



Media Release

Los Angeles Water Board Approves Recycled Water Project to Save 3 Million Gallons of Potable Water Per Day - Enough for 7,000 Homes

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In response to the emergency drought conditions in California, the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board today adopted a permit that will allow the use of highly treated recycled water to replace potable water in maintaining a barrier that prevents brackish ocean water from intruding into fresh water aquifers.

“In addition to our mission to protect water quality in Los Angeles and Ventura counties, the Regional Board must also assure that every drop of our precious water resource is efficiently used,” said Charles Stringer, chair of the Regional Board. “Water resources are stressed throughout the state due to the drought. The permit we adopted today is the first of several potential opportunities to use reclaimed water more efficiently for the benefit of all Californians.”

Currently, the Water Replenishment District (WRD) injects a 50/50 blend of recycled water and potable water into the Alamitos Seawater Intrusion Barrier to stop sea water from contaminating the groundwater. This permit will allow the Watershed Replenishment District of Southern California to conduct a pilot test that takes advanced treated recycled water and will apply additional treatment so that soon they can inject 100% recycled water, thus saving three (3) million gallons per day of potable water for other uses. If the project is successful, this savings will provide enough water to supply 7,000 households for a year.

Seawater intrusion became a problem over the course of many years when the groundwater level dropped as it was pumped from the aquifer and allowed sea water to move into the fresh water basin. Pumping fresh water into the aquifer provides a barrier and prevents the seawater from moving further into the aquifer, preserving fresh local groundwater supplies. The Regional Board consulted with the California Department of Public Health, which approved the process before the Board voted on the permit.

For more information on the project visit the [March 6 Regional Board Agenda](#)