

## 2025 AWARDS

AMWA recognizes the exceptional performance of water systems to create sustainable environments that produce ample supplies of high quality and safe drinking water.

### SUSTAINABLE WATER UTILITY MANAGEMENT AWARD

- Austin Water\*
- Fort Wayne City Utilities\*
- OCWA – Central New York’s Water Authority\*
- Orange County Water District
- Valley Water

### PLATINUM AWARD FOR UTILITY EXCELLENCE

- Cape Fear Public Utility Authority
- Cobb County-Marietta Water Authority

### GOLD AWARD FOR EXCEPTIONAL UTILITY PERFORMANCE

- City of San Marcos Utilities
- Gulf Coast Water Authority
- Marin Municipal Water District
- South Coast Water District

*\*Winner of multiple Sustainable Water Utility Management Awards*





October 2025

AMWA's Annual Awards Program celebrates the leadership, innovation, and operational excellence of member utilities that shape the water sector. These honors reflect a shared commitment to delivering clean, reliable water, protecting public health, and stewarding essential resources, while fostering economic growth and strengthening communities nationwide.

The 2025 honorees exemplify those values through peer-reviewed applications that highlight strategic utility management, resilient operations, and meaningful community engagement. Their work reminds us that water is more than infrastructure; it's a system built on dedicated service and public trust. This year, we're proud to recognize:

- Two individuals whose expertise and dedication elevate their organizations, AMWA, and the sector, with our **President's** and **Donald R. Boyd Awards**.
- Four utilities with the **Gold Award for Exceptional Utility Performance**, the first tier of our phased program based on the updated **Effective Utility Management** framework.
- Two utilities continuing to raise the bar for sector achievement with the **Platinum Award for Utility Excellence**.
- Five utilities with the **Sustainable Water Utility Management Awards** for sustained excellence in environmental stewardship, fiscal responsibility, and social equity: two for the first time, and three for continued advancement.
- Several systems for achieving **25 or more years of membership with AMWA**.

Congratulations to this year's honorees, and thank you for driving progress across the sector.

Jeff Szabo  
Chief Executive Officer, Suffolk County Water Authority  
President, AMWA's Board of Directors

# SUSTAINABLE WATER UTILITY MANAGEMENT AWARD

## AUSTIN WATER



**TOP:** Austin Water leaders meet annually to review accomplishments and discuss strategic priorities for improvement.

**BOTTOM:** Austin Water Wildlands Division offers educational outreach about the role of water quality protection lands.



*Shay Ralls-Roalson, Austin Water Director*

Austin Water remains a national leader in sustainable utility management, advancing financial stability, environmental stewardship, and community engagement. Since earning the 2015 Sustainable Water Utility Management Award, the utility has reduced rates, held them flat for five years, and saved \$556 million through strategic debt management.

It has modernized infrastructure by replacing 250,000 analog meters with smart technology, enabling real-time water tracking and early leak detection.

Robust community outreach, including open houses, focus groups, and surveys, has guided future rate design, while asset management efforts have kept critical infrastructure available over 90 percent of the time. Austin Water's conservation measures, including permanent one-day-per-week watering restrictions, have lowered per capita use from 160 to 131 gallons per day. Through code and incentives, it is driving commercial water reuse, projected to save 16 million gallons daily by 2040.

The utility also manages more than 49,000 acres of water quality protection lands and supports over 21,000 vulnerable customers with a nationally recognized assistance program offering a 51 percent discount on water bills. These achievements reflect Austin Water's enduring commitment to innovation, equity, and long-term resilience.



# Transforming Utilities, Empowering Communities.

EMA has been navigating change for 50 years.

**We get it.**

With our passionate experts, a people-first approach, and innovative solutions crafted to grow with you -

**let's make it happen.**

**Get in touch.**



[ema-inc.com](http://ema-inc.com)

[info@ema-inc.com](mailto:info@ema-inc.com)

# SUSTAINABLE WATER UTILITY MANAGEMENT AWARD

## FORT WAYNE CITY UTILITIES



*Kumar Menon,  
Director*

Fort Wayne City Utilities has long embraced sustainability as a core commitment, shaping its approach to public health, regional growth, and natural resource protection. As a city-owned utility, it leads efforts in river restoration, renewable energy, and resilient infrastructure.



**TOP:** *The Tunnel Works Program represents a major part of the utility’s Long-Term Control Plan.*

**BOTTOM:** *Award-winning Microgrid System maintains customer energy costs and helps prepare the city for natural disasters.*

Major investments such as the nationally recognized Tunnel Works Program and the innovative Microgrid System are designed to reduce water loss, lower greenhouse gas emissions, manage future energy costs, and ensure reliable service for decades. Sustainability is embedded across operations, from water replacement and energy-efficient treatment systems to data-driven asset planning, allowing for the delivery of measurable environmental and economic benefits.

The Microgrid, powered by clean energy and battery storage, is projected to save millions in energy costs over the next 40 years while maintaining uninterrupted service. Fort Wayne City Utilities also prioritizes affordability, offering competitive rates and leveraging grants and federal funding to ensure high-quality service remains accessible.

Every initiative reflects a step toward a cleaner, more resilient future. Through its integrated approach, Fort Wayne City Utilities meets today’s needs and protects resources for future generations.

## OCWA – CENTRAL NEW YORK’S WATER AUTHORITY

OCWA – Central New York’s Water Authority (OCWA) has continued to expand its sustainability efforts since winning its first AMWA Sustainable Award in 2017. OCWA has enriched its employee engagement, introducing OCWA University, an initiative that provides employees with training, wellness, and award programs and fosters a skilled and resilient workforce.



*Jeffrey Brown,  
Executive Director*

The utility embarked on its largest collective capital project to date with improvements to its Lake Ontario Water Treatment Plant campus that will total more than \$100 million when complete. Now in its final stage, the project is modernizing infrastructure, improving resiliency, and preserving its ability to produce excellent quality water. As a result, the Authority won the state-wide Best Tasting Drinking Water in New York State competition for two consecutive years.

The Authority’s commitment to long-term infrastructure investment and sound financial management was reaffirmed with an upgraded bond rating to Aa1, showcasing its fiscal sustainability and highlighting its effective management team. In preparation for the arrival of chip-maker Micron and construction of the largest chip manufacturing facility in the United States requiring 37+ MGD, the Authority has begun plans for increased water production to meet projected manufacturing and economic development needs.

OCWA is committed to ensuring the sustainability of its workforce, infrastructure, and finances, and is prepared for the unprecedented growth opportunities that are headed to Central New York.



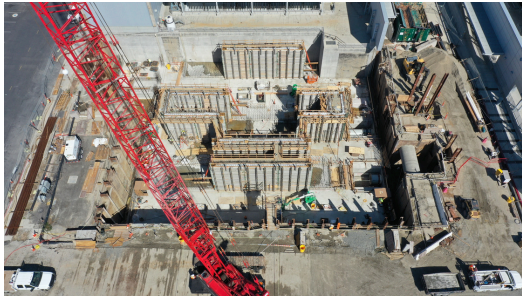
**TOP:** Authority leadership receives a check from New York Governor Kathy Hochul, representing her commitment of \$116 million in the FY26 budget to fund water infrastructure improvements related to Micron.

**MIDDLE:** The plant’s new filter wash system operates with air scour to improve filter cleaning efficiency.

**BOTTOM:** Authority managers, directors, and supervisors gather for the annual Leadership Summit.

## SUSTAINABLE WATER UTILITY MANAGEMENT AWARD

# ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT



**TOP:** The completion of the GWRS expanded production to 130 million gallons of water per day; enough water for one million people.

**MIDDLE:** Water captured behind Prado Dam waits for release into the Santa Ana River, which flows to groundwater recharge basins downstream.

**BOTTOM:** Officials from OCWD and the City of Tustin dedicated the city's PFAS treatment plant, which uses ion exchange technology to treat up to 6,400 gallons of groundwater per minute.



*John Kennedy,  
General Manager*

The Orange County Water District (OCWD) has been a leader in sustainable groundwater management for over 90 years, tripling the annual yield of the Orange County Groundwater Basin. In Fiscal Year 2023–24, OCWD achieved a historic milestone by recharging more than 90 billion gallons of water, the highest annual volume on record.

Through the development of new recharge sources, optimization of recharge processes, and enhanced facility efficiency, the District continues to provide a reliable and sustainable water supply to 2.5 million residents.

In 2023, OCWD completed the Groundwater Replenishment System (GWRS), the world's largest advanced water purification system for indirect potable reuse. Operating at full capacity, 130 million gallons per day, the GWRS increased productivity from 77 percent in 2022 to 85 percent. Underscoring the system's reliability and the District's commitment to local, sustainable sourcing, OCWD has not had to purchase imported water.

OCWD has also led efforts to address PFAS contamination, partnering with 19 cities and water retailers to restore safe groundwater supplies. To date, OCWD has restored 49 of over 100 impacted wells, supported by a \$30 million WaterSMART grant. In 2025, OCWD released its Resilience Plan to ensure long-term reliability. OCWD has earned 33 industry honors over the last three years, including the 2025 Outstanding Water Project Award for the Fullerton PFAS Treatment Plant.



# AMWA utilities lead and innovate to secure our water future.

**Raftelis provides utilities with the best insights and expertise, exceptional talent, and trusted advice — so your organization can thrive.**



Financial analysis and rate studies



Communication and outreach



Organizational assessment



Affordability analysis and program evaluation



Strategic planning



Asset management



Executive recruitment, coaching, and performance evaluations



Technology, data management, and cybersecurity

[www.raftelis.com](http://www.raftelis.com) / [info@raftelis.com](mailto:info@raftelis.com)



# Stop losing water. Start gaining control.

Solutions to help you detect, prevent, and reduce non-revenue water.

Xylem's Sensus delivers proven, utility-focused technology to minimize water loss and protect your bottom line.



**Pressure Monitoring:** Get near real-time pressure alerts to spot leaks faster, optimize PRVs, and strengthen hydraulic models with integrated flow data.



**FlexNet<sup>®</sup> Communication Network:** Identify non-revenue water events in near real time with a private, utility-owned AMI network—no congestion, no carrier delays.



**Static Metering:** Capture the lowest flows mechanical meters miss with long-lasting, no-maintenance accuracy and smart alarms for leaks, reverse flow, and tampering



**Software Solutions:** Unify pressure, flow, and AMI data for faster, smarter decisions with the Sensus Pressure Profile application and Xylem Data Lake.

Learn more at  
[xylem.com/sensus](https://xylem.com/sensus).



# SUSTAINABLE WATER UTILITY MANAGEMENT AWARD

## VALLEY WATER

Valley Water has been sustainably managing water resources in Santa Clara County, California, for nearly a century, evolving from its agricultural roots in the “Valley of Heart’s Delight” to serving the residents of Silicon Valley with safe drinking water, flood protection, and environmental stewardship.



*Aaron Baker,  
Chief Operating  
Officer*

Guided by its three-pronged mission and One Water Framework, the utility integrates water supply, climate resilience, and ecosystem protection to support one of the nation’s leading technology hubs.

Its \$10 billion capital program prioritizes advanced treatment, water reuse, and conservation, while robust groundwater management safeguards long-term supply and quality. Valley Water’s Climate Change Action Plan and forthcoming Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan set ambitious goals for carbon neutrality by 2045, supported by renewable energy investments and fleet electrification. Through cautious financial planning and transparent governance, the utility ensures responsible stewardship of public resources.

Valley Water pairs infrastructure innovation with deep civic engagement and invests in community programs, education, and financial assistance to empower residents as environmental stewards.



**TOP:** *Valley Water’s reservoir operations balance water supply demands, incidental flood protection, and flow releases to support fish, wildlife, and the downstream ecosystem.*

**MIDDLE:** *Chemist Thuy Nguyen analyzes samples at Valley Water’s state-of-the-art water quality lab, which runs 140,000 tests to ensure the safety of the region’s drinking water.*

**BOTTOM:** *Biologist electrofishing at Arroyo Aguague. Valley Water monitors the population of Chinook Salmon as part of the Fish and Aquatic Habitat Collaborative Effort.*

## PLATINUM AWARD FOR UTILITY EXCELLENCE

# CAPE FEAR PUBLIC UTILITY AUTHORITY



*Kenneth Waldroup,  
Executive Director*

The Cape Fear Public Utility Authority (CFPUA) is North Carolina's seventh-largest water/wastewater utility, serving over 200,000 residents in New Hanover County, Wilmington, and Wrightsville Beach. Emphasizing redundancy, resiliency, and reliability, CFPUA operates with a strategic management approach under an 11-member Board.

With an FY2026 Operating Budget of \$129.35 million and a \$210.712 million Capital Improvement Plan, CFPUA focuses most of its investment on replacing aging infrastructure. The utility operates two public water systems and two wastewater treatment plants. In 2023, CFPUA adopted a Source Water Protection Plan and will consolidate with Wrightsville Beach's water and sewer systems in 2025.

Key initiatives include reducing greenhouse gas emissions, extending water service to PFAS-contaminated wells, and enhancing customer satisfaction. CFPUA maintains a strong focus on enterprise resiliency, cybersecurity, and financial viability, supported by a long-term financial model and high bond ratings.

A notable project is CFPUA's proactive service line inventory, as mandated by the Lead and Copper Rule. Starting in 2021, CFPUA conducted an inventory assessment using field sampling and machine learning, identifying the materials of approximately 500 service laterals ahead of the EPA's 2024 deadline. This effort secured over \$10 million in grants and loans for replacement work, beginning in fall 2025, and drew national attention, including a visit from President Joseph R. Biden in 2024.

CFPUA emphasizes stakeholder engagement, workforce development, and safety, supporting its mission to provide quality water and wastewater services.

**TOP:** CFPUA staff celebrate at the ribbon-cutting ceremony for new deep-bed Granular Activated Carbon filters at the Sweeney Water Treatment Plant in Wilmington, N.C., in February 2023.

**MIDDLE:** Leaders from CFPUA, Lower Cape Fear Water and Sewer Authority, and Pender County Utilities celebrate the groundbreaking for the final phase of the 48" Parallel Raw Water Main Project in New Hanover County, N.C., in October 2024.

**BOTTOM:** In May 2024, CFPUA staff removed a galvanized water service line at a Wilmington, N.C. home.

An aerial, artistic rendering of a sustainable city nestled in a lush green valley. A winding blue river flows through the center, surrounded by modern buildings, green spaces, and renewable energy sources like wind turbines and solar panels. The city is surrounded by rolling green hills and a clear blue sky with scattered white clouds. In the foreground, a dense forest of evergreen trees frames the view.

What happens **NEXT** is happening **NOW**.™

Let's shape your **NOW** together.

You're facing challenges with lasting implications. We're delivering world class solutions with lasting results. Tomorrow's reality is unfolding today, and our forward-thinking approach will keep you one step ahead.

[cdmsmith.com/NEXTisNOW](https://cdmsmith.com/NEXTisNOW)

**CDM  
Smith**®

## PLATINUM AWARD FOR UTILITY EXCELLENCE

# COBB COUNTY-MARIETTA WATER AUTHORITY



*Cole Blackwell,  
General Manager*

The Cobb County-Marietta Water Authority (CCMWA) is an award-winning wholesale drinking water utility and the largest supplier in Georgia, based on metered and billed production. CCMWA is an employer of choice in the industry, with average employee tenure exceeding 12 years.

In the last five years, CCMWA has demonstrated utility excellence through innovation, resiliency, and environmental stewardship, maintaining 100 percent compliance with all drinking water regulations.

Financially, CCMWA retains an uninsured AAA bond rating from all three major credit rating agencies. Rate increases are below consumer price index trends, ensuring long-term affordability and sustainability. The use of a 30-year cash flow model, integrated with long-term capital improvement and financial planning, has allowed CCMWA to finance capital improvements with cash.

CCMWA enhances operational efficiency through initiatives like dynamic pump optimization, automated metering infrastructure, leak detection systems, and solar energy. CCMWA has strengthened resiliency by adopting national cybersecurity frameworks, conducting regular emergency preparedness exercises, acquiring land for a future water supply reservoir, and obtaining U.S. Army Corps of Engineers made-inflow credit for its storage account in Allatoona Lake. The Authority continues to work with the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District and other entities to sustain the environment and preserve the water supply and fosters trust through collaborative regional planning to ensure safe and reliable drinking water for nearly one million people across North Georgia.

**TOP:** Solar Panels are installed at the Administration and Engineering building as part of CCMWA's ongoing efforts to reduce electricity consumption.

**MIDDLE:** Maintenance Division installs a large motor at the Hickory Log Creek Pump Station, supporting reliable water delivery and enhancing efficiency through Dynamic Pump Optimization.

**BOTTOM:** Simmons Laboratory Division uses Quanti-Tray materials to detect BacT as part of efforts to maintain 100 percent compliance with water quality standards.

## GOLD AWARD FOR EXCEPTIONAL UTILITY PERFORMANCE

# CITY OF SAN MARCOS UTILITIES

The City of San Marcos Utilities in Central Texas provides safe, reliable water and wastewater services to more than 142,000 residents across multiple counties. San Marcos lies at the heart of Hays County, named by the U.S. Census as the fastest-growing county in the nation, with a 53 percent population increase from 2010 to 2020.



*Tyler J Hjorth,  
Director*

The department operates with a strategic, long-term vision focused on fiscal responsibility, infrastructure resilience, and regulatory compliance. Its diverse water supply portfolio includes the Edwards Aquifer, Canyon Lake (via GBRA), and the Alliance Regional Water Authority, along with a growing reclaimed water network. Proactive planning has enabled the City to keep pace with growth and secure water resources for years to come.

The utility leads regional efforts in sustainability and source water protection, advancing reclaimed infrastructure and watershed-based planning. It currently maintains a AA bond rating and operates with 120 days of cash on hand. The Citizens Utility Advisory Board requires a minimum debt service ratio of 1.2, with a recommended target of 1.4, aligned with the City's financial policy.

In wastewater, the City is investing in capacity and innovation through the FM 1978 Water Reclamation Facility, delivered via a progressive design-build approach. This project supports regional growth while meeting stringent nutrient limits. Additional investments include SCADA upgrades, in-house laboratory accreditation, and advanced metering infrastructure to enhance operational efficiency and customer transparency.



**TOP:** Crew members work to uncover a leak on an 8-inch water main.



**BOTTOM:** Crew worker lowers jet nozzle into wastewater main for scheduled preventive maintenance.

# Where do you find Carollo **Innovation?**

In our culture  
In our solutions  
In our communities


Like water itself, innovation flows through every challenge and shapes new possibilities. For over 90 years, Carollo has pioneered breakthroughs in water technology – from resilient infrastructure protecting growing communities to groundbreaking solutions safeguarding public health and ecosystems.

At Carollo, innovation isn't just about what's new – it's about what's necessary. Every advancement, every improvement, and every solution flows from a single purpose: shaping a future where water enriches every community it touches.



800.523.5826 / [carollo.com](http://carollo.com)

Striving for  
**sustainability**  
to build a  
**brighter future.**

-  One Water
-  Management Consulting
-  Collaborative Delivery
-  PFAS Regulations



## GOLD AWARD FOR EXCEPTIONAL UTILITY PERFORMANCE

# GULF COAST WATER AUTHORITY

Gulf Coast Water Authority (GCWA) is a regional wholesale water provider serving municipal, industrial, and agricultural customers across Fort Bend, Brazoria, and Galveston counties. Established by the Texas Legislature in 1965, GCWA operates a diverse and integrated system of canals, pipelines, reservoirs, pump stations, and water treatment facilities.



*Brandon Wade,  
Chief Executive  
Officer*

Guided by the principles of Effective Utility Management (EUM), GCWA prioritizes long-term performance, stakeholder engagement, infrastructure stewardship, and continual improvement. EUM is embedded throughout GCWA's operations, aligning decision-making with key attributes such as operational optimization, financial viability, employee leadership development, and infrastructure strategy.

Planning is a central pillar of GCWA's success. The Authority has implemented a formal asset management program based on risk, using likelihood and consequence of failure to prioritize maintenance and capital reinvestment. These practices are integrated into a computerized maintenance management system, enabling data-driven decisions across all divisions.

GCWA maintains a transparent, budget-based financial model that allocates costs proportionally based on customer contract quantities. Each year, it delivers a detailed 10-year financial projection to its customers, supporting collaborative planning and responsible fiscal management.

To ensure long-term water supply reliability, GCWA applies strategic planning principles to guide resource diversification, including initiatives in desalination, conservation, and smart infrastructure. These efforts reflect GCWA's commitment to proactive governance, sustainable water management, and continuous alignment with the evolving needs of the region.



**TOP:** Workers are engaged in a dredging operation on a B System (Briscoe Canal) to support water flow and infrastructure maintenance.

**MIDDLE:** Water treatment plant operators perform tasks essential to the operation of the facility.

**BOTTOM:** Workers remove the grating system at the Briscoe Pumping Plant, preparing the area for upcoming repairs to Pump 3.

## GOLD AWARD FOR EXCEPTIONAL UTILITY PERFORMANCE

# MARIN MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT



**TOP:** Marin Water's wildland fire-trained staff conduct pile burning on the Mount Tamalpais Watershed to boost fire resiliency and protect the region's water supply.

**MIDDLE:** Marin Water engineering staff assess an old pipeline that runs through the Mount Tamalpais Watershed.

**BOTTOM:** A team member shows a customer how to read his water meter to monitor water use, part of efforts to support the District's conservation goals.



*Ben Horenstein,  
General Manager*

Marin Municipal Water District manages more than 21,800 acres of watershed land, including 18,000 acres on Mount Tamalpais (Mt. Tam). In addition to supplying the majority of the District's local water, Mt. Tam supports a rich ecosystem with over 1,000 plant species and 400 wildlife species, many of which are rare or endangered.

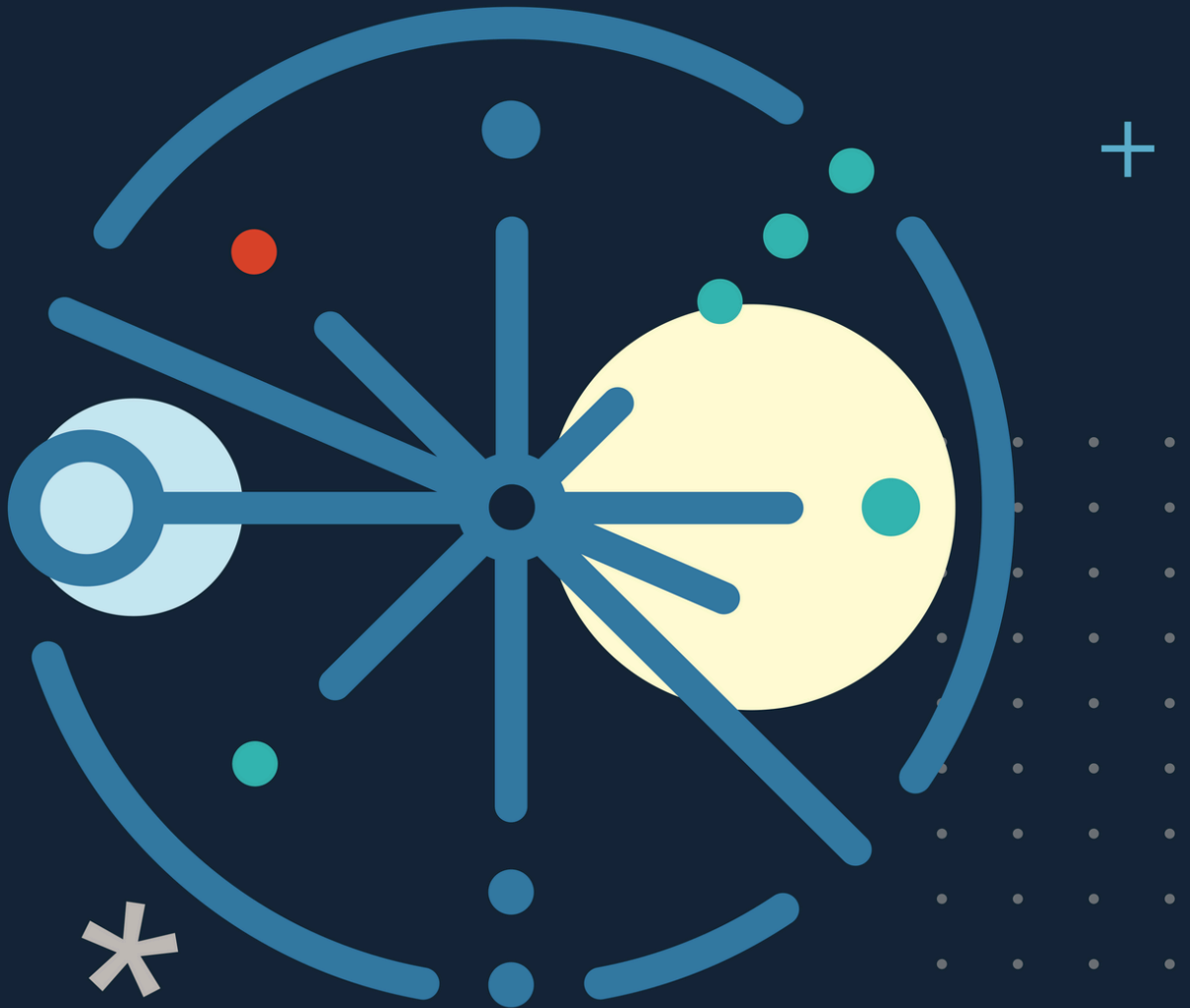
Each year, more than 2 million visitors explore the watershed's 150 miles of roads and trails. Through a broad and collaborative approach to land management, the District has become a regional leader in environmental stewardship, wildfire resiliency, watershed restoration, and public education and recreation.

To strengthen infrastructure and prepare for future droughts, the District recently advanced its Capital Improvement Program (CIP) through a comprehensive rate-setting initiative. Following months of community outreach, the Board approved a phased rate increase, starting with 25 percent in the first year, followed by annual increases of 15, 10, and 5 percent. This strategy will more than double CIP investment over four years, enabling accelerated pipeline replacements, large-scale infrastructure repairs, and new water supply projects.

The District's commitment to conservation continues to earn national recognition. In 2023 and 2024, EPA honored Marin Municipal Water District for Excellence in Education and for promoting WaterSense labeled products. The EPA also recognized the Sonoma-Marín Water Partnership, of which the District is a member, for its leadership in outreach and professional certification programs.

# advancing\* infrastructure

Making the most of your utility



Operational Performance  
Infrastructure Strategy  
Enterprise Resiliency  
Digital Water

**Engineers | Scientists | Consultants | Constructors**  
Employee-Owned | Offices Nationwide | [BrownandCaldwell.com](http://BrownandCaldwell.com)

# GOLD AWARD FOR EXCEPTIONAL UTILITY PERFORMANCE

## SOUTH COAST WATER DISTRICT



*Rick Shintaku,  
General Manager*

With a staff of 91 employees, South Coast Water District (SCWD) delivers exceptional water services to residents and two million annual visitors and manages the Joint Regional Water Supply System, which provides imported water to over 250,000 people in South Orange County.



SCWD recently completed two major capital projects: the \$100 million Tunnel Stabilization and Sewer Pipeline Replacement Project rehabilitated a two-mile coastal sewer tunnel to ensure long-term wastewater reliability, and the Reservoir 2B Replacement Project doubled potable water storage and enhanced fire flow in wildfire-prone South Laguna Beach.



To boost supply reliability, SCWD is implementing its Integrated Water Resources Plan, expanding recycled water, recovering brackish groundwater, and launching the Doheny Ocean Desalination Project to reduce imported water reliance from 73 to 26 percent by 2035.

**TOP:** Aerial view of SCWD's Reservoir 2B Replacement Project, which was completed in May 2025.

**MIDDLE:** Staff show solidarity with a colleague during Breast Cancer Awareness Month in 2024.

**BOTTOM:** Collage of award-winning Tunnel Stabilization and Sewer Pipeline Replacement Project process.

To support customers, SCWD provides AMI meters and real-time leak alerts through the EyeOnWater® portal. The District averages a 23-second phone response time and maintains a technical complaint rate of 0.36 per 1,000 accounts.

SCWD's AA-plus credit rating, no ocean sewage since 2017, cybersecurity program, and \$200 million in competitive funding, demonstrate operational excellence.



# Did you know that Stantec offers Advisory Services?

Our unique combination of technical knowledge and management expertise helps organizations navigate complex changes, optimize assets, embrace disruptive technologies, and secure funding.

ISO 55001  
Advisory  
Services

Change  
Management  
Certified

Stantec  
Certified  
Trainer

Funding  
Services in  
North America



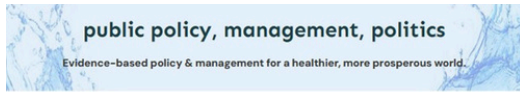
**\$8B+**

## Partnered with GIS Technology



## DONALD R. BOYD AWARD

# DR. MANNY TEODORO



Science informs sound decision-making. Storytelling inspires change.  
In a democracy we need both to make a better world.  
Here's a bit of both.



**TOP:** A screen capture of *MannyTeodoro.com* is pictured.

**BOTTOM:** Dr. Manny Teodoro speaks at the University of Michigan's Center for Local, State, and Urban Policy.



*Manny Teodoro, Professor, University of Wisconsin-Madison*

AMWA recognizes Dr. Manny Teodoro for his leadership in public scholarship and policy innovation. As a professor at the La Follette School of Public Affairs at the University of Wisconsin–Madison and a nationally respected author, speaker, and advisor, Dr. Teodoro has transformed how the water sector understands affordability, transparency, and governance.

His research has introduced new frameworks, such as the Affordability Ratio, that help utilities evaluate rate structures through the lens of equity and public trust.

He also developed the Wisconsin Waterworks Excellence Project, a groundbreaking initiative that grades water utilities on quality, finance, infrastructure, and communications. These report cards make utility performance data accessible to the public and stakeholders to ensure transparency and accountability.

Dr. Teodoro's work bridges academic insight with utility practice, equipping water systems with tools to communicate their successes and challenges more effectively to the communities they serve. His contributions to performance-based regulation, utility management, and public engagement continue to shape national conversations around fairness, accountability, and the future of water service delivery. Through his scholarship and sector-wide collaboration, Dr. Teodoro is helping utilities continue to lead with clarity, integrity, and impact.

## PRESIDENT'S AWARD

# ANGELA LICATA

Angela Licata serves as Deputy Commissioner for Sustainability at the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), where she has led transformative initiatives in water affordability, energy efficiency, and climate adaptation. Her work has helped position NYC DEP as a national leader in integrating sustainability into utility operations and long-term planning.



*Angela Licata,  
Deputy  
Commissioner for  
Sustainability, NYC  
DEP*

AMWA recognizes Angela Licata for her enduring leadership and outstanding contributions to AMWA and the water sector. As a long-standing member of the Board of Directors and a recent Past President, Angela has consistently demonstrated clarity, resilience, and strategic insight in service to AMWA's mission.

During her presidency, she guided the association through a period of significant transition, fostering stability and alignment across member priorities. Her leadership helped strengthen AMWA's voice on national policy issues and deepen engagement across the sector. Angela continues to serve actively on several AMWA committees and working groups, where her expertise in utility governance, affordability, and sustainability remains invaluable.

AMWA proudly honors Angela Licata for her steadfast commitment to public service, her thoughtful stewardship of the association, and her lasting impact on metropolitan water leadership.



**TOP:** *Spectrum News NY1 interviews Angela Licata on flooding impacts to the sewer system. Photo credit: Spectrum News NY 1.*

**BOTTOM:** *Angela Licata provides congressional testimony on AMWA's behalf.*

## FOUNDING AND SUSTAINING MEMBER AWARDS

### **FOUNDERS: A LEGACY OF LEADERSHIP SINCE 1981**

Since its founding in 1981, AMWA has been shaped by the leadership and vision of its original member utilities. Today, the association proudly retains the majority of those founding members, a testament to shared purpose, sectoral resilience, and long-term collaboration.

These utilities helped lay the foundation for AMWA's mission and have remained steadfast in their commitment to delivering safe, affordable, and reliable drinking water. Their legacy continues to guide the association's work, and AMWA celebrates their enduring role in protecting public health and advancing water sector leadership.

### **SUSTAINERS: COMMITTED FOR 25+ YEARS**

AMWA's strength is sustained by the dedication of member utilities that have partnered with the association for 25 years or more. These systems have contributed meaningfully to AMWA's growth, policy leadership, and collective impact, while continuing their vital work in communities across the country.

Their long-standing engagement reflects a deep commitment to utility management excellence, sound policy, and customer service. AMWA honors these members for their lasting contributions and celebrates the trust, collaboration, and innovation they bring to the association and the sector.

Together, AMWA's founders and sustaining members represent the backbone of the association's legacy and future. Their continued partnership inspires the next generation of water leaders and affirms AMWA's commitment to shared stewardship and sector-wide progress.

# WE'LL SEE YOU IN APRIL FOR AMWA'S 2026 WATER POLICY CONFERENCE/FLY-IN!

The AMWA 2026 Water Policy Conference will be a part of Water Week once again! The conference, scheduled for April 13-15 in the nation's capital at the Hilton Washington D.C. National Mall, will furnish utility leaders with a legislative and regulatory outlook, allowing them to engage with senators and representatives on issues critical to public water utilities, including federal infrastructure financing, regulation of PFAS and other contaminants, climate and extreme weather resilience, water affordability, and cyber preparedness, among others. The program will highlight

- **Members of Congress leading key committees;**
- **Officials from EPA and other federal agencies;**
- **Washington insiders in tune with the political landscape; and**
- **AMWA staff, who will provide their perspectives on key federal priorities such as emerging contaminants and lead service line replacements.**

In addition to the informative sessions, WPC attendees will automatically be registered for other Water Week events, including the National Water Policy Fly-In and the Water Week reception, and will have opportunities for peer-to-peer exchange.

The association is still finalizing program details, so keep an eye out for additional information.



**REGISTER  
HERE:**



*“AMWA meetings are a unique opportunity to exchange ideas and lessons learned with colleagues at other large utilities. The political and regulatory presentations and Q&A helped identify areas of mutual interest and concern where we can work together to pursue improved public policy and communications from regulators.”*

**Jamie Bain Hedges**

General Manager, Fairfax Water

# RENEW YOUR 2026 AMWA MEMBERSHIP

BEFORE DECEMBER 31, 2025, TO KEEP USING  
YOUR AMWA BENEFITS:

Engagement  
with peers &  
policymakers

1

Conferences,  
webinars, and  
events

2

Access to  
MMB and WUE  
newsletters

3

INSIGHT Utility  
Financial  
Database &  
Dashboard

4

Member to  
Member  
Inquiries

5

**AND MORE!**

Contact AMWA's Membership Programs Director, Heather Talbert, at [talbert@amwa.net](mailto:talbert@amwa.net) to renew your membership.

The Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies (AMWA) is an organization of the largest publicly owned drinking water systems in the United States, and its membership serves more than 160 million people. AMWA thrives in creating a community of water sector leaders to advance policies to protect public health and economic vitality via safe, affordable, and sustainable drinking water.

## Connect with AMWA



Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies



@AMWA\_water



Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies



@AMWA\_water



ASSOCIATION OF  
METROPOLITAN  
WATER AGENCIES



Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies  
1620 I Street, NW, Suite 500  
Washington, D.C. 20006

(202) 505-1565 | [www.amwa.net](http://www.amwa.net)