Recycled Water for Los Angeles

At the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP), the mission of our Water System is to provide our customers with safe, reliable, high quality and competitively priced water services in a publicly and environmentally responsible manner.

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ENGNEERING



Over the last century, LADWP has built and maintained a water system that transports, treats, and delivers hundreds of millions of gallons of water to the City of Los Angeles (City) every day. Much of the water we serve is imported from the Eastern Sierra Nevada Mountains, Sacramento-San Joaquin Bay Delta, and the Colorado River. These supplies, which come from hundreds of miles away, supplement our local water supplies but are increasingly limited by legal and environmental challenges.

To reduce our reliance on imported supplies, LADWP is pursuing investments in water conservation, recycled water, stormwater capture, and groundwater remediation. The LADWP Board of Water and Power Commissioners adopted Guiding Principles to accelerate the local water supply goals and objectives established by the 2010 Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP).

What Is Recycled Water And How Is It Used?

Recycled water (also called reclaimed water) is wastewater from homes and businesses that has been highly treated. It is approved for landscape irrigation and for street sweeping, industrial cooling, and dust control. Future investment in recycled water will allow LADWP to expand the purple pipe network to increase the number



LOCAL SAFE

RELIABLE

of recycled water users in the City. Ultimately, LADWP plans to increase the local drinking water supply through the use of highly purified recycled water to replenish groundwater supplies.

LADWP has identified potential projects and customers necessary to achieve and exceed its UWMP recycled water goal of 59,000 acre-feet per year (AFY) by 2035.

The type and amount of treatment is dependent on the intended application. Recycled water is closely monitored and tested to ensure that it consistently meets stringent health and safety standards established by the California Department of Public Health and Regional Water Quality Control Board.

Recycled water has been used for non-drinking (also called nonpotable or NPR) applications in many parts of the United States, including Los Angeles, for decades. Recycled Water is being safely used in the City of Los Angeles to irrigate schoolyards, parks, golf courses, freeway medians, and cemeteries; for environmental beneficial reuse; and for many industrial applications.

One acre-foot of water is about 326,000 gallons and it is enough to serve two average families for one year.

Potable Water is Drinking Water



Independent Advisory Panel for Groundwater Replenishment.



Recycled Water Advisory Group tours Tillman Water Reclamation Plant.

Recycled Water Master Planning Documents

To plan for increased water recycling in Los Angeles, the City launched the development of the Recycled Water Master Planning Documents in 2009. Completed in 2012, these documents were jointly developed by LADWP, the City's Bureau of Sanitation (BOS) and Bureau of Engineering (BOE).

One of the outcomes of this process was the recommendation for a program to replenish groundwater basins, used for drinking water, with purified recycled water. This strategy is used in different parts of the country. Another recommendation was to expand the City's NPR systems to provide recycled water to more LADWP customers who can use recycled water for irrigation and industrial applications. Together, groundwater replenishment (GWR) and NPR projects will increase the City's recycled water use seven-fold by 2035.

Outreach Efforts

The City developed the documents with input from stakeholders through ongoing outreach activities beginning in 2009, including the Recycled Water Advisory Group (RWAG), Recycled Water Forums for the general public, elected official briefings, and presentations to Neighborhood Councils and community groups.

The RWAG is made up of approximately 60 stakeholders, representing neighborhood councils, environmental groups, business organizations, civic groups, and other interests. They



Research and testing confirm safety and quality.



Recycled Water is highly treated by microfiltration and reverse osmosis at the City's Terminal Island Water Reclamation Plant. This water is injected into the Dominguez Gap Seawater Barrier to protect groundwater supplies from seawater intrusion.

provide the City with input and ideas related to water recycling in Los Angeles. The group has participated in a series of workshops, facility tours, and update sessions, and continues to provide insightful feedback to the City.

Independent Advisory Panel

The National Water Research Institute, at the request of the City, established an Independent Advisory Panel in 2010 to support the City's Recycled Water Master Planning efforts. This panel of leading scientists, water quality and technical experts provides independent, third-party scientific and technical review of the City's GWR Project. Chaired by Dr. Michael Stenstrom of the UCLA Civil Engineering Department, the panel will continue to advise the City as the GWR Project moves forward.

L.A.'s Recycled Water Future

Implementation of L.A.'s recycled water projects is dependent upon funding. LADWP's proposed budget includes funding for recycled water projects and other programs to increase local, reliable water supplies as well. As costs for purchased imported water continue to rise, recycled water is projected to cost less over the long term than these imported supplies, saving ratepayers money and providing valuable additional benefits such as improved operational and supply reliability.

The bottom line: Recycled water is local, safe, and reliable, and in the long run, costs less than purchasing imported water.

For more information: www.ladwp.com/RW RecycledWaterInfo@ladwp.com

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