

# San Diego County Water Authority

## An Overview



### DIVERSIFICATION Enhancing Water Supply Reliability



### Improving INFRASTRUCTURE

### Search for Water

The history of the San Diego region revolves around a never-ending search for a safe, reliable water supply. When World War II brought a vastly expanded military and industrial presence, doubling the local population, local water supplies were not enough to serve the growing population and economy. President Franklin D. Roosevelt issued an executive order directing the Navy to build the area's first aqueduct to bring additional water supplies to the region.

In 1944, the state Legislature created the San Diego County Water Authority to administer the region's Colorado River water rights, import water, and take over the operation of the aqueduct from the Navy. The first imported water arrived here in 1947.



*The Water Authority has secured additional Colorado River supplies through canal-lining projects.*

Ensuring reliability now and into the future means investing in new sources of water and projects that reduce the region's vulnerability to shortages from any one source. The Water Authority has a long-term strategy to diversify the region's water supply portfolio and protect it against the inevitable dry periods that will always be part of life in the semi-arid San Diego region.

### Securing New Imported Water Supplies

For decades, the region purchased its imported water solely from the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. A cornerstone of the Water Authority's supply diversification strategy has been to independently secure new, highly reliable Colorado River supplies.

These supplies were made available as a result of a series of historic accords collectively called the Quantification Settlement Agreement. The QSA, signed in 2003, fundamentally changed the way Colorado River water is distributed and used in California.

The Water Authority has a 45- to 75-year water conservation and transfer agreement with the Imperial Irrigation District, and a separate 110-year agreement to receive water conserved by lining parts of the All-American and Coachella canals. In 2016,



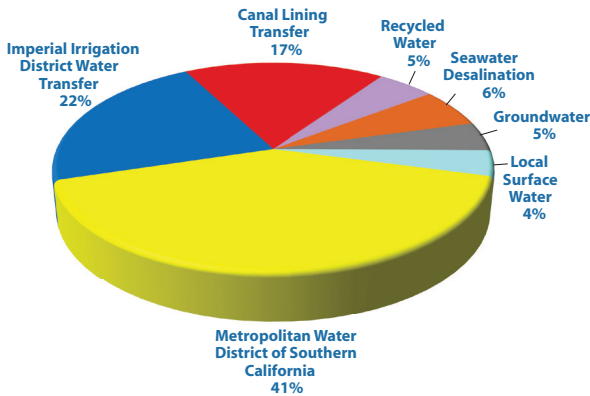
*Primary water sources and distribution systems for water in Southern California.*

### Reliability Through Diversification

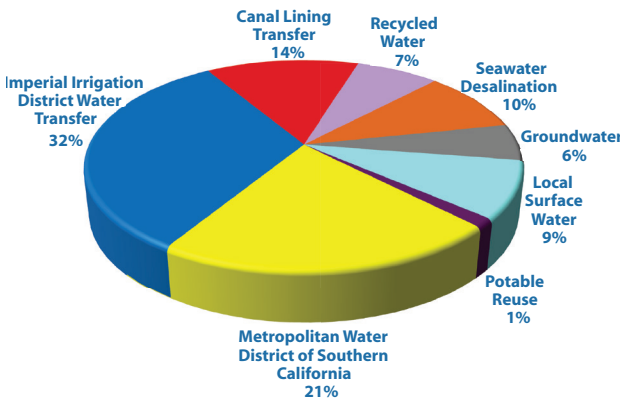
The Water Authority's mission is to provide a safe and reliable water supply for the San Diego region's 3.3 million residents and \$222 billion economy.

The San Diego County Water Authority sustains a \$222 billion regional economy and the quality of life for 3.3 million residents through a multi-decade water supply diversification plan, major infrastructure investments and forward-thinking policies that promote fiscal and environmental responsibility. A public agency created in 1944, the Water Authority delivers wholesale water supplies to 24 retail water providers, including cities, special districts and a military base.

Water Supply Diversification in 2016



Water Supply Diversification in 2020



these agreements will bring 180,000 acre-feet of water to the region. When the water deliveries are fully ramped up in 2021, San Diego County will receive 280,000 acre-feet annually of highly reliable water from these agreements.

Making the Most of Local Supplies

Using local water resources effectively is another key to diversifying the region's water supply portfolio. Expanding the use of recycled water, groundwater, and storage programs is critical to successful diversification. In addition, the Water Authority added desalinated seawater from the Claude "Bud" Lewis Carlsbad Desalination Plant to the region's supply mix in late 2015. The Water Authority also has been a leader in promoting greater water-use efficiency. The region's potable water use has fallen from 235 gallons per capita per day in 1990 to 119 GPCD in 2016, when water use was impacted by state emergency water-use mandates.

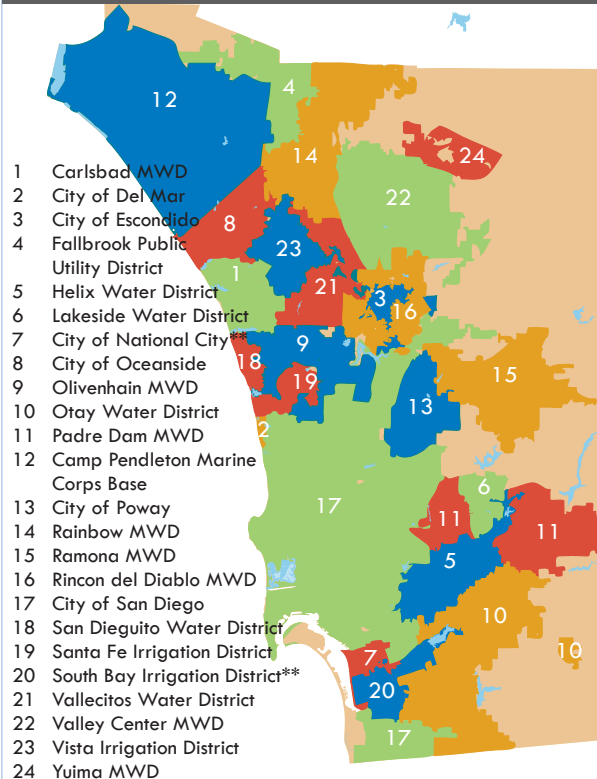
Mapping the Region's Water Future

Meeting the region's future water supply needs also requires building and operating critical facilities. The Water Authority's \$2.8 billion Capital Improvement Program ensures future water reliability through the construction of a treatment plant, pipelines, reservoirs, flow control facilities, pump stations and other essential infrastructure. As part of this program, the Water Authority is also ensuring that the region is protected during emergencies and times of limited supply through its \$1.5 billion Emergency & Carryover Storage Project. The system provides up to six months of local water storage for emergency use.

These sound investments in a diversified water supply portfolio and new water facilities will enhance the reliability of the region's water supply for decades to come.

To learn more about the Water Authority's efforts to enhance water supply reliability visit [sdcwa.org](http://sdcwa.org).

Member Agencies



A member of the San Diego County Board of Supervisors also serves as a non-voting 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: 24
- 6 cities
- 5 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: Nov. 24, 1947
- Area served: 946,000 acres
- Population served: 3.3 million
- Economy served: \$222 billion
- Number of primary pipelines: Five

**AF = acre-foot**  
One acre-foot is approximately 325,900 gallons of water, enough to supply two average families of four for a year.



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