



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
7/16/20

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## **WRD Assists Walnut Park Mutual Water Company Secure \$1.6 million Grant from Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund**

With assistance from the Water Replenishment District's Safe Drinking Water for Disadvantaged Communities Program, the Walnut Park Mutual Water Company has received \$1.6 million in Safe and Affordable Drinking Water funding for installation of Automatic Meter Readers (AMR) for the system's 2,833 connections. These readers will increase efficiency and prevent water loss.

The Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund was created by SB 200 (Monning) which allocated \$130 million annually from the State's Cap and Trade program. Walnut Park Mutual Water Company is a community water system in an unincorporated area of Los Angeles County directly south of the City of Huntington Park.

The Walnut Park Mutual Water Company participates in WRD's Safe Drinking Water for Disadvantaged Communities Program which helps small systems in the WRD service area access funding to improve water quality and supply.

"The Water Replenishment District's Safe Drinking Water Program is designed to help water systems access crucial funding for projects to ensure clean and safe drinking water," said WRD Board Vice President Sergio Calderon; "We are proud of our partnerships with water providers throughout our service area who are committed to this goal."

In reaction to receiving the news of the grant funding, Dr. Mike Gomez, President of the Board of the Walnut Park Mutual Water Company Board of Directors said, "This grant means a lot to our system, this means that we are going to be a very well run system which is going have our meters fully automated. WRD is helping our system get to the next level. They are our go-to agency. They were an integral part of making this project happen!"

Walnut Park Mutual Water Company is in division 5 of WRD's service area and is represented by Assemblyman Reggie Jones-Sawyer of the 59<sup>th</sup> Assembly District and Senator Lena Gonzalez of the 33<sup>rd</sup> Assembly District.

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*The Water Replenishment District (WRD) has been managing and protecting groundwater resources for 60 years. WRD manages two of the most utilized groundwater basins which provide half of the drinking water for over 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.*