Commitment to a Safe and Reliable Water Supply

The No. 1 goal of community water systems is to ensure their customers can rely on them to provide safe, reliable and affordable drinking water year-round. In fact, 98 percent of Californians get safe drinking water from a community water system. Publicly owned community water systems also are committed to transparency, including a locally elected board of directors and compliance with the state's Brown Act and Public Records Act. CMUA water agency members are publicly owned community water systems and collectively serve over 70 percent of Californians.

Efforts to Ensure Sustainability and Climate Resiliency

Beyond their core commitment to provide a safe and reliable water supply, CMUA’s members are leaders in applying innovation and adaptation intended to address long-term sustainability in the face of a changing climate, which is expected to bring more frequent and intense droughts to California along with other weather extremes.

Irvine Ranch Water District: IRWD has created one of the most diverse water supply portfolios in California with investments in groundwater wells, treated groundwater systems, imported water, local runoff capture in Irvine Lake, and one of the most extensive water recycling systems in the nation. Despite this diversification, IRWD took the extraordinary step of developing a new water resource that continues to expand the community’s emergency water supply through the Strand Ranch Integrated Water Banking Project, which can store up to 50,000 acre-feet. IRWD also is working to develop another groundwater storage resource: the Kern Fan Groundwater Storage Project.

City of Roseville: Coming out of the 2015 drought, Roseville has focused on building resiliency into its water supply through an expansion of the city’s groundwater program and recently was invited to participate in the second phase of the U.S. EPA’s Water Infrastructure Financing and Innovation Act financing program. This financing will allow Roseville to accelerate the development of six new Aquifer Storage and Recovery wells during the next three years, doubling Roseville’s ASR wells to 12 and increasing water supply reliability in the growing city.

Metropolitan Water District: Investments of more than $1 billion in conservation and recycled water by the Metropolitan Water District and its member agencies have helped reduce per-capita water use in Southern California by more than one-third since 1990. Looking ahead, MWD member agencies are updating their planning portfolios for a changing climate, greater seismic resiliency and to maintain safe and reliable drinking water supplies.

City of Palo Alto Utilities Department: In 2012, the Palo Alto Utilities Department launched its Program for Emerging Technologies to partner with individuals and companies that want to evaluate, test and implement innovative new technology. Through this program, city staff are working with a software company to launch a pilot portal for data management, analytics, and customer engagement. Using this portal, utility customers will be able to better manage and control their energy and water usage.

Truckee Donner Public Utility District: Truckee Donner PUD, Placer County Water Agency, and Northstar Community Services District have a history of collaboration and using the best available science to inform the decision-making process for stewardship of water resources in the Martis Valley Groundwater Basin. This includes support of the Federal Truckee River Basin Study, and the development of a Martis Valley Groundwater Model, which studied the impacts of climate change on the region’s water supply.

City of Sacramento: Water providers in the Sacramento region are developing the Sacramento Regional Water Bank, an innovative groundwater storage program that will improve regional water supply reliability in the near-term and into the future. The region’s unique setting — at the confluence of the Sacramento and American rivers near Folsom Reservoir and over the North American and South American groundwater subbasins — is ideal for the water bank’s development. It will allow the region to sustainably increase use of groundwater as a local water source during dry periods and reduce surface water diversions needed to meet local environmental needs.

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**Mesa Water District:** Mesa Water® is drought-resilient and, since 2013, meets 100 percent of its community’s water needs with locally sourced reliable groundwater due to its award-winning Mesa Water Reliability Facility. The MWRF uses state-of-the-art nanofiltration technology to treat amber-tinted potable water from an ancient aquifer hundreds of feet below the clear-water basin; the nanofiltration technology removes the amber tint from redwoods that once grew in the area.

**City of Pasadena:** The city is increasing investment in the replacement of local water production facilities with plans or projects underway to construct six new wells and a treatment facility to address legacy contamination issues in its local basin. Pasadena has also invested in ensuring the Raymond Groundwater Basin has resiliency to support the local economy for extended periods of time when imported water may be constrained due to climate or natural disaster interruptions of the supply. Actively managing the basin by expansion of the infiltration galleries and increased reliance on imported water during wet years and other active programs to promote basin recovery will ensure a long-term and consistently high-quality water supply for Pasadena residents.

**Valley Center Municipal Water District:** Valley Center’s Cool Valley Reservoir Cover Replacement Project has been recognized by the U.S. EPA’s new AQUARIUS Program as an “Exceptional Project.” Each year, the program recognizes one Drinking Water State Revolving Fund project from each of its 10 regions nationwide for “exceptional focus on sustainability, and protection of public health” while demonstrating a high level of innovation. The $4.2 million project will not only protect water quality from atmospheric vectors, but “prevent leakage from the reservoir, reduce bacteria by creating a barrier between the drinking water and the concrete liner … and reduce chemical and energy use.” During the same time, Valley Center MWD designed and installed a 95kW Photovoltaic Solar Array and upgraded the Cool Valley Pump Station, all located on the Cool Valley Reservoir site.

**City of Glendale:** In March 2019, Glendale received notification the State Water Board’s Division of Water Rights has approved increased water recycling and reuse within Glendale’s and Pasadena’s service areas. Glendale will continue its 41-year history of water recycling and environmental stewardship by continuing to reduce its reliance on imported water supplies.

**Long Beach Water Department:** Through grants and “climate forward” AB 32 funding, Long Beach Water Department launched two pilot programs aimed at extending water use efficiency efforts to disadvantaged communities. Direct Installation for Multifamily Efficiency (DIME) retrofits multi-family dwellings with water efficient indoor appliances, and Direct Install Gardens (DIG) installs water-wise landscapes, both free-of-cost to participating residents.

**San Diego County Water Authority:** The San Diego County Water Authority’s Claude “Bud” Lewis Carlsbad Desalination Plant annually produces up to 56,000 acre-feet of locally controlled water for San Diego County, helping to minimize the region’s vulnerability to statewide drought conditions. It is part of a $1 billion project that includes the nation’s largest and most technologically advanced and energy-efficient seawater desalination plant, a 10-mile large-diameter pipeline, and improvements to Water Authority facilities for distributing desalinated seawater throughout San Diego County.

**Los Angeles Department of Water and Power:** In 2017, LADWP completed its Water Conservation Potential Study (WCPS), which identified the remaining cost-effective conservation potential across all customer classes in Los Angeles is approximately 140,000 acre-feet per year. A recent project that received funding through LADWP’s Technical Assistance Program was a groundwater reuse project at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in West LA, which recycles groundwater pumped for facility dewatering purposes and reuses it in its cooling towers. Groundwater was previously discharged to the sewer, but as a result of this project it is now beneficially reused, resulting in roughly 29 million gallons of potable water use savings per year in its cooling towers, one of the end-uses identified in the WCPS as having significant remaining conservation potential.

**Community Water Systems as a Resource**

Each CMUA water agency member has experts in numerous fields, including water quality, water distribution, engineering, and finance. These individuals and agencies welcome the opportunity to provide feedback or advice on legislative or regulatory proposals. CMUA encourages the Legislature and regulatory agencies to utilize California’s publicly owned water agencies as a resource when making decisions that affect the operations of a community water system.