

Pure News: Issue 8



Welcome to Pure News, a newsletter to keep you informed about the latest happenings with the City of San Diego's Water Purification Demonstration Project.

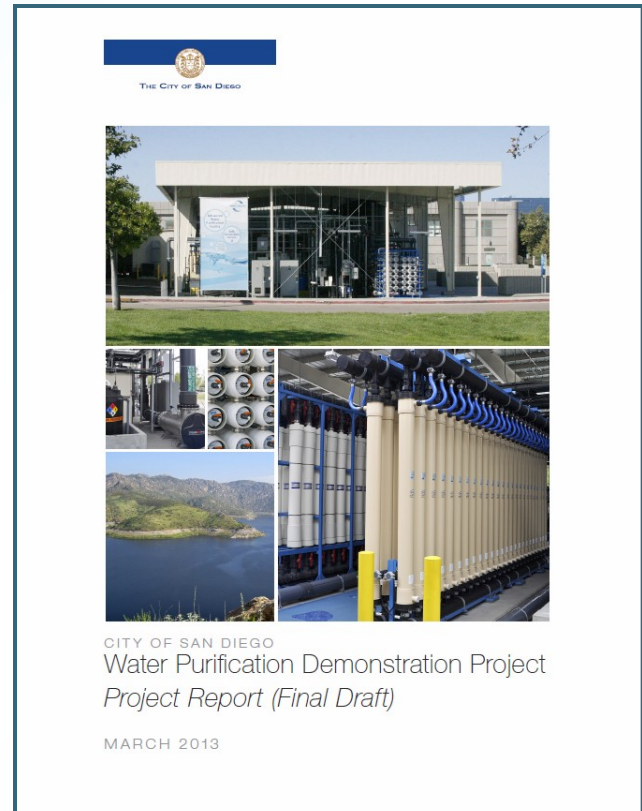
The Results Are In!

After years of hard work, the findings from the Water Purification Demonstration Project are ready to be unveiled. The testing results, proposed project cost and feasibility for a full-scale project will be made public for the first time in a comprehensive Project Report expected to be available later this month on the project website. On March 20, the City Council's Natural Resources & Culture Committee will receive a presentation on the final Project Report, which could pave the way for the development of a full-scale water purification facility in San Diego.

The Demonstration Project got its start in October 2007. At that time, the City Council directed the Mayor and City staff to evaluate whether advanced water purification technology could safely and reliably produce purified water for eventual drinking water use.

The City Council directive requested the following activities be completed as part of the Demonstration Project:

- Convene an Independent Advisory Panel
- Design, construct, and operate a demonstration-scale water purification facility
- Conduct a study of San Vicente Reservoir
- Perform an energy and economic analysis
- Define the state's regulatory requirements for a full-scale reservoir augmentation project at San Vicente Reservoir
- Perform a pipeline alignment study
- Conduct a public outreach and education program



The Project Report summarizes the results and findings of these components now that they are complete. It provides an overview of the technical studies, facility testing, and public education and outreach efforts conducted as part of the Demonstration Project. The report also covers how the water purification equipment functioned, whether the purified water met federal and state drinking water standards, and the cost to construct and operate a full-scale water purification project. Most importantly, the project findings answer the question about the feasibility of a 15-million-gallon-a-day (mgd) reservoir augmentation project at San Vicente Reservoir.

If you are interested in having your voice heard on the future of water purification in San Diego, please email PureWaterSD@sandiego.gov. Register to receive project updates, including an email once the report is available online, by signing up for our email list at www.PureWaterSD.org.

Revamped Public Involvement Page: Videos, Events and Tours, Oh My

A major part of the Demonstration Project is public outreach. If a full-scale facility is approved for construction, the water produced could be distributed to all communities in the San Diego region. It is important that San Diegans are informed about this potential new source of drinking water since it could become a part of the water supply. The Demonstration Project team continues to reach out to the community and encourage San Diegans to stay engaged with the project and to tell their family and friends about it. Interested parties can find out more information and how to get involved in one easy way: visit the newly redesigned [Public Involvement page](#) on the project website. All of the public involvement-related information has been added to the page to make it more easily accessible for interested parties. Below is a synopsis of what can be found on the page.

One significant way to get involved with the project is to tour the Advanced Water Purification Facility. Since beginning the tour program in June 2011, more than 3,200 visitors have toured the facility.



Beginning with an introductory presentation, visitors tour the facility to view the water purification technology up close. Taking a tour is a great way to learn how the process works. It is easy to register online at purewatersd.org/tours.shtml.

Another way to get involved is by requesting a project presentation. More than 130 groups throughout San Diego have heard a presentation about the Demonstration Project. On the public involvement page, visitors will find a flier with information on how to request a speaker as well as a list of all the groups presented to since the outreach program began in 2010.

San Diegans can find the Demonstration Project team at events around town. To learn if the team will be hosting an informational booth at an event near you, view the Community Events section of the Public Involvement page.

The Demonstration Project team has captured sentiments about water purification and other feedback from tour guests. A series of short videos are posted on YouTube (also available through the public involvement page) describing the science behind water purification, the benefits of this new local water source for San Diego, opinions about the Demonstration Project and overcoming the “yuck” factor allowing community members to share their perspectives on water purification in their own words.

While on the Demonstration Project’s YouTube page, be sure to check out the other videos about water purification. Although many San Diegans have already toured the AWP Facility, there are many more San Diegans who may be interested in learning more about the project but cannot take a tour. One of the videos posted here, “Tour San Diego’s AWP Facility,” provides a five-minute virtual tour of the facility from the comfort of home. Closed captioning is



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Revamped Public Involvement Page (continued)

available for all of the videos through YouTube. In addition, an option offered through Google Translate will provide translation of the videos into a variety of languages. Visit www.youtube.com/PureWaterSD to view the videos.

And finally, the Demonstration Project can always be found on social media platforms. The public involvement page links to the project [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) pages, where guests are encouraged to contact project staff with questions or comments or to simply check out daily trivia and project updates.

The Demonstration Project team hopes to see and hear from all interested San Diegans through one of these many avenues. A link to the Public Involvement page can be found on the left hand side of www.PureWaterSD.org.

Top 5 Reasons to Tour San Diego's Water Purification Facility



1. It's fun
2. It's free
3. It's educational
4. It makes you think
5. It makes you say "wow"

Join the thousands who've already seen how wastewater is transformed into purified water.

Water Purification | Demonstration Project

Visit PureWaterSD.org for reservations.

IAP Concludes the Demonstration Project a Success

One of the requirements of the Demonstration Project was to convene an Independent Advisory Panel (IAP) to provide expert peer review of the technical, scientific, and regulatory aspects of the City's water purification concept. An IAP organized and managed by the National Water Research Institute (NWRI) was convened for the first time in 2009 and completed their role in November 2012. The final IAP meeting served as a forum for the panel to ask their remaining questions, review project materials and offer their recommendations about the project.

At this meeting, the members reviewed and commented on the comprehensive Project Report and the Advanced Water Purification (AWP) Facility report, which summarized the facility's testing and monitoring results. Presentations included the findings of the reservoir study, the AWP Facility testing results and the Project Report.

The IAP summarized their findings as the following: "It is the unanimous conclusion of the [IAP] that the project as described in the [Project Report] will be a landmark development in the acceptance and furtherance of indirect potable reuse and will contribute to the City of San Diego's water portfolio." The panel found that the purified water met or exceeded all drinking water standards, the quality of the water was actually better than existing water stored in San Vicente Reservoir, and that City staff had conducted an extensive and well directed public

outreach program to inform San Diegans about the project. The IAP concluded that the Project Report and supporting documents "... are responsive to the directives set forth by the City Council."



The IAP was composed of 10 academics and professionals with extensive expertise in the science of water reuse and public health, including chemistry, microbiology, treatment engineering, operations engineering, water reuse regulatory criteria, limnology, research science, toxicology, and public and environmental health. More information about the IAP can be found under the "Independent Advisory Panel" link on the www.PureWaterSD.org home page. The Demonstration Project team thanks them for their expertise and project oversight.

Huell Howser: California Gold

"Now that's a big deal!" Huell Howser exclaimed during his "California's Water" interview with Demonstration Project director Marsi Steirer in spring 2010. They were at San Diego's North City Water Reclamation Plant, and Marsi was telling Howser about the plan to implement a demonstration project in San Diego and test the feasibility of turning recycled water into a new local source of drinking water. Howser's bright personality remained with the Demonstration Project staff long after his visit, so the entire team was sad to learn of Howser's passing on January 7 of this year.



"California's Water" ran for seven years with Howser as producer and host, and featured almost 30 different water topics in locations around California. The Demonstration Project clip was featured in an episode about how water recycling would affect California's water supply. "California's Water" was only one of many Huell Howser Productions, the most popular and well-known being "California's Gold." He also had a number of other California-based programs, including "Visiting with Huell Howser," "Road Trip with Huell Howser," "California's Golden Parks," "California's Green" and "Downtown."

Howser's passion for exploring and discovering the Golden State made him a California public television icon. It was this enthusiasm that made his visit to the North City plant a memorable one. He will always be remembered for his infectious charm and his homespun storytelling style.

"You couldn't help but get swept up by his larger than life persona," said Steirer. "His passion for life was contagious."

As Howser put it, "We are all part of this ongoing water story," and we are grateful for what he did to showcase the Demonstration Project, and for his many contributions toward telling the story of California. To view Howser's full interview with Steirer, view "Marsi Steirer on California Water with Huell Howser" at www.youtube.com/PureWaterSD.

 @PureWaterSD



Get the latest online

For our smartphone-savvy readers, use your barcode-scanning app of choice to scan the quick response (QR) barcodes to the left and right. You'll be an official Demonstration Project fan in no time!

Not receiving email updates from the Demonstration Project? Sign up at www.purewatersd.org or email purewatersd@sandiego.gov.

 SanDiegoWPDP



To schedule a presentation for your organization, email purewatersd@sandiego.gov or call (619) 533-6638.

Visit www.purewatersd.org/tours.shtml to sign up for an AWP Facility tour.



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