



Los Angeles  
Department of  
Water & Power

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INFORMATIONAL BOARD LETTER

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**DATE:** December 26, 2024

**SUBJECT:** Water System Monthly Report – August through November 2024

Water System Leadership Team Meeting Presentation

At the October Water System (WS) Leadership Meeting, Mr. Brett Fontaine, Electrical Engineering Associate, and Mr. Joe Robinson, Systems Programmer, both in the Water Operations Division's (WOD) Water Technology and Control Systems (WTCS) group, presented on Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) and cybersecurity. First, Mr. Fontaine presented on the Industrial Control System in the WS, which monitors and records the condition of facilities and sends alarms in emergency situations. He then detailed LADWP's two SCADA systems, Los Angeles Water System Data Acquisition and Control (LAWSDAC) and Treatment Operations Control System (TOCC). LAWSDAC allows remote monitoring of pumps, regulator stations, groundwater facilities, and more. TOCC monitors water quality and treatment facilities. Both SCADA systems are monitored around the clock. The data is accessible through Operational Technology Local Area Network. WTCS is in charge of maintaining, insuring, and improving the SCADA system. Mr. Robinson then presented on communications infrastructure and cybersecurity.

At the November WS Leadership Meeting, Ms. Priscilla Gonzalez, Waterworks Engineer in Water Engineering & Technical Services' (WETS) Trunk Line Design Group, presented on the North Hollywood West Wellhead Treatment Facility, the first of the San Fernando Groundwater Basin Remediation Program's three groundwater remediation facilities to be completed, and the only one to be constructed by LADWP crews. Ms. Gonzalez gave an overview of the new facility and its treatment process and capacity. She also outlined the contributions of the different groups involved in developing the facility, its cost and capacity, and challenges experienced during project delivery. The goal is to fully commission the facility in January 2025.

## Pilot Knowledge Sharing Meeting

On August 27, Water Executive (WEX) hosted its fourteenth 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. Mr. Justin La, Programmer Analyst in the Enterprise Architecture group, presented on GitHub Enterprise. Mr. La detailed the success of piloting GitHub Enterprise and its capabilities to consolidate, standardize, and modernize software development practices.
2. Ms. Wei Chou, Information Systems Manager in the Enterprise System Support group, presented on ITSR Modernization to ServiceNow. She explained the benefits and new features of ServiceNow and how it will be an improvement from the current ITSR system.
3. Ms. Chou followed with a presentation on the LADWP Private GPT AI Platform. She addressed the widespread concerns with AI security and reliability, and detailed the Chatbot pilot IT has been working on with Microsoft.

On November 21, WEX hosted its fifteenth WS Pilot Knowledge Sharing event. The following were presented at this event:

1. Ms. Erin Maciel, Civil Engineering Associate (CEA) in WETS Pure Water Los Angeles (PWLA) group, presented on Water Research Foundation Study #5196: One Water Program Management. Ms. Maciel discussed the PWLA project and goals, and the steps taken to develop the PWLA Program Management case study.
2. Mr. Alberto Martinez, CEA in WETS Geotechnical Engineering group, presented on Willowstick Technologies. Mr. Martinez detailed the Fairmont Complex and how Willowstick Technologies was used to locate seepage in the outlet vault for Fairmont Reservoir #2 to the LA Aqueduct.

## Water Employees' Club Presentations

Water Employees' Club (WEC) continues to hold its regular WEC Talks, which are modeled after TED talks, and allow subject matter experts in different parts of the Department to share what they work on in order to help employees better understand the Water System and how they fit into the big picture.

On October 15, Mr. Benjamin Wong, CEA in Water Resources Division's Strategic Planning group, presented on the Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP). Mr. Wong discussed the contents and significance of the UWMP; the different factors that go into

supply and demand forecasting, and the overall trends over the last few decades; and some of the water supply sources that will be detailed in the new UWMP. He then answered questions from the audience.

On November 4, Mr. Geoffrey Chen, CEA in WETS Water Master Planning group, and Mr. Marvin Schober, Utility Services Specialist in the Water Distribution Division's Distribution Engineering group, presented on Ice Pigging, a technology that uses ice slush to clean water pipes to improve water quality. Mr. Schober explained the need to clean the recycled water pipelines in Playa Vista, and the challenges and difficulties of conventional cleaning. He discussed the process of procuring a vendor to use pigging; the overall cost of the project; and the various challenges experienced while implementing ice pigging, and the solutions that were developed in real time to complete the project successfully. Mr. Chen concluded the presentation by sharing the results of the project and future plans regarding ice pigging. They then answered questions from the audience.

### External Funding Update

#### ***Applications/Invitations***

WS continues to actively pursue grants and loans for qualifying projects and programs. Between September and November 2024, WS:

- Submitted an application for \$3 million in grant funds from the United States Bureau of Reclamation's WaterSMART Drought Response Program: Drought Resiliency Projects for the David M. Gonzales Recreation Center Stormwater Capture Project.
- Invited to submit full applications for low-cost financing from the United States Army Corps of Engineers' Corps Water Infrastructure Financing Program for the following:
  - o Bouquet Canyon Auxiliary Spillway Improvement Project: \$47,916,000
  - o Tinemaha Dam Replacement Project: \$251,680,000

Additionally, LADWP's application for congressionally directed spending under the Water Resources Development Act to support the Stormwater Capture Parks Program is pending congressional approval.

#### ***Award Announcements***

LADWP has received preliminary notification of award and is working towards execution of the following grant awards:

- \$60 million from the United States Bureau of Reclamation's WaterSMART Large Scale Water Recycling Grant Program for the Los Angeles Groundwater Replenishment Project.

- \$3 million from the United States Bureau of Reclamation's Drought Response Program: Drought Resiliency Projects for the Valley Village Stormwater Capture Project.
- \$1,997,371 from the United States Bureau of Reclamation's WaterSMART Water and Energy Efficiency Grants for the Los Angeles Multifamily Affordable Housing Direct Install Project, a partnership with Southern California Gas Company. Southern California Gas Company is the direct grantee, while Water System will support the program implementation.

### ***New Agreements***

LADWP entered into the following new funding agreements in September – November 2024:

- \$139,000,000 in low-interest financing from the Safe Drinking Water State Revolving Fund for City Trunk Line North Unit 1.
- \$139,000,000 in incentive funding from Metropolitan Water District of Southern California's Local Resources Program for the Los Angeles Groundwater Replenishment Project.
- \$17,070,000 in grant funding from CalTrans' State Highway Operation and Protection Program for Fernangeles Park Stormwater Capture Project.
- \$13,141,000 in grant funding from CalTrans' State Highway Operation and Protection Program for Strathern Park North Stormwater Capture Project.
- \$12,583,000 in grant funding from CalTrans' State Highway Operation and Protection Program for Valley Plaza South Stormwater Capture Project.

### ***Funds Received***

WS received the following in September – November 2024:

- \$171,103 in loan reimbursements from the Safe Drinking Water State Revolving Fund for Manhattan Wellfield On-Site Hypochlorite Generation Station. The loan for this project has a 2.1 percent interest rate and a 30-year repayment period.
- \$6,977,543 in loan reimbursements from the Safe Drinking Water State Revolving Fund for Headworks Flow Control Station. The loan for this project has a 1.1 percent interest rate and a 30-year repayment period.
- \$2,186,797.81 in grant reimbursements from the Proposition 1 Groundwater Grant Program for the Tujunga Groundwater Remediation Project.
- \$1,542,091.18 in grant reimbursements from the Proposition 1 Groundwater Grant Program for the North Hollywood Central Groundwater Remediation Project.
- \$1,550,000 in funds from the Safe Clean Water Program for the David M. Gonzales Recreational Center Stormwater Capture Project. These funds are provided as an advance to support project design and construction.

- \$836,074 in funds from the Safe Clean Water Program for the Fernangeles Stormwater Capture Project. These funds are provided as an advance to support project design and construction.