



WATER REPLENISHMENT DISTRICT  
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

SUMMER  
NEWSLETTER

INTRODUCING THE NEW  
**ALBERT ROBLES CENTER**  
LOCATED IN THE CITY OF PICO RIVERA *Read more inside »*



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## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Friend,

I'm probably telling you something that you already know and it may seem obvious, but I'm going to say it anyway: California's drought is not over.

Over the past seven years, California has experienced one of the worst periods for rainfall on record with the exception of last year where we received slightly better than average rainfall. Yet climatologists (climate scientists) do not study weather conditions simply from one year to the next. Rather, climatologists measure weather conditions as an average over much longer periods of time, across decades and even centuries.

What environmental scientists across many different fields agree on is that increase in the average atmospheric temperatures is changing the world around us. Not only does the scientific data show that average temperatures are rising, but that rainfall in parts of the world, including California, is falling. Consequently, the availability and access to local water resources is also declining in those parts.

The Water Replenishment District of Southern California (WRD) has stepped up its efforts to ensure water sustainability through development of new local water supplies which offer a layer of resiliency against drought conditions.

With the completion of the new Albert Robles Center for Water Recycling and Environmental Learning in the City of Pico Rivera by the end of 2018, WRD will eliminate future needs for imported water to meet annual groundwater replenishment demands. The WRD Board of Directors has also approved the Regional Brackish Water Reclamation Program, a plan to extract, purify, and reuse hundreds of billions of gallons of brackish (salty) water trapped in aquifers below South Bay cities in Los Angeles County. This plan will not only provide for a new local water supply source, but a space for future groundwater storage.

The future of our water supply in Southern California is strengthening. Yet as we continue to experience hot dry days, let's be mindful of our limited water resources. We encourage you to continue to do your part to conserve water. Thanks to your personal efforts, conservation continues to be one of our greatest shields against ongoing drought conditions. On behalf of the WRD Board of Directors, we promise to continue to work towards meeting your water needs for a sustainable water future.



*The future of our  
water needs in  
Southern California  
is strengthening.*

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



*Board Secretary,*  
**Willard H. Murray, Jr.**  
*Division 1*



*Board Treasurer,*  
**Robert Katherman**  
*Division 2*



*Board Vice President,*  
**Sergio Calderon**  
*Division 4*

# ALBERT ROBLES CENTER

WATER RECYCLING &  
ENVIRONMENTAL LEARNING

## ALBERT ROBLES CENTER UPDATE (FORMERLY KNOWN AS GRIP)

*The Water Replenishment District of Southern California is counting down the days to fulfilling its mission to make the region completely independent from imported water for groundwater replenishment.*



*Naming Ceremony for GRIP*

In the tradition of recognizing the accomplishments and contributions of outstanding water leaders, the Water Replenishment District of Southern California named the Groundwater Reliability Improvement Project (GRIP) facility in honor of former Director Albert Robles. On May 24th, GRIP was formally named the Albert Robles Center for Water Recycling and Environmental Learning. Though still under construction, the Albert Robles Center will be completed by the end of 2018 and will finalize the District's 13-year long Water Independence Now (WIN) program which was established to eliminate the region's dependence on expensive and unreliable imported water for groundwater recharge.



*Process Building*

## WRD EVENTS

### GOLDSWORTHY RIBBON CUTTING EVENT



On February 6, 2018, in partnership with the City of Torrance, WRD Celebrated the Expansion of the Robert W. Goldsworthy Groundwater Desalter. WRD expanded its freshwater supply for the City of Torrance by doubling the desalination capabilities of local brackish (salty) groundwater to 5 million gallons per day.

### WRD WATERMASTER WORKSHOP



Another great turnout at our Central & West Coast Basins Watermaster Workshop in April! The annual workshop provides pumpers knowledge on how to understand and maximize the value of their water rights and storage.

11th Annual

# GROUNDWATER FESTIVAL

WRD holds its 11th Annual Groundwater Festival



On Saturday May 12, 2018, the WRD hosted its 11th Annual Groundwater festival at its headquarters in Lakewood. Over 3,200 guests were able to enjoy a day of fun-filled activities that involved over 40 environmental exhibits that focused on water, diverse environmental education activities, and water conservation information. Speaker of the California State Assembly, Anthony Rendon, also joined us to celebrate our awardees and update us on his efforts to secure our water future.

The 2018 Groundwater Festival honorees included the following:



#### Groundwater Champion Award

Congresswoman, Nanette Diaz Barragan (44th District)



#### Groundwater Champion Award

Assemblymember, Al Muratsuchi (66th District)



#### Distinguished Groundwater Partner Award

NBC4 Reporter, Patrick Healy

#### Groundwater Ambassador

Analyst at the City of Huntington Park, Christina Dixon  
Orchard Dale Board Member, Bob Noonan

#### Groundwater Community Partner

Principal at Harbor Occupational Center, Sonya Ramirez

## WRD EDUCATES

The WRD Education Program offers interactive curricula and lessons that demonstrate the importance of groundwater, the basics of water sources and treatment, and the need for conservation. WRD Education staff are available for in-classroom demonstrations, exhibiting at environmental/education fairs, and as a resource for any water science related questions. If you would like any information regarding our Education Program please contact Monica Sijder at [msijder@wrld.org](mailto:msijder@wrld.org).



WRD #WaterNerd staff presenting at Nelson Academy on the importance of groundwater.



The International Ultra Violet Association (IUVA) tours WRD's Leo J. Vander Lans Facility.



WRD participates at Orange County Water District's Annual Water Festival.



North Park Middle School visited Leo J. Vander Lans Advanced Water Treatment Facility & the Long Beach Water Reclamation Plant to learn about water treatment processes.



Teaching the value of rain & drinking water at Los Cerritos Park East Tot Lot.



Water Education for Latino leaders (WELL) guests learned about WRD's groundwater management practices in the San Gabriel Spreading Grounds.

## WRD IN THE COMMUNITY

### Friends of the LA River (FOLAR) Annual Cleanup Event

On April 28th, WRD President John Allen and Staff hosted a booth to distribute water conservation supplies, provided water stations for 2,000 cleanup volunteers, and assisted in the river cleanup by picking up trash.



### City of Torrance City Yard Open House

WRD Staff provided tours of the Groundwater Desalter in Torrance at the City Yard Open House and provided lesson on the work that is being done to clean-up the brackish (salty) groundwater in the West Coast Basin.



### Sanitation District of Los Angeles County Earth Day Event

WRD External Affairs Manager Pete Brown gave daylong lessons to visitors during the Sanitation Districts' Annual Earth Day Event. WRD staff was educating the public about preserving and protecting groundwater resources.



### MLK Day

WRD once again participated in the annual Long Beach MLK Day Parade, joined by thousands of spectators who recognized the rich legacy of Dr. King.



# REGIONAL BRACKISH WATER RECLAMATION PROGRAM KICK-OFF

## WHAT'S HAPPENING

In May, WRD started the Regional Brackish Water Reclamation Program, a new effort to clean up a significant brackish (salty) plume of groundwater in the West Coast Basin. Over 60 years ago, seawater infiltrated the basin and became trapped, mixing with fresh groundwater to create an unusable blend. It's estimated that nearly 200 billion gallons of brackish water is available for cleanup and use. Planning efforts have begun along with six groundwater stakeholders who pump and distribute potable water. The group consists of WRD, the Los Angeles Department of Water & Power (LADWP), City of Manhattan Beach, City of Torrance, Golden State Water Company, California Water Service Company, and West Basin Municipal Water District.

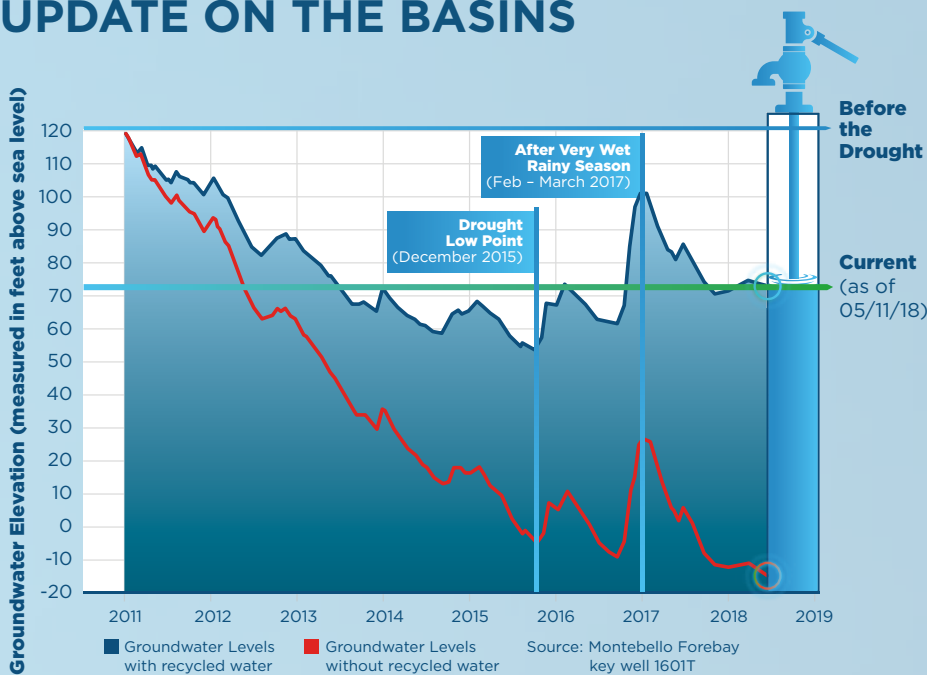


Our public documents are always available to you. Check out our *Cost of Service* report at [www.wrd.org](http://www.wrd.org) to learn about the services the District anticipates performing in the coming fiscal year!



April 3, 2018

## UPDATE ON THE BASINS



WRD's *Safe Drinking Water Program & Disadvantage Communities (DAC) Assistance Program* are resources available to any groundwater producer within the Central & West Coast Basins that may need assistance to protect water production and water quality against the threat of natural and manmade contamination.





**DON'T STOP CONSERVING WATER  
FREE ECO GARDENER CLASSES!**



**LENNOX**  
*Edible Gardening Class*  
*(in SPANISH ONLY)*  
Lennox Library  
4359 Lennox Blvd., Lennox CA 90304  
From 1:00PM-3:00PM



**RANCHO LOS CERRITOS**  
*Sustainable Landscape Design*  
Rancho Los Cerritos Historic Site  
4600 Virginia Rd., Long Beach CA 90807  
From 1:00PM-4:00PM



**RANCHO LOS CERRITOS**  
*Drought-Tolerant Plants*  
Rancho Los Cerritos Historic Site  
4600 Virginia Rd., Long Beach CA 90807  
From 1:00PM-4:00PM



**RANCHO LOS CERRITOS**  
*Edible Gardening Class*  
Rancho Los Cerritos Historic Site  
4600 Virginia Rd., Long Beach CA 90807  
From 1:00PM-4:00PM

**For More Information Please Contact:**

Monica Sijder at [msijder@wrd.org](mailto:msijder@wrd.org) or call (562) 275-4234

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**



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Division 1



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**Robb Whitaker**  
General Manager



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