

Thank you for your interest in safe and sustainable drinking water for Los Angeles. Actions are underway to ensure resilient, safe water sources for future generations through our local water supply program. An important program component is Pure Water Los Angeles, which will create a new, sustainable supply of drinking water by purifying recycled water. This approach is not new. It's already working safely and successfully elsewhere in Southern California, across the country,

and in other parts of the world. Now it is our turn to make these important water supply transitions in ways that benefit all Angelenos.

This guide explains the purpose of Pure Water Los Angeles and provides a "road map" of the 2025 Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) Master Plan and the LA Sanitation and Environment (LASAN) Hyperion Program Implementation Plan.

Transitioning to Local Water Sources

As Angelenos know, Los Angeles has a dry mediterranean climate. Local rainfall and groundwater resources don't provide enough water to meet all the needs of homes, businesses, schools, and other facilities. Each day, Los Angeles uses about 450 million gallons of water. About 50 percent of our water comes from our own sources, which includes groundwater, recycled water, and water from the Owens Valley and Mono Basin, delivered by the Los Angeles Aqueduct. The remaining half of our water supply is purchased from the Metropolitan Water District, with imports coming from the Colorado River and from Northern California via the State Water Project.

We are starting to see the effects that climate change is having on purchased imports, with predictions of more frequent and potentially far deeper droughts. The Colorado River is overallocated, and seven states are working with the federal government and Basin tribes to quantify and reallocate the water that will be available. In early 2024, California signed onto a three-state agreement that would cut the state's allocation by about 10% in most years. There are also concerns that a major earthquake could damage the infrastructure that delivers imported water. To assure L.A.'s future resilience, we need to further diversify our water supplies.

2022 Wake-up Call

California faced its third consecutive dry year in 2022, with record-low rainfall and the driest winter on record. The State Water Project ran very low as did the L.A. Aqueduct and other supplies that were not able to connect at the northern end of the system. This resulted in Metropolitan Water District issuing an emergency declaration for significant water cuts, which further limited Angelenos to a two-day per week outdoor watering schedule. This was a real wake-up call for Los Angeles to invest in a resilient water portfolio that includes local water supplies like purified recycled water and connections to alternative water sources.

The City of Los Angeles is taking actions now to avoid future water supply problems. Providing safe, affordable water without disruption is the City's top priority; the prosperity of our communities depends on it. **Significantly increasing L.A.'s local drinking water supply is the solution, and the City is committed to increasing local water supplies to 70%.** As we transition to building local supplies, our foundational source, from the Los Angeles Aqueduct, will remain a key part of our diversified water supply portfolio.

This local goal will be accomplished by expanding water conservation strategies, capturing more stormwater runoff before it enters the ocean, treating and cleaning

the groundwater in the San Fernando Valley basin, and creating purified water by recycling wastewater. Pure Water Los Angeles is part of the City's broader effort to maximize recycled water. Other recycled water efforts include an ongoing partnership with LASAN on the Groundwater Replenishment Project at Donald C. Tillman Water Reclamation Plant, the Los Angeles-Glendale Water 1 Reclamation Plant, and the Terminal Island Water Reclamation Plant.

Purified Recycled Water – Safe and Sustainable

For decades, water utilities across Southern California and around the world have been treating and recycling wastewater for irrigation and other non-drinking uses. This same recycled water can be further purified so that it can be safely added to local drinking water supplies. Purified recycled water is created by using multiple proven technologies to yield water that is clean and safe. It is continuously monitored and tested to ensure that it complies with all health and safety standards. All recycled water must meet stringent health standards set by the California Department of Public Health, the State Water Resources Control Board – Division of Drinking Water and the United States Environmental Protection Agency. Purified recycled water has been a safe and important drinking water source in Orange County since 2008. San Diego is now building a purified recycled water system, and purified recycled water systems recently became operational in Monterey and in San Bernardino Counties.

The State of California has rigorously studied the treatment technology for creating purified recycled water that meets or exceeds public health and safety standards. Regulations for using purified recycled water for groundwater replenishment have been in place since 2014. Additionally, after years of research and study, the State Division of Drinking Water developed regulations for directly mixing purified recycled water into drinking water. These regulations had extensive review by and input from a variety of experts, stakeholders, and the public, and became effective in 2024. Continuous monitoring, testing, and multiple proven treatment processes are required by the regulations to protect public health and the environment.

Announcing Pure Water Los Angeles

Los Angeles is committed to making purified recycled water part of the solution for achieving a safe, reliable water supply for future generations. Studies to explore options, timing, and infrastructure investments have been conducted by LASAN and LADWP. LASAN treats wastewater and LADWP manages drinking water supplies and distribution to customers, including ensuring compliance with regulations. LASAN and LADWP have a long-standing history of successful collaboration on multiple water reuse projects and programs for non-drinking beneficial uses, paving the way for their successful collaboration on purified recycled water as a new drinking water source.

LASAN and LADWP collaboratively launched Pure Water Los Angeles in 2024 to integrate their planning and studies for Pure Water Los Angeles and partner on implementation. Aligning the City's resources to effectively and efficiently implement Pure Water Los Angeles is accomplished through the involvement of the Climate Cabinet-Water Resiliency group, which includes the City of Los Angeles Mayor's Office, LASAN Management, Board of Public Works Commissioners, LADWP Management, and LADWP Board of Commissioners.

Pure Water Los Angeles is a long-term program created to develop a new, local water supply by producing purified recycled water from wastewater treated at the Hyperion Water Reclamation Plant located in Playa Del Rey. While many planning sessions and studies have been completed, much more work, testing and outreach will occur in upcoming years. Implementation will also take time as existing treatment and distribution facilities are modified and new infrastructure is built. It is estimated that up to 42 miles of new distribution pipelines and over 65 acres of real estate will be needed across the city. While Pure Water Los Angeles could eventually provide up to 230 million gallons per day of purified recycled water, building the system in phases will expedite water deliveries and allow for gradual and manageable rate adjustments. When completed, the first phase could produce up to 50 million gallons per day of purified recycled water. Other benefits include reduced impacts of water supply disruptions from

VISION

Increase and optimize the City’s local supplies and support the transition to 70 percent local water by maximizing the production of purified recycled water as part of a diversified water portfolio in an affordable manner to mitigate risks from climate change and ensure an equitable and resilient future for the region.

MISSION

Partner across the region to build and operate a worldclass purified recycled water system to replenish local groundwater basins and support future direct potable reuse applications.

GOALS

- Maximize reuse of treated wastewater from Hyperion Water Reclamation Plant to create a new and sustainable local water supply
- Construct new and upgrade existing city’s infrastructure in a cost-effective and responsible manner
- Urgently implement water strategies to diversify Los Angeles’ water supply portfolio
- Increase the resiliency, reliability, and sustainability of the city’s wastewater and water supply systems
- Protect Santa Monica Bay and enhance ecosystem health across the LA Basin
- Provide community & equity benefits

earthquakes and other natural disasters, and improved water quality in Santa Monica Bay. The Pure Water Los Angeles Program will add purified recycled water to the drinking water that LADWP delivers to multiple locations throughout the city.

First Steps Are Accomplished: Hyperion Program Implementation Plan Pure Water Los Angeles Master Plan

In 2019, LASAN and LADWP initiated a collaborative partnership for Pure Water Los Angeles, beginning with developing complementary planning documents. In early 2025, LASAN completed the Hyperion Program Implementation Plan and LADWP completed the Master Plan. Together, these two documents establish the initial planning framework for Pure Water Los Angeles as described below, including phasing and timing. Both demonstrate that the first phase of 50 million gallons per day of purified recycled water could be available by 2040.

Hyperion Program Implementation Plan

The Program Implementation Plan focuses on the required modifications at the Hyperion Water Reclamation Plant to accomplish production of

purified recycled water as a drinking water source while maintaining active permit-compliant wastewater operations. This plan was initiated by LASAN, which owns and operates Hyperion and will manage future modifications within the plant. The Program Implementation Plan establishes the technical approach for modifying Hyperion’s treatment processes for purified recycled water. The plan’s contents include a detailed engineering analysis of the potential treatment processes, the layout of new facilities at the Hyperion site, necessary support infrastructure, cost, and phasing. Importantly, the Program Implementation Plan confirms how a phased approach at Hyperion can expedite production of purified recycled water for the City. LASAN referred to the program as *Hyperion 2035* in previous studies conducted for the Program Implementation Plan.

Pure Water Los Angeles Master Plan

The Pure Water Los Angeles Master Plan focuses on key concepts that include the treatment processes that purify recycled water to drinking water standards, and the distribution of the purified recycled water to customers. The final treatment process and the distribution of water will be managed by LADWP and the Master Plan was developed by LADWP. LADWP has referred to the program as *Operation NEXT* in previous studies prepared for the Master Plan.

The Master Plan addresses the City’s existing and future water needs and explores multiple concepts for the location and engineering of conveyance, treatment, and distribution facilities to implement Pure Water Los Angeles. The Master Plan also explores integrating Pure Water Los Angeles with other regional water reuse programs, such as Metropolitan Water District’s Pure Water Southern California Program. Other detailed analyses cover topics like climate resiliency, potential job creation, and costs. The Master Plan also provides a “road map” outlining activities and evaluations needed to advance the Pure Water Los Angeles Program.

Programmatic Environmental Impact Report

In 2025, preparation of the Programmatic Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) for Pure Water Los Angeles will commence, pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act. The PEIR process will assess the potential environmental impacts that could occur from implementation of Pure Water Los Angeles and will lay out reasonable alternatives for a variety of aspects of the project. The impact assessment will cover both the construction and the long-term operation of new facilities and infrastructure, and the long-term operation of the program. LADWP and LASAN will conduct detailed technical evaluations to support development of the PEIR and of the Pure Water Los Angeles Program, as identified in the Program Implementation Plan and the Master Plan. Once completed, the Final PEIR will inform decisions about the specific paths to take for implementation of Pure Water Los Angeles.

There will be two primary opportunities for public involvement during the PEIR process. The first opportunity is during the environmental scoping process which is scheduled for late spring 2025. The input received during scoping will guide preparation of the Draft PEIR. When the Draft PEIR is completed, it will be distributed for public review and comment. All comments received during the Draft PEIR public review period will be responded to prior to completion of the Final PEIR.

Equity Roadmap

Equity is a foundational principle of Pure Water Los Angeles. A series of studies and community engagement events will kick off in 2025 to identify actions to ensure that Los Angeles’ underserved communities benefit from and are not disproportionately impacted by the Pure Water Los Angeles program. The scope of work for the equity roadmap is still under development. Community engagement will be done in collaboration with community-based organizations using culturally-sensitive techniques and in multiple languages to create inclusive, meaningful process. The Programmatic Environmental Impact Report for Pure Water Los Angeles will also help to inform the development of the equity roadmap for Pure Water Los Angeles.

Community Engagement

What’s important to you? What do you want to know more about? We want to know!

LADWP and LASAN are committed to inclusive community engagement during all phases of the Pure Water Los Angeles Program. The input received from community members and other stakeholders as part of earlier water studies and plans has helped to inform the initial Pure Water Los Angeles concepts. Successfully moving Pure Water Los Angeles forward to implementation stages relies on continuous community engagement, especially with communities that have been historically affected by infrastructure development. The City will continue to provide opportunities to learn more, ask questions, raise concerns, and provide input and feedback on Pure Water Los Angeles. The public’s voice will also be sought through partnerships with community groups, elected officials, environmental leaders, and other stakeholders. To sign up for announcements about engagement activities and program updates, go here: purewaterlosangeles@ladwp.com.



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