

# the PIPELINE



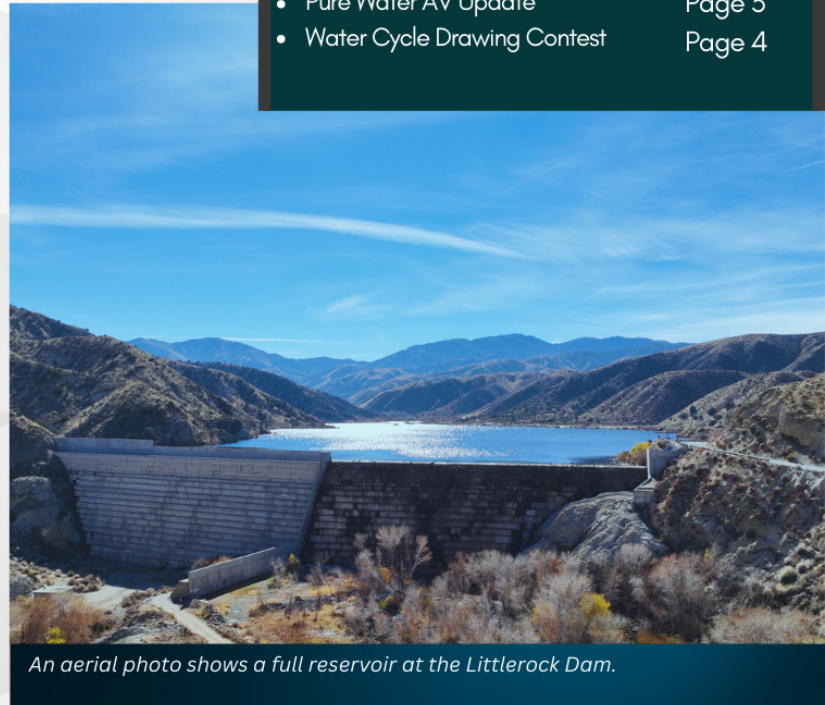
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*The Littlerock Dam was the tallest multi-arch dam when it was designed in the early 1920s.*



*An aerial photo shows a full reservoir at the Littlerock Dam.*

## LITTLEROCK DAM TURNS 100 IN JUNE!

For the past century, the Littlerock Dam and Reservoir has played an important role in the growth and success of Palmdale, Littlerock and other communities in the southern Antelope Valley. It was built on Little Rock Creek to store water for agricultural use and provide some flood control. Now, as it marks 100 years, it continues to serve similar purposes and remains a vital water source for Palmdale Water District (PWD) and Littlerock Creek Irrigation District (LCID) customers.

Construction of the Littlerock Dam began in 1922 and was completed on June 1, 1924. Plans for the dam began six years earlier in 1918 when the Palmdale Water Company (which later became Palmdale Irrigation District then Palmdale Water District) and LCID hired engineer John S. Eastwood to design what would become the tallest multi-arch dam in the country.

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As the population of Palmdale grew in the 1940s and 1950s from the aerospace industry, water needs in the area moved from rural irrigation to domestic use. In 1966, the California Division of Safety of Dams concluded that the Littlerock Dam would not be able to withstand a large earthquake on the San Andreas Fault, which is less than two miles away. It ordered that the amount of water stored at the dam be restricted.

In 1987, PWD and LCID agreed to rehabilitate the dam and increase its capacity to meet the growing population. The \$19 million improvement consisted mainly of a large roller-compacted concrete buttress covering the original dam. The new appearance resembled a large stairway. The spillway was raised 12 feet, which doubled the water storage capacity of the reservoir to about 3,500 acre-feet, or 1.1 billion gallons of water.

A dedication ceremony was held in 1995 to commemorate the reinforced dam and celebrate the new public recreational area.

Today, PWD and LCID are celebrating the foresight of its predecessors, who had the vision to build a monumental structure that still serves its original purpose of storing water and controlling floods. The Littlerock Dam is one of PWD's three sources of water for its 127,000 people who depend on clean, affordable water daily. The rain and runoff that it collects from the San Gabriel Mountains is stored at the reservoir before it is moved to Lake Palmdale and treated at the Leslie O. Carter Water Treatment Plant. In 2023, PWD used nearly 5,000 acre-feet of water from the Littlerock Reservoir.

Keeping the Littlerock Dam in operating condition is an ongoing task. Due to sediment buildup, the reservoir's capacity has been reduced to about 2,800 acre-feet. PWD removed sediment in 2021 and will continue to do so for the next decade to bring the capacity back to what it was in 1995 when it was expanded to 3,500 acre-feet. The sediment removal project was delayed for 30 years due to the discovery of the federally endangered arroyo toad.

The Littlerock Dam will continue to be an important part of PWD. It also is a place that the community has fond memories of and hopes to see reopen for recreation. It was eight years ago when the U.S. Forest Service closed it due to health and safety concerns.

PWD and LCID will hold a celebratory event on June 1, 2024, at the Littlerock Dam to commemorate its centennial. Elected officials and other dignitaries will be invited to mark the anniversary.

"The District is proud to be celebrating this momentous occasion," said PWD General Manager Dennis D. LaMoreaux. "The Littlerock Dam is an integral part of the Antelope Valley and plays a vital role in providing the water supply for its residents."



*This photo shows the third stage of Littlerock Dam's construction, which began in 1922.*



*Water flowing over the Littlerock Dam's spillway before it was raised 12 feet.*



*The original facade of the Littlerock Dam was covered with a large roller-compacted concrete buttress in the 1990s.*



*A recent photo of water flowing over the Littlerock Dam's spillway.*

## **PWD Board Welcomes New Director for Division 3**

The PWD Board of Directors has appointed Cynthia Sanchez as the new Director representing Division 3. Director Sanchez, a local nurse, fills the seat previously held by former Director Gloria Dizmang, who resigned in late 2023 due to health issues. Her term will end in December.

"I am very excited to be a part of the Palmdale Water District and grateful for the chance to be involved in the community," said Director Sanchez. "I am eager to jump right in, learn about the water industry and contribute to the District's success."

Voting unanimously for her appointment, the Board complimented her enthusiasm and ability to bring a new perspective to the group.

"It is wonderful to have Director Sanchez on the Board," said PWD Board President Kathy Mac Laren-Gomez. "I commend her for her interest and willingness to give her time to make a difference in our community. We look forward to working with her."

## **Thank you, Gloria Dizmang!**



Former PWD Director Gloria Dizmang resigned from her Division 3 seat to focus on her health. She served on the Board from 2011-2015 and 2019-2023. She was instrumental in starting PWD's Rate Assistance Program, which offers a discount on the monthly service fee to seniors, veterans and low-income families. The program has been going strong since 2015. She was passionate about water issues and dedicated to her constituents. Wishing her good health!

# **Pure Water AV Demonstration Facility Groundbreaking Expected this Summer**

Construction of the Antelope Valley's first advanced water treatment demonstration facility is scheduled to start by mid-year on the grounds of PWD.

PWD's Pure Water Antelope Valley (AV) project will boost the region's water supply by running tertiary water, commonly known as recycled water, through micro-filtration filters, reverse osmosis filters and ultraviolet light with advanced oxidation. The treatment will remove 99.99% of bacteria, viruses and ions (like salt). The highly treated water will be injected into the ground before being pumped for potable use.

"It is exciting to see this project 100% designed and ready for construction," said PWD Engineering Manager Scott Rogers. "This is the first big step toward securing the region's water supply. It will be critical to the water future for Palmdale and the surrounding communities."

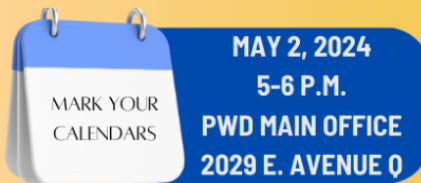
The Pure Water AV Demonstration Facility will be the first advanced water treatment plant in California to use cutting-edge, direct air technology to remove carbon using brine. The \$10 million technology will be installed and paid for by Capture6, a public benefit corporation.

To be constructed on the most easterly portion of PWD's property at Avenue Q and 20th Street East, the 5,500-square-foot Demonstration Facility will house equipment for treating recycled water, a water tasting area and a community room.

The \$17 million Demonstration Facility is required by the state before a full-scale project, estimated to cost \$200 million, can be built. Although the treatment technology is widely used in California and the world, PWD must show state officials that the technology being used purifies the tertiary water before the full-scale Pure Water AV is approved.

The full-scale Pure Water AV will give PWD an additional 5,325 acre-feet of water per year. That equates to an extra 852 million gallons of water for customers, or enough for about 4,500 families of four annually.

The Demonstration Facility is designed by Stantec.



**SPEAKER:**  
PWD Resource and Analytics Supervisor Claudia Bolanos

**Scan the QR code to register.**



Join us to learn more about the 2024 water supply! PWD Resource and Analytic Supervisor Claudia Bolanos will share information about what the water supply is expected to look like for this year. For more details or to sign up, contact Public Affairs Specialist Michelle Trejo at 661-441-5944 or [mtrejo@palmdalewater.org](mailto:mtrejo@palmdalewater.org).

## Calendar:

### Board Meetings

Mondays @ 6 p.m.  
March 11 & 25  
April 8 & 22  
May 13  
PWD Board Room

### Event

**Let's Talk H2O!**  
**2024 Water Supply**  
Thursday, May 2  
@ 5-6 p.m.  
PWD Board Room

### PWD Closure

May 27  
Memorial Day

### Littlerock Dam 100th Anniversary

June 1



## CONTACT US!

**CUSTOMER CARE:** 661-947-4111  
**EMERGENCY LINE:** 661-947-4114  
**FAX:** 661-947-8604  
**WATER-USE EFFICIENCY:**  
661-947-4111 Ext. 5002

**PAY YOUR BILL BY PHONE 24/7:**  
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**PAY NEAR ME:** PAY WITH  
CASH AT ANY 7-ELEVEN OR FAMILY  
DOLLAR LOCATION WITH YOUR PWD  
STATEMENT.

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In celebration of Earth Day, we want students to submit a colored drawing that showcases all the steps of the water cycle.

The drawing must be 8½" x 11" in size and include the artist's name, grade, teacher, and school. The artwork should include a colored drawing, ways to conserve water, and a brief message about the importance of water on Earth Day. Be creative!

The deadline to submit is April 15, 2024, before 4 p.m. Entries will be judged on creativity, neatness, and project execution. First, 2nd and 3rd place prizes will be awarded. The PWD Board of Directors will award the individual students and teachers in each grade group (K-2, 3-4, 5-6 and 7-8) on Monday, April 22, 2024, in the Palmdale Water District Board Room.

Send submissions to [water\\_conservation@palmdalewater.org](mailto:water_conservation@palmdalewater.org). Please include the teacher's name, school, grade level, and school phone number in the email.

\*Only schools within PWD's service boundaries are eligible to participate. Notification letters of winning entries will be mailed to schools by April 17, 2024. All entries become the property of PWD. Only one entry per student.

For more information, contact Water-Use Efficiency Specialist Robert Rosati at 661-441-5943.

### Board of Directors

**Scott Kellerman**, Division 1  
**Don Wilson**, Division 2  
**Cynthia Sanchez**, Division 3  
**Kathy Mac Laren-Gomez**, Division 4  
**Vincent Dino**, Division 5

### Executive Team

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**Adam Ly**  
Assistant General Manager/COO  
**Dennis Hoffmeyer**  
Finance Manager/CFO

The Pipeline is published by Palmdale Water District's Public Affairs Department.

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### Mission Statement

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