

PureNews

The City of San Diego • Public Utilities Department

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Get Involved!



Now is a great time to learn about Pure Water San Diego through educational tours and community events!

View our [calendar](#) to see where the Pure Water team will be in the community.



The City of San Diego's water resource strategy includes conservation, recycled water, groundwater, water reuse, and watershed and resource

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August 2017

Save the Date! Pure Water Day Open House

You're Invited!

Pure Water Day Open House

Saturday, October 21, 2017

You're invited to the second annual **Pure Water Day Open House**, where you can tour the demonstration Pure Water Facility and taste the purified water that will be coming to San Diego starting in 2021!

Bring the family and enjoy **free** snow cones, kettle corn, and fun educational youth activities! Meet project managers and learn about the various

Pure Water facilities and pipelines the City will begin constructing next year.

For more information, please click [here](#).

RSVP [here](#) by Saturday, Oct. 14, to confirm your tour spot.



EPA Gives Pure Water Program a Major Boost



The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently renewed a special five-year permit for ocean discharges from the City of San Diego's Point Loma Wastewater Treatment Plant that will ensure water quality remains high and gives a boost to the City's Pure Water San Diego Program.

"This is huge for San Diego because we'll be able to avoid unnecessary and expensive upgrades at the Point Loma plant and can instead invest those dollars to create an independent, drought-proof water supply for our residents," said Mayor Kevin L. Faulconer. "With this

protection to help meet future water needs.

permit renewal, the EPA is showing strong support for our Pure Water recycling program as we chart a path toward water independence."

It's the second EPA decision in the past month to give a boost to the Pure Water Program. In July, the EPA announced that the Pure Water Program was selected to apply for a federal loan of \$492 million - giving the City access to lower interest rates and reducing the financial burden for water and wastewater ratepayers.

The EPA is making about \$2.3 billion in funds available nationwide through its Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) loan assistance program. The City will be able to apply for a loan to cover up to 49 percent of the costs for the first phase of Pure Water that will purify 30 million gallons of water per day by 2021.

Loans would be repaid over a 35-year period through revenues from the water and wastewater systems.

Congressman Scott Peters Shows Support for Pure Water



Rep. Peters and staff.

Congressman Scott Peters and his staff visited the demonstration Pure Water Facility in July 2017. They received an update on the Pure Water Program's recent milestones and toured the facility. At the end of the tour, Rep. Peters and his staff tasted the Pure Water and were so impressed with the water that they refilled their cups for a second taste.

Following the tour, Rep. Peters emphasized that the Pure Water Program

"is an investment in our environment and our economy that will reduce our dependence on imported water." Rep. Peters has been a supporter of the Program since his days as a San Diego City Councilmember when he recognized the importance of Pure Water in securing a local, drought-proof source of water for San Diego. As a member of Congress, Rep. Peters voted to increase funding for the WIFIA loan assistance program, which the City's Pure Water Program is qualified to pursue.



Rep. Peters tastes the Pure Water.

Water Talk With the Water Reliability Coalition



Sean Karafin

Pure Water San Diego is an investment in the City's future, which is why we jointly work with community leaders who represent the City's broad interests to obtain their feedback and input.

We recently sat down with Sean Karafin and Matt O'Malley, who serve on the [Water Reliability Coalition's](#) board of directors. Here's what they had to say about the City's Pure Water Program.

Please describe your current job and how it relates to water.

Matt: *I'm the executive director and attorney at San Diego Coastkeeper, where I work to protect and restore the waters of San Diego County through legal and policy advocacy, scientific study and engagement, and education.*

Sean: *As Vice President of Policy for the Regional Chamber, it's my responsibility to advocate for a water supply that our members can depend on.*



Matt O'Malley

What made you a supporter of Pure Water San Diego?

Sean: *Businesses need water for cooling, cleaning, and manufacturing among other uses. When there is a safe, and cost-effective strategy to improve the reliability of water, we need to take advantage of that opportunity.*

Matt: *Our early support came from the recognition that only by prioritizing solutions that address both our region's water quality and water quantity issues can we ensure a sustainable environmental and economic future for San Diego. Pure Water is perhaps the best example we have of these types of solutions that carry multiple benefits - reducing pollution into our waters while producing a significant portion of our water supply needs.*

What do you think is the best benefit of Pure Water San Diego?

Matt: *Pure Water will allow us to lower, or even alleviate, the future need for expensive and energy-intense water supplies such as imported water and desalination. By implementing the Pure Water recycling project we address both water quality and water supply while potentially lessening future harmful environmental and economic impacts to San Diego.*

What would you say to people who struggle with the "yuck" factor sometimes associated with purifying recycled wastewater?

Matt: *The reality is that the water we are and have been drinking is recycled many times over before it reaches us in San Diego. Pure Water just adds an additional - and more advanced and purifying - treatment step to that water rather than discharging it into the ocean. We have an obligation to ourselves and the environment where we get our water from to make the best and wisest use of water once it gets to San Diego.*

Why do you think the City of San Diego needs the Pure Water Program?

Sean: *San Diego's modern challenge is to accommodate home-grown population growth. If we can't create jobs, provide housing opportunities, and provide enough water for a growing population, our grown children will find opportunities in the competitor regions that do.*

Matt: *Pure Water puts our region on a path to a future where wastewater discharges can be minimized and waters supply maximized. We believe Pure Water can and will serve as a model for other communities throughout San Diego that will allow us to achieve the greatest good for both water quality and water supply.*

What do you see as the most important next steps in advancing the Pure Water Program here in San Diego?

Sean: *To move forward successfully, our region needs to embrace a "One Water" mentality. The project only pencils out because ratepayer savings on the wastewater side offset costs on the potable water side.*

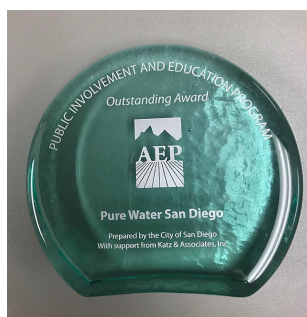
Pure Water Honored for Outreach Efforts



The City and Stone Brewing Company receive the Public Private Partnership Award.

The Water Reliability Coalition recently recognized the City of San Diego and Stone Brewing Company with the Public Private Partnership of the Year Award. In March 2017, Stone Brewing Company brewed the Stone Full Circle Pale Ale using purified water from the City's demonstration Pure Water Facility. This partnership was recognized for increasing awareness of the safety and reliability of purifying recycled water to meet drinking water standards.

The Pure Water Program also received awards from the San Diego section of the American Planning Association and the California Association of Environmental Professionals. Both the Program's outreach efforts and environmental impact report received awards. These awards recognize the City's continued commitment to informing and educating San Diegans about the benefits of Pure Water San Diego.



Celebrate Water Quality Month With Pure Water!



Watch the video above to learn about the 5-step advanced water purification process.

August is **National Water Quality Month!** The demonstration Pure Water Facility uses a 5-step advanced water purification process to clean recycled water and produce high-quality, drinking water. More than 30,000 laboratory tests have confirmed that the purified water produced meets or exceeds all federal and state drinking water standards. The resulting water quality is similar to distilled water. Watch the video above or click [here](#) to learn more about the water purification technology that will be used to provide 1/3 of San Diego's water supply locally by 2035.

ICYMI: Pure Water in the News

[U.S. EPA Approves Plan for San Diego to Recycle Sewage into Drinking Water, *The San Diego Union-Tribune*](#)

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board approved the City's permit application to operate the Point Loma Wastewater Treatment Plant for another five years.

[\\$492M Loan OK'd for San Diego's Recycled Drinking Water Project, *Times of San Diego*](#)

The EPA announced that the Pure Water Program has been selected to apply for a federal loan of \$492 million - giving the City access to lower interest rates and reducing the financial burden for water and wastewater ratepayers.

[Pure Water Works: Politically Speaking, *NBC San Diego*](#)

City of San Diego Public Utilities Director Halla Razak discussed the Pure Water Program on Politically Speaking with Gene Cubbison.

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.