

CATALINA ISLAND WATER PIPELINE PROJECT - FAQ

PROJECT SCOPE

What is the Catalina Water Pipeline Project and what is the timing for implementation?

- The Catalina Water Pipeline Project involves a multiphase, multiyear effort to address aging infrastructure and regulatory requirements associated with Catalina Island's water infrastructure. The current scope of work involves the Two Harbors water system and includes remediation of impacted soils, disposition of decommissioned pipe and removal and replacement of the Two Harbors Pipeline.

When will you break ground? Once begun, how long will the project take to complete?

- It will be approximately 2-3 years before we break ground on the Two Harbors Pipeline removal and replacement project, depending on regulatory approvals. Other work, such as soil remediation, will start later this year, assuming all necessary regulatory approvals are in place.
- Once groundbreaking takes place, the Two Harbors Pipeline removal and replacement project will take approximately 18 months to two years to complete.

Why am I being notified of this project?

- The soil remediation efforts associated with the Two Harbors water pipeline requires involvement of the California Department of Toxic Substance Control (DTCS) so they can gauge public interest and preferences in communications regarding this project.

Will my water service be affected during this project?

- For Two Harbors Water Pipeline customers, our project will be sequenced to deliver uninterrupted water service. Other residents will not be impacted during this project.

HEALTH

Is the water safe to drink?

- Yes, the water is safe to drink. Water samples taken across the drinking water system confirm that the drinking water meets or exceeds California drinking water standards. California standards are even more stringent than federal requirements.
- As a water provider, SCE is committed to ensuring that drinking water served on the island continues to meet or exceed all federal and state standards for drinking water safety. Until the Two Harbors Pipeline is removed from service and replaced, SCE will continue sampling water across the system.
- Out of an abundance of caution, SCE also installed water filters at strategic locations along the pipeline to capture any potential particulate materials. The filters are sampled and replaced on a set schedule. (Last filter replacement and sampling occurred in May 2023.)

What were the drinking water testing results?

- Drinking water analytical results are required to be submitted to the state and are public information. Testing and monitoring results can be found in the state's Drinking Water Watch Database: [Division of Drinking Water \(ca.gov\) or https://sdwis.waterboards.ca.gov/PDWW/](https://sdwis.waterboards.ca.gov/PDWW/). The water system ID number is: CA1910006.
- Annually, SCE issues a Consumer Confidence Report (drinking water quality report) to the customers it serves on Catalina. Catalina's 2022 Consumer Confidence Report can be found here: https://www.sce.com/sites/default/files/custom-files/PDF_Files/Ry_2022_June_2023_Brochure_Final_signed_rev.pdf
- To date, the drinking water quality, including PCB and PAH levels in the drinking water throughout the system, meets or exceeds all applicable health and safety standards.

HEALTH (CONTINUED)

What are PCBs and why are they regulated?

- [Learn about Polychlorinated Biphenyls | U.S. EPA](#)

What are PAHs and why are they regulated?

- [Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons \(PAHs\) Fact Sheet \(epa.gov\)](#)

What were the results of the system-wide assessment to identify and characterize water infrastructure composition that contains PCBs on Catalina?

- SCE determined that approximately eight miles of in-service Two Harbors Water Supply pipeline contains PCB and PAH materials. SCE completed a systemwide assessment of our drinking water infrastructure and has confirmed that there are no other PCB or PAH materials that come into direct contact with potable drinking water. SCE is consulting with regulators to determine if any other infrastructure will need attention in the future.

Why do only eight miles of the pipelines have PCB & PAH-containing materials?

- Over the years, SCE has made many replacements and repairs across the water infrastructure using updated non-PCB and non-PAH materials.

Do the water pipelines serving Avalon contain the same material as the Two Harbors Pipeline?

- The Avalon water distribution system does not contain any PCB- or PAH-containing materials that have contact with drinking water. SCE continues to evaluate aging water infrastructure needs and is working with regulators to comply with all requirements.

Is SCE complying with the new Polyfluorinated Substances (PFAS) regulations?

- Currently, regulatory requirements do not exist regarding PFAS at the federal or state level governing the Catalina drinking water systems. However, as agencies set these requirements, SCE will comply with the regulations once implemented.
- PFAS are widely used, long-lasting chemicals, in which components break down very slowly over time. PFAS are found in many different consumer, commercial and industrial projects. Commonly used products with PFAS include cleaning products, water-resistant fabrics, nonstick cookware, personal care products, shampoos, dental floss, nail polish, eye makeup, stain resistant coatings used in carpets, upholstery and other fabrics.
- U.S. EPA is proposing the first national drinking water standard to limit PFAS. The agency published the fifth and final Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR 5), which will require sample collection of 29 PFAS for public water systems serving more than 3,300 people between 2023 and 2025. SCE will perform sampling events through 2024 and the results will be published in the EPA's National Contaminant Occurrence Database (NCOD).
- Under U.S. EPA's UCMR 3 (2014-2015), SCE voluntarily tested the drinking water for PFAS. Test results from this investigation did not detect any PFAS compounds.
- Since 2019, the California Division of Drinking Water (DDW) has issued orders identifying and requiring water municipalities near airports and/or landfills to test for PFAS. To date, the Catalina Island water system has not been identified by DDW as having risk for PFAS and is not required to perform the testing.

ENVIRONMENT

Is SCE addressing environmental issues related to this project?

- Environmental risks are being assessed as part of a process to determine remediation options for impacted areas. In addition to ongoing SCE technical expert assessments and agency consultation, formal and independent environmental review from DTSC and U.S. EPA will take place as a condition of approval for SCE's remediation plan.
- SCE understands the value and sensitivity of the natural and cultural resources on Catalina Island. The Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning will review and consider avoidance and minimization measures to protect environmental resources, and all applicable environmental regulations will be followed.

ENVIRONMENT (CONTINUED)

- More information about the pipeline replacement project and remediation plan will be provided to the public as it becomes available.

Will this project affect sacred grounds? Cultural sites?

- SCE understands the value and sensitivity of the natural and cultural resources on Catalina Island. The Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning will review and consider avoidance and minimization measures to protect environmental resources, and all applicable environmental regulations will be followed. SCE has conducted cultural assessments and has identified areas to be addressed in the project's environmental review process.

COST

Who will pay for the project?

- Recovery of pipeline project costs will be the subject of a future cost recovery proceeding. SCE is exploring potential grant funding opportunities to offset project costs. SCE has not determined the scope or timing of these applications.
- The commission's cost recovery process is thorough, and the public and other impacted groups will have an opportunity to participate in these proceedings.
- SCE is planning to conduct a pilot project to help identify design and construction details that will inform the scope and cost of the overall project.

How much will the project cost? Who will pay for the project?

- We are evaluating the project requirements with regulatory agencies and determining what the costs will be.
- We are also evaluating funding sources, including grants, to find the most reasonable and best way to address cost.

Will the project costs be reflected in water bills?

- Since regulators will be determining funding sources, there is not yet information on how this may affect water bills.

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How can I get more information on this project?



SCE is committed to communicating with water customers, residents, stakeholders and all appropriate regulatory agencies regarding the status of the water system. The public can go to SCE's website for more information at [sce.com/catalinawaterpipelineproject](https://www.sce.com/catalinawaterpipelineproject). For inquiries, please email CatalinaWaterPipeline@sce.com or call SCE's dedicated Catalina customer support number: 1-800-367-8851, available Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.