



OceanWell Receives U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Grant for Blue Water Farm Pilot Project

The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation selected the Natural OceanWell Company for an award of \$236,877 for their Blue Water Farm desalination technology pilot project at Las Virgenes Municipal Water District's Reservoir.

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Calabasas, CA – The Natural OceanWell Company (OceanWell), in partnership with Las Virgenes Municipal Water District (LVMWD), was chosen by the United States Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) to receive \$236,877 for further research and development of their Blue Water Farm technology. As part of USBR's "Pitch to Pilot" grant program, OceanWell was one of eight applicants selected from across the country.

OceanWell's submerged water filtration system uses hydrostatic pressure to drive the reverse osmosis process to create a viable fresh water supply with little to no environmental impacts, using a fraction of electricity compared to traditional seawater desalination plants.

This project will further develop the technology from lab to pilot validation. The pilot will be deployed in LVMWD's reservoir and provide real-world operations data on the ability to filter water over a long duration. Once the data is collected and synthesized, adjustments will be made to prepare for a demonstration project in the ocean.

"After the historic drought ended in 2022, the district committed to research all options available to diversify its water portfolio to prepare for future droughts and mitigate their negative impacts on our region," said David Pedersen, general manager of LVMWD. "OceanWell's technology, their team, and our reservoir are a perfect match to prove and further develop this desalination technology. We couldn't be more excited."

Blue Water farms in the ocean would function in the aphotic zone where sunlight does not penetrate, and photosynthesis does not occur. While aquatic life does exist at this depth, it is less than in the sunlit photic zone, minimizing environmental impacts. The relatively shallow LVMWD reservoir will provide a great stress-test to investigate the performance and longevity of the system.

"Through this pilot, we will deploy the next phase of OceanWell technology to demonstrate the viability and environmental merits of submerged water filtration," said Robert Bergstrom, chief executive officer of OceanWell. "We are thrilled to work in partnership with LVMWD and the Bureau of Reclamation to provide a new solution to supply high-quality fresh water to California."

OceanWell's submerged filtration technology can be used in fresh, brackish, or saltwater environments, allowing any raw water source to become a potential source for drinking water.

Learn more about OceanWell at www.oceanwellwater.com.

For more information on the USBR's project awards, click this link: [Reclamation Announces \\$2.2 million in Funding for Pitch to Pilot Projects \(usbr.gov\)](#).

Be sure to visit lvmwd.com and follow LVMWD on Facebook, Twitter @lvmwd and Instagram @LasVirgenes_MWD to keep up to date on project development.

Las Virgenes Municipal Water District provides potable water, wastewater treatment, recycled water and biosolids composting to more than 75,000 residents in the cities of Agoura Hills, Calabasas, Hidden Hills, Westlake Village, and unincorporated areas of western Los Angeles County

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