

## ENVIRONMENTALIST PRAISE DECISION TO TERMINATE OCEAN WATER DESALINATION PROJECT

*West Basin Municipal Water District (West Basin) votes to terminate a proposed Ocean Water Desalination Project along Santa Monica Bay in favor of other local alternative water supplies.*

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### QUOTES BY LA WATERKEEPER AND PARTNERS

#### ABOUT LOS ANGELES WATERKEEPER

Founded in 1993, Los Angeles Waterkeeper's mission is to safeguard LA's inland and coastal waters by enforcing laws and empowering communities. As one of more than 350 members of the international Waterkeeper Alliance, and a founding member of the CA Coastkeeper Alliance, Los Angeles Waterkeeper is committed to the enforcement of the federal Clean Water Act and the protection of local waterways. For more than 25 years, its advocacy programs have helped ensure the strongest water quality standards are in place to protect waterways throughout the Los Angeles region and have helped dramatically reduce sewage spills, urban runoff pollution, and industrial contamination of LA waterways. For more information, please visit [www.lawaterkeeper.org](http://www.lawaterkeeper.org).

- "We applaud the board for voting to terminate the desalination project. This is a smart move on the part of West Basin, as indicated in their own studies, we don't need desal to meet the region's water needs. We have far more affordable and climate-friendly options that are a smarter use of our financial and water resources. Should they continue to invest in greater water recycling not only will it provide a local, affordable, and climate-friendly water supply, but it will also reduce pollution to Santa Monica Bay, by reducing or eliminating wastewater discharges which our [Waste and Unreasonable Use case](#) found in violation of the CA Constitution. Overall, this is a win, that could make the Los Angeles region more water self-sufficient and position us as an international leader on integrated, sustainable, and equitable water management."- **Bruce Reznik, LA Waterkeeper, Executive Director**
- "We are thrilled with the decision today to terminate the Ocean Water Desalination Project and refocus its efforts on sustainable water supplies, and we look forward to supporting West Basin in its efforts to reduce, reuse, recycle, and restore our water resources."- **Kelly Clark, LA Waterkeeper, Senior Attorney**
- "The staff report did an excellent job of weighing the risks of this project along with cost. We commend the staff and the Board of Directors for taking the time to listen to public comment and voting to terminate the proposed Ocean Water Desalination Project. We support the boards decision to move forward with expansion of the Edward C. Little Recycling Facility, groundwater recharge and management. This was a brave thing to do when you take into consideration that San Diegans are currently struggling with their water bills, owing more than \$73 million. This rise is due to the cost of water from the Carlsbad ocean desalination plant. With conservation, water demand will drop. Today, Directors Alvarez, Houston and Williams put the environment and it's customers first. We thank them and look forward to working with them in the future."- **Charming Evelyn, Sierra Club CA & Sierra Club Angeles, Chapter Chair - Water Committee**
- "I want to thank the West Basin Municipal Water District Board of Directors for taking bold action to terminate the proposed Ocean Water Desalination Project in El Segundo, and by such action refocusing their attention to water efficiency and conservation programs, and most especially to enhancing West Basin's leadership position in wastewater recycling at their Edward C. Little Water Recycling Facility in El Segundo, which if expanded to full design capacity, will more than offset the proposed 20 MGD product water output from the canceled ocean water desalination project, but at a smarter and more immediately achievable, and much more energy-efficient and less environmentally impactful manner."- **Craig Cadwallader, local policy expert with Surfrider South Bay**