



**IN CASE YOU MISSED IT:
Sacramento Bee & Bakersfield Californian Publish Pieces on
Produced Water that Highlight Scientific Facts**

California is facing an unprecedented drought, which demands every drop of water is preserved to ensure that the Golden State has water now and in the future. To help offset severe water restrictions, Cawelo Water District (Cawelo) relies on produced water, which is water sourced from oil production that is filtered, treated and blended with water from other sources and tested before being provided to farmers for irrigation. The [Sacramento Bee](#) recently published a guest opinion piece on the issue, and Bakersfield columnist Lois Henry penned a piece in [The Bakersfield Californian](#), which sets the record straight on this important water conservation practice.

THE SACRAMENTO BEE

By David Ansolabehere & Barry Bedwell | July 18, 2016

“With our high standards for environmental protection, produced water is highly regulated. It is filtered, treated, monitored and blended with other ground and surface water before it is provided to farmers to irrigate crops. Produced water is tested monthly and results are reported to the state’s Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board.

“...Cawelo Water District, which relies on produced water to augment limited state supplies, hired a third-party environmental toxicologist to study water quality, focusing on more than 70 organic compounds. The analysis found that any compounds were well within safe drinking water standards – stricter than what is necessary for irrigation water...

“The toxicologist also oversaw preliminary crop testing and found that crops irrigated with produced water had the same general chemical composition as those grown with other water supplies.”

To read the guest opinion piece, [click here](#).

The Bakersfield Californian

By Lois Henry | July 19, 2016

“The Regional Water Quality Control Board also assembled a food safety panel to look at whether even small amounts of chemicals could seep into plant roots and ‘bioaccumulate’ in fruits, thus potentially posing a threat to humans.

“Grapes and nuts irrigated with recycled oilfield water were tested by the Cawelo last fall.

“The tests showed the fruit was fine. It was indistinguishable from fruit outside the district that isn’t touched by recycled oilfield produced water.

“All of these actual facts have been reported over and over, by me at least, and are available through the Regional Water Quality Control Board’s website.”

To read the article, [click here](#); and for more information the water quality testing results, [click here](#).

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About Cawelo Water District

The Cawelo Water District, located just north of Bakersfield, CA, has been serving the community for more than 50 years. The district includes 45,000 acres in Kern County and provides irrigation water to approximately 34,000 acres of orchards, vineyards, and other crops. For more information, visit: www.cawelowd.org.