

# IT'S A GREAT YEAR FOR REPLENISHMENT



*San Gabriel Spreading Grounds After the Rain*

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Board President,  
**John D. S. Allen**  
Division 3

*Record-setting rainfall has allowed us to capture over 76 billion gallons of stormwater within our service area.*



Boardmember,  
**Joy Langford**  
Division 1



Board Treasurer,  
**Robert Katherman**  
Division 2



Board Secretary,  
**Sergio Calderon**  
Division 4



Board Vice President,  
**Vera Robles DeWitt**  
Division 5

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Community Members,

I hope this message finds you well. I am excited to share some remarkable updates from the Water Replenishment District (WRD) as we continue our mission to secure a sustainable water future for our community.

First and foremost, I am thrilled to announce that WRD has achieved an incredible milestone this year. Record-setting rainfall has allowed us to capture over 76 billion gallons of stormwater within our service area. This achievement results from dedicated teamwork and strategic partnerships with agencies like Los Angeles County Department of Public Works. This abundance of stormwater will bolster our groundwater reserves and enhance our water supply in the face of uncertain climate patterns.

In addition to our stormwater capture success, I would like to provide an update on our Brackish Groundwater Reclamation Program. We are making significant strides in our expansion project to treat brackish groundwater, further diversifying our water supplies.

Lastly, I invite you to mark your calendars. In early May 2024, we will be hosting the Groundwater Festival. This yearly event promises to be a day filled with educational and interactive activities for the whole family. It's an excellent opportunity to learn more about our vital groundwater resources and the measures we are taking to protect them.

If you have any questions or want more information about our initiatives, please visit our website at [www.wrd.org](http://www.wrd.org). Thank you, and I look forward to seeing you at the Groundwater Festival or out in the community.

**John D. S. Allen**  
WRD Board President



Aerial view of the Rio Hondo Spreading Grounds in Pico Rivera, CA

# WHO IS WRD?



The Water Replenishment District (WRD) is a groundwater management agency responsible for the groundwater resources in southern Los Angeles County. We are the only agency of our kind in California, and we serve an area covering 43 cities with four million residents. WRD is governed by a five-member elected Board of Directors.

WRD has three water facilities, including two advanced water purification facilities and one groundwater desalter. These facilities, along with our longstanding partnerships with local water agencies, allow us to use a local water supply for groundwater replenishment and secure our water future for generations to come.

This year, WRD is celebrating the record stormwater captured through our partnership with the L.A. County Department of Public Works. Over 76 billion gallons of stormwater was channeled to the San Gabriel and Rio Hondo Spreading Grounds, where the water soaks into the groundwater basins below. Continue reading our newsletter to learn more about the record-breaking stormwater capture and projects fostering resiliency in our water supply and fortifying the region against future droughts.



## THE WRD SERVICE AREA



### Albert Robles Center for Water Recycling & Environmental Learning

WRD's Albert Robles Center purifies 14 million gallons of water per day, providing a locally sustainable water supply for groundwater replenishment while bolstering drought-resiliency.



### Leo J. Vander Lans Advanced Water Treatment Facility

The Leo J. Vander Lans Facility purifies 8 million gallons of water per day for use in coastal injection wells, preventing seawater intrusion and providing supplemental groundwater replenishment.



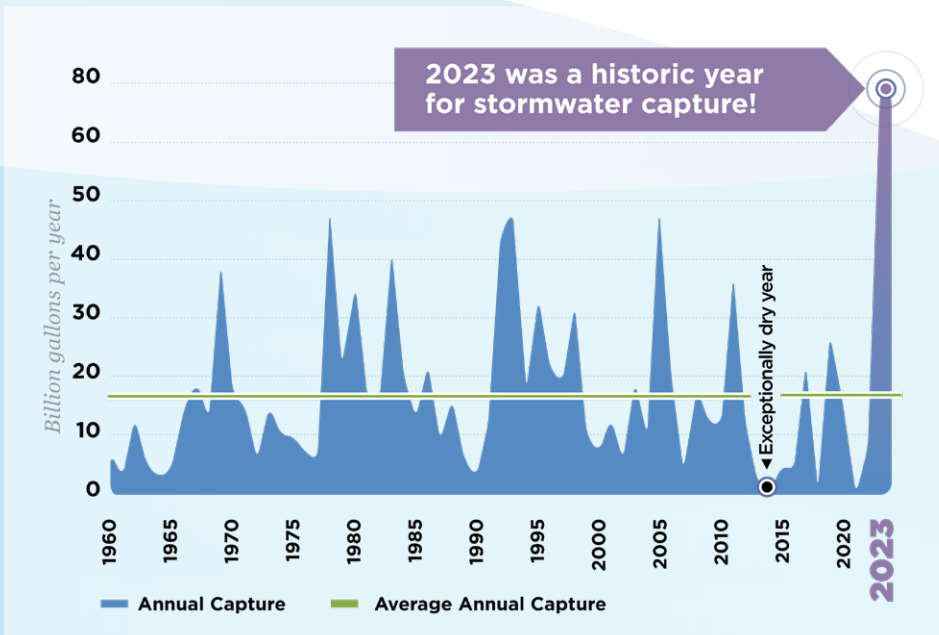
### Robert W. Goldsworthy Groundwater Desalter

The Goldsworthy Desalter uses reverse osmosis to treat 5 million gallons of brackish (salty) groundwater that is trapped inland due to historical seawater intrusion.

# RECORD AMOUNTS OF STORMWATER CAPTURED IN THE REGION

The Water Replenishment District (WRD) is thrilled to announce that the recent 2022 and 2023 storms have resulted in a historic year for groundwater replenishment. After enduring some of the driest years, southern L.A. County is celebrating a remarkable turnaround in its water resources.

In an exceptional turn of events, and through the hard work of our partners at the L.A. County Department of Public Works, the stormwater captured in the WRD service area totaled over 76 billion gallons!



This abundance of water has been a game-changer for WRD as we manage the critical groundwater in the Central and West Coast Basins. The WRD service area, home to four million people, relies on groundwater for approximately 50% of its water demands.

The WRD Precipitation Index for the 2022-23 Water Year reports an astounding 28.76 inches of rainfall, 186% of the average (as of August 2023). This data includes the stormwater from the recent tropical storm, Hilary. To channel this abundant rainfall into the ground, WRD collaborates closely with the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works to collect stormwater at the San Gabriel and Rio Hondo Coastal Spreading Grounds in Pico Rivera.

As California celebrates this remarkable year for replenishment, WRD remains committed to ensuring the long-term water security of its communities. The dedication and collaboration of WRD and its partners exemplify the spirit of resilience that defines the region.



Los Angeles County San Gabriel Spreading Grounds - Full



Los Angeles County San Gabriel Spreading Grounds - Empty

## DID YOU KNOW?



The spreading grounds allow up to 256 million gallons per day and 13 billion gallons per month to soak into the groundwater basin. Due to this year's above-average rainfall, the region's groundwater replenishment increased from 18 billion gallons to more than 76 billion gallons.

This year's increased replenishment has allowed the groundwater basins to recover from previous overdrafts and recurring drought cycles. This ensures the sustainability of current groundwater pumping rights and leaves room for future storage projects. WRD aims to maximize groundwater storage space by storing water from exceptionally wet years like this one and utilizing recycled water during dry periods, creating a locally sustainable water supply for the region.

To learn more about the record-breaking stormwater capture, visit us at:

Scan the QR code:



[www.wrd.org/stormwater](http://www.wrd.org/stormwater)

# PROJECT UPDATES

## WRD & THE DIVISION OF DRINKING WATER - GLENDALE FIELD OFFICE HOSTED A FIRST-OF-ITS-KIND PERMIT AMENDMENT WORKSHOP



In September, the State Water Resources Control Board Division of Drinking Water - Glendale Field Office, in collaboration with WRD, hosted an in-person workshop to prepare for new drinking water standards expected to be adopted in early 2024. The workshop, which is a first-of-its-kind, focused on the Domestic Water Supply Permit process, specifically for the treatment and remediation of PFAS chemicals in municipal water systems.

The workshop attracted more than 60 South Los Angeles County water professionals, including water purveyors and engineering consultants. Attendees had the unique opportunity to interact directly with DDW District Engineers, WRD representatives, and regional experts in groundwater quality.

## DEEP MONITORING WELLS AT WRD

WRD has monitored the Central and West Coast Basins for over 60 years. To monitor the basins, we have established a network of nested monitoring wells to provide aquifer-specific water quality and water level data. The Regional Groundwater Monitoring Program currently consists of a network of 354 monitoring wells at 63 locations throughout our service area. Monitoring wells are fundamental assets that provide the data necessary to drive decision-making in hydrogeologic investigations.

WRD recently completed the construction of nested monitoring well PM-9 as part of its water quality characterization efforts for the Brackish Groundwater Reclamation Program in Torrance, CA.



*This monitoring well, located at La Romeria Park in Torrance helps WRD's hydrogeologist track the levels of groundwater in aquifers.*



*A drill rig is used to install the well at 800 feet below the surface.*

## BRACKISH GROUNDWATER RECLAMATION PROGRAM

The Brackish Groundwater Reclamation Program (BGRP) is an initiative to clean up an area of salty groundwater that was created in the early 1900s due to over-pumping. When the water table fell too low, seawater intruded into the region's groundwater basins and created brackish, or salty, groundwater.

By cleaning up the salty groundwater, we create a new water supply, increase the use of groundwater for the region, and create more storage space for freshwater supplies. By increasing an area's reliance on a sustainable groundwater supply, we contribute to its regional water independence.



A critical step in achieving the objectives of BGRP is to expand WRD's Torrance Groundwater Desalter facility. The current facility treats up to 5 million gallons per day of brackish water using reverse osmosis. The expansion project will clean up the southern portion of the 14-square-mile brackish (salty) water plume and provide up to 2.3 billion gallons (7,100 acre-feet) of additional drinking water per year.

WRD is currently in the process of procuring and securing a design and construction team for the Torrance Groundwater Desalter Expansion project. This project is scheduled to break ground in 2024. To learn about the history of the brackish water in the groundwater basins scan the QR code or visit: [www.wrd.org/brackish-groundwater-reclamation-program](http://www.wrd.org/brackish-groundwater-reclamation-program)



# WRD IN THE COMMUNITY



Director Katherman at a site visit during the installation of a new pilot testing well in the City of Torrance.



Director DeWitt presented L.A. County Supervisor Janice Hahn with the WRD Groundwater Champion Award for 2023.



Director DeWitt advocated for federal funding at an EPA Grants Workshop in Compton.



Director Langford and WRD staff addressed Senator Ben Allen, Assemblywoman Luz Rivas, and Assemblyman Eduardo Garcia at the 2024 Climate & Natural Resources Bond Listening Session.



Director Allen provided opening remarks for Congresswoman Linda Sanchez's State of the Nation.



Director Allen and WRD Staff spoke to the Summer Youth Educational-Fundamental Camp students in Long Beach.



Director Calderon presented Senator Lena Gonzalez with the WRD Groundwater Champion Award for 2023.



In partnership with Metropolitan Water District, Mujeres de la Tierra honored WRD Directors DeWitt and Calderon as Latino Water Pioneers.



# SAVE-THE-DATE!

14<sup>th</sup> Annual

# 2024 GROUNDWATER FESTIVAL



Mark your calendars for May 2024 as WRD invites you to join in on all the family-friendly activities, educational booths, and so much more!

For more information, email [info@wrd.org](mailto:info@wrd.org).  
Follow us on social media for the official event announcement.



## SIGN UP FOR AN ECO GARDENER CLASS!

WRD offers free gardening classes both in-person and online. Discover the tips and tricks to greener and more sustainable gardening at one of WRD's free Eco Gardening classes. Sign up today!



SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPE DESIGN



EDIBLE GARDENING



DROUGHT-TOLERANT PLANTS



IRRIGATION BASICS



Scan QR Code

RSVP HERE:

Register at:



[WRD.ORG/  
ECOGARDENER](http://WRD.ORG/ECOGARDENER)



(562) 275-4265



**DEADLINE NOV 5<sup>TH</sup>!**

*9<sup>th</sup> Annual*

# WRD STUDENT ART CONTEST

**WRD NEEDS YOUR CREATIVITY FOR OUR 2024 CALENDAR!**

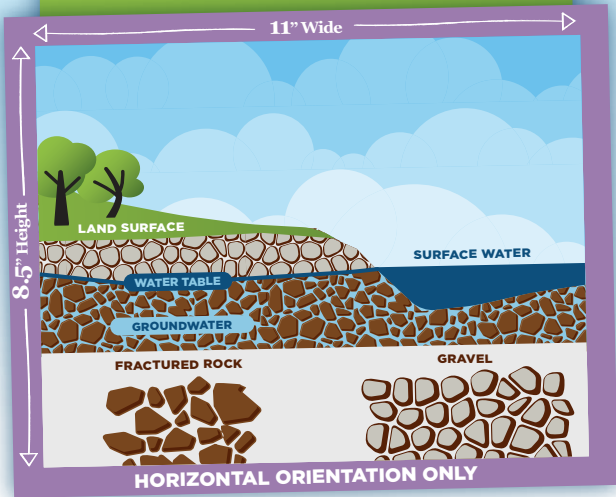
Visit:

[www.wrd.org/StudentArtContest](http://www.wrd.org/StudentArtContest)



## TO WIN, YOUR ARTWORK MUST:

- #1** Demonstrate the importance of groundwater and/or water conservation.
- #2** Be submitted on 8 1/2" x 11" paper in horizontal orientation by Sunday, November 5, 2023, 11:59pm.
- #3** Include parental/guardian consent.



**WATER IS LIFE!** The Water Replenishment District needs your creativity to spread the word on water in our 2024 Water Awareness Calendar. Students in grades K-6 from the WRD service area are eligible to enter this year's contest.

## TOPICS

Topic Options Include:

- #1 Groundwater: The Treasure Beneath Our Feet**
- #2 Water Nerds are Water Heroes**
- #3 There's Life in Every Drop!**
- #4 How do You Conserve Water?**



WRD Water Nerd

## ARTWORK SUBMISSION

The deadline for kindergarten through sixth grade students to submit their artwork is **Sunday, November 5, 2023**. The selected finalists who submitted online will be asked to send their original artwork to WRD by November 30, 2023. Students may submit their completed artwork and Parental Approval Form (PAF):

- ▶ **Online at [www.wrd.org/StudentArtContest](http://www.wrd.org/StudentArtContest) (send picture of artwork)**
- ▶ **By mail to WRD Art Contest at 4040 Paramount Blvd., Lakewood, CA 90712 (send original artwork & PAF)**

## CONTEST RULES

- ▶ Contestants must reside in, or attend a school within, the boundaries of WRD's 43 city service area and must be in kindergarten through 6th grade.
- ▶ Don't get disqualified! Artwork must be original (no computer-made, or copyrighted material such as superhero characters), and submitted on white 8 1/2" x 11" poster board or paper in landscape (horizontal) orientation.
- ▶ Crayons, markers, ink, poster paint, chalk, water color, cut paper, or fabric may be used.
- ▶ For online submissions: keep your original work! Winners will need to send in their original work in order to claim their prize.
- ▶ One entry per student. All entries become property of WRD upon receipt.
- ▶ Winners will have their artwork printed in the calendar and receive a \$75 Amazon gift card\*, a certificate, and other school related prizes.
- ▶ For more info contact [info@wrdd.org](mailto:info@wrdd.org)



\* Prizes provided by sponsors

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**Joy Langford**  
Division 1



**Robert Katherman**  
Division 2



**John D. S. Allen**  
Division 3



**Sergio Calderon**  
Division 4



**Vera Robles DeWitt**  
Division 5

**Stephan Tucker**  
General Manager