PURE WATER LOS ANGELES

Community Meetings

May 28 and June 7, 2025

Summary

Prepared for
City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power and
City of Los Angeles Sanitation and Environment

Prepared by
Kearns & West

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Overview

Pure Water Los Angeles is a transformative drinking water supply program being collaboratively developed by Los Angeles Sanitation and Environment (LASAN) and the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP). In late May and early June 2025, LASAN and LADWP hosted two virtual community meetings to share information with community members, answer questions, and seek input. This summary documents the meeting purpose, attendance, and format and the questions and input provided by the participants.

Meeting Purpose

The meetings were guided by several objectives, as follows:

- Introduce Pure Water Los Angeles, including what it is, why it is needed, and the major components.
- Inform people about the environmental review process and opportunities to participate, and other upcoming Pure Water Los Angeles involvement opportunities.
- Provide opportunities for community members to ask questions and receive answers and information.
- Collect input on ideas for future meeting topics and for future engagement and outreach methods.

Notifications and Invitation Process

LADWP and LASAN used the following methods (in English/Spanish) for inviting community members and other stakeholders to the meetings:

- Community e-newsletters
- Social media campaign
- Print advertisement
- Media advisories
- Website
- In-person booths at community events

Schedule, Attendance, and Languages

Two meetings were conducted, using the same format for consistency and equity, on different days of the week and different times to increase accessibility. The schedule and community member attendance are noted below:

- Wednesday, May 28, 7-8:30 pm, approximately 25 attendees
- Saturday, June 7th, 10-11:30 am, approximately 30 attendees

Both meetings were conducted in English with Spanish interpretation and translation. The Zoom registration form included an option for people to request other languages, resulting in Mandarin being added to the June 7th meeting.

Format

Each meeting began with the facilitator welcoming the participants and providing information about the meeting agenda and ways to participate. Next, representatives of the Pure Water Los Angeles program management team provided a community-oriented presentation about Pure Water Los Angeles. This was followed by a question-and-answer session and a brief discussion activity.

Presentation Overview

An important component of the community meetings was the introduction to Pure Water Los Angeles, including important background information on existing water quality and Los Angeles' water supply sources, wastewater treatment system, and the need for increasing local water supplies to secure water reliability for the future. Please see the Appendix for the presentation slides.

A recap of the presentation follows:

Water Quality and Supply Sources

The presentation began with an overview on how LADWP ensures drinking water quality, highlighting various sampling and testing processes, and policies like the Safe Drinking Water Act that ensure the best water quality is provided to customers. Los Angeles' water supply sources were then discussed, including a map depicting historical imports, imported purchased water, and local water supplies. Factors that could impact Los Angeles' water supply in the future include climate change, droughts, extreme weather events, and major earthquakes. The Pure Water Los Angeles program will create a significant new source of local water that will be more resilient and drought-resistant.

Wastewater System

The next part of the presentation focused on the management and treatment of wastewater by LASAN. The LASAN system collects all of Los Angeles' wastewater, and the Hyperion Water Reclamation Plant treats an average of 270 million gallons per day. The Hyperion Water Reclamation Plant utilizes a three-step treatment process (preliminary, primary, and secondary), and releases approximately 230 million gallons of highly treated wastewater into the Pacific Ocean every day. The team emphasized that this is a significant amount of water that can be repurposed for beneficial use to alleviate possible future water supply issues and to improve ocean discharge water quality by employing advanced purification processes.

What is Purified Recycled Water?

The team then turned to introduce Pure Water Los Angeles. They started by first highlighting that purified recycled water and advanced purified water programs are underway across the country and are already underway or being planned in places like Orange County, Texas, and Florida. The goal of Pure Water Los Angeles is to increase and optimize the City's local supplies and create a diverse portfolio to ensure an equitable and resilient future for the region. Two different approaches are under consideration for Pure Water Los Angeles: Indirect Potable

Reuse (IPR) and Direct Potable Reuse (DPR). They explained that the Pure Water Los Angeles program is analyzing the best approach, highlighting that both approaches are safe and effective and will help secure a new water source for LA.

A key component of Pure Water Los Angeles, the team explained, is the conveyance of the purified water from Hyperion Water Reclamation Plant to drinking water treatment and distribution facilities. The Pure Water Los Angeles Master Plan identifies several conveyance routes, which are currently under study. The many benefits of the Pure Water Los Angeles program for the region were then shared, such as safeguarding water availability and protecting Santa Monica Bay. Another key component of Pure Water Los Angeles is community engagement to continue to share information and updates with community members and obtain input that will help inform implementation.

Major Themes

Major themes identified from participant questions and input and comments are noted below. Themes are listed alphabetically, and the order does not indicate prioritization or relevance.

- Address water safety and health concerns by detailing the treatment process and protection against pollutants and contaminants.
- Consider the energy demands on the power grid to transport water throughout the region.
- Detailed plans for capturing, recycling, and purifying stormwater.
- Detail the timeline, costs, and risks of the Pure Water Los Angeles program.
- Emphasize the regional benefits of Pure Water Los Angeles.
- Engage community using traditional media like radio, by hosting tours of Hyperion, and by presenting at schools.

Community Input

Questions and Answers

Questions and comments raised by the participants after the presentation are summarized below.

Question: There are a lot of social benefits listed, but it doesn't include critical benefits for water, water supply security, and risks like disruption to Bay Delta, which would be catastrophic.
Response: The Pure Water Los Angeles program can help address those concerns and secure a safe water supply in the future.

Question: Have you quantified the level and demand of our power grid to transport water northbound?
Response: The upward movement of water to the filtration plant will require pump stations and demand on our power grid. We have analyzed this and can provide additional information with specific data in the future.

Question: Are there any plans in the future to recycle and purify storm water?
Response: LADWP has a plan to increase the capacity of storm water capture. There are multiple projects happening to increase capacity of water capture, especially in the San Fernando Valley. Groundwater replenishment is also important for Pure Water Los Angeles.

Question: Pollutants have entered our soil. Water is being stored in underground basins and soil is highly contaminated in Los Angeles. Where does the treatment of pesticides and other contaminations happen in the process? How do you quantify the risks and at what stage will those contaminants be treated?
Response: Adjustments can be made to our treatment process to address those concerns. Additional removal, including reverse osmosis, helps remove those contaminants. Additional steps include ultraviolet and advanced oxidation, which break down harmful chemicals in the water on a microscopic level. On the wastewater side, there are multiple steps to removing pollutants from water. Permits are needed and there are limits on what is allowed to be stored, and they are revised if new contaminants are identified. For example, LADWP conducted a six-year study in the San Fernando Valley to help identify any chemical contaminants near the underwater basins, and similar studies and investigations are conducted in other basins to address chemical concerns.

Comment: In addition to the advanced techniques mentioned, there is the groundwater buffer and techniques for treating water as it is removed.

Comment: We have a separate community program that aims to transform our power to 100% renewable energy. I have confidence in LADWP that the power will be there.
Response: The team has conducted an energy analysis, there was an operational energy demand, from treating the water to transporting it. But the overall goal of having a safe and resilient water supply in the future is beneficial.

Question: What is LADWP's position on the Delta tunnel project? I'm concerned with the impacts on habitat and Tribal lands.
Response: Currently we are supporting projects that will provide reliability for our customers. We are evaluating all the studies being conducted.

Question: What plans does the program have to reduce the strain on water supply in the Owens Valley? You mention reducing reliance on purchased imports but what about the historical imports?
Response: Since the 1980s, because of environmental mitigation, LADWP has reduced its dependence on Owens Valley by half. Essentially, Owens Valley gets their water first and extra supply is transferred to LADWP. In terms of future reliability and sustainability to the region's water supply, aqueduct supplies need to remain on the table over the long term. There can be impacts to ratepayers if other current supplies are disrupted or if the supply only relies on Pure Water Los Angeles.

Question: In lieu of IPR and DPR City systems, why isn't there an in-neighborhood/community wastewater treatment and use in consideration, to avoid the larger systems for IPR and DPR?

Response: There is motivation to do community/neighborhood recycling. However, it would be difficult to manage and analyze individual recycling of water based on communities and neighborhoods. Additional oversight would be needed for these approaches. The investment in Pure Water Los Angeles is a collaboration for a regional expansion of water supply.

Question: What is the timeline of the Pure Water Los Angeles program? When will analysis of direct versus indirect reuse be finished? When will decisions be made about which paths to pursue? When will construction begin?
Response: We are still evaluating and receiving input for which approach will be the best. In terms of construction, for IPR, the first phase would be done as soon as 2040. DPR, the second phase, would begin in 2046 at the earliest.

Question: Please share news about advancements in energy efficiency for treating and conveying IPR and DPR. These are high-load treatments.
Response: Energy consumption is a standing question. There are advancements being made in the treatment space for conveyance. Technology has improved, and many of the processes have been utilized before, with a combination of new techniques. Digestion of solids at Hyperion generates energy, and as we move forward, any new techniques at Hyperion will continue to be powered on site.

Question: What plan is contemplated to implement this program with existing "private" water companies? How would a small water company engage the system in terms of cost and what's passed on to customers and developers?
Response: We are committed to serving water to the City as a whole. If there is a benefit to connecting with smaller city utilities, we would look to engage with them. The City does not have private companies that distribute water. When we talk about partnerships that we are exploring, there is interest in replenishing underground water, and we would work with larger supply agencies, such as Metropolitan Water District and Water Replenishment District. The cost of service and buildout is detailed in the Master Plan.

Question: How are pharmaceuticals removed from wastewater to make this recycled water safe for humans and animals to consume? What long-term studies have been done regarding the health implications of communities consuming this water versus the water we currently enjoy?
Response: Wastewater treatment is good at removing solids and large debris, and it includes a biological process. Pharmaceuticals are removed through advanced technologies, including ultraviolet radiation, reverse osmosis, and other steps that provide additional layers of removal. There is a current pilot project looking at contaminants in our current wastewater system, to focus on what exactly is being generated in LA. Both departments heavily regulate the quality of water; it is required. There are regulations for purified recycled water, for both IPR and DPR, to ensure the best quality.

Question: Can you comment on fluoridated and chlorinated additives to the water system? How does that play in the "treatment" process? Are there medical conditions to consider for the elderly and/or organ sensitive issues (liver, bladder, kidney, skin)?

Response: The Water Quality Division makes sure that requirements are met and that water is safe to drink. There are regulations for purified recycled water, for both IPR and DPR, to ensure the best quality.

Question: Why doesn't LADWP provide an app-based smart real-time interface for use, leakage, and goal targeting metrics, like small jurisdictions such as Sierra Madre use, in lieu of a flume device?
Response: LADWP is looking at piloting something like that. LADWP has an extensive metering and coverage area, and it would take time.

Additional Comments and Questions Entered in Meeting Chat

The following questions could not be addressed by the project team due to time limitations. Questions have been lightly edited for clarity and consistency.

- In the event of an emergency need for water, is there a guide for use of on-property pool and or spa water?
- Is there a reason why we don't use river smart bladder dams or water locks in LA to capture and then siphon off water and distribution?
- Would energizing and pressurizing plans influence a modular concept? Substations throughout areas to stabilize water pressure?
- Seems that the pharmaceutical question is like herding cats. Molecular break-ups could reform/attach to make other compounds, then it's likely the consumer endures a spout that will have to have some final determinant to ensure purity? Is this not that scenario heightened with recycled water for drinking standards?
- Given Pure Water Los Angeles involves so many different organizations, how does the org chart of the coordinating entity look? Who ultimately is going to be responsible at the top?

Input Questions

Participants were guided through two questions relating to engagement opportunities for the Pure Water Los Angeles program. The questions posed are listed below, along with responses for each question, which have been lightly edited for clarity and consistency.

Question 1: What other topics would you like us to cover or discuss in community meetings? Are there specific aspects of the project – or related issues – you'd like to learn more about or provide input on?

- Sewer Waste Program
- The average cost as it develops
- I would love to see more details about direct vs indirect reuse, relative benefits, costs, safety, as studies progress.
- Thank you, this is a huge project. Make sure you use OCWD as a model, no short cuts.

- Environmental effects of imported water (both historical and purchased) and why recycling water is crucial to helping affected areas recover
- How will the program be funded? How much will water and wastewater rates be increased because of the program?
- A real/viable CEQA Alternative, for community and neighborhood decentralized solutions, even if it requires eminent domain
- Continue updates on comparison with San Diego and Orange County efforts.
- Plan to integrate program into school system via projects like 4H club or science club and school wide demonstrations

Question 2: How can we optimize the number and diversity of community members involved in Pure Water Los Angeles?

- Include representatives from each neighborhood council.
- Ask for volunteers to be part of a steering committee.
- Advertise with neighborhood councils, social media, the Nextdoor app, Councilperson emails to the constituents, and lastly door to door solicitation or billboards.
- Use commercial television special broadcasts for all residents and inform them about upcoming projects.
- Advertise on radio about these events, AM radio rocks.
- Tours of facilities are a great way to help people see and understand the process in person.
- Use visuals via website and real time with representative either at school or remote to address questions and provide further explanation. Tours too.
- We'll want to schedule a future presentation for the San Fernando Valley Climate Reality Project.

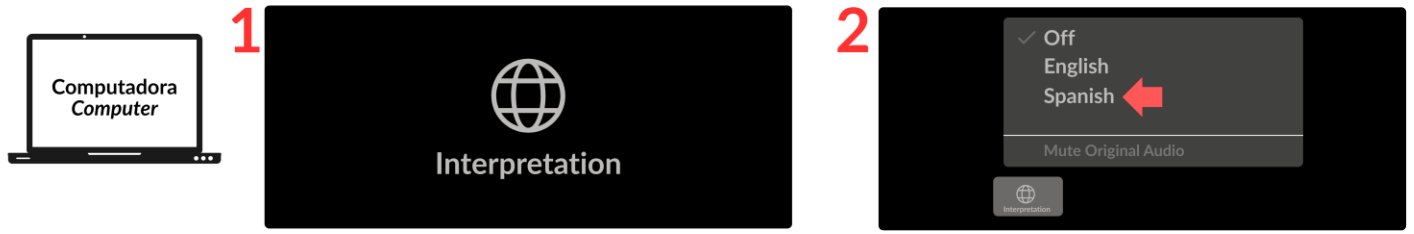
Appendix

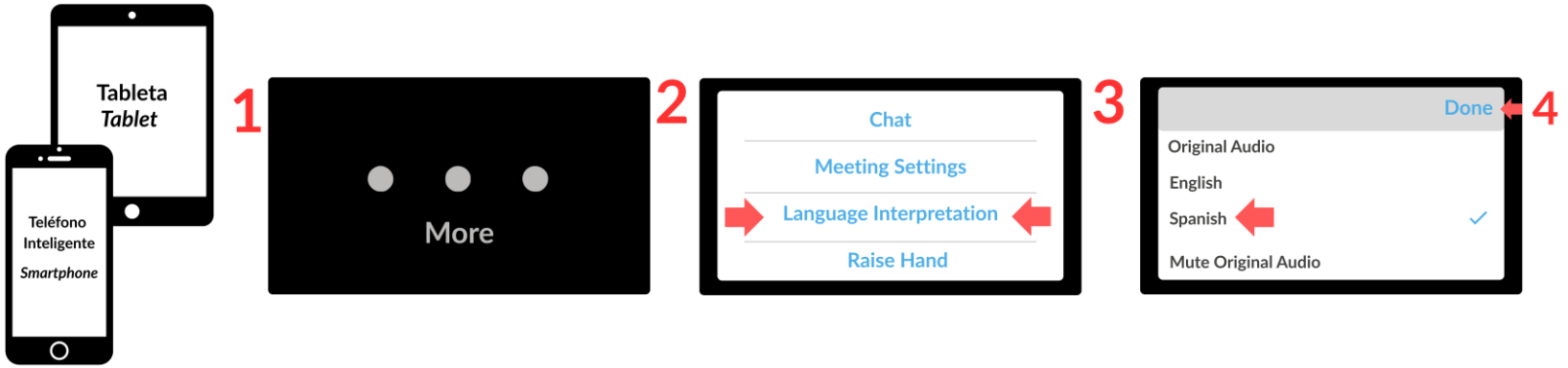
Presentation

Community Meetings

Interpretation

This event provides interpretation services. Using the icon, please select your preferred language.





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Welcome!

Thank you for your participation

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Purpose of Today's Meeting

1

Introduce Pure Water Los Angeles

2

Hear your questions and provide answers

3

Collect input on ideas for future meeting topics and how to connect with all of LA's communities

PURE WATER LOS ANGELES

What is Pure Water Los Angeles?

Creating a new, sustainable supply of drinking water by purifying recycled water.

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Agenda

1. Welcome, Housekeeping and Introductions
2. Meeting Purpose and Agenda
3. Pure Water Los Angeles Presentation
4. Questions for the Team
5. Input Questions for Attendees
6. Next Steps and Wrap Up

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Guides for Productive Community Meeting

- Share your perspectives, ideas, and questions
- Please be mutually respectful
- Enjoy this as a learning opportunity
- Commit to everyone having time to participate

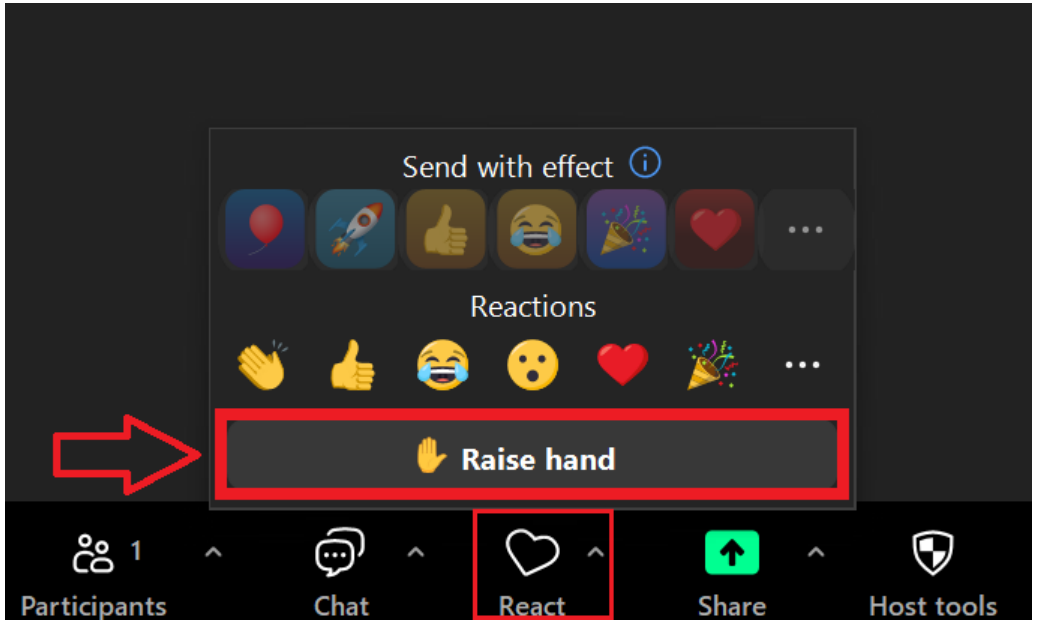
Participating Using Zoom

During the Presentation

- Respond to pop-up questions

During Q&A

- Raise Hand
- Q/A feature



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A Reminder…

This meeting is being recorded.

The recording will stop before Questions and Answers begin.

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Pop-Up Question 1

When you think of the drinking water supply for your home, what is most important to you?

A. Healthy

B. High quality

C. Tastes good

D. Always available

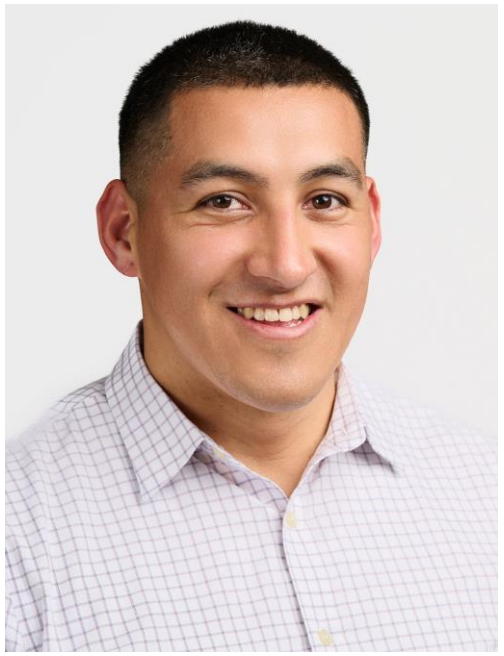
E. All of the above

PURE WATER LOS ANGELES

Introductions

Christina Jones
Pure Water Los Angeles (LASAN)
Program Management

Ben Tanimoto
Pure Water Los Angeles (LADWP)
Engineering Manager of Program Planning



Ricardo Parra
Pure Water Los Angeles (LADWP)
Program Planning

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Today We'll Talk About

- Where our water comes from.
- Issues potentially affecting future water supplies.
- What we're doing about it!

Pop-up Question 2

Where does most of our drinking water in Los Angeles come from today?

A. The L.A. River

B. Groundwater stored beneath the City

C. The Pacific Ocean

D. Stormwater collected in city reservoirs

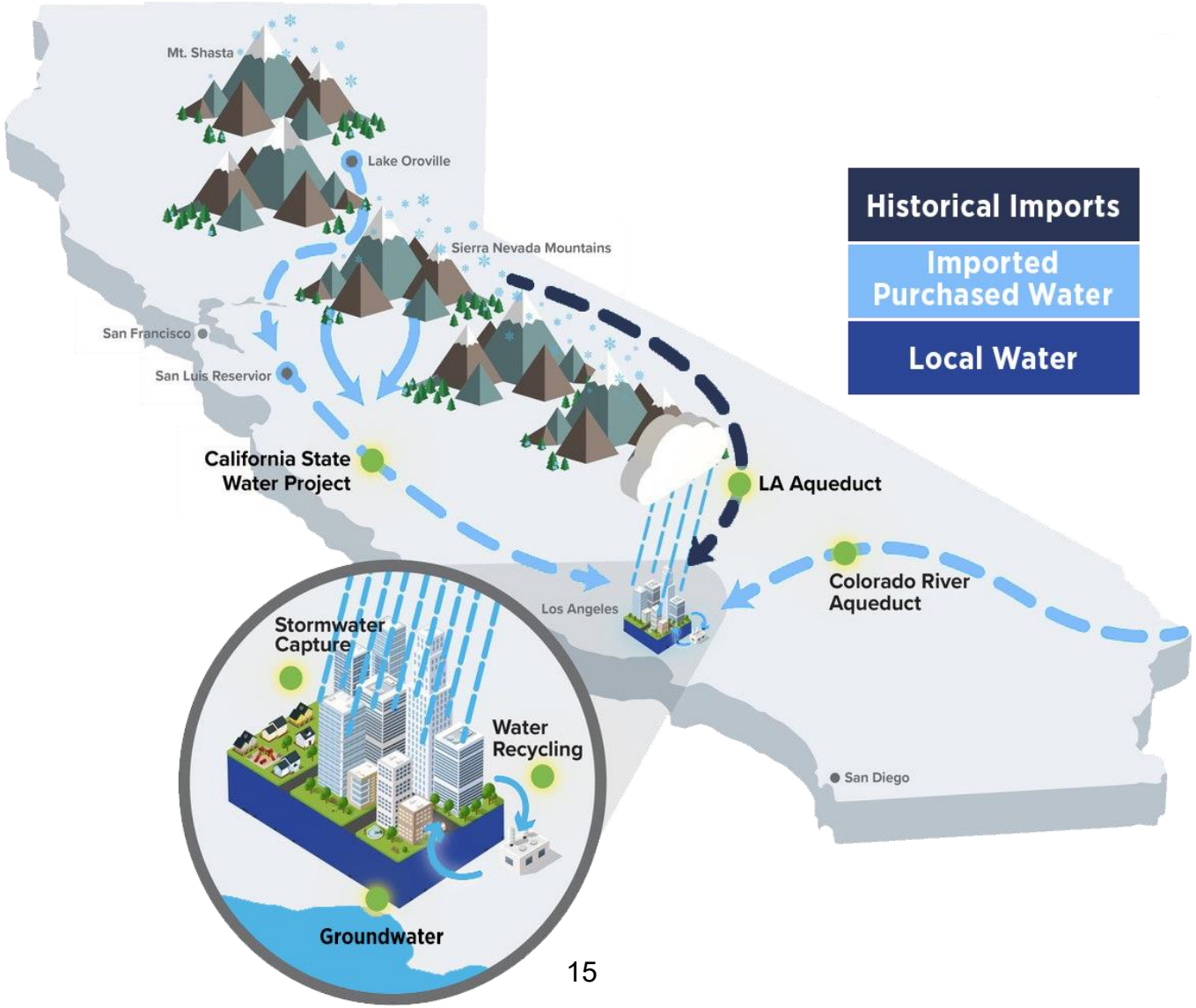
E. Distant sources like the Colorado River and Northern California

Water Quality is Our Top Priority

How Drinking Water Quality is Ensured

- Water Quality sampling and testing
- Safe Drinking Water Act
- USEPA and CA-Division of Drinking Water
- Annual Customer Confidence Report
- Testing at Customer Sites

Water Supply Sources



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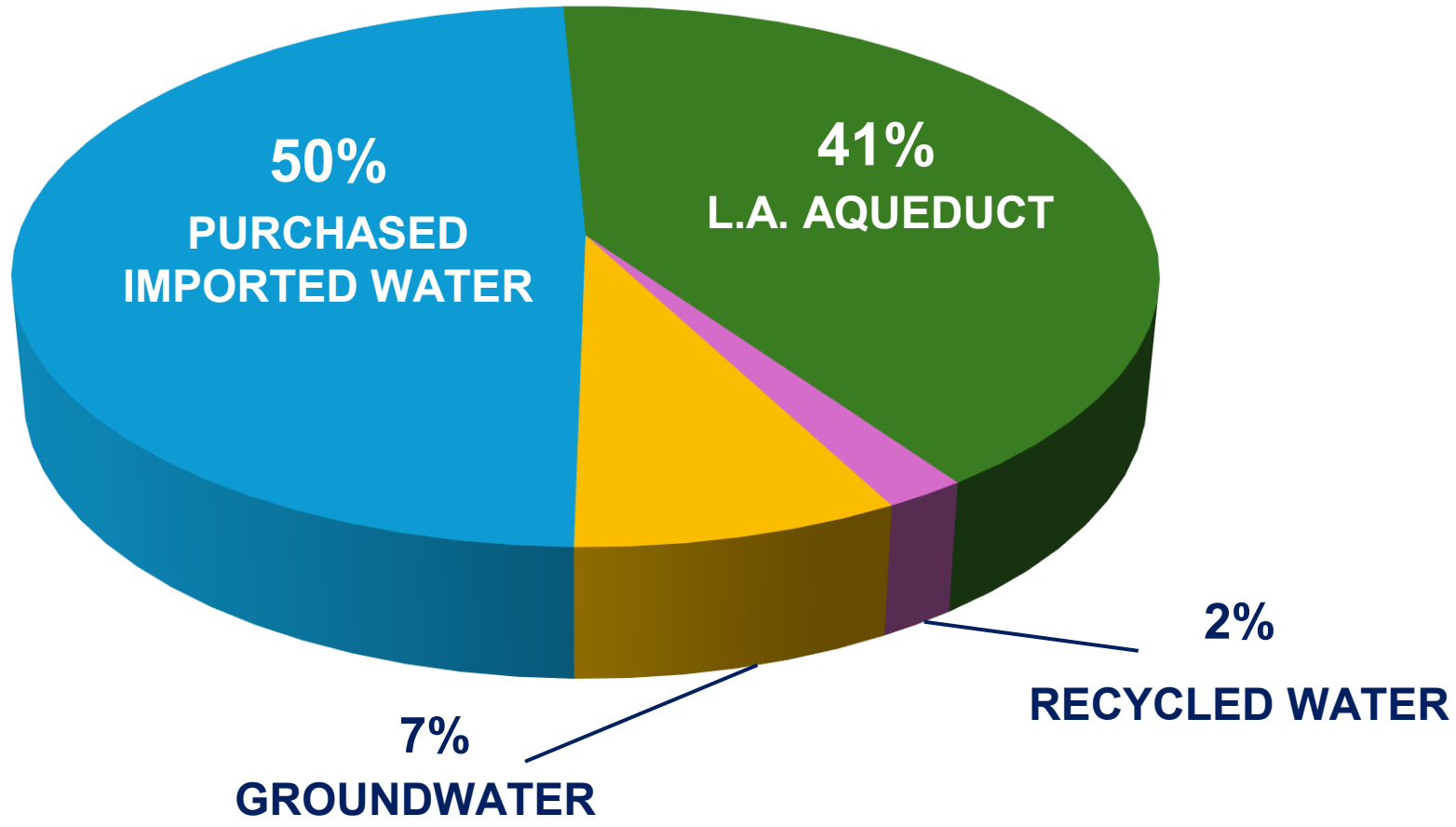
Water Supply Sources

5-year average, FY 2020-2024



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Pop-Up Question 3

Which of the following could reduce our water supply in Los Angeles if we don't take action now?

A. Climate change
B. Drought
C. A major earthquake
D. Extreme weather events
E. Changes in rain and snow received in the
F. All of the above

Pop-Up Question 4

Where does the water go after being used in our homes and businesses?
(write-in answer format)

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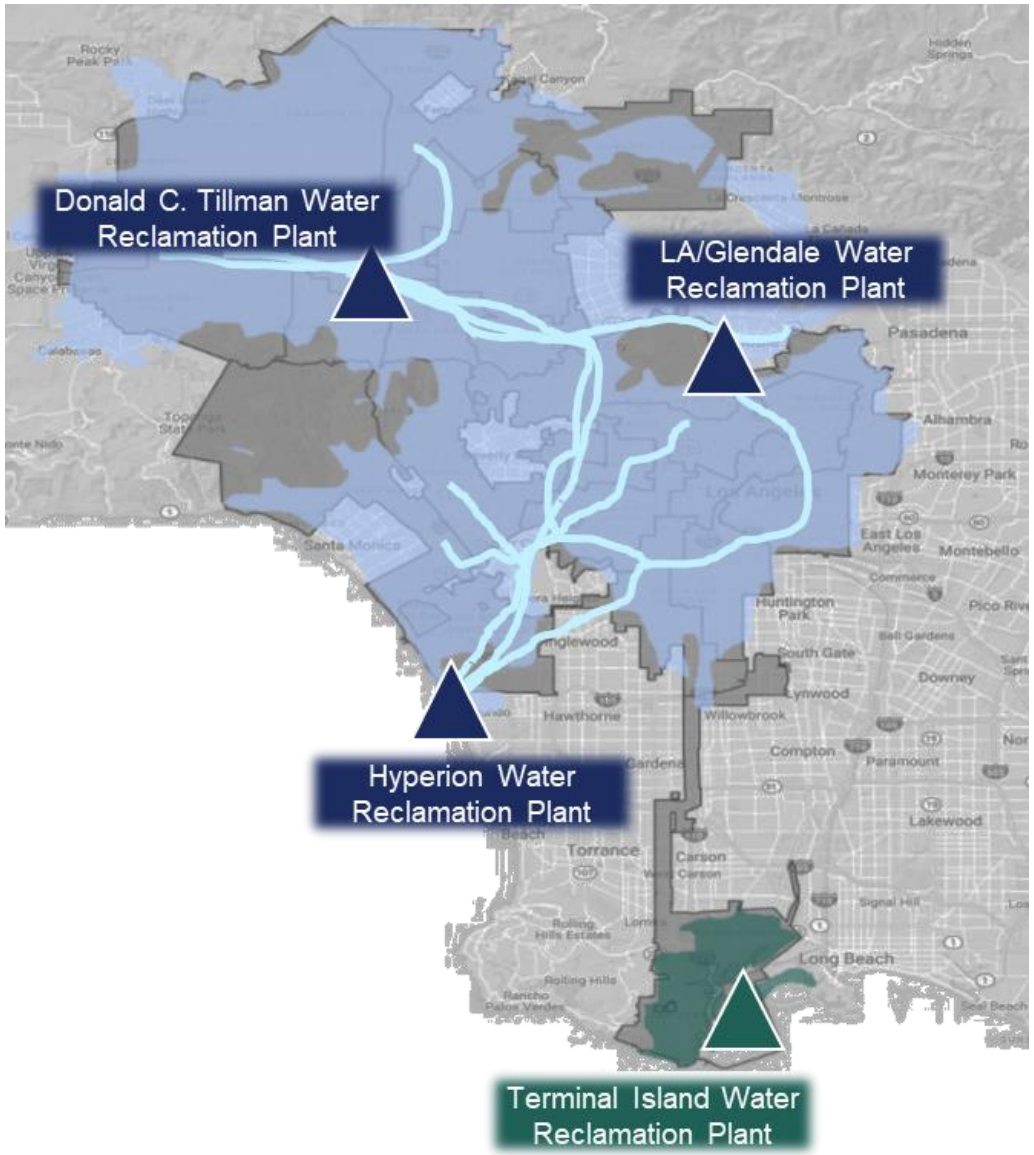
Wastewater System Overview



- 4.7 million people
- 600 square miles
- 29 contract agencies
- 6,700 miles of sewers
- Hyperion Water Reclamation Plant treats an average of 270 million gallons per day

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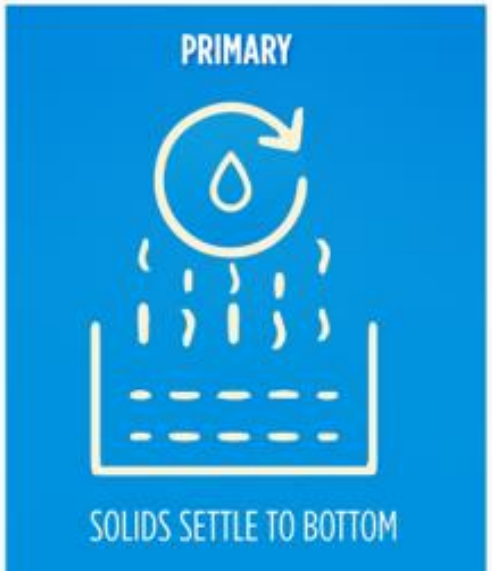
Treatment Process - Hyperion Water Reclamation Plant

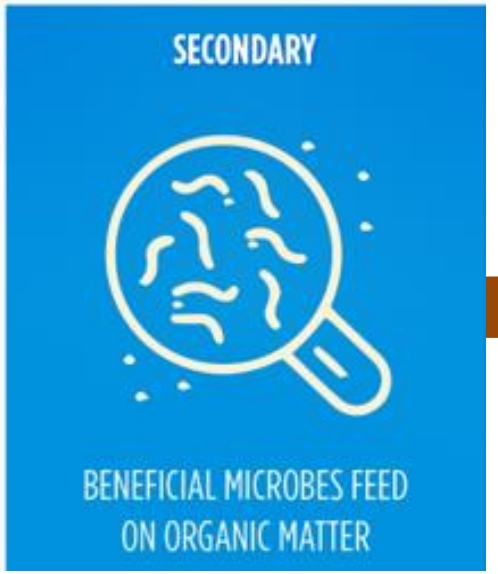
Wastewater is treated at Hyperion and discharged to the ocean

Raw wastewater (influent)

Bar screens remove large debris, such as wood, rags and plastics.



Solid materials settle to the bottom and are removed. Floatable materials, oil, and grease are skimmed from the top and removed.



Microorganisms (bugs) and pure oxygen, consume organic materials. Microorganism biomass settles to the bottom and is removed.

Highly Treated Wastewater (secondary effluent) discharged to ocean 5-miles offshore

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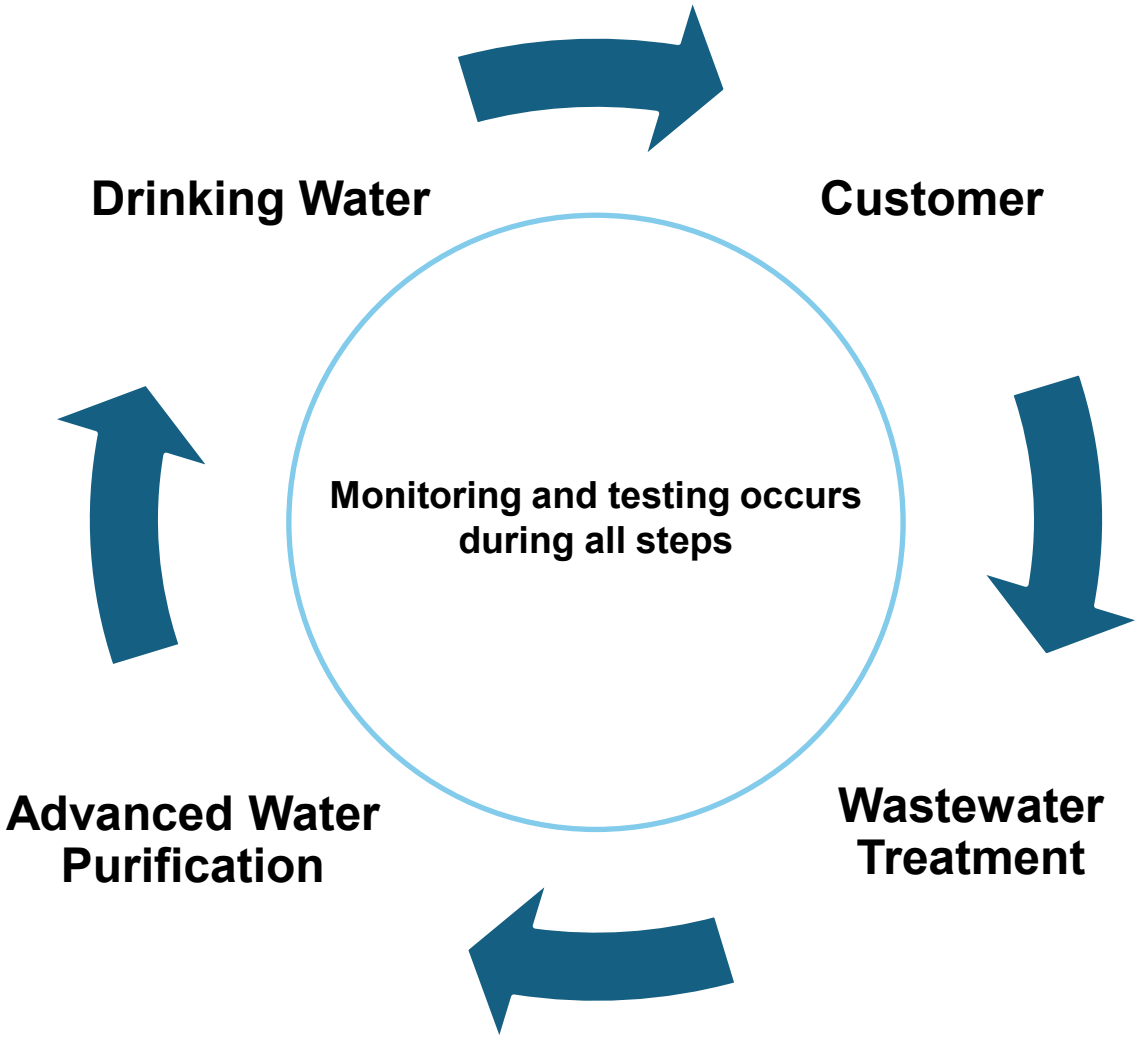
What is Purified Recycled Water?



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Two Departments Deliver One Major City Initiative

LA Sanitation & Environment
Source Water

+

LA Department of Water and Power
Finished Water & Distribution

=

Pure Water Los Angeles

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Purified Recycled Water

National Advanced Purified Water Program

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Pure Water Los Angeles

Vision

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

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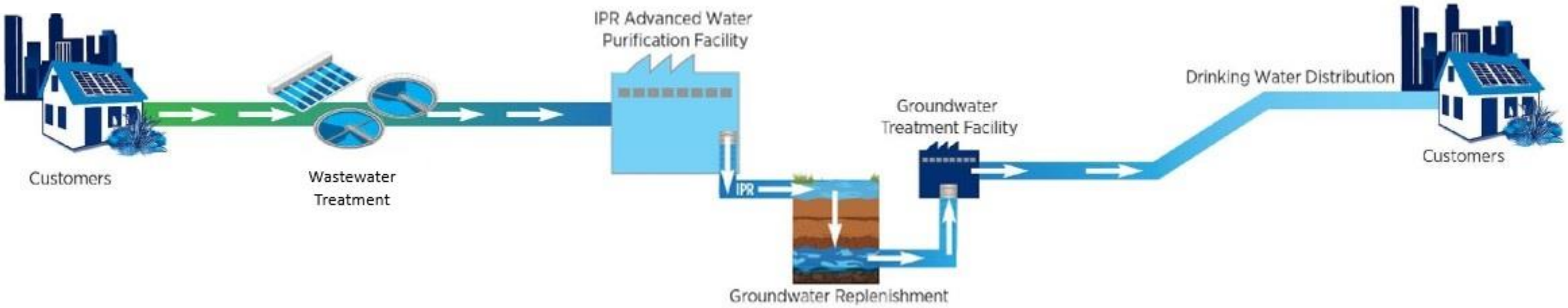
Indirect Potable Reuse (IPR



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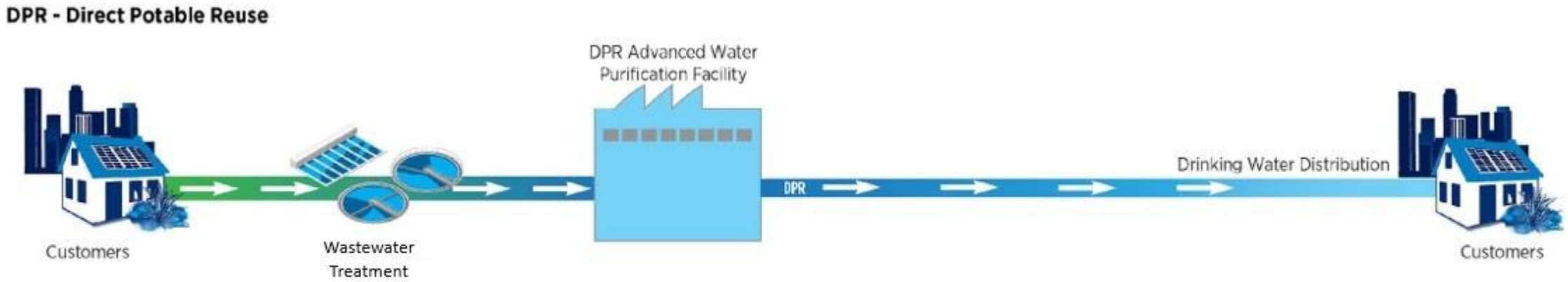
Direct Potable Reuse (DPR)



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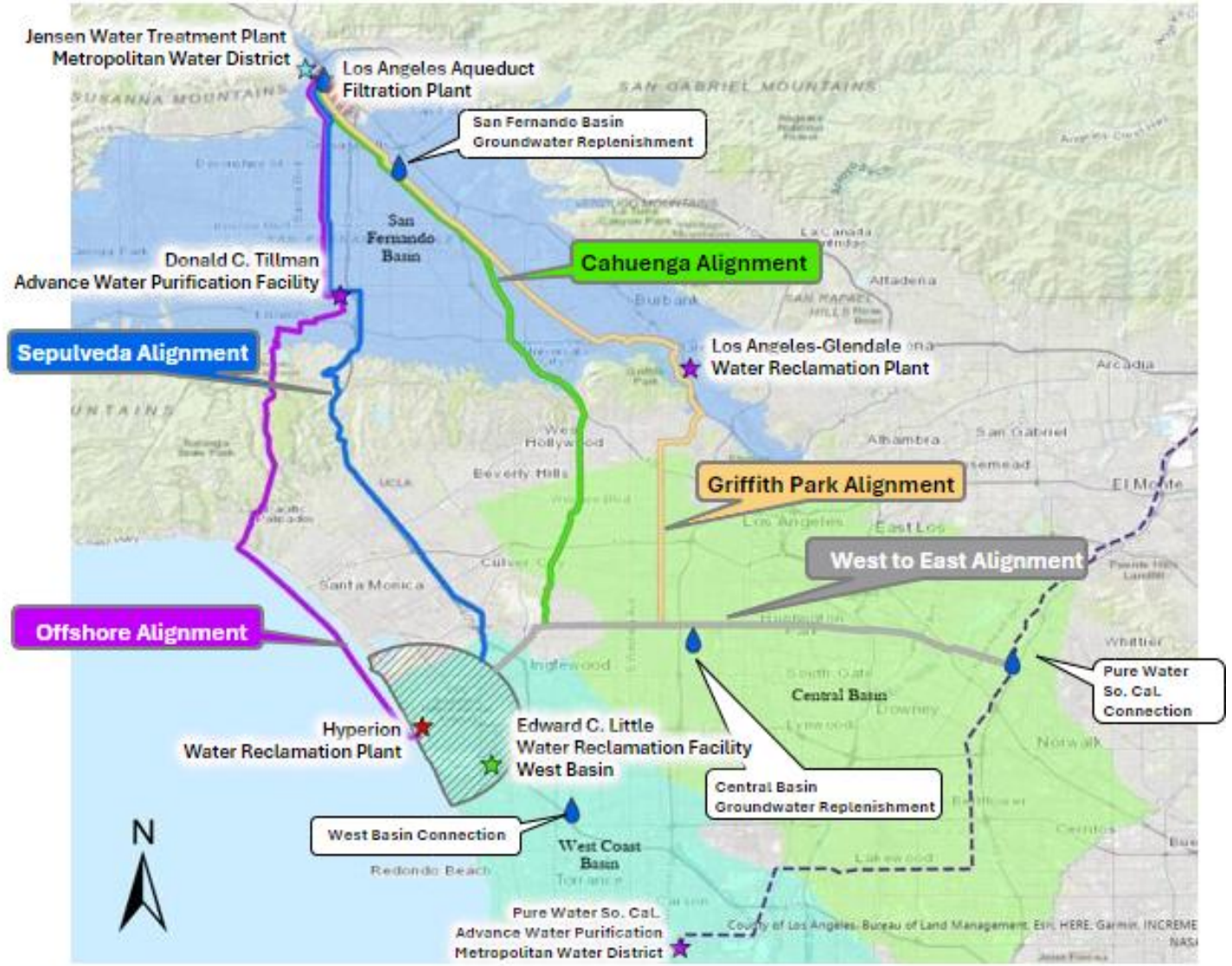
Pure Water Los Angeles

Proposed Water Conveyance Routes



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How Pure Water Los Angeles Benefits You, Your Community, and the Environment

- **Equity**: Invests in communities
- **Climate Justice**: Safeguards water availability for all Angelenos
- **Environmental:** Protects the Santa Monica Bay
- **Workforce Development:** Generates good paying sustaining jobs
- **Economic:** Maximizes cost-effective production
- **Transparency:** Ensures stakeholders are well-informed
- **Partnerships:** Leverages regional participation

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Continuous Community Engagement Is Essential

We will:

- Go to communities—events, festivals, and local meetings /
- Conduct more meetings like this one
- Send information to Neighborhood Councils Coordinate with community-based organizations and other stakeholder groups
- Use social media
- . . . What else?!

Q&A

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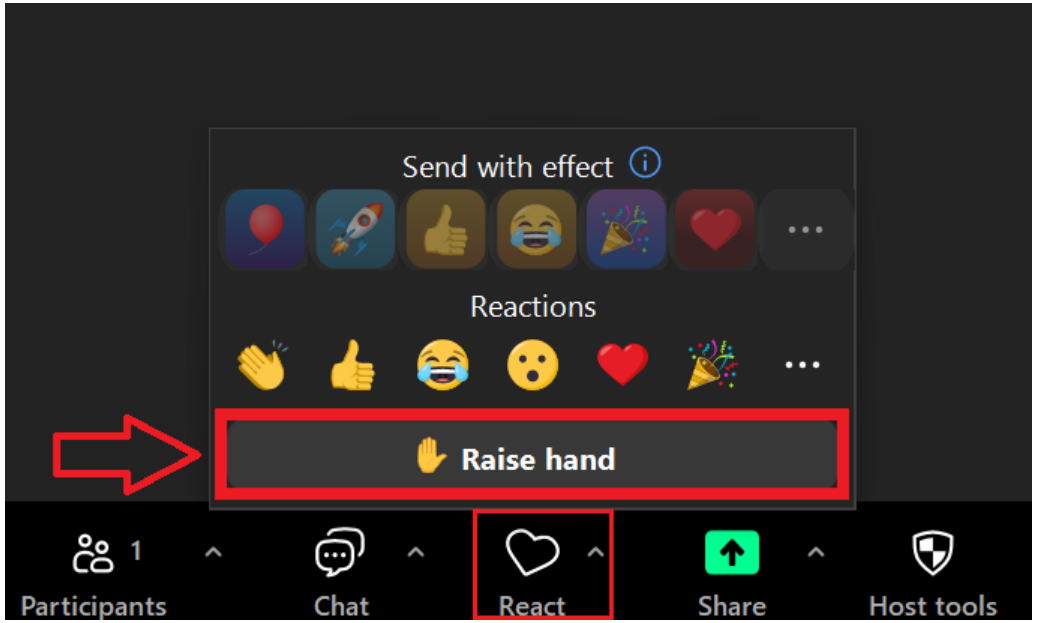
How To Ask A Question

Use **Raise Hand** to ask your question or use **Chat** to submit a written question

Meeting recording will now **stop**



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Q&A

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Input Questions

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Input Questions – Use Chat to Share Answers

What other topics would you like us to cover or discuss in community meetings? Are there specific aspects of the project – or related issues – you'd like to learn more about or provide input on?

Input Questions – Use Chat to Share Answers

How can we optimize the number and diversity of community members involved in Pure Water Los Angeles?

What is Pure Water Los Angeles?

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For Documents and News

PureWaterLosAngeles.com

For Comments and Questions

purewaterlosangeles@ladwp.com

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Thank You

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