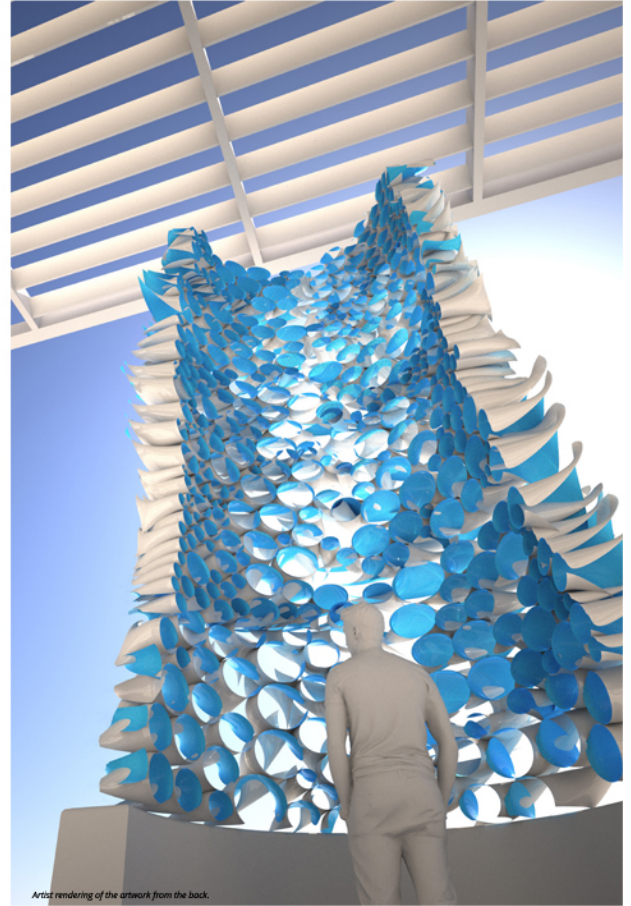
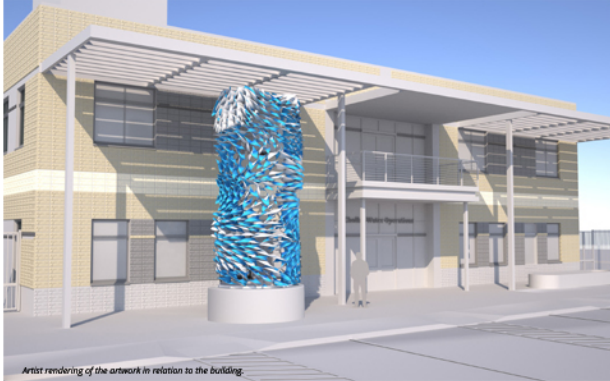


ARTWORK PROPOSAL BY ROB LEY



Commission for
Arts and Culture

Artist Rob Ley is creating a permanent public artwork for the new Chollas Water Operations Facility at Caminito Chollas and College Grove Drive in the Oak Park neighborhood of San Diego. Ley spent several months learning about the City of San Diego's Public Utilities Department and its water operations in the development of his proposal. Inspired by the systematic flow and transfer of water throughout the city, the proposed artwork consists of a dynamic, twenty-one-foot tall sculpture which references both the movement of water and the infrastructure of the City's public utilities. The artwork will be located at the entrance to the new facility, greeting visitors and staff alike as they enter the building.



The sculpture will be created from hundreds of separate pipe elements stacked upon each other. Each of these pipe elements goes through an innovative hydroforming process by which they are sliced and rolled open on one end. The result is a collection of elements which simulate the turbulent flow of water from the front, while appearing as orderly and circular stacked pipes from the back. These elements are then painted blue on one side, creating a contrast between the pipe's interior and exterior surfaces. While the color blue's association with water is evident, the artist chose the color in reference to the City's pipe color coding system with blue indicating potable water.



The artwork will be situated on a half-pipe shaped pedestal which parallels the shape of sculpture. On the concave backside of the artwork, viewers will have the opportunity to immerse themselves within the artwork as it wraps around them. The artwork encourages the viewer to consider the relationship of parts-to-whole and how all the individual parts of the City's water infrastructure allow for the movement of water throughout San Diego.

