



Contact: Angelina Mancillas  
[Amancillas@wrd.org](mailto:Amancillas@wrd.org)  
(562) 275-4231

**The Water Replenishment District Recognizes  
World Water Day: Groundwater Making the Invisible Visible**

March 22, 2022 (Lakewood, California) – The United Nations (UN) General Assembly designated March 22 as World Water Day in 1993. This year’s theme for World Water Day is “Groundwater: Making the Invisible Visible.” The Water Replenishment District (WRD) is the largest groundwater management agency in California, providing and protecting groundwater for four million people across 43 cities in southern Los Angeles County. WRD is proud to participate in World Water Day and help spread awareness on the important role of groundwater within California’s water supply.

Groundwater is water beneath our feet that rests within the pore spaces of gravels and sands. Groundwater percolates from the surface into deep underground aquifers. Due to the hidden nature of groundwater, it is often overlooked. UN-Water notes that “almost all of the liquid freshwater in the world is groundwater.”

In southern LA County, groundwater makes up nearly half of all water used in the region; the other half of the water supply is imported using a series of canals, aqueducts, and reservoirs. WRD was formed in 1959 to protect the groundwater supply of the West Coast and Central Groundwater Basins.

When WRD was first established, water used to fill groundwater basins was imported. Thanks to WRD’s Water Independence Now (WIN) program, nearly 100% of the water supply used to replenish groundwater basins is from recycled water and stormwater capture. The construction of the Albert Robles Center for Water Recycling and Environmental Learning treats up to 14.8 million gallons of water per day and enabled WRD to become independent of imported water for groundwater replenishment.

“WRD is proud to manage and protect our unseen resource and provide high quality, safe, drinkable groundwater at affordable rates,” said WRD President John D. S. Allen. “Our region has been able to weather this recent drought well due to the investments we made over decades in recycled water and stormwater capture. The WIN program was successful in securing a sustainable and reliable supply of groundwater for generations to come.”

Groundwater basins serve as the state’s water savings account and provide a reliable water source during drought conditions. The state’s groundwater basins can store 850 million acre-feet to 1.3 billion acre-feet of water, or 8 to 12 times the combined storage of major above ground reservoirs in California.

“We can expand the use and storage of groundwater in our region through the implementation of our Water Independence for All (WIN 4 All) program by 2040,” continued Director Allen. “Through WIN 4 All, WRD will work with regional water agencies to store billions of gallons of water in unused aquifers. By optimizing the reservoirs that nature provided us, we will offset the need for imported water in WRD’s service area. This will build drought resiliency for future generations.” For more information, visit [wrd.org/Groundwater101](http://wrd.org/Groundwater101).

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*For over 60 years The Water Replenishment District (WRD) has managed and protected groundwater resources in two of the most utilized groundwater basins in the nation. Groundwater from these basins provides nearly half of the drinking water for 4 million residents in 43 cities of southern Los Angeles County. Through WRD’s Water Independence Now (WIN) Program, the District has developed a resilient and locally sustainable source of water for groundwater replenishment. Visit [www.wrd.org](http://www.wrd.org) for more information.*