

CANAL ART CONTEST FOR KIDS

Be featured in our 2020 calendar and win a \$50 gift card to an arts supply store! Youths ages 8 to 18 are eligible to enter our Water Awareness Youth Art Contest. This year's focus is on the Contra Costa Canal. Illustrate why the canal is important, how kids can stay safe around the canal, and how the canal fits into your water supply. Learn more about the contest at ccwater.com/calendarcontest.

Don't Miss a Drop! Want to find out about local water issues and upcoming events? Like Contra Costa Water District on Facebook and follow @CCWD on Twitter.



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A PUBLICATION OF THE CONTRA COSTA WATER DISTRICT | CCWATER.COM

On Tap

SPRING 2019

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CONTRA COSTA
WATER DISTRICT



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THE BACKBONE OF YOUR WATER SYSTEM

The Contra Costa Canal is the link to your water supply. It is a 48-mile, mostly concrete-lined, open aqueduct connected to Delta intakes, reservoirs, pumps, and other water facilities.

The water we deliver to your home or business first travels through the Contra Costa Canal system before being treated. The canal is vital in providing reliable, high-quality water to customers.

Fresh water is fed into the canal system from our four Delta intakes or Los Vaqueros Reservoir. Once in the canal, it is diverted to cities, businesses, water treatment plants, and individual water users. Today, more than 500,000 people rely on the canal system for public health, firefighting, and many of life's conveniences. In

addition, it supports many thousands of jobs in supplying water to industrial, manufacturing, and commercial businesses.

The vision of a canal system to deliver fresh Delta water to central Contra Costa County began nearly a century ago. While the region was vastly different at that time, the need for fresh water was the same. Once constructed, the canal brought a reliable supply of high-quality water that allowed businesses to prosper and communities to flourish.



DISTRICT TO TAKE OWNERSHIP OF CONTRA COSTA CANAL

Contra Costa Water District recently received Congress' approval to take ownership of the 82-year-old Contra Costa Canal system from the federal government.

The District has operated the canal since 1972 and its customers repaid the federal government for the canal in 2010, but an act of Congress was necessary to transfer the title to the District. President Trump signed legislation in March of this year. The next step is similar to an escrow period and involves a fairly lengthy process because of federal requirements. We expect that process to be complete within two years.

The canal system is nearing the end of its useful life and upcoming local investments are being planned to guarantee a reliable water supply for the next 100 years. Having ownership of the canal system allows these investments to best meet the needs of our local community including maintaining and possibly enhancing the recreational attributes of the properties.

TIMELINE

1920s: Drought and increased Delta salinity has farmers and business owners looking for water solutions.

1931: California Legislature adopts State Water Plan, including a "Contra Costa Conduit."

1933: California Governor James Rolph signs the California Central Valley Project Act, authorizing construction of water infrastructure, including Contra Costa Canal. However, the state has no money and is unable to sell project bonds during the Great Depression.

1937: The project is transferred to the federal government to be carried out by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation.

1937: Groundbreaking ceremonies for the Contra Costa Canal are held in Oakley.

1940: Water is delivered to City of Pittsburg for first time.



1948: Entire 48-mile canal, from Rock Slough to Martinez, is completed.

1972: Contra Costa Water District takes over operations of Contra Costa Canal.

1973: Fencing is installed along Contra Costa Canal to reduce drownings.

2010: District customers fully repay federal government for Contra Costa Canal components

2019: The Contra Costa Canal Transfer Act becomes law.

CARRYING WATER...AND RISKS

The Contra Costa Canal delivers water for people and businesses spread across more than 135,000 acres.

This is precisely what it was designed to do in the 1930s: efficiently bring fresh water to farms, businesses, and communities throughout central and eastern Contra Costa County. The canal system is aging and needs to be updated with a focus on the current and forecasted landscape of our communities.

The design that fit 80 years ago continues to work, but it's old and it is increasingly complex and costly to operate and maintain. The aging concrete liner cracks, allowing seepage to occur. The open channel allows water to evaporate, and algal blooms to develop, which can cause taste and odor concerns. A severe landslide or earthquake would be catastrophic to our water supply. The immense growth of our communities presents risks that didn't exist eight decades ago. Throughout the years, nearly 80 people have drowned in the canal system. We're working to reduce those risks today and plan to modernize the main section of the canal to meet the needs of future generations.



Cracks and buckling panels along the canal's liner reveal its age.