

Message from the General Manager

This fiscal year the Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District marked its 60th Anniversary. Since its incorporation on Jan. 7, 1960, Upper District has provided a safe and reliable source of water to its member agencies, which today serve 18 cities and approximately 1 million people. Throughout its history, Upper District has been a leader in finding and implementing innovative solutions to water supply challenges.

Early in our history we secured a source of imported water through our annexation into the Metropolitan Water District. The next major hurdle was the discovery of contaminants in our basin and our leaders joined with other agencies to ensure the formation of the San Gabriel Basin Water Quality Authority, which has coordinated massive cleanup efforts that continue today. By the early 1990s, Upper District had launched major water conservation initiatives and began development of water recycling facilities. This year, through agreements with Metropolitan Water District and Main San Gabriel Watermaster we arranged for delivery of over 100,000 acre-feet of imported water to store in the basin. That is the most water ever delivered in a single year in our history



Also, as we celebrated this milestone year, we successfully adapted to unprecedented times brought on by the global COVID-19 pandemic. I am proud to report that Upper District responded quickly by adjusting work schedules without any loss of productivity and thankfully our water supply remained safe and reliable. We pivoted seamlessly to online meetings, virtual outreach classes and e-newsletters to keep our constituents informed. Those residents and businesses continue to impress us each year as per capita water usage has declined by 25 percent since fiscal year 2012-13.

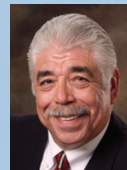
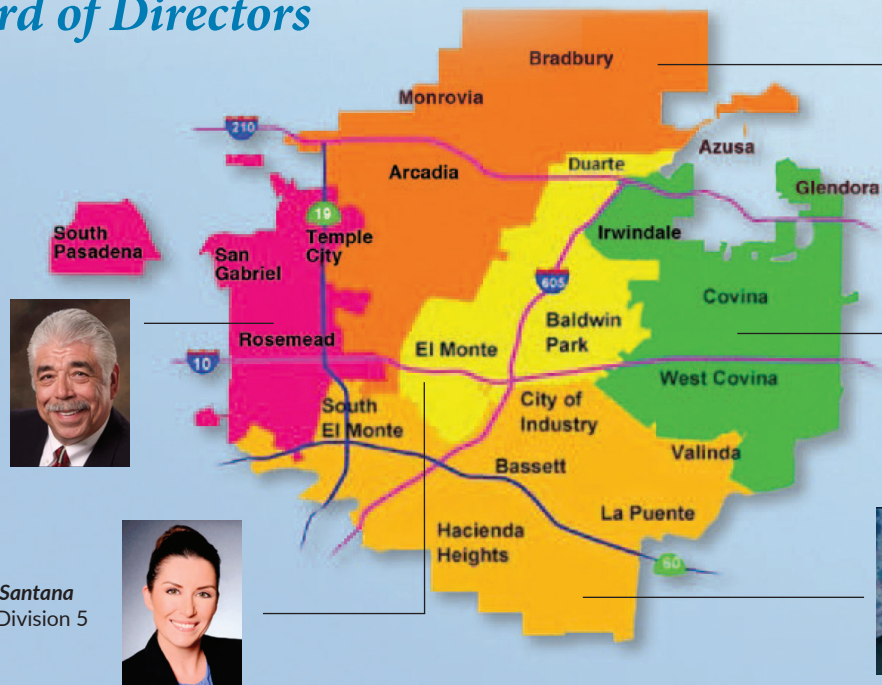
Upper District's Board of Directors, which includes the first woman ever elected, has a diversity of knowledge well suited to the future. The board includes scientists, educators, seasoned policymakers and water industry experts.

The future holds new challenges with the effects of climate change on our water supply and we will have to manage water resources differently. I'm confident Upper District will continue its legacy of leadership and service to the San Gabriel Valley.

Tom Love

General Manager Tom Love

Board of Directors



Charles Treviño
Treasurer, Division 2



Jennifer Santana
Director, Division 5



Dr. Anthony R. Fellow
Secretary, Division 1



Alfonso Contreras
Director, Division 4



Ed Chavez
President, Division 3

Mission

To consistently meet our region's need for reliable, high quality and affordable water.

Education and Outreach

Water conservation is a vital and cost-effective method of preserving our water supply and is a critical aspect of an effective, sustainable water supply program. Informing residents, businesses, and our youth about water use efficiency remains a top priority of Upper District's public education program. A considerable challenge faced beginning in March 2020 was the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic and the subsequent state shelter-at-home order. This unprecedented event resulted in a number of event and project cancellations.

“Being an educator, I always wanted programs for children. We put together programs to teach children about how to conserve water. We have been tremendously successful in water conservation.”

Director Anthony Fellow, Division 1



Water Fill Station Program

By installing Water Fill Stations at public facilities, Upper District aims to both increase public confidence in tap water quality and lessen the negative environmental impact of single-use plastic water bottles. Since the start of the pilot program, several water producers have partnered with Upper District to provide additional funding to expand the program to more sites. The water filling stations are at high-traffic locations in the service area, such as recreation centers and schools. A total of 22 stations were installed during the fiscal year. The program also includes the distribution of information regarding the high quality of tap water and how lessening plastic waste helps the environment.

Plant Voucher Program

Launched in 2019, the Residential Plant Voucher Pilot Program offered qualifying residents a voucher redeemable for up to \$250 worth of approved climate-appropriate plants to help transform their yards into beautiful water efficient landscapes. The innovative small-scale pilot program was a unique approach to inspire residents to take that next step in creating healthy and thriving gardens, while saving water. The program received an overwhelmingly positive response and all the vouchers offered were reserved.



Upper District kicked off its 60th Anniversary celebration at the annual WaterFest on Oct. 12, 2019, at Arcadia County Park. The event featured more than 50 exhibitors and 2,000 participants. At the event, the Board of Directors presented the San Gabriel Valley Water Smart Award to the Community Services Division of the County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation for their long-standing partnership in hosting WaterFest with Upper District.

Upper District introduced two new and highly successful outreach programs in 2019-20: The Water Filling Station Program and the Residential Plant Voucher Pilot Program.

Additional Programs

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Upper District adjusted many of its programs as in-person events, such as the Solar Cup, tours and assemblies, were canceled. Upper District launched a new monthly e-newsletter called “Water Splash” to engage and inform residents with conservation tips and children's activities. Upper District also thoroughly updated its website to streamline the format and meet all accessibility requirements. When school assemblies were canceled, Upper District worked with its partner the Discovery Science Center to rebrand its education program to offer online curriculum options for teachers. The Upper District's Water Education Grant Program (WEGP) received 19 applications from teachers and awarded \$13,413.32 during the year.



UPPER SAN GABRIEL VALLEY
MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT

2019-20 ANNUAL REPORT

Where Solutions Flow

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Celebrating 60 Years of Excellence in Water Stewardship

“Upper District’s conservation programs for residents and businesses, watershed restoration efforts and Water Smart workshops are world-class programs for preserving our precious water supply.”

U.S. Congresswoman Grace Napolitano



“Without community leaders like those at Upper San Gabriel Municipal Water District, this region would not be able to sustain the 2 million residents who rely on this valuable resource. Upper District’s exemplary service to the community and the local environment is to be commended.”

California Assemblymember Blanca Rubio



“For decades Upper District has cultivated a legacy that sets it apart as a lead environmental steward in the region. The District has always thought of creative ways to make us better stewards and improve its operations.”

L.A. County Supervisor Kathryn Barger



A little more than 60 years ago, a heated battle was underway for rights to San Gabriel River water. Concerned San Gabriel Valley residents realized they needed a voice in the fight so their area would have a reliable source of water. They voted on Dec. 8, 1959 to form the Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District, which was incorporated on Jan. 7, 1960.

“Without the Upper District the San Gabriel Valley would not have the water management it has today,” said Board of Directors President Ed Chavez in celebrating the 60th anniversary in a virtual event held during the pandemic.

Initially, Upper District focused on ensuring both the reliability and quality of water in the Main San Gabriel Water Basin. This involved the annexation into the Metropolitan Water District to bring imported water into the Basin. It also led to the creation of the San Gabriel Basin Water Quality Authority to clear contaminants from the basin.

“The water in the Main San Gabriel Basin is one of the cleanest in the world and is monitored by the Water Quality Authority. It’s very important that we maintain the health of the basin,” Director Jennifer Santana.



As the region continued to grow, Upper District created outreach programs to emphasize water conservation in and out of California’s drought cycles. Per capita water usage continues to decline in the service area, thanks in part to education and rebate programs. Upper District also worked with other agencies to create water recycling programs to lessen dependence on imported water. Construction began on the La Puente Valley County Water District Recycled Water System, a recycled water system to serve 60 acre-feet per year of recycled water in La Puente and the City of Industry.

Most recently, Upper District made a commitment to support Metropolitan Water District’s large-scale Regional Recycled Water Program, which has the potential to reduce Upper District’s dependence on imported water by 90 percent, as well as the Delta Conveyance Project to rework the State Water Project.

The next 60 years, says General Manager Tom Love, will present new challenges as climate change affects weather patterns and threatens water reliability. Both local and imported supplies are at risk, thus placing even more importance on recycled water and conservation.



Major Initiatives and Recognition

Imported Water Deliveries Up

In August 2019, Upper District, MWD and the San Gabriel Basin Watermaster executed the 11th amendment to the Cyclic Storage Agreement extending the term for another five years. The agreement gives MWD the right to store up to 200,000 acre feet of State Water Project water in the Basin. This year, Upper District arranged for delivery of over 100,000 acre-feet of imported water to store in the basin. That is the most water ever delivered in a single year in Upper District’s history.

Recycled Water Program Grows

Recycled water is a key element of Upper District’s overall strategy of supplementing local water supplies. More than \$51 million has been invested to construct a direct reuse recycled water distribution pipeline consisting of more than 24 miles of distribution pipeline. This year, construction began on the La Puente Valley County Water District Recycled Water System to serve 60 acre feet per year of recycled water in La Puente and the City of Industry. The pipeline construction is materially complete with work focusing on the small.

District Receives WaterSense Partner of the Year Award

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) honored Upper District with its WaterSense Partner of the Year Award in 2019 for its efforts in tackling water waste and promoting WaterSense products throughout the San Gabriel Valley. Upper District’s noteworthy efforts included initiating a collaborative effort to translate some of WaterSense’s materials into Mandarin. Upper District also engaged the commercial sector through water-smart landscape equipment retrofits and offering new workshops on finding and fixing leaks for San Gabriel Valley businesses.



CONSERVATION BY THE NUMBERS

282	Premium High-Efficiency Toilets Distributed
\$111,520	Incentives Paid
19.3	Million Gallons Saved
73,676	Residents Received Rebates for High-Efficiency Fixtures
138.2	Million Gallons Saved
120	Landscape Surveys
6,568	Water Efficient Irrigation Devices
\$28,604	Incentives Paid
22.1	Million Gallons Saved
22,796	Rebates for High-Efficiency Commercial Devices
103.3	Million Gallons Saved

OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

Water Deliveries (in acre-feet)



Imported Water Municipal and Industrial Use
6,026
Groundwater Replenishment
28,616
Recycled Water
1,915

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Total Operating Expenses	Total Revenues	Capital Contributions
\$37.4 million	\$38.5 million	\$121,005

Dec. 8, 1959
Upper District is formed by voters.



Jan. 7, 1960
Upper District is incorporated. Carl Fossette is the district’s first general manager.



Sep. 23, 1969
Upper District and MWD sign agreement to construct the pipeline connection known as USG-3, to deliver imported water to the region.



August 1974
Jane Bray becomes Upper District’s first female general manager.

1973

Jan. 4, 1973
Final judgement on adjudication case leads to creation of Watermaster.

1974

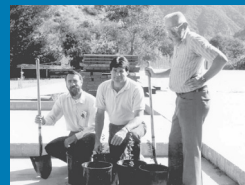


Contaminants are first discovered in the Main San Gabriel Basin.

1979

Jane Bray retires and Bob Berlein becomes general manager and will serve until 2000.

1986

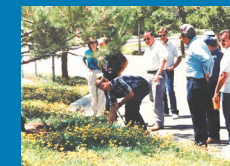


Groundwater recharge project, the first recycled water project, is initiated. Upper District partners with U.S. Forest Service to restore and maintain the local watershed, one of its first conservation programs.

1991

Signing of the “Best Management Practices” program for water conservation in California and the start of residential rebate programs.

1992



Water Smart workshops begin. Over 230 classes have been offered with 2,700 residents and agency staff.

1993

San Gabriel Valley Recycled Water Demonstration Project approved.

1996



Water Education Grant program starts. Upper District continues to offer grants to K-12th grade schools for class projects that foster a better understanding about the role of water in our lives.

2003

Oct. 11, 2003
First WaterFest is held in Santa Anita Park in collaboration with the L.A. County Parks and Recreation Department.



2004



The Indirect Reuse Replenishment Project is initiated.

2011

November 2018
Jennifer Santana becomes the district’s first woman to be elected as a director.

2018



Water Fill Station and Plant Voucher programs introduced.

2019