



# Hemet / San Jacinto Multipurpose Constructed Wetlands

## About the Wetlands

Through the natural filtration process, the award-winning, internationally acclaimed Wetlands provides additional cleaning for tertiary treated wastewater from EMWD's San Jacinto Valley Regional Water Reclamation Facility (SJVRWRF). The Wetlands incorporates water treatment, recovery, and reuse with wildlife values, public benefits, and enhancement of environmental resources. It is also a haven for nearly 120 species of migratory and resident waterfowl, shorebirds, neotropical song birds, and raptors. The Multipurpose Constructed Wetlands, located adjacent to the SJVRWRF, provides for environmental enhancement and the creation of habitat, educational opportunities, and many other public benefits.



## How the Wetlands Work

EMWD diverts more than one-half million gallons of tertiary-treated recycled water from the SJVRWRF into the Wetlands. Recycled water flows into five separate, yet interconnected, treatment marshes. After spending time in a central, open water area, the water flows into one final "polishing" area and through an outlet structure.

Nitrogen removal (denitrification) is particularly effective with this three-phase system, compared with other single-phase systems. To maintain this high level of denitrification, controlled burns are occasionally conducted in the Wetlands to clear the area, and some normally wet areas are deepened to discourage future bulrush growth. The additional open water increases the habitat's value.

The Wetlands provides a valuable asset to the community as it advances science, provides various public benefits, and increases public acceptance of recycled water. The Wetlands also serves as a research site for environmentalists, a partnership that provides unsubsidized studies for researchers and recognition for EMWD.

## DID YOU KNOW?

- Wetlands are some of the most productive ecosystems in the world as they are a link between land and water.
- Wetlands act like sponges by absorbing and storing runoff and flood waters.
- Wetlands filter, clean, and store water

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## Wetlands Education Program

The Wetlands serves as a popular base for school tours, educational presentations, school contests, and an elite Solar Cup Program.

The Schoolhouse, home to EMWD's Water Education Program, welcomes more than 1,500 children each year and includes various resources that enrich the minds of the youth in accordance to California Common Core Standards. EMWD's award-winning Water Education Program seeks to foster an understanding of important water and wastewater issues among the future leaders of the region, while promoting wise water use. In collaboration with The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California and Rancho California Water District, the Education Program has been exemplary at encouraging students to display their creativity and interest in all aspects of water education through the Student Art Program and Write Off Contest.