

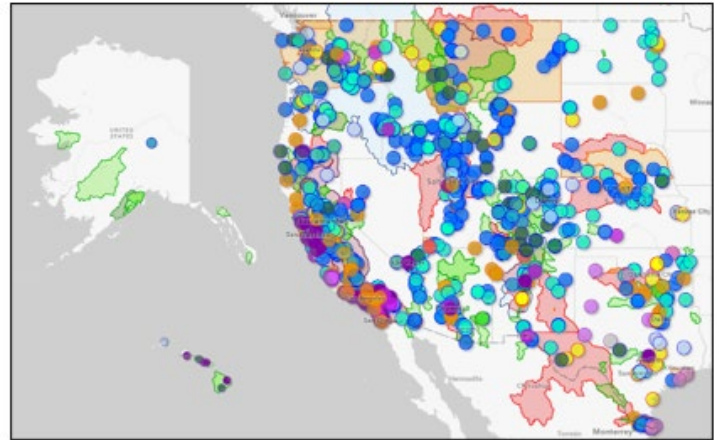
WaterSMART's Quarterly Newsletter: The Tributary

July - September 2025



— BUREAU OF —
RECLAMATION

Welcome to the WaterSMART quarterly newsletter, The Tributary. This publication provides Reclamation staff and partners with updates and highlights from programs under the WaterSMART umbrella. Through WaterSMART, Reclamation works cooperatively with states, Tribes, and local entities as they plan for and implement actions to address local water needs and increase water supply reliability through investments in water management and infrastructure. Since 2010, Reclamation has partnered with stakeholders across the Western United States to implement over 2,300 water conservation and supply reliability projects through WaterSMART programs.



WaterSMART Project Locations, 2025.

This edition of The Tributary showcases WaterSMART's **Water Recycling and Desalination Programs**, along with highlights from two funded projects.

Water Recycling and Desalination Programs

Water recycling and desalination are essential measures for maximizing limited water supplies in the Western United States. Reclamation provides cost-shared funding on a competitive basis to local water agencies for the planning, design, and construction of water recycling and desalination projects. These projects provide new, drought-resistant, local water supplies, reducing reliance on imported water. Funding is available through the Title XVI Water Reclamation and Reuse Program, the Desalination Construction Program, and the Large-Scale

Water Recycling Program. To be eligible for funding, projects must have a complete feasibility study.

Title XVI Water Reclamation and Reuse Program – Supports projects to develop and supplement urban and irrigation water supplies through water reclamation and reuse. These projects increase water management flexibility during shortages and improve water supply reliability.

Desalination Construction Program – Funds the planning and construction of desalination facilities for seawater or brackish surface water or groundwater. These projects help growing communities to diversify their water supply portfolio by providing new sources of local water supply.

Large-Scale Water Recycling Program – Supports water recycling projects with total project costs of \$500 million or more. These large-scale projects play an important role in helping communities develop reliable water supplies by turning currently unusable water sources into a new source of water supply that is less vulnerable to drought.

City of San Buenaventura Constructs VenturaWaterPure

The City of San Buenaventura, located in southern California, is implementing the VenturaWaterPure Program to augment the City's potable water supplies with purified recycled water. The City depends on limited local surface and groundwater supplies that are increasingly impacted by drought. The program will help the City become more drought resilient through the construction of treatment and conveyance facilities to produce up to 3,600 acre-feet per year of drought-resistant recycled water. The project will divert tertiary-treated effluent from the Ventura Water Reclamation Facility, currently being discharged to the Santa Clara River Estuary, to a new advanced water purification facility to produce recycled water for potable reuse.



VenturaWaterPure Program. City of San Buenaventura, CA. 2025.

El Paso Water Utilities Public Service Board Expands the Kay Bailey Hutchison Desalination Plant



Kay Bailey Hutchison Desalination Treatment Units, El Paso, TX. 2025.

The El Paso Water Utilities Public Service Board is expanding the Kay Bailey Hutchison Desalination Plant in El Paso, Texas. The facility will use reverse osmosis to reclaim brackish groundwater from salty sections of the Hueco Bolson aquifer and is expected to increase the potable water supply by 16,242 acre-feet per year. The project includes construction of an additional reverse osmosis treatment unit within the desalination plant to increase production capacity. Goals of the expansion are to increase drought resiliency,

provide a buffer to protect freshwater portions of the aquifer, and demonstrate national and state leadership in inland desalination.

General WaterSMART Updates

Recent Announcements:

- [Reclamation invests almost \\$200M in water reuse in the Colorado River Basin \(July 2025\)](#)
- [Reclamation invests over \\$33M in drought resiliency projects in the west \(June 2025\)](#)

Upcoming Funding Opportunities:

- Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects, Drought Response Program, Applied Science Grants, and the Large-Scale Water Recycling funding opportunities are currently under development for Fiscal Year 2026.

For announcements and updates, please visit www.usbr.gov/watersmart

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