



Setting Standards of  
Excellence in Public Service

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Helix Water District's demonstration landscape is complete**

Helix Water District's new demonstration landscape, located at its administration office in La Mesa, is complete. The project beautifies the neighborhood and inspires others to install WaterSmart landscaping.

The demonstration landscape includes three unique water-wise gardens on the streets around the building, including a Mediterranean garden on University Avenue, a desert landscape on Lee Avenue and a California native landscape along the building's main entrance on Quince Street. Each is full of flowers, colors and textures.

"Our new demonstration landscape shows customers that water-efficient landscaping is not just one style," said Helix Water District Board President Mark Gracyk. "You can choose plants that compliment your home and personal taste - there is an option for everyone."

Plant markers provide the name of each plant and a QR code, which when scanned with a smartphone, provides each plant's name, sun and water needs, mature size and photo.

The district also created an interactive webpage at <https://hwd.com/demonstration-landscape/> where customers can make a list of their favorite plants and download each garden's design plan. Information on efficient irrigation and rebate programs is also available.

"We've made it easy for customers to learn about WaterSmart plants and landscaping," said Gracyk.

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The plants in all three of the gardens are adapted to San Diego's climate and need half to a fifth of the water that a traditional lawn needs. In addition to requiring less water, WaterSmart landscapes also require less maintenance and provide habitat for local wildlife like honeybees, birds and butterflies.

"Outdoor water use typically accounts for half of a home's total water use," said Helix Water District Board Vice President DeAna Verbeke. "With our new demonstration garden, we're encouraging people to upgrade to a WaterSmart landscape by showing them that water-wise plants are not only sustainable but beautiful as well."

The project was partially funded through a grant from the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California.

Helix Water District provides water treatment and distribution for 277,000 people in the cities of El Cajon, La Mesa and Lemon Grove, the community of Spring Valley and areas of Lakeside -- east of downtown San Diego. Helix is also a founding member of The Water Conservation Garden, a nearly six-acre water-wise demonstration garden located in El Cajon.

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