



San Diego County
Water Authority

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Welcome to the San Diego County Water Authority



NEWS

[3/18/02 Rancho Penasquito
Pressure Control & Hydroe
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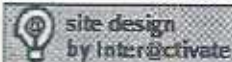
[2/28/02 Approved Ag. Water
Mgmt Plan](#)

[2/20/02 SDCWA 2000-2001
Annual Report](#)

[12/06/01 Release: Water
Authority to return \\$8.7 mil
its member agencies](#)

[12/6/01 Release: Water Aut
receives \\$300,000 grant fro
CALFED](#)

**NOTE: All board meetings
begin one hour earlier, at
3:00p.m.**



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San Diego County Water Authority

AN OVERVIEW

Search for water

The history of the San Diego region revolves around a never-ending search for a safe, reliable water supply in this arid area of Southern California. Beginning with the native Americans and later the Spanish missionaries and early settlers, local water supplies provided sufficient water for the county until World War II, when a vastly expanded military and industrial presence doubled the local population. When water shortages threatened the area's wartime mission, President Franklin Roosevelt directed the Navy to build the area's first aqueduct connecting to the newly completed Colorado River Aqueduct owned by the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD).

The San Diego County Water Authority was chartered by the state of California in 1944 to administer the region's Colorado River water rights, joining MWD and taking over the management of the aqueduct from the Navy. The first imported water arrived in the county in 1947. Today the Authority is actively involved in the development of local water resources while also working hard to ensure the reliability of imported water supplies to the region. The

Authority is located at the end of an extensive imported water delivery system, and must work to ensure safe, reliable water supplies to serve the region's nearly 3 million residents and support a \$117 billion economy.



Making the most of what we have

The development of local water resources is a key function of the Authority today. The agency works with member agencies to expand programs that maximize these local resources, which reduces the need for increased imported water. Efforts to make the most of local resources include:

- Recycled water programs.
- Using modern reverse osmosis technology for the desalination of brackish groundwater in several different parts of the county.
- Groundwater storage projects where feasible.
- Ongoing water conservation efforts in San Diego County that are not only implemented in times of

drought, but practiced year-round. The agency promotes installation of low-water use plumbing fixtures and appliances, landscaping, agricultural irrigation systems and encourages water-wise behavior as a way of life for county residents. The result is that per capita water use in the county is now 13 percent less than in 1990.

- A recent board decision to initiate a feasibility study for the desalination of seawater as a possible solution to further diversifying the county's water supplies.

Securing and diversifying our imported water supplies

Imported water accounts for up to 95 percent of the total water used in the county each year. All imported water is currently obtained from MWD, and the Authority is MWD's largest customer. A major effort is being undertaken to diversify supplies. The Authority is a leader in water transfers — a historic water transfer agreement with the Imperial Irrigation District is expected to begin in 2003 with an initial delivery of 20,000 acre-feet. By 2012, the transfer will bring up to 200,000 acre-feet of Colorado River water annually to the Authority's service area.

The Authority is also asking the courts to determine the amount of water it can legally depend upon from MWD under an antiquated formula to determine "preferential rights." The Authority maintains the intent of the original preferential rights formula was that an agency's right to MWD's water was based on that agency's financial contribution. However under the current system, the Authority has a preferential right to less than 15 percent of MWD's water while it has historically paid 22 percent of its capital and operating costs. This has resulted in a situation in which almost a third of the Authority's water is not guaranteed. Resolving this issue will allow the Authority to know how much water it can count on when planning to meet this region's water needs.

The Authority's board is also studying the feasibility of a binational aqueduct that would serve both San Diego County and the Tijuana-Rosarito-Tecate area. Such a pipeline would help the Authority diversify delivery options for imported water sources and would transport to Mexico Colorado River water to which it has rights.

Building to ensure supply and flexibility

The Authority has a \$1.2 billion Capital Improvement Program under way to meet current needs, to increase operational flexibility to supply water throughout the

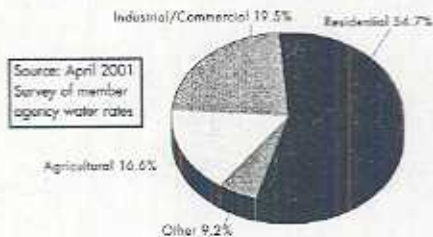
The San Diego County Water Authority's mission is to provide a safe, reliable water supply to its member agencies serving the San Diego region.

county, and to provide emergency supplies during potential disruptions in imported water service due to drought, earthquake or other disasters. Key to this program is the \$827 million Emergency Storage Project, a system of reservoirs, interconnected pipelines and pumping stations. The project will provide the largest increase in storage capacity in the county since 1944, adding 90,100 acre-feet to existing reservoir storage.

Powering our future

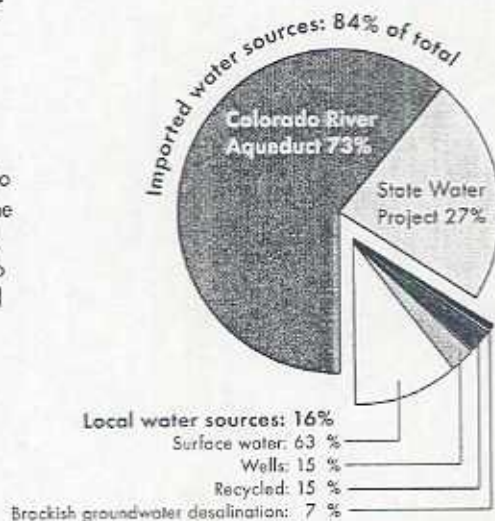
As a result of legislation in September 2000 the County Water Authority Act was changed to allow hydroelectric power generated by the Authority's water delivery system to be sold to any electric provider. The bill also authorized the Authority to purchase low-cost federal power; to construct, own and operate electric power generation facilities and to purchase and transport natural gas. The Authority's board has adopted an energy strategy that seeks to work in coordination with local energy efforts, develop economical supplies and monitor ongoing developments in the energy market.

How is water used in San Diego County?



Imported and local water statistics: (FY 2001)

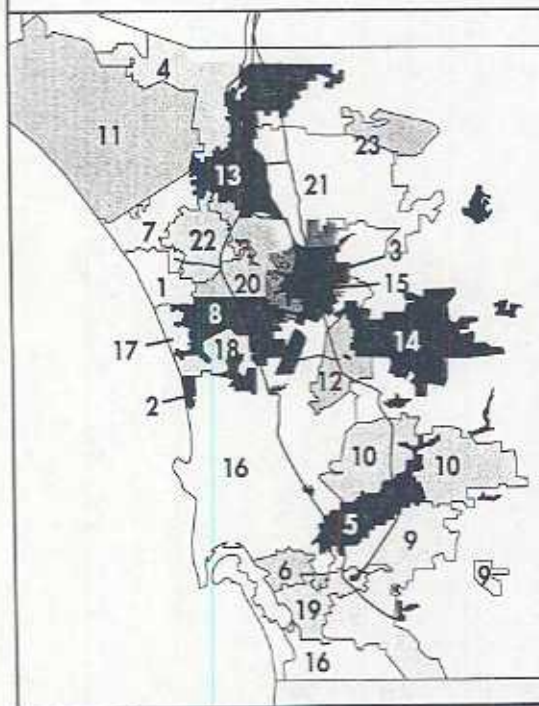
Imported water delivered:	591,441.0	AF
Local water:	82,247.6	AF
Total:	673,688.6	AF
Future demand:	Water demand is expected to be 813,000 AF in 2020.	



Water Conservation: (FY 2001)

Conserved water: 28,225 acre-feet (most water was conserved by installation of ultra-low-flush toilets and low-flow showerheads)

Member Agencies



- 1 CARLSBAD MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT
- 2 CITY OF DEL MAR
- 3 CITY OF ESCONDIDO
- 4 FALLBROOK PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT
- 5 HELIX WATER DISTRICT
- 6 CITY OF NATIONAL CITY**
- 7 CITY OF OCEANSIDE
- 8 OLIVENHAIN MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT
- 9 OTAY WATER DISTRICT
- 10 PADRE DAM MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT
- 11 CAMP PENDLETON MARINE CORPS BASE
- 12 CITY OF POWAY
- 13 RAINBOW MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT
- 14 RAMONA MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT
- 15 RINCON DEL DIABLO MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT
- 16 CITY OF SAN DIEGO
- 17 SAN DIEGUITO WATER DISTRICT
- 18 SANTA FE IRRIGATION DISTRICT
- 19 SOUTH BAY IRRIGATION DISTRICT**
- 20 VALLECITOS WATER DISTRICT
- 21 VALLEY CENTER MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT
- 22 VISTA IRRIGATION DISTRICT
- 23 YUIMA MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT

A member of the San Diego County Board of Supervisors also serves as a representative to the Water Authority board of directors.

** The Sweetwater Authority is a service organization for the city of National City and the South Bay Irrigation District.

FAST FACTS

Member agencies: 23
 6 cities
 4 water districts
 3 irrigation districts
 8 municipal water districts
 1 public utility district
 1 federal agency (military base)

Established:
 June 9, 1944

First water delivered to county:
 Nov. 24, 1947

Area served:
 908,974 acres

Population served:
 2.9 million

Economy served:
 \$117 billion

Number of primary pipelines: Five

Miles of pipeline: 279

Miles of patrol road maintained: 270

Acre-foot (AF): Large amounts of water are measured by the acre-foot. One acre-foot is about 326,000 gallons, or enough water to cover one acre to a depth of one foot. An acre-foot can supply the household needs of two typical families for one year.



**San Diego County
 Water Authority**

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