

West Basin Municipal Water District Imported Water



West Basin provides high-quality drinking water to nearly one million residents living in southwest Los Angeles County.

Introduction

Since it began delivering wholesale imported water from the Colorado River in 1948, West Basin has provided a safe, secure, and cost-effective water supply to residents in its service area.



Hoover Dam

Customers

West Basin provides imported water to eight retail water suppliers.

Cities



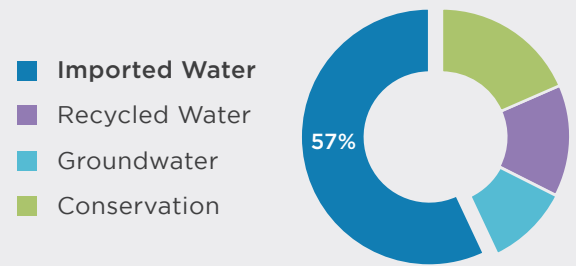
Investor-owned Utilities

County Water District



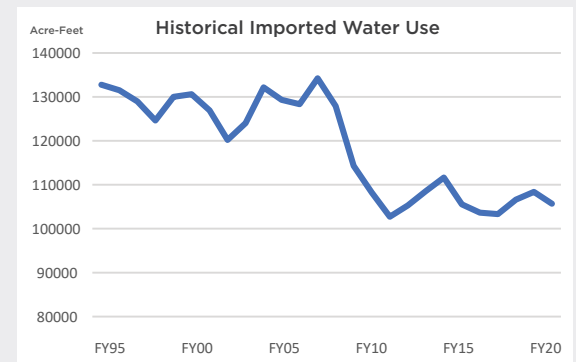
Water Supply Portfolio

Imported water provides 57% of the District's supply portfolio, making it the primary drinking water source in the West Basin service area. Data is based on 2020 Urban Water Management Plan.



Imported Water Trends

Over the past 25 years, a significant reduction in imported water use has occurred within the West Basin service area. The District's ongoing investments in recycled water and conservation programs continue to boost overall reliability, while reducing the region's dependence on imported water supplies.



Groundwater

In addition to imported water, many West Basin communities receive supplemental drinking water supplies by pumping groundwater. While West Basin does not directly serve groundwater to local communities, it provides imported and recycled water supplies that replenish local aquifers, ultimately reaching customer taps as drinking water.

West Basin MWD: Coastal Los Angeles' Wholesale Water Provider

West Basin delivers wholesale drinking water to local communities by purchasing imported water from the Metropolitan Water District (Metropolitan). As the regional wholesale supplier, Metropolitan provides imported water supplies to nearly 20 million people in Southern California. Imported water originates from two primary sources: (1) Colorado River Aqueduct (CRA), and (2) State Water Project (SWP).



Colorado River Aqueduct

Completed in 1935, the CRA is a 242-mile imported water conveyance system operated by Metropolitan. It takes water from the Colorado River at Lake Havasu on the California-Arizona border, and delivers it to Lake Matthews in Riverside County. The annual capacity of the CRA is approximately 1.25 million acre-feet (MAF).



State Water Project

Built in the 1960s, the SWP is operated by the California Department of Water Resources. The conveyance system begins at the Sacramento-San Joaquin Bay Delta and extends 700 miles, with an annual capacity of more than four million acre-feet (MAF). Metropolitan is the largest SWP contractor, with annual entitlements that exceed two MAF.

Imported Water Challenges

Imported water is less reliable than local water sources and faces a number of ongoing challenges:

- Transported from hundreds of miles away
- Negatively impacted by drought and climate change
- Many competing demands:
 - Environmental
 - Agricultural
 - Multi-state agreements
- Subject to natural disasters, including earthquakes, floods, and fires
- Environmental regulations restrict deliveries throughout the year

