



**San Bernardino Valley  
Water Conservation District**

Helping Nature Store Our Water

**OUTREACH AND COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE AGENDA**

**Tuesday, October 21, 2025 – 3:00 PM**

**Location** – 1630 W. Redlands Blvd., Ste. A, Redlands, CA 92373

Anyone wishing to listen to or participate in the meeting can join via Teams by clicking on this link, <https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join>, or by entering the following information at <https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/microsoft-teams/join-a-meeting>:  
Meeting ID: 210 438 800 198 Passcode: 3hb7hC2G

Note: Copies of staff reports and other documents relating to the items on this agenda are on file at the District office and are available for public review during normal District business hours. New information relating to agenda topics listed, received, or generated by the District after the posting of this agenda, but before the meeting, will be made available upon request at the District office and in the Agenda Package on the District's website. It is the intention of the San Bernardino Valley Water Conservation District to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) in all respects. If you need special assistance with respect to the agenda or other written materials forwarded to the members of the Board for consideration at the public meeting, or if as a participant at this meeting you will need special assistance, the District will attempt to accommodate you in every reasonable manner. Please contact Allison Zecher at (909) 793-2503 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting to inform her of your particular needs and to determine if accommodation is feasible. Please advise us at that time if you will need accommodations to attend or participate in meetings on a regular basis.

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**CALL TO ORDER**

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**1. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

*Members of the public may address the Board of Directors on any item that is within the jurisdiction of the Board; however, no action may be taken on any item not appearing on the agenda unless the action is otherwise authorized by Subdivision (b) Section 54954.2 of the Government Code.*

**2. ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO AGENDA**

*Section 54954.2 provides that a legislative body may take action on items of business not appearing on the posted agenda under the following conditions: (1) an emergency situation exists, as defined in Section 54956.5; (2) a need to take immediate action and the need for action came to the attention of the District subsequent to the agenda being posted; and (3) the item was posted for a prior meeting occurring not more than five calendar days prior to the date action is taken on the item, and at the prior meeting the item was continued to the meeting at which action is being taken.*

**3. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES FROM MARCH 5, 2025.....3**

**4. EDUCATION PROGRAM UPDATES**

a. Cal Poly Pomona College of Engineering Senior Project Update

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**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Division 1 Richard Corneille      Division 2 Mark E. Falcone      Division 3 Robert Stewart      Division 4 John Longville      Division 5 Melody McDonald

**GENERAL MANAGER**

Betsy Miller

- b. IERCDC Water Conservation Education Update
- c. Waterwise Garden at San Bernardino County Museum Update
- 5. **DRAFT WEBSITE UPDATE PRESENTATION AND LOGO REVIEW.....7**
- 6. **OUTREACH PLAN IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE**
  - a. SBVWCD Outreach Report for 2025.....11
- 7. **SBVWCD 2025 WATER YEAR PRESS RELEASE.....15**
- 8. **NEXT QUARTERLY MEETING**
  - A. TBD
- 9. **ADJOURNMENT**

Committee Members:  
John Longville, Chair  
Mark E. Falcone

Alternate:  
Robert Stewart

**SAN BERNARDINO VALLEY WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
OUTREACH & COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING**

MINUTES OF MARCH 5, 2025  
1:30 PM

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Acting Chairperson Falcone called the Outreach & Communications Committee Meeting to order at 1:31 P.M.

**OUTREACH & COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:**

John Longville, Chairman  
Mark E. Falcone, Director

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Betsy Miller, General Manager  
Allison Zecher, Board Secretary

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Robert Stewart, Director

1. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Chairman Falcone announced this as the time for any persons present, who so desire, to make an oral petition to the Outreach & Communications Committee. Hearing none, the meeting proceeded with the published agenda items.

2. ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO AGENDA

There were none.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 25, 2025, MEETING

**It was moved by Director Stewart and seconded by Chairman Falcone to approve the minutes of the September 25, 2025, Outreach & Communications Committee meeting. The motion was carried unanimously with all directors present voting in the affirmative.**

**Chairman Falcone: Yes**

**Director Stewart: Yes**

Director Falcone served as the Chair with Vice President Stewart participating in the Committee as the Alternate prior to Director Longville's arrival.

4. EDUCATION PROGRAM UPDATES

a. CAL POLY POMONA COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING SENIOR PROJECT UPDATE

Ms. Miller presented an update on the Cal Poly Pomona College of Engineering Senior Project to evaluate one of the PERC sites with funding from the Conservation District. She stated that the class will present the results of their project at an up-coming Board meeting.

b. CSU SAN BERNARDINO INSTITUTE FOR WATERSHED RESILIENCY UPDATE

Ms. Miller provided an update on the CSU San Bernardino Institute for Watershed Resiliency, which received \$1,500 in funding from the District this fiscal year. Under Dr. Alford's leadership, the institute has focused on job readiness programs, specifically addressing the issue that many students cannot afford to take unpaid internships. To bridge this gap, the institute offers paid job skills training and field data collection experiences. Dr. Alford will attend the March 12, 2025, Board meeting to provide more details about the institute's work and the impact of the District's contribution.

c. IERCDC WATER CONSERVATION EDUCATION UPDATE

Ms. Miller provided an update on the water conservation education programs provided by IERCDC on the District's behalf. She highlighted details of the continued success and impact of the program which brings water conservation education to local elementary schools. She noted that board members are welcome to attend one of the class presentations, if desired, and stated that the program is planned for inclusion in the FY26 budget unless any concerns are expressed by the committee.

d. CAREER FAIR UPDATE

Ms. Miller shared that District staff continue to attend career fairs when invited, including a career fair held that morning at Crafton Hills College.

e. WATERWISE GARDEN AT SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY MUSEUM UPDATE

Ms. Miller provided an update on the Waterwise Garden at the San Bernardino County Museum. Following approval of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) by the County Board of Supervisors on February 28, 2025, she will work to solicit bids for the work.

Director Falcone confirmed the timeline for the project and additional Board actions such as contract approval. Ms. Miller discussed planned project dates, noting the prioritization of this project among other District priorities.

f. WATERWISE GARDEN AT HIGHLAND BRANCH LIBRARY UPDATE

Ms. Miller provided information on a request for the District to support a waterwise garden at the Highland Branch Library. The District has coordinated with staff from the Highland Branch Library and IERCD to discuss revitalization of the Library’s rooftop garden space. Based on recent discussions, the District plans to provide support for the waterwise section of the garden, including educational panels, with IERCD and Museum staff supporting edible gardening sections, to increase awareness of water conservation practices.

g. Santa Ana Watershed Display Update

Ms. Miller provided an update on the District’s continued funding for inclusion of groundwater recharge information on 75 informational panels installed along the Santa Ana Watershed. The panels, which are updated every two years, are estimated to be viewed by one million people over the course of two years.

5. WEBSITE MODERNIZATION UPDATE

Ms. Miller provided an update on the website modernization project. The style for the new website was selected last month, and Ms. Miller expressed satisfaction with the clean, welcoming, and user-friendly design that maximizes clarity and simplicity. She has provided feedback on the draft key messaging document prepared by the content team. After the final messaging document is complete, Ms. Miller will begin review of the draft webpages developed by the consultant.

Director Falcone asked if the District will move from a .org domain to a .gov domain. Ms. Miller confirmed this change, noting that funding for that change was provided through a state cybersecurity grant. Ms. Miller confirmed that our consultants will ensure seamless access for users who attempt to reach the website and/or staff using the previous website and email addresses.

6. OUTREACH PLAN IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE

a. SBVWCD OUTREACH REPORT FOR 2024

Ms. Miller reviewed the District’s outreach actions taken in 2024, including education, legislative outreach, and presentations at conferences. It was noted that the outreach efforts have been extensive and demonstrate a strong commitment to community engagement. The Board acknowledged the value of outreach activities and discussed participation in events such as career fairs, which provide an opportunity to educate the public about the District’s work and career paths in water.

Chairman Longville emphasized the importance of outreach efforts to elected officials. The discussion highlighted the need for continued outreach to local and state officials through individual meetings and presentations to the elected agencies representing various agencies. Ms. Miller explained that the outreach plan had been developed with a broad scope, and given current staffing levels, prioritization would be necessary. Directors were encouraged to provide guidance on where to focus efforts, with a consensus forming around engaging elected officials and local decision-makers. It was noted that previous outreach efforts, such as efforts around the Wash HCP, had been successful in raising visibility and garnering awards.

b. PLANNED OUTREACH EFFORTS

i. GEOSCIENCE INTEGRATED SAR REGIONAL MODEL PROJECT  
OUTREACH UPDATE

Ms. Miller updated the Board on ongoing and upcoming outreach initiatives related to the District's groundwater model. Plans are underway to leverage National Groundwater Awareness Week as a platform for disseminating study findings, with additional coordinated outreach planned in the future.

Director Falcone supported implementation of a well-planned outreach strategy to enhance the District's visibility and influence. Moving forward, efforts will focus on strengthening relationships with elected officials, increasing awareness of the District's role, and ensuring key stakeholders understand the significance of its work. Ms. Miller discussed plans to further refine outreach materials and identify additional opportunities for engagement.

7. MEETING SCHEDULE

The committee discussed scheduling an additional meeting in early fall to review planned outreach tasks once the current focus on budget preparation and adoption is complete.

8. ADJOURN

**It was moved by Director Falcone and seconded by Chairman Longville to adjourn the meeting. The motion was carried unanimously with all directors present voting in the affirmative.**

**Chairman Longville: Yes**

**Director Stewart: Yes**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:43 p.m.

San Bernardino Valley  
Water Conservation District  
LOGO CONCEPTS

1A.



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WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
EST. 1932

1B.



2A.



2B.



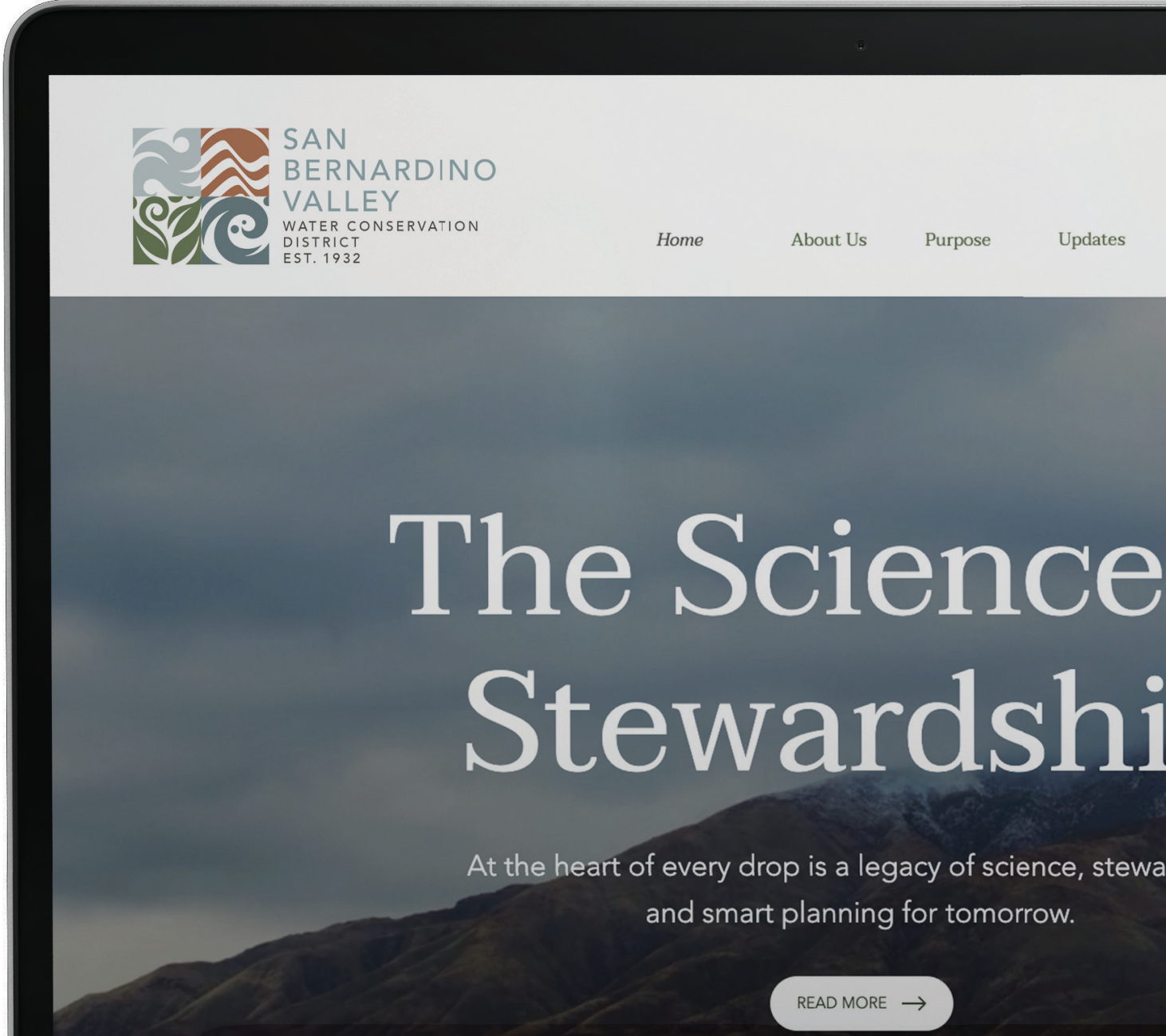
3A.



**SAN BERNARDINO VALLEY**  
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3B.





San Bernardino Valley  
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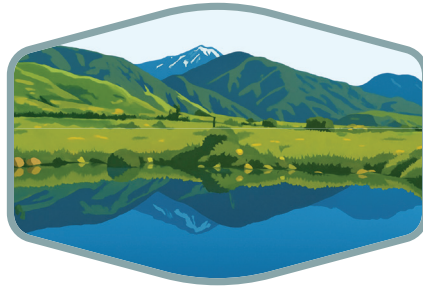
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# The Science Stewardship

At the heart of every drop is a legacy of science, stewardship  
and smart planning for tomorrow.

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# The Science Stewardship

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## 2025 OUTREACH ACCOMPLISHMENTS

**January–October 2025**

**Summary of Outreach Plan implementation and accomplishments aligned with SP28 Goals**

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### GOAL 1 – WATER SUPPLY RELIABILITY THROUGH GROUNDWATER RECHARGE

Outreach supported transparency around the critical nature of recharge operations, the PERC initiative, and public understanding of groundwater reliability.

Accomplishments:

- February 20: President McDonald, Director Corneille, and District staff participated in the Enhanced Recharge Phase 1B ribbon cutting
- February 21 & March 14: District staff hosted tours for CSU San Bernardino and Cal Poly Pomona students focused on recharge operations
- February 28: Ms. Miller met with the Global Lead for Water in Agriculture, World Bank
- March 4: Ms. Miller participated in Lobby Day in Sacramento with the California Groundwater Coalition
- March 10: Ms. Miller co-led an EcoFlight watershed tour with Lisa Haney from OCWD for regional elected officials
- March 14: District staff led a tour of recharge facilities for an engineering graduate student at Cal Poly Pomona
- March 17: District staff led a facilities tour for Assessor Gonzales
- April 7: Ms. Miller provided a presentation on the District's annual recharge, PERC projects, and groundwater modeling study to the Basin Technical Advisory Committee
- April 15: District staff led a tour of District facilities for Big Bear Watermaster agencies
- May 1: Ms. Miller and Mr. Colunga led a tour of District facilities for the Gage Canal Company
- May 15: Ms. Miller presented the District's groundwater modeling project at the ACWA 2025 Spring Conference Innovation Panel
- May 28: Ms. Miller presented on past and future Bunker Hill basin groundwater stewardship projects at the Southern California Water Dialogue
- September 4: Ms. Miller, Mr. Colunga, and Dr. Mitrovich led a tour of District facilities for staff from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's Temecula office

- September 19: Mr. Crowley led a tour of the Oak Creek PERC site for Cal Poly Pomona students working on this project for their Civil Engineering Senior Project

Impact:

Public and partner engagement on the groundwater recharge initiatives increased transparency and demonstrated the District's critical contributions to regional water reliability.

## GOAL 2 – INFRASTRUCTURE EXPANSION AND OPERATIONS OPTIMIZATION

Communications have been focused on our Board for items such as the Mentone Shop, the Redlands Plaza Expansion, and basin cleaning, with no external communications to report.

## GOAL 3 – NATURAL RESOURCE STEWARDSHIP AND ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCEMENT

The District demonstrated leadership in habitat management and restoration through implementation of novel monitoring and management initiatives, transparent reporting, and educational efforts.

Accomplishments:

- January 22: Dr. Mitrovich presented a talk titled *How to Effectively Manage our Most Sensitive Natural Resources: A Perspective from Southern California* at the Santa Ana River Science Symposium
- January 23: Dr. Mitrovich led a tour of the BLM Fuels Management grant project site for the Santa Ana River Science Symposium
- February 21: Dr. Mitrovich and Ms. Frey hosted a tour of the Plunge Creek Conservation Project for a hydrology class from California State University San Bernardino
- March 25: District staff hosted SBKR monitoring protocol workshop for 30 attendees from 12 agencies including USGS, CDFW, and BLM
- June 10: District staff led a field tour of the slender-horned spineflower bulking site for the San Bernardino County Flood Control District
- July 3: District staff hosted the Center for Biological Diversity to tour the Upper Santa Ana River Wash Habitat Conservation Plan habitat conservation initiatives

Impact:

The District's conservation outreach linked science, stewardship, and education, enhancing visibility of its environmental leadership.

## GOAL 4 – COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND EDUCATION

Community education and engagement expanded through partnerships, events, and school programs promoting water conservation.

Accomplishments:

- January–September: Partnered with IERCD to deliver over 26 classroom programs in Redlands, Highland, San Bernardino, and Yucaipa reaching more than 700 students
- April 26: Hosted booth and educational display at Redlands Earth Day highlighting water conservation and native plants
- April 26: Co-sponsored bird-watching walk and environmental talk with the San Bernardino County Museum and Audubon Society
- August 6: Coordinated with the San Bernardino County Museum on design and implementation of the Waterwise Demonstration Garden

**Impact:**

Community programming strengthened awareness of District work and met the Outreach Plan’s goals for education and visibility.

## GOAL 5 – COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIPS

Collaboration with partner agencies expanded regional communication and alignment on conservation and policy initiatives.

**Accomplishments:**

- February 25–28: Ms. Miller attended the ACWA DC 2025 Conference in Washington DC
- March 18: Director Falcone and Ms. Miller attended a tour of Chino Basin Water Conservation District facilities
- June 16: Directors McDonald, Stewart, and Falcone toured Enhanced Recharge facilities with SBVMWD
- July 1: Coordinated outreach with Western Riverside County RCA for Wash Plan and MSHCP efforts

**Impact:**

Partnerships strengthened regional communication and positioned the District as a respected collaborator in resource stewardship.

## GOAL 6 – FISCAL COMMITMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

While these items are regularly communicated to the Board, specific outreach actions were not implemented regarding the District’s finances. However, several grant applications were submitted to Representative Aguilar, the Wildlife Conservation Board, and Google: Although these are not focused outreach tasks, grant applications function to share the work the District is doing with the grant reviewers and their associated agencies.

## GOAL 7 – SUSTAINABLE ORGANIZATION & GOVERNANCE

Robust internal communication and leadership development supported a cohesive, well-trained workforce, while targeted external education and training efforts supported the District’s outreach efforts.

Accomplishments:

- June 23–25: Ms. Miller attended “Communicate to Drive Results” leadership training in Atlanta
- September: Co-signed ACWA letters supporting Proposition 4 funding for statewide water projects

Impact:

Professional development and internal recognition initiatives improved morale, communication, and organizational sustainability.

## SUMMARY AND OUTLOOK

From January through September 2025, outreach accomplishments advanced five of the seven SP28 Goals. The District delivered measurable progress in community engagement, infrastructure communication, conservation, and transparency. Highlights include over 30 school programs, 10+ public events, six major funding proposals, and 1,000+ newsletter subscribers. Looking ahead, priorities include launching the new District website, continuing IERCD partnerships, building newsletter engagement, and developing outreach materials to include in the biannual groundwater assessment mailings.

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact:  
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909-793-2503  
[bmiller@sbwwcd.org](mailto:bmiller@sbwwcd.org)

## **Bolstering Inland Empire Water Security During Drought San Bernardino Valley Water Conservation District Captures 13.6-billion Gallons**

*The district announces total water capture of 492.04-billion gallons since 1912*

*REDLANDS, Calif.* (October 15, 2025) — Even in the midst of drought conditions, the San Bernardino Valley Water Conservation District recorded another significant year of groundwater replenishment: 41,773-acre feet of water, or 13,611,791,726 gallons. This figure includes 15,697-acre feet from the State Water Project and 2,100-acre feet from in-river channel recharge into the Bunker Hill aquifer. Despite lower levels of rain and snowmelt, this substantial accomplishment is thanks to the hard work of the district’s staff and strong partnerships with local cities and water agencies.

“Returning water to the earth, also known as managed aquifer recharge, is at the heart of our mission and encompasses more than just rainwater harvesting,” said General Manager Betsy Miller Vixie. “The district’s whole-systems approach integrates stormwater management, catchment basin maintenance, watershed conservation, public safety, and long-range groundwater planning in collaboration with regional partners. This year’s results show that even during dry periods, consistent and coordinated local investment in recharge pays off. The district’s century-long work to steward groundwater has built a resilient foundation for the future of the Inland Empire.”

The Conservation District began keeping records in 1912, including “in-river recharge” which is water that naturally sinks into the ground as it flows through the creeks and rivers locally. Since its inception, the SBVWCD has conserved more than 1.51-million-acre feet or 492.04-billion gallons of water by diverting the natural flow of the Santa Ana River and Mill Creek into 88 percolation basins. This allows the water to collect and seep naturally into the ground, where it can be pumped out for future use. Miller Vixie credits these strong recharge numbers to several projects and partnerships including:

- **2025:** Phase 1-B completion of catchment basins as part of the Enhanced Recharge Project facilities along the Santa Ana River, in partnership with the San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District, Western Water, and the City of Riverside Public Utilities.
- **2023:** Replacement of the district’s diversion along Mill Creek.
- **2020-2022:** Establishment of the [Plunge Creek Conservation Project](#), which restored the creek back to a naturally braided stream to significantly improve groundwater storage

while increasing habitat for the endangered San Bernardino kangaroo rat and other sensitive species. It also created more than 13 acres of new wetted area to recharge the aquifer.

- **2020:** Approval of the [Upper Santa Ana River Wash Habitat Conservation Plan](#), which balances land uses within the wash to protect groundwater replenishment, native habitat for threatened species, along with industry and recreational uses for the community.

**About the San Bernardino Valley Water Conservation District:**

For nearly a century, the SBVWCD has stewarded the San Bernardino Valley water basin and the native species of the Upper Santa Ana River Wash. Its collaborative approach to project management assures high-quality local water supplies for people, agriculture, and the environment. This includes groundwater recharge and oversight, and protection of habitat and native species in the Wash. Visit [www.sbvwd.org](http://www.sbvwd.org).

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