

NEWS RELEASE



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Three-peat! Upper San Gabriel Valley MWD Named WaterSense® Partner of the Year

Monrovia, CA – For a third consecutive year, the Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District (Upper District) was honored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as a 2021 WaterSense Partner of the Year. Upper District received the distinguished award for its exceptional efforts in assisting residents and businesses save water. Upper District received today's award at the WaterSmart Innovations (WSI) Conference and Exposition in Las Vegas.

The EPA highlighted Upper District's creative outreach efforts to promote water efficiency in 2020 despite the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic. Upper District remained committed to educating its residents on the importance of water use efficiency while adapting its outreach strategies to virtual engagement.

“In 2020, our WaterSense partners continued to make saving water possible by educating consumers and businesses about WaterSense and water-efficient behaviors,” said Veronica Blette, the WaterSense program manager. “Our award winners' creative and committed approaches to water conservation helped consumers save water, energy, and money on their utility bills at a time when they needed it most.”

Upper District pivoted its annual *WaterFest* in person event into a five-week virtual program called *Conserve-a-palooza* to celebrate its 60th Anniversary during the pandemic. The program featured weekly conservation trivia and raffled various water-efficient devices, including WaterSense labeled weather-based irrigation controllers and high efficiency washer machines. Winners were announced weekly, and water-saving tips were shared during a “Water Smart Minute” video on Upper District's website and social media.

Additionally, Upper District modified its landscape workshops to be featured as online classes. Throughout Spring 2020, six landscape and edible gardening webinars hosting over 150 residents were conducted. The speakers discussed WaterSense labeled products and how to find an irrigation professional. Upper District collaborated with a number of WaterSense partners on events and programs and encouraged its water retailers to become WaterSense partners.

“Upper District is extremely honored to receive this recognition from the EPA for the third consecutive year. In spite of the pandemic restrictions, Upper District focused on meeting the conservation needs of our residents through creativity and adaptivity” said Ed Chavez, Board President for Upper District. “Saving water is part of our daily lives, even in a pandemic, and we kept that focus through valuable programming.”

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WaterSense, a partnership program sponsored by EPA, seeks to protect the future of our nation's water supply by offering consumers and businesses simple ways to use less water with water-efficient products, homes, and services. For more information about WaterSense, visit www.epa.gov/watersense.

Upper District's mission is to provide a reliable, sustainable, diversified, and affordable portfolio of high-quality water supplies to the San Gabriel Valley; including water conservation, recycled water, storm water capture, storage, water transfers and imported water. Upper District services nearly one million people in its 144 square mile service territory. Upper District serves all or parts of the following cities: Arcadia, Azusa, Baldwin Park, Bradbury, City of Industry, Covina, El Monte, Glendora, Duarte, Irwindale, La Puente, Monrovia, Rosemead, San Gabriel, South El Monte, South Pasadena, Temple City, and West Covina. Governed by a five-member elected board of directors, Upper District is a member agency of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. Annually, more than 78 billion gallons of water is used in Upper District's service area. For more information about Upper District, please visit our website www.upperdistrict.org or call 626-443-2297.



(Government and Community Affairs Representative Nichol Delgado accepts the 2021 WaterSense Partner of the Year Award on behalf of Upper District.)

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