

MARCH - APRIL 2020

# Helix Highlights



## Coming in June!



### SUSTAINABILITY

#### WaterSmart demonstration landscape under construction

We broke ground in February on a WaterSmart Demonstration Landscape at our administrative office in La Mesa. When it's completed in June, the landscape will feature Mediterranean, desert and California native gardens and showcase plants that need 40 to 80 percent less water than the common lawn.

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

### COMMUNITY

#### We just made eBills and ePayments even easier

Our new *Ultimate Guide to Paying Your Water Bill Online* features step-by-step instructions and videos to help you go paperless and set up the ePayments option you prefer. Our customer self-service portal works on any device and new enrollees might just win a HydroFlask to keep their Helix water cold all day.

[Read the guide at hwd.fyi/ebills](http://hwd.fyi/ebills)

### INFRASTRUCTURE

#### Helix's SCADA team is modernizing the district

SCADA technology allows Helix operators to manage our water distribution system from a central location. Helix employees built our SCADA system in-house, saving millions of dollars. This year, the SCADA team standardized the design, hardware and software of the motor control centers in Helix's 25 pump stations, producing new time and cost savings. The project is featured in *Flow Control* magazine.

[Read the article at hwd.fyi/scada](http://hwd.fyi/scada)

### COMMUNITY

#### You'll receive your 2020 census invitation in March

The 2020 Census is mailing invitations to households March 12-20 and, for the first time, you will have the option of responding online, by mail or by phone. Your answers are completely confidential and critical to bringing federal funds to east county. To assist, Helix volunteered its La Mesa and El Cajon facilities for the training of new census workers.

[Learn more at census.gov](http://census.gov)

## Did you know?

**Q. Is there a way to visualize household water use?**

**A. Yes, picture a 40-foot shipping container.**

Helix's average residential customer uses 21 units of water over a 60 day billing cycle. That much water would fill a 40-foot shipping container to about a foot from the top.



Now try to visualize 46,752 shipping containers -- one for every single family home Helix serves. Delivering 46,752 shipping containers would take a fleet of six ships like the one in the photo above.

This is the scale of Helix's operations, and the value of a water distribution system that delivers this much water on demand, in your home, 24/7 -- at a cost of less than one cent per gallon.

INFRASTRUCTURE

**Board hears update on 2020 Capital Improvement Program**

Helix engineers reported to the board on February 5 on the mid-year status of the 2020 Capital Improvement Program. The report discusses the capital projects in the planning, design and construction phase during the first half of fiscal year 2019-20. The summary below provides a snapshot of how we are investing water rates in the quality and reliability of your water service.

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

*Projects in Planning Phase*

- 25 private development plan checks
- 16 public agency plan checks
- 11 projects released to the field

*Projects in Design Phase*

- 18 design projects:
- Pipeline replacement
  - Large valve replacement
  - Small valve replacement
  - Treatment plant
  - Johnstown Pump Station
  - Tunnel Hill 1A Tank
  - Landscaping
  - Lake Jennings

*Projects in Construction Phase*

- 8 construction projects
- \$11.84 million in work under contract
- 16,394 feet of pipeline alignment surveyed
- 7,807 feet of cast-iron water mains replaced
- 2,120 feet of pipeline staked for construction
- 165 small valves replaced



**Hey! Enroll in eBills and you could win a HydroFlask to keep your Helix water cold all day. Go to [hwd.fyi/ebills](http://hwd.fyi/ebills) for our official sweepstakes rules.**

APRIL-JUNE 2020

**Events, classes & meetings**



**Apr 25 / Spring Garden and Butterfly Festival**

Enjoy the Water Conservation Garden in full bloom, meet with a landscape designer and bring the kids for Ms. Smarty Plants, the Butterfly Release and other activities just for them.

[Go to thegarden.org/events](http://thegarden.org/events)



**Apr 27 / WaterSmart Landscape Contest Entries Due**

Is your WaterSmart landscape maturing into a beautiful garden? Is your journey from lawn to garden an inspiring story? Enter the 2020 WaterSmart Landscape Contest for your chance to win a \$250 gift certificate.

[Enter at landscapecontest.com](http://landscapecontest.com)



**May 2 / Helix Water Talks**

Tour Helix's R.M. Levy Water Treatment Plant, see each step of the treatment process and learn from our plant operators how we produce safe, high quality drinking water.

[Register at hwd.fyi/water-talks](http://hwd.fyi/water-talks)



**May 31 / Lake Jennings Spring Photo Contest Entries Due**

Shoot the winning photo of *Life at the Lake* -- camping, fishing, boating and wildlife -- and take home our \$150 first prize. We have adult and youth divisions and photographers have free admission to the lake in March, April and May.

[Go to hwd.fyi/photo-contest](http://hwd.fyi/photo-contest)