

OFFICIAL SURVEY

The Proposed Huntington Beach Desalination Project

A Water Reliability Project for Orange County

Information Fact Sheet

Why Did You Receive This Survey?

Your local drinking water is supplied by Mesa Water District (Mesa Water®), which meets 100% of its community's water needs with local groundwater supplies pumped from Mesa Water's wells. Orange County Water District (OCWD) is considering an ocean desalination project, located in Huntington Beach, which could add to our groundwater supplies and provide affordable, reliable, and safe drinking water for customers throughout Orange County.

Funding for the project in Huntington Beach could come from different sources, potentially including a ballot measure that would require two-thirds voter approval. Please read this information sheet and complete the enclosed questionnaire about the possible ballot measure.

Understanding the Proposed Local Seawater Desalination Project

How Does Desalination Work?

Desalination is a well-proven approach used worldwide that reliably converts seawater into safe, dependable drinking water. The proposed process for the plant would use reverse osmosis membranes to remove salt and other impurities from seawater. This constantly improving technology has been used successfully around the world for many decades.

Safe Water

Desalinated water is safe to drink and is held to the same strict State and Federal drinking water standards as the high quality water currently provided by Mesa Water®.

Environmental and Economic Impacts

The proposed desalination project has been thoroughly evaluated. It must receive required approvals, and be built and operated with no significant impacts to public resources, ocean water quality, and the marine environment. The proposed project will be net-carbon-neutral - its operation will create no greenhouse gases. The project would create 3,000 jobs and infuse over \$500 million into the local economy during construction.

About Mesa Water®

Mesa Water® was created in 1960 to provide safe, reliable water to the community of Costa Mesa and surrounding areas. It is an independent special district, not part of the City or the County, and is governed by an elected, five-member Board of Directors.

The Desalination Process



How Would a Local Desalination Project Benefit our Community?

- ***Desalinated water is drought-proof***
- ***Multiple water sources are crucial, especially during recurring droughts***
- ***Desalinated water is high quality and safe***
- ***Desalination of seawater is cost-effective***
- ***Desalinated water is environmentally sensitive and meets the requirements of all permitting agencies***
- ***Desalinated water provides local control over our water supply***

Why Does Orange County Need This Proposed Desalination Project?

With recurring droughts and extreme climate conditions stressing the region's water supply, Orange County is facing a serious drinking water challenge that may be relieved by investing in an ocean desalination project. Our water supply must be improved because of:

- Hotter, drier weather
- Limited groundwater supplies
- Continued population growth
- Dwindling surface water supplies from imported sources such as the Sacramento Delta and the Colorado River

What Will a Funding Measure Provide?

If approved by two-thirds of the voters, funds from a ballot measure would support development of the proposed ocean desalination project in Huntington Beach. This proposed project is a public/private partnership between OCWD and the leading seawater desalination developer in the United States, Poseidon Water. The current plan is to have Poseidon build and operate the desalination plant. OCWD will facilitate the water's use by its 19 water retailers, including Mesa Water®, throughout Orange County.

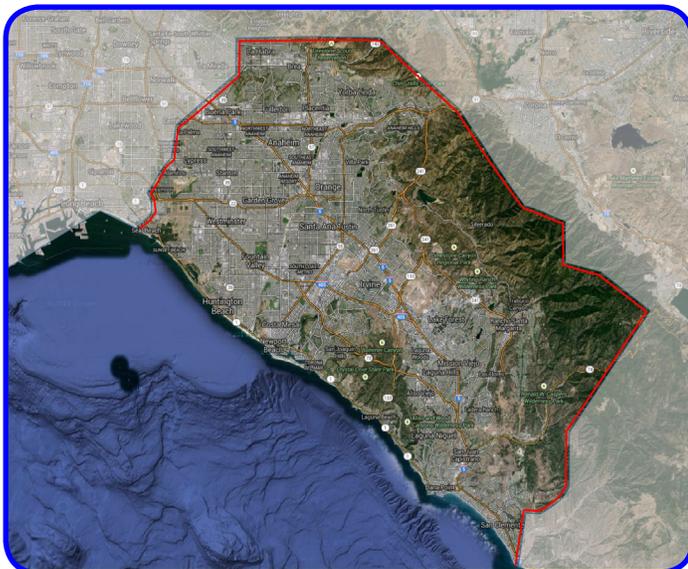
For this project to be most cost-effective, a potential ballot measure could provide funding for the reliability surcharge and construction of additional distribution systems throughout the groundwater basin, rather than a rate increase on your water bill.



Orange County's Seawater Resource

Orange County's proximity to the Pacific Ocean provides an opportunity to benefit from this abundant, renewable resource by investing in a desalination project. Historically, water for Orange County was supplied by the Santa Ana River, but its relatively modest flows barely supplied enough water for early farmers. As the County grew, additional water was needed to support the increasing population, and had to be purchased and imported from areas such as the Sacramento Delta and Colorado River. Water from such sources is costly, less reliable, and diminishes local control of Orange County's water supply.

Current desalination technology can be used safely and cost-effectively to convert seawater from the Pacific Ocean into drinking water. By investing in a desalination project, Orange County residents will benefit from a reliable, locally controlled water supply now and into the future.



Your Opinion Is Important to Us

This survey will allow Mesa Water® and OCWD to best serve customers and better understand the local community's priorities. By completing and returning this survey, you will help OCWD make critical decisions about Orange County's water reliability in an effort to protect and expand the water supply now and into the future.