



Issues &



Insights

Ventura County's
supply of water news



Happy Holidays

FROM UNITED WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

District Wraps 2024 on the Cutting Edge of Water Resource Management

As 2024 comes to an end, UWCD celebrates a year of working toward a sustainable water future. A lineup of innovative projects has enabled UWCD to continue its mission to manage, protect, conserve, and enhance the water resources of the District, producing a reliable and sustainable water supply for all users.

In our State of the District video below, we update the community on the District's latest key projects. Read more about these projects and their progress in the "2024 Highlights" section. We wish you all a happy and festive holiday season and look forward to serving you in the New Year.



[Click Here to Watch the Video](#)

2024 Highlights

Santa Felicia Dam at Lake Piru

Progress continues toward making the Santa Felicia Dam at Lake Piru safer and more secure. UWCD is working to construct a new water conveyance system, called an Outlet Works, to deliver water from the reservoir downstream. The new Outlet Works will be designed to withstand the Maximum Credible Earthquake, estimated to be a magnitude 7.2 earthquake. By raising the dam crest by 6½ feet and modifying the existing spillway, the dam can safely pass extreme flood events and protect the 400,000 people living downstream. The project is expected to earn \$131 million in grant support.



Freeman Diversion

UWCD's groundwater recharge efforts at the Freeman Diversion paid off in 2024. Thanks to a robust water year in 2023, the Freeman Diversion recharged 111,254 acre-feet (36 billion gallons) of groundwater. This led the Oxnard Basin to be recently ranked as the top basin in the state for groundwater recharge rate (acre-feet of water per acre) in "California's Groundwater Semi-Annual Conditions," a report by the Department of Water Resources (DWR).

UWCD has received \$20 million in grant funding to expand the facility to recharge up to 10,000 acre-feet-per-year (AFY) (3 billion gallons), and \$3.5 million in grant funding so far toward conveyance

improvements.

Iron and Manganese Treatment Facility

UWCD's innovative Iron and Manganese Treatment Facility opened its doors last year after a lightning-fast construction, which took only 18 months to complete. A total of \$7.4 million in grant funding supported the plant, which aims to improve regional water quality and mitigate future water scarcity. Through advanced water technology, the facility treats groundwater from the existing lower aquifer system wells and combines it with groundwater closer to the surface at the El Rio Water Treatment and Groundwater Recharge facility. A planned future expansion will enable the plant to treat up to 8,500 gallons per minute, increasing groundwater supplies by 11,750 acre-feet (3 billion gallons) a year.



Recycled Water

UWCD is pursuing more recycled water opportunities for the region as this continuous, sustainable supply is drought-proof and ideal for irrigating Ventura County's \$3.5 billion agriculture industry. Currently, the District is seeking out potential contractors for an interconnection pipeline along Laguna Road to the Pleasant Valley County Water District (PVCWD) system to enable the conveyance of up to 4,000 AFY (1 billion gallons) of recycled water. With \$5 million in grant support, Phase 1 of this project is estimated to be completed by March 2025.

Pumping Trough Pipeline (PTP)

Since 1986, the PTP has been a vital tool to growers on about 5,250 acres in the Oxnard Plain and Pleasant Valley as it delivered surface water diverted from the Santa Clara River and groundwater pumped from deep wells. Now, UWCD is transitioning the PTP to become even more sustainable by diverting 4,000 AFY (1 billion gallons) from advanced water treatment facilities and converting the pipeline's supply from groundwater to recycled water. This supports the resilience of local groundwater basins while helping local agriculture thrive.



Extraction Barrier Brackish (EBB) Water Treatment Project



The EBB Water Treatment Project supports regional sustainability by developing a hydraulic barrier to mitigate seawater intrusion and desalinating the extracted groundwater for direct use by the U.S. Navy or recharge. This year, UWCD gathered and interpreted available geologic data in the project area and refined their existing groundwater flow model. UWCD initiated design, environmental and permitting work in coordination with the U.S. Navy, under a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) and license agreement, and is constructing monitoring and extraction wells for the project to be completed this year. A total of \$9.8 million has been secured to support the EBB Water Treatment Project.

Chief Engineer Dr. Maryam Bral Elevated to Assistant General Manager

Accomplished engineer and leader Dr. Maryam Bral is UWCD's new Assistant General Manager, bringing over 25 years of expertise in water resource management to the role.



As Assistant General Manager, Dr. Bral will guide UWCD's strategic initiatives, ensuring the delivery of reliable and sustainable water resources to the communities it serves. Dr. Bral embodies the out-of-the-box thinking and innovative spirit that sets UWCD apart as a water industry leader.



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:

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Principal Hydrologist
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(805) 695-3716



GLOSSARY



Acre-Foot – A unit of volume commonly used in the United States to reference large-scale water resources, such as reservoirs, irrigation water and river flows. One acre-foot is equal to the volume of a sheet of water one acre in area and one foot in depth, or approximately 326,000 gallons.

Groundwater Basin – An aquifer or system of aquifers with well-defined boundaries that supply groundwater to wells and pumps. About 83 percent of Californians depend on groundwater for some of their water supply, and many communities rely on groundwater completely for their water needs.

Groundwater Recharge – A hydrologic process where water moves downward from surface water to groundwater. Recharge is the primary method through which water enters an aquifer. Recharge can occur naturally through the water cycle and artificially.

Recycled Water – Water recycling reclaims water from various sources and treats it for agriculture and irrigation, potable water supplies, groundwater replenishment, industrial processes and environmental restoration. This enhances water security.

Seawater Intrusion – The movement of saline water into freshwater aquifers, which degrades groundwater quality and impacts local agriculture, municipal and drinking water use.

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