

2025 Project-Wide Update

Dec. 19, 2025

As 2025 comes to an end, the City is pleased to share substantial progress on the Morena Northern Pipelines and Tunnels Project. We want to thank the University City community for your support and patience as we work to complete this essential infrastructure project. Overall, the project is 88 percent complete, and contractors and crews continue to work diligently to bring the project over the finish line.

Updates on each project area can be found below as we head into the holiday season and look toward 2026. From the Pure Water San Diego team to the University City community, we hope your holidays are merry and bright!

SR-52 and Genesee Avenue

At SR-52 and Genesee Avenue, crews have completed pipeline installation, trench backfilling and curb and gutter replacement work. The southbound lanes on Genesee have been reopened.

Hydrostatic testing is underway on the installed pipeline segments to ensure they meet all safety and regulatory requirements. Pipeline testing is expected to continue through early 2026. This essential testing is being conducted underground through the pipelines and at access points from the surface, including the open excavation in the Genesee Avenue median and the northbound lanes near the entrance to Marian Bear Park. Northbound lanes on Genesee Avenue will re-open once all pipeline segments are successfully tested and connected.



Southbound lanes on Genesee Avenue reopened.

Marian Bear Park

Work is continuing within Marian Bear Park, and restoration work will begin soon after. We anticipate the park will be reopened in 2026.



Pipeline appurtenance work near the entrance of Marian Bear Park.

Pipeline Installation

In 2025, crews installed approximately 4,700 linear feet of pipeline in segments along Genesee Avenue from SR-52 to Nobel Drive including nearly 1,000 linear feet of pipeline along Nobel Drive, from Lombard Place to the intersection of Nobel Drive and Genesee Avenue.

Nobel Drive and Genesee Avenue Intersection

Ahead of the Thanksgiving holiday, crews completed pipeline installation 20 feet below the Nobel Drive and Genesee Avenue intersection. Temporary paving has been placed over the trench and final paving will occur in 2026, alongside other restoration work.



Temporary paving at Nobel Drive and Genesee Avenue.

Executive Drive

Construction crews dug deep to complete over 1,000 ft of tunneling to cross beneath the I-805. Crews tunneled from Executive Drive through to the other side of the Interstate at the North City Water Reclamation Plant. This is the longest and deepest tunnel across the Pure Water Phase 1 projects.

On Executive Drive, construction-related activities are expected to wrap up in 2026 ahead of landscaping, restoration and final paving work.



Light at the end of the I-805 tunnel.

Curb Ramp Installation

Curb ramp installation is ongoing along Executive Drive, Towne Centre Drive and Genesee Ave. Curb ramp installation along Governor Drive and Genesee Avenue will take place over schools' holiday break beginning Monday, December 22. Turning lanes will be impacted during construction and temporary traffic control will be set up.

What to Expect in 2026

In 2026, you can expect to see some of the final construction-related activities, including the installation of pipeline support infrastructure, testing of all pipeline segments, ADA curb ramp upgrades, and additional concrete work such as medians and gutters. Final paving, restriping, and restoration work is expected to begin after this work is completed and both pipelines pass testing.

Why: Pure Water San Diego is the City of San Diego's phased, multi-year program that will provide nearly half of San Diego's water supply locally by 2035 and significantly reduce treated discharges from the Point Loma Wastewater Treatment Plant. Pure Water San Diego will use proven water purification technology to clean recycled water

to produce safe, high-quality drinking water. The program offers a cost-effective investment for San Diego's water and wastewater needs. San Diegans are getting dual value from this investment — reliable, sustainable drinking water and avoided wastewater costs. The Morena Northern Pipelines and Tunnels project is one of several major water infrastructure projects in Phase 1 of Pure Water San Diego.

The City is committed to clear communication and providing up-to-date information about construction activities. Properties along the construction area will receive printed notices before work begins near their address, and construction notices will be regularly posted on utc.purewatersd.org. Please contact purewatersd@sandiego.gov or **833-UTC-PWSD (833 882-7973)** with questions about the City's Pure Water Program and the Morena Northern Pipelines and Tunnels project, and a team member will get back to you within one business day.