

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LA County Closes Winter Storm Season with more than 94.7 Billion Gallons of Captured Stormwater

*County and collaborating agencies capture and store enough water to
serve more than 2.3 million people for one year*

LOS ANGELES – More than 96.3 billion gallons of stormwater were captured and stored within LA County’s reservoirs and delivered to spreading grounds for recharge of groundwater aquifers since October 2023 when the storm season began. Within the past six months, LA County harvested enough water to meet the needs of more than 2.3 million people for a year—about 23 percent of the region’s annual demand. The stormwater captured in County reservoirs includes water stored in partnership with other cities and agencies, including the City of Los Angeles.

“Water is our most precious natural resource, especially as cycles of drought, wildfire, and flood threaten our region’s water supply,” said Chair of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors Lindsey P. Horvath. “The more water we capture and store locally, the more we are able to reduce our reliance on imported supplies and ensure the entire region has access to safe, clean, and reliable water.”

The County and municipal water agencies across the region have invested in both large and small-scale infrastructure projects to help increase the local water supply through groundwater recharge, water recycling, and conservation strategies. The County’s 14 major dams—including Big Tujunga and Pacoima in the LA River Watershed and Cogswell, San Gabriel, and Morris dams in the mountains above Azusa—are capturing significant amounts of stormwater to help recharge local groundwater basins at 27 County-operated spreading grounds.

“This year, Downtown LA set a new rainfall record for the wettest back-to-back years since the late 1800’s,” said Mark Pestrella, Director of LA County Public Works. “Because of recent climate change extremes, it is critical that we capture and store as much stormwater as possible today, in order to secure the region’s water supply of tomorrow.”

One of the major beneficiaries of the stored groundwater is the City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, which pledges to source 70% of its water locally by 2035. At 681,000 water customers, it is the largest municipal water and power utility in the nation.

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The LA County Region is committed to increasing its local water resilience. The [LA County Water Plan](#), adopted in late 2023, was developed collaboratively among Los Angeles County Public Works, local water agencies, tribes, and a wide range of municipal and nonprofit stakeholders. With over 200 water supply agencies and numerous other wastewater treatment, flood control, and land management agencies within the region, the County Water Plan builds upon and complements many existing local and regional water planning efforts.

For more information on all things water in the LA County Region, visit waterforla.com.

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