



RECYCLED WATER

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Eastern Municipal Water District is widely viewed as the industry leader in recycled water. Each year, EMWD meets more than one-third of its overall water supplies through its recycled water efforts and is one of the largest by-volume recyclers in the nation. EMWD is one of the only agencies to consistently achieve 100 percent beneficial reuse of its recycled water supplies.

What is Recycled Water: Recycled water is treated wastewater that can be beneficially used as a water supply source for purposes other than drinking. EMWD produces recycled water and its four Regional Water Reclamation Facilities and all EMWD recycled water is treated to tertiary standards as defined by state regulatory agencies.

Where is it Used?: Recycled water is used throughout the region to benefit our communities. EMWD uses recycled water at more than 75 parks, 27 school sites, seven golf courses, and for various public landscaping such as medians, streetscapes, homeowners associations, and more.

The single largest user of recycled water is by agriculture, which uses approximately two-thirds of EMWD's recycled water supplies each year. Recycled water is safe enough it can be used on crops in the morning and those fruits and vegetables may be on your table for dinner.



The System: EMWD's recycled water system is a completely separate infrastructure than its drinking water system. The recycled water system includes more than 250 miles of pipeline, 24 pumping facilities, and more than 7,600 acre feet of storage ponds, which allows EMWD to store water in the winter when demand is lower for use in the hotter summer months when demand outpaces supply.

QUICK INFO

EMWD uses 100 percent of its recycled water each year for beneficial reuse

EMWD can store approximately 2.5 billion gallons of recycled water in its storage facilities

More than 600 sites in EMWD's service area currently use recycled water

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The Benefits of Recycled Water: By investing heavily in our recycled water system, EMWD is able to create a sustainable, drought-resilient resource in our community. By using all of our recycled water supplies, EMWD is able to reduce its reliance on imported water supplies and on local groundwater. Many of the farmers in EMWD's service area have agreed to use recycled water instead of pumping local groundwater, meaning we can use that groundwater for drinking water purposes instead.

The Future: Recycled water will one day be a vital piece of our drinking water supplies. EMWD is in the final design phase of its Purified Water Replenishment program, which will further clean recycled water using micro filtration and reverse osmosis — the same technologies used on our drinking water supplies. This purified water will then percolate into the local groundwater basin, where it will undergo a natural soil aquifer treatment process before one day being pumped out to use as a safe and reliable drinking water source.

