

# Fact Sheet

# Pure Water San Diego

The City of San Diego • Public Utilities Department



Advanced Water Purification Facility



San Diego is the eighth largest city in the United States with a population of approximately 1.3 million. With little rain and limited local water supplies, San Diego depends on importing 85 percent of its water from the Colorado River and Northern California. San Diego is working to develop a local source of drinking water to lessen dependence on imported water, keep up with population growth and combat water supply reliability challenges, including recurring drought conditions.

Pure Water San Diego is the City's 20-year program to provide a safe, reliable and drought-proof local drinking water supply for San Diego. The program uses proven water purification technology and is environmentally sustainable. It is also cost effective—it eliminates the need for expensive upgrades to the Point Loma Wastewater Treatment Plant.

The City conducted a demonstration project from 2009 to 2013 to explore the feasibility of implementing the same three-step water purification process that has been used successfully by the Orange County Water District since 2008. One million gallons of recycled water were purified every day for a year at San Diego's Advanced Water Purification Facility.

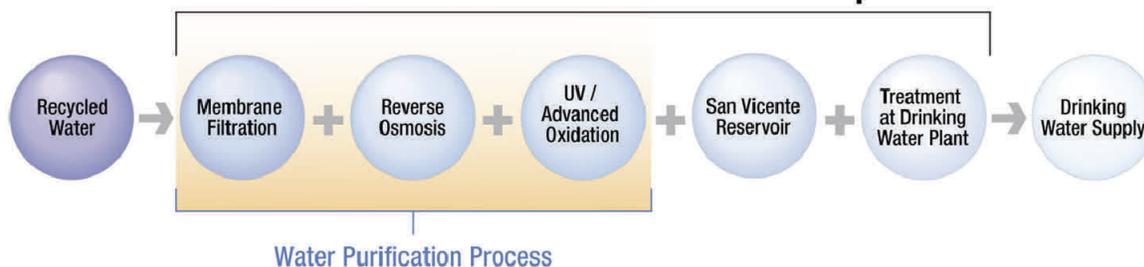


Purified Water

More than 9,000 water quality tests ensured no contaminants were present in the water. The California Department of Public Health and the San Diego Water Board approved the City's concept of purifying water and sending it to the San Vicente Reservoir prior to treatment at a drinking water plant. The purified water met all federal and state drinking water standards.

The City of San Diego's water resource strategy includes conservation, recycled water, groundwater, water reuse, and watershed and resource protection to help meet future water needs.

## Multi-Barrier Water Purification Steps



Learn more about Pure Water San Diego at [www.purewatersd.org](http://www.purewatersd.org). Register for a tour of the Advanced Water Purification Facility at [purewatersd.org/tours](http://purewatersd.org/tours) or request a presentation for your organization at [purewatersd.org/presentations](http://purewatersd.org/presentations).

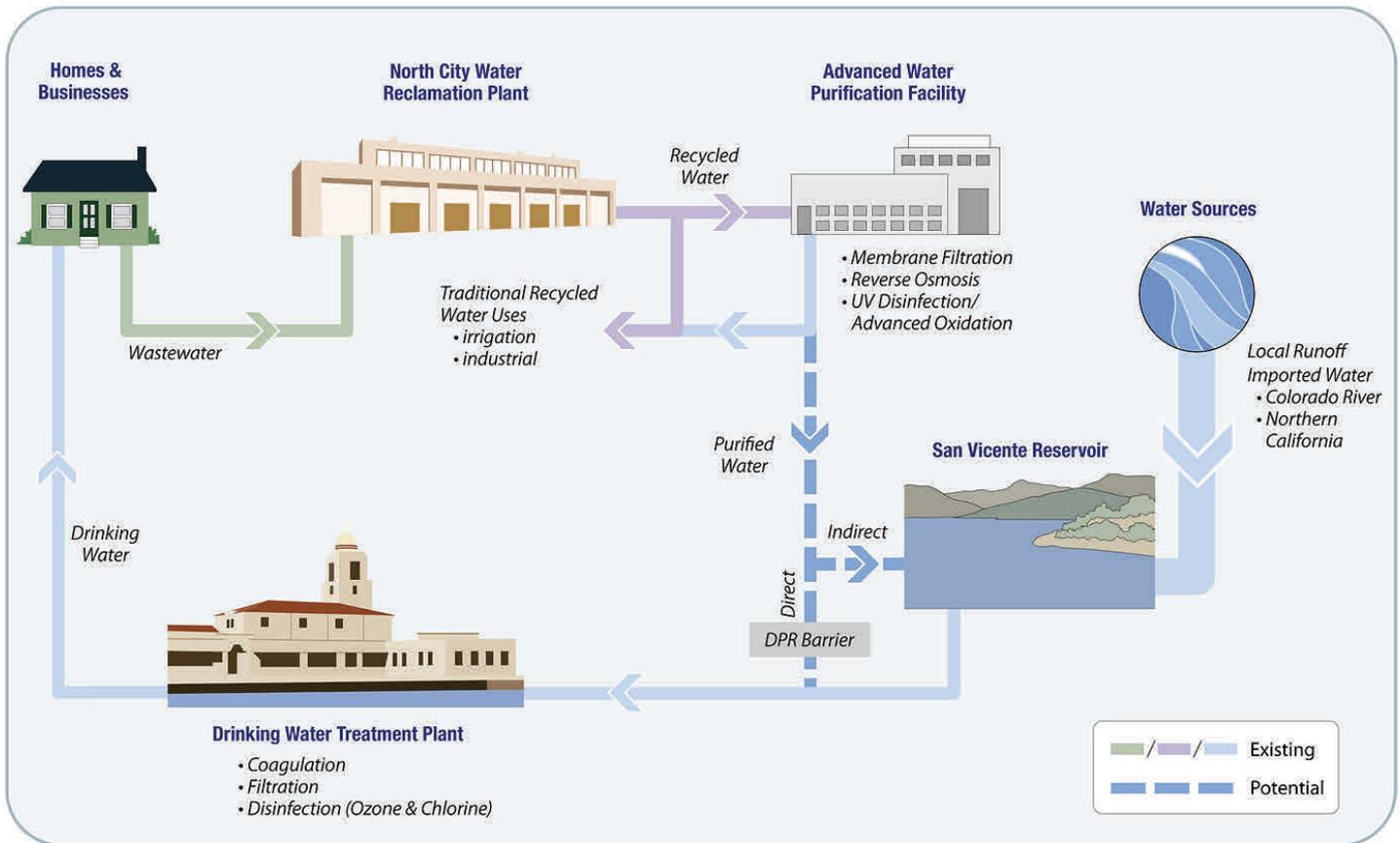


THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO



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# Water Purification Process



**Indirect Potable Reuse (IPR):** Purified water is sent to an environmental buffer (San Vicente Reservoir) prior to treatment at a drinking water plant. This was determined to be feasible for San Diego by the City’s demonstration project.

**Direct Potable Reuse (DPR):** Purified water is sent directly to treatment at a drinking water plant. Additional barriers (treatment or monitoring) would need to be included to achieve the same level of public health protection. The City is using grant funds from state Propositions 50 and 84 to research potential additional barriers that could replace the reservoir in a full-scale project.

Implementation of water purification in San Diego could account for one third of San Diego’s future water supply.

Initial Phase (2023): 15 million gallons of purified water per day  
 Long Term (2035): 83 million gallons of purified water per day