



## For Immediate Release

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### East County AWP Program Secures Two Water Discharge Permits

November 12, 2025 – Santee, CA – The East County Advanced Water Purification (AWP) Program has successfully secured two critical water discharge permits from the San Diego Regional Water Control Board during its November 12 meeting. This approval marks a major milestone for the multi-agency project, bringing it one step closer to becoming a reality.

The two permits include:

- A **National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit** authorizing purified water discharges to Lake Jennings and Sycamore Creek. This is only the **second NPDES permit in California adopted for a surface water augmentation project**, the City of San Diego’s Pure Water Project is the permitting authority for the first one.
- **Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) Permit** for the operation of the Water Recycling Facility to support non-potable reuse.

Both permits are scheduled to take effect in June 2026, allowing the Program to advance toward construction completion and system startup. These approvals enable the Program to move forward with its advanced treatment and water reuse processes while ensuring the highest levels of environmental and public health protection.

“This approval represents years of collaboration, careful planning, and rigorous regulatory review,” said Mark Niemiec, Director of the East County AWP Program. “With these permits in place, we’re one step closer to making the East County Advanced Water Purification Program a reality and securing a sustainable, drought-resilient water supply for our region.”

The East County AWP Program is a partnership between Padre Dam Municipal Water District, the County of San Diego, City of El Cajon, and Helix Water District. Once operational in late 2026, the Project will be one of the first surface water augmentation projects in California. The Program is designed to produce up to 11.5 million gallons of purified water per day- reducing dependence on imported water and creating a new, reliable, and local drinking water source for East County residents.

*The East County Advanced Water Purification Program will create a new, local, sustainable and drought-proof drinking water supply by using state-of-the-art technology to purify recycled water. This will produce up to 30 percent of East San Diego County’s drinking water. For more information about the East County Advanced Water Purification Program, please visit [www.eastcountyawp.com](http://www.eastcountyawp.com) or find us on [Facebook](#), [X](#), and [Instagram](#).*

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