

# County Water Company of Riverside

June 29, 2017

**County:** Riverside

**Population:** 420

**Challenges:** Drinking water standard violations for nitrate

After years of receiving drinking water that did not meet state and federal standards, the customers of the now-defunct County Water Company of Riverside are enjoying reliable and safe drinking water thanks to the efforts of local and state agencies.

Located in the Lake Elsinore area of Riverside County, this community of approximately 420 people had been served by a one-well for-profit drinking water system that experienced water outages and exceeded the maximum contaminant level for nitrate.

The path to safe and reliable drinking water took a unique path that required the efforts of the Division of Drinking Water, the county, Elsinore Valley and Eastern municipal water districts, and legislative action. With the completion of this \$8.1-million project, the community of 140 homes was consolidated into the two water districts.

Funded through grants, the project began with Riverside County taking over the County Water Company and serving as intermediary until the consolidations with the Elsinore Valley and Eastern water systems were completed.

The project included a temporary water supply for the customers located in the rural area of Menifee while distribution piping was laid to connect the homes to the two systems. Along with the financing, planning and construction of the project, legislative action in the form of [Senate Bill 1130](#) was enacted to protect public agencies, such as Elsinore Valley and Eastern, from lawsuits by customers of the soon to be defunct water system related to any actions by the previous County Water System owners. The legislation also protects rate payers from possible costs related to potential litigation.

With the consolidation of these customers into the Elsinore Valley and Eastern water systems, the County Water Company system was dissolved.



Photo 1 Part of the consolidation effort included new water infrastructure, such as a new water pump Station.

**Media Coverage:**

[EMWD Begins Serving County Water Company Customers](#)

**Lake Elsinore Patch**

[Water flowing to long deprived community at Wildomar-Menifee border](#) Riverside

**Press-Enterprise**

[At last! Menifee-area community will finally have clean water](#)

**Riverside Press-Enterprise**