



**moulton niguel** water district

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER  
**NOVEMBER 2016**

# MNWD's Recycled Water Program

## A Solution to Reliability and Customer Service

Moulton Niguel Water District provides potable water, recycled water, and wastewater service to more than 170,000 residents within our service area. The development and implementation of our recycled water program has been instrumental in creating a sustainable supply for our customers and ensuring a reliable supplement to imported water within the region.

Recycled water production in our service area began in the late 1960s and saw extensive expansion during the 1990s and early 2000s as development increased dramatically in south Orange County. During these growth periods, our Board of Directors anticipated the need to develop additional water supplies, and made critical investments in the continued expansion of recycled water supplies and infrastructure to supplement imported drinking water.

Wastewater supplies have become a valuable resource and is managed carefully to ensure it is effectively treated and utilized as recycled water. On average, over 7 million gallons of recycled water are generated and used by our customers daily. This recycled water production eliminates more than 2.5 billion gallons of wastewater that would have otherwise been discharged into the ocean, accounting for nearly 70% of all wastewater generated by our customers. While this is a substantial accomplishment and benefit to the environment, it is also something we are continuing to work towards improving as we maximize our water reliability efforts.

## Looking Ahead

### Recycled Water Master Plan

We are currently developing a Recycled Water Master Plan that will identify necessary improvements and investments to expand recycled water production and use within the region. It will provide a "roadmap" for us to identify additional recycled water customers, necessary distribution system improvements, storage requirements, long-term maintenance and replacement needs, and regional partnering opportunities. The goal is to maximize recycled water use and ensure continued water reliability for our customers for years to come.

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## Providing Reliability Through Local Water Projects

The Baker Water Treatment Plant, a regional water treatment facility that will provide a new source of drinking water throughout south Orange County, will be completed in late 2016. Through a collaboration with several water districts that recognized the need for increased emergency water reliability. This project provides more than 28 million gallons of drinking water per day – enough to serve 63,000 homes – and over **8 million gallons** to our service area every day. The plant utilizes advanced treatment technologies to produce a high-quality water source that meets drinking water standards.

Project partners include the Moulton Niguel Water District, Irvine Ranch Water District, Santa Margarita Water District, Trabuco Canyon Water District, and El Toro Water District.

### RECYCLED WATER: BY THE NUMBERS

**50 years**  
of recycled water use

**25%**  
of overall water demand

**1,300+**  
customer sites

**144 miles**  
of “purple pipe”

**7+ million**  
gallons daily use



### Direct Potable Reuse in Our Future?

Never in history has the use of recycled water been more important than it is today, as California enters its sixth consecutive year of drought. While many state agencies are already involved in non-potable and indirect potable water projects, a more recent focus in the recycled water conversation in California is the concept of Direct Potable Reuse (DPR). While new to California, DPR is already utilized in Texas and other parts of the world. DPR takes highly purified recycled water and places it directly into a raw water supply system immediately upstream or downstream of a water treatment plant. In September 2016, the State of California's Division of Drinking Water released a draft report on the feasibility of developing statewide regulations for DPR, which could significantly benefit our region by diversifying our water supply portfolio and providing an additional, drought-proof water supply option.

As we continue to maximize recycled water use, we are hopeful that future regulations and technologies will allow us to reduce our dependence on imported water through the development of DPR. As the State Water Resources Control Board prepares to submit a final report by December 2016, we remain involved in the discussions and funding initiatives to identify the feasibility of DPR in our future.

For more information,  
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