The City of SAN DIEGO Public Utilities

FACT SHEET

Water Treatment Plants

The City of San Diego's Public Utilities Department provides high-quality drinking water by utilizing proven technology, upgraded facilities and state-certified operators. Water is treated using several processes, with each process providing additional water quality improvements. Using several treatment processes provides multiple barriers for added levels of safety.

The City's three water treatment plants employ a combination of time-tested conventional processes and innovative disinfection strategies. Both Alvarado and Miramar water treatment plants use ozone for primary disinfection, while the Otay Water Treatment Plant uses chlorine dioxide. Conventional water treatment consists of coagulation, flocculation, sedimentation and sand/multimedia filtration. This cost-effective, proven method of treatment is used throughout the modern world.

Public Utilities actively participates with the American Water Works Association's Partnership for Safe Water Program, the mission of which is to improve the quality of drinking water delivered to customers of public water supplies by optimizing system operations. More information about the water treatment process can be found in the City's annual Drinking Water Quality Reports available on the City's website at sandiego.gov/public-utilities/water-quality.

Alvarado Water Treatment Plant

Since it began operation in 1951, the Alvarado Water Treatment Plant has provided drinking water to customers primarily in the central section of the city. Plant capacity is 120 million gallons of treated drinking water per day. A multi-phase expansion and upgrade project for the plant was completed in 2011 and included a 1.1-megawatt solar power system. Located adjacent to the City's Murray Reservoir, Alvarado is also home to the City's Water Quality Laboratory, which continuously monitors the City's drinking water to make sure it is always safe and meets all state and federal health standards.

Miramar Water Treatment Plant

The Miramar Water Treatment Plant began operation in 1962 and provides drinking water to an estimated 500,000 customers primarily in the northern portion of the city. Located in the Scripps Miramar Ranch community, the treatment plant is adjacent to the City's Miramar Reservoir. Plant capacity is 144 million gallons of treated drinking water per day. In 2010, the City completed a 14-year multi-phase expansion and upgrade of the plant to ensure future customer demands and more stringent drinking water standards/regulations were met. Once the City's Pure Water system is completed in 2035, the purified water will be treated again at the Miramar plant before being distributed to the public.


Otay Water Treatment Plant

The Otay Water Treatment Plant began operation in 1914 and is located near the City's Lower Otay Reservoir. The plant provides drinking water to an estimated 100,000 customers in the southern area of the city. The smallest of the City's three water treatment plants, Otay Water Treatment Plant's capacity is 34 million gallons of treated drinking water per day. In 2010, the City completed an expansion and upgrade project for the plant that included an 804 kilowatt (AC) solar power system. The plant has received the Director's Award of Recognition multiple times from American Water Works Association's Partnership for Safe Water Program. This award was obtained while treating more challenging source water quality from local reservoirs and is recognition of outstanding performance by the plant staff team.

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