

Alameda County Water District: Newark Desalination Facility



Alameda County Water District – Newark Desalination Facility

- Up through 1960's:** **Niles Cone Groundwater Basin – Sole Source of Region's Supplies**
- Groundwater overdraft
- Seawater intrusion
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- 1963:** **State Water Project Imported Water Deliveries Begin**
- Groundwater overdraft corrected
- Saline groundwater remains in the basin
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- 1974:** **ACWD Initiates Aquifer Reclamation Program (ARP)**
- Brackish groundwater pumped from basin
- Discharge permit secured for disposal to San Francisco Bay
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- 1987-92:** **Drought Conditions throughout California**
- Local and imported supplies significantly cutback
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- 1991:** **Long-term Strategic Planning Initiated**
- Recycled Water Master Plan & Desalination Feasibility Study
- Integrated Resources Plan
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- 1995:** **ACWD's Integrated Resources Plan Completed**
- Long-term strategy includes brackish groundwater desalination, conservation, reclamation, & off-site groundwater banking
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- 2003:** **ACWD's Phase 1 Newark Desalination Facility Operational**
- ARP discharge permit amended for desal concentrate disposal
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- 2005:** **ACWD Awarded Grant for Phase 2 Desal Expansion**

ACWD Newark Desalination Facility – Elements of Success

District's Comprehensive Planning Strategy

- Long-term strategy includes conservation & recycling
- Financial, technological, engineering, operational, regulatory, environmental, and public outreach aspects included

Public Outreach Strategy

- Board of Directors
- Customers (residential, business, etc.)
- City of Newark
- Permitting Agencies

Permitting and Regulatory Strategy

- Early involvement
- Build on existing permits

Board of Directors Support

- Early involvement and education
- Consistency with District's Mission
- Minimal impacts on rates as compared with other alternatives
- Customer acceptance