WRD and the City of Torrance provide an additional freshwater supply through the Robert W. Goldsworthy Expansion

On February 6, 2018, the Water Replenishment District of Southern California (WRD), in partnership with the City of Torrance, will celebrate the expansion of the Robert W. Goldsworthy Groundwater Desalter. WRD built the Goldsworthy Groundwater Desalter, which began operations in 2001, to help remove and treat a multi-billion gallon saline plume located in the West Coast Basin. The Robert W. Goldsworthy Groundwater Desalter creates a local freshwater supply for the City of Torrance and additional storage space in the basin through the process of desalination. With the expansion, the facility will extract and treat 5 million gallons of brackish water per day, doubling the amount previously treated.

The Goldsworthy Groundwater Desalter works through reverse osmosis treatment to create fresh, potable water. Salty (brackish) water extracted from the aquifer is forced through reverse osmosis membranes to remove the salt. After the brackish water passes through the membranes, the resulting "de-salted" water is then disinfected and the pH level is adjusted. Once fully treated, the water is of very high quality, exceeding all federal and state drinking water standards. The treated water is put into the distribution system in Torrance and the residual salt or brine – which remains after the treatment process – is discharged through a brine pipeline to the sewer system.

The success of the Goldsworthy Groundwater Desalter has spurred plans for additional local area partnerships to expand brackish water remediation in the West Coast Basin. The Goldsworthy expansion project and future remediation projects will increase local sustainability and overall resiliency to counter the impacts of drought and assist local public agencies in meeting long-term water supply needs.

For more information on the Robert W. Goldsworthy Groundwater Desalter or on WRDs efforts to secure a sustainable water future, please visit www.wrd.org.