

Ever since I was a child, I knew I wanted a career that protected the environment and served others. Water is the nexus of both as it sustains ecosystems and enables thriving communities. Today, as a Water Resources Analyst for the Long Beach Utilities Department, I am proud to play a direct role in shaping water policy, leading conservation programs, and empowering people to become stewards of this essential resource. My career interest lies at the intersection of community advocacy, environmental justice, and long-term water sustainability.

I am currently completing a Bachelor of Arts in Public Sector Management at California State University, Northridge, a degree I chose strategically to strengthen my ability to lead, manage, and implement public water programs. My coursework emphasizes leadership development, budgeting, data analysis and visualization, and public policy implementation, which directly support my work in water resource development and my long-term goal of shaping equitable water policy in Southern California. While my degree does not explicitly state “water,” my academic path is deeply rooted in water-related goals. I complement this degree with a strong STEM background, including associate degrees in Plant Science, Environmental Science, Natural Sciences, and Social and Behavioral Sciences. These credentials have equipped me with both the scientific and administrative knowledge required to advance meaningful, interdisciplinary solutions in water conservation and education.

At Long Beach Utilities, my passion for water has evolved into impactful action. I lead implementation of California AB 1572, the state’s new law restricting non-functional turf on commercial, industrial, and institutional properties. Recognizing the complexity of this policy, I created a comprehensive stakeholder outreach campaign, launched educational workshops, and initiated public-private partnerships to support local compliance. This effort culminated in my selection as a WaterNow Alliance Project Accelerator awardee, allowing me to further scale our city’s AB-1572 support strategy. As the department's Water Conservation Grants Manager, I took it upon myself to earn certifications in grants management and strategic planning. Through these efforts, I have successfully secured over \$8.2 million in federal funding from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, ensuring our water conservation programs are fully funded through 2027.

Managing these grants has allowed me to directly translate policy into action, helping conserve millions of gallons of water through community-based initiatives. Beyond policy implementation and program funding, I am equally committed to water conservation education. I created and host the "Landscaping with Utilities" video series, where I share practical tips on regenerative gardening, native plants, and sustainable design. I also design and lead monthly community workshops on water-wise landscaping, ensuring that the principles of water stewardship are accessible to all residents, regardless of background or experience.

As a mentor to California Climate Action Corps fellows and college interns, I help cultivate the next generation of water leaders. My own path to this field was non-traditional, and I strive to ensure others from underrepresented backgrounds have the resources, encouragement, and support to enter and thrive in the water sector. This personal commitment is why I volunteer as Vice Chair of the Inclusion and Diversity Committee and Secretary of the Water Management and Efficiency Committee within the California-Nevada Section of the American Water Works Association. I believe sustainability must be rooted in equity. My goal is to ensure that all communities are centered in water planning and policy.

To further grow as a leader, I recently completed the Transformative Water Leadership Academy and was accepted into the 2025 Lincoln Vibrant Communities Fellowship. These programs are helping me sharpen my ability to bridge community needs with water policy implementation, bringing empathy, strategy, and innovation to every level of service.

Looking ahead, I aspire to take on higher leadership roles in public water agencies and eventually pursue graduate studies at the University of Southern California. I plan to focus on environmental education and policy implementation, equipping myself to design and champion water policies that promote regional resilience, environmental health, and equitable access to resources. This next step is critical to fulfilling my career goal: becoming a systems-level water leader who helps Southern California communities adapt to a changing climate while protecting water for generations to come.

Receiving the Women in Water Scholarship would be instrumental in helping me complete my senior year and continue this journey. More than financial support, it would be a profound affirmation that my unique pathway in blending education, public service, and conservation, is not only valid but valuable. I am deeply honored to be considered and remain committed to building a career in service of water, people, and the planet.