

**Contact: Patricia Cortez**

**Phone Number: (626) 443-2297**

**E-mail: [Patty@usgvmwd.org](mailto:Patty@usgvmwd.org)**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Regional Partnership Launches Turnkey Turf Transformation Program to Advance Water Efficiency**

**Monrovia, CA** – The Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District (Upper Water) has initiated construction on its Turnkey Turf Transformation (T3) Program, a regional effort to replace nonfunctional turf at public facilities with sustainable, climate-appropriate landscapes.

The initiative supports California's long-term water conservation goals by converting nonfunctional turf—grass that does not serve a recreational or community purpose—into attractive, water-efficient landscapes designed to thrive in Southern California's climate. The T3 Program provides participating sites with comprehensive project support, including site evaluation, professional landscape design, construction, and installation of high-efficiency irrigation systems tailored to each location.

The program is funded by an \$8.4 million grant from the California Department of Water Resources through the 2022 Urban Community Drought Relief Grant Program. Upper Water partnered with Inland Empire Utilities Agency (IEUA), which led a regional grant application that included Upper Water and other water agencies. Several schools within the Baldwin Park Unified School District were selected to participate in the program. Some projects have already been completed, with additional sites currently under construction.

"This project came together through strong regional collaboration, and we are especially grateful to the California Department of Water Resources for the grant," said Board Director Jennifer Santana. "Together, we transformed a water-intensive, grassy area into a sustainable, climate-appropriate landscape that will continue to mature over time. This is a win for the entire community."

T3 projects feature climate-appropriate plant palettes, high-efficiency irrigation systems with smart controls, and guidance for long-term landscape care. All installations use living plant materials and do not include artificial turf. Designs may reflect Mediterranean, Southwestern, or California-friendly styles, emphasizing drought tolerance, long-term performance, and reduced maintenance. Features may include flowering shrubs and groundcovers, succulents, architectural plants, decorative rock for aesthetics and erosion control, and strategic plant groupings to further minimize upkeep.

Before-and-after photos will be shared through Upper Water's communication channels. For more information, visit [www.upperwater.org](http://www.upperwater.org)



BP STEM Academy students with Dr. Froilan Mendoza, Superintendent of BPUSD; Jennifer Santana, Board Director; Stephen Compton, Principal; and Travis Nelson, Assistant Principal.

Pictured left to right: Superintendent Dr. Froilan Mendoza and Board Director Jennifer Santana at North Park High School.

Upper Water's mission is to provide a reliable, sustainable, diversified, and affordable portfolio of high-quality water supplies to the San Gabriel Valley; including water conservation, recycled water, storm water capture, storage, water transfers and imported water. Upper Water services nearly one million people in its 144 square mile service territory. Governed by a five-member elected board of directors, Upper Water is a member agency of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. Annually, more than 78 billion gallons of water is used in Upper Water's service area. For more information about Upper Water and the water use efficiency programs mentioned, please visit our website [www.upperwater.org](http://www.upperwater.org)

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