

MAY-JUNE 2023

Helix Highlights



Lake Oroville, nearly full in March, with more storms and the melting of the Sierra snowpack still ahead. Photo: state of California

California's Wet Winter



ATMOSPHERIC RIVERS

32 Since October 1
20 Moderate to Extreme



SNOWPACK

233% Sierra Nevada
158% Colorado River Basin



RESERVOIR LEVELS

82% Lake Oroville
28% Lake Mead

Helix board ends Level 2 water shortage response

In 2021, Governor Newsom ordered all water suppliers to implement a Level 2 water shortage response, and he enacted a statewide water conservation goal of 15%. In March, he lifted that order, and on April 5, the Helix board voted to return the district to normal operations status, where our conservation goal is to prevent water waste and promote efficiency. We will continue to offer rebates, classes and residential surveys to help customers save water and money. What changed? Thirty-two atmospheric rivers hit California this winter, the snowpack in the Sierra Nevada was 233% of average on April 1 and Lake Oroville, the water source for the State Water Project and Southern California, rose 200 feet.

[Learn more at water.ca.gov/current-conditions](https://water.ca.gov/current-conditions)

Tunnel Hill tanks win Outstanding Rehabilitation Project Award

The San Diego Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers selected Helix's Tunnel Hill tanks rehabilitation project as the winner of its annual Outstanding Rehabilitation Project Award. The project is a good example of how Helix looks for the most cost-effective approach to update and upgrade infrastructure.

Tunnel Hill Tanks Facility	\$10 Million Cost to Replace Tanks	\$3.7 Million Cost to Rehabilitate Tanks
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Helix awards college scholarships

Valhalla High senior Lily Martinez and Grossmont High senior Stephen Abkin are the 2023 recipients of the Robert D. Friedgen and Dr. Lillian M. Childs scholarships, which Helix awards each year. Lily is a varsity athlete who plans to attend medical school and become a geneticist or oncologist. Stephen is also a varsity athlete and plans to major in computer and electrical engineering and use technology to address environmental issues.

[Read more at hwd.fyi/scholarships](https://hwd.fyi/scholarships)



Construction has begun

The tower cranes in the photo are at the construction site for the East County Advanced Water Purification plant, located north of Santee Lakes. Work has also started on a pipeline under Carlton Oaks Golf Course in Santee and on the pipeline at Lake Jennings. The project is expected to go online in 2026 and provide up to 30% of East County's water supply.

[Explore the interactive construction map at hwd.fyi/ecawp](https://hwd.fyi/ecawp)

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What's Happening



Discover gardening

It's time to stop looking at your property as a yard and start seeing it as a garden -- a beautiful garden that saves water and adds to your lifestyle. Need inspiration? We can help.

Walk around The Water Conservation Garden and note how large, lush and shady a water-saving garden can be. The garden is at 12122 Cuyamaca College Drive West in El Cajon.

Then come to our demonstration landscape at 7811 University Avenue in La Mesa. We have Mediterranean, California native and desert gardens right along the sidewalk and markers so you can learn the names of the plants you like.

Ready for more? Learn from the gardening experts and authors who call San Diego home:

Nan Sterman

[Go to agrowingpassion.com](http://agrowingpassion.com)

Debra Lee Baldwin

[Go to debraleebaldwin.com](http://debraleebaldwin.com)

Pat Welsh

[Go to patwelsh.com](http://patwelsh.com)

Water like a pro

Weather-based irrigation controllers adjust watering times automatically based on the weather. We offer a rebate of up to \$200 if your property is less than one acre, or \$35 per station if it is more than one acre. Residents in unincorporated areas of San Diego County may be eligible for up to \$60 per station if the property is more than one acre.

[Go to hwd.fyi/rebates](http://hwd.fyi/rebates)



Be nice to your plants

Spread a 3 - 4-inch layer of mulch over your garden. Mulch shades your soil, reduces evaporation and keeps plant roots cool. Get a \$25 per cubic yard rebate, up to \$100.

[Go to hwd.fyi/rebates](http://hwd.fyi/rebates)

Switch to rotating nozzles

Old spray nozzles on pop-up sprinklers apply water faster than the ground can absorb it, causing runoff onto sidewalks. Rotating nozzles water more slowly, prevent runoff and save water. We offer a rebate of \$2 per nozzle (30 nozzle minimum) on select models.

[Go to hwd.fyi/rebates](http://hwd.fyi/rebates)

Replace your turf and get a rebate

Metropolitan Water District will pay you \$2 per square foot to replace thirsty turf with water-saving plants. If you live in the county, San Diego County will give you \$4 per square foot. [Go to hwd.fyi/rebates](http://hwd.fyi/rebates)



July / Expanded hours

6 a.m. - 5 p.m. Thursday

6 a.m. - 12 a.m. Friday

6 a.m. - 12 a.m. Saturday

6 a.m. - 7 p.m. Sunday

6 a.m. - 5 p.m. Monday

Jul 4 / Fourth of July

Lake open from 6 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Jul 15 & Aug 19/

Fireside at the Lake

Rent a firepit in Hermit's Cove from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. We'll bring the firewood and Adirondack chairs and you bring the marshmallows.

Learn more at lakejennings.org
or call 619-443-2510

Get a flow monitoring device

Strap one to your water meter and receive alerts on your smartphone for high or continuous water use. Get a \$150 rebate.

[Go to hwd.fyi/rebates](http://hwd.fyi/rebates)

