In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the City Clerk's office at (310) 618-2780. Notification 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the City to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting. [28CFR35.102-35.104 ADA Title II]

Direct questions or concerns to the Commission Liaison at (310) 781-6900 or individual department head prior to submission to the Commission. Parties will be notified if the complaint will be included on a subsequent agenda.

The Water Commission is an advisory body to the City Council that meets on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. All meetings are open to the public.

Staff reports are attached to the agenda and available for review online. Questions or concerns may be directed to Chuck Schaich at (310) 781-6900. Agendas and Minutes are posted on the City of Torrance Home Page www.TorranceCA.Gov.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2025
REGULAR MEETING
6:30 P.M.
WEST ANNEX COMMISSION MEETING ROOM
AT 3031 TORRANCE BOULEVARD
TORRANCE, CA 90503

WATER COMMISSION MAY TAKE ACTION ON ANY ITEM LISTED ON THE AGENDA

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

ROLL CALL: Commission Members: Deemer, Lefevre, Masnek, Mazinani, Stecker, Thomas and Chair Siani

2. FLAG SALUTE

3. REPORT OF THE PUBLIC WORKS STAFF ON THE POSTING OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was posted on the Public Notice Board at 3031 Torrance Blvd. and on the City's Website on Wednesday, September 17, 2025.

4. ANNOUNCEMENT OF WITHDRAWN, DEFERRED, AND/OR SUPPLEMENTAL ITEMS

5. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS (Limited to a 15-minute period)

This portion of the meeting is reserved for public comment on items on the agenda or on topics of interest to the general public. Under the Ralph M. Brown Act, Commissioners cannot act on items raised during public *comment but may respond briefly to statements made or questions posed; request clarification; or refer the item to staff. Speakers under this Public Comment period will have no longer than 1 minute per speaker.*

6. CONSENT CALENDAR

Matters listed under the Consent Calendar are considered routine and will be enacted by one motion and one vote. There will be no separate discussion of these items. If discussion is desired, that item will be removed by a *Commissioner from the Consent Calendar and considered separately.*

6A. Approval of Minutes

Regular Meeting of July 23, 2025.

7. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

Matters listed under Administrative Matters are considered separately. Comments by members of the public on each item are limited to a maximum of 1 minute per item. Speakers must stay on topic and confine their comments to the item under consideration.

7A. Accept and File Presentation and Report regarding the Colorado River Situation and the Pending New Operating Agreement.
Recommendation of the Water Operations Manager that the Water Commission accept and file this presentation and report

78. Accept and File the Monthly Operations Report for August 2025.
Recommendation of the Water Operations Manager that the Water Commission accept and file this report.

8. METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT MATTERS

8A. Accept and File the Metropolitan Water District Director's Report.
Recommendation of the Water Operations Manager that the Water Commission accept and file this report.

9. COMMISSION AND STAFF ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

10. ADJOURNMENT

10A. Adjournment date for the next Water Commission Meeting to Wednesday, October 22, 2025, at 6:30 pm in the West Annex of City Hall located at 3031 Torrance Blvd.

July 23, 2025

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE TORRANCE WATER COMMISSION

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Water Commission convened in a regular session at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, July 23, 2025, in the West Annex Meeting Room, 3031 Torrance Boulevard.

ROLL CALL

Present:	Commissioners Deemer, Lefevre, Masnek, Mazinani, Stecker, Thomas and Chair Siani
Absent:	None
Also Present:	Water Operations Manager Andrew Darlak, Policy and Resources Specialist Chuck Schaich, Metropolitan Water District Director Raymond Jay

2. FLAG SALUTE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Stecker.

3. REPORT OF THE AIRPORT STAFF ON THE POSTING OF THE AGENDA

Policy and Resources Schaich reported that the agenda was posted on Thursday, July 17, 2025.

4. ANNOUNCEMENT OF WITHDRAWN, DEFERRED, AND/OR SUPPLEMENTAL ITEMS

None.

5. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Policy and Resources Schaich requested a motion for Commissioner Mazinani's absence from the May Water Commission meeting.

MOTION: Commissioner Stecker moved to excuse Commissioner Mazinani from the May 28th meeting. Commissioner Masnek seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected 6-0 approval (Commissioner Mazinani recused).

6. CONSENT CALENDAR

GA. APPROVE COMMISSION MINUTES: MAY 28, 2025

MOTION: Commissioner Thomas moved to approve the minutes of May 28, 2025. Commissioner Stecker seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected 7-0 approval.

7. ADMINSTRATIVE MATTERS

7A. ACCEPT AND FILE REPORT REGARDING THE INDUCTION OF RAYMOND JAY AS TORRANCE'S METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT (MWD) DIRECTOR AND RECOGNITION OF FORMER DIRECTOR RUSS LEFEVRE FOR HIS DEDICATED SERVICE

Policy and Resources Schaich presented report regarding the induction of Raymond Jay as Torrance's Metropolitan Water District's director and recognition of former director's Russ Lefevre for his dedicated service.

Metropolitan Water District Director Jay replaced Commissioner Lefevre as the Metropolitan Water District Director. His first meeting in this role was held on June 24, 2025. Metropolitan Water District Director Jay shared details of his duties as director, noting his assignments to the Operations and Engineering Committee and the Legislative Committee. One of his responsibilities includes providing input to the 38-member board.

MOTION: Commissioner Thomas moved accept and file repor:t regarding the induction of Raymond Jay as Torrance's Metropolitan Water District director and recognize former director Russ Lefevre for his dedicated service. Commissioner Stecker seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected 7-0 approval.

7B. ACCEPT AND FILE ELECTION REPORT FOR WATER COMMISSION CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR POSITIONS FOR FISCAL 2025-26

Policy and Resources Schaich recommended the Commission accept and file report for Water Commission Chair and Vice Chair positions for fiscal 2025-2026.

Commissioner Siani was unanimously nominated as Chair.

Commissioner Thomas was unanimously n'ominated as Vice Chair.

MOTION: Commissioner Thomas moved to accept and file report and approve appointments for Chair and Vice Chair for Fiscal year 2025-26; Commissioner Deemer seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected 7-0 approval.

7C. ACCEPT AND FILE PRESENTATION AND REPORT REGARDING MAJOR DRIVERS FOR THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT'S BUDGET AND IMPORTED WHOLESALE WATER RATES FOR THE NEXT TWO-YEAR BUDGET CYCLE

Policy and Resources Schaich presented report regarding major drivers for the Metropolitan Water District's budget and imported wholesale water rates for the next two-year budget cycle.

- Metropolitan Water District adopts rates every two years.
- Rates for 2025-2026 were adopted in April 2024; discussions for the next cycle will begin in early Fall 2025.
- Financial challenges include reduced water sales and declining demand, leading to budget shortfalls and use of reserves.
- Infrastructure, reliability, sustainability, and resilience challenges remain.
- New Capital projects planned include the Pure Water Project, Sites Reservoir Project, and Bay-Delta Conveyance Project.

MOTION: Commissioner Masnek moved to accept and file the report regarding major drivers for the Metropolitan Water District budget and imported wholesale water rates for the next two-year budget cycle. Commissioner Mazinani seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected 7-0 approval.

7D. ACCEPT AND FILE ORAL PRESENTATION AND REPORT REGARDING ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT (CCR) FOR CALENDAR 2024

Water Operations Manager Darlak presented report regarding Annual Water Quality Report (CCR) for calendar 2024, which included a flyer.

Water Operations Manager Darlak reported that water samples are collected on a daily , weekly, monthly, quarterly, semiannual, and annual basis to monitor the quality of drinking water. The samples are submitted to the Water Replenishment District (WRD), which issues a report with the results. This state-mandated process must be completed and the report made available by July 1st each year.

MOTION: Commissioner Thomas moved to accept and file oral report regarding Annual Water Quality Report (CCR) for Calendar 2024. Commissioner Masnek seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected 7-0 approval.

7E. ACCEPT AND FILE THE MONTHLY OPERATIONS REPORT FOR JUNE 2025

Water Operations Manager Darlak provided the following Monthly Operations Report for June 2025:

- North Torrance Wellfield production was 417 AF.
- The Goldsworthy Desalter is still down and there is a current investigation on the cause of the malfunction.
- The blower and scrubber system at North Torrance Wellfield is scheduled for delivery at the end of August.

MOTION: Commissioner Stecker moved to accept and file the monthly operations report for June 2025. Commissioner Masnek seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected 7-0 approval.

8. METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT MATTER

8A. ACCEPT AND FILE THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Metropolitan Water District Director Jay provided a verbal report on the Metropolitan Water District.

The Pure Water Project has not yet been officially approved by the Board. Discussions are ongoing, and formal approval is anticipated in early 2026.

The process of evaluating candidates.fo'r the General Manager position has begun, following the resignation of the current General Manager. The position is significant, as it plays a key role in determining which project to proceed.

MOTION: Commissioner Thomas moved to accept and file the Metropolitan Water District Director's report. Commissioner Masnek seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected 7-0 approval

9. COMMISSION AND STAFF ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

None

10. ADJOURNMENT

10A. ADJOURMENT

MOTION: At 8:20 p.m., Commissioner Siani adjourned the meeting to Wednesday, August 27, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. in the West Annex Commission Meeting Room, 3031 Torrance Boulevard. Commissioner Masnek seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected 7-0 approval.

COMMISSION MEETING OF
September 24, 2025

TO: **WATER COMMISSION**

FROM: **ANDREW DARLAK, WATER OPERATIONS MANAGER**

SUBJECT: **ACCEPT AND FILE PRESENTATION AND REPORT REGARDING THE COLORADO RIVER SITUATION AND THE PENDING NEW OPERATING AGREEMENT**

The Colorado River System that was regarded in the past as one of the most reliable water supply systems in the United States is now at the center of unprecedented water management challenges. The Colorado River (CR) system provides a vital water supply for approximately 40 million people in seven western states (Arizona, California, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming) and Mexico. Demand has long outstripped available supply, and climate related severe droughts and aridification have starved the river for several decades. Currently Lake Mead is only at 31% of capacity after a dry winter with little runoff. The CR is currently in a level 1 shortage condition, and if it remains at projected levels in the coming year, it could trigger cutbacks in Colorado River allotments of 18% to Arizona, 7% to Nevada and 5% to Mexico. At this point, California is not currently required to take mandatory reductions but could face significant cutbacks in the near future with further deterioration in the Colorado River Basin.

The Colorado River Aqueduct Project (CRA) constructed by the Metropolitan Water District in the the late 1930's and early 1940's has been the linchpin of MWD's imported water supply system that provides approximately one-half of the potable water supplies in its 5,200 square mile service area. Although Metropolitan has only a 550,000 acre-feet (AF) firm CR allocation, MWD has negotiated an array of lease, transfer, exchange and land fallowing agreements that have provided Metropolitan the ability to deliver over one-million AF of CR supplies as needed during major droughts. The availability of CRA supplies has been an invaluable resource to avoid severe water shortages in MWD's service area, particularly when State Water Project (SWP) supplies are severely restricted such as in 2020 - 2022 mega-drought.

The current operating guidelines established in 2002 to govern reservoir operations and water allocations under shortage conditions are set to expire at the end of 2026. The seven states that share the Colorado River have been engaged in protracted negotiations to develop a new operating agreement for the CR, which must be in place by the beginning of 2027.

Bill Hazencamp, Manager of Colorado River Resources for Metropolitan, and MWD's lead negotiator in the current seven state negotiations to develop a new CR operating agreement, will provide a presentation on the status of the Colorado River situation.

Andrew Darlak
Water Operations Manager

Roll Call: **___ Deemer __ Lefevre ____Masnek ----------Mazinani**

_____Stecker ___ Thomas ___ Chairperson Siani

7A

The Colorado River crisis: Water shortages, climate change, and sustainable management

Why policies, not just precipitation, will determine the river·s future

Published: March 19, 2025 | Last updated: June 16, 2025

Key agreements in the "Law of the River," which encompasses more than 100 years of regulations, laws, court decisions, and more focused on managing the Colorado River, are set to expire next year (https://www.usbr.gov/ColoradoRiverBasin/post2026/index.html). First established in 1922 as the Colorado River Compact (https://www.watereducation.org/aquapedia-background/colorado-river-compact), the guidelines split water management and allocation among seven states. Now, those states - Arizona, California, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming - are renegotiating the terms of use for the water. Drought (https://labs.waterdata.usgs.gov/visualizations/OWDI-drought/en/index.html), increased temperatures, and decreased snowpack in the Rocky Mountains are complicating the matter, according to Antonia Hadjimichael (/people/antonia-hadjimichael), assistant professor of geosciences at Penn State. In this Q&A, Hadjimichael spoke about the Colorado River, its challenges, and the research that looks to make the river a sustainable resource for millions of people.

The Colorado River stretches 1,450 miles through seven U.S. states before reaching Mexico and emptying into the Gulf of California.

Why is the Colorado River considered so complex?

The Colorado River is divided up in multiple ways to supply water for people, land irrigation, industries, cities and ecosystems. It's a vital but limited resource for many, and decisions made by one

Authors

Antonia Hadjimichael (/people/antonia-hadji_michael)
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Projects

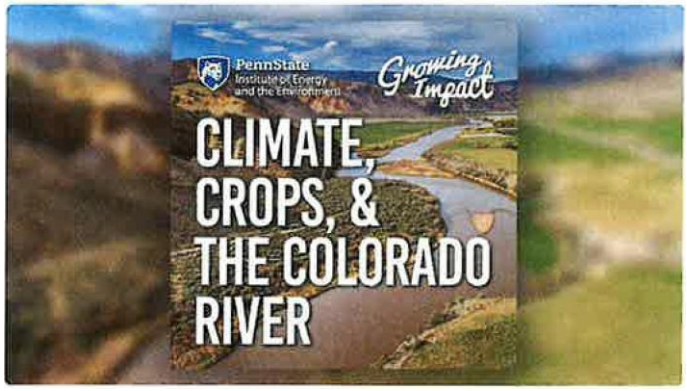
Understanding Compound Stressors and Stakeholder Tradeoffs of Agricultural Adaptation to Climate Change in the Colorado River (/research/projects/understanding-compound-stressors-and-stakeholder-tradeoffs-agricultural)

Research Themes

Climate and Natural Systems (/taxonomy/term/10)
Equitable Communities and the Built Environment (/taxonomy/term/13)
Water Sustainability (/taxonomy/term/14)

agency or user can have ripple effects on others. This complexity makes it an incredibly engaging challenge from a scientific perspective while also being an urgent societal issue.

What makes the Colorado River so important?



(/node/9588)

Watch, listen, and learn more about the challenges of climate change, drought, and the overuse of Colorado River water (/node/9588).

The Colorado River impacts seven states and even crosses international borders into Mexico. What we do in the U.S. affects another country as well. It is emblematic of American water issues, involving tribal rights, historical water rights from early Western expansion, and the challenge of sustaining large cities in the middle of the desert while also supporting agricultural communities that feed the nation and the world. Its influence spans far beyond the Southwest.

How many people rely on the Colorado River?

The Colorado River provides water for approximately 40 million people. Major urban centers such as Denver, Los Angeles, and Las Vegas depend on its water, as do numerous agricultural communities and industries. Some small villages exist solely because of the water provided by the river. Additionally, tribal communities with long histories in the region also rely on its water, and the ongoing water struggles affect them as well.

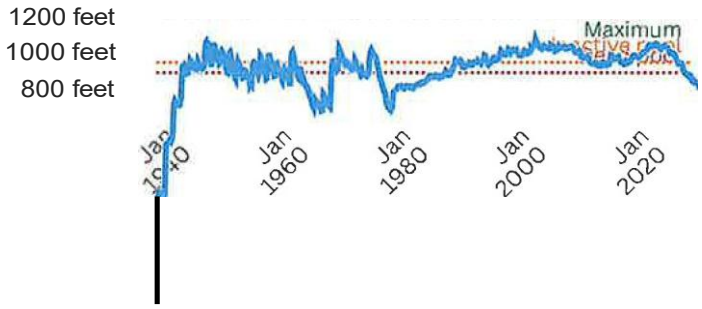
Between 2001and 2015, Lake Mead's elevation dropped from 1,196 to 1,075 feet, a decline of 121feet. Move the slider to see the decline in the reservoir elevation during this time. At the end of February, 2025, Lake Mead's elevation was even lower, at 1,068 feet. Source: USGS, USBR.

*

Interactive content by Flourish (https://app.flourish.studio/@flourish/photo-slider?utm_source=showcase&utm_campaign=visualisalion/22183232)

What are the biggest challenges facing the river today?

The primary challenge is how water is allocated. The Colorado River Compact, established more than 100 years ago, divided the river's water between the upper and lower basin states. However, the compact overestimated the river's water supply, allocating more water than what is actually available. This issue has been exacerbated by a two-decade-long drought, meaning that not only did we never have as much water as planned, but we now have even less. Reservoirs are at historic lows, and at the same time, demand is increasing due to higher temperatures and drier conditions. Everyone feels they are not getting what they were promised, creating tensions among stakeholders.



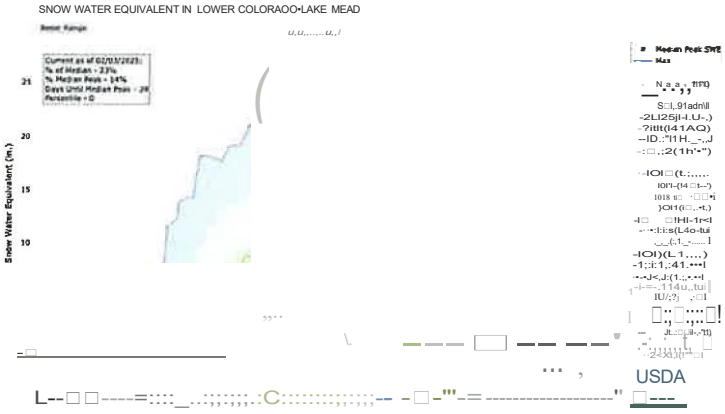
Historical water levels of Lake Mead at the Hoover Dam, by month, from 1935 to 2025

As shown at the left side of this chart, Lake Mead took around 6 years to near full capacity after construction was completed in 1935. The lake has remained below full capacity since 1983, due to drought and increased water demand. "Inactive pool" refers to water levels that are too low to be used for power generation. "Dead pool" refers to levels so low that water cannot flow out of the reservoir. Data source: .I.!S.flB..

*A Flourish chart (https:1/flourish.studio/visualisations/line-bar-pie-charts/?utm_source=showcase&utm_campaign=visualisation/22183682)

What role does climate change, including drought, play in these challenges?

Climate change drives extreme weather events, like prolonged drought, as well as longer-term issues like the region becoming increasingly drier over time, both of which exacerbate water scarcity in the Colorado River Basin. Higher temperatures lead to increased evaporation, drier soils, and higher water demands from crops and ecosystems. This compounds the issue of overallocation, making an already unsustainable system even more strained.



Graph tracking the Snow Water Equivalent (SWE) in the Lower Colorado River Basin, highlighting current snowpack levels and comparing them to historical averages. As of early 2025, the snowpack is at 23% of the median for this time of year, signaling potential challenges for water resources in the region.

2024-2025 (black), 2024 (orange), compared to the period of record maximum (blue) and minimum (red) and the 1991-2020 median (green) as of February 3, 2025. Source: USDA NRCS (https://nwcc-apps.sc.egov.usda.gov/awdb/basin-plots/POR/WTEQ/assocHUC6/150100_Lower_Colorado-Lake_Mead.html?hucFilter=15).

How are people addressing these issues?

Various management efforts exist at different levels. The Bureau of Reclamation oversees reservoirs and negotiates with states. Within individual states, water conservation boards and resource divisions work to determine the best ways to use and conserve water. Conservation efforts target both municipal and agricultural use. Cities have programs to reduce water consumption, while farmers are incentivized to adopt more efficient irrigation methods, sometimes receiving financial compensation to divert less water from the river.

Are conservation efforts making a difference?

Yes, conservation efforts help, but they are often temporary measures. For example, paying farmers to use less water for a season can provide short-term relief, but long-term solutions are needed. Some efforts, such as switching to more efficient irrigation methods, have lasting benefits, but ultimately, the entire system needs to be reconsidered for sustainable water use in the future.

What are some key highlights of your research on the Colorado River?

A lot of our work focuses on the Upper Colorado River Basin within Colorado (https://agupubs.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1029/2023EF004252). We study how different water users with varying rights are affected by drought and how their actions impact others. If one user diverts water, it changes availability for others, which makes managing the system incredibly complex. Understanding these dynamics informs better strategies for sustainable water management (https://frnsic.msdlive.org/) in the future.

What's the main takeaway about the Colorado River's future?

The Colorado River is an already stressed system, and we are at a critical point where every drop matters. While conservation and management efforts help, the reality is that we are dealing with a resource that has been overallocated and is being further strained by climate change. Continued cooperation, innovation, and difficult decision-making will be necessary to ensure its sustainability for future generations.

Antonia Hadjimichael (/people/antonia-hadjimichael) is an assistant professor of geosciences who, as an interdisciplinary earth scientist, studies how climate impacts water resources. Much of her work focuses on the Colorado River because it serves as a fascinating case study of how climate, water, human

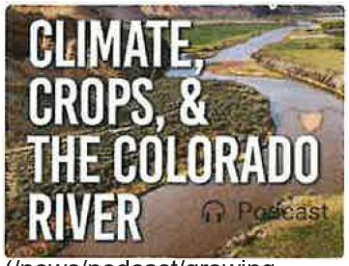
institutions, economics, and infrastructure interact. She specifically uses mathematical modeling, artificial intelligence tools, visual analytics, and high-performance computing to investigate how critical water resources might change in the future and how society can plan ahead to minimize negative impacts. More of Hadjimichael's publications on the Colorado River. (https://www.hadjimichaelgroup.info/publications)

This content was also published on Penn State News (https://www.psu.edu/news/research/story/qa-wading-shrinking-waters-colorado-river) on March 19, 2025, and republished by phys.org (https://phys.org/news/2025-03-qa-earth-scientist-discusses-colorado.html) and msn.com (https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/us/q-a-earth-scientist-discusses-the-shrinking-waters-of-the-colorado-river/ar-AA1BjjpV#).

Related News

(/news/growing-impact-podcast-discusses-how-climate-agriculture-impact-colorado-river)

Growing Impact podcast discusses how climate, agriculture impact Colorado River (/news/growing-impact-podcast-discusses-how-climate-agriculture-impact-colorado-river)



(/news/podcast/growing-impact-climate-crops-and-colorado-river)

Growing Impact: Climate, crops, and the Colorado River (/news/podcast/growing-impact-climate-crops-and-colorado-river)

(/news/engineering-science-and-mechanics-researcher-christian-peco-awarded-nsf-career)

Engineering science and mechanics researcher Christian Peco awarded NSF CAREER (/news/engineering-science-and-mechanics-researcher-christian-peco-awarded-nsf-career)

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COMMISSION MEETING OF
September 24, 2025

TO: **WATER COMMISSION**

FROM: **ANDY DARLAK, WATER OPERATIONS MANAGER**

SUBJECT: **ACCEPT AND FILE MONTHLY WATER OPERATIONS REPORT FOR AUGUST 2025**

It is the recommendation of the Water Operations Manager that the Water Commission accept and file this report.

Monthly Water Department highlights for the month of August 2025 are:

1. Total potable water produced from local potable sources is 9.3% lower than in August 2024. On a year-to-date basis, total potable water is 3.3% lower than last year and total water produced from all sources, including recycled water is 1.7% lower than in 2024. The decrease in potable water production is primarily due to a significant reduction in potable water sales to the Torrance Refining Company compared to the same period last year.

Month: August

Water Source	August 2024	August 2025	Change
Potable Groundwater			
Wells*	422.4	443.E	5.0%
WRD Desalter*	213.9	0.C	-100.0%
Subtotal	636.3	443.€	-30.3%
Imported Potable			
MI/VD	1,255.6	1,2722	1.3%
Imported Recycled			
WBMVVD	405.0	480.6	18.7%
Total Produced/Imported			
All Potable Sources	1,891.9	1,11s.a	-9.3%
All Sources + Recycled	2,296.91	2,196.4	-4.4%

Year to Date: 2024 vs 2025

Water Source	2024 YTD	2025 YTD	Change
Potable Groundwater			
Wells	2,314.0	3,551.6	53.5%
WRD Desalter	1,540.4	493.(	-68.0%
Subtotal	3,854.3	4,044.6	4.9%
Imported Potable			
MI/VD	9,089.7	8,478.4	-6.7%
Imported Recycled			
WBMVVD	3,262.6	3,404.7	4.4%
All Potable Sources	12,944.0	12,523.(	-3.3%
All Sources + Recycled	16,206.7	15,927.7	-1.7%

2. There were 2 water main breaks reported in August 2025, compared to 6 breaks in August 2024. Year-to-date, there have been 27 main breaks in 2025, compared to 23 during the same period in 2024.

3. The Goldsworthy Desalter has been taken offline to repair the Delthorne Park well that developed a vibration. Contractors have completed repairs and are preparing to bring the Well back online in September.

4. The permanent blower and scrubber system has been delivered. System install is currently underway. We are producing water from all 3 wells, including Well #9, 10 and 11. Production for August was 443 AF and if sustained, well production at the North Torrance Wellfield would produce in the range of 5,000 AFY, our original target.

Andy Darlak
Water Operations Manager

Roll Call: ___ **Deemer** ___ **Lefevre** ___ **Masnek.**___ **Mazinani**

___ **Stecker** ___ **Thomas** ___ **Chairperson Siani**