

## WRD Water Wise - Smart Irrigation and Landscaping Strategies

Summer is on the way, which means conserving and using water wisely is more important than ever to avoid drought and to keep your water bill as low as possible.

- Water your lawns early in the morning before sunrise or in the evenings after sunset - this will maximize water absorption and minimize loss due to evaporation
- Water your lawn only when needed
- Make sure your sprinklers are leak-proof and not aimed at sidewalks, streets or driveways
- Landscape your yard and garden with Mediterranean climate plants from your local nursery, as they generally require minimal water
- Set mower blades at 2" to 3" and keep them sharp
- Use a trigger or automatic shut-off nozzle on your garden hose
- Use mulch around trees and plants
- Shut off your sprinklers during and after it rains
- Use drip irrigation or soaker hoses to water trees, shrubs and flowerbeds. Save the slow delivery sprinklers for the lawn
- Integrate rocks, bricks, gravel and decks into your landscaping

For more information on how to conserve water and keep utility bills low, please visit us on the web at [www.wrd.org](http://www.wrd.org)

**WRD**  
WATER REPLENISHMENT DISTRICT  
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA  
12621 E. 166th Street  
Cerritos, CA 90703  
[www.wrd.org](http://www.wrd.org)

### Board of Directors

**Willard H. Murray, Jr.**, President  
**Norm Ryan**, Treasurer  
**Rob Katherman**, Secretary  
**Pat Acosta**, Director  
**Albert Robles**, Director

**Robb Whitaker**, General Manager

### Mission

*"To provide, protect and preserve high quality groundwater through innovative, cost-effective and environmentally sensitive basin management practices for the benefit of residents and businesses of the Central and West Coast Basins."*

- 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

PRSR STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT #1  
PARAMOUNT, CA

# the Source

Information  
Updates  
Summer 2005



## General Manager's Message

*Robb Whitaker*



With another beautiful southern California summer just around the corner, it is easy to forget that only a few short months ago we saw mudslides, flooding, and a tremendous amount of storm water simply running off into the ocean. Seeing such a waste of water may have compelled some of you to question why storm water that went in to the ocean could not instead be collected and saved for dry years. Your questions are justified, and we here at the Water Replenishment District (WRD) have started to implement a solution.

The Water Replenishment District has been planning for long-term water reliability during the first half of 2005, benefiting the 4 million residents that live from Los Angeles and Whittier to Long Beach and the South Bay in Los Angeles County. In May, the Board of Directors enacted a conceptual framework known as "interim rules" outlining a process which enables cities to store water underground. Cities announcing their intention to store more water underground include Los Angeles, Long Beach and Compton. The water to be saved comes from supplies available from other parts of the state through the Metropolitan

*"Water is a precious public resource and WRD needs to be an innovative leader in the mission to protect and maintain a healthy long lasting water supply for the region."*

Water District of Southern California, and from residents that conserve water. Using available supplies will make it more cost effective to store storm water in the future. As you will read in the following pages, this and other long-term water reliability efforts demonstrate how we are building upon a new foundation of integrity that involves hard work by the Board of Directors and staff.

I am also pleased to report that WRD was recently honored with the "Meritorious Award for Operating Budget 2004-2005" from the California Society of Municipal Finance Officers (CSMFO). The Meritorious Award is given for budgetary excellence and for the creation of a comprehensive document that facilitates public awareness and understanding. We are committed to involving the public as we implement new programs securing our water future.

(continues on page 3)

## Southeast L.A. County Gets a Powerful New Voice In Improving California's Water Quality and Supply

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger has appointed Pat Acosta, the Water Replenishment District's (WRD) Director, to the California Bay-Delta Public Advisory Committee. The appointment gives southeast Los Angeles County residents a powerful new voice in improving California's water quality and supply.

The 30-member Advisory Committee is the state's leading forum that advises state and federal agencies on issues related to the CALFED Bay-Delta Program. Acosta will work with eight other appointees from an array of environmental, water, tribal and civic organizations to recommend strategies to restore ecological health and improve water management overall in the state.

"I am honored and thank the Governor for my appointment," said Acosta. "I am pleased that the Water Replenishment District has a seat at the CALFED table. I will do my very best to serve Southeast L.A. County and all Californians."

Established by the California Bay-Delta Act of 2001, the CALFED Bay-Delta Program consists of 25 state and federal agencies that work together to restore the Bay-Delta ecosystem by improving the quality and dependability of California's water supply. The Advisory Committee works in conjunction with the Bay Delta Authority Board of Directors.

Acosta has extensive experience in both the public and private sectors, which will lend itself to her success on the Bay-Delta Public Advisory Committee. She is a longtime community activist

and a member of several community organizations. She has been with WRD since November of 2002 and chairs the Groundwater Quality Committee and sits on the Water Resources Committee.

"WRD has been the premier groundwater management agency in Southern California for more than 45 years and we are proud to have a voice on such an esteemed advisory committee," said WRD Board President Willard Murray.

The Family of Southern California Water Agencies is proud to offer our *"Heritage Gardening Guide"*

To learn more, log on to [www.bewaterwise.com](http://www.bewaterwise.com)

## In this issue

- 2 Adding It All Up
- 4 Reduce Your Water Bill

the Source is a publication of the Water Replenishment District of Southern California. If you have any questions or comments, please call WRD at (562) 921-5521; Fax: (562) 921-6101.

## Adding It All Up :

### NATURAL WATER STORAGE, EDUCATION AND WATER CONSERVATION EQUAL WATER FOR THE FUTURE

Southern California just went through a drought and few even knew it. Unlike a previous drought ending in 1993 when lawns went yellow, this time Southern California got through it without water rationing.

The Metropolitan Water District's full Diamond Valley Lake reservoir and other storage facilities permitted water saved in normal rain years be available during the five-year drought we just went through. Save today what we'll need for tomorrow. The 43 cities in southern Los Angeles County sit upon vast natural aquifers where water can be stored - enough water to provide for 1 million homes during a drought.

In May 2005, WRD board took action as part of its responsibility for managing those natural storage basins ensuring they are a public resource for everyone's benefit in the region. This action entailed the adoption of interim rules allowing cities to coordinate the increased storage of water in natural storage basins as well as for pumping the water out when it is needed in a manner preventing harm to the natural aquifers.

"Conjunctive Use," is the technical term describing cooperative management of our natural aquifers. In the near future, the Water Replenishment District wants to enable accumulation of affordable clean water through water purchases, rainwater capture and conservation. The water can then be stored in natural basins and pumped out when needed. These "natural water storage banks"

allow Southern California cities to better prepare for inevitable dry years when water from Northern California becomes scarce or too expensive and lack of local rainfall stretches our reliability.

WRD adopted interim rules that will allow cities ready to invest in water storage to build the necessary infrastructure and facilities. So far, cities like Los Angeles, Compton and Long Beach have done an excellent job in planning such projects and can now take advantage of the opportunity to store more water.

*"The 43 cities in southern Los Angeles County sit upon vast natural aquifers where water can be stored - enough water to provide for 1 million homes during a drought.."*

All of our current efforts are part of what we at WRD are beginning to call our "N.E.W. Initiative," efforts anchored by three core components: Natural water storage, Education and Water conservation. As the regional guardian of groundwater in south Los Angeles County, WRD continues to work toward solutions that will enable cities and local water departments to mitigate water shortages

by coordinating the use of and protecting underground water supplies.

Water in our natural groundwater basins does not abide by local political jurisdictions or municipal boundaries. What one resident, business or city does to protect or harm water quality impacts the natural groundwater-drinking source of nearly 4 million people in south Los Angeles County. This realization is why WRD continues to reach out to all cities and water agencies in the region to work toward a cooperative system of pumping that will meet the needs of all jurisdictions, without jeopardizing water quality.



Rio Hondo spreading grounds.

To learn more about our natural water storage or education programs or to request a presentation on the program, please contact WRD External Affairs Department at 562-921-5521.

A M A A V F H U V A C L E A N Q R Z Y S Q R  
 D N S Q S G B R N S T A W Q T A B A B D N D  
 H B E F U T S W K X E L S D I S M Q V C A F  
 L F B C A I F A P X R E F R E S H I N G T O  
 F S H S M J F X O E O S C C E X D W E Y U H  
 J C N A N K J E T C E K V Y R C W R Y H R O  
 T E J F B H J A R H W D B H F V X G L K A V  
 K T I E C B W V E S P J G B B T F N K R L S  
 S G I B F D J U T D Q F H Q P Y N C G D U B  
 H S A H N E H T Y S T H U W U N B X N C I Y  
 R W S U J R G W W S P G I R E L I A B L E F  
 L M O L K D S S R S R Z O P E V Y H B S W V  
 O R D E U G W A D H E M P T R E I T C A E H  
 G E G W P D Y V R U W X L E H W L W A P D E  
 D N E I O H J B H I P N M C N O P V E L C B



Find these words:

Groundwater  
 Natural  
 Clean  
 Refreshing  
 Safe  
 Reliable  
 WRD  
 Aquifers

Words can be diagonal, horizontal or vertical.

## We want to hear from you!

WRD will give a **FREE** water efficiency kit to the first 50 persons who e-mail us to let us know what they think of the new look of our newsletter.

Send your e-mail to: [samara@wrd.org](mailto:samara@wrd.org)



*How much water does it take to brush your teeth?*

Visit Kids' Club at [www.wrd.org](http://www.wrd.org)

Education and entertainment for kids of all ages!

## Free Groundwater Tours

*Join us for a firsthand look at water treatment facilities and groundwater projects throughout southern Los Angeles County.*

Each tour lasts for approximately half a day and begins with an overview presentation at the WRD office in Cerritos. Tours are scheduled periodically throughout the year and are limited to 50 adults on a first come, first served basis.

For tour dates and registration information, please call WRD Office of External Affairs at 562-921-5521, or find more information on the web at [www.wrd.org](http://www.wrd.org).



Tour group begins with overview at WRD office in Cerritos

## General Manager's Message (cont.)

In addition, I am also very proud to announce Director Pat Acosta's appointment to the California Bay-Delta Advisory Committee by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger. With this appointment, Director Acosta will participate in a 30-member public policy advisory committee focused on restoring the San Francisco/San Joaquin Bay-Delta ecosystem and improving overall dependability of California's water supply.

Building on this momentum, we are turning our attention toward ensuring that a larger and more reliable source of groundwater is available for the nearly 4 million residents and 43 cities we serve

during a drought. To this end, we proudly announce the "N.E.W. Initiative." The N.E.W Initiative is based on a simple premise; water is a precious public resource and WRD needs to be an innovative leader in the mission to protect and maintain a healthy long lasting water supply for the region.

The N.E.W. Initiative focuses on three specific areas with water agencies, cities and residents playing a critical role in increasing our water reliability:

1. Natural Storage: Involves working with cities to increase regional water storage supply and utilizing our natural basins underground.
2. Education: Includes cutting-edge natural

resource education partnerships targeting the 237,000 students that live throughout our service area to make sure that the conservation values stay well into the future.

3. Water Conservation: Increases water conservation efforts making more water available for storage.

For more detailed information on our N.E.W. Initiative, please read the accompanying article in this newsletter. If you would like to learn more about the Water Replenishment District or about how you and your family can conserve water and save money, please visit us on the web at [www.wrd.org](http://www.wrd.org).