



SUBURBAN CASE STUDY

The Challenge

For decades, residents in Compton and Willowbrook served by the government-run Sativa Water District were plagued by brown water that was unsafe to drink. Residents were forced to rely on expensive bottled water for their everyday needs, a cost that essentially became a tax on residents and a strain on the household budgets of this mostly low-income, predominantly minority community.

Finally, in 2018, an oversight board took action, legislation was passed removing the water district's board members, and Los Angeles County temporarily took control of the water district until a permanent solution could be found.

The Private, Regulated Water Solution



Ultimately, the solution was to bring in experts from a private, regulated water company – Suburban Water Systems, part of Nexus Water Group – to own and operate the system. Suburban provides safe and reliable water service to 300,000 people in communities in Los Angeles County.

Suburban has a comprehensive strategy to strategically invest over \$13 million in the Sativa Water District's water infrastructure over the coming years, replacing old pipes, upgrading treatment facilities, tanks, and pumps, and strengthening fire protection. Additionally, the company has already cut water rates by more than 8%, reducing the average monthly bill by \$5 a month, all while providing a financial assistance program to those who struggle to pay their water bills.

“State commission votes to disband Sativa Water Board after residents complain of brown water”

(Press Telegram, 7/11/18)