

CALLEGUAS CURRENTS

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INTEGRITY • INGENUITY • LEADERSHIP

CONGRESSWOMAN BROWNLEY SECURES FEDERAL FUNDING FOR WATER RELIABILITY

In March, the District was thrilled to welcome Congresswoman Julia Brownley to Calleguas headquarters for a check presentation of \$1.092 million for construction of the Lake Bard Pump Station. This critical project will ensure that the complete backup supply stored in Lake Bard can be accessed and treated in the event of an emergency. In 2024, the Congresswoman included the project on her list of 15 priorities for Community Project Funding. Over two years of federal uncertainty and deferrals, she persisted in championing the project until the funding was secured - another example of Congresswoman Brownley's continued commitment to infrastructure investment and water reliability in Ventura County.



GENERAL MANAGER'S CORNER

Calleguas relies primarily on the State Water Project, which delivers water more than 400 miles from the Sierra Nevada snowpack to Ventura County. Each year, the California Department of Water Resources announces an "allocation," or the percentage of contracted water agencies will receive. After severe drought in 2021–2022, when allocations dropped to just 5%, conditions improved to 100% in 2023 and 40% in 2024. Efficient water use during these wetter years allowed supplies to be stored for future dry periods.



Kristine McCaffrey
General Manager

That storage is increasingly important as winter conditions grow more unpredictable. This year, the Sierra Nevada mountains experienced unusual volatility; warmer storms brought rain instead of snow and a record heat wave elevated temperatures 15–30 degrees above normal, shrinking the snowpack every day since its peak in late February. Usually, the snowpack peaks around April 1. This year, the surveying team found almost entirely bare ground.

Thanks to prior investments and recent wet years, Calleguas will be able to meet customer needs this year. However, these conditions highlight the challenges we face from a changing hydrology and "weather whiplash". Continued investments in conservation, expanded storage, and development of local water supplies remain critical to ensure long-term reliability, as the next drought could always be just around the corner.

STAY CONNECTED



WINTER VISITORS



LEADING THE CONVERSATION

Calleguas has recently welcomed expert speakers to discuss emergency preparedness and response, climate trends, and other topics. These leaders help Calleguas and its purveyors stay up to date on the latest issues.



Kevin Phillips, District Manager of Paradise Irrigation District, shared lessons learned from the 2018 Camp Fire, offering valuable insights on disaster response coordination, public communication, and water system restoration.

Climate scientist and researcher **Dr. Daniel Swain** discussed recent California weather extremes and how they align with long-term climate trends.



Staff from the **Sheriff's Office of Emergency Services** and **Ventura County Fire Department** provided updates on implementation of Assembly Bill 367 (Bennett), relating to firefighting readiness for water suppliers.



WATER POLICY IN ACTION

Working alongside leaders from Las Virgenes Municipal Water District and Camrosa Water District, Calleguas met with legislators and staff to advocate with a unified regional voice in Sacramento for shared priorities.



Calleguas Board and staff also traveled to Washington, D.C. to meet with Members of Congress about water issues and legislative priorities.





TreePeople

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT



JEN VASQUEZ

Jen Vasquez, Principal Water Resources Specialist, was a driving force behind the newly-formed *Latinas in Water* community. As part of the planning committee, Jen collaborated with other water professionals to create the group, whose purpose is to help Latinas in the water industry connect, build community, and give back. The inaugural event featured 90 women from across Southern California. Future events will include mentorship opportunities, career fair outreach, service projects, and leadership development. "I am so excited to be part of Latinas in Water," remarked Jen, "because it creates a network of professional women in the water sector that can learn from each other, highlighting key opportunities to reach their full potential in the industry."



CESAR ROMERO

Congratulations to Senior Project Manager **Cesar Romero**. Cesar was named Engineer of the Year by the Santa Barbara/Ventura Branch of the American Society of Civil Engineers and Professional of the Year by the Ventura County Chapter of the American Public Works Association.

These honors celebrate his outstanding leadership and mentorship in civil engineering, including his work spearheading the Calleguas–Las Virgenes Interconnection, which was also recognized as Project of the Year by both organizations.



BUILT FOR RELIABILITY | INVESTING IN INFRASTRUCTURE

Directors Avila, McMillan, Pakala, and Quady, as well as the General Manager, Executive Strategist, and Manager of External Affairs, attended Metropolitan Water District's (Metropolitan) Sepulveda Feeder Pump Station groundbreaking at the Venice Pressure Control Structure. This infrastructure improvement project will help Metropolitan to reverse flows in its system if needed during severe drought, pushing water from the Colorado River and Diamond Valley Lake into Calleguas's service area along with other communities within the State Water Project Dependent Area that currently have limited access to these resources.