world.

Murray McEachron

Hydrologist Supervisor

Carefully managing surface water resources

Murray McEachron is UWCD's Hydrologist Supervisor; he oversees the District's surface water supply, moving and managing the water to fit the region's needs. While he focuses on surface water resources, he continuously contributes to the goal of putting as much water back into the ground as possible for everyone to use. He decides when UWCD releases water from Lake Piru to recharge the Oxnard plain.

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Murray is excited for the future at UWCD, thanks to several key safety improvement projects: the Santa Felicia Dam Safety Improvement Project, the new Freeman Diversion intake, and the EBB Water Treatment project.

Craig Morgan

Chief Operations Officer

Leading the way in the local recharge

As the Chief Operations Officer, Craig Morgan's goal is to ensure that UWCD staff have the tools and resources to readily receive water off the Santa Clara River and deliver it to the District's constituents downstream via pipelines, canals and recharge basins. In turn, these efforts combined enable the replenishment of the local groundwater aquifers.

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Born and raised in Oxnard, Craig was excited to come home and make a difference in the water industry. Craig helps UWCD lead the region in replenishing the aquifer system, balancing the shifts between drought and abundance of water.

Randall McInvale

Principal Environmental Scientist

A scientist of all trades

As UCWD's Prinicpal Environmental Scientist, Randall McInvale is a scientist of all trades. He serves as a Field Ecologist, a Regulatory Specialist, and an overall strategist considering the big picture.

Randall primarily works on the Freeman Diversion rehabilitation project and the accompanying fish passage improvement project. He also supports the EBB Water

Treatment project, the Santa Felicia Dam Safety Improvement Project and increasing State Water Project imports. His focus is on the various regulatory components — it takes many years to develop these projects, navigate their regulatory process, and reach a finished product.

Randall enjoys diving into the details and the history associated with UWCD and its unique facilities, enabling him to become an expert in this vital field.

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SPEAKING OPPORTUNITIES

UWCD welcomes opportunities to connect with the community and discuss water supply, groundwater resources and current threats to our system. If you would like to book a presentation from one of our staff, please contact:

Murray McEachron
Principal Hydrologist
murraym@unitedwater.org
(805) 695-3716

GLOSSARY

Field Ecologist: Ecologists use multi-disciplinary skills in the biological, physical, and social sciences to solve environmental problems and protect species and ecosystems. Field ecologists spend most of their time in the field, making observations and collecting samples for specific projects.

Groundwater Model: A mathematical representation of groundwater flow through an aquifer, which is composed of saturated sediment and rock.

Hydrologist: Scientists who study the Earth's water, including its distribution, circulation, physical characteristics, and properties.

Hydrogeologist: Scientists who study underground water formations, or groundwater, to help protect and manage water resources.

Surface Water: Any body of water that is above ground and open to the atmosphere.

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