

CALLEGUAS CURRENTS

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INTEGRITY • INGENUITY • LEADERSHIP

FEATURE STORY

FROM DIP TO DROP: WATER IN ACTION DURING THE SANDY FIRE

When the Sandy Fire broke out on May 18 in Simi Valley, Calleguas's Lake Bard quickly became the primary water source for aerial firefighting operations. Aircraft from Ventura County Fire, Los Angeles County Fire, and the U.S. Forest Service made more than 800 water drops, refilling from the lake in as little as 30 to 90 seconds before returning to the fire line.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3 →



Photo by @vcfirephoto



CHARLOTTE HOLIFIELD RECEIVES 2026 RALPH HEIM EXCEPTIONAL OUTREACH & ADVOCACY AWARD

Congratulations to Charlotte Holifield, Manager of External Affairs, recipient of CSDA's 2026 Ralph Heim Exceptional Outreach & Advocacy Award!

Since joining Calleguas three years ago, Charlotte has transformed the District's legislative advocacy efforts and built meaningful relationships with elected officials, community organizations, water agencies, and industry leaders. Her work has strengthened Calleguas's voice at the local, state, and federal levels and helped create new opportunities for collaboration and funding.

Charlotte also created Calleguas's Regional Legislative Group, bringing regional partners together to coordinate on legislation and strengthen relationships across our service area. From Sacramento to Washington, D.C., her leadership and dedication have elevated Calleguas's presence and helped advance the District's long-term water reliability priorities.

Charlotte's ability to connect people, build genuine partnerships, and advocate passionately for our region makes this recognition especially meaningful. We are incredibly proud to celebrate Charlotte and this well-deserved honor!



WINNER OF THE
**2026 RALPH HEIM
EXCEPTIONAL OUTREACH
& ADVOCACY AWARD**
from the California Special Districts Association



SUMMER VISITORS FROM THE OFFICES OF STATE & REGIONAL ELECTED OFFICIALS



Featured in the
Acorn Newspapers



GENERAL MANAGER'S CORNER

“Steve Blois wasn’t just part of this place, he was **part of its foundation.**”

That line opens the video Calleguas produced to commemorate the dedication of its Wellfield Emergency Generators as the Steve Blois Emergency Generators. It captures the lasting impact Director Blois had on Calleguas and the broader water community through his service on the boards of Crestview Mutual Water Co., Calleguas, and the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. The Steve Blois Emergency Generators is an 8-megawatt diesel backup generator facility to provide power to Calleguas’s 18 aquifer storage and recovery wells outside Moorpark. The wells inject imported water for storage and extract it later when it is needed. These investments are essential to ensuring uninterrupted water service, even when significant disruptions – droughts, power outages, wildfires – stretch water supplies and infrastructure to their limits. In January 2025, when wildfires raged and utility power was curtailed under Southern California Edison’s “Public Safety Power Shutoffs,” this crucial facility enabled Calleguas to continue to deliver reliable service and make those challenges invisible to water customers. On July 19, 2026, the community came together to celebrate Director Blois’s legacy. The Steve Blois Emergency Generators stand as a tribute to his bold leadership and his commitment to water reliability and resilience – and as a reminder of Calleguas’s dedication to upholding those values.



Kristine McCaffrey,
General Manager

STAY CONNECTED





MORE SUMMER VISITORS

FEATURE STORY

FROM DIP TO DROP: WATER IN ACTION DURING THE SANDY FIRE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

While supporting firefighting efforts, Calleguas also maintained reliable water deliveries to local utilities serving impacted communities. As demand surged by approximately 40%, District staff worked around the clock to ensure both emergency response and drinking water needs were met.



Photo featured in VC STAR

With more than 3.4 billion gallons of stored water, Lake Bard played a critical role in helping firefighters respond quickly and effectively, demonstrating how water reliability, preparedness, and regional partnerships help protect Ventura County when it matters most.

THE NEXT WAVE: INSPIRING TOMORROW'S WATER WORKFORCE

Infrastructure is critical to delivering safe and reliable water to our communities, but the people who build, manage, maintain, and operate that infrastructure are the true backbone of water. The American Water Works Association projects that 510,000 new water professionals will be needed by 2032 to replace retiring workers. To ensure that our water systems are prepared for the future, Calleguas remains focused on advancing workforce development to highlight the important role of water utilities in communities and inspire future generations to consider a career in the water industry. Goals include increasing awareness, promoting relevant certifications, engaging in partnerships, and establishing opportunities for organizational leadership. Calleguas's internship program utilizes a cohort approach, with interns currently serving in roles in Water Resources, Administration, and Water Quality. The District looks forward to enhancing regional efforts by continuing to participate in upcoming career events with local colleges, offering school tours and classroom visits, advancing veteran-focused efforts, and participating in the upcoming Trades Day at the Ventura County Fairgrounds on October 22.



MORE SUMMER VISITORS



AWA WATERWISE BREAKFAST HIGHLIGHTS DELTA CONVEYANCE PROJECT

Calleguas hosted the Association of Water Agencies of Ventura County's monthly WaterWise Breakfast at District headquarters, bringing together regional water leaders for a discussion of one of California's most significant water infrastructure initiatives: the Delta Conveyance Project (DCP). The program featured an interview-style format between Calleguas General Manager Kristine McCaffrey and Carrie Buckman, Environmental Program Manager for the DCP at the California Department of Water Resources.

The conversation focused on the critical role the DCP will play in protecting California's imported water supply and improving long-term water reliability for communities throughout the state. Attendees also received updates on the project's environmental planning and permitting progress, along with next steps.

THE POWER OF CONNECTION: PLANNED REGIONAL WATER LINK BOOSTS RESILIENCE



Acre-foot (AF)
A football field covered in one foot of water (supplies ~3 families/year = 325,000 gals.)



The Calleguas-Ventura Interconnection continues to make great progress. This project involves constructing a seven-mile interconnection pipeline linking the two water systems, enabling mutual emergency water deliveries and increasing regional collaborative opportunities for water supply development and storage.

Since 1963, Ventura has been unable to utilize its 10,000 acre-feet of annual State Water Project allocation due to a lack of infrastructure to deliver the water to the City. The new pipeline will provide critical conveyance, allowing delivery of at least 2,500 acre-feet annually.

Want to know more?

Click on this link to watch a short video featuring the General Managers of both Calleguas and Ventura Water!



NAVIGATING ONGOING CHALLENGES ON THE COLORADO RIVER

The news about Colorado River supplies remains dire. Due to historic lows in snowpack and reservoir levels across the Colorado River Basin, a new 10-year framework was introduced to guide management and water reductions. Because the seven Basin states failed to reach a consensus, operating agreements and shortage allocations must be renegotiated every two years, requiring multi-state collaboration, reduced deliveries, and continuous conservation.

Although Calleguas receives water primarily from the State Water Project via Metropolitan, the Colorado River is an important component of Metropolitan's supply and to the overall system of Metropolitan member agencies, which includes Calleguas. During the 2021-23 drought, Metropolitan was unable to deliver sufficient water supplies to Calleguas and other agencies due to infrastructure limitations.

Those are now being remedied through projects like the Sepulveda Feeder Pump Stations Project, which will allow Metropolitan to reverse system flows during severe droughts, bringing more Colorado River deliveries to our region – up to 22,000 acre-feet a year starting in 2029.

Ultimately, investments in Southern California's water resources, storage, and conveyance – like the Sepulveda Feeder Pump Stations Project - are essential to enhance drought preparedness and operational flexibility as climate and weather whiplash increase supply variability.



DIRECTOR PAKALA TAKES REGIONAL LEADERSHIP ROLE



Congratulations to Calleguas Director Reddy Pakala on being seated as Calleguas's representative on the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (Metropolitan) Board of Directors. Metropolitan is a regional water wholesaler that supplies imported water to nearly 19 million people across six counties in Southern California through 26 member agencies, including Calleguas.

With more than three decades of experience in the water industry and a longtime commitment to serving Ventura County, Director Pakala brings valuable leadership and expertise to one of the region's most important water agencies. He will undoubtedly be a strong representative for Calleguas, the District's purveyors, and ratepayers.

SAVE THE DATE: PLANT SALE



CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SALE AND FREE LANDSCAPING CLASSES

Presented by the UC Master Gardeners of Ventura County in partnership with Calleguas



Date: Saturday, October 17, 2026
Time: 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

PLANT SALE WHILE SUPPLIES LAST.