

### LA's New "Mulholland Moment":

How Wastewater Recycling Can Transform LA and the West

Internet of Water Coalition -- February Webinar *February 6, 2024* 









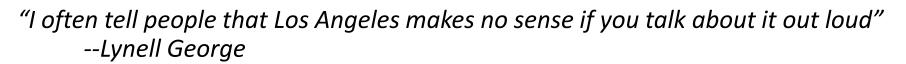










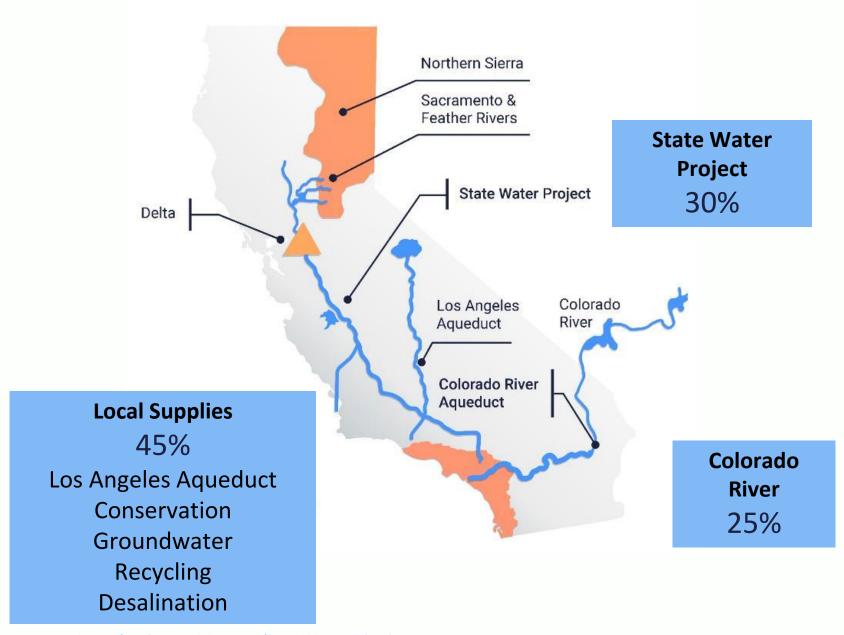




'There it is. Take it'

Metropolitan Overview\_

# Securing Water for Southern California.











### To a New Water Paradigm

"We cannot solve our problems with the same thinking we used when we created them."

-- Albert Einstein

### A New "Mulholland Moment":

- **R**educe (water waste)
- Reuse (captured urban and stormwater runoff)
- **R**ecycle (purified wastewater)
- Restore (contaminated groundwater)



### Recycle: By the numbers

- LA County uses ~1.2B gallons of water a day
- ~60% of this is imported (~720+MGD)
- 400MGD-500MGD wastewater discharged into the ocean every day
- Planned wastewater purification projects planning to reclaim ~330+MGD
  - ~25% of current water usage
  - Nearly 50% of imported water

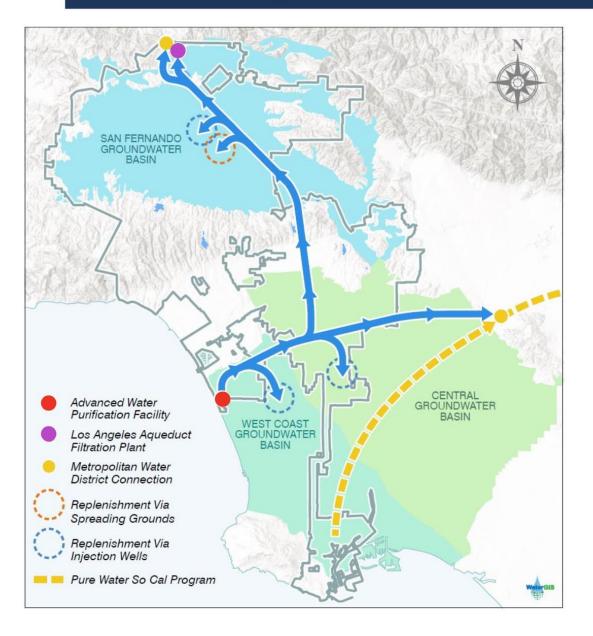


### Los Angeles Times

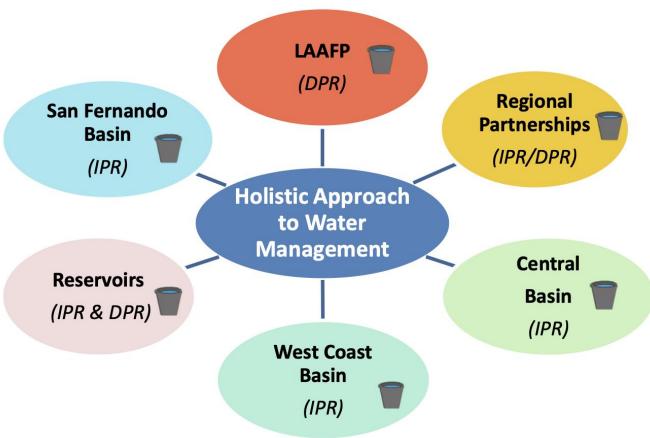
L.A.'s ambitious goal: Recycle all of the city's sewage into drinkable water



### **Operation NEXT Supply Management**



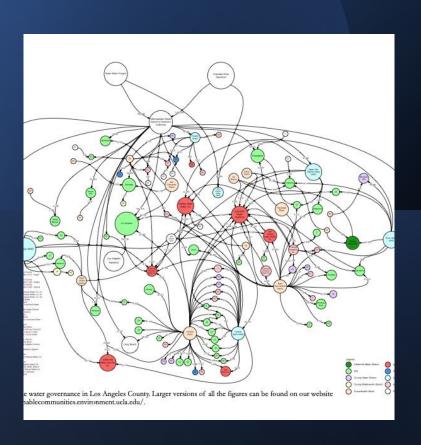
- Future Advanced Water Purification Facility (LADWP)
  - ✓ Start w/ Hyperion as secondary MBR source water (LASAN)
- Los Angeles Aqueduct Filtration Plant (LADWP)
  - ✓ Origin of most of the water supply for the City



### Program Overview – Phases 1 & 2



## Challenges & Considerations

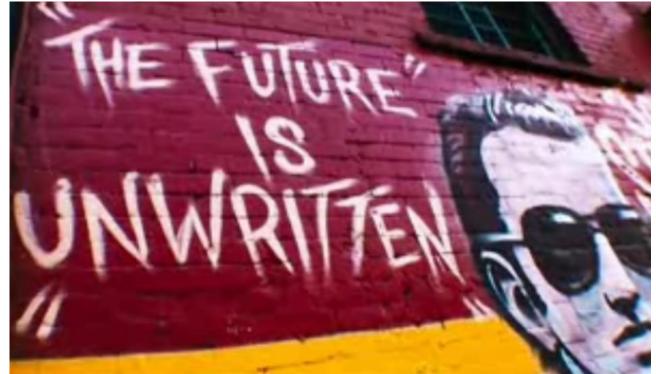


- Centralization vs decentralized approach
  - Upstream v downstream needs (flows)
  - New vs existing infrastructure
- Ensuring all communities have reliability
- What's the balance between IPR, DPR & NPR
- Addressing water quality concerns
- How much systems should be integrated
- How to finance to minimize impact (\$20B!!!)
- Ego-system management (agency squabbles)
- Water rights & governance
- Public engagement/support

Next Steps

- Convene TAC (Feb 22) & develop recommendations
- "Inside game" advocacy (political, CEQA review, etc.)
- Push funding (state, federal, rate increases)
- Partner and community education/engagement





### Techno-Social Solutions for Off Grid Food-Energy-Water (FEW) Challenges



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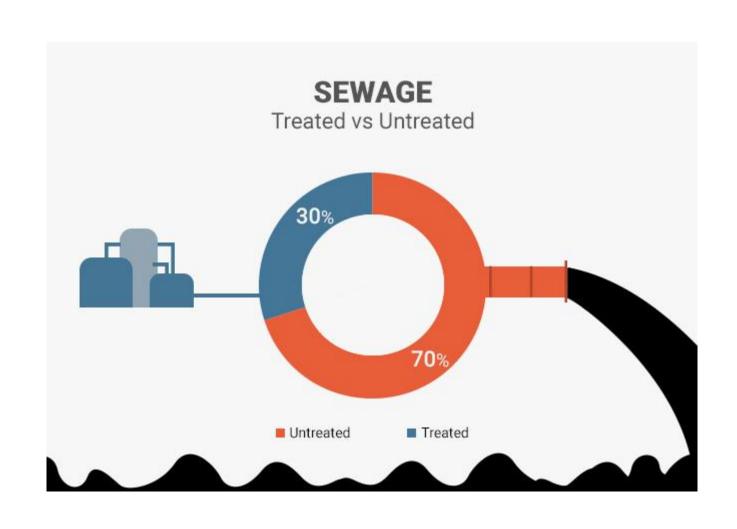
www.arava.org

www.lagunainnovation.com

A Global Conversation on Water Data for Reuse Innovation: Lessons from the LA River to the Global South



### **WASH GLOBALLY**





In a world where demands for freshwater are continuously growing, and where limited water resources are increasingly stressed by overabstraction, pollution and climate change, neglecting the opportunities arising from improved wastewater management is nothing less than unthinkable in the context of a circular economy.

**UN World Water Development Report** (WWAP 2017)

#### The Problem: Poor Sanitation & Water Scarcity



of the world's population lacks access to adequate sanitation due to technological, financial, and/or governmental barriers

#### System-Wide Risks



Environmental Pollution



Water Borne

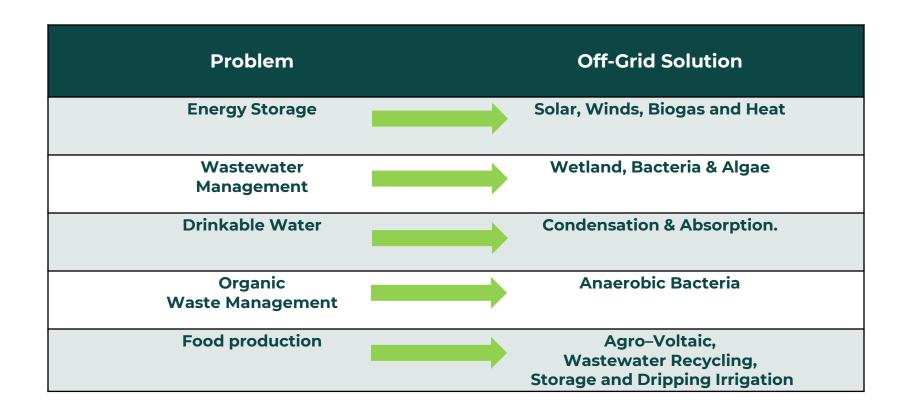


Water Scarcity

This lack of essential infrastructure endangers human health, socioeconomic well-being, and ecological functioning

👉 We're on a mission to change that.

# The solutions are here: OFF-GRID technologies







The Laguna system is compact, sludge-free, simple to install, modular and operated by solar panels

Parameter	Unit	Israeli Standards 2002		Palestinian standards 2002	
		Unrestricted irrigation	Rivers	Unrestricted irrigation	Rivers
BOD	mg/l	10	10	20	_
TSS	mg/l	10	10	30	
COD	mg/l	100	70		200
Ammonia-N	mg/l	20	1.5	50	5
Total-N	mg/l	20	10		
Total-P/PO <sub>4</sub> -P	mg/l	5	0.2	30	5
$SO_4$	mg/l	_	_	500	1,000
Chloride	mg/l	250	400	500	_
Sodium	mg/l	150	200	200	_
Fecal coliforms	CFU/100 ml	10	200	< 200	<1,000
Boron	mg/l	0.4	-	0.7	2
Hydrocarbons	mg/l	_	1	0.002	1
Anionic detergents	mg/l	2	0.5	15	25
Total oil	mg/l	_	1	5	10
pН	[-]	6.5-8.5	7-8.5	6–9	6–9
Dissolved oxygen	mg/l	< 0.5	<3	>0.5	>1

### Independently Validated Improvement in Effluent Quality

Test	Unit	Acceptable standard for effluent irrigation	Influent Result	Effluent Result	Improvement (%)
Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD)	mg/L	10-20	216	5	98%
Chemical Oxygen Demand (COD)	mg O <sub>2</sub> /L	100	448	22 🔽	85%
Total Suspended Solids (TSS)	mg/L	10-20	35	6 🔽	83%
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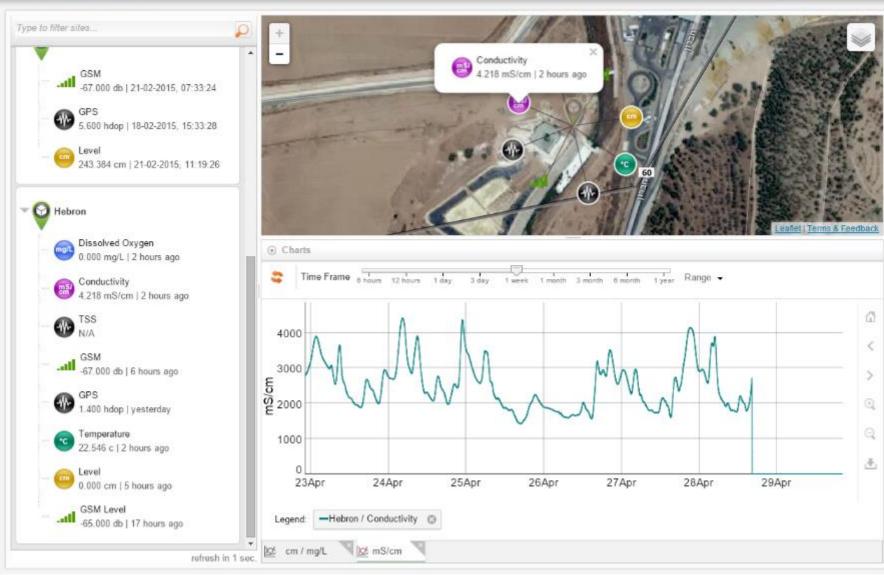
Field Sampling











Laguna in Action: Case Study

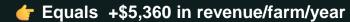
### From waste to wealth

By unlocking the productive value of treated wastewater, we help communities transition towards a circular economy while mitigating risk factors associated with sewage pollution.



Accelerating SDG Targets

Olive oil yields are estimated to increase by 50% with irrigation from treated wastewater





"Water is not just water, it is security and growth."