



Los Angeles
Department of
Water & Power

INFORMATIONAL BOARD LETTER

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SUBJECT: Water System Monthly Report – January through February 2024

California Urban Water Agencies Tour at Tujunga Spreading Grounds

On January 12, LADWP hosted approximately 30 representatives from the California Urban Water Agencies member agencies for a tour at the Tujunga Spreading Grounds and the Tujunga Central Treatment Facility. Participants started the day by attending a presentation from Johanna Chang, Civil Engineering Associate (CEA) in Water Resources Division's (WRD) Watershed Management Group, showcasing LADWP's recent Tujunga Spreading Grounds Improvement Project and stormwater capture. That was followed by an overview of the San Fernando Groundwater Remediation Program from Ana Avelar, CEA in Water Engineering & Technical Services (WETS) Project Management Group. The visit concluded with a walking tour of the spreading grounds led by Art Castro, Waterworks Engineer in WRD's Watershed Management group, and a tour of the new Tujunga Central Treatment Facility led by Jose Rubalcava, CEA in WETS Civil and Structural Design group. Participants expressed interest in learning about the historical infiltration capacity of the spreading grounds, sources of funding for the groundwater remediation program, and the projected schedule to put the three remediation facilities in service.

Water Employees' Club Presentations

On January 16, the Water Employees' Club hosted a panel discussion commemorating the 30th anniversary of the Northridge Earthquake. The panel featured LADWP employees who acted as first responders during the event. The panelists discussed their work experience during the earthquake and strategies to prepare for another emergency event.

United Kingdom Delegation at LADWP

On January 31, the Water Executive Office (WEX) coordinated and hosted a Water Agency Roundtable at the John Ferraro Building in collaboration with the British Consulate- General Los Angeles. The event provided a forum for United Kingdom companies to learn more about the needs and procurement processes of Southern California water providers. Participants included representatives from LADWP, the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, the Moulton Niguel Water District, and the San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District, as well as vendors and consultants from several United Kingdom based companies. Each water utility presented on their key challenges and priorities in relation to innovation.

Water Environment Federation/American Water Works Association Utility Management Conference 2024

Water System (WS) employees presented and participated at the annual Water Environment Federation/American Water Works Association Utility Management Conference, which took place in Portland, Oregon between February 13-16, 2024.

Presentations

On February 15, Jonathan Leung, Director of Water Quality (WQ), and Kaushal Parbhoo, Managing Water Utility Engineer in WQ's Regulatory Program Compliance Group, presented *Keep Your Water Quality Data Close*, and *The Tap Water Critics Closer*. Mr. Leung and Mr. Parbhoo presented on their outreach strategy, which focuses on fostering relationships with stakeholders that are skeptical of tap water, in order to establish an open dialogue on water quality in the community. The networking power of these relationships have helped to better engage the public and resolved misunderstandings about tap water quality. Their presentation included four concrete examples of LADWP working directly with community-based partners to address concerns around tap water.

Pilot Knowledge Sharing Meeting

On February 21, WEX hosted its twelfth WS Pilot Knowledge Sharing event. This event gives pilot leads a platform to share information about completed, ongoing, and upcoming pilot projects within different parts of the WS. Pilot projects allow groups to test innovative technologies and methods for potential widespread use in the future. Presenters provide background, status updates, and lessons learned on their respective

pilot projects to enhance communication between different groups and to aid each other in running their own pilots. The following were presented at this event:

1. Geoffrey Chen, CEA in WETS Water Master Planning group, and Marvin Schober, Utility Services Specialist in Water Distribution Division's (WDD) Distribution Engineering group, presented on Ice Pigging, a technology that uses ice slush to clean water pipes to improve water quality.
2. Triet Bui, Electrical Engineering Associate in WDD's Construction Support group, presented on Safety by Design for Tanks and New Product Pilot. Mr. Bui described new ways to improve the safety of employees that inspect tanks. He also presented on the Belzona adhesive that his team piloted to adhere brackets to a tank wall without damaging the existing tank coating.
3. Leonora Meroth, CEA in WDD's Distribution Engineering group, presented on Paperless Field Notes, a way for employees to capture field notes on a tablet instead of on paper, and explained the benefits and efficiency of digitizing field notes.

Water Quality Laboratory On-Site Assessment for Certification Renewal

The Water Quality Laboratory (WQL) successfully completed its on-site assessment to secure renewal accreditation by the Environmental Lab Accreditation Program (ELAP). This assessment occurs once every two years. It was completed in January and confirmed that WQL operations conform to The National Environmental Laboratories Accreditation Conference Institute (TNI) 2016 Standard. The audit was conducted by California-approved assessor Tony Francis, PhD. The assessor met with multiple WQ personnel over the course of a week, including:

- Marlyn Stasiak, Manager of Quality Systems and Research (QSR)
- Hourii Mandjikian, acting Manager of WQL Operations
- Eileen Wong, Quality Assurance Officer, and Supervising Chemist in the QSR group
- Pauline Nguyen, Supervising Utility Microbiologist in the WQL Operations group
- Asseged Teshome and Estrella Arindaeng, Supervising Chemists in the WQL Operations group and Aristotle Bragasin, Supervising Chemist in the QSR group
- Steven Bolivar and Thanda Lin, Supervising Laboratory Technician's in the WQL Operations group

TNI is a national accreditation program consisting of a quality system and technical requirements for laboratories performing environmental analyses. It is approved by the American National Standards Institute and the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) in conjunction with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC). ISO/IEC 17025:2005 is globally recognized for environmental testing and calibration.

In preparation for the assessment, the WQL revised and added to its standard operating procedures; refined policies governing selection of lab supplies, services, and

contractors; improved internal and external document control and record protection and retention; and demonstrated the lab analysts' capability. Successful renewal of the WQL's accreditation was the direct result of close collaboration between the WQL and QSR groups. The WQL is accredited by ELAP to perform over 200 chemical and microbiological tests to meet drinking water regulatory requirements, which are reported to the State of California and United States Environmental Protection Agency for compliance monitoring under the Safe Drinking Water Act.



Onsite Assessment with Third Party Assessor Tony Francis and Lab Staff

External Funding Update

WS continues to receive external funding for its capital improvement projects. In December 2023 and January 2024, WS received \$137,167,181.01 in grant reimbursements as follows:

- \$3,015,123.83 in Proposition 1 Groundwater Grant Program reimbursement for the North Hollywood West Remediation Project.
- \$70,946,533.43 in Proposition 1 Groundwater Grant Program reimbursement for the Tujunga Groundwater Remediation Project.
- \$62,895,638.28 in Proposition 1 Groundwater Grant Program reimbursement for the North Hollywood Central Groundwater Remediation Project.
- \$309,885.47 in Proposition 84 Integrated Regional Water Management Program reimbursement for the Tujunga Spreading Grounds Improvement Project.

In addition, WS received \$106,624 in Safe Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) loan reimbursements for the Manhattan Wellfield On-Site Hypochlorite Generation Station Project. The DWSRF loan for this project is being provided at 1.1 percent interest and is repayable over 30 years.