

# San Jacinto Valley Regional Water Reclamation Facility

## WHAT GOES AROUND...

Water treatment and sewer treatment are two sides of the same coin.

EMWD sees sewage treatment as a way to convert wastewater, which costs money to treat, into a resource that extends water supplies in many ways. Every gallon of water that is used at least one more time means one more gallon that can be left in the ground, or one less gallon that would need to be imported through aqueducts from hundreds of miles away.

The advanced technology used to process wastewater is based on what occurs in nature - after solids have settled, and organisms consume remaining nutrients. Simply put, a treatment plant speeds up the natural water recycling process.

EMWD uses the highest level of treatment, an advanced process called tertiary treatment, which removes bacteria and viruses and virtually all suspended solids. Water at this level can be used for most any purpose short of direct human consumption.

## IN THE BEGINNING...

Not having an ocean outfall for wastewater was becoming a problem for the San Jacinto Valley in the 1960s. To meet the needs of local people and the many newcomers relocating from more urbanized counties, a larger sewer system was required. Rather than invest in separate, expensive systems, a regional plan emerged that took good advantage of economies of scale, which continue today. With overwhelming community support, voters approved a \$6.8 million bond issue for EMWD to develop a regional sewer and reclamation system.



## SAN JACINTO VALLEY OPERATIONS

- Typical daily flows:  
7 million gallons per day
- Current capacity:  
14 million gallons per day
- Ultimate capacity:  
27 million gallons per day

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## TODAY...

In 2011, EMWD began a \$157 million expansion project, which is the second-largest capital improvement project in EMWD's 64-year history. Work on the facility was completed in the summer of 2015 and the site now has a maximum capacity of 14 million gallons per day.

Not only does the new facility increase capacity so EMWD is prepared for the anticipated growth in population and development throughout the San Jacinto Valley, but it is also designed to meet more stringent state regulations for the treatment of wastewater and the production of recycled water.

The plant currently treats 7 million gallons per day. The new portion of the plant allows EMWD to receive wastewater from throughout the San Jacinto Valley and, through a mostly biological process, transform it into tertiary-level recycled water. That recycled water is pumped through a separate distribution system and delivered to the region for non-potable reuse. Those uses include water for irrigation of crops, golf courses, school fields, parks, and landscape medians.

The facility also has a 1 megawatt (1000 kilowatts) solar array that has reduced electrical energy needs for the plant.

## MULTIPURPOSE CONSTRUCTED WETLANDS

The wetlands provide for additional treatment of tertiary treated wastewater from the San Jacinto Valley Regional Water Reclamation Facility. It is also a haven for nearly 120 species of migratory and resident waterfowl, shorebirds, neotropical song birds, and raptors.



EMWD stores more than 12 million gallons of tertiary-treated recycled water in the permanent wetlands. This area provides a valuable asset to the community and supports the Strategic Plan goal to increase public acceptance of recycled water.

## IT'S A 24/7 OPERATION...

A specially trained and state-certified staff attends the plant 20 hours every day. During off-hours, alarms connect with EMWD's Central Control in Perris. If necessary, individuals can be called out for emergencies.