

GROUNDWATER

The Newsletter Of The Water Replenishment District

Winter 2000

Welcome

Welcome to *GroundWater*, the newsletter of the Water Replenishment District of Southern California (WRD), a regional agency serving the following communities:

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 (*portions of*)
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



About Us: The WRD And What It Means To You

Although clean water is a necessity everywhere around the world, most people are unfamiliar with the many important processes and details related to ensuring that adequate water supplies are identified, cultivated and distributed appropriately to meet demand. Here are a few facts that will help you navigate around our newsletter, and understand the goals of Water Replenishment District of Southern California (WRD) and how its work enhances the quality of life for many Southern California communities:

Q. What is the WRD?

A. The WRD manages the groundwater supply for nearly four million residents in 43 cities of southern Los Angeles County (*see sidebar this page*). Formed in 1959 for the purpose of improving the groundwater resources of the Central and West Coast groundwater basins in the region, the WRD is dedicated to improving the quality and supply of water in these basins. Prior to the formation of the WRD, over-pumping caused many water wells to go dry and seawater intrusion to contaminate coastal groundwater. The WRD protects the basins through groundwater replenishment, deterrence of seawater intrusion, and clean-up of groundwater contamination.

Q. What is "groundwater?"

A. Groundwater is the water beneath the earth's surface. Rain, snow, and water from rivers and lakes can soak into the soil and move downward ("percolate") by gravity to fill the small pores and spaces between soil particles. These underground formations of soil (sand or gravel) and water are called "aquifers." Through these natural processes, groundwater basins

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WRD Partners With USGS And L.A. County

Efforts to build a 1,400 foot-deep groundwater monitoring well in Long Beach are well underway, thanks to a cooperative effort among the WRD, the United States Geological Survey (USGS), and the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works. The monitoring well is designed to retrieve samples for scientific research and provide unprecedented information about the geologic history of the western Los Angeles basin. The information derived from the samples will serve as a basis for a model for the Los Angeles and Orange County coastal plain and adjacent shelf, which has application not only to groundwater investigations, but for earthquake hazards, and environmental and engineering studies.

The “cores” (soil samples) extracted through the well



process will first be tested at a mobile laboratory on-site and then transferred to a USGS laboratory in Menlo Park, California, where they will be stored for future research.

In addition to the Long Beach well, the WRD and the USGS have jointly installed 25 monitoring wells within the Los Angeles basin to support a regional groundwater model.

Breaking Ground In Norwalk

One of the WRD’s primary goals is to ensure that the water your family drinks both today and tomorrow is safe. That’s why, in 1991, the District established its Safe Drinking Water Program, a comprehensive effort that



removes contaminants from groundwater, checks abandonment of active groundwater production wells, and prevents contamination from spreading to other wells.

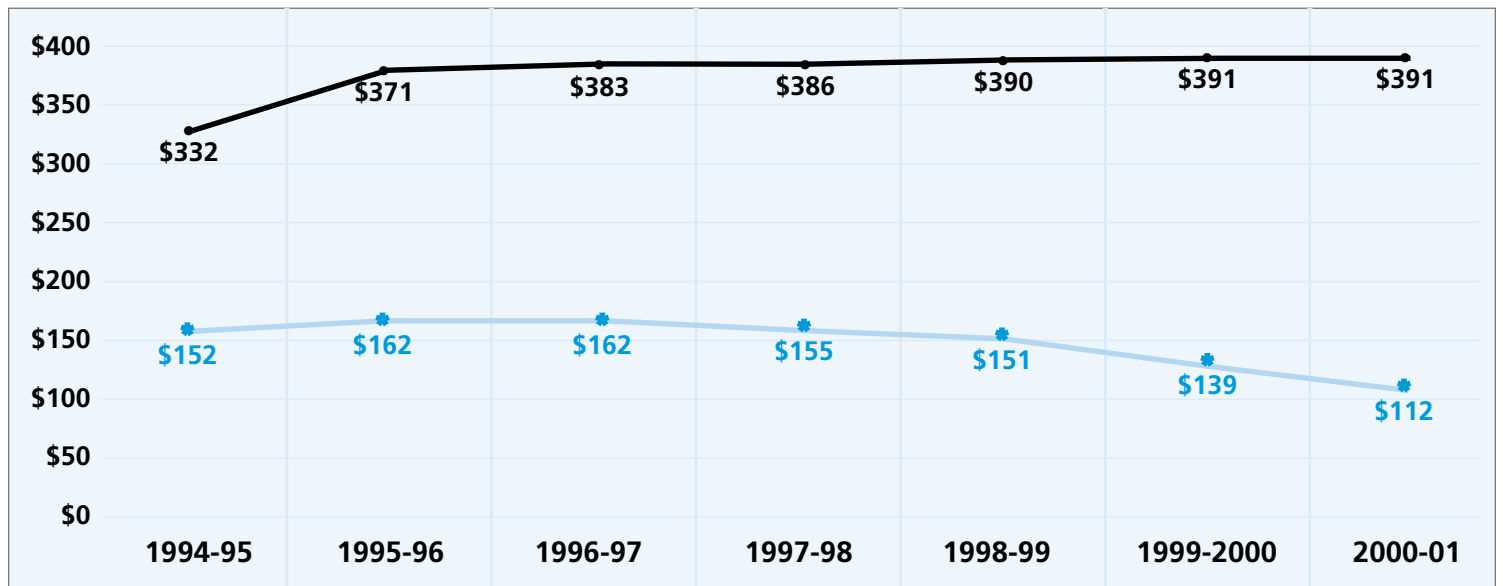
A recent addition to this program is the Dace Wellhead Treatment System in Norwalk – a joint venture between the WRD and the Southern California Water Company. The facility officially opened last May and removes contaminants from groundwater, enabling the District to ensure clean and safe drinking water for the residents and businesses in the city of Norwalk while decreasing the amount of water that would otherwise be lost due to contamination. In addition to protecting water quality, the Safe Drinking Water Program helps reduce dependence on costly, imported water and facilitate environmental improvements.

Using state-of-the-art processes, the Dace facility is one of six wellhead treatment facilities constructed by the WRD in partnership with groundwater producers. The cities of South Gate, Huntington Park, and Pico Rivera also currently participate in the program, and the District plans to bring seven additional facilities online within its service area in the near future.

Water Rates Slashed Again

For the fourth consecutive year, the WRD Board cut water rates. This year's landmark decision - the largest one-time reduction in the District's history - decreased rates by 19.4 percent, from \$139 to \$112 per acre-foot. (See chart below.)

The reduced rate will still allow for maintenance of the WRD's groundwater basins at optimal levels, protection and clean-up of the underground water table from salt-water intrusion, and a reliable supply of clean water in the event of a drought or other emergency.



* WRD Rate • Imported Average Cost of Water

Pico Rivera Takes Home The Prize

Closely following the top two contenders, the city of Pico Rivera defeated more than 100 other cities from around the United States and Europe to claim third place at the 10th Annual Berkeley Springs International Water Tasting Competition earlier this year. The prestigious event is the world's largest water tasting competition held each year in Berkeley Springs, West Virginia. The evaluation and selection processes pattern the formality of wine tasting competitions, with renowned water experts judging appearance, aroma, taste, and aftertaste.



The city's high ranking among its competitors in the municipal division is particularly noteworthy because it relies solely on groundwater for its water supply.

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are formed. Groundwater can be more pure than surface water because many impurities are filtered out during the percolation process. It is a year-round reliable source of water that is used by all members of the community, including homeowners, businesses, farms, and utilities. Because it is fundamentally important to our society, WRD works to protect groundwater from contamination and depletion.

Q. What is "imported water"?

A. When most people think of imported water, they think of bottled water. When WRD uses the term "imported water," it is referring to surface or river water brought in from areas outside of Southern California, such as the Sacramento and Colorado rivers.

Q. What is "potable water"?

A. Potable water refers to water that is suitable for drinking.

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If you have any questions or comments about WRD or **GroundWater**, please contact us:
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GroundWater is a publication of the
Water Replenishment District of Southern California (WRD),
12621 E. 166th Street, Cerritos, California 90703.
Printed in the U.S. by Weber Printing.

