



## Pure News

Welcome to Pure News, a newsletter about Pure Water San Diego, the City of San Diego's multi-year program to address the need for a safe, secure and sustainable local water supply.

### City Council Rate Vote Advances Pure Water

On Nov. 17, 2015, the San Diego City Council reaffirmed the necessity to invest in the City's water supply. The Council approved a five-year water rate plan that ensures the City can move forward with implementing the Pure Water San Diego program, continue the replacement of aging pipelines, and deliver high-quality water for San Diegans each and every day.

A broad coalition of environmental, business and other local community organizations expressed their support for the rate plan and Pure Water San Diego at the Council meeting. These speakers included San Diego Mayor Kevin Faulconer, representatives from San Diego Coastkeeper and the Surfrider Foundation, local water districts, and representatives from the San Diego Business Alliance for Water, the San Diego County Taxpayers Association, the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce, and a number of other local organizations.

Moving forward with the new rate plan will enable the City to build the infrastructure to produce one-third of San Diego's water supply locally by 2035. Without the plan, the City may be required to make billions of dollars in changes to the treatment process at the Point Loma Wastewater Treatment, which would produce no new water.



Pure Water San Diego is a phased, multi-year program that will use proven water purification technology to produce a safe, reliable, local drinking water supply for San Diego. The initial phase of the program will produce up to 30 million gallons per day of purified water by 2021.

### 2015: A Year in Review

2015 has been another milestone year for the Pure Water San Diego outreach program, which includes presentations, participation in community events, facility tours, informational materials, social media and media coverage. Here are some of the program accomplishments from this year.

#### Tours

One of the best ways to learn about the water purification technology that will be used to provide San Diego with a safe and reliable local drinking water supply is by participating in a free tour of the City's demonstration one-million gallon per day Advanced Water Purification Facility.

In 2015, **143** tours of the Advanced Water Purification Facility were given to nearly **2,500** people. This is a new annual record for the Pure Water tour program! Tours were provided to groups including Girl Scout troops, elected officials, contractors, neighborhood councils, water industry professionals and school classes ranging from elementary to postdoctoral.

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## Local Medical Doctors Visit the Advanced Water Purification Facility

The City of San Diego continuously monitors and verifies that the Pure Water produced at the Advanced Water Purification (AWP) Facility meets all public health and drinking water standards. Recently, the City invited local doctors, physicians and medical and public health students to tour the AWP Facility to learn more about the proven technology used to produce high-quality drinking water.

On Nov. 13, 2015, a group of 10 doctors working in preventive medicine and public health at the University of California, San Diego (UCSD) toured the AWP Facility.

"Learning about the whole process [to purify the recycled water] was fascinating. Having seen the multiple steps of the process, I feel more comfortable drinking the water," said Dr. Laura Goetz, MD, MPH, Preventive Medicine Resident at UCSD, after the tour.

The doctors were impressed by the amount of testing conducted that confirmed the safety of the Pure Water. They were also pleased to learn that the reverse osmosis and ultraviolet light combined with hydrogen peroxide processes are effective at removing dissolved organics, such as pharmaceuticals and personal care products.



Register for an upcoming AWP Facility tour at [www.purewatersd.org/tours](http://www.purewatersd.org/tours) or request a private tour for a group of 10 or more at [purewatersd@sandiego.gov](mailto:purewatersd@sandiego.gov).

*UCSD medical doctors examine the inside of a reverse osmosis membrane, which removes 96-99% of salts, minerals and metals and 99% percent of pharmaceuticals.*

## City Reconvenes Independent Advisory Panel

As the City moves forward with implementing the Pure Water San Diego program, a 10-member Independent Advisory Panel has been convened to provide expert peer review of the technical, scientific, regulatory and policy aspects of reservoir modeling for the Miramar Reservoir and any future potable reuse study required as part of the Pure Water program. This IAP follows the previous IAP that was a part of the Water Purification Demonstration Project. Learn more about the IAP meetings from 2009-2012 [here](#).

On Oct. 6 and 7, 2015, the IAP met with City of San Diego staff and consultants, representatives from the National Water Research Institute and regulators from the Division of Drinking Water to receive an update on the implementation of the Pure Water Program, hear about the general framework associated with a new potable reuse option being considered by the City and to provide input on the specifics of the program next steps.

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*IAP members participate in a meeting with City staff, consultants, NWRI and regulators on Oct. 6, 2015.*



## Pure Water Launches Girl Scout Patch Program

One of the main components of the Pure Water San Diego education and outreach program is tours of the Advanced Water Purification (AWP) Facility. To date, more than 8,500 people have toured, and attendees have included students of all ages, from grade school through medical school. Younger Girl Scout troops (Brownies) are some of the most frequent youth visitors. Brownies participate in the AWP Facility tours to fulfill part of the requirements for their Wonders of Water Journey patch, which tasks them with learning about water's importance in the world.

Now, to build upon the City's partnership with the Girl Scouts, the Pure Water program is excited to offer a unique Pure Water patch that can be earned by Girl Scouts of all ages. Scouts fulfill the requirements for the patch by participating in an interactive presentation about the Pure Water program and then touring the AWP Facility to see the water purification technology up close. Troop leaders can call (619) 533-4631 or email [purewatersd@sandiego.gov](mailto:purewatersd@sandiego.gov) to schedule a tour for their scouts.



*Girl Scouts receive the Pure Water patch after touring the AWP Facility.*



*The new Pure Water patch.*

## City Reconvenes Independent Advisory Panel *(continued)*

The IAP members are experts in water and wastewater treatment technology, public health, microbiology, toxicology, limnology, environmental chemistry, and regulations and permitting. The current members are:

- **Michael A. Anderson, Ph.D.**, Professor of Applied Limnology and Environmental Chemistry, Department of Environmental Sciences, University of California, Riverside (Riverside, CA)
- **Richard Bull, Ph.D.**, Consulting Toxicologist, MoBull Consulting (Richland, WA)
- **Amy Childress, Ph.D.**, Professor and Director of Environmental Engineering, University of Southern California (Los Angeles, CA)
- **Joseph A. Contruvo, Ph.D., BCES**, President, Joseph Cotruvo & Associates, LLC (Washington, D.C.)
- **James Crook, Ph.D., P.E., BCEE**, Environmental Engineering Consultant (Boston, MA)
- **Richard Gersberg, Ph.D.**, Professor and Head, Division of Occupational and Environmental Health, Graduate School of Public Health, San Diego State University (San Diego, CA)
- **Channah M. Rock, Ph.D.**, Water Quality Extension Specialist and Assistant Professor, Department of Soil, Water, and Environmental Science, University of Arizona (Tucson, AZ)
- **David R. Schubert, Ph.D.**, Professor and Chair, Cellular Neurobiology Laboratory, The Salk Institute for Biological Studies (La Jolla, CA)
- **George Tchobanoglous, Ph.D., P.E., NAE, BCEE**, Professor Emeritus, University of California, Davis (Davis, CA)
- **Michael P. Wehner**, Assistant General Manager, Orange County Water District (Fountain Valley, CA)

The IAP will continue to convene periodically as the Pure Water program progresses.

## 2015: A Year in Review (continued)

During the tour, the water purification process is explained in detail and participants get an up-close look at the technology. To learn more about the tour program or register for an upcoming tour, visit [www.purewatersd.org/tours](http://www.purewatersd.org/tours) or email [purewatersd@sandiego.gov](mailto:purewatersd@sandiego.gov).

### Presentations

Pure Water has an active speaker's bureau and regularly attends meetings of local organizations to provide updates on the program. In 2015, City staff gave **94** presentations to nearly **4,000** members of the San Diego community.

### Events

Water purification will impact San Diego's water supply long term, which is why City staff continued educating San Diegans at community events throughout San Diego during 2015.

More than **4,000** San Diegans visited the Pure Water San Diego booth at **28** community events in 2015. Booth visitors had the opportunity to speak to program engineers, view beakers containing recycled water, tap water and purified water, and participate in the "Water You Know?" quiz.

### Awards

In 2015, the City of San Diego Public Utilities Department was honored with the following two awards for the Pure Water Program:

- U.S. Water Alliance U.S. Water Prize
- California Association of Sanitation Agencies Public Outreach Education and Achievement Award Program of the Year Award



*Students from the Aaron Price Fellows Program toured the AWP Facility in Aug. 2015.*

**Happy Holidays from the Pure Water team!**  
**Thank you for another great year.**

 @PureWaterSD



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Not receiving email updates from Pure Water San Diego? Sign up at [www.purewatersd.org](http://www.purewatersd.org) or email [purewatersd@sandiego.gov](mailto:purewatersd@sandiego.gov).

 PureWaterSD



To schedule a presentation for your organization, visit [www.purewatersd.org/presentations](http://www.purewatersd.org/presentations).

Visit [www.purewatersd.org/tours](http://www.purewatersd.org/tours) to sign up for an AWP Facility tour.



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City of San Diego Public Utilities Department • Pure Water San Diego Program  
9192 Topaz Way, San Diego, CA 92123 • (619) 533-7572 • [www.purewatersd.org](http://www.purewatersd.org)