



LONG BEACH WATER DEPARTMENT  
The Standard in Water Conservation and  
Environmental Stewardship

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## Pacific Institute Study Validates Long Beach's Measured, Transparent Approach to Seawater Desalination

OAKLAND, CA – A recently released [report](#) on Seawater Desalination by the Pacific Institute for Studies in Development, Environment and Security, cites the benefits of seawater desalination, but cautions policymakers and the public against excessively high economic and energy costs, as well as potential environmental and social impacts. This national report, cites the need for continued research and development, transparency and a systematic approach to seawater desalination, and compares the “transparency” of the [Long Beach Desalination Project](#) to desalination operations being proposed by other organizations.

In partnership with the United States Department of Interior, [Bureau of Reclamation](#), and with funding support from the United States Congress and the State of California, Long Beach Water is conducting extensive analysis of desalination operations, including energy use, water treatment efficacy and distribution system integration, at its recently constructed, large-scale and fully [operational seawater desalination facility](#). The Long Beach Desalination Project is entirely focused on demonstrating cost-effective and environmentally responsive seawater desalination operations through extensive research and development.

Of the twenty proposed seawater desalination projects for California, cited in the report, the Long Beach Seawater Desalination Project is the only constructed, large-scale facility specifically built to optimize and compare new technologies and provide critical water treatment and distribution system integration analysis. “The Pacific Institute’s report highlights exactly why we’ve joined with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation to focus solely on research and analysis for the past several years,” stated [Kevin L. Wattier](#), General Manager of the Long Beach Water Department and Member of the State Desalination Task



Force. “With continued federal funding support from Senator Dianne Feinstein, Representative Juanita Millender-McDonald and Representative Dana Rohrabacher, nationally significant research and development activity will continue in Long Beach for several years. In Long Beach, we see seawater desalination someday being a small part of a water supply portfolio which maximizes conservation, aquifer storage and recovery, regional conjunctive water use and reclamation. However, we must be able to do it cost-effectively and in an environmentally responsive manner.”

Founded in 1987 and based in Oakland, California, the [Pacific Institute for Studies in Development, Environment, and Security](#) is an independent, nonprofit organization that provides research and policy analysis on issues at the intersection of sustainable development, environmental protection, and international security. In their report, the Pacific Institute provides a comprehensive overview of the history, benefits, and risks of ocean desalination, and the barriers that hinder a more widespread use of desalination technology. The report offers a set of recommendations that help water users and planners interested in making desalination a more significant part of international, national, and local water policy.

*The Long Beach Water Department is an urban Southern California water supply agency and the standard in water conservation and environmental stewardship. For more information visit [www.lbwater.org](http://www.lbwater.org).*

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