

West Basin Municipal Water District Imported Water



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

Introduction

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



The Hoover Dam is part of the Colorado River system, located on the border of Nevada and Arizona.

Customers

West Basin provides imported water to eight retail water suppliers.

Cities



Investor-owned Utilities

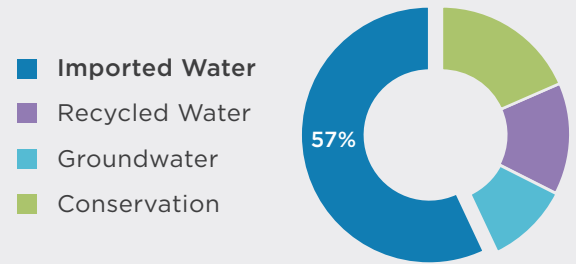


County Water District



Water Supply Portfolio

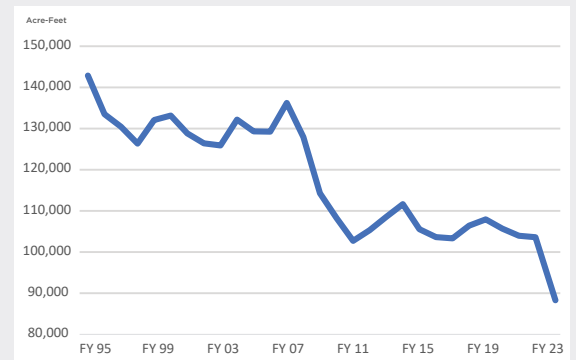
Imported water provides 57% of the District's supply portfolio, making it the primary drinking water source in the West Basin service area. Data is based on the 2020 Urban Water Management Plan.



Imported Water Trends

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. In 2023, demand dipped below 90,000 acre-feet, the lowest demand on record for West Basin.

Historical Imported Water Use



Groundwater

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

A Wholesale Water Provider

West Basin delivers wholesale drinking water to communities in Los Angeles County 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



Imported Water Sources

- State Water Project
- Colorado River Aqueduct
- Sacramento-San Joaquin Bay Delta
- ★ West Basin