

LADWP CELEBRATES TAP WATER DAY WITH TOURS OF LOS ANGELES AQUEDUCT FILTRATION PLANT

Recognizing that in many parts of the world, access to clean and safe drinking water is considered a luxury, the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) does not take it for granted that protecting and ensuring the water we supply is of the highest quality.

Recently, LADWP took an opportunity to highlight its complex water planning treatment and monitoring systems at a celebration of Tap Water Day LA and the 30th anniversary of its Los Angeles Aqueduct Filtration Plant (LAAFP.)

“LADWP delivers the highest quality water at the lowest possible cost to millions of customers throughout the city,” said LADWP Senior Assistant General Manager of Water Richard Harasick. “We want the public to know that our drinking water is protected by hundreds of employees who manage our treatment processes, operate and maintain our world-class treatment facilities and vigilantly monitor and test the water we serve. It is truly pure, clean, refreshing tap water.”

The LAAFP is the site where water from the Los Angeles Aqueduct and State Water Project is treated before making its way into Los Angeles homes and businesses. It is estimated that 60 percent to 70 percent of the City’s water supply is treated at this facility.

Los Angeles’ drinking water meets and exceeds state and federal drinking water standards for all contaminants, including lead. In 2016, LADWP supplied nearly 160 billion gallons of drinking water to more than four million residents and businesses.

“The LA Aqueduct Filtration Plant is a critical site and important infrastructure for Los Angeles, ensuring that all residents have safe and clean water to drink,” said Barbara Ferrer, PhD, MPH, MEd, Director of Los Angeles County Department of Public Health. “This is the most basic requirement of a healthy community.”

When the LAAFP was commissioned in 1987, it marked a new era in water treatment and quality for Los Angeles. In recent years, innovations like the LA Reservoir's shade balls and the state-of-the-art UV Disinfection Facility have been incorporated into the treatment process. Today, the Sylmar plant cleans and purifies up to 600 million gallons of water a day and is one of the largest and most advanced treatment plants of its kind in the world.

The facility treats water by first removing visible material and then, as it progresses through the system, the treatment process moves through several steps and focuses on what cannot be seen with the naked eye.

After the initial screening, optimal levels of fluoride are added as required by state regulations to promote oral health. The next step is ozonation. Ozone is a super-charged oxygen molecule and a powerful disinfecting agent that is injected into the water. Following ozonation, water moves to rapid mixing, flocculation and filtration where treatment compounds are quickly disbursed into the water to make fine particles clump together and form floc. Filter beds remove the floc and previously added elements.

Water then travels through a 12-foot diameter pipe to the UV Disinfection Facility. UV disinfection has been identified as one of the most effective methods of drinking water treatment by the US Environmental Protection Agency. The filtered water is treated with chlorine for additional lasting disinfection and then ammonia is added to create chloramine, an approved disinfectant that protects the water as it travels through the City's vast distribution system to millions of Angelenos.

To learn more about Los Angeles' high quality water, please visit www.ladwp.com/waterquality.

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