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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Citrus Heights Water Welcomes New Board Leadership and Builds on 2025 Progress in 2026



Citrus Heights, Calif. (April 21, 2026) — This year at Citrus Heights Water began with a handoff in Board leadership. 2025 finished strong for Citrus Heights Water, marking several accomplishments under Board President Ray Riehle. In 2026, Caryl Sheehan is serving as Board President and progress continues.

“I’m grateful to our outgoing President Ray Riehle for his steadfast leadership,” said Board President Caryl Sheehan. “We made incredible progress in 2025. This year, we continue our long-term planning, strengthening local partnerships, reinvesting in the water system, and maintaining our responsive customer service.”

Throughout 2025, we advanced critical work to strengthen the local water system and serve the community more effectively. We celebrated two well groundbreakings—major milestones that move our community closer to expanded and more resilient water supply infrastructure. These new wells will strengthen our groundwater program and help ensure dependable supplies during dry years and periods of high demand.

We also completed a wide range of system improvements to maintain reliability across the service area, including the installation or replacement of 2,879 feet of water mains, 34 water valves, 22 fire hydrants, 255 water meters, and 387 water service connections.

We continued our commitment to excellent customer outreach and support. To help customers manage their water use, we hosted more than 70 attendees at free WaterSmart classes, completed 41 irrigation audits, and installed 16 smart controllers that automatically adjust watering schedules based on weather and landscape needs.

Building on that momentum, 2026 will bring a strong focus on planning, coordination, and community connection. We will continue working with our 17-member [Customer Advisory Committee](#) to get valuable feedback on our capital improvement projects and will complete the update of our Water Supply Master Plan to guide long-term water planning and future system needs.

To save money and reduce road disruptions, we will continue working closely with the City of Citrus Heights on road and pavement projects. Through regular planning meetings, our team identifies projects we can complete before streets are repaved. This coordination reduces the need to block off lanes or streets for road repair work.

“I’m grateful to our incredible team for achieving so much for our community,” said General Manager Hilary Straus. “The investment, planning, and collaboration we do in 2026 will have positive impacts for generations to come. Meanwhile, we’ll continue to focus on high-quality and responsive customer service, 24 hours a day.”

Further in 2026, our team will continue to implement the forward-thinking [Project 2030 Water Main Replacement Program](#) to prevent system outages and service disruptions, continue to reinvest in our groundwater program, and explore partnerships with surrounding water agencies to purchase supplies and materials to reduce costs to customers.

### **About Citrus Heights Water District**

Citrus Heights Water District provides safe, high-quality water to over 70,000 customers in parts of Citrus Heights, Fair Oaks, Orangevale, Carmichael, and Roseville. Established in 1920, we have proudly served Citrus Heights and surrounding communities for over 100 years. Learn more at [chwd.org](http://chwd.org).

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