Coastal Commission Renews Point Loma Permit, Paving the Way for Pure Water San Diego

The City’s Pure Water San Diego Program is one step closer to reality with the California Coastal Commission’s unanimous approval for a modified permit for the Point Loma Wastewater Treatment Plant (Point Loma).

Without the modified permit, converting Point Loma for secondary treatment capabilities would cost $1.8 billion. The City’s commitment to reducing ocean discharges and implementing the Pure Water Program were factors in the Commission’s decision to approve the modified permit.

With the comprehensive water recycling strategy provided by the Pure Water Program, ocean discharges will eventually be reduced by more than 50 percent and San Diego will produce a local drinking water supply equivalent to one-third of its future drinking water needs by 2035. It’s one of the major sustainability projects that support Mayor Faulconer’s Climate Action Plan. The first phase of the Pure Water Program is expected to be completed by 2021 and will provide approximately 15 percent of the City’s water supply needs.

Federal law requires all wastewater treatment plants to renew their discharge permits every five years. Since 1995, Point Loma has operated under a modified permit and avoided expensive and space-prohibitive modifications to the plant.

Support from Mayor Faulconer, local environmental groups and regional business advocacy organizations continue to be key to securing the permit approval.

The Environmental Protection Agency is expected to finalize the approval of the modified permit within the next month. Learn more about the Pure Water Program here.

Celebrate Drinking Water Week with Pure Water
This week, May 7-13, is **Drinking Water Week**! Drinking Water Week is observed each year in May to recognize the vital role drinking water plays in our lives. This year’s theme is “Your Water - To Know it is To Love It.” Taking a tour of the City's demonstration Pure Water Facility is a great way to get to know our water supply in San Diego. Tour attendees will:

- Learn about San Diego's current water supply challenges
- Discover how Pure Water will solve these challenges and provide 1/3 of San Diego's water supply by 2035
- See the water purification technology up close
- Taste the purified water produced by the facility

Sign up for a free tour [here](#) or email purewatersd@sandiego.gov to request a private tour for a group of 10 or more.

Thank you for your ongoing interest in Pure Water San Diego. Updates on the program will be sent to you periodically as the City moves forward with the next steps for providing a safe, reliable and sustainable water supply for San Diego.

Pure Water San Diego has been funded in part by grants from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and from Proposition 50 and 84 grants administered by the California Department of Water Resources.