

NEWS RELEASE



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Upper San Gabriel Valley MWD Receives the Prestigious WaterSense® Sustained Excellence Award!

Monrovia, CA – The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) honored the Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District (Upper District) with its second WaterSense Sustained Excellence Award. Upper District received at the WaterSmart Innovations (WSI) Conference and Exposition in Las Vegas, Nevada. The Sustained Excellence Award is the highest honor the WaterSense program provides for its exceptional efforts in assisting residents and businesses save water and bring awareness to the WaterSense program.

“With extreme weather affecting water supplies and quality, saving this precious resource is more important than ever,” said Veronica Blette, chief, WaterSense branch. “The 2023 award winners helped Americans look to WaterSense and save not just water, but the energy required to heat and treat it, as well as reduce greenhouse gas emissions associated with energy use.”

The EPA highlighted Upper District’s creative outreach efforts to promote water efficiency in 2022. Upper District remained committed to educating its residents on the importance of water use efficiency while expanding outreach strategies and increasing engagement despite the emergency conservation mandates throughout the state.

“Upper District is extremely honored to receive this recognition from the EPA. The Board takes pride in our innovative engagement that promotes water awareness and provides a valued service to the region” said Jennifer Santana, board president for Upper District. “Water awareness continues to be an essential tool for overall sustainability of the San Gabriel River Watershed as we combat the effects of droughts and extreme weather patterns.”

Throughout 2022, Upper District promoted numerous WaterSense outreach campaigns, including Fix a Leak Week, Save Water at Home, Bath Hacks, Shower Better, We’re for Water, Sprinkler Spruce-Up, and Find a Pro (Irrigation). For Fix a Leak Week, Upper District hosted an on-demand, virtual leak detection workshop highlighting WaterSense labeled products.

Upper District hosted 15 live water-efficient landscape webinars in 2022, with over 400 participants, focused on best practices and devices for smart landscaping, irrigation, and gardening. To engage the public in water efficiency and raise awareness about WaterSense labeled products, Upper District brought back its signature conservation event, *WaterFest*, where approximately 1,000 residents attended and were introduced to the WaterSense label through various booths and activities.

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For 2022, following the success of the *Water Smart Home Program*, Upper District revamped the program by introducing a *Water Smart Home Kit* containing replacement devices, WaterSense educational materials, a showerhead, shower start device, and toilet flapper. The kits and program were featured in a segment that aired on the local ABC News affiliate in May 2022 covering the Upper District’s emergency call to action to reduce water use.

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.



Veronica Blette, chief, WaterSense branch presenting award to Upper District Asst. General Manager, Patty Cortez



L-R Katherine Vazquez, Patty Cortez, Jennifer Aguilar – Upper District staff



Award with Uppy and Nutty squirrels

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