



Water Fill Stations

California School of the Arts, San Gabriel Valley

Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District (Upper District) and California American Water (Cal Am) are doing their part in reducing the environmental impact of one-time use water bottles. It takes substantial resources, including water and energy, to provide consumers with filled water bottles. The Pacific Institute determined that production of water bottles for American consumption in the year 2006 alone:

- **Took 3 liters of water to produce 1 liter of bottled water.**
- **Required over 17 million barrels of oil.**
- **Produced more than 2.5 million tons of carbon dioxide.**

Program Description

Upper District and Cal Am installed two water bottle fill stations at the California School of the Arts, San Gabriel Valley. The water bottle filling units have a visual indicator that quantifies the amount of plastic water bottles saved from waste. Signage was installed adjacent to each filling station indicating the agencies involved in this project.

Program Benefits

- ✓ Increased understanding regarding sustainability of natural resources and protecting our local water sources.
- ✓ Raised awareness about the quality and safety of drinking tap water.
- ✓ Reduced plastic waste ending up in landfills.
- ✓ Reduced amount of water and other resources used in the production and transportation of bottled water.
- ✓ Decreased plastic bottle debris making its way into our local watersheds/waterways, degrading water quality and damaging local habitat.

California American Water monitors water quality every step of the way, from source to tap, and we know what it takes to provide water service that meets or surpasses federal drinking water standards.



Benefits of Tap Water

Tap water costs about a penny a gallon in most communities and using it can save you money and help protect the environment. There are many reasons to choose tap water over bottled water. Here are a few of them:

- ✓ **Tap water is inexpensive.** Tap water is typically available from the faucet for less than a penny a gallon as a national average.
- ✓ **Tap water is regulated for safety.** Tap water is regulated by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and must meet stringent quality requirements. Water treatment plants that provide tap water must be tested multiple times per day, and every water provider in the country is required to provide consumers with detailed water quality reports to assure its compliance with EPA standards.
- ✓ **Water is the best choice for hydration.** It is recommended that you consume at least eight to 10 glasses of water each day, but the ideal amount varies with the individual and conditions such as activity. Medical experts agree that in hot and humid weather, you need to consume extra quantities of water because of the loss of water through sweat.
- ✓ **Most plastic disposable bottles are never recycled.** According to the Container Recycling Institute, 85% of plastic water bottles end up in the trash even though they are made of recyclable materials. Americans throw away an average of 38 billion water bottles a year, which won't biodegrade for 1,000 years.
- ✓ **Use of refillable bottles, stainless steel or plastic, will be a valuable "lesson" for kids** and set them on a path towards responsible environmental practices. You'll be putting more than a reusable bottle in their backpack - you'll be inspiring the next generation of environmentally conscious consumers.