

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2023

Helix Highlights



News

ACCOUNTABILITY

Browse Our Award-Winning Financial Report

The Government Finance Officers Association recently honored our *Annual Comprehensive Financial Report* for fiscal year 2021-22 for excellence in financial reporting. Now, our new report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023 is ready for your review. We recommend browsing pages 4-9 to learn more about Helix and Section 3 to see how our operations trended over the last 10 years.

[Find the report at hwd.fyi/reports](http://hwd.fyi/reports)

SUSTAINABILITY

Our Demonstration Garden Won an Orchid Award

Our WaterSmart Demonstration Garden won an Orchid Award and top honors in the landscape architecture category at the San Diego Architectural Foundation's annual Orchids & Onions Awards Gala on October 5. Board President Kathleen Hedberg accepted the award and thanked landscape architect David McCullough for his design. The foundation recognizes architecture that makes a place, adds to the surrounding community's character and elicits a sense of civic pride. The garden is located at our office at 7811 University Avenue in La Mesa. Stop by!

[Learn more at hwd.fyi/orchid](http://hwd.fyi/orchid)



CUSTOMER SERVICE

Water Bill Relief Ends in March

California's Low Income Household Water Assistance Program will end in March 2024. Apply now for a one-time payment to help pay past-due or future water or wastewater bills.

[Call 619-391-9790 for help](tel:619-391-9790) if you live in La Mesa, Lemon Grove, Casa de Oro (91941 zip code) or Mt. Helix.

[Call 619-349-0123 for help](tel:619-349-0123) if you live in Spring Valley, Case de Oro (91977 zip code), El Cajon, Bostonia, Lakeview or Winter Gardens.



ACCOUNTABILITY

Check Out Our Annual Report

Our annual report shows everything we accomplished last year to keep your water flowing. Take a look!

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

Did You Know?

SUSTAINABILITY

East County AWP

Did you know the Advanced Water Purification facilities under construction include 10 million pounds of reinforced steel? Laid end-to-end, that's 927 miles of steel, almost enough to cover the distance from the construction site to Sacramento and back again! You can monitor the construction online.

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

THIS WINTER

What's Happening



Wondering what our weather will be this winter? So is the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. They expect El Nino to continue into 2024, but they don't know if it will bring another wet winter to California. So, we have two recommendations for a happy new year.



When it's sunny . . .

Head to Lake Jennings. Trout season begins in November and we continuously stock the lake. As you can see in the photo, the fishing is good! For an even better day, rent a skiff, kayaks or a Krystal Kanoe. Winter also offers some of the best camping days of the year -- think short sleeves all day and cuddling under a blanket next to the campfire in the evening. We make camping easy, even for first timers. If dinner goes south, there's to-go food in Lakeside. If you don't know ghost stories, we have wi-fi. We also have firewood and ice for sale, and we're known for our clean bathrooms with flushing toilets and hot showers.

Call us at 619-390-1623 or go to lakejennings.org

When it's raining . . .

Do some gardening. New plants -- even drought-tolerant varieties -- need a lot of water during their first 6-12 months to grow roots. When you put them in the ground in January or February, winter storms can provide the water, free of charge. It's also easier to dig holes for new plants when your soil is wet. Make your holes twice as big as the plant's pot and the soft soil around the plant will help the roots grow.

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Harvest rainwater
 Helix and the County of San Diego offer rebates on rain barrels and cisterns to encourage all of us to harvest this free water and use it for irrigation.
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Replace lawn with water efficient plants
 Wet soil makes it easier to remove turf and pull weeds, and we offer a rebate starting at \$2 per square foot for encouragement.
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Upgrade your sprinklers
 Get up to a \$200 rebate on qualifying, weather-based irrigation controllers and up to a \$2 rebate per qualifying rotating sprinkler nozzle when you buy 15 or more. They use 30% less water than old spray nozzles.

Go to hwd.fyi/conservation and explore our webpages



If you have questions about any of the topics in this newsletter, please call us at 619-466-0585.