

Issues & Insights



Ventura County's
supply of water news



UWCD Delivers on Its Promise of High-Quality Water in Ventura County

This August, UWCD is celebrating National Water Quality Month and everything we do to deliver fresh, clean, and safe water to the retail agencies we serve.

The backbone of this effort is our Oxnard Hueneme Pipeline. Thanks to this critical piece of infrastructure, UWCD can:

- Deliver up to 14,000 acre-feet of water per year to Oxnard Plain, including the City of Oxnard, the Port Hueneme Water Agency, several smaller water companies, and a school district. This water reaches approximately 230,000 people.
- Supply from local groundwater, pumped from wells near El Rio

The water delivered through the Oxnard Hueneme Pipeline meets water quality standards set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the State Water Resources Control Board Division of Drinking Water. As our water supply is naturally rich in minerals, a unique characteristic of the area, the District performs continuous and comprehensive testing to ensure the water is clean, safe and healthy to drink.

Curious how this water travels from the Santa Clara River watershed to you? Check out the breakdown below.





How We Deliver Water to You:



UWCD's groundwater supply originates in the mountains and valleys of the 1,600-square-mile Santa Clara River watershed.



UWCD recharges the groundwater basins along the Santa Clara River, then pumps the groundwater from wells in El Rio, north of Oxnard.



UWCD treats the pumped water and conducts extensive monitoring of numerous parameters to meet water drinking water quality standards set forth by state and federal regulations, as our groundwater is considered to be "under the influence of surface water."



UWCD's team follows standard methods to carefully collect water samples to check over 180 possible constituents that could be present in drinking water. These samples are then sent to a certified laboratory for expert testing, all to make sure water is safe for consumption.



UWCD shares the laboratory results of our water testing in the annual Consumer Confidence Report (CCR). This report highlights the quality of water we deliver to our customers.



Our Oxnard Hueneme Pipeline delivers water to Oxnard Plain agencies, including the City of Oxnard, the Port Hueneme Water Agency, and several smaller water companies and others.



These agencies treat and blend the water with other supplies on an as needed basis serving approximately 230,000 people.

A Drought-Proof Drinking Water Solution:
UWCD's Iron and Manganese Treatment Plant at the El Rio

Water Treatment and Groundwater Recharge Facility



In 2024, UWCD began operating the Iron and Manganese Treatment Plant to preserve water quality and strengthen water reliability in dry years. The facility is a much-needed sustainability solution in the face of future water supply concerns, such as prolonged drought periods.

The plant treats groundwater extracted from deep wells in the Lower Aquifer System that naturally contains higher levels of iron and manganese. The treated water is then blended with groundwater pumped from shallow wells. The blended water is disinfected to ensure it is safe and then delivered as drinking water to the Oxnard Hueneme Pipeline.

This new facility offers significant regional benefits, including:

- The capability to treat 3,500 gallons of water per minute, or 5,650 acre-feet per year, extracted from deep wells
- Ensures the dependability of local groundwater supplies
- Helps meet drinking water quality standards, particularly during drought

After watching Ventura County experience the most severe drought in California's recorded history from 2011 to 2017, UWCD understood the urgent need for the Iron and Manganese Treatment Plant. We moved quickly, completing the project in a record two and a half years from construction to finish. This swift progress was made possible by support from the Department of Defense, Naval Base Ventura County, Congresswoman Julia Brownley, the California Department of Water Resources, the California State Water Resources Control Board's Division of Drinking Water, and Ventura County.

Today, the Iron and Manganese Treatment Plant ensures we are prepared to serve our community with stability and security, even during dry spells.



DON'T MISS THE MOST INNOVATIVE EVENT OF THE SEASON!

BOLD ACTION. SHARED SUCCESS.



UWCD's Annual Water Sustainability Summit will take place on **Thursday, October 16, 2025.**

This complimentary, high-impact event provides insightful discussions on innovative water supply projects, detailed panels on significant water legislation, strategic funding conversations, and collaborative initiatives designed to advance regional resilience and ensure a sustainable water future for Ventura County.

Whether you attend in person or online, we invite you to engage in vital water issues facing Ventura County.

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