

ADVERTORIAL

Afshin Hatami, CEO of Khuzestan Water and Wastewater Company:

All ongoing and semi-finished water and wastewater projects in Khuzestan will be completed



Strengthening Khuzestan's vital infrastructure; Major water and wastewater projects inaugurated in the presence of the Minister of Energy

Khuzestan, as one of the first provinces in the country to experience drought in recent years, has faced numerous challenges in supplying drinking water. In this regard, Khuzestan Water and Wastewater Company has successfully mitigated the impacts of drought by implementing planned operational measures.

The water and wastewater crisis in Khuzestan has long been a serious issue for residents. Declining water resources, salinity and contamination in some areas, aging distribution networks, and sewage backflows are among the key challenges. To address these problems, various projects are underway, including renovation of transmission networks,

construction of new treatment plants, and implementation of urban wastewater control schemes. Cooperation among the government, municipalities, and the private sector can accelerate the reform and development of water and wastewater infrastructure and improve the quality of life for the people of Khuzestan.

The appointment of Afshin Hatami as the new CEO of Khuzestan Water and Wastewater Company—an executive who advanced step by step from technical and expert positions within Ahvaz Water and Wastewater Company and now heads one of the province's most important service and infrastructure organizations—promises greater public satisfaction in the near future.

Hatami emphasized the importance of solidarity and consensus among provincial officials, particularly between Governor Dr. Mowali-Zadeh and Khuzestan's representatives in the Islamic Consultative Assembly, to remove existing obstacles in the water and wastewater sector.

Referring to drought conditions in both the country and the province, he outlined quantitative and qualitative water challenges as well as ecosystem changes. He noted that drought has led to reduced groundwater resources in some cities and quality deterioration in others.

Khuzestan, as one of the first provinces in the country to experience drought in recent years, has faced numerous challenges in supplying drinking water. In this regard, Khuzestan Water and Wastewater Company has successfully mitigated the impacts of drought by implementing planned operational measures



Groundwater levels in northern Khuzestan cities such as Izeh, Baghmalek, and Haftkel have significantly declined; in Izeh, well water levels dropped by up to 35 meters. Cities such as Hendijan, Khorramshahr, and Abadan have also faced serious supply problems due to reduced river flows—their sole water source—and increased salinity affecting water quality.

Use of Treated Water for Non-Drinking Purposes

In a special interview with the newspaper "Iran," Hatami stated that one of the current challenges in Khuzestan is the use of treated drinking water for non-potable purposes, particularly irrigation of green spaces. He stressed

that municipalities must conduct studies and adopt methods for supplying raw water for non-drinking uses.

He added that the company is implementing network rehabilitation projects in priority cities to optimize consumption, reduce water loss, minimize operational risks in distribution networks, and improve both quantitative and qualitative performance. Water loss rates in many cities remain significant, largely due to aging infrastructure and expired service life. Over recent years, comprehensive studies of distribution networks in all provincial cities have been prepared and are now serving as

the basis for executive operations.

Khuzestan on the Path of Water Transformation: From Drought Control to Sustainable Rural Supply

24 villages in East Shoaibiyeh and Mianab benefit from sustainable drinking water

The CEO announced that 24 villages in East Shoaibiyeh and Mianab now have access to sustainable drinking water, with an investment of 1,500 billion rials aimed at alleviating rural water stress.

At the inauguration ceremony of the pumping station and transmission line at the Deilam

junction (East Shoaibiyeh), Hatami said the project included construction of 60 kilometers of transmission pipelines, rehabilitation of water supply facilities, installation of four electropumps, electrical panels, transformers, site development, and reservoir sealing.

With the launch of the first phase, more than 7,000 residents in 24 villages have gained access to safe and sustainable drinking water. Ten additional villages are planned under the second phase. The project was implemented in cooperation with the Karbala Headquarters and with the support of the local Member of Parliament.

In the presence of the Minister of Energy and the Governor of Khuzestan;

Ending Arvand River pollution and new horizons in wastewater management

The current value of the project has been announced at 3 trillion tomans, with an initial capacity of 30,000 cubic meters per day, covering a population of approximately 177,000 people. The final capacity of Khorramshahr Wastewater Treatment Plant is projected at 48,000 cubic meters per day.

Hatami stated that the project began in 2015 but was halted for several years. Since the beginning of the 14th administration, it has been resumed and, after two years of follow-up by the Ministry of Energy and the National Water and Wastewater Engineering Company, is now in the testing and initial commissioning stage.

With the commissioning of this plant, the discharge of raw sewage into the Arvand River will be completely halted, and treated effluent can be utilized in agricultural and industrial sectors. Referring to provisions in the Seventh National Development Plan requiring industries to use non-conventional water sources, he urged provincial industries to utilize treatment plant outputs

to help achieve sustainable development and reduce water stress.

Further projects included the inauguration of water supply jihad projects in 41 villages of Haftkel County, implemented through coordination between the Water and Wastewater Company, Imam Hassan Mojtaba (AS) Headquarters, and the Hazrat Vali-e-Asr (AJ) Corps. Approximately 1,500 households, with a population exceeding 7,000 people, now benefit from sustainable drinking water.

More than 102 kilometers of steel and polyethylene transmission pipelines with diameters up to 20 inches were installed. With the drilling and equipping of wells and expansion of facilities, regional production capacity increased to around 10,000 cubic meters per day. The total value of these rural water supply projects exceeds 8,500 billion rials.

A storage reservoir and pumping station in Chamran City were also inaugurated at a cost of 800 billion rials, with a 6,000-cubic-

Hatami stated that the project began in 2015 but was halted for several years. Since the beginning of the 14th administration, it has been resumed and, after two years of follow-up by the Ministry of Energy and the National Water and Wastewater Engineering Company, is now in the testing and initial commissioning stage



meter capacity and 55,000-cubic-meter daily pumping capacity, serving more than 40,000 residents. Additionally, a water filtration project in Bandar Imam Khomeini was launched at a cost

of 450 billion rials, including eight filters with a capacity of 250 cubic meters per hour, significantly improving drinking water quality for 120,000 residents.

Hatami emphasized that these projects represent a major step toward improving service indicators, enhancing infrastructure resilience, and reducing water stress in

Shadegan County, Chamran City, and Bandar Imam Khomeini.

A 5,000-cubic-meter Bozi Martyrs Water Storage Reservoir in Shadegan was also inaugurated with an investment of 550 billion rials in the presence of Energy Minister Abbas Aliabadi. The project ensures sustainable drinking water for over 21,000 residents.

Hatami noted that the reservoir plays a strategic role in stabilizing distribution networks, improving water pressure, and managing consumption. He credited coordinated efforts and continuous follow-up by officials, including the local MP, for securing funding and completing the project.

He concluded by reaffirming the company's commitment to continuing effective cooperation and prioritizing water supply projects across other deprived areas of the province, aiming to achieve water equity, improve welfare indicators, and enhance rural quality of life.