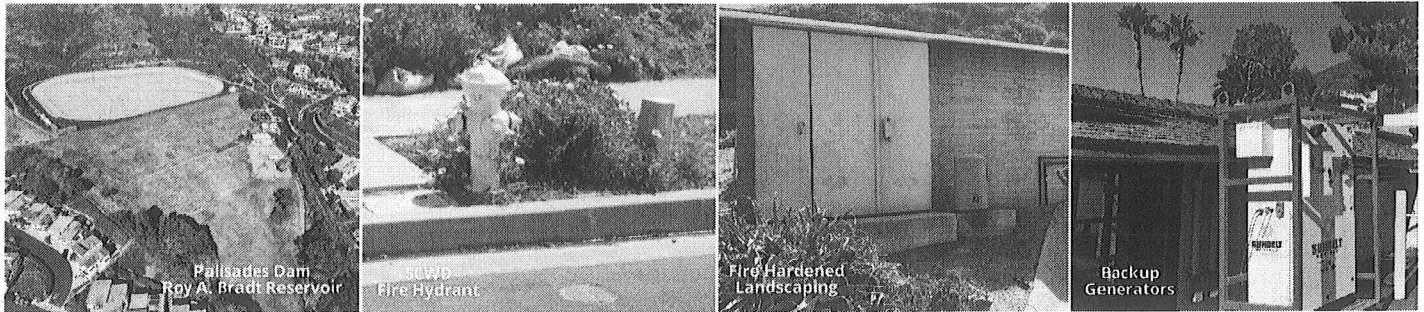


Emergency Preparedness



South Coast Water District is making every preparation to protect the public water and sewer system from natural and manmade disasters. Our employees are trained in emergency response activities and are committed to restoring services quickly. However, in times of emergency, it is possible that your water and sewer service could be temporarily disrupted.

Wildfire Emergency Preparedness

As we support those affected by the Los Angeles Fires, the safety and preparedness of our community remains SCWD's priority. SCWD customers can be assured that the District is dedicated to providing safe and reliable water supply for our community and local fire authorities, 24/7, including the Laguna Beach Fire Department and Orange County Fire Authority (OCFA).

A few notes on how SCWD maintains preparedness:

- **Fire Hydrants:** We maintain over 1,600 fire hydrants, painted white, typically required to be spaced not more than 500 feet apart, and inspected annually, to ensure readiness and an adequate water supply for quick emergency responses.
- **Reservoirs:** SCWD has over 50 million gallons of water stored in its system (21.2 MG) and regional emergency reservoirs (29.1 MG capacity rights in the regional Upper Chiquita and Bradt reservoirs). This 50 million gallons of storage would provide roughly ten (10) days of emergency water if SCWD was fully cut off from imported water supplies. SCWD consistently operates water system reservoirs at near full capacity for maintaining optimal system pressures and maximizing emergency supply storage.
 - **Note:** Reservoir 2B, in South Laguna Beach, is currently under construction to increase wildland firefighting capacity. For more details, visit [SCWD.org/Reservoir2B](https://scwd.org/Reservoir2B).

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- **Covered Reservoirs:** All water reservoirs are covered to preserve water quality, minimize evaporation, and enhance security, ensuring a reliable supply. People sometimes mistake aerial photos of large, covered reservoirs to be empty; this is not the case, as SCWD consistently maintains high storage levels as referenced above.
- **Enlarged water pipelines along the wildland-urban interface:** The District is working on enlarging perimeter water pipelines to further enhance wildland firefighting capabilities.
- **Backup Generators:** Critical pump stations across our network are equipped with backup generators. These are designed to activate during power outages or scheduled shutdowns, bolstering the reliability of our water delivery systems. The District has enough generator capacity to run our entire potable water system IF our electric power was shutoff for an extended period.
- **Water Pressure:** The District has ample storage and/or redundant pump stations at all elevations, to maintain water pressures during fire events.
- **Fire-Hardened Landscaping:** The District maintains a safe perimeter to create a defensible space to help protect structures, lives and property, known as a fuel modification zone, at our critical infrastructure. Landscaping strategies near these facilities include rigorous brush control and weed abatement.

ew projects to further enhance firefighting capabilities: The District is embarking on the Doheny Ocean Desalination Project. This project (along with the District's existing Brackish Water Desalter) would provide a CONTINUOUS water supply of roughly 5 million gallons per day (MGD) to District customers and our local partner agencies.

If you have additional questions, please email Public Information at info@scwd.org.

What Can You Do To Be Better Prepared For Disasters?

1. **Register** with Orange County under the **Alert OC system** so that South Coast Water District and other city and county agencies have the best contact information for you in case of an emergency.
2. **Know the hazards** that may affect you at home, work, or school. Find out more at <http://myhazards.caloes.ca.gov/>
3. **Assemble an emergency kit** for your home (prep for at least 3 days). Be sure to include supplies for pets and anyone in your home with special needs. Learn more at <https://www.ready.gov/kit>
4. **Have a disaster plan** for your household, including how people should contact each other if a disaster occurs and where you should meet.

5. **Know your neighbors and how to help them.** In a disaster, emergency responders may not be able to reach your neighborhood for a while. Know if your neighbors have any special needs, and check on them as soon as possible.
6. **Make sure you're covered** by homeowner's or renter's insurance for disasters such as earthquakes and floods. If these disasters occur, having good insurance coverage will help you recover more easily.
7. **Volunteer** with an emergency response or community service organization that does work on disaster education and preparation.
8. **Speak to your employer** about creating a disaster recovery, workforce communication, and/or business continuity plan. If they already have one or more of these plans in place, make sure you and your co-workers know it.
9. **Check out MWDOC's Emergency Management webpage** for information about the Water Emergency Response Organization of Orange County (WEROC) and other projects underway by this organization: <https://www.mwdoc.com/your-water/emergency-management/>



**SIGN UP FOR
EMERGENCY ALERTS!
ALERTOC.ORG**

Additional Resources

[ReadyOC](#); [Cal OES](#); [FEMA](#)

Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan

The Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWDOC) and Participating Agencies (including SCWD) are preparing an update to its Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan (MJHMP). This plan will help create a safer community for residents, businesses, and visitors. The MJHMP allows public safety officials and agency staff, elected officials, and members of the public to understand the threats from natural and human-caused hazards in our community. The plan will also recommend specific actions to proactively decrease these threats before disasters occur.

[Learn More About the Plan and How You Can Get Involved](#)