

Conservation & more

... at a glance

Overview

While Southern California's population and economy continue to grow, its water supply doesn't. In the next 15 years, our region is expected to gain as many as 2.6 million new residents. That's almost like having everyone in the state of Kansas move west. Meeting this future demand is what we are hard at work on every day.

Not only will there be more cups to fill, but Metropolitan's existing sources of imported water are under constant pressure from competing users, political demands and environmental constraints. Whether we can find acceptable solutions for greater reliability in the San Francisco Bay/San Joaquin Delta and Colorado River is far from certain. This adds greater emphasis on Metropolitan and its member agencies to develop all of the available local supplies.

Despite the challenges, Southern California's water future remains promising. Our efforts have taken hold and provide a balanced mix of water resources. Water saved or produced through conservation, recovering contaminated groundwater and water recycling equals the combined water needs of San Francisco, Oakland and the Silicon Valley.



Water Efficiency

Conservation is a basic element of Metropolitan's long-term water management strategy. Our expanding commitment has resulted in more water-saving opportunities through California Friendly programs, such as one with homebuilders that cuts water use 20 percent over the average household.

In hot, dry areas, landscape irrigation can account for as much as 70 percent of the summer water use in single-family homes. Metropolitan expanded its conservation programs with new outdoor water-saving actions that encourage consumers to tune up their irrigation systems and to consider native and California Friendly plants for their landscaping choices.

When it comes to saving water, Metropolitan has led the way with new technologies and some of the most innovative conservation programs in the nation. The Integrated Resources Plan Update sets a target that by 2025 Southern California's conservation measures, along with plumbing code-based savings and savings from price increases, will save more than 1.1 million acre-feet of drinking water a year.

Metropolitan-Assisted Local Resources

	Investment	Water Saved
Conservation		
2007	\$20 million	118,000 af
Cumulative	\$205 million	977,000 af
Water Recycling		
2007	\$19 million	98,000 af
Cumulative	\$173 million	912,000 af
Groundwater Recovery		
2007	\$9 million	49,000 af
Cumulative	\$71 million	381,000 af

Water Recycling

Water recycling programs use advanced treatment technologies to clean wastewater that would otherwise be unusable and go to the sea. Most recycled water is used for landscape irrigation, industrial process water and for purposes other than human consumption. Recycling is an effective way to stretch our water supplies. Metropolitan partners with its member agencies to provide financial assistance for delivered recycled water. Through this arrangement, we have helped support 45 operating projects throughout our region.

Groundwater Recovery

When groundwater basins become unusable due to naturally occurring minerals, chemical contamination or increasing salinity, water agencies are faced with a choice. They can rely more heavily on imported supplies or they can recover the water by treating it. Metropolitan provides financial assistance to its member agencies to build and operate groundwater treatment projects to recover this valuable resource. There are currently 18 projects operating and others are under development.

More than 20 years ago, Metropolitan created a local projects program to provide financial incentives for projects that delivered recycled water. Building on that success, we created a second program for recovering brackish groundwater. About 10 years ago, the two programs merged into the Local Resources Program, which provides up to \$250 per acre-foot a year to local agencies to improve regional water supply reliability. Metropolitan targets 500,000 acre-feet a year for combined water recycling, groundwater recovery and seawater desalination.

About Metropolitan

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California is a state-chartered cooperative of 26 member agencies—cities and public water agencies—that serve about 18 million people in six counties. Metropolitan imports water from the Colorado River and Northern California to supplement local supplies, and helps its members to develop increased water conservation, recycling, storage and other resource-management programs.

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Looking Ahead

Making every drop count has become the lifestyle of Southern Californians. Our water-efficient practices have set standards that distinguish us from the rest of the nation.

Southern California's water supply is coming full circle. During the late 1800s, the region depended on limited rainfall and local supplies. In the 1900s came the dream of aqueducts and bringing water in from the Colorado River, while nearly a half century later the State Water Project offered to fill even more the Southland's water supply picture. Thirty years later, the Integrated Resource Plan focuses on balanced management and development of local and imported water supplies. The success of these programs ensures reliable water supply for Southern California through 2025.



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and rotor sprayhead sprinklers
save water.**



Mission Statement

The mission of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California is to provide its service area with adequate and reliable supplies of high-quality water to meet present and future needs in an environmentally and economically responsible way.

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