



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
10/8/2020

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WRD's Board Votes to Save Over \$1,000,000 During Covid-19 Crisis

Lakewood, CA (October 8, 2020) – The Water Replenishment District Board of Directors voted today to approve a plan that will save over a million dollars (\$1,000,000) during the nation's worst public health emergency in a century.

As cities and water districts throughout WRD's 43-city service area are facing budget shortfalls and uncertainty due to the pandemic, the district is acting to ensure that their access to safe, secure and reliable groundwater remains uninterrupted in a fiscally challenging year.

The approved cost reductions include a hold on hiring for vacant non-essential positions, making significant improvements to WRD facilities allowing the district to reduce its water costs, and cutting other non-essential discretionary spending.

These actions are in addition to cost-savings the board instituted in April including implementing a 6-month hiring freeze, increasing the District's operating reserve balance, and suspending other spending. WRD staff will also continue to look for ways to increase efficiencies and cut costs.

"As the Board Treasurer I saw the need to institute these cost reductions to ensure we're doing all we can to help our partners," said Director Rob Katherman; "WRD is committed to ensuring the health and safety of our groundwater supplies, even in these times of crisis and financial uncertainty."

"WRD provides half of the drinking water for over 4-million residents in southern Los Angeles County," said WRD Board President Vera Robles DeWitt; "These reductions in spending ensure that the district can maintain our essential services without sacrificing the quality of our region's vital groundwater supply."

The Water Replenishment District (WRD) has been managing and protecting groundwater resources for 60 years. WRD manages two of the most utilized groundwater basins which provide half of the drinking water for over 4 million residents in 43 cities of southern Los Angeles County. Through WRD's Water Independence Now (WIN) Program, the District has developed a resilient and locally sustainable source of water for groundwater replenishment.