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SAN GORGONIO PASS  
WATER AGENCY  
*A California State Water Project Contractor*

## Progressive Support Earns Local Agency Prestigious Award Nomination

**BEAUMONT, CA (October 23, 2024)** — San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency (SGPWA) was recently selected as a finalist for the third annual 2024 Excellence in Innovation Award by the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) for its groundbreaking gap funding program to aid Disadvantaged Communities (DACs) in securing grants for water infrastructure upgrades.

ACWA's Excellence in Innovation Award recognizes groundbreaking and unique programs, projects, practices, and technologies implemented by member agencies that support California in achieving long-term water resilience.

"Our gap funding program is really about helping communities by ensuring their water districts can move forward quickly, providing the essential resources they need," said SGPWA General Manager Lance Eckhart. "We're proud to play a part in bringing clean, reliable water to the people we serve, and we're incredibly honored to be recognized by ACWA with the Excellence in Innovation Award for these efforts."

Since launching its gap funding program in 2022, SGPWA has partnered with numerous small water systems, providing more than \$16 million in capital to offset the initial cost of accepting state-sponsored grants. This strategic approach reduces unnecessary delays in infrastructure upgrade projects to improve water conveyance and reliability for local communities across Riverside County.

SGPWA's funding has been instrumental in the completion of many essential district projects. Highlights include South Mesa Water Company's project to replace 26,000 feet of pipeline that will enable up to 1,500 acre-feet of water recharge for local communities, Cabazon Water District's critical water system upgrades that improved water reliability for 2,270 residents, and High Valleys Water District's new water line and infrastructure upgrades to improve system performance.

The winner of the 2024 Excellence in Innovation Award will be announced during the keynote presentation at ACWA's Fall Conference & Expo in Palm Desert, CA on Thursday, December 5.

For more information, visit [www.sgpwa.com](http://www.sgpwa.com).

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### **About San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency**

Formed in 1961, SGPWA is a State Water Contractor that serves a 225-square-mile area of western Riverside County. The service area includes the cities of Calimesa, Beaumont, and Banning, and the communities of Cherry Valley, Cabazon, and the Banning Bench. In addition to importing State Water Project (SWP) water from Northern California to augment local groundwater sources, the Agency builds local system infrastructure, participates in water transfers, partners in statewide water projects and collaborates on regional water reliability and conservation efforts.

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