

WATER SOLUTIONS

LARGE AND SMALL

By Anne McDonnell

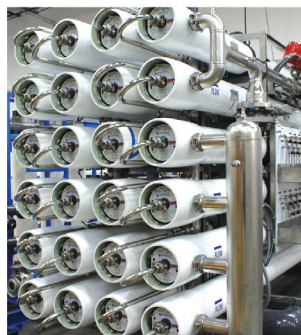
Cedars Sinai groundwater reuse system.



AMI membranes for cheese processing.



AMI membranes for manufacturing.



Water is on everyone's minds these days, especially in Southern California. Something that used to be taken for granted is now a topic of conversation for everyone from school children to politicians. Leading that conversation is Applied Membranes Inc. (AMI), a company that's been around since 1983 and located right here in Vista since 2000.

AMI is a manufacturer and distributor of reverse osmosis membranes, systems, and components for commercial and residential use. The company designs and manufactures water treatment systems, filters, and membrane elements for products that range in size from under-the-sink home water filters to large systems that handle millions of gallons per day. Says CEO Gil Dhawan, PhD, "The membrane element is the

heart of a water treatment system, and as the designer and manufacturer of membrane elements, we know membranes like no other. With over 8 million membrane elements rolled and 200,000 water treatment system installations, we have the real-world experience needed to ensure the success of any project.

... Our products, designs, and material selection reflect decades of knowledge gained where it most counts: from actual operation and performance in the field."

Clients range from municipalities providing water to entire cities to homeowners providing water to their household and everything in between, including hydroponics farms, medical applications, and manufacturers who rely on clean water as part of their day-to-day operations. AMI exports its products world-wide, and also has many local clients, providing water filtration for power generation, breweries, orchid farms and other growers, beverage bottlers, and other local companies.

One of the company's recent projects was a groundwater re-use treatment system installed at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles. The groundwater beneath Cedars-Sinai now gets pumped through a reverse osmosis system so it can be used by the massive cooling towers and air conditioning system. The

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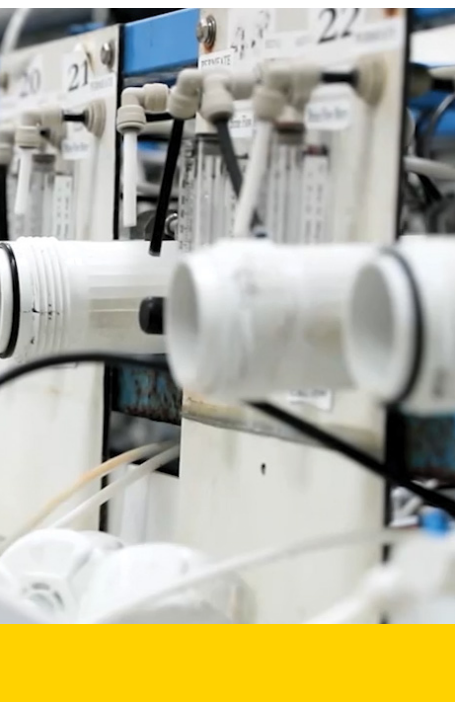
reverse osmosis system now provides up to 80% of the water used by those cooling towers, offsetting the need to use drinking water. Tapping the groundwater under the hospital has led to a savings of about 29 million gallons of water a year at Cedars-Sinai.

All of AMI's operations are conducted from the Vista location, including manufacturing, engineering, warehousing, sales, operations, and even online distribution. Says Dr. Dhawan, "We chose Vista because of the business-friendly environment and the Business Park's central location in North County." The business' world-wide reach helps to "strengthen the local economy and provides hundreds of local jobs," says Dr. Dhawan. In addition, the company uses local suppliers whenever possible. Regionally, Dr. Dhawan and AMI are partners in the San Diego-based

TMA Maritime Alliance, dedicated to promoting sustainable, science-based ocean and water industries. AMI has also been involved in several committees and projects to bring a sustainable and renewable water supply to Southern California. The company is a member of the San Diego County Farm Bureau, and is an active supporter of local agricultural, food, and beverage companies.

Says Dr. Dhawan, "We are proud to be part of the solution to the world water crisis, and of the positive impact Applied Membranes' water treatment solutions are making in the world. Our thousands of installations currently in operation collectively supply billions of gallons of pure water per day, treating seawater, brackish water, groundwater, and recycled water to be used for municipalities, drinking, agriculture, manufacturing, water re-use, and hundreds of other applications."

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