



MISSION

"To provide a sufficient supply of high quality groundwater in the Central and West Coast Basins through progressive, cost effective and environmentally sensitive basin management."

- Artesia • Bell • Bell Gardens • Bellflower • Carson
- Cerritos • Commerce • Compton • Cudahy
- Downey • El Segundo • Gardena • Hawaiian Gardens
- Hawthorne • Hermosa Beach • Huntington Park
- Inglewood • La Habra Heights • La Mirada
- Lakewood • Lawndale • Lomita • Long Beach
- Los Angeles • Lynwood • Manhattan Beach
- Maywood • Montebello • Monterey Park
- Norwalk • Palos Verdes Estates • Paramount
- Pico Rivera • Rancho Palos Verdes • Redondo Beach
- Rolling Hills • Rolling Hills Estates • Santa Fe Springs
- Signal Hill • South Gate • Torrance • Vernon • Whittier

Since October 2001, the WRD has provided groundwater tours to the public. The half-day tour includes visits to various groundwater projects and water treatment facilities. Tours begin at the San Gabriel River spreading grounds, and lunch is provided by the WRD.

Above, a group tours the Goldsworthy Desalter in Torrance.

Interested in attending a tour? Call Albert Frias in the WRD's Office of Government & Public Affairs for more information at (562) 407-1913.



Water Replenishment District
of Southern California
12621 E. 166th Street
Cerritos, CA 90703

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GENERAL MANAGER MOWRY'S MESSAGE

2002 promises to be another exciting year for the WRD. We are moving forward with various programs and projects, and working to implement a strategic plan to better serve the needs of you and your family. I want to focus on a variety of goals this year, including: groundwater quality management, water supply management and basin management.

Protecting and preserving the groundwater quality in the Central and West Coast groundwater basins are of the highest priority to me and to the WRD. Managing the basins effectively requires us to develop strategic plans that address and prevent groundwater contamination, halt seawater intrusion and continue to monitor the groundwater. Additionally, we must increase water reliability while reducing the costs of our seawater barriers, as well as our recharge water sources (ways we collect and capture water). A final basin management goal is for the WRD to optimize the basins through effective management.

As described in the California Water Code, one of the WRD's primary responsibilities is to provide artificial replenishment to the basins. To further this goal, we plan on looking into cooperative projects with other agencies or cities. We hope to work with our member cities on programs that include a Cooperative Replenishment and Storage Project, as well as a Groundwater Banking Program. These programs are designed to maximize the basins through optimization of groundwater pumping, basin storage capacity and replenishment sources. You can read about one of these projects in "Working Together to Serve You Better" on page 3.

The WRD's goals are important, as water is a vital resource. In order to effectively perform as the groundwater basin management agency, we are working with pumpers and member cities to develop a clear vision of how best to serve you in the future. As we move forward, we will keep you and your family updated and informed through our stories in *the Source* — so keep reading.



Hollydale School students Marlon Ponce, Lissett Caamal and Gisela Marino with teacher Sandra Gerber (center), learn about groundwater.

Educational Partnership Brings Water Knowledge to Students

The WRD believes it is important for people to learn more about groundwater and its role in our region. In an effort to further our objective of educating the public, we recently launched an Educational Partnership Program with five school districts in southern Los Angeles County. We established this program to take an active role in educating our students. By providing valuable information about groundwater to the students, we hope to ensure safe and reliable water in the future.

The school partnerships allow the WRD to combine resources with teachers and administrators to educate the children. Each partnership is unique and planned by each participating teacher and principal, as well as by the WRD.

"We are very pleased that the WRD has selected Hollydale School to participate in the Educational Partnership Program," said teacher Sandra Gerber. "We look forward to a long and rewarding partnership."

Students receive valuable information about the WRD, its operations and programs, and what we are doing to keep their drinking water clean and safe. For many students, this program marks the first time they have studied water. The information focuses on water conservation and how students can conserve water—especially during the hot summer months. To further the students' understanding of the subject matter, some will work directly with WRD staff on water experiment projects, as well as take field trips to either a water treatment facility or the San Gabriel River Spreading Grounds.

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To Protect and Serve: The Water That Is

Protecting and enhancing groundwater supplies in the Central and West Coast groundwater basins is the highest priority of the WRD. But this is no simple task. That's why the WRD's talented staff of engineers and scientists is always researching alternative methods to better manage the basins, the source for more than a third of the water used by the nearly four million people who reside in the District's boundaries.

Our staff has recently been exploring new ways to better manage the groundwater resources. These explorations have led to the creation of a sophisticated, three-dimensional computer model that provides the WRD

with a method to track and predict changing groundwater conditions. The model contains valuable information on the inflows and the outflows in the basins and the properties of the water-bearing aquifers, such as storage, thickness and permeability.

The model can also be used to simulate future conditions based on various groundwater management scenarios. For example, the model can forecast the expected groundwater level conditions in the future to ensure against drought. Model results are also analyzed to identify the projects or programs that are most beneficial to the basins' future, while keeping replenishment costs low. In fact, the

model is already being used to determine the best way to handle seawater intrusion along the coast.

"After extensive testing, we are able to use the model to accurately depict the various groundwater conditions that may emerge in the basins," said Ted Johnson, WRD senior hydrogeologist.

"The computer model is used as a tool to help answer the tough management questions facing the District about the groundwater resources five, 10, and even 25 years from now."

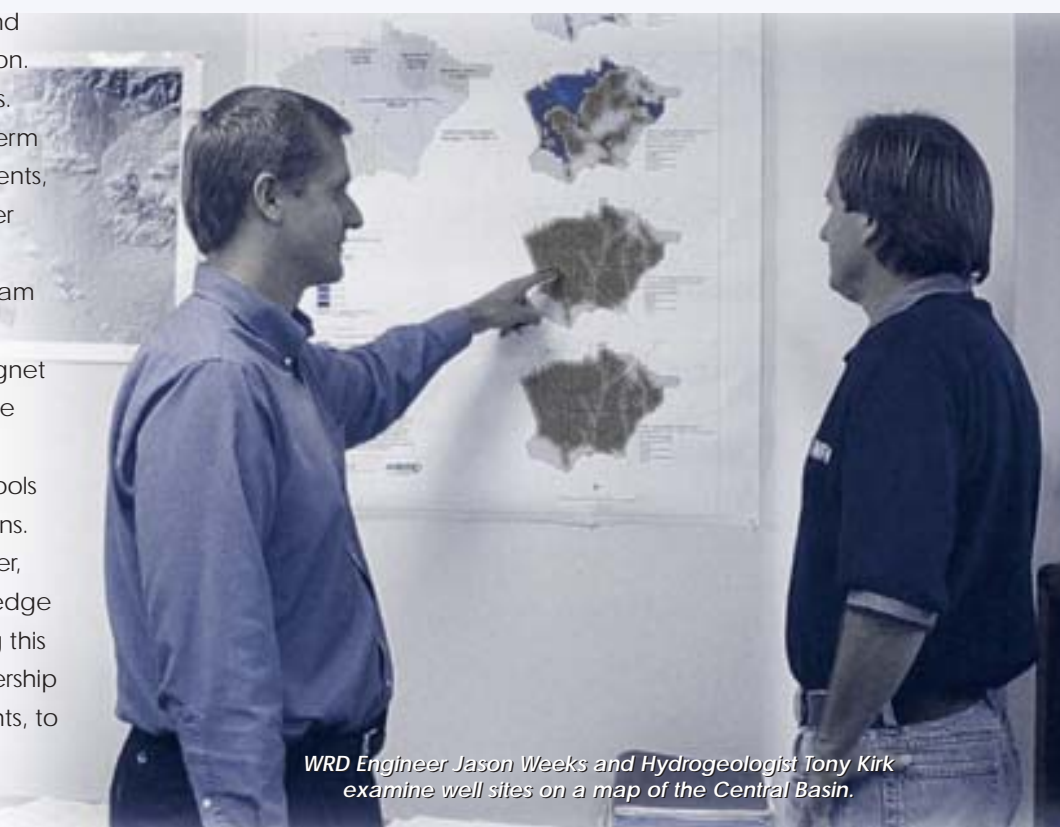
The model will be used in the future to find ways to increase and optimize the groundwater storage capacity of the basins so that you and your family are protected when water is scarce.

cover story continued

Students will also participate in poster and essay contests focusing on water conservation. Awards will be given to the top three finishers. To stay involved with the schools on a long-term basis, WRD staff will remain available to students, as well as participate in school-related career day events.

Schools participating in the WRD's program include Faye Ross Middle School in Artesia, Hollydale School in South Gate, Monroe Magnet Middle School in Inglewood, Madrona Middle School in Torrance and the Colin Powell Academy School in Long Beach. These schools represent each of the five WRD district divisions.

Educating youngsters about groundwater, and encouraging them to share their knowledge with others, is a great step toward preserving this vital resource. We hope that our new partnership program will encourage students, and parents, to learn and share groundwater facts.



WRD Engineer Jason Weeks and Hydrogeologist Tony Kirk examine well sites on a map of the Central Basin.

Working to Serve You Better WRD and LADWP Build New Wells

On page 1, General Manager Bruce Mowry addressed the importance of the WRD participating in cooperative projects with other agencies and municipalities. One such project is currently underway with the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP).

As part of WRD's Safe and Clean Water Grant Program, the LADWP was awarded a grant to be used for water resource projects. In lieu of the grant, the LADWP elected to have WRD construct two new drinking water supply wells in South Central Los Angeles to improve the reliability of the department's drinking water. The wells will also assist in providing drought protection for LADWP customers by increasing the department's water capacity. The WRD and LADWP are working together on the construction of the wells, and the WRD's vast experience in this area lends itself well to the management of the project.

Prior to the beginning of the fieldwork, WRD conducted thorough community notification of the upcoming work, and acquired substantial noise control and safety barricade equipment from the drilling contractor. We also prepared the well drilling specifications and bid documents; managed the field operations related to drilling, construction and testing of the wells; and served as primary point-of-contact for any public concerns/comments during field operations. As part of the partnership, we will also ensure that the wells meet target production rates and drinking water quality standards.

At this time, the first of the two wells has been installed and is being tested for production rates and water quality. The second well is being drilled and will be installed in the immediate future. We believe that these types of partnerships ensure a safe and reliable source of water for you and your family.

DID YOU KNOW?

Information regarding groundwater in the Central and West Coast Basins is now available free to the public. The publications, "Regional Groundwater Monitoring Report For Water Year 2000-2001" and the "2002 Engineering Survey and Report," can be downloaded from our Web site by clicking on "download documents" at www.wrd.org.

The groundwater information is compiled and updated annually by the WRD technical staff. The "Regional Groundwater Monitoring Report" presents a comprehensive look at groundwater levels and groundwater quality in the basins during 2000-2001.

The "2002 Engineering Survey and Report," which is required by the California Water Code, presents important information on groundwater production, basin overdraft and groundwater storage so that the WRD can determine the amount of water it needs to replenish the aquifers and ensure healthy basin supplies.

Talking the Talk

Most of us are aware that nearly a third of the country, including Southern California, is currently experiencing a drought. In the last six months alone, the Los Angeles region has seen just over a third of its usual 11 inches of rain.

While water conservation is always important, it is especially critical now that we take steps to preserve this precious resource. Here are some tips:

- Keep a bottle of drinking water in the refrigerator, so you won't have to run the tap to cool it.

- Check your toilets, faucets and pipes for leaks. Even a small drip wastes more than 1,500 gallons of water a month.
- Adjust sprinklers to water the lawn, not the pavement.
- Use a broom instead of the hose to clear off walkways and decks.
- Consider installing a water-saving showerhead. You can save 20 or more gallons of water during a five-minute shower.