

# QUESTIONS?

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

[www.hwd.com](http://www.hwd.com)

OR

CONTACT

**HELIX WATER DISTRICT**

**Nat L. Eggert Operations Center**  
**operations@helixwater.org**  
**619.596.3860**

**R.M. Levy Water Treatment Plant**  
**waterquality@helixwater.org**  
**619.443.1031**

**District Administrative Office**  
**helix@helixwater.org**  
**619.466.0585**



During a water discharge, Helix tests water for pH, turbidity, chlorine residual, and other components. The District must meet all state and federal health standards and stream discharge permit requirements.

# PIPELINE DISCHARGE

**AND  
WATER QUALITY  
INFORMATION**



**Helix Water District**

**HELIX WATER DISTRICT** crews and Helix contractors often discharge water as a part of routine maintenance and operation of the water distribution system.

## **WATER DISCHARGES**

Water can be discharged from pipelines, tanks, fire hydrants, pump stations, water meters, or reservoirs. During and after maintenance and repairs, water may be discharged in order to meet health and safety standards and to ensure that state and federally mandated amounts of chlorine are present in the water.

[\(See requirements for discharging water\)](#)

## **CAPTURING DISCHARGED WATER**

When discharged water can be captured, it is returned to Lake Jennings for retreatment. However, most of the time it is not possible or economically feasible to do so.

For example, during certain cleaning processes, it is necessary for the water to run at high flow rates,



which prevents capture. At other times the quantity is too great to be able to be trucked.

When capture is not feasible, Helix works closely with cities and the County to discharge water into sewer systems. In some parts of the Helix Water District, sewer providers retreat and recycle the water for use in other areas of San Diego County.

When discharge into a sewer system is not possible, water is channeled into storm drains or sent to natural bodies of water. These water discharges are dechlorinated to protect wildlife and sensitive species. In most areas this water feeds existing streams and wetlands and has a beneficial impact on the health and well-being of these bodies of water. Ultimately, the water finds its way through natural channels to the Pacific Ocean.

## **AMOUNTS DISCHARGED**

In an average year, Helix discharges only 0.069% of the District's total usage. This is equivalent to a half-teaspoon for every gallon of water Helix produces.

## **DISCHARGES ARE REGULATED**

Helix operates in compliance with the Regional Water Quality Control Board's *Order No. R9-2002-0020*, and *NPDES No. CAG679001 general waste discharge requirements for hydrostatic test water and potable water to surface waters and storm drains or other conveyance systems in the San Diego region*. [\(See requirements for a discharge permit\)](#)

Helix is required to test and monitor water quality prior to, during, and after discharges while implementing Best Management Practices (BMPs).



United States EPA and California Department of Public Health regulations also apply.

Generally, it is not possible to discharge water onto private property due to the volume of water and velocity needed to properly clear the water distribution system.

[\(See the Safe Drinking Water Act\)](#)

## **CLOUDY WATER**

Pressure changes during discharges may cause air or fine sediment in lateral lines to be disturbed, causing turbidity. This may cause water to appear cloudy when first run from the faucet. Customers should run the water for a few minutes until it clears.

[\(See Helix's Water Quality Assistant\)](#)

## **MORE INFORMATION AVAILABLE**

Visit the Helix Water District website for more information about discharges, water quality, conservation programs, landscape surveys, and rebates:

[\(See Helix's current programs\)](#)