

Kay Bailey Hutchison Desalination Plant



QUICK FACTS

- Located at 10751 Montana Ave (79935)
- Operational in 2007
- Capable of producing 27.5 MGD of fresh water daily

Plant Function

The desalination plant uses reverse osmosis to transform brackish water into fresh drinking water. Through a pressurized process, raw water passes through fine membranes that separate salts and other contaminants from the water. Approximately 83% of the water is recovered while the remainder is output as a concentrate. The permeate, or desalted water, is piped to a storage tank for distribution and the concentrate is disposed through deep-well injection.



Area(s) Served

East El Paso

Renovations/Upgrades

Located next door to the KBH Desalination Plant, is Critical Materials Corporation (CMC), which will recover minerals discharged in wastewater from the desalination plant. This gives El Paso Water a more cost-effective option for wastewater disposal and increases future production capacity at the desalination plant.

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Awards Received

- Membrane Facility Excellence Award - American Membrane Technology Association
- Eminent Conceptor Award – Texas Council of Engineering Companies
- Honor Award – American Council of Engineering Companies
- Superior Achievement Award – American Academy of Environmental Engineers
- Desalination Project of the Year – WateReuse Association
- Innovative or Proactive Water System Award – Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
- 2016 Outstanding Large Membrane Plant Award in recognition of outstanding Plant Operations & Maintenance.
- In 2016 The South Central Membrane Association (SCMA) awarded first place honors to Kay Bailey Hutchison Desalination Plant in the Best Tasting Membrane competition

Interesting Facts

It is the world's largest inland desalination plant and hosts international visitors on a regular basis.