

# YOUR TAP WATER IS SAFE TO DRINK!



The novel coronavirus disease, COVID-19, does NOT impact the quality and supply of your local tap water. COVID-19 is transmitted person to person, **not through water**, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.



Tap water is regulated for safety by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and must meet stringent state and federal drinking water quality standards. Water treatment plants that provide water must be tested multiple times per day.



Your local water agencies and partners provide a water supply that meets and exceeds drinking water standards set by the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974. They are:

- **San Gabriel Basin Water Quality Authority**
- **Three Valleys Municipal Water District**
- **Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster**
- **Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District**
- **San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District**



Don't tap into your emergency preparedness supply. Water supplies are not threatened by the pandemic. A two-week supply of bottled water is recommended for other emergencies, such as earthquakes.

**“Americans can continue to use and drink water from their tap as usual.”**  
***U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)***



Water Quality Authority

Learn how the WQA is making your drinking water clean and safe at [www.wqa.com](http://www.wqa.com).

SAN GABRIEL BASIN WATER QUALITY AUTHORITY

# Earth Day Movement

## Spurred Groundwater Cleanup in San Gabriel Basin

*The Water Quality Authority Has Coordinated One the Nation's Most Successful Efforts to Treat a Polluted Aquifer*

*"People talk about environmental catastrophes around the world, but rarely think about the fact we had one right in our own backyard, but we took care of it. We were going through our own environmental transition here in the San Gabriel Valley and it had to do with groundwater cleanup."*

**Ken Manning**  
Executive Director,  
San Gabriel Basin  
Water Quality Authority

By Elizabeth Smilor  
Special Sections Writer

**W**hen Earth Day was created 50 years ago, a wave of environmental awareness was surfacing nationwide. By the end of the 1970s, the issue hit home in the San Gabriel Valley with the detection of groundwater contamination.

"People talk about environmental catastrophes around the world, but rarely think about the fact we had one right in our own backyard, but we took care of it," said Ken Manning, Executive Director of the San Gabriel Basin Water Quality Authority (WQA). "We were going through our own environmental transition

here in the San Gabriel Valley and it had to do with groundwater cleanup."

By the end of 1979, news hit about the San Gabriel Basin groundwater contamination. Facts and concerns intensified during the 1980s as testing methods improved. In 1983, the US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) declared four Superfund sites in portions of the Main San Gabriel Basin. In 1993, the WQA was formed by the California State legislature.



Kenneth R. Manning



Aerial view of the Congressman David Dreier Treatment Facility in Baldwin Park, which has the capacity to treat 7,800 gallons of water per minute.

"What was happening here really paralleled what was happening around the country from the 1970s to 1990s," Manning said. He points to many important policy changes including the federal Clean Water Act of 1972 and the Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974. Once formed in 1993, the WQA didn't waste any time in setting local guidelines and building treatment plants. The first treatment facility in Monrovia was completed in 1995.

Since then, WQA has coordinated cleanup efforts that have resulted in the treatment of more than 1.6 million acre-feet of water. That's equivalent to a full year of water for 8 million residents. There are now 32 active groundwater treatment plants in the San Gabriel Basin.



Erin Brockovich

"This is a perfect example of how community water systems, regulatory agencies, responsible parties and consumers can come together and get it done right," said environmental activist Erin Brockovich in a message to the WQA on their 25th anniversary.

With the expectation of recurring drought conditions this local supply of clean groundwater is crucial as regional agencies

work to lessen their reliance on imported water from the State Water Project and the Colorado River, Manning said.



David Dreier

"The WQA's ongoing cleanup efforts are key to a safe and reliable source of water for the San Gabriel Valley's present and future needs," said former Congressman David Dreier.

In addition to coordinating the cleanup effort, WQA is a major force in advocating for continued state and federal funding and in educating the next generation about the importance of clean water. The WQA has assisted in securing three grants from State Proposition 1 totaling 8.5 million for the San Gabriel Basin and continues to advocate for more Prop. 1 and Prop. 68 funding. The WQA continues to lobby for more than \$50 million in federally appropriated funds that have not been allocated. Finally, the WQA educates thousands of area students through its sponsorship of award-winning Eco-Voices Institute programs.

"The more we learn, the better we get," Manning said. "We can't live in an environment that's polluted. We've got to take better care of our environment." ○

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Water Quality Authority



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1979	1993	1999	2009	2013	2019
Groundwater contamination is first detected in the San Gabriel Groundwater Basin.	WQA is established by the California State legislature.	WQA spearheads legislation for \$75 million in federal funding.	WQA obtains additional \$50 million for WQA Restoration Fund. H.R. 910, which established the San Gabriel Basin Restoration Fund to facilitate groundwater cleanup, became Public Law 106-554.	The WQA mandate is extended through 2030.	Construction begins on the first reverse osmosis treatment system in the San Gabriel Valley.
<b>1,696,360</b>		Acre-feet of groundwater treated in San Gabriel Basin as of December 31, 2019.		<b>325,851</b>	
				The amount of water in gallons in just one acre-foot.	