California American Water Brings New Groundwater Treatment and Production Capacity Online on the Monterey Peninsula

PACIFIC GROVE, Calif., Nov. 18, 2026 /PRNewswire/ -- California American Water has begun first-time production operations at ASR Well 4, also known as Seaside Middle School Well No. 4, following extensive well rehabilitation and commissioning of a new mercury treatment facility. The project adds an important groundwater production source to the Monterey Peninsula water system while providing an additional treatment barrier designed to protect drinking water quality.

Located within the Seaside Groundwater Basin, the approximately 1,000-foot-deep well was originally constructed as part of the Monterey Peninsula's Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) program. With the new treatment facility in service, the well can now provide up to 1,400 gallons per minute of additional capacity to support customer demand and increase operational flexibility within California American Water's Monterey Peninsula system.

"Bringing this well online adds meaningful capacity to our system and gives our operators another resource to draw upon as conditions and water demands change," said Spencer Vartanian, Director of Operations for California American Water in Pacific Grove. "That added flexibility is important when building a more resilient water system, one that can reliably serve our customers while making the best use of the diverse water resources available on the Peninsula."

The project also includes a dedicated mercury treatment facility. Mercury was identified in source water samples collected from the well during testing before it entered drinking water production service. California's drinking water standard for inorganic mercury is 2 micrograms per liter. The treatment system, operational controls and water quality monitoring associated with the facility are designed to ensure water produced from the well meets or exceeds applicable drinking water requirements before entering the distribution system. Water quality samples taken downstream of the treatment facility show zero detections of mercury.

Prior to startup, California American Water completed an extensive rehabilitation and commissioning process that included rehabilitation of the well, disinfection, treatment vessel sterilization and backwashing, water quality sampling, and development of a robust operating plan for the treatment facility.

"The capacity of a well only matters if we can deliver the water safely and reliably," continued Vartanian. "This treatment facility represents the other half of that equation. By combining additional production capability with treatment, monitoring and strong operating controls, we're strengthening system resilience while keeping protection of public health at the center of how we operate."

The Seaside Groundwater Basin is an important component of the Monterey Peninsula's diversified water supply portfolio, providing underground storage and groundwater production capability that includes sources from Aquifer Storage and Recovery, Pure Water Monterey and native groundwater in the basin.

For further updates on California American Water's work in Monterey, visit the project website www.watersupplyproject.org and sign up for the newsletter here.

About American Water
American Water (NYSE: AWK) is the largest regulated water and wastewater utility company in the United States. With a history dating back to 1886 and celebrating 140 years in 2026, We Keep Life Flowing® by providing safe, clean,reliableand affordable drinking water and wastewater services to approximately14 million peoplewith regulated operations in 14 states and on 19 military installations. American Water's approximately 7,000 talented professionalsleveragetheir significantexpertiseand the company's national size and scale to achieve excellent outcomes for the benefit of customers, employees,investorsand other stakeholders.

For more information, visitamwater.comand join American Water onLinkedIn,Facebook,XandInstagram.

AboutCaliforniaAmerican Water

California American Water, a subsidiary of American Water, with approximately 300 dedicated employees, provides safe, clean, reliable and affordable water and wastewater services to approximately 720,000 people.

SOURCE American Water

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