



SAVE THE DATE

JOIN US FOR OUR

100th Anniversary Grand Celebration!

SUNDAY, JULY 22, 2018
1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

PALMDALE WATER DISTRICT
2029 EAST AVENUE Q, Palmdale, CA 93550



Palmdale Water District

the PIPELINE

Volume 4 Issue 1

Spring 2018

Board of Directors

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Joe Estes, Division 2

Marco Henriquez, Division 3

Kathy Mac Laren, Division 4

Vincent Dino, Division 5

Executive Team

Dennis D. LaMoreaux
General Manager, CEO

Michael Williams
Finance Manager, CFO

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Palmdale Water District's Public
Affairs Department.

EDITOR/WRITER
Judy Shay, Public Affairs Director

WRITER/DESIGNER
Laura Gallegos, Public Affairs
Specialist

Mission Statement

Since 1918, the Palmdale Water District has provided high-quality water at a reasonable cost. We pride ourselves on great customer service; advocating for local water issues that help our residents; educating the community on water conservation; and leading our region in researching and implementing emerging technologies that increase operational efficiency.



Board Changes its Meeting Dates & Time!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! Starting in April, the PWD Board of Directors will meet at 6 p.m. every second & fourth Monday of the month. Please join us!

PWD Board Approves 2018 Strategic Plan and Budget

The Palmdale Water District Board of Directors approved a new, two-year Strategic Plan that will serve as a blueprint for the Board and staff to execute short-term and long-term goals to ensure that PWD's water supply and reliability are secure for existing and future customers.

Most importantly, the Strategic Plan holds PWD accountable to its ratepayers as it continues to push the boundaries of water-treatment innovation, transparency, excellent customer care and regional leadership.

"Developing a Strategic Plan is necessary to better serve our customers," said Board President Vincent Dino. "Positioning PWD as a regional leader and community partner will help us achieve our goals and meet our obligations to the ratepayers."

In adopting the Strategic Plan and a \$23.6 million budget for 2018, the Board emphasized its commitment to maintaining financial stability, increasing reliability of water supply, upkeeping the aging infrastructure, and providing customers with exceptional service.

The six initiatives of the 2018 Strategic Plan are Water Resource Reliability; Organizational Excellence; Systems Efficiency; Financial Health and Stability; Regional Leadership; and Customer Care, Advocacy and Outreach.

PWD's Recharge Project Will Bank Water To Ensure Adequate Supply

As an agency celebrating its 100th anniversary this year, Palmdale Water District (PWD) has experienced California's unpredictable dry/wet weather cycle countless times. One of the best ways to plan for a reliable and sustainable water future is to construct recharge basins that are capable of banking water. It is what PWD has embarked on with its Palmdale Regional Groundwater Recharge & Recovery Project (PRGRRP).

The PRGRRP is a groundwater banking resource that will take a blend of water from the California State Water Project (SWP) and from the Palmdale Water Reclamation Plant and have it spread over a proposed 80-acre basin. The mixture of the SWP and reclaimed water will be a four-to-one ratio, respectively. This water will naturally filter down through the ground where it will join the natural aquifer and remain there for at least two years before being pumped annually into PWD's water distribution system.

Blending water and storing it during normal and wet years will allow PWD to utilize the maximum amount of water it is allocated annually as a State Water Contractor. By banking water during wet years when the District receives a higher SWP water allocation and the cost of the water is lower, PWD can draw upon the recharge water to meet customer needs in times of drought or increased demand.

Pipelines will be built from both the California Aqueduct and the Palmdale Water Reclamation Plant to the recharge site to deliver water from the two sources to the basin near Avenue L and 100th Street East. Recovery wells will be constructed at 16 different locations near the recharge site to extract water from the aquifers, and pumping stations will be used to pump water into the distribution system to customers.

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100th ANNIVERSARY EVENTS:

Littlerock Dam & Water Treatment Plant Tours

March-June 2018
Tours offered on the third Thursday of every month
9 a.m. - Noon
Sign-ups Required:
palmdalewater.org
661-441-5944
tours@palmdalewater.org

Special Saturday Tour

April 28, 2018
9 a.m. - Noon
Space is limited. Sign up now!
palmdalewater.org
661-441-5944
tours@palmdalewater.org

Grand Celebration

Sunday, July 22, 2018
1 p.m. - 4 p.m.
PWD Office: 2029 E. Avenue Q, Palmdale, CA 93550

UPCOMING EVENTS:

SMART Water Expo at Home Show

Saturday, March 17 & Sunday, March 18
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Antelope Valley Fairgrounds
2551 W. Avenue H, Lancaster
Admission: Free
Parking: \$5

Board Meetings

Mondays @ 6 p.m. 2029 E. Avenue Q, Palmdale
April 9 & 23
May 14 (second meeting to be determined)
June 11 & 25

Blood Drive

Wednesday, May 23, 2018
9am-3pm

Attention: This publication is available in Spanish on our website at palmdalewater.org.

Atención: Esta publicación está disponible en español en nuestro sitio web en palmdalewater.org.

CHILDREN'S SPRINGFEST & EGG HUNT

Saturday, March 24
10 am - 2 pm
Palmdale Amphitheater
2723 Rancho Vista Blvd.
www.CityofPalmdale.org

FREE EGG HUNT, CRAFTS & KIDS ACTIVITIES
\$2 Kids Fun Zone includes:
Pony Rides, Petting Zoo,
Corn Maze, Obstacle Course,
Jacob's Ladder, Sports Activities & More



Employee Spotlight:

Jim Riley, Engineering/Grant Manager

Palmdale Water District Engineering/Grant Manager Jim Riley has spent the past 40 years of his career solely devoted to the water industry for both public agencies and private companies. When he first entered the industry, the focus was on building large water storage reservoirs across the western United States.



Jim Riley

Today, with a team of 12 engineers and inspectors, Jim's focus is on developing new water supply projects; and designing specifications for new and replacement pipelines, new water storage tanks, groundwater wells, and booster pumps to help provide pressure for the entire water distribution system. They also work with developers to calculate appropriate fees for their incoming development to help pay for the cost of building additional water infrastructure.

"We can rely on Jim and his department to develop projects that will secure Palmdale's water reliability"

-GM Dennis LaMoreaux

Currently, Jim is overseeing PWD's three major projects – the Palmdale Regional Groundwater Recharge and Recovery Project, Recycled Water Line Phase 2, and Littlerock Sediment Removal Project.

"The department plays a critical role in planning for the future, to be sure the District has the proper water delivery and storage facilities to meet the needs of the residents of Palmdale," said Jim, who also is responsible for applying for grants to assist with PWD projects.

Prior to joining PWD in 2014, Jim worked for the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation for 20 years and then as a private consultant. He has traveled to Cairo, Egypt, where he was involved with water resource modeling on the Nile River, and to Australia where he helped the University of Canberra on the development of a hydrologic modeling software for the entire continent.

"We're very fortunate to have Jim overseeing our major projects," said PWD General Manager Dennis LaMoreaux. "We can rely on Jim and his department to develop projects that will secure Palmdale's water reliability."

The Missouri native received his undergraduate degree from the University of Missouri, graduate degree from Brigham Young University, and doctorate from Colorado State University. All three degrees are in civil engineering.

Jim is married and has six adult children, 16 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. He enjoys gardening and genealogy research.

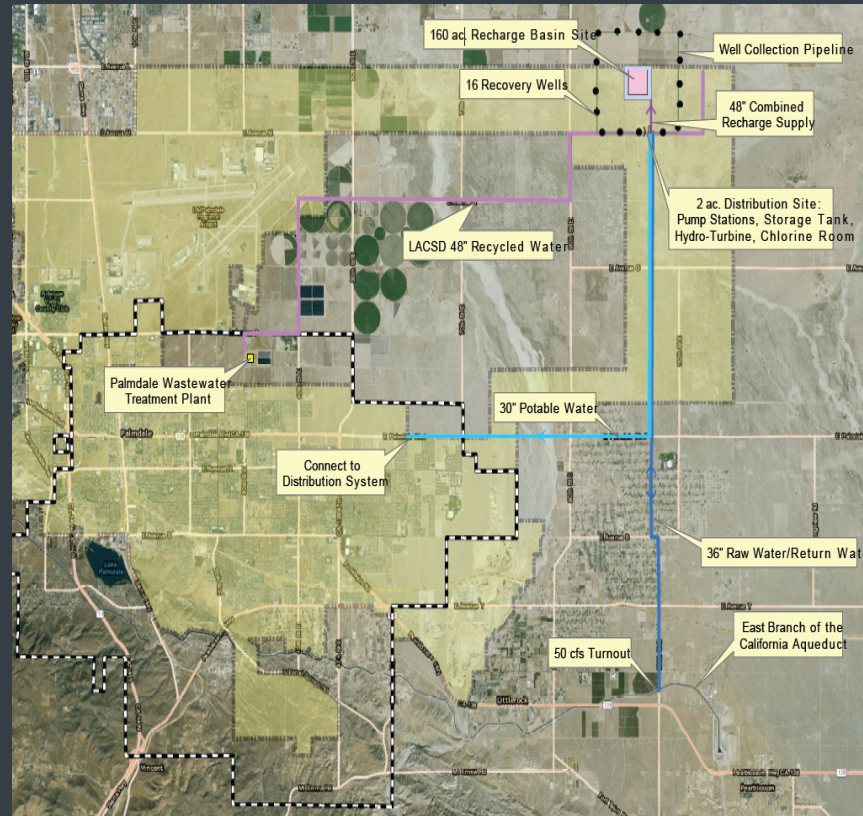
Recharge Project

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"The District's economic vitality depends on a safe, reliable water supply to meet future growth in its service area," said PWD Engineering/Grant Manager Jim Riley. "The entire project, once completed, would supply the District with sufficient water to meet needs for the next 50-plus years."

The project will be built in two phases. Phase 1a will cost \$55 million and would supply enough water needs through year 2040 with a capacity of 14,125 acre-feet per year. Phase 1b and 2 are sized to meet PWD's water demand through year 2070. The final build-out, costing an additional \$30 million, will provide a water supply of up to 24,250 acre-feet per year.

Currently, the PRGRRP is in the testing phase to determine a location for the recharge basins. Soil samples are being tested to determine percolation rates and the quality of water as it flows through the test basin, which was constructed based on recommendations from engineers at Pasadena-based Kennedy/Jenks Consultants, PWD's recharge project consultants.



Palmdale Regional Groundwater Recharge & Recovery Project map

Water from the reclamation plant, along with soil samples collected from one of the three well sites being drilled near the test basin, is being tested by Trussell Technologies Inc. of Pasadena. Trussell Technologies is creating scaled test tube models with the soil percolated with reclaimed water. These tests will be used to determine the water quality as it seeps into the ground.

After the percolation test at the basin is complete, the next step is to prepare the final design of Phase 1a of PRGRRP. Plans call for the final design to begin later this year, followed with construction in 2021-2023 and operation of the recharge basins in 2024.

PWD, AVEK & LCID Boards Hold First Joint Workshop

In a show of solidarity for supporting projects that ensure the area's future water supply, the Boards of Directors of Palmdale Water District, Antelope Valley East Kern Water District (AVEK) and the Littlerock Creek Irrigation District (LCID) held a joint workshop at PWD. The purpose of the workshop was to familiarize board members with ongoing and proposed groundwater recharge projects in the Antelope Valley.

"I am so proud to have been part of this historic meeting," said PWD Board President Vincent Dino. "This is a prime example of how we can all work together for the betterment of this Valley."

PWD Deputy Water and Energy Resources Director Peter Thompson Jr. discussed the Palmdale Regional Groundwater Recharge and Recovery Project. This is PWD's water banking project, which will blend recycled water from the Palmdale Water Reclamation Plant and water from the State Water Project (SWP) for underground percolation then pumped for usage annually.



General Managers (l-r): James Chaisson (LCID), Dennis LaMoreaux (PWD), and Dwayne Chisam (AVEK)



AVEK Lab Director Justin Livesay presents at the workshop.

At the workshop, AVEK General Manager Dwayne Chisam and his staff presented information about their replacement water programs, and about the existing and proposed water bank and groundwater recharge facilities.

The boards also learned about the feasibility of developing a joint groundwater recharge project within Big Rock Creek. Thompson presented the concept, which would differ from current recharge projects in that this would take water directly from the SWP and divert it into the dry Big Rock Creek. The water would recharge in the groundwater aquifer naturally, making it less expensive since it would not require pipelines, construction of a recharge basin and property purchases, said AVEK Assistant General Manager Matthew Knudson.

In a separate meeting, the Antelope Valley State Water Contractors Association, which is composed of members from PWD, AVEK and LCID, voted unanimously to draft a memorandum of understanding for the Big Rock Creek project. This enables staff to begin outlining plans for the project.

Research Reveals Lake Palmdale as an Important Bird Habitat

About 250 bird species have been documented at Lake Palmdale and at least 53 of those species are known to be successfully breeding at the site, according to Antelope Valley College Professor Callyn Yorke.



Dr. Callyn Yorke

Dr. Yorke, a zoologist, spends mornings quietly walking the perimeter of Lake Palmdale looking for birds as part of his biological research. He has observed numerous tree swallows flying low over the lake; marsh wrens vocalizing songs; and red-tailed hawks perched on nearby utility poles and on willows above the lake.

At a recent Palmdale Water District Board meeting, Dr. Yorke presented his findings that he has been documenting since he began his ornithology surveys at Lake Palmdale in 1986. PWD, which owns Lake Palmdale and uses it for water storage, has granted Dr. Yorke permission to access the lake. Leased to the Fin and Feather

Club, the lake is otherwise only open to club members.

"By continuing my long-term monitoring of bird populations of Lake Palmdale, important contributions to ornithology in Southern California are being made," said Dr. Yorke. "Lake Palmdale remains largely an intact and viable breeding and wintering habitat for a great many bird species in the region."

Some of the birds that use Lake Palmdale as a habitat are rare in Los Angeles County. Others like the ash-throated flycatcher visit the lake in the summer and migrate south to Mexico in the winter.

"Lake Palmdale is one of the best birding areas in Southern California," Dr. Yorke told the Board. "It is one of the best kept secrets. (Lake Palmdale) really is a special place."

Dr. Yorke has been a biology professor at AV College since 1984 and teaches a UCLA Extension course titled "Birds of Southern California." For more information about his research, go to his website at www.avconline.avc.edu/cyorke/.



Ash-throated Flycatcher