

2025 Year in Review

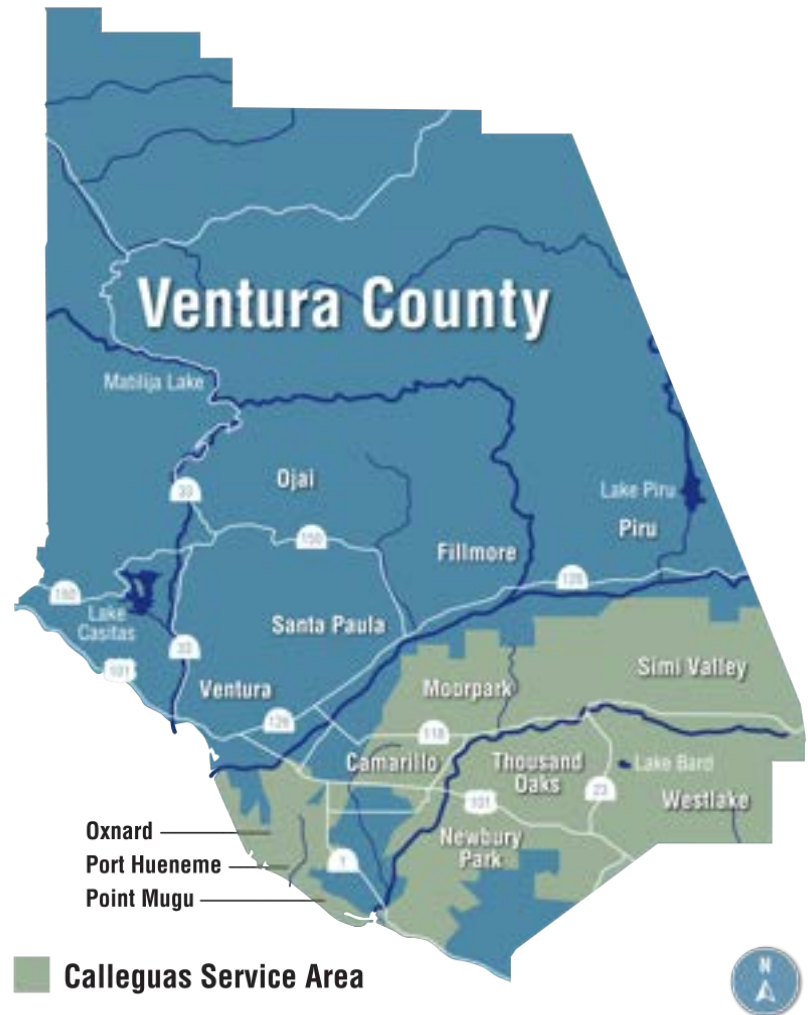


Integrity-Ingenuity-Leadership





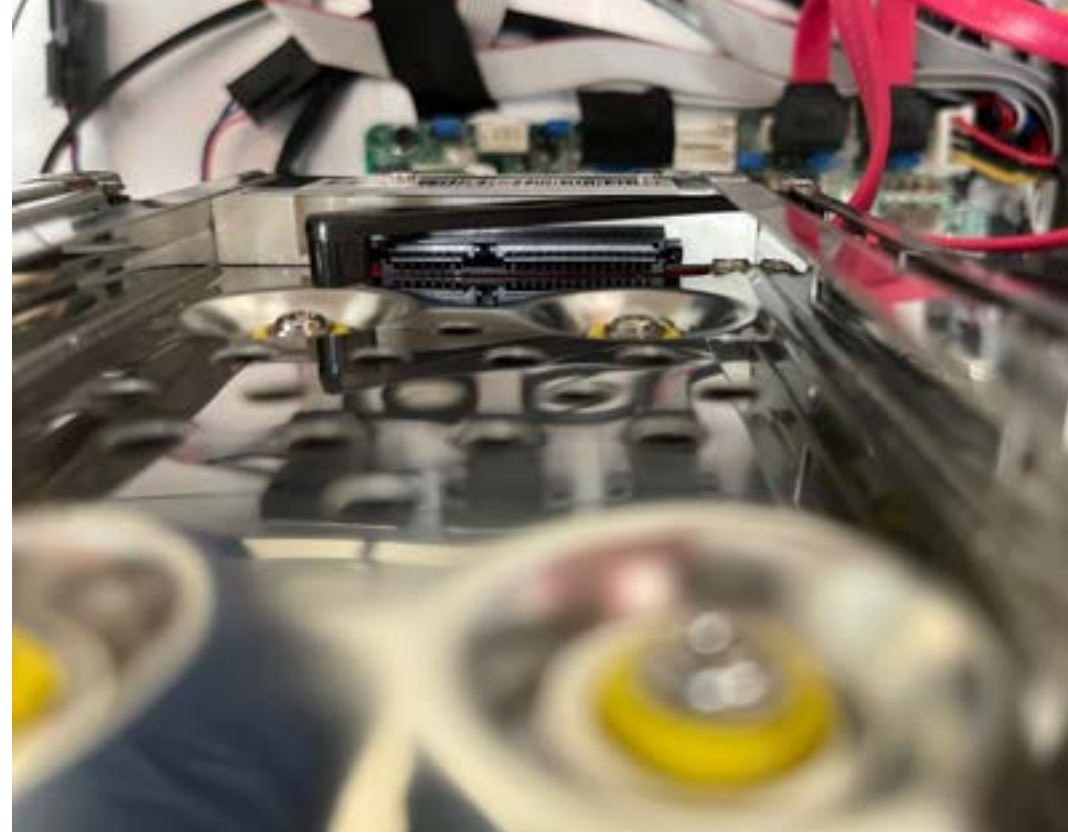
In 2025, Calleguas Municipal Water District delivered on its commitment to regional water supply reliability by ensuring uninterrupted service to 650,000 residents in southeast Ventura County through 19 retail water providers. The District successfully managed the distribution of nearly 24 billion gallons of high-quality drinking water, helping meet the critical needs of three of every four residents in the County.



Strategic Infrastructure Investment

The District's \$20 million annual Capital Improvement Program (CIP) continued to modernize the system and prepare for the future. Significant progress was made on the Networking Center relocation, a \$2.18 million project designed to strengthen Calleguas's cybersecurity and improve IT efficiency and reliability. Additionally, the Board approved \$1.9 million for the Calleguas Conduit South Branch Strengthening Project to support regional railroad expansion, demonstrating the District's role in broader regional development.

At the heart of the District's success is a dedication to operational excellence and infrastructure reliability. To ensure the long-term integrity of these assets, a new in-house Painting and Coatings Task Force was formed to oversee the protection of the District's 145 miles of pipeline.



Additionally, Calleguas launched a pipeline condition assessment program for one of the most common pipeline materials in its system, which includes performing field surveys to identify signs of corrosion activity and flowing a small device through the pipeline while it is operating to "listen" for leaks. No leaks were identified. These efforts are part of a broader strategy to proactively rehabilitate facilities approaching their end of life.

The District is also continually fortifying its cyberinfrastructure, utilizing federal Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency and California Office of Emergency Services resources and conducting regular intrusion and vulnerability assessments of applications, servers, and networking systems. Proactively assessing the District's cybersecurity defenses helps ensure they remain strong and up to date.

Supporting Local Resource Development

A key factor in achieving this reliability was Calleguas's Salinity Management Pipeline (SMP), which played a dual role in environmental stewardship and local water production. By providing a reliable discharge path for salts and minerals, the SMP enabled local retail water suppliers, through three desalting facilities, to generate more than 1.3 billion gallons of high-quality drinking water from local groundwater sources that would otherwise be unusable.





Emergency Planning and Response

The operational resilience of the District was particularly evident in January 2025. During widespread Public Safety Power Shutoff events (when an electrical utility turns off the power under high wildfire risk conditions) and intense wildfires elsewhere in Southern California, District staff successfully transitioned to backup power for nearly all District operations for nine days. The District's proactive coordination with the Ventura County Air Pollution Control District allowed for a seamless shift, ensuring that water supplies remained secure and unaffected by the loss of utility power. The event highlights the critical value of the Calleguas Board of Directors' long-term vision, regional leadership, and commitment to capital investments in emergency infrastructure and backup power systems that provide real water supply reliability.

District staff demonstrated a similar commitment to regional leadership by volunteering to support disaster response efforts. After helping a purveyor flush lines and return to service in the wake of the Mountain Fire in November 2024, District crews again stepped up after the Eaton Fire in Los Angeles in January 2025, traveling to a small water utility near Altadena to assist with repairs to the damaged system.

The District maintains a strong ongoing partnership with the Ventura County Fire Department, providing the Department access to the District's confined space training facility and, as always, making the District's surface water reservoir, Lake Bard, available for firefighting aircraft to refill their water tanks as they battle nearby blazes. Dozens of helicopter "dips" into the lake took place in 2025.



Connecting Systems for Increased Water Supply Security

The District continues to prioritize agility and collaboration with local and regional partners. The completion of the Calleguas-Las Virgenes Interconnection, which provides a physical connection between Calleguas and the Las Virgenes Municipal Water District (LVMWD) in case supplies are needed, was celebrated with a large-scale community event. This award-winning water reliability project spans two counties - Ventura and Los Angeles - and allows water to flow in either direction in the event of an outage, depending on which agency needs it.

On the western side of the Calleguas system, ongoing progress on the City of Ventura Interconnection also represents vital improvements to promote conveyance flexibility.



Water Quality

Water quality remains a top priority at the District; the annual Consumer Confidence Report consistently demonstrates that Calleguas meets or exceeds all state and federal regulatory standards. Quality is maintained through monthly analysis of over 800 constituents from more than 200 samples, alongside quarterly testing at Lake Bard to monitor for invasive species. All told, more than 25,000 analytes are measured each year. And as new challenges emerge, such as golden mussels and PFAS chemicals, Calleguas adapts accordingly, incorporating new analyses and sampling protocols into the testing and monitoring programs.

Employee Professional Growth...

Calleguas recognizes that its mission is only achievable through a highly qualified, motivated workforce. With an average employee tenure of 12 years and a robust tuition reimbursement program, Calleguas remains a stable and innovative workplace. The District honored commitment by presenting service awards to dedicated employees, including five employees who achieved milestones of being with the District for 25 years or more.



At the same time, it is imperative that the next generation of water professionals be ready to step into these essential jobs. In 2025, the District expanded its student internship program, providing hands-on experience for tomorrow's aspiring water workers.



The District also intensified its recruitment efforts, participating in seven regional career fairs and launching an inspirational "Water Career" video series. In addition, Calleguas spearheaded a regional workforce development group that is developing innovative recruitment and education efforts with a variety of industry partners. Calleguas is also actively involved in formulating strategies to attract veterans to the water industry, working to create awareness and opportunities for ex-military personnel to apply their considerable skills and expertise to careers in this field.



...and Workforce Development

At the same time, Calleguas prioritized the professional growth of its staff through diverse training programs. Leadership development was a primary focus, as three managers successfully completed the ACWA Joint Powers Insurance Authority (JPIA) Leadership Essentials for the Water Industry Program, one staff member completed the JPIA Professional Development Program in Operations, Human Resources, and Supervisory Basics, and both staff and the Board of Directors participated in leadership development workshops to improve communication and team dynamics.



Part of preparing for the workforce of the future is adapting with the times, and the District accomplished this by creating new specialized positions: a GIS Specialist, a Cross-Connection Control Specialist, a Painting and Coatings Crew Leader, and an Assistant Manager of Operations and Maintenance.



The District also enhanced its succession planning efforts by implementing a comprehensive Construction Inspector Training series. This internal initiative is intended to expose interested staff to the expectations and opportunities of the inspection career path, inform them of the latest industry standards, and offer the opportunity to begin developing the specialized skills necessary to effectively manage the District's evolving infrastructure projects.

Fiscal Responsibility

Calleguas continues to be a model of financial responsibility, maintaining an AA+ credit rating and achieving a clean audit, both of which reflect its stability and sound management. Through strategic refinancing of \$66 million in bonds, the District achieved \$1.8 million in long-term savings. The District also saved money by successfully pursuing grant funding, including ongoing funding from the Federal Emergency Management Administration/California Office of Emergency Services and California Department of Water Resources supporting various capital projects.

On a broader regional scale, Calleguas served as a powerful advocate for its purveyors and their ratepayers by working with the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (Metropolitan) to shift toward a more equitable property tax-based revenue recovery model. Calleguas staff were also critical to the successful effort at Metropolitan to secure more moderate rate structures for the treated water that Calleguas purchases from Metropolitan, reducing the cost impact on purveyors and the customers that they serve.

Industry Expertise

In 2025, Calleguas leadership and staff actively shared their expertise through numerous speaking engagements. These included serving as panelists at several events and engaging with local and regional community and governmental organizations.



The General Manager furthered this outreach by speaking to a variety of community groups and participating in several mentorship events, including the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) Foundation and delivering keynote addresses for the Metropolitan Society of Women Engineers (SWE)/Women @ Metropolitan Women’s History Month Celebration, and the San Buenaventura Section of SWE Certificate of Merit program.

Providing Regional Leadership and Advocacy

Calleguas has solidified its role as a leader in the California water community through effective advocacy and community engagement. The District joined with Southern California water suppliers to support the Delta Conveyance Project (DCP), which would modernize the State Water Project (SWP) system. As almost all of Calleguas's supplies come from the SWP, it is critical that this system is maintained and optimized. Through meetings with legislators, local speaking engagements, and a tour of the SWP for Ventura County stakeholders, the District built a strong and diverse coalition whose members understand the importance of a reliable water supply over the long-term.



District Board and staff members serve on several committees of leading water industry associations, facilitating collaboration and action on items of mutual interest. Calleguas representatives also regularly travel to Sacramento and Washington, D.C. to convey District and regional priorities to policymakers, establishing strong and meaningful relationships with the District's state and federal elected representatives.



Calleguas staff and the District's Metropolitan Board member were tireless advocates for the significant progress that was made on the Venice and Sepulveda Pump Stations, which are critical infrastructure projects to improve water delivery flexibility and reliability for the region during drought years when SWP water is less available.



Community Engagement

District staff regularly communicated with service area stakeholders and residents about the District and water supply in Ventura County. These educational efforts included participation in Earth Day celebrations, street fairs, Chamber of Commerce events, native plant events, and a beach clean-up. District staff also regularly attend community events and meetings, as well as present to schools and local organizations. To keep the community informed of these and other initiatives, in 2025 the District launched its new digital newsletter, *Calleguas Currents*.





A Closer Look

Calleguas welcomed dozens of groups to the District's Thousand Oaks headquarters for tours, showing community members, elected officials, environmental organizations, birdwatchers, students, business groups, law enforcement personnel, and local government representatives how the District imports, stores, treats, and distributes clean and safe water.



Water Use Efficiency

Calleguas is committed to fostering a culture of water use efficiency by expanding public education and awareness programs that encourage the efficient use of precious water resources. Calleguas's comprehensive rebate programs have yielded significant environmental and financial benefits for the region. In 2025, customers replaced nearly 180,000 square feet of traditional grass with beautiful, California-friendly landscaping, earning more than \$550,000 in rebates for their commitment to sustainable yards. Beyond landscaping, residents and businesses across the Calleguas service area received over \$85,000 in rebates for 1,200 water-saving devices, ranging from high-efficiency washing machines and showerheads to smart irrigation controllers.



Community-focused education and professional development remain vital to long-term efficiency goals. In 2025, Calleguas hosted 11 free workshops and classes, providing more than 120 participants with expert guidance on the benefits and techniques of water-wise landscaping. In collaboration with Metropolitan, the California Landscape Contractors Association, LVMWD, and the City of Simi Valley, the District helped develop a rigorous three-class series for the Water Efficient Landscape Dual Certification Program.

Along with the UC Master Gardeners, the District launched a new educational class titled "Firewise Living: From Structure to Landscape," designed to help residents protect their properties through fire-resistant landscaping. Offered monthly from June to October, the class drew more than 160 participants over the five-month period.



The District expanded its sustainability efforts through the Turnkey Turf Transformation Program, another collaboration with stakeholders that included Inland Empire Utilities Agency, LVMWD, and Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District. Funded entirely through a state Department of Water Resources Urban Community Drought Relief Grant, city properties in Simi Valley, Port Hueneme, and Oxnard are using this program to replace non-functional turf with beautiful, California-friendly, low-water-use landscaping.

Award-Winning Staff and Projects

In 2025, Calleguas and its staff received numerous accolades for excellence in engineering, operations, and communications. The Calleguas-Las Virgenes Interconnection was honored with ACWA's prestigious Clair A. Hill Agency Award for Excellence and was also recognized as Project of the Year by both the Ventura/Santa Barbara Branch of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) and the Ventura County Chapter of the American Public Works Association (APWA). Additionally, the District earned a California Special Districts Association award for its effective emergency communications during the 2024 Mountain Fire.



Individual staff members were also celebrated for their outstanding contributions. Senior Project Manager Cesar Romero, P.E. was named Engineer of the Year by the Ventura/Santa Barbara Branch of ASCE and Professional of the Year by the Ventura County Chapter of APWA. Assistant Operations Supervisor David Hernandez was named the Association of Water Agencies of Ventura County (AWA) Operator of the Year and Emergency Response Coordinator Daniel Cohen received an AWA Special Recognition Award for his unwavering support and professionalism during the response to the Mountain Fire. Additionally, Senior Communications Specialist Kat Ehret was recognized by the Greater Conejo Chamber of Commerce as a 40 Under 40 honoree.

Future Focus

Similar to an investment portfolio, diversification in water supply planning is critical. In accordance with the District's Strategic Plan, Calleguas completed Phase 1 of the Water Resources Implementation Strategy in 2025, resulting in a prioritized list of regional resilience projects. Resilience projects initiated in 2025 included a feasibility study for a regional desalter in the northern reaches of the Calleguas Creek Watershed and preliminary development of a Regional Exchange Program that could allow purveyors to move water among one another using Calleguas's distribution system.



Raul Avila, President
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Scott Quady, Director

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Calleguas is planning for future generations through traditional and non-traditional local and regional partnerships, keeping in mind that long-term, sustainable water management is key. Investments in reliability and resilience are critical to keeping the water flowing to the hundreds of thousands of Ventura County residents the District serves. These investments require an all-of-the-above approach, including water use efficiency, groundwater desalting, brine management, improved access to Metropolitan supplies, water recycling, enhanced storage, and, crucially, modernization of the SWP to address changing hydrologic conditions in our state. Calleguas is committed to providing a reliable supplemental supply of regional and locally developed water in an environmentally and economically responsible manner.

