



The Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) program accelerates investment in our nation's water infrastructure by providing long-term, low-cost supplemental loans for regionally and nationally significant projects.

DRINKING WATER RELIABILITY PROJECT

BORROWER: Helix Water District

LOCATION: San Diego County, California

WIFIA LOAN AMOUNT: \$18,972,800

TOTAL WIFIA PROJECT COSTS: \$38,720,000

POPULATION SERVED BY PROJECT: 277,000 people

NUMBER OF JOBS CREATED: 387



Photo Credit: Helix Water District

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Drinking Water Reliability Project in San Diego County, California will increase the region's drinking water source resiliency by expanding water reuse opportunities and reducing reliance on imported water. It will replace 30% of water needs currently met by increasingly strained regional sources with purified water conveyed from the East County Advanced Water Purification project. Helix Water District will modernize existing pump stations, conveyance infrastructure, and distribution pipelines. It will also install an aeration system in Lake Jennings to meet state-mandated surface water augmentation dilution requirements. By completing this project, Helix Water District will establish the necessary infrastructure to create a more resilient local drinking water source and reduce the need for imported water by 12 million gallons per day. It will also improve the water distribution system for communities throughout its service area, including small and environmental justice communities. Additionally, this project supports California's Title 22 "Pure Water" objective to increase use of recycled water by at least 2 million-acre-feet per year by 2030.

PROJECT BENEFITS

- Improves drinking water quality and minimizes ecosystem changes.
- Reduces demand on drought-stricken imported supplies and increases reliability of water source.
- Saves Helix Water District approximately \$3.2 million by financing with a WIFIA loan.



WEBSITE: www.epa.gov/wifia
EMAIL: wifia@epa.gov