

MARCH-APRIL 2021

# Helix Highlights



## Our Capital Budget



Photo: Helix workers installing a vertical turbine pump.

Helix's proposed capital budget for the upcoming fiscal year -- July 2021 through June 2022 -- is \$15 million.

### What is capital?

At Helix, capital means the dams, treatment plant, pumps, tanks, pipes, valves and more that we depend on to deliver high quality water to over 56,000 homes and businesses.

### How does Helix know when to invest in capital?

Our engineering department tracks the installation, maintenance and condition of each asset in our water storage, treatment and distribution systems and prioritizes assets for rehabilitation or replacement based on the likelihood they will fail and the impact if they do.

### What is Helix investing in next year?

Next year's capital projects include pipeline, valve and vehicle replacements; pump station, treatment plant and IT upgrades; and, reservoir tank rehabilitations.

[Learn more at hwd.com/infrastructure](http://hwd.com/infrastructure)

## COMMUNITY

### Helix Launching Customer Assistance Program



### Helix helps

#### Customer Assistance Program

The Helix Helps Customer Assistance Program will offer a one-time credit of up to \$300 for single-family residential customers who are behind on their water bills and can document a financial impact from Covid-19. Our board of directors dedicated \$500,000 from surplus land sales to fund the program. Funds will be available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Helix is partnering with the San Diego-based nonprofit Home Start to administer the program, which will start in late March or early April. We will announce the start date on our website, Facebook, Twitter and Nextdoor.

[Learn more at hwd.fyi/help](http://hwd.fyi/help)

## Did You Know?

Storing, treating and delivering water requires large systems. We operate and maintain capital assets valued at \$1.4 billion -- here's a summary.

### Water Storage

**2**

Dams and Reservoirs

- Lake Cuyamaca and Lake Jennings

### Water Treatment

**1**

R.M. Levy Water Treatment Plant

- 106 million gallons per day capacity
- Regional facility



### Water Distribution

**25**

Pump Stations

**25**

Reservoir Tanks

**737**

Miles of Pipe

**16,975**

Valves

**6,571**

Fire Hydrants

**56,504**

Meters

### Facilities and Equipment

**4**

Facilities

**6**

IT Systems

**31**

Pieces of Heavy Equipment

**77**

Trucks and Vehicles

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# Things to Do



**Helix**  
WATER DISTRICT

1.



## Save \$100 on a Smart Leak Detector

An undiscovered leak in a toilet or irrigation system can result in a higher than expected water bill. Protect yourself with a smart leak detector, which displays your real time water use on your phone and sends an alert when your water use is high. Get a \$100 rebate while they last.

[Go to hwd.com/smart-leak-detector](http://hwd.com/smart-leak-detector)

2.

## Check Our New Webpage on High Water Use

The usual suspects behind a higher than expected water bill are leaks and changes in water use. Our new guide helps you find the culprit and return your water bill to normal levels.

[Go to hwd.com/high-use](http://hwd.com/high-use)

3.



## Head to Lake Jennings

The 2020 Best of East County Readers Poll results are in and Lake Jennings is the best place to walk, jog, walk your dog and hang out. Stay for the morning, the day or the whole weekend.

[Go to lakejennings.org](http://lakejennings.org)

4.

## Enter the Lake Jennings Spring Photo Contest

Take photos of the lake, boats, wildlife, and scenery, and enter your three best images. You can win up to \$150. Entries are due May 31.

[Go to hwd.com/contests](http://hwd.com/contests)



5.



## Show Us Your Landscape

Our WaterSmart Landscape Contest is an opportunity to showcase your water efficient landscape and inspire other homeowners. We encourage residents who planted two or more years ago to enter the contest, because your landscape has come into its full beauty.

We hold this contest in the spring because that's when most water efficient landscapes are in full bloom and at their best. Entries are judged on overall attractiveness, design, plant selection, maintenance and irrigation and the winner receives a \$250 gift certificate. Entries are due May 14.

[Learn more at landscapecontest.com](http://landscapecontest.com)

6.



## Plant Vegetables

March and April is the right time here in San Diego to add compost to your soil and plant peppers, squash, corn tomatoes and more.

[Go to mastergardenersd.org](http://mastergardenersd.org)

7.



## Watch Helix Water Chats: Tanks

If you missed our last Helix Water Chats on Facebook Live you can watch it on our blog. We're talking about how we use gravity, elevation and tanks to deliver your water.

[Watch at hwd.fyi/tanks](http://hwd.fyi/tanks)

8.



## Check Miss Smarty Plants' New Website

Miss Smarty Plants makes it fun and easy to teach kids about the value of ecosystems and conservation with coloring, videos and things to do outside.

[Explore at mssmartyplants.org](http://mssmartyplants.org)

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