



# Helix Water District

*Setting standards of excellence in public service*

## Mission Statement

Helix Water District is a progressive industry leader, providing high quality water, through an efficient and reliable system. Our innovative and dedicated employees and board members maximize human and technological resources, providing superior service to our customers.

## Service Area

The Helix Water District covers an area of nearly 50 square miles, serving the cities of La Mesa, El Cajon, Lemon Grove, and parts of Spring Valley, Lakeside, Santee, and unincorporated San Diego County.

## Governing Body

Helix Water District operates as a public agency under Irrigation District Laws of California. The District is governed by a board of five directors elected to four-year terms by registered voters in the divisions in which they live.

## Board Meetings

The Helix Water District board of directors holds open meetings on the first and third Wednesday of each month in the District's board room located at 7811 University Ave., La Mesa. Meeting agendas are posted in the lobby and on our website, [www.hwd.com](http://www.hwd.com).

## History

Helix Water District's history dates back to 1885 when the San Diego Flume Company built Cuyamaca Dam, a diverting dam on the San Diego River, and 33 ½ miles of wooden flume to bring water to the people of San Diego County.

Subsequently, the Flume Company was sold to the Cuyamaca Water Company. In 1913, the La Mesa, Lemon Grove and Spring Valley Irrigation District was organized. In 1926, the District purchased the Cuyamaca Water Company and became an operating water agency.

## District Data

Population -----	267,922
Service Area (in acres) -----	31,348
Number of Services-----	55,550
Total Annual Metered Water (in acre-feet*) -----	31,812
Average Daily Use Per Capita (in gallons per day) -----	106.0
Total Miles of Pipe (as of 6/30/11)-----	721.4
Operating Budget (10/11) -----	\$53,543,500
Capital Budget (10/11) -----	\$8,954,000
Number of Employees -----	147
Capacity of Lake Jennings (in acre-feet*) -----	9,790
Number of Storage Tanks -----	23
Total Filtered Water Storage Capacity (in gallons) -----	68,516,000
Number of Pump Stations-----	25
Capacity of Treatment Plant (in million gallons per day) -----	106
Largest Fish (Blue Catfish) Caught at Lake Jennings (in pounds) -----	60
Average Annual Rainfall at Lake Cuyamaca over Last 100 Years (in inches) -----	35.37
Rainfall at Lake Cuyamaca During 10/11 Season (in inches) -----	36.10

\*An acre-foot of water covers one acre of land one-foot deep

## Water Sources

Less than 20% of our water is local runoff from winter rain and snow releases from Lake Cuyamaca and natural runoff into El Capitan Reservoir. The rest is a blend of imported water from the Colorado River and Northern California. This water is purchased from the San Diego County Water Authority, which purchases its water from the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California.

## Water Storage

Helix Water District owns Lake Jennings and Lake Cuyamaca. Helix also has storage rights of 10,000 acre-feet in El Capitan Reservoir for water from Lake Cuyamaca, San Diego River tributaries, and imported water. Treated water is stored in the 30-million-gallon Grossmont Reservoir and 22 other storage tanks located throughout the District. Helix has a total storage capacity of 68.8 million gallons of filtered water.

## Water Quality

Helix Water District customers receive water treated at Helix's R. M. Levy Water Treatment Plant in Lakeside. The water is continuously monitored and tested during and following the treatment process. Our state-certified lab uses the latest analytical instruments and testing methods. Helix's treated water consistently meets all federal and state standards for quality and safety. Ozone is the primary disinfectant. A detailed Water Quality Report is available on request.

## Education

The Helix board of directors is committed to programs that educate the public about water issues and conservation. The more than 45-year-old school education program is active at grade and high school levels and includes a tour of our R.M. Levy Water Treatment Plant. Helix also has a speaker's bureau to share with the public the latest in water issues.

## Conservation

Helix's per-capita usage of water was 41 gallons per day lower in 2010 than in 2000. This drop was largely due to the many conservation programs the District offered during that decade. Those programs encouraged replacing high-water-use toilets, showerheads, and washing machines with water-saving models. Today, we are seeing a continued lowering of per-capita usage as customers begin using the water-efficient landscape techniques demonstrated by the Water Conservation Garden at Cuyamaca College.

## Directory

### ***Helix Water District Administration Office***

7811 University Avenue  
La Mesa, CA 91942  
(619) 466-0585  
www.hwd.com

Office hours: 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
Monday - Friday  
excluding holidays

### ***After Hours Emergency Number***

(619) 466-3234

### ***Helix Water District Job Hotline***

(619) 667-6281

### ***Nat L. Eggert Operations Center***

1233 Vernon Way  
El Cajon, CA 92020  
(619) 596-3860

### ***R. M. Levy Water Treatment Plant***

9550 Lake Jennings Park Road (NO MAIL)  
Lakeside, CA 92040  
(619) 443-1031

### ***Lake Jennings***

9535 Harritt Road (NO MAIL)  
Lakeside, CA 92040  
(619) 667-6293 (recorded message)  
(619) 565-3600 (campground)

### ***Lake Cuyamaca***

15027 Highway 79  
Julian, CA 92036  
(760) 765-0515

Recreation facilities operated  
by the Lake Cuyamaca Recreation  
and Park District.

### ***The Water Conservation Garden***

12122 Cuyamaca College Dr. West  
El Cajon, CA 92019  
(619) 660-0614  
www.thegarden.org

Operated by the Joint Powers Authority  
comprising Helix Water District, Otay Water  
District, Cuyamaca College, City of San Diego,  
San Diego County Water Authority, and  
Sweetwater Authority.

