

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2022

Helix Highlights



About Us

Brian Olney is the New General Manager of Helix Water District. The native San Diegan joined the district in 2000 as a water treatment plant operator.



The board of directors announced on August 3 that Brian Olney will be Helix Water District's new general manager, effective September 1, 2022. Olney was appointed to the Director of Water Quality and System Operations position in 2016 and to the Assistant General Manager position in 2021. He has 28 years of experience in the water industry.

“ I am honored to be the next general manager of Helix Water District. We provide an essential service to hardworking people, who expect us to do our jobs correctly and efficiently, and provide clean, safe water at a reasonable price. I agree with that, and we meet and exceed those expectations every day.

GENERAL MANAGER
BRIAN OLNEY

EXPERIENCE

Field Operations, Lakeside W.D.
System Operations, Otay W.D.
Water Treatment, Helix W.D.

CERTIFICATION

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
Grade 5, Water Treatment
Grade 5, Water Distribution

EDUCATION

B.S. Public Administration
M.S. Public Administration
San Diego State University

Brian is an East County Native

He and his wife Brenda have been married 21 years, live in Santee and have two children, one granddaughter and two dogs. He went to Santana High School, earned an associate's degree in water science technology and then completed bachelor's and master's degrees in public administration at San Diego State University.

A Summer Job Introduced Him to Water

A summer construction job gave Brian his first experience with water. “I quickly realized how rewarding it was and embraced the public service aspect. It is truly enjoyable to meet customers and explain what we do or help them through an issue.”

Brian succeeds Carlos Lugo, who is retiring after 31 years at Helix and 10 years as the district's general manager. Carlos has been a guiding hand in the construction of the district's major facilities, in developing reliable water supplies, and in inter-agency coordination. We wish him well in retirement.

Construction



Fuerte Drive UPDATE

Thank you for your patience while we replace over 2,200 feet of cast-iron pipe in and around Fuerte Drive to improve water reliability. Here's where our construction crews will be in the coming months:

September-October

On Crestland Drive between Fuerte Drive and Snyder Road

October-November

On Snyder Road, from Crestland to 350 feet west of Alzada Drive

November-December

At Fuerte Drive and Russell Road

[Learn more about the project at hwd.fyi/fuerte-drive](http://hwd.fyi/fuerte-drive)



Construction has begun on the East County Advanced Water Purification Program. The state-of-the-art program will provide drought-proof water and up to 30% of east county's drinking water supply.

Most of the construction will be in Santee and Lakeside. Use the new interactive map to see where and when construction is planned, and sign up to receive email updates.

[Go to www.eastcountyawp.com](http://www.eastcountyawp.com)

FALL 2022

What's Going On



News

Water is in the news. Get the latest on these two stories at hwd.com/blog.



1 We may have a fourth year of drought ahead of us. The Climate Prediction Center is reporting a 60% chance that the La Niña conditions causing drought in California will continue through February 2023. La Niña occurs when cold water in the tropical Pacific Ocean shifts the jet stream to the north.



2 The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation ordered the seven states that use Colorado River water to use 2-4 million acre feet less in 2023. The states are negotiating how much of the required water savings will come from each state, cities and agriculture. California has been spared from cuts so far, because we have senior water rights.



Spooky Camp-O-Ween October 21-23 and 28-30 @ Lake Jennings

Make a camping reservation for Spooky Camp-O-Ween and suit up for Creepy Crafts, our Spooky Scavenger Hunt and trick-or-treating. The real fun begins when the stars come out for the Campsite Decorating Contest! We'll bring the prizes. You bring the candy and brush up on a few ghost stories to tell around the campfire.

Call 619-390-1623 for Reservations



Conservation

Want to learn about water efficient landscaping? Take classes.

1 Go Online

The Green Gardens Group teaches residents across California how to remove lawn, build soil, select plants and irrigate correctly. They offer free classes on Zoom every week.

Go to greengardensgroup.com and click on the Calendar link

2 Go in Person

The San Diego County Water Authority offers 3-hour workshops and a 4-class series. The Water Conservation Garden offers classes, too.

Watch for dates at sdcwa.org/your-water/conservation/classes/

Go to thegarden.org and click on the Events link

3 Go at Your Own Speed

The San Diego County Water Authority offers the content from its workshops as an on-demand, 20-episode video series.

Go to sdcwa.org/your-water/conservation/classes/

Autopay

Need help? Call Customer Service at 619-466-0585

How to Update Your Bank Account or Card Number

Log into your Helix online account and:

1. Hover on [Payment](#) and click on [Payment Options](#)
2. Click on [Edit](#) on the right side of the window
3. Click on [Change](#) and enter your new number
4. Click the [Save Information](#) button

How to Change Your Payment Method

Log into your Helix online account and:

1. Hover on [Payment](#) and click on [Payment Options](#)
2. Go to the right of the screen and click on [Delete](#)
3. Click on [Delete This Account](#) button
4. Click on [Add New Credit Card](#) or [Add New Bank](#)