

VISTA IRRIGATION DISTRICT

DISTRICT BACKGROUND

The Vista Irrigation District (VID) provides potable water service within approximately 33 square miles in north San Diego County. VID includes all—except a very small section—of the City of Vista; limited areas in the Cities of Escondido, Oceanside, and San Marcos; and unincorporated territory between the cities.

The approximate 66 square mile Lake Henshaw aquifer basin, which is located 50 miles northeast of the VID service area, is owned by VID and included within the district boundary.

VID was formed in 1923 primarily to support the area's avocado growing and packing industry. The District purchased the *San Diego County Water Company* in 1946 and took possession of company assets, including Lake Henshaw, Lake Henshaw Dam, and the surrounding 43,000-acre Warner Ranch. Lake Henshaw and its watershed are the source of the District's local water supply.

VID began to indirectly receive imported water from the San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA) through the Bueno Colorado MWD in 1954. At the time, Irrigation Districts were unable to join SDCWA and the Bueno Colorado MWD was formed expressly to join SDCWA and function as a water wholesaler to VID and the neighboring Vallecitos WD.

The Vallecitos WD detached from the Bueno Colorado MWD in 1979 and became a direct SDCWA member. Buena Colorado MWD was dissolved in 1993—and with eligibility require-

ments now favorable—VID also became a direct member of SDCWA. Imported water purchased from the SDCWA provides approximately 80 percent of the VID supply.

DISTRICT CHARACTERISTICS

Principal Act:	Water Code § 20500 et seq.
Services	Water
Service Connection:	54,989 meters
Facilities:	Lake Henshaw 14 potable reservoirs
Population:	123,815 (2009 SANDAG)
District Area:	Service area: 33.30 square miles Warner Ranch: 66.3 square miles
Sphere of Influence:	Smaller than District
Sphere Adopted:	December 5, 1988
Sphere Affirmed:	August 6, 2007
Revenue Source:	Property tax, fees
Governance:	Elected 5-member Board of Directors
Board Meeting:	1st, 3rd Wednesday: 8:30 a.m. 1391 Engineer Road Vista, CA 92081
Contact:	vidwater.org 1391 Engineer Road Vista, CA 92081 760/598-8757
View Map:	sdlafco.org/Webpages/agency_maps_links.htm

LAFCO approved a sphere-of-influence for the Vista Irrigation District in 1985 that enclosed the Buena Colorado MWD. The 1993 Reorganization, which dissolved the Bueno Colorado MWD, also annexed all territory within VID's sphere into the VID. Subsequent actions have reorganized territory and adjusted spheres between VID and the Vallecitos WD. A sphere that is smaller than the VID boundary was affirmed in 2007.