

2023

Annual Report



In 2023, we and our partners turned wastewater and trash into:

54

BILLION GALLONS OF MEGAWATTS OF RECYCLED WATER ELECTRICITY

154,000

TONS OF RECYCLED
MATERIALS

130,000

TONS OF COMPOST

MISSION

To protect public health and the environment through innovative and cost-effective wastewater and solid waste management and, in doing so, convert waste into resources such as recycled water, energy and recycled materials.



RECYCLED WATER

CORE VALUES

INTEGRITY

We are committed to ethical standards and accountability in our work

LEADERSHIP

We are committed to the advancement of excellence in wastewater and solid waste management

SERVICE

We are committed to reliable, responsive and courteous service





e are honored to celebrate our centennial this year and reaffirm our commitment to serving Los Angeles County. For the past 100 years, we have been managing wastewater and solid waste infrastructure to serve the people of our community. Today, the Sanitation Districts convert waste into resources for 5.5 million people in 78 cities and unincorporated areas of the county.

Since our formation in 1923, we have been committed to innovation. We are pioneers in water recycling—cleaning over 1.2 trillion gallons of water for beneficial reuse. At our solid waste facilities, we developed practices that were more friendly to the environment and our neighbors. We also found ways to convert waste into green energy. Our proud history has helped form a culture that will guide us for our next hundred years.

FRONT COVER: The Joint Disposal Plant in 1928, site of today's A.K. Warren Water Resource Facility (Warren Facility), formerly Joint Water Pollution Control Plant. **ABOVE TOP:** Directors gather for the groundbreaking of the Wright Road trunk sewer in 1925. **ABOVE:** Directors, staff and retirees gathered at the Warren Facility in October 2023 to celebrate the agency's centennial.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHIEF ENGINEER

Drawing Wisdom from the Past and Charting the Course for the Next Century

n 2023, the Sanitation Districts proudly commemorated a century since the enactment of the County Sanitation District Act, a pivotal moment that gave rise to our agency. Over the past 100 years, we have evolved from a mere concept to an integral part of the region, supporting growth, leading innovation and protecting public health and the environment in a cost-effective manner. As we reflect on the agency's contributions to the people of Los Angeles County, we find inspiration in our history to confront the challenges that lie ahead.

Our inaugural Chief Engineer, Albert Kendall Warren (A.K. Warren), serves as an enduring example of public service—a legacy that continues to shape who we are today. Under Mr. Warren's leadership, the Sanitation Districts were founded upon the pillars of service, sound engineering and regional collaboration, principles that have proven instrumental over the years. Looking to the future, I am confident that these principles will continue to guide the agency successfully.



A notable highlight of the year was the renaming of our largest wastewater treatment plant in his honor—the A.K. Warren Water Resource Facility, formerly known as the Joint Water Pollution Control Plant. This tribute not only pays homage to the past but also underscores our unwavering commitment to a sustainable future.

The Sanitation Districts will continue its leadership role in the wastewater and solid waste industry with a focus on sustainable practices. The evident impacts of climate change, from drought to forest fires, compel us to bolster the region's resilience to these challenges. Our mission of converting waste into resources is a critical part of being sustainable. I look forward to working with you as we embark on the next 100 years with a focus on addressing aging infrastructure, fighting climate change and continuing to help build a more sustainable future.

I am optimistic about the future, aware of the challenges and determined to explore new opportunities for progress and success.

Sincerely,

Robert C. Ferrante

Chief Engineer & General Manager

Boards of Directors (as of printing, March 18, 2024)

Ross Maza; Sasha Perez Alhambra DIST. 2, 16 Arcadia DIST. 15, 22 April Verlato; Michael Cao **Artesia** DIST. 2, 18, 19 Monica Manalo; Ali Sajjad Taj Robert Gonzales; Edward J. Alvarez Azusa DIST. 22 Baldwin Park DIST. 15, 22 Emmanuel J. Estrada Monica Garcia Bell DIST. 1. 2 Fidencio Gallardo; Ali Saleh **Bell Gardens** DIST. 2 Jorgel Chavez; Marco Barcena Bellflower DIST. 2, 3, 18 Dan Koops; Raymond Dunton **Beverly Hills** DIST. 4 Julian Gold; Sharon Nazarian **Bradbury** DIST. 15, 22 vacant: Richard Barakat Carson DIST. 8 Lula Davis-Holmes: *Iim Dear* **Cerritos** DIST. 2, 3, 18, 19 Bruce Barrows; Naresh Solanki Claremont DIST, 21 Sal Medina; Corey Calaycay City of Commerce DIST. 2 Hugo Argumedo Compton DIST. 1, 2, 8 Emma Sharif Covina DIST. 22 Walter Allen III; Patricia Cortez **Cudahy** DIST. 1 Jose Gonzalez; Martin U. Fuentes Culver City DIST. 5 Yasmine-Imani McMorrin; Dan O'Brien **Diamond Bar** DIST. 21 Stan Liu; Andrew Chou Downey DIST. 2, 18 Mario Trujillo; Hector Sosa Vinh Truong; Margaret Finlay Duarte DIST, 15, 22 El Monte DIST. 15 Jessica Ancona; Victoria Martinez El Segundo DIST. 5, SBC Drew Boyles; Chris Pimentel **Gardena** DIST. 5 Tasha Cerda; Paulette C. Francis **Glendora** DIST. 22 Mendell Thompson; Michael Allawos Hawaiian Gardens DIST. 19 Victor Farfan Maria Teresa Del Rio **Hawthorne** DIST. 5 Alex Vargas; Alex Monteiro Hermosa Beach SBC Justin Massey; Dean Francois **Huntington Park** DIST. 1 Marilyn Sanabria; *Karina Macias* City of Industry DIST. 15, 18, 21 Cory Moss **Inglewood** DIST. 5 James T. Butts Irwindale DIST. 15, 22 Albert F. Ambriz; *Larry Burrola* La Cañada Flintridge DIST. 28, 34 Michael A. Davitt Kim Bowman; Teresa Walker; Keith Eich; Richard B. Gunter III La Habra Heights DIST. 18 Carol Engelhardt; John Pespisa La Mirada DIST, 18 Steve De Ruse **La Puente** DIST. 15, 21 Gabriel Quinones; *Charlie Klinakis* La Verne DIST. 21. 22 Tim Hepburn Lakewood DIST, 3, 19 Ariel Pe; Todd Rogers Lancaster DIST, 14 R. Rex Parris; Marvin Crist Lawndale DIST. 5 Robert Pullen-Miles; Pat Kearney Lomita DIST. 5 Bill Uphoff; James Gazeley

Long Beach DIST. 1, 2, 3, 8, 19 Rex Richardson; *Suely Saro*

Los Angeles City DIST. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 16 Paul Krekorian

Los Angeles County (u	nincorporated)				
DIST. 2, 9, 16, 21, 22 Lindsey P. Horvath; <i>Hilda Solis</i> DIST. 1, 3, 5, 17, 18, 19, 27, NR Lindsey P. Horvath					
DIST. 14, 15, 20, SCV	Janice Hahn Lindsey P. Horvath; <i>Kathryn Barger</i>				
DIST. 8	Lindsey P. Horvath; Holly J. Mitchell				
DIST. 17 (2nd DIR) DIST. 9 (2nd DIR)	Kathryn Barger; <i>Janice Hahn</i> Janice Hahn; <i>Hilda Solis</i>				
Lynwood DIST. 1	Jose Luis Solache; Rita Soto				
Manhattan Beach DIST.	5, SBC Joseph Franklin <i>Amy Howorth</i>				
Maywood DIST. 1	Eddie De La Riva; <i>Mayra Aguiluz</i>				
Monrovia DIST. 15, 22	Becky A. Shevlin				
Montebello DIST. 2, 15	Scarlet Peralta; Salvador Melendez				
Monterey Park DIST. 2, 1	Jose Sanchez; <i>Thomas Wong</i>				
Norwalk DIST. 2, 18	Margarita Rios; Rick Ramirez				
Palmdale DIST. 14, 20 DIST. 20 (2nd DIR)	Austin Bishop; Andrea Alarcon Richard J. Loa; Andrea Alarcon				
Palos Verdes Estates D	IST. 5, SBC Dawn Murdock Victoria Lozzi				
Paramount DIST. 1, 2	Isabel Aguayo; Annette Delgadillo				
Pasadena DIST. 15, 16, 17	Victor Gordo; Felicia Williams				
Pico Rivera DIST. 2, 18	Andrew Lara; Gustavo Camacho				
Pomona DIST. 21	Tim Sandoval; Steve Lustro				
Rancho Palos Verdes D	IST. 5, SBC John Cruikshank Eric Alegria				
Redondo Beach DIST. 5,	SBC Bill Brand; Todd Loewenstein				
Rolling Hills DIST. 5	Patrick Wilson				
Rolling Hills Estates DI	ST. 5, SBC Velveth Schmitz				
Rosemead DIST. 15	Steven Ly; Margaret Clark				
San Dimas DIST. 21, 22	Emmett Badar				
San Gabriel DIST. 2, 15	John Harrington; Tony Ding				
San Marino DIST. 15, 16	Steve Talt; Calvin Lo				
Santa Clarita SCV SCV (2nd DIR)	Cameron Smyth; Marsha McLean Laurene Weste; Marsha McLean				
Santa Fe Springs DIST.	18 Jay Sarno; William Rounds				
Sierra Madre DIST. 15	Kelly Kriebs; Robert Parkhurst				
Signal Hill DIST. 3, 29 DIST. 29	Lori Y. Woods; <i>Edward H.J. Wilson</i> Tina Hansen; Robert Copeland Edward H. J. Wilson; Keir Jones				
South El Monte DIST. 15	Gloria Olmos; Richard Angel				
South Gate DIST. 1, 2	Gil Hurtado; <i>Maria Davila</i>				
South Pasadena DIST. 16	Evelyn Zneimer; Jack Donovan				
Temple City DIST. 15	Cynthia Sternquist; Vincent Yu				
Torrance DIST. 5, SBC	George Chen; Jon Kaji				
Vernon DIST. 1, 2 DIST. 23	Crystal Larios; <i>Judith Merlo</i> Judith Merlo; Melissa Ybarra Jesus Rivera; Leticia Lopez				
Walnut DIST. 21, 22	Nancy Tragarz; Allen Wu				
West Covina DIST. 15, 21					
	Rosario Diaz				

John M. Erickson; Chelsea Byers

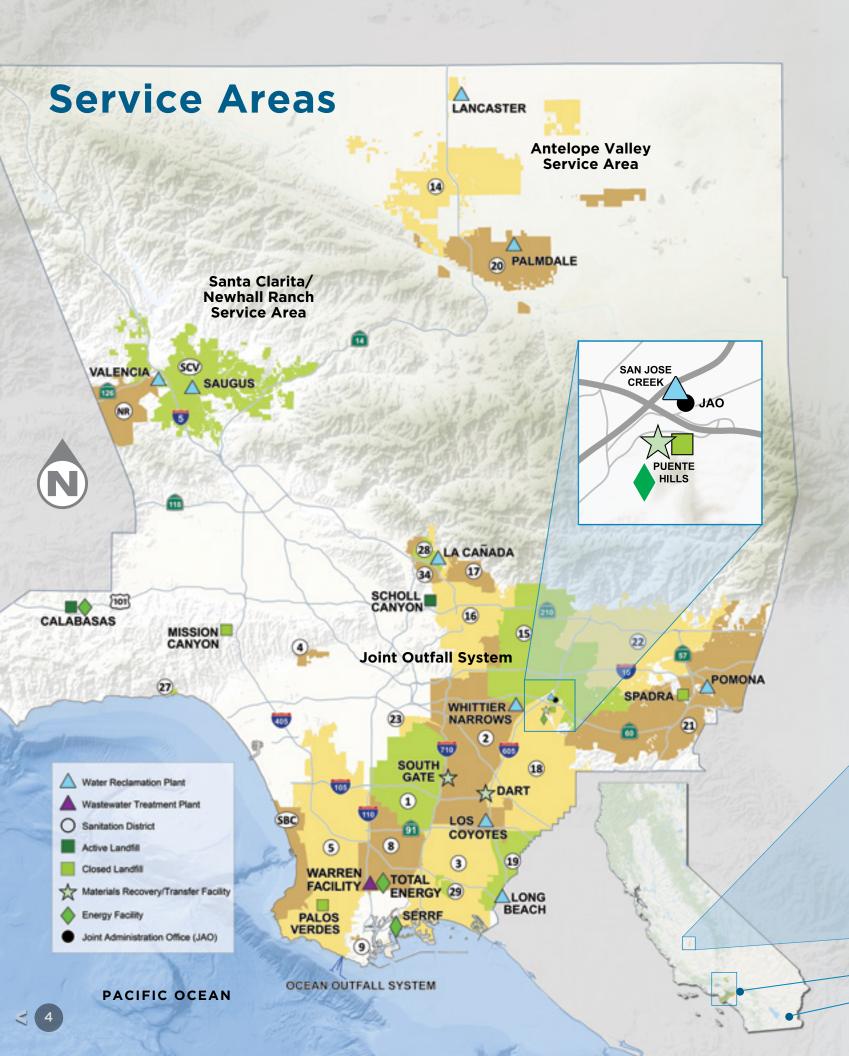
Joe Vinatieri; Cathy Warner

West Hollywood DIST. 4

Whittier DIST. 2, 15, 18

Tim McOsker

Alternate Directors in italics



Who We Are

he Sanitation Districts consist of 24 independent special districts serving about 5.5 million people in Los Angeles County. The service area in the map to the left covers approximately 850 square miles and encompasses 78 cities and unincorporated areas in the county.

The Sanitation Districts were created in 1923 to construct, operate and maintain facilities that collect, treat and dispose of domestic and industrial wastewater. The Sanitation Districts own, operate and maintain the larger, regional wastewater collection systems, while cities and unincorporated areas within each district are

SERVING
5.5 million people
850 square miles
78 cities

responsible for their smaller local collection systems (except for Signal Hill, whose local collection system is owned by Sanitation District No. 29). In the 1950s, the Sanitation Districts were given responsibility for solid waste management (excluding trash pickup). In 2016, the Sanitation Districts were also given the authority to help cities and unincorporated areas in Los Angeles County manage stormwater.

To maximize efficiency and reduce costs, the 24 districts work cooperatively with one administrative staff headquartered near the intersection of the 60 and 605 freeways, north of Whittier. Each district has a Board of Directors consisting of the mayor of each city served and the Chair of the County Board of Supervisors for unincorporated territory. Each district pays its proportionate share of administrative costs.

Overall wastewater and solid waste management spending for fiscal year 2022-23 was \$812 million and \$144 million, respectively. Both systems provide essential public services at some of the most competitive service rates in the country.



Inland Empire Regional Composting Facility

Mesquite Regional Landfill

1,719

AVERAGE AGE

AVERAGE YEARS OF SERVICE AT RETIREMENT

29

2023 NEW HIRES

113

RETIREMENTS

63

LICENSED ENGINEERS **245**

EMPLOYEES WITH ADVANCED DEGREES

238

EMPLOYEES WITH CERTIFICATION OF SPECIAL EXPERTISE

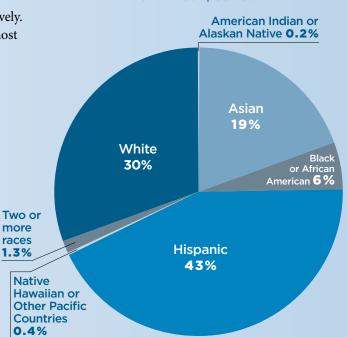
241

STAFFING BY SEX

23%

MALE **77%**

0.2% Not Specified



Numbers as of Dec. 31, 2023

What We Do

WASTEWATER

We collect, treat and recycle the wastewater (sewage) from 5.5 million people in Los Angeles County. Our wastewater system currently treats about 400 million gallons per day, enough to fill the Rose Bowl nearly five times a day. This system includes 11 wastewater treatment plants, 49 pump stations, over 1,400 miles of sewer and two state-of-theart composting facilities for managing the solids removed during treatment.



SOLID WASTE

Our solid waste management system includes two active landfills and three materials recovery/transfer facilities. Some of our facilities are operated by a third party. This system manages about 5,500 tons of the county's solid waste every day. We also have infrastructure for a waste-by-rail system to handle the county's waste in the future when local disposal options are exhausted.



The Sanitation Districts are one of the country's leading producers of green energy. Some of the electricity is used in powering Sanitation Districts' operations. The rest is exported to the local grid, which reduces the power that utilities must produce and thereby

reduces greenhouse gas emissions.



Our Organization

CHIEF ENGINEER & GENERAL MANAGER

Robert C. Ferrante

ASSISTANT CHIEF ENGINEER & ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER

Martha Tremblay

DEPUTY ASSISTANT CHIEF ENGINEER

Matthew A. Eaton

DEPARTMENTS & SECTIONS

ENGINEERING	FACILITIES	FINANCIAL	HUMAN	SOLID WASTE	TECHNICAL	WASTEWATER
	PLANNING	MANAGEMENT	RESOURCES	MANAGEMENT	SERVICES	MANAGEMENT
Construction Management Electrical & Instrumentation Design Sewer Design Structural, Architectural, & Geotechnical Design Civil & Mechanical Design	Planning & Property Management Public Information Wastewater Planning	Accounting Budget & Finance Purchasing & Risk Management	Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Employee Benefits Employee Relations Employment Services Payroll Training & Development	Energy Recovery Fleet Management & Transportation Solid Waste Operations & Engineering	Air Quality Environmental Health & Safety Laboratories Legislative & Regulatory Programs Reuse & Compliance Wastewater Research Water Quality	Industrial Waste A.K. Warren Water Resource Facility Wastewater Collection Systems Water Reclamation Plants

ENGINEERING

Design and construction oversight of Sanitation Districts' facilities

FACILITIES PLANNING

Long range planning, environmental review, environmental permitting, property management, information technology, public relations, security, facilities management and document management

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

Budgeting, accounting, purchasing, revenue collection and insurance

HUMAN RESOURCES

Hiring employees, payroll, benefits and compliance with state and federal employment laws

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

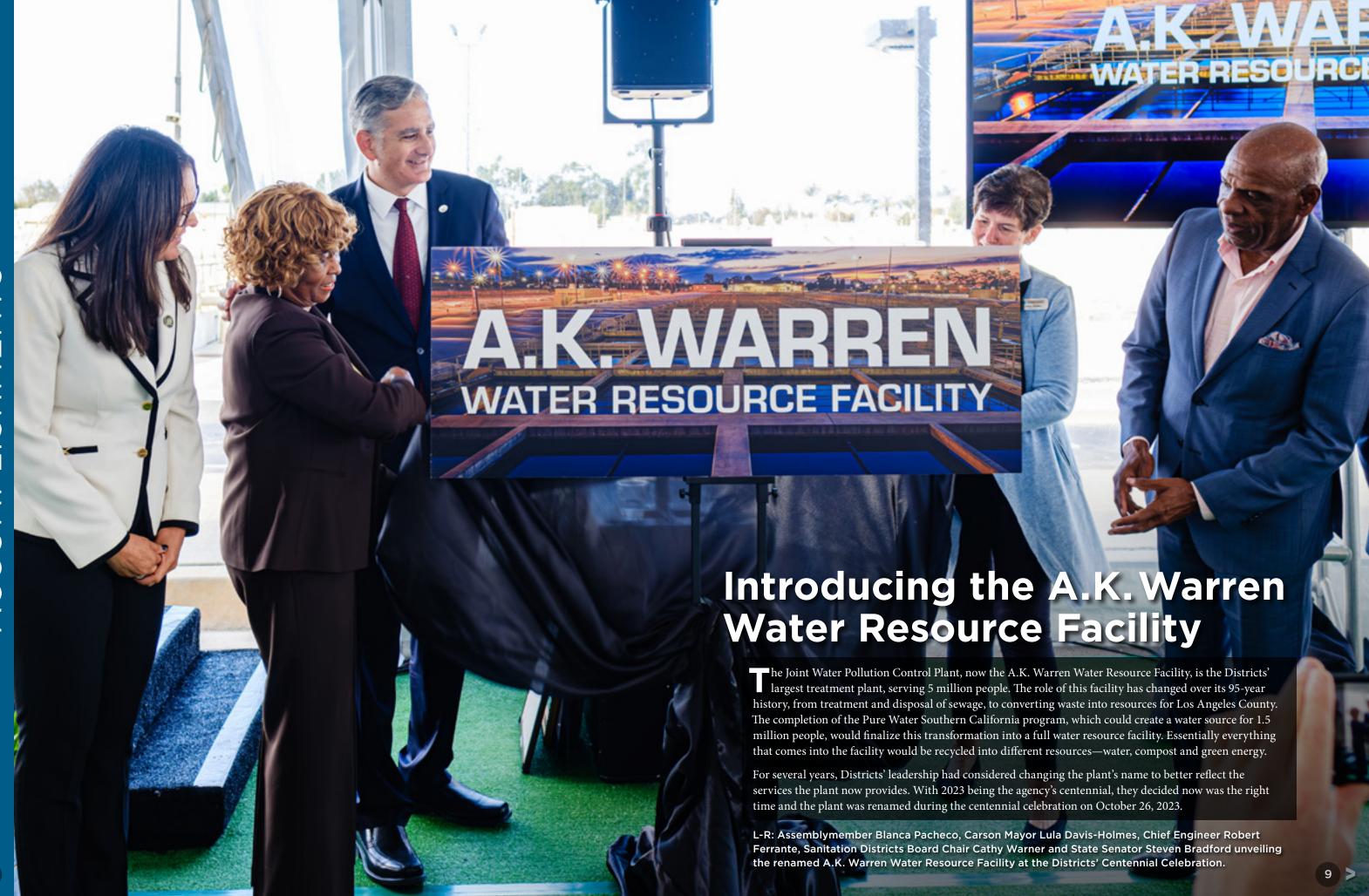
Operation and maintenance of the solid waste management facilities and energy recovery facilities

TECHNICAL SERVICES

Water recycling, biosolids management, water and air permit compliance, research, laboratory processes, regulatory advocacy and legislative advocacy

WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT

Operation and maintenance of wastewater management facilities and regulating industrial discharges to the Sanitation Districts' sewer system



More Than Halfway There

ur state-of-the-art tunnel boring machine, *Rachel*, has completed four miles of the seven-mile-long tunnel that will convey cleaned water from the Warren Facility in Carson to the ocean. The new tunnel will replace two aging tunnels (built in 1937 and 1958). In doing so, the Clearwater project tunnel will protect local waterways by addressing aging infrastructure.

As *Rachel* approaches Capitol Drive and Western Avenue in San Pedro, the geology transitions from soil to bedrock. In 2024, tunneling will get deep as the tunneling machine bores beneath the Palos Verdes Peninsula. At one point, the tunnel will be 460 feet below the surface.

In 2023, the Clearwater Project received a \$441 million low interest loan from U.S. EPA. The monies were available through the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA). This money from WIFIA will save our ratepayers \$150 million compared to municipal bonds.

More Green Energy from Food Waste

The Sanitation Districts' Food Waste Recycling Program continues to help cities meet their organic diversion goals by processing source-separated food waste and co-digesting liquified food waste. The volume of liquified food waste received at the Warren Facility has increased as more member cities start their organic waste diversion programs. As a result, the Districts are generating more biogas and expanding programs to beneficially use that biogas.

In 2023, design began on a system to purify biogas into pipeline-quality renewable natural gas (RNG). This RNG is expected to be injected into the Southern California Gas natural gas pipeline network by 2025.

The Districts are also expanding their natural gas fueling station to serve more RNG as vehicle fuel. Both efforts will reduce the need for fossil fuels.

EPA representatives are led on a tour of the Clearwater tunnel.

Pure Water Southern California Gets State Support





MO.	DAY	YR.
07	19	2023

* PUREWOTER SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

THE METROPOLITAN WATER DIST OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA 80000000.00

MALIA M. COHEN



he Sanitation Districts and the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California continue their partnership on the Pure Water Southern California Program. The program would create a new, reliable source of water for 1.5 million people. Extensive public outreach continues along with the environmental review process. Release of the draft environmental impact report is expected in late 2024.

Several milestones marked the progress of the program in 2023. In July of 2023, the program received an \$80 million grant from the state to advance its development.

In November, the demonstration facility was renamed the Grace F. Napolitano Pure Water Southern California Innovation Center (Innovation Center). The Innovation Center also underwent renovations in preparation for a third phase of testing the water purification technology.

Sanitation Districts, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California and elected officials accept a state grant for the Pure Water Southern California Program.

Cleaned and Ready to Serve the Community

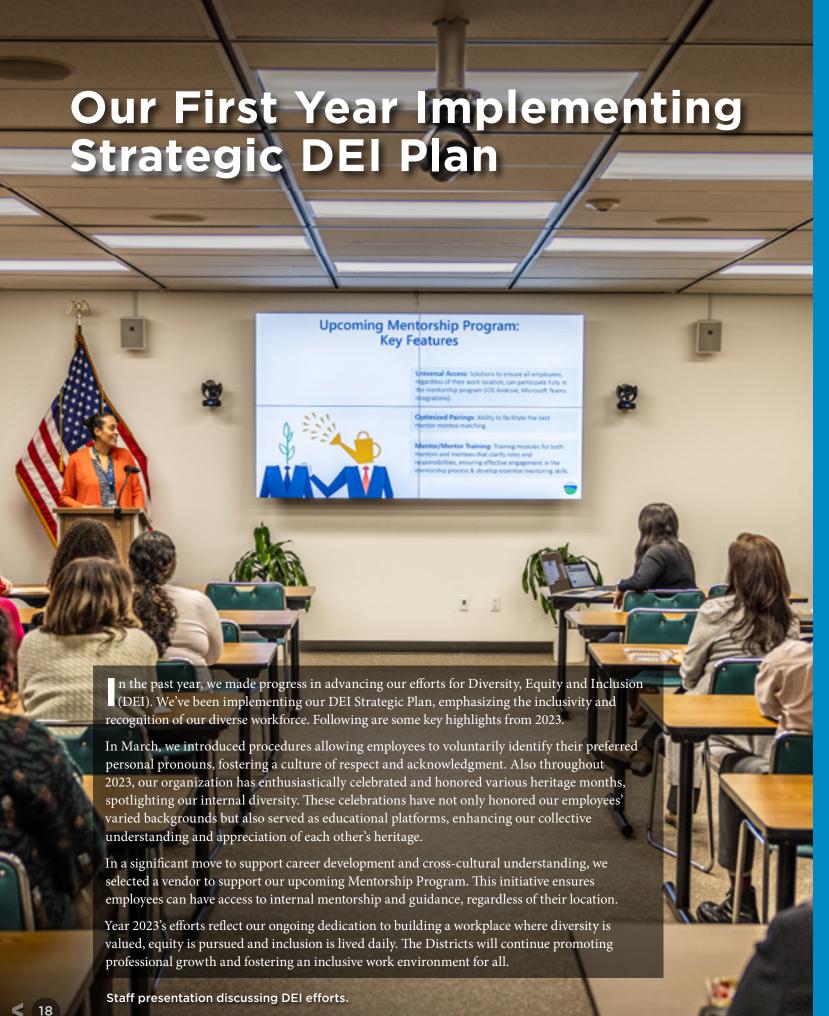
pproximately 36 acres at the southeast corner of the Warren Facility in Carson were used by an oil refinery until the early 1990s. As a result of the refining operations, the soil and groundwater were contaminated with petroleum hydrocarbons. The Sanitation Districts purchased the closed facility in 2000 to accommodate future needs. When the seller declared bankruptcy in 2007, the Sanitation Districts took over efforts to clean the site and make the property beneficial to the community again.

To date, our clean-up efforts have eliminated over 1.7 million pounds of petroleum hydrocarbons and treated more than 11,000 cubic yards of soil. The Sanitation Districts have already cleaned the top 30 feet of soil and have received regulatory approval for new construction. Our focus has turned towards cleaning the deeper soil and, to help with this effort, in 2023, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency awarded the Sanitation Districts a \$1.8 million grant.









Addressing Climate Change

Many of the Sanitation Districts activities reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Below are GHG savings from our biggest initiatives in 2023.



GHG reduction initiative	GHG avoided in MTCO ₂ e*	Equivalent to avoidance of
BIOGAS-TO-ELECTRICITY**	80,000	annual emissions produced by providing energy for 15,600 homes
FOOD WASTE DIVERSION** FROM LANDFILLS	52,000	5.9 million gallons of gasoline burned
WATER RECYCLING	44,000	112 million miles driven by cars
BIOSOLIDS FOR SOIL ENRICHMENT	40,000	conversion of 262 acres of forest to cropland
GREEN WASTE DIVERSION	8,000	9.4 million pounds of coal burned
BIOGAS-TO-FUEL PROJECT**	3,000	annual emissions of 670 passenger vehicles

*Metric tons of CO₂ equivalent avoided in 2023. **Credit for these reductions have been sold to a third party.

Connecting With Our Community

munity engagement helps us understand the public's needs so that we can provide better service. Since the end of the federal COVID-19 public health emergency, we have resumed in-person events while still integrating remote technology for greater access. In 2023, we had our first in-person Earth Day Festival since 2019, and we continue reaching out to our community through tours, school programs and more.



CLEARWATER PROJECT OUTREACH

SCHOOL **PRESENTATIONS**

COMMUNITY **PRESENTATIONS**

THINK WATERSHED **BOAT TRIPS**

WATER JOURNEY FIELD TRIPS

GENERAL OUTREACH

TOURS OF OUR **FACILITIES**

SEWER SCIENCE SCHOOLS

THINK EARTH **CLASSES**

SPEAKERS BUREAU **EVENTS**

GRADES OF GREEN TEAMS



ACTIVE ENGAGEMENT THROUGH SOCIAL MEDIA



FOLLOWERS









55 HOUSEHOLD **HAZARDOUS AND ELECTRONIC WASTE COLLECTION EVENTS.**

45,000 HOUSEHOLDS SERVED

2023 Awards & Achievements





GRAND PRIZE ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY REDUCING OUR CARBON FOOTPRINT: THE SANITATION DISTRICTS' GREENHOUSE GAS REDUCTION INITIATIVES

40 UNDER 40: RISING STARS IN ENVIRONMENTAL **ENGINEERING AND SCIENCE**

CECILIA DOMINGUEZ, **DANIELLE DORLEY &** KATIE MARJANOVIC

NACWA •))

PLATINUM AWARDS

WHITTIER NARROWS WRP 7 YEARS

WARREN FACILITY 6 YEARS

GOLD AWARDS

LA CAÑADA WRP

LANCASTER WRP

LOS COYOTES WRP

POMONA WRP

SAN JOSE CREEK WRP WEST

SILVER AWARDS

LONG BEACH WRP

PALMDALE WRP

SAN JOSE CREEK **WRP EAST**



Los Angeles Basin Section Awards



ENGINEERING AND RESEARCH ACHIEVEMENT **HPOLE PROCESS AT**

THE WARREN FACILITY

SAFETY PLANT OF THE YEAR LANCASTER WRP

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND OUTREACH **PHOTOGRAPHY**

ELIZABETH LUNA & PAUL McCARTY

> P3S PERSON OF THE YEAR

JASON FINN

OPERATOR OF THE YEAR

ZACHARY GAMPE



The Financial Landscape

Fiscal Year 2022-23

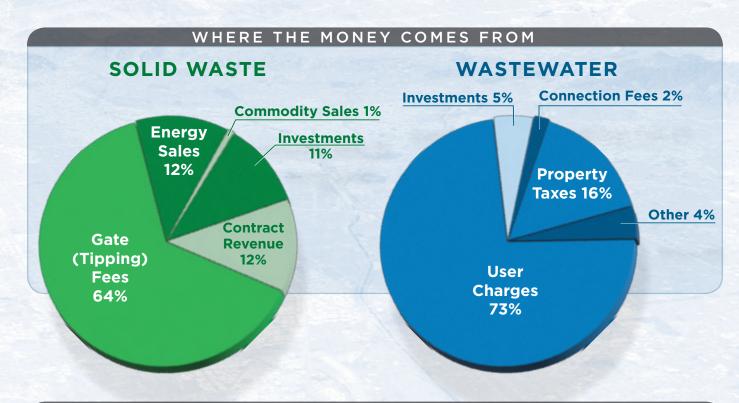
WHERE THE MONEY GOES

SOLID WASTE 15%

\$144 Million

\$812 Million



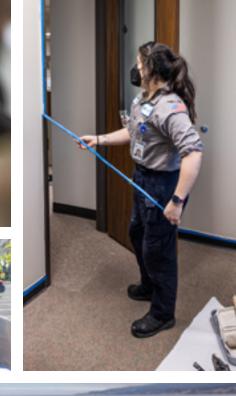






























4,000 tons of food are thrown out every day in Los Angeles County—enough to fill the Rose Bowl twice a year. This waste takes up valuable landfill space and can harm the environment if not properly managed.

We convert this waste into a resource: biofuel.

For LA County cities wanting help in meeting state organic waste diversion requirements, we have the facilities and expertise to assist you.

Read more at www.lacsd.org/foodwaste.



1955 Workman Mill Rd ◆ P.O. Box 4998 ◆ Whittier, CA 90607 www.lacsd.org ◆ 562-908-4288 ext. 2300 ◆ info@lacsd.org

