

City of Hollister • Sunnyslope County Water District • San Benito County Water District

Cooperative Effort Will Boost Quality of Drinking Water

The Hollister Urban Area Water Project (HUAWP) is a collaborative effort by the City of Hollister, the Sunnyslope County Water District and the San Benito County Water District to deliver high-quality water to help ensure economic stability and contribute to a better quality of life for the entire community.

Surface water imported from the Central Valley Project (CVP) is being treated to drinking water standards at the Lessalt plant and distributed to Sunnyslope customers. The plant was retrofitted in 2015 and can treat up to 2 million gallons of surface water per day.

The new West Hills Water Treatment Plant will be on line in 2017 with a capacity to treat 4 million gallons of surface water per day. This good quality water will be delivered to City customers.

Sunnyslope customers have been demolishing their water softeners to take advantage of the \$300 rebate from the Water Resources Association of San Benito County since the water quality has improved in these neighborhoods. Over 800 customers have taken advantage of the program thus far.

Susan B., a Sunnyslope customer stated, "The water quality is much better, but what I like best is not having to lug 40 pound bags of salt around. Plus no expense for upkeep or maintenance of my water softener."

Improved drinking water quality for residents and businesses will also help meet wastewater discharge requirements and protect the groundwater basin.

New West Hills Water Treatment Plant is Ahead of Schedule and On Budget



The West Hills Surface Water Treatment Plant is ahead of schedule. Originally, it was slated to be completed at the end of 2017. Currently, the plant is scheduled to be completed by Summer 2017. (Photo on left taken November 2017)

Artist rendering on right is of the completed West Hills Water Treatment Plant.

Using Water More Than Once-Recycled Water

High quality wastewater from Hollister Urban Area Water Project Adds to County's Water Supply

Recycled water is wastewater that is purified through multiple levels of treatment. Recycled water is clean, clear, and safe. This processed water is treated to strict standards set by the California Department of Health Services and is rigorously monitored by local, state and federal agencies to ensure it continuously meets those standards. Recycled water is safe for irrigation, industrial, and agricultural uses.

The District has been working collaboratively with the City to find beneficial uses for recycled, non-potable water and lessen the potential economic effects that may be experienced throughout the Hollister Area due to the significant reduction in Central Valley Project (CVP) water allocations and associated agricultural production now and in the foreseeable future. Recycled water is now being delivered along Wright Road to various farms along the pipeline. The deliveries started in July 2016 and saw over 300 acre feet of recycled water being used in the first three months. The high quality wastewater is being derived from the better quality drinking water leaving residents homes through the wastewater system in the Hollister Urban Area.

Over several years the agencies met with customers to obtain their input to guide the agencies' water planning and project development. The customers told the agencies to collaborate to improve water quality and reliability and to keep valuable water for use within San Benito County. The agencies listened and the resulting plan and projects represent the results of close cooperation.

The City's Reclamation Plant processes over 2 million gallons of wastewater per day and can expand to double that capacity in the future, if needed. During peak growing season, April-September, the District plans to use 85% of this water for agricultural purposes with a small amount going to the airport for dust control and a small amount being used directly at the City's wastewater reclamation plant.

Water Plan Uses Planned Improvements and Grants to Offset Costs

The City of Hollister and the Sunnyslope County Water District are implementing the approved approach to comply with California’s new limits on the regulated compound Chromium-VI (Hexavalent Chromium) that is naturally occurring in our drinking water.

The current plan to address the Chromium-VI regulations takes advantage of the West Hills Water Treatment Plant and water supply improvement plans contained in the Hollister Urban Area Water Project. The alternative would have been to use very expensive wellhead treatment to reduce Chromium VI levels in our drinking water. Instead, water from the West Hills Treatment Plant will be used to blend with well water, thereby saving millions of dollars now and into the future. It is estimated that over \$20M of costs have been avoided by using the planned improvements.

The San Benito County Water District was also successful in obtaining state grants; on behalf of the other agencies, to help offset local costs. A \$1.4M grant was awarded to support the recycled water efforts and another \$4M was awarded to support the retrofitting of the Lessalt Water Treatment Plant.

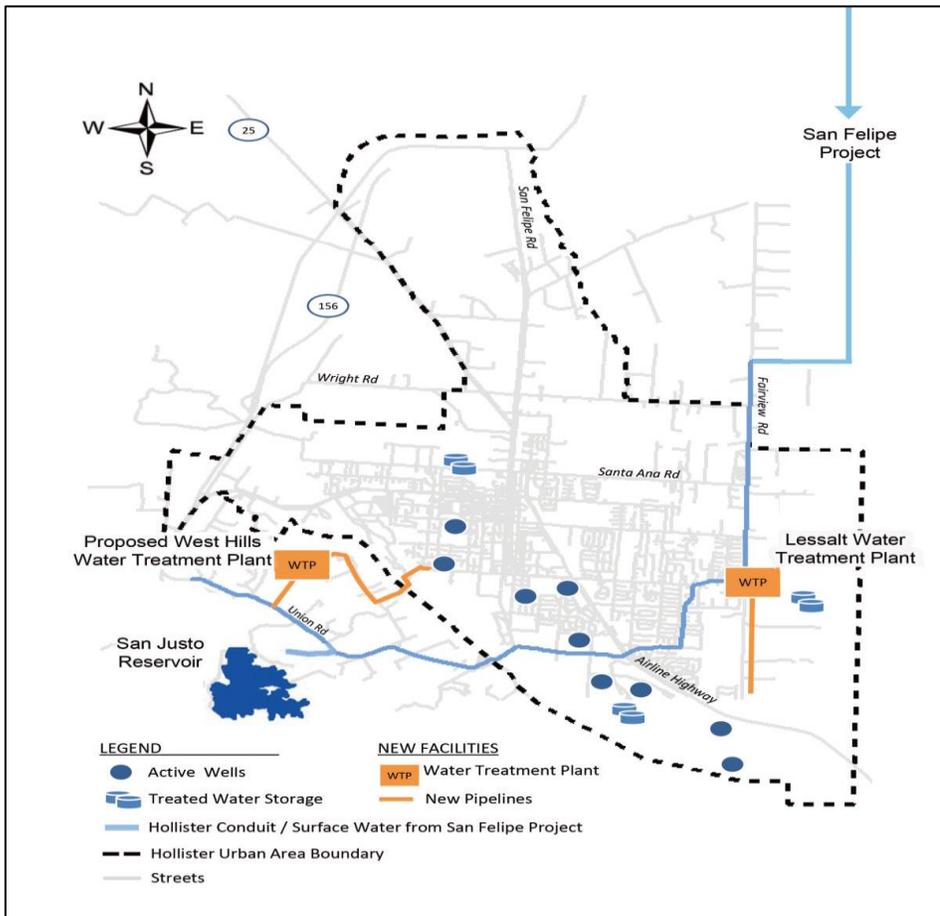


Direct Benefit is High-Quality Water

The most direct benefit of the HUAWP will be high-quality drinking water that Hollister and Sunnyslope water customers will enjoy. Tap water will have much lower salt levels and will reduce the need for water softeners, which are expensive and can damage appliances such as dishwashers, clothes washers and water heaters. For many customers, it will also eliminate the need to buy bottled water.

One very important benefit of the water project is the improvement it will bring to our local wastewater treatment systems.

Upgrades to our local water reclamation system have greatly improved the quality of wastewater discharges. But improved treatment alone will not allow wastewater to meet future discharge mandates by the state. Improved drinking water quality, coupled with the reclamation plant treatment, will allow discharge to meet state regulations, avoid costly fines and allows development of recycled water for agricultural customers. This project also protects the quality of our groundwater basin by reducing salt buildup.



Shown on map above are the Lessalt Water Treatment Plant, and the West Hills Treatment Plant and new pipelines that are currently under construction.



Contact Information

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