

**DON'T STOP  
CONSERVING WATER!**

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I'm pleased to let you know that this season's total rain has exceeded our normal average of 14.93 inches. To date, we have well over 18 inches of rain, and the rainy season is expected to last another couple of months. While the rain season is measured between the dates of October 1 through September 30 each year, the majority of rain is captured before May. This year is certainly a benefit, but we aren't out of the woods yet.

Up until the recent rains began last fall, the region faced the ongoing challenge of an unrelenting drought. For more than five consecutive years, the western United States had experienced a historic shortage of rainfall. The threat to our water resources had never been greater, prompting Governor Jerry Brown to take the unprecedented step to issue a drought declaration that, for the first time in the State's history, required Californians to reduce their water usage.

The result was a success across the state, leading to the most substantial increase in water savings California has ever seen. It's worth noting that this success was the result of millions of residents making individual contributions to change their behaviors and reduce personal water usage. For this, our Board congratulates you.

WRD's Board of Directors and its dedicated professional staff are well on our way to paving a path for a more sustainable water future. I am proud to announce that this past fall we approved a landmark Groundwater Basin Master Plan (GBMP). The GBMP establishes a long term vision and framework to enhance groundwater replenishment in the Central and West Coast basins by increasing the reliability of groundwater supplies, improving and protecting groundwater quality, and accommodating growing drinking water demands.

If fully implemented, the Groundwater Basin Master Plan – which includes potential projects to increase local sources of water – could conceivably produce enough locally developed water to meet the total water demand of WRD's entire service area of 43 cities, thereby eliminating our region's demand for water imported from Northern California and the Colorado River.

WRD developed the GBMP to provide a single document for regional water providers that rely on the groundwater basins WRD manages. It identifies and evaluates specific projects and strategies to increase replenishment efforts and to effectively use more recycled water and captured storm water.

While the future holds many challenges toward meeting water demands, WRD's Board of Directors is committed to meeting your water needs both now and in the future.

**FREE ECO GARDENER CLASSES!**



**HOMEOWNER SERIES**

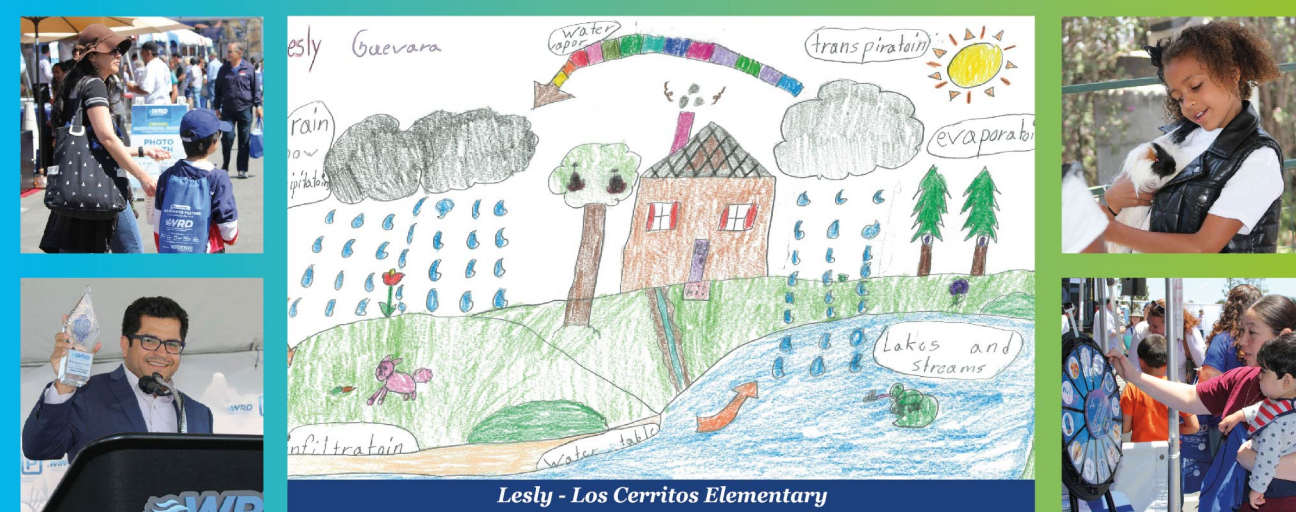
For More Information  
Please Contact:

Angie Mancillas at  
amancillas@wrdd.org or call  
(562) 275-4231

**Eco Gardener Classes:**  
Garden Design Features  
Drought Tolerant Plants  
Drip & Sprinkler Care  
Eco Garden Care

**10th Annual**

**GROUNDWATER FESTIVAL**  
*Treasure Beneath Our Feet*



Mark your calendars! On May 20, 2017, WRD will host its 10th Annual Groundwater Festival at its headquarters located in nearby Lakewood. The Groundwater Festival offers an educational experience for youth and adults to learn about groundwater along with other water related resources. Like in years past, the festival will feature learning exhibits, food, music, a petting zoo, the Aquarium of the Pacific and much more. Tell your family and friends.

**WHERE**  
WRD  
4040 Paramount Blvd.  
Lakewood, CA 90712

**WHEN**  
Saturday,  
May 20, 2017  
10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

**FOOD, PETTING ZOO, FACE PAINTING, AND MORE!**

For more information please contact Angie Mancillas at (562) 275-4231 or via email at amancillas@wrdd.org

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**



**GRIP GROUNDBREAKING**  
ONE STEP CLOSER TO WATER INDEPENDENCE

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## IN THE NEWS

### WRD RECEIVES MAJOR ENVIRONMENTAL AWARD

WRD was honored to receive the Recycled Water Customer of the Year award this past fall from the Water Reuse Association, the nation's leading thought-leader on alternative water supply development. WRD was nominated for the award by the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power for our use of recycled water for injection into the seawater barriers along the coastline which prevents saltwater intrusion into the groundwater basins.



Speaking as a guest on FOX LA In Depth, WRD General Manager Robb Whitaker joined Sunday morning public affairs host, Hal Eisner, and the new Los Angeles County Public Works Director, Mark Pestrella to discuss Southern California's water needs and its water future.

## COMMUNITY LEADERS CELEBRATE GRIP GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY

While removing the old dilapidated buildings served as an important first step, there was significant celebration at the official groundbreaking ceremony last September. City leaders, joined by state and federal officials, participated in the event to mark the start of construction for what will undoubtedly be a valuable asset for the region's four million residents.



This groundbreaking kick-off offered a moment to reflect on just how far we have come as a region. Once a District that relied almost exclusively on imported water to replenish local groundwater basins, we are now counting down the months until imported water will no longer be a necessity.



## WHAT'S HAPPENING

### COMMUNITY MEETING UPDATE

Last December, WRD held a community meeting at Pico Park Recreation Center in the City of Pico Rivera to update residents about our ongoing progress at the GRIP site, located down the block on San Gabriel River Parkway near Beverly Blvd.

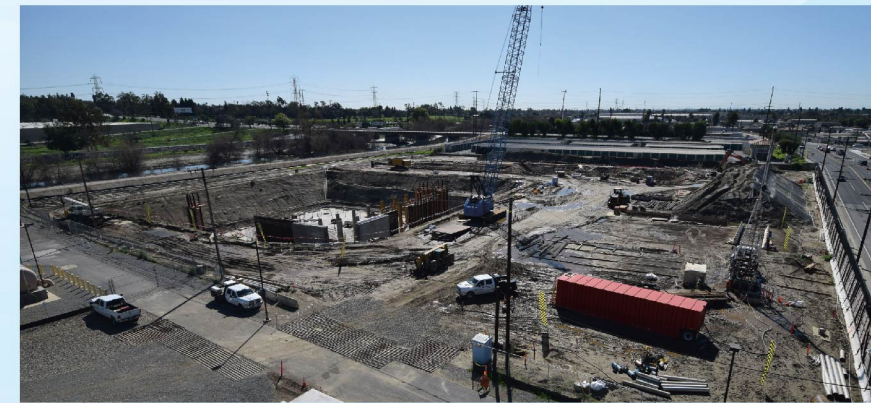


This outreach event was an opportunity for WRD to continue the dialogue we began with the community in advance of the project's design and to ensure that residents remain our partners throughout every phase of this project. WRD senior managers informed residents about the success of deconstruction activities, the completion of roadway improvements, and the timeline for ongoing construction.



## GRIP CONSTRUCTION ON TARGET FOR 2018

The Groundwater Reliability Improvement Project (GRIP) is the cornerstone of WRD's Water Independence Now (WIN) program to develop local and sustainable water sources to eliminate the dependence on imported water. Last year WRD took major steps forward toward altering what was previously a waste hauling storage site into what will become the region's leading advanced water treatment facilities, GRIP. Deconstruction of the former buildings at the site in Pico Rivera was completed in May 2016 - ahead of schedule. A full 95% of the materials from the site were meticulously dismantled for recycling purposes.



The 5.2-acre site was once a busy waste-hauling facility with three dilapidated storage buildings and large areas of cracked, degraded concrete and weed-filled asphalt paving that blighted the San Gabriel River Parkway. The buildings, foundations, and pavement were demolished to create a clean slate for construction of GRIP, a state-of-the-art learning center, and beautiful outdoor community space.

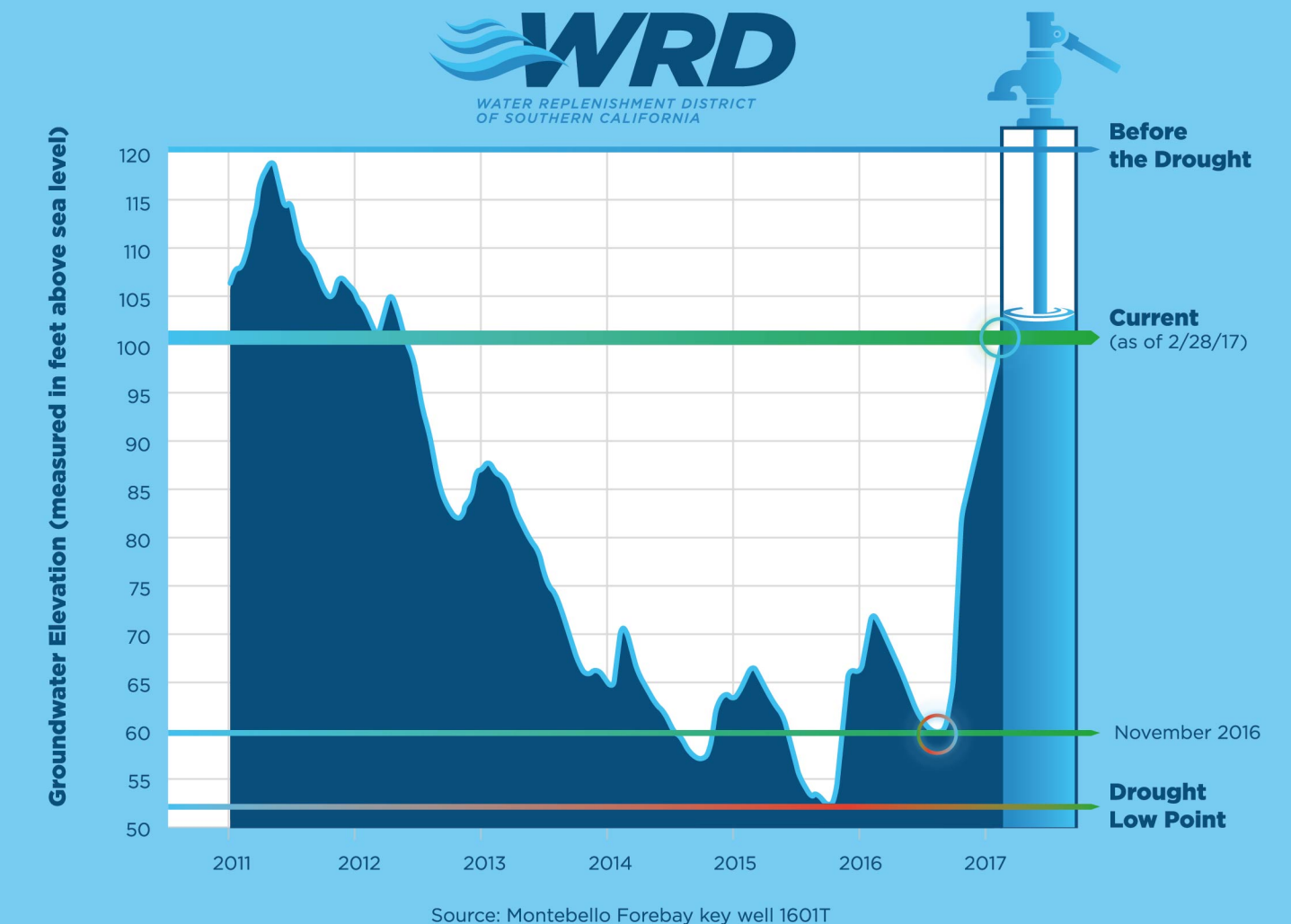
Even at the early stages of demolition, the project has already made a positive impact on the local community and the environment by meticulously dismantling the buildings for recycling purposes. Over 95% of the concrete, bricks, metal, and asphalt that were demolished are being reused rather than dumped into a landfill. Recycling the tons of material that were removed is a huge step toward achieving the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification for the completed GRIP Advanced Water Treatment Facility (AWTF).

Other positive community impacts include the street improvements WRD has made in cooperation with the City of Pico Rivera. There is now a new dedicated right turn lane on southbound San Gabriel River Parkway and a third lane on westbound Beverly Boulevard, just west of San Gabriel River Parkway. These improvements have already resulted in better traffic flow through the intersection and a smoother improved roadway.

Currently, construction at the GRIP site is proceeding according to schedule despite the recent rains.

## UPCOMING

### THIS GRAPH SHOWS HOW THE WATER LEVEL WAS MUCH LOWER DURING THE DROUGHT AND HAS RISEN AFTER OUR RECENT STORMS.



### SIMPLE TIPS TO REDUCE YOUR WATER FOOTPRINT

1. Turn off sprinklers after it rains
2. Use a broom to clean outdoor areas
3. Adjust sprinklers to only spray plants
4. Fix any leaks in your sprinklers
5. Use mulch around trees to keep water from evaporating
6. Catch water in the shower or in the sink to use on plants outside
7. Take 5 minute showers

## DON'T STOP CONSERVING WATER!

Although we recently had a lot of rain and the local groundwater basins are filling up, we still have a long way to go to overcome the effects of five consecutive years of drought.

While California's lakes and reservoirs are refilling, we still need a strong snow pack in the mountains, more wet years, and fully replenished groundwater basins get back to pre-drought levels.