



The WRD recently recognized the Pico Water District for its 75 years of service to the community of Pico Rivera. WRD General Manager Dr. Bruce Mowry (center) presented a resolution honoring the water district to Pico Board President Fred L. Silva (right) and Director Andres O. Gonzales (left) on August 10 at the WRD Board meeting.

"I am proud to be the president of the Pico Water District as we celebrate our 75th anniversary," said Mr. Silva upon receiving the award. "Thank you to the WRD for recognizing this important occasion."

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

the Source



I N F O R M A T I O N U P D A T E S F A L L 2 0 0 1

GENERAL MANAGER'S MESSAGE



Dr. Bruce A. Mowry recently joined the WRD as general manager. To keep you informed about various waters issues throughout the District, Dr. Mowry will write a column in each issue of "The Source."

As the new general manager of the WRD, it troubles me every time I'm near the San Gabriel or Los Angeles Rivers and see water flowing to the Pacific Ocean. Because water is such a precious resource, we must find additional ways to capture this runoff water and keep it from pouring into the ocean. At the WRD, we are working on doing just that. Our talented staff of engineers and hydrogeologists is constantly exploring cost-efficient ways to save runoff water.

The more runoff water we can collect, the more we can store, making safe water available to the pumpers, cities and eventually you and your family. Importing water from outside Los Angeles County is costly and subject to reduction during droughts and emergencies. Local water supplies solve this problem—and it is cheaper too.

As general manager, I can assure you that one of my priorities is increasing the groundwater in our basin and exploring ways to meet the future demands for water in our region as our population continues to grow.

By conserving water, you and your family can also help maintain the water supply. With your assistance, and the various programs and projects that we are working on at the WRD, our local water supply will continue to be fresh and clean.



WRD Assistant Hydrogeologist Benny Chong monitors groundwater levels in the City of Cerritos.

Testing Programs Ensure Safe, Reliable Water

Each morning, you and your family shower, brush your teeth and cook breakfast—all of these tasks use water. You seldom think about the water you use, but you trust that it is safe when it comes out of the tap.

At the WRD, however, we think about water all the time. In fact, our crew of top-flight engineers, geologists and hydrogeologists is constantly monitoring groundwater levels and groundwater quality to make sure that you and your family, as well as the other four million residents in our territory have a reliable supply of fresh, clean water daily.

Would you believe that residents and businesses in our

420-square-mile service area use approximately 225 million gallons of groundwater everyday?

The WRD team of employees responsible for collecting and reporting groundwater quality information includes Ted Johnson, Benny Chong, Tony Kirk, Nancy Matsumoto, Tracy

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

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The WRD sends out its deepest sympathies and heartfelt prayers to everyone affected by the September 11th attacks. We also extend our sincerest appreciation to members of the rescue teams for their tireless efforts.

New Water Treatment Facility Complete

A new WRD water treatment facility was recently completed in Huntington Park. The facility, which cost nearly \$300,000, will use a system referred to as "granular activated carbon" to remove organic compounds that previously caused the well to be closed. The removal of the compounds will allow the well to be operational in the very near future.

This facility, located in the 5900 block of Miles Avenue, is a cooperative project between the WRD and the City of Huntington Park. This facility is part of the WRD's Wellhead Treatment Program, established in 1991 to combat the historic improper disposal practices of industrial solvents that allowed volatile organic compounds to seep into the groundwater. It enables

pumpers to keep affected wells on-line and to bring otherwise non-working wells back into operation.

The District, working with groundwater producers and municipalities, has constructed eight water treatment facilities and is in the process of building nine additional facilities throughout southern Los Angeles County.

cover story continued

Parr and intern Wanjiru Njuguna.

"We gain an understanding of how the water moves through the aquifers from this data," explains Ted Johnson, a WRD senior hydrogeologist who manages the Hydrogeology and Geographic Information System groups. "If water levels fall too low, the District purchases replenishment water to refill the aquifers and ensure that we have enough water, especially in times of drought."

The data and information gathered

in both the water level and the water quality tests are compiled in the annual "Regional Groundwater Monitoring Report," which is published by the WRD. To obtain a copy of the report, call (562) 921-5521 or visit the District's web site at <http://www.wrd.org>.

Hard work by District employees ensures that there is an adequate and reliable supply of safe water for you and your family. So, rest assured that your water is safe. We worry about it, so that you don't have to.



WRD Hydrogeologist Nancy Matsumoto installs a water level gauge at the Dominguez Gap Spreading Grounds in Long Beach.

Working to Serve You Better

WRD Provides Tours to Local Residents

In a continuing effort to keep you informed about your water, the WRD will offer tours to the public of various water facilities throughout southern Los Angeles County.

You and your friends are welcome to join the WRD on a tour of either the San Gabriel River or the Rio Hondo River spreading grounds. You'll also get the chance to visit a wellhead treatment facilities that cleans groundwater and the Robert W. Goldsworthy Desalter in Torrance, a facility that removes salt from the groundwater. Tours of additional facilities will be offered in the future.

These FREE tours will allow you to learn firsthand about the various water programs the District offers. Each tour will last approximately five hours and is limited to 50 people. The tour will begin at the WRD office located at 12621 East 166th Street in Cerritos. After viewing a presentation, participants will board a bus and travel to the sites. A complimentary lunch will also be provided. Reservations will be taken on a first-come, first-serve basis.

The first tour will be on Thursday, October 25. To register for the tour, please call the WRD Government & Public Affairs Department at (562) 921-5521.

Talking the Talk

Now that you have learned a little bit more about the WRD and its projects, how about some water facts? Don't forget to share your new knowledge with your friends and neighbors:

- ◆ Only 1% of the Earth's water is fresh water and available for humans to drink. 97% of the Earth's water is salt water and 2% is frozen.
- ◆ The U.S. has fresh water resources totaling 660 trillion gallons. Americans tap into about 340 billion gallons of those resources every day.

- ◆ The U.S. withdraws more water from its resources than any other nation in the world.
- ◆ Of the amount of fresh water withdrawn in the U.S., only 1% is used for drinking water. About 50% of water used in homes is for outdoor irrigation.
- ◆ There are 54,000 community water systems in the U.S. They provide about 90% of Americans with their tap water.