

SUBCHAPTER 3.5

HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

Regulatory Background

Hydrology

Water Demand and Forecasts

Water Supply

Water Conservation

Water Quality

Wastewater Treatment

3.5 HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

3.5.1 Regulatory Background

Water resources are regulated by an overlapping network of local, state, federal and international laws and regulations. As a result, the authority to address a given discharge or activity is not always clear. Therefore, the regulatory background is broken down by the following topics: Water Quality; Regional Water Quality Management; Watershed Management; Wastewater Treatment; Drinking Water Standards; and local regulations.

3.5.1.1 Water Quality

The principal laws governing water quality in southern California are the federal Clean Water Act (CWA) and the corresponding California law, the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Act. The United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) is the federal agency responsible for water quality management and administration of the federal CWA. The U.S. EPA has delegated most of the administration of the CWA in California to the California State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB). The SWRCB was established through the California Porter-Cologne Water Quality Act of 1969, and is the primary State agency responsible for water quality management issues in California. Much of the responsibility for implementation of the SWRCB's policies is delegated to the nine Regional Water Quality Control Boards (RWQCBs).

3.5.1.1.1 NPDES Permit Program

§402 of the CWA established the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) to regulate discharges into “navigable waters” of the United States. The U.S. EPA authorized the SWRCB to issue NPDES permits in the State of California in 1974. The NPDES permit establishes discharge pollutant thresholds and operational conditions for industrial facilities and wastewater treatment plants. For point source discharges (e.g., wastewater treatment facilities), the RWQCBs prepare specific effluent limitations for constituents of concern such as toxic substances, total suspended solids (TSS), bio-chemical oxygen demand (BOD), and organic compounds. The limitations are based on the Basin Plan objectives and are tailored to the specific receiving waters, allowing some discharges, for instance deep water outfalls in the Pacific Ocean, more flexibility with certain constituents due to the ability of the receiving waters to accommodate the effluent without significant impact.

Non-point source NPDES permits are also required for municipalities and unincorporated communities of populations greater than 100,000 to control urban stormwater runoff. These municipal permits include Storm Water Management Plans (SWMPs). A key part of the SWMP is the development of Best Management Practices (BMPs) to reduce pollutant loads. Certain businesses and projects within the jurisdictions of these municipalities are required to prepare Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plans (SWPPPs) which establish the appropriate BMPs to gain coverage under the municipal permit. On October 29, 1999, the U.S. EPA finalized the Storm Water Phase II rule which requires smaller urban communities

with a population less than 100,000 to acquire individual storm water discharge permits. The Phase II rule also requires construction activities on one to five acres to be permitted for storm water discharges. Individual storm water NPDES permits are required for specific industrial activities and for construction sites greater than five acres. Statewide general storm water NPDES permits have been developed to expedite discharge applications. They include the statewide industrial permit and the statewide construction permit. A prospective applicant may apply for coverage under one of these permits and receive Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) from the appropriate RWQCB. WDRs establish the permit conditions for individual dischargers. The Stormwater Phase II Rule automatically designates, as small construction activity under the NPDES stormwater permitting program, all operators of construction site activities that result in a land disturbance of equal to or greater than one and less than five acres. Site activities that disturb less than one acre are also regulated as small construction activity if they are part of a larger common plan of development or sale with a planned disturbance of equal to or greater than one acre and less than five acres, or if they are designated by the NPDES permitting authority. The NPDES permitting authority or U.S. EPA Region may designate construction activities disturbing less than one acre based on the potential for contribution to a violation of a water quality standard or for significant contribution of pollutants to waters of the United States (U.S. EPA, [20002005](#)).

3.5.1.1.2 Municipal Stormwater and Urban Runoff Discharge Permits

The Municipal Stormwater Permitting Program regulates stormwater discharges from municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4s). The RWQCB, with oversight by U.S. EPA, administers the MS4 permitting program in the Los Angeles area. The MS4 permits require the municipal discharger (typically, a city or county) to develop and implement a SWMP with the goal of reducing the discharge of pollutants to the maximum extent practicable. The SWMP program specifies what BMPs will be applied to address certain program areas such as public education and outreach, illicit discharge detection and elimination, construction and port-construction, and good housekeeping for municipal operations. MS4 permits also generally include a monitoring program.

3.5.1.1.3 CWA Section 303 – Total Maximum Daily Loads

The CWA §303(d) requires the SWRCB to prepare a list of impaired water bodies in the State and determine total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) for pollutants or other stressors impacting water quality of these impaired water bodies. A TMDL is a quantitative assessment of water quality conditions, contributing sources, and the load reductions or control actions needed to restore and protect bodies of water in order to meet their beneficial uses. All sources of the pollutants that caused each body of water to be included on the list, including point sources and non-point sources, must be identified. The California §303 (d) list was completed in March 1999. On July 25, 2003, U.S. EPA gave final approval to California's 2002 revision of §303 (d) List of Water Quality Limited Segments. A priority schedule has been developed to determine TMDLs for impaired waterways. TMDL projects are in various stages throughout the district for most of the identified impaired water bodies. The RWQCBs will be responsible for ensuring that total discharges do not exceed TMDLs for individual water bodies as well as for entire watersheds.

3.5.1.1.4 *State Water Quality Certification Program*

The RWQCBs also coordinate the State Water Quality Certification program, or §401 of the CWA. Under §401, states have the authority to review any federal permit or license that will result in a discharge or disruption to wetlands and other waters under state jurisdiction to ensure that the actions will be consistent with the state's water quality requirements. This program is most often associated with §404 of the CWA which obligates the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to issue permits for the movement of dredge and fill material into and from "waters of the United States".

3.5.1.2 Regional Water Quality Management

Water quality of regional surface water and groundwater resources is affected by point source and non-point source discharges occurring throughout individual watersheds. Regulated point sources, such as wastewater treatment effluent discharges, usually involve a single discharge into receiving waters. Non-point sources involve diffuse and non-specific runoff that enters receiving waters through storm drains or from unimproved natural landscaping. Common non-point sources include urban runoff, agriculture runoff, resource extraction (on-going and historical), and natural drainage. Within the regional Basin Plans, the RWQCBs establish water quality objectives for surface water and groundwater resources and designate beneficial uses for each identified water body.

The Basin Plan (Water Quality Control Plan: Los Regional Basin Plan for the Coastal Watersheds of Los Angeles and Ventura Counties) (LARWQCB, 1994) is designed to preserve and enhance water quality and to protect beneficial uses of regional waters. The Basin Plan designates beneficial uses of surface water and ground water, such as contact recreation or municipal drinking water supply. The Basin Plan also establishes water quality objectives, which are defined as "the allowable limits or levels of water quality constituents or characteristics which are established for the reasonable protection of beneficial uses of water or the prevention of nuisance in a specific area." The Basin Plan specifies objectives for specific constituents, including bioaccumulation, chemical constituents, dissolved oxygen, oil and grease, pesticides, pH polychlorinated biphenyls, suspended solids, toxicity, and turbidity.

California Water Code, Division 7, Chapter 5.6 established a comprehensive program within the SWRCB to protect the existing and future beneficial uses of California's enclosed bays and estuaries. The Bay Protection and Toxic Cleanup Plan (BPTCP) has provided a new focus on the SWRCB and the RWQCBs' efforts to control pollution of the State's bays and estuaries by establishing a program to identify toxic hot spots and plans for their cleanup. In June 1999, the SWRCB published a list of known toxic hot spots in estuaries, bays, and coastal waters.

Other statewide programs run by the SWRCB to monitor water quality include the California State Mussel Watch Program and the Toxic Substances Monitoring Program. The Department of Fish and Game collects water and sediment samples for the SWRCB for both of these programs and provides extensive statewide water quality data reports annually. In addition, the RWQCBs conduct water sampling for Water Quality Assessments required

by the CWA and for specific priority areas under restoration programs such as the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Program.

3.5.1.3 Watershed Management

In February 1998, the Clean Water Action Plan (CWAP) was established to require states and tribes, with assistance from federal agencies and input from stakeholders and private citizens, to convene and work collaboratively to develop Unified Watershed Assessments (UWA). The CWAP designated watersheds to one of the following categories:

- Category I: Watersheds that are candidates for increased restoration because of poor water quality or the poor status of natural resources.
- Category II: Watersheds that have good water quality but can still improve.
- Category III: Watersheds with sensitive areas on federal, state, or tribal lands that need protection.
- Category IV: Watersheds for which there is insufficient information to categorize them.

Targeted watersheds and watershed priorities and activities were identified for each of California's nine RWQCBs. Examples of targeted watersheds include the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission and the Malibu Creek Watershed Non-Point Source Pilot Project.

3.5.1.4 Wastewater Treatment

The federal government enacted the CWA to regulate point source water pollutants, particularly municipal sewage and industrial discharges, to waters of the United States through the NPDES permitting program. In addition to establishing a framework for regulating water quality, the CWA authorized a multibillion dollar Clean Water Grant Program, which together with the California Clean Water Bond funding, assisted communities in constructing municipal wastewater treatment facilities. These financing measures made higher levels of wastewater treatment possible for both large and small communities throughout California, significantly improving the quality of receiving waters statewide. Wastewater treatment and water pollution control laws in California are codified in the CWC and CCR, Titles 22 and 23. In addition to federal and state restrictions on wastewater discharges, most incorporated cities in California have adopted local ordinances for wastewater treatment facilities. Local ordinances generally require treatment system designs to be reviewed and approved by the local agency prior to construction. Larger urban areas with elaborate infrastructure in place would generally prefer new developments to hook into the existing system rather than construct new wastewater treatment facilities. Other communities promote individual septic systems to avoid construction of potentially growth accommodating treatment facilities. The RWQCBs generally delegate management responsibilities of septic systems to local jurisdictions. Regulation of wastewater treatment includes the disposal and reuse of biosolids.

3.5.1.5 Drinking Water Standards

The federal Safe Drinking Water Act, enacted in 1974 and implemented by the U.S. EPA, imposes water quality and infrastructure standards for potable water delivery systems nationwide. The primary standards are health-based thresholds established for numerous toxic substances. Secondary standards are recommended thresholds for taste and mineral content. The California Safe Drinking Water Act enacted in 1976 is codified in Title 22 of the CCR. Potable water supply is managed through the following agencies and water districts: the State Department of Water Resources (DWR), the State Department of Health Services (DHS), the SWRCB, the U.S. EPA, and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. Water right applications are processed through the SWRCB for properties claiming riparian rights. The DWR manages the State Water Project (SWP) and compiles planning information on water supply and water demand within the state. Primary drinking water standards are promulgated in the CWA §304 and these standards require states to ensure that potable water retailed to the public meets these standards. Standards for a total of 88 individual constituents, referred to as Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) have been established under the Safe Drinking Water Act as amended in 1986 and 1996. The U.S. EPA may add additional constituents in the future. The MCL is the concentration that is not anticipated to produce adverse health effects after a lifetime of exposure. State primary and secondary drinking water standards are codified in CCR Title 22 §§64431-64501. Secondary drinking water standards incorporate non-health risk factors including taste, odor, and appearance. The 1991 Water Recycling Act established water recycling as a priority in California. The Water Recycling Act encourages municipal wastewater treatment districts to implement recycling programs to reduce local water demands. The DHS enforces drinking water standards in California.

3.5.1.6 Local Regulations

In addition to federal and state regulations, cities, counties and water districts may also provide regulatory advisement regarding water resources. Many jurisdictions incorporate policies related to water resources in their municipal codes, development standards, storm water pollution prevention requirements, and other regulations.

3.5.2 Hydrology

3.5.2.1 Water Sources

The DWR divided California into ten hydrologic regions corresponding to the state's major water drainage basins. The hydrologic regions define a river basin drainage area and are used as planning boundaries, which allows consistent tracking of water runoff, and the accounting of surface water and groundwater supplies (DWR, [20102011](#)).

The Basin lies within the South Coast Hydrologic Region. The South Coast Hydrologic Region is California's most urbanized and populous region. More than half of the state's population resides in the region (about 19.6 million people or about 54 percent of the state's population), which covers 11,000 square miles or seven percent of the state's total land. The South Coast Hydrologic Region extends from the Pacific Ocean east to the Transverse and

Peninsular Ranges, and from the Ventura-Santa Barbara County line south to the international border with Mexico and includes all of Orange County and portions of Ventura, Los Angeles, San Bernardino, Riverside, and San Diego counties (DWR, 2010).

Topographically, most of the South Coast Hydrologic Region is composed of several large, undulating coastal and interior plains. Several prominent mountain ranges comprise its northern and eastern boundaries and include the San Gabriel and San Bernardino mountains. Most of the region's rivers drain into the Pacific Ocean, and many terminate in lagoons or wetland areas that serve as important coastal habitat. Many river segments on the coastal plain, however, have been concrete-lined and in other ways modified for flood control operations (DWR, ~~2010~~2011).

There are 19 major rivers and watersheds in the South Coast Hydrologic Region. Many of these watersheds have densely urbanized lowlands with concrete-lined channels and dams controlling floodflows. The headwaters for many rivers, however, are within coastal mountain ranges and have remained largely undeveloped (DWR, ~~2010~~2011).

The cities of Ventura, Los Angeles, Long Beach, Santa Ana, San Bernardino, and Big Bear Lake are among the many urban areas in this section of the state, which contain moderate-sized mountains, inland valleys, and coastal plains. The Santa Clara, Los Angeles, San Gabriel, and Santa Ana rivers are among the area's hydrologic features. In addition to water sources within the South Coast Hydrologic Region, imported water makes up a major portion of the water used in the Basin. Water is brought into the South Coast Hydrologic Region from three major sources: the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (Delta), Colorado River, and Owens Valley/Mono Basin. Most lakes in this area are actually reservoirs, made to hold water coming from the SWP, the Los Angeles Aqueduct (LAA), and the Colorado River Aqueduct (CRA) including Castaic Lake, Lake Mathews, Lake Perris, Silverwood Lake, and Diamond Valley Lake. In addition to holding water, Lake Casitas, Big Bear Lake, and Morena Lake regulate local runoff.

3.5.2.2 Surface Water Hydrology

Surface water hydrology refers to surface water systems, including watersheds, floodplains, rivers, streams, lakes and reservoirs, and the inland Salton Sea.

3.5.2.2.1 *Watersheds*

Watersheds refer to areas of land, or basin, in which all waterways drain to one specific outlet, or body of water, such as a river, lake, ocean, or wetland. Watersheds have topographical divisions such as ridges, hills or mountains. All precipitation that falls within a given watershed, or basin, eventually drains into the same body of water (SCAG, 2012).

There are 20 major watersheds within southern California region, all of which are outlined and shaped by the various topographic features of the region. Given the physiographic characteristics of the region, most of the watersheds are located along the Transverse and Peninsular Ranges, and only a small number are in the desert areas (Mojave and Colorado Desert) (SCAG, 2012). Figure 3.5-1 presents a map of the watersheds within the district.

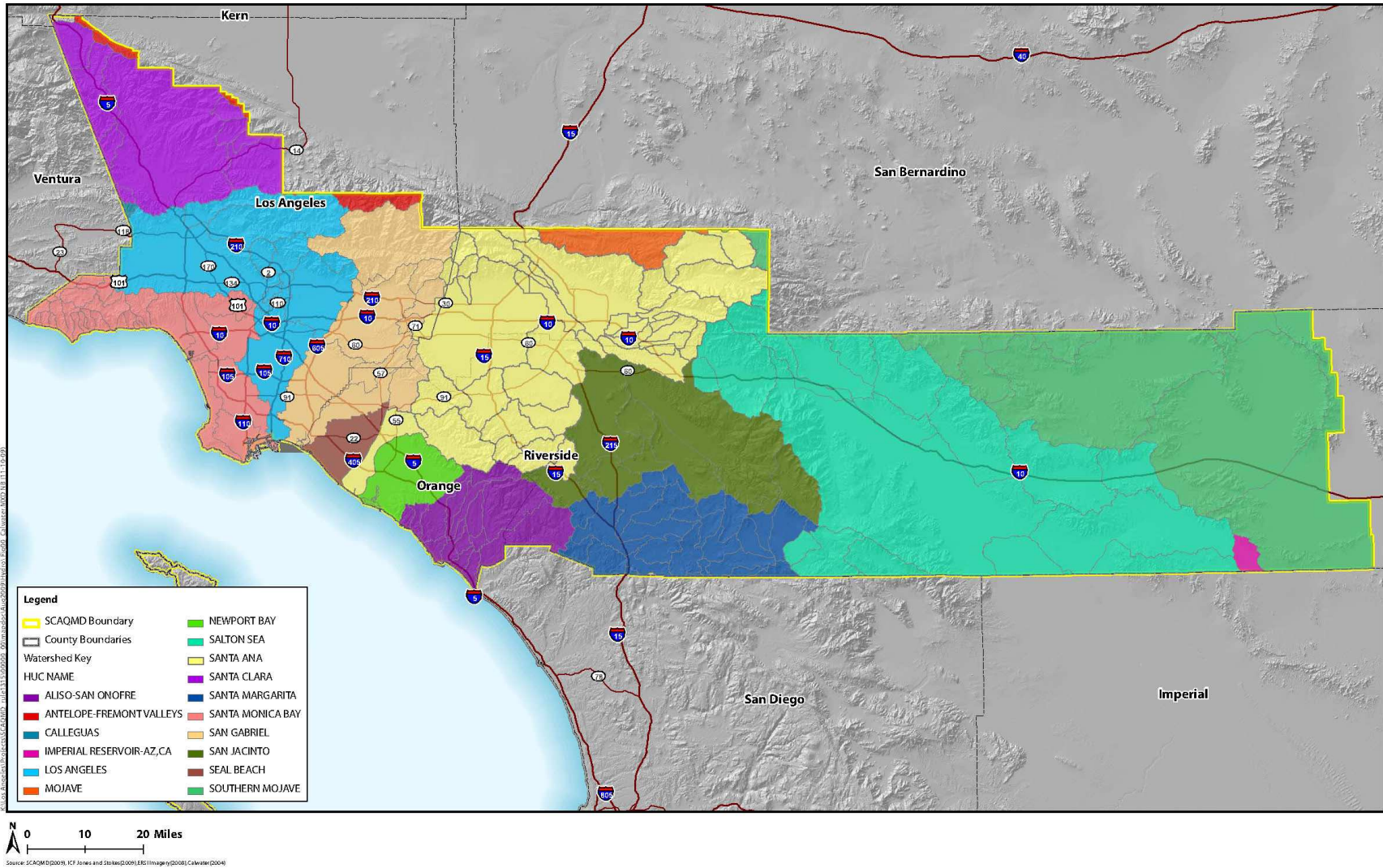


FIGURE 3.5-1
 USGS Watersheds within the South Coast Air Quality Management District

3.5.2.2.2 *Rivers*

Because the climate of Southern California is predominantly arid, many of the natural rivers and creeks are intermittent or ephemeral, drying up in the summer or flowing only after periods of precipitation. For example, annual rainfall amounts vary depending on elevation and proximity to the coast. Some waterways such as Ballona Creek and the Los Angeles River maintain a perennial flow due to agricultural irrigation and urban landscape watering (SCAG, 2012). Figure 3.5-2 presents a map of the major rivers within the district.

Major natural streams and rivers in the South Coast Hydrologic Region include the Ventura River, Santa Clara River, Los Angeles River, San Gabriel River, Santa Ana River, San Jacinto River, and upstream portions of the Santa Margarita River.

The Ventura River, located outside of the district, is fed by Lake Casitas on the western border of Ventura County and empties out into the ocean. It is the northern-most river system in Southern California, supporting a large number of sensitive aquatic species. Water quality decreases in the lower reaches due to urban and industrial impacts.

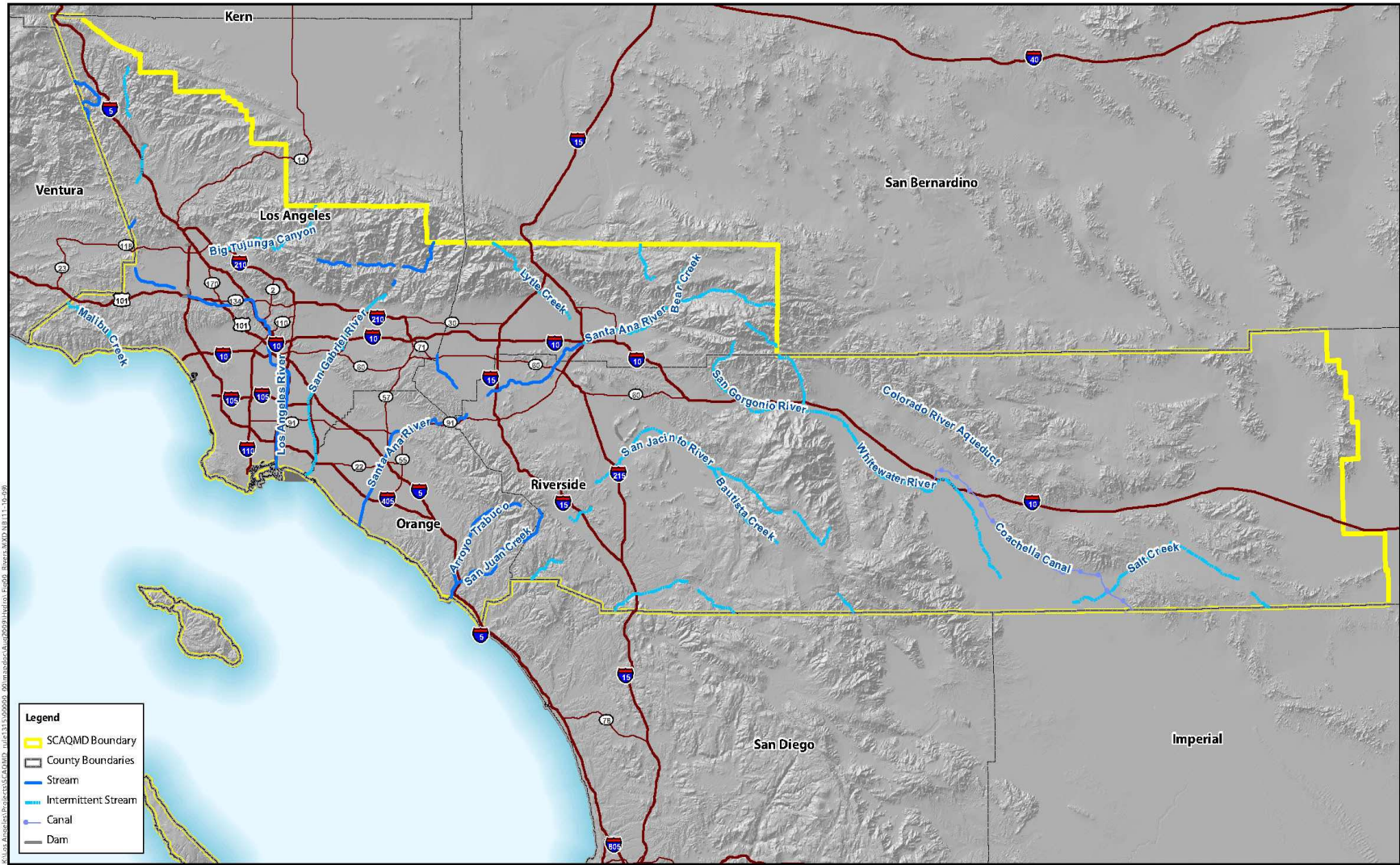
The Santa Clara River starts in Los Angeles County, flows through the center of Ventura County, and remains in a relatively natural state. Threats to water quality include increasing development in floodplain areas, flood control measures such as channeling, erosion, and loss of habitat.

The Los Angeles River is a highly disturbed system due to the flood control features along much of its length. Due to the high urbanization in the area around the Los Angeles River, runoff from industrial and commercial sources as well as illegal dumping contribute to reduce the channel's water quality.

The San Gabriel River is similarly altered with concrete flood control embankments and impacted by urban runoff.

The Santa Ana River drains the San Bernardino Mountains, cuts through the Santa Ana Mountains, and flows onto the Orange County coastal plain. Recent flood control projects along the river have established reinforced embankments for much of the river's path through urbanized Orange County.

The Santa Margarita River begins in Riverside County, draining portions of the San Jacinto Mountains and flowing to the ocean through northern San Diego County.



0 10 20 Miles
 Source: SCAQMD (2009), ICF Jones and Stokes (2009), ERI (Image by D008) ERI (2008)

FIGURE 3.5-2
 Rivers within South Coast Air Quality Management District

3.5.2.2.3 *Lakes and Reservoirs*

Since southern California is a semi-arid region, many of its lakes are drinking water reservoirs, created either through damming of rivers, or manually dug and constructed. Reservoirs also serve as flood control for downstream communities. Some of the most significant lakes, including reservoirs, in the Basin are Big Bear Lake, Lake Arrowhead, Lake Casitas, Castaic Lake, Pyramid Lake, Lake Elsinore, Diamond Valley Lake, and the Salton Sea (SCAG, 2012).

Big Bear Lake is a reservoir in San Bernardino County, in the San Bernardino Mountains. It was created by a granite dam in 1884, which was expanded in 1912, and holds back approximately 73,000 acre-feet¹ of water. The lake has no tributary inflow, and is replenished entirely by snowmelt. It provides water for the community of Big Bear, as well as nearby communities (SCAG, 2012).

Lake Arrowhead is also in San Bernardino County, at the center of an unincorporated community also called Lake Arrowhead. The lake is a man-made reservoir, with a capacity of approximately 48,000 acre-feet of water. In 1922, the dam at Lake Arrowhead was completed, with the intention of turning the area into a resort. It is now used for recreation and as a potable water source for the surrounding community (SCAG, 2012).

Lake Casitas is in Ventura County, and was formed by the Casitas Dam on the Coyote Creek just before it joins the Ventura River. The dam, completed in 1959, holds back nearly 255,000 acre-feet of water. The water is used for recreation, as well as drinking water and irrigation (SCAG, 2012).

Castaic Lake is on the Castaic Creek, and was formed by the completion of the Castaic Dam. The lake is in northwestern Los Angeles County. It is the terminus of the West Branch of the California Aqueduct, and holds over 323,000 acre-feet of water. Much of the water is distributed throughout northern Los Angeles County, though some is released into Castaic Lagoon, which feeds Castaic Creek. The creek is a tributary of the Santa Clara River (SCAG, 2012).

Pyramid Lake is just above Castaic Lake, and water flows from Pyramid into Castaic through a pipeline, generating electricity during the day. At night, when electricity demand and prices are low, water is pumped back up into Pyramid Lake. Pyramid Lake is on Piru Creek, and holds 180,000 acre-feet of water (SCAG, 2012).

Lake Elsinore is in the City of Lake Elsinore, in Riverside County. While the lake has been dried up and subsequently replenished throughout the last century, it now manages to maintain a consistent water level with outflow piped into the Temescal Canyon Wash (SCAG, 2012).

Diamond Valley Lake is Southern California's newest and largest reservoir. Located in Riverside County, it was a project of Metropolitan Water District (MWD) to expand surface

¹ One acre-foot is one acre of surface area of water to a depth of one foot and is equivalent to 360,000 gallons or 43,560 cubic feet of water.

storage capacity in the region. A total of three dams were required to create the lake. Completed in 1999, it was full by 2002, holding 800,000 acre-feet of water, effectively doubling MWD's surface water storage in the region. The lake is connected to the existing water infrastructure of the SWP. The lake is situated at approximately 1,500 feet above sea level, well above most of the users of the lake's water which enables the lake to also provide hydroelectric power, as water flows through the lowest dam (SCAG, 2012).

The Salton Sea is California's largest lake, nearly 400 square miles in size. The lake is over 200 feet below sea level, and has flooded and evaporated many times over, when the Colorado overtops its banks during extreme flood years. This cycle of flooding and evaporation has re-created the Salton Sea several times during the last thousand years and has resulted in high levels of salinity. The lake's most recent formation occurred in 1905 after an irrigation canal was breached and the Colorado River flowed into the basin for 18 months, creating the current lake (SCAG, 2012).

The principle inflow to the Salton Sea is from agricultural drainage, which is high in dissolved salts; approximately four million tons of dissolved salts flow into the Salton Sea every year. The evaporation of the Salton Sea's water, plus the addition of highly saline water from agriculture, has created one of the saltiest bodies of water in the world. The Sea has been a highly successful fishery and is a habitat and migratory stopping and breeding area for 380 different bird species; however, the high, and ever-increasing, salinity of the Sea has resulted in declining fish populations that inhabit it, resulting in declining local and migratory bird that rely on the fish as a food source (SCAG, 2012).

The major surface waters in this section are presented in Table 3.5-1.

TABLE 3.5-1
Major Surface Waters

Wetlands	Rivers, Creeks, and Streams	Lakes and Reservoirs
<i>Los Angeles Basin</i>		
Ventura River Estuary Santa Clara River Estuary McGrath Lake Ormond Beach Wetlands Mugu Lagoon Trancas Lagoon Topanga Lagoon Los Cerritos Wetlands Ballona Lagoon Los Angeles River Ballona Wetlands	Sespe Creek Piru Creek Ventura River Santa Clara River Los Angeles River Big Tujunga Canyon San Gabriel River Ballona Creek	Lake Casitas Lake Piru Pyramid Lake Castaic Lake Bouquet Reservoir Los Angeles Reservoir Chatsworth Reservoir Sepulveda Reservoir Hansen Reservoir San Gabriel Reservoir Morris Reservoir Whittier Narrows Reservoir Santa Fe Reservoir

TABLE 3.5-1 (Concluded)
Major Surface Waters

Wetlands	Rivers, Creeks, and Streams	Lakes and Reservoirs
<i>Lahontan Basin</i>		
	Mojave river Amargosa River	Silver Lake Silverwood Lake Mojave River Reservoir Lake Arrowhead Soda Lake
<i>Colorado River Basin</i>		
	Colorado River Whitewater River Alamo River New River	Lake Havasu Gene Wash Reservoir Copper Basin Reservoir Salton Sea Lake Cahuilla
<i>Santa Ana Basin</i>		
Hellman Ranch Wetlands Anaheim Bay Bolsa Chica Wetlands Huntington Wetlands Santa Ana River Laguna Lakes San Juan Creek Upper Newport Bay San Joaquin Marsh Prado Wetlands	Santa Ana River San Jacinto River	Prado Reservoir Big Bear Lake Lake Perris Lake Matthews Lake Elsinore Vail Lake Lake Skinner Lake Hemet Diamond Valley Lake

Source: Draft 2008 RTP Program EIR, January 2008 p. 3.15-14.

3.5.2.3 Groundwater Hydrology

Groundwater is the part of the hydrologic cycle representing underground water sources. Groundwater is present in many forms: in reservoirs, both natural and constructed; in underground streams; and, in the vast movement of water in and through sand, clay, and rock beneath the earth's surface. The place where groundwater comes closest to the surface is called the water table, which in some areas may be very deep, and in others may be right at the surface. Groundwater hydrology is, therefore, connected to surface water hydrology, and cannot be treated as a separate system. One example of how groundwater hydrology can directly impact surface water hydrology is when surface streams are partly filled by groundwater. When that groundwater is pumped out and removed from the system, the stream levels will fall, or even dry up entirely, even though no water was removed from the stream itself (SCAG, 2012).

Groundwater represents most of the Basin's fresh water supply, making up approximately 30 percent of total water use, depending on precipitation levels. Groundwater basins are replenished mainly through infiltration – precipitation soaking into the ground and making its way into the groundwater. Two threats to the function of this system are increases in impervious surface and overdraft (SCAG, 2012).

Impervious surface decreases the area available for groundwater recharge, as precipitation runoff flows off of streets, buildings, and parking lots directly into storm sewers, and straight into either river channels or into the ocean. This prevents the natural recharge of groundwater, effectively removing groundwater from the system without any pumping. Impervious surface also deteriorates the quality of the water, as it moves over streets and buildings, gathering pollutants and trash before entering streams, rivers, and the ocean (SCAG, 2012).

To prevent seawater intrusion in coastal basins in Orange County, recycled water is injected into the ground to form a mound of groundwater between the coast and the main groundwater basin. In Los Angeles County, imported and recycled water is injected to maintain a seawater intrusion barrier (SCAG, 2012).

VOCs and other non-organic contaminants such as perchlorates have created groundwater impairments in industrialized portions of the San Gabriel and San Fernando Valley groundwater basins, where some locations have been declared federal Superfund sites. Subsequently, perchlorate contamination was found in the San Gabriel Valley, and is being removed. The U.S. EPA continues to oversee installation of a groundwater cleanup system, components of which were installed beneath the cities of La Puente and Industry in 2006. Similar problems exist in the Bunker Hills sub-basin of the Upper Santa Ana Valley groundwater basin. Perchlorate contamination has also been found in wells in the cities of Rialto, Colton, and Fontana in San Bernardino County. The presence of contamination in the source water does not necessarily require the closure of a groundwater well. Water systems can implement water treatment accompanied by monthly monitoring for contaminants and/or may blend the problematic water with other “cleaner” water in order to reduce the concentration of the contaminants of concern in the water that is ultimately to be delivered to the end-users (SCAG, 2012). For these reasons, groundwater continues to be used as the predominant source of water supply in these areas (SCAG, 2012).

3.5.3 Water Demand and Forecasts

Estimating total water use in the district is difficult because the boundaries of supplemental water purveyors' service areas bear little relation to the boundaries of the district and there are dozens of individual water retailers within the district. Water demand in California can generally be divided between urban, agricultural, and environmental uses. In southern California, approximately 75 percent of potable water is provided from imported sources. Annual water demand fluctuates in relation to available supplies. During prolonged periods of drought, water demand can be reduced significantly through conservation measures, while in years of above average rainfall demand for imported water usually declines. In 2000, a ‘normal’ year in terms of annual precipitation, the demand for water in the State was between approximately 82 and 83 million acre-feet. Of this total, southern California accounted for approximately 9.8 million acre-feet (SCAG, 2012).

The increase in California’s water demand is due primarily to the increase in population. By employing a multiple future scenario analysis, the California Water Plan Update 2009 (DWR, 2010) provides a growth range for future annual water demand. According to the California Water Plan Update 2009, statewide future annual water demands range from an

increase of fewer than 1.5 million acre-feet for the Slow and Strategic Growth scenario, to an increase of about 10 million acre-feet under the Expansive Growth scenario by year 2050. If southern California maintains its share of 12 percent of the state's water demand, the region could be expected to require an additional 500,000 acre-feet by 2030 (SCAG, 2012).

On June 4, 2008, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger issued Executive Order S-06-08 and declared an official drought for California². Further, California Water Code §71460 et seq. states that a water district may restrict the use of water during any emergency caused by drought, or other threatened or existing water shortage, and may prohibit the use of water during such periods for any purpose other than household uses or such other restricted uses as determined to be necessary. The water district may also prohibit the use of water during such periods for specific uses which it finds to be nonessential. On February 27, 2009, Governor Schwarzenegger proclaimed a state of emergency regarding the drought and the availability and future sustainability of California's water resources³. The proclamation directed all state government agencies to utilize their resources, implement a state emergency plan and provide assistance for people, communities and businesses impacted by the drought. The proclamation further requested that all urban water users immediately increase their water conservation activities in an effort to reduce their individual water use by 20 percent.

Water districts, in response to the drought, have also taken actions throughout the state such as: 1) asking for voluntary reductions; 2) imposing mandatory restrictions or declaring a local emergency; 3) imposing agricultural rationing; 4) imposing drought rates, surcharges and fines; 5) limiting new development and requiring water efficient landscaping; and, 6) implementing a conservation campaign. In addition, water shortages have prompted cities to begin infrastructure improvements to secure future water supplies.

Following substantial increases in statewide rainfall and mountain snowpack, on March 30, 2011, Governor Jerry Brown officially rescinded Executive Order S-06-08, issued on June 4, 2008 and ended the States of Emergency regarding the drought called on June 12, 2008, and on February 27, 2009. The fourth snow survey of the season was conducted by the DWR and found that water content in California's mountain snowpack was 165 percent of the April 1 full season average. At that time, a majority of the state's major reservoirs were also above normal storage levels. Based on this data, DWR estimated it will be able to deliver 70 percent of requested SWP water for 2011.

In 2012, a recent uptick in water use has occurred due to a dry winter and a below-normal snowpack. Statewide hydrologic conditions at the end of June 2012 showed 80 percent of average precipitation to date; runoff at 65 percent of average to date; and reservoir storage at 100 percent of average for the date. However, impacts of drought are typically felt first by those most reliant on annual rainfall such as small water systems lacking a reliable source, rural residents relying on wells in low-yield rock formations, or ranchers engaged in dryland grazing. As of mid-July 2012, 75-percent of California's pasture and range land is reported to be experiencing "poor" or "very poor" water conditions. So, some regions of California

² <http://gov.ca.gov/press-release/9796>

³ <http://gov.ca.gov/press-release/11556/>

may be experiencing a national trend toward drought. Over half of the contiguous U.S. is experiencing drought conditions, the largest percentage of the nation experiencing drought conditions in the 12-year record of the U.S. Drought Monitor.

3.5.3.1 Water Suppliers

Southern California is served by many water suppliers, both retail and wholesale with MWD being the largest. Created by the California legislature in 1931, MWD serves the urbanized coastal plain from Ventura in the north to the Mexican border in the south to parts of the rapidly urbanizing counties of San Bernardino and Riverside in the east. MWD provides water to about 90 percent of the urban population of southern California. MWD is comprised of 26 member agencies, with 12 supplying wholesale water to retail agencies and other wholesalers. The remaining 14 agencies are individual cities which directly supply water to their residents. A list of the major water suppliers operating within the district is provided in Table 3.5-2.

MWD's largest water customers are the San Diego County Water Authority (28 percent of MWD's supplies based on 2005-2009 average), the LADWP (15 percent) and the Municipal Water District of Orange County (13 percent). The reliance on MWD's water supplies varies by agency. For example, in recent years, Upper San Gabriel received as little as five percent (in fiscal year 2008/09) of its total water supply from MWD, while Beverly Hills received over 93 percent. However, this relative share of local and imported supplies varies from year to year based on supply and demand conditions (MWD, 2010).

MWD monitors demographics in its service area since water demand is heavily influenced by population size, geographical distribution, variation in precipitation levels, and water conservation practices. In 1990, the population of MWD's service area was approximately 14.8 million people. By 2010, it had reached an estimated 19.1 million, representing about 50 percent of the state's population. Growth has generally been around 200,000 persons per year since 2002. The MWD service area is estimated to reach an estimated population of 21.3 million in 2025, and 22.5 million by 2035 (MWD, 2010). Average per capita water usage generally ranges from 170 to 285 gallons per day (SCAG, 2012).

Actual retail water demands within MWD's service area have increased from 3.1 million acre-feet in 1980 to a projected 4.0 million acre-feet in 2010. This represents an estimated annual increase of about 1.0 percent. A similar gradual increase in estimated total retail water demand is expected between 2010 and 2035 (see Table 3.5-2) (MWD, 2010).

Of the estimated 4.0 million acre-feet of total retail water use in 2010, 93 percent is due to municipal and industrial uses, with agriculture accounting for the other seven percent. The relative share of municipal and industrial water use has increased over time at the expense of agricultural use which has declined due to urbanization and market factors. By 2035, it is estimated that agriculture will account for only about four percent of total MWD retail demands. It is estimated that total municipal and industrial water use will grow from an annual average of 4.0 million acre-feet in 2010 to 4.7 million acre-feet in 2035. All water demand projections assume normal weather conditions. Future changes in estimated water demand assumes continued water savings due to conservation measures such as water

savings resulting from plumbing codes, price effects, and the continuing implementation of utility-funded conservation Best Management Practices (BMPs) (MWD, 2010) (see Table 3.5-2).

TABLE 3.5-2
2015 – 2035 Projected Water Demand

Water District	2015 Demand (MAF) ^(a)	2020 Demand (MAF)	2025 Demand (MAF)	2030 Demand (MAF)	2035 Demand (MAF)
MWD ^(b)	5.45	5.63	5.77	5.93	6.07
LADWP ^(c)	0.615	0.652	0.676	0.701	0.711
Antelope Valley/East Kern Water Agency ^(d)	0.091	0.093	0.095	0.097	N/A ^(e)
Castaic Lake Water Agency ^(f)	0.080	0.088	0.097	0.105	0.114
Coachella Valley Water District ^(g)	0.596	0.624	0.661	0.671	0.689
Crestline-Lake Arrowhead Water Agency ^(h)	0.0015	0.0019	0.0021	0.0023	0.0024
Desert Water Agency ⁽ⁱ⁾	0.055	0.059	0.065	0.069	0.073
Palmdale Water Agency ^(j)	0.035	0.040	0.045	0.055	0.060
San Bernardino Valley Municipal ^(k)	0.240	0.256	0.284	0.305	0.324
San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency ^(l)	0.039	0.048	0.060	0.072	0.078
Municipal Water District of Orange County ^(m)	0.526	0.543	0.558	0.564	0.568

(a) MAF = million acre-feet

(b) LADWP, 2010

(c) MWD, 2010

(d) AVEKWA, 2010

(e) Not Available

(f) CLWA, [20102011](#)

(g) [CVWMCVWD, 20102011](#)

(h) CLAWA, [20102011](#)

(i) DWA, [20102011](#)

(j) PWD, [20102011](#)

(k) SBVMWD, [20102011](#)

(l) SGPWA, 2010

(m) MWDOC, [20102011](#)

3.5.3.2 Water Uses

While most land use in the region is urban, other land uses include national forest and a small percentage of irrigated crop acreage (DWR, 1998). The South Coast Hydrologic Region is the most populous and urbanized region in California. In some portions of the region, water users consume more water than is locally available, which has resulted in an overdraft of groundwater resources and increasing dependence on imported water supplies. The distribution of water uses, however, varies dramatically across the South Coast's planning areas. As a result of recent droughts, South Coast water users have generally become more water efficient. Municipal water agencies are engaged in aggressive water conservation and efficiency programs to reduce per capita water demand. As a result of changes in plumbing codes, energy and water efficiency innovations in appliances, and

trends toward more water efficient landscaping practices, urban water demand has become more efficient (DWR, 2010).

For the South Coast region, urban water uses are the largest component of the developed water supply, while agricultural water use is a smaller but significant portion of the total. Imported water supplies and groundwater are the major components of the water supply for this region, with minor supplies from local surface waters and recycled water (DWR, 2010).

Of the total water supply to the region, more than half is either used by native vegetation; evaporates to the atmosphere; provides some of the water for agricultural crops and managed wetlands (effective precipitation); or flows to the Pacific Ocean and salt sinks like saline groundwater aquifers. The remaining portion is distributed among urban and agricultural uses and for diversions to managed wetlands (DWR, 2010).

3.5.3.2.1 Residential Water Use

While single-family homes are estimated to account for about 61 percent of the total occupied housing stock in 2010, they are responsible for about 74 percent of total residential water demands. This is consistent with the fact that single-family households are known to use more water than multifamily households (e.g., those residing in duplexes, triplexes, apartment buildings and condo developments) on a per housing-unit basis. This is because single-family households tend to have more persons living in the household; they are likely to have more water-using appliances and fixtures; and they tend to have more landscaping (MWD, 2010).

3.5.3.2.2 Non-residential Water Use

Nonresidential water use represents an approximately 25 percent of the total municipal and industrial demands in MWD's service area. This includes water that is used by businesses, services, government, institutions (such as hospitals and schools), and industrial (or manufacturing) establishments. Within the commercial/institutional category, the top water users include schools, hospitals, hotels, amusement parks, colleges, laundries, and restaurants. In southern California, major industrial users include electronics, aircraft, petroleum refining, beverages, food processing, and other industries that use water as a major component of the manufacturing process (MWD, 2010).

3.5.3.2.3 Agricultural Water Use

Agricultural water use currently constitutes about seven percent of total regional water demand in MWD's service area. Agricultural water use accounted for 19 percent of total regional water demand in 1970, 16 percent in 1980, 12 percent in 1990 and five percent in 2008. Part of the reduction seen in 2008 was a 30 percent mandatory reduction in MWD's Interim Agricultural Water Program deliveries, which continued into 2009 and a 25 percent reduction in 2010 (MWD, 2010). Improved technology has allowed growers to more accurately distribute water to the individual trees. In addition, pressure compensating valves and emitters have enabled growers to irrigate on steep slopes with better precision. Maximizing agricultural irrigation systems lowers the growers' irrigation demands (DWR, 2010).

3.5.4 Water Supply

To meet current and growing demands for water, the South Coast region is leveraging all available water resources: imported water, water transfers, conservation, captured surface water, groundwater, recycled water, and desalination. Given the level of uncertainty about water supply from the Delta and Colorado River, local agencies have emphasized diversification. Local water agencies now utilize a diverse mixture of local and imported sources and water management strategies to adequately meet urban and agricultural demands each year (DWR, 2010).

Water used in MWD's service area comes from both local and imported sources. Local sources include groundwater, surface water, and recycled water. Sources of imported water include the Colorado River, the SWP, and the Owens Valley/Mono Basin. Local sources meet about 45 percent of the water needs in MWD's service area, while imported sources supply the remaining 55 percent (MWD, 2010).

The City of Los Angeles imports water from the eastern Owens Valley/Mono Basin in the Sierra Nevada through the LAA. This water currently meets about seven percent of the region's water needs based on a five-year average from 2005-2009, but is dedicated for use by the city of Los Angeles. Contractually and for planning purposes, MWD treats the LAA as a local supply, although physically its water is imported from outside the region. Other supplies come from local sources, and MWD provides imported water supplies to meet the remaining 47 percent of the region's water needs based on the same five-year period. These imported supplies are received from MWD's CRA and the SWP's California Aqueduct (MWD, 2010).

3.5.4.1 Imported Water Supplies

Water is brought into the South Coast region from three major sources: the Delta, Colorado River, and Owens Valley/Mono Basin. All three are facing water supply cutbacks due to climate change and environmental issues. Although historically imported water served to help the South Coast region grow, it is today relied upon to sustain the existing population and economy. As such, parties in the South Coast region are working closely with other regions, the State, and federal agencies to address the challenges facing these imported supplies. Meanwhile, the South Coast region is working to develop new local supplies to meet the needs of future population and economic growth (DWR, 2010).

Most MWD member agencies and retail water suppliers depend on imported water for a portion of their water supply. For example, Los Angeles and San Diego (the largest and second largest cities in the state) have historically (1995-2004) obtained about 85 percent of their water from imported sources. These imported water requirements are similar to those of other metropolitan areas within the state, such as San Francisco and other cities around the San Francisco Bay (MWD, 2010). A list of major water suppliers operating within the district region is given in Table 3.5-3.

TABLE 3.5-3
Major Water Suppliers in the District Region

Water Agency	Land Area (square miles)	Sources of Water Supply
Antelope Valley and East Kern District	2,350	SWP, groundwater, reclaimed water
Bard Irrigation District (and Yuma Project Reservation Division)	23	Colorado River
Castaic Lake Water Agency	125	SWP
Coachella Valley Water District	974	SWP, Colorado River, and local
Crestline Lake Arrowhead	53	SWP
Desert Water Agency	324	SWP and groundwater
Imperial Irrigation District	1,658	Colorado River
Littlerock Creek Irrigation District	16	SWP, groundwater, and surface water
Metropolitan Water District of Southern California	5,200	SWP, Colorado River
Mojave Water Agency	4,900	SWP and groundwater
Palmdale Water Agency	187	SWP and groundwater
Palo Verde Irrigation District	188	Colorado River
San Bernardino Municipal Water	328	SWP and groundwater
San Geronio Pass Water Agency	214	Groundwater

Source: Draft 2008 RTP [Program](#) EIR, January 2008 p. 3.15-22.

3.5.4.1.1 State Water Project

The SWP is an important source of water for the South Coast region wholesale and retail suppliers. SWP contractors in the region take delivery of and convey the supplies to regional wholesalers and retailers. Contractors in the region are MWD, Castaic Lake Water Agency, San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District (MWD), Ventura County Watershed Protection District (formerly Ventura County Flood Control District), San Geronio Pass Water Agency, and San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District (DWR, 2010).

The SWP provides imported water to the MWD service area. Since 2002, SWP deliveries have accounted for as much as 70 percent of its water. In accordance with its contract with the DWR, MWD has a Table A allocation of about 1.91 million acre-feet per year under contract from the SWP. Actual deliveries have never reached this amount because they depend on the availability of supplies as determined by DWR. The availability of SWP supplies for delivery through the California Aqueduct over the next 18 years is estimated according to the historical record of hydrologic conditions, existing system capabilities as may be influenced by environmental permits, requests from state water contractors and SWP contract provisions for allocating Table A, Article 21 and other SWP deliveries. The estimates of SWP deliveries to MWD are based on DWR's most recent SWP reliability

estimates contained in its SWP Delivery Reliability Report 200716 and the December 2009 draft of the biannual update (MWD, 2010). The amount of precipitation and runoff in the Sacramento and San Joaquin watersheds, system reservoir storage, regulatory requirements, and contractor demands for SWP supplies impact the quantity of water available to MWD (MWD, 2010).

MWD and 28 other public entities have contracts with the State of California for SWP water. These contracts require the state, through its DWR, to use reasonable efforts to develop and maintain the SWP supply. The state has constructed 28 dams and reservoirs, 26 pumping and generation plants, and about 660 miles of aqueducts. More than 25 million California residents benefit from water from the SWP. DWR estimates that with current facilities and regulatory requirements, the project will deliver approximately 2.3 million acre-feet under average hydrology considering impacts attributable to the combined Delta smelt and salmonid species biological opinions (MWD, 2010). Under the water supply contract, DWR is required to use reasonable efforts to maintain and increase the reliability of service to its users.

3.5.4.1.2 Colorado River System

Another key imported water supply source for the South Coast region is the Colorado River. California water agencies are entitled to 4.4 million acre-feet annually of Colorado River water. Of this amount, 3.85 million acre-feet are assigned in aggregate to agricultural users; 550,000 acre-feet is MWD's annual entitlement. Until a few years ago, MWD routinely had access to 1.2 million acre-feet annually because Arizona and Nevada had not been using their full entitlement and the Colorado River flow was often adequate enough to yield surplus water (DWR, 2010).

A number of water agencies within California have rights to divert water from the Colorado River. Through the Seven Party Agreement (1931), seven agencies recommended apportionments of California's share of Colorado River water within the state. Table 3.5-4 shows the historic apportionment of each agency, and the priority accorded that apportionment.

The water is delivered to MWD's service area by way of the CRA, which has a capacity of nearly 1,800 cubic feet per second or 1.3 million acre-feet per year. The CRA conveys water 242 miles from its Lake Havasu intake to its terminal reservoir, Lake Mathews, near the city of Riverside. Conveyance losses along the Colorado River Aqueduct of 10 thousand acre-feet per year reduce the amount of Colorado River water received in the coastal plain (MWD, 2010).

TABLE 3.5-4

Priorities of the Seven Party Agreement

Priority	Description	TAF^(a) Annually
1	Palo Verde Irrigation District – gross area of 104,500 acres of land in the Palo Verde Valley	3,850
2	Yuma Project (Reservation Division) – not exceeding a gross area of 25,000 acres in California	
3(a)	Imperial Irrigation District and land in Imperial and Coachella Valleys ^b to be served by All American Canal	
3(b)	Palo Verde Irrigation District—16,000 acres of land on the Lower Palo Verde Mesa	
4	Metropolitan Water District of Southern California for use on the coastal plain of Southern California ^c	550
Subtotal		4,400
5(a)	Metropolitan Water District of Southern California for use on the coastal plain of Southern California	550
5(b)	Metropolitan Water District of Southern California for use on the coastal plain of Southern California ^c	112
6(a)	Imperial Irrigation District and land in Imperial and Coachella Valleys ¹ to be served by the All American Canal	300
6(b)	Palo Verde Irrigation District—16,000 acres of land on the Lower Palo Verde Mesa	
7	Agricultural Use in the Colorado River Basin in California	
	Total Prioritized Apportionment	5,362

Source: MWD, 2010

- (a) TAF = thousand acre-feet.
 (b) The Coachella Valley Water District now serves Coachella Valley
 (c) In 1946, the City of San Diego, the San Diego County Water Authority, Metropolitan, and the Secretary of the Interior entered into a contract that merged and added the City of San Diego's rights to store and deliver Colorado River water to the rights of MWD. The conditions of that agreement have long since been satisfied.

Since the date of the original contract, several events have occurred that changed the dependable supply that MWD expects from the CRA. The most significant event was the 1964 U.S. Supreme Court decree in *Arizona v. California* that reduced MWD's dependable supply of Colorado River water to 550 thousand acre-feet per year. The reduction in dependable supply occurred with the commencement of Colorado River water deliveries to the Central Arizona Project (MWD, 2010). The court decision led to a number of other contracts and agreements on how Colorado River water is divided among various users, the key ones of which are summarized below (MWD, 2010).

- In 1987, MWD entered into a contract with the United States Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) for an additional 180 thousand acre-feet per year of surplus water, and 85 thousand acre-feet per year through a conservation program with the Imperial Irrigation District.

- In 1979, the Present Perfected Rights of certain Indian reservations, cities, and individuals along the Colorado River were quantified.
- In 1999, California's Colorado River Water Use Plan (Plan) was developed to provide a framework for how California would make the transition from relying on surplus water supplies from the Colorado to living within its normal water supply apportionment. To implement these plans, the Quantification Settlement Agreement (QSA) and several other related agreements were executed. The QSA quantifies the use of water under the third priority of the Seven Party Agreement and allows for implementation of agricultural conservation, land management, and other programs identified in MWD's 1996 Integrated Water Resources Plan (IRP). The QSA has helped California reduce its reliance on Colorado River water above its normal apportionment.
- In October 2004, the Southern Nevada Water Authority and MWD entered into a storage and interstate release agreement. Under this program, Nevada can request that MWD to store unused Nevada apportionment in MWD's service area. The stored water provides flexibility to MWD for blending Colorado River water with SWP water and improves near-term water supply reliability.
- In December 2007, the Secretary of the Interior approved the adoption of specific interim guidelines for reductions in Colorado River water deliveries during declared shortages and coordinated operations of Lake Powell and Lake Mead.
- In May 2006, the MWD and the USBR executed an agreement for a demonstration program that allowed the MWD to leave conserved water in Lake Mead that MWD would otherwise have used in 2006 and 2007. As of January 1, 2010, MWD had nearly 80 thousand acre-feet of conservation water stored in Lake Mead (MWD, 2010).
- The December 2007 federal guidelines provided the Colorado River contractors with the ability to create system efficiency projects. By funding a portion of the reservoir projects at Imperial Dam, an additional 100 thousand acre-feet of water was allocated to MWD.

MWD is undertaking ongoing efforts to maintain and improve the flexibility and quality of its water supply from the Colorado River. MWD recognizes that in the short-term, programs are not yet in place to provide the full targeted amount, even with the programs adopted under the QSA and the opportunities to store conserved water in Lake Mead. The December 2007 federal guidelines concerning the operation of the Colorado River system reservoirs provide more certainty to MWD with respect to the determination of a shortage, normal, or surplus condition for the operation of Lake Mead (MWD, 2010).

3.5.4.1.3 *Owens Valley Mono Basin (Los Angeles Aqueduct)*

High-quality water from the Mono Basin and Owens Valley is delivered through the LAA to the City of Los Angeles. Construction of the original 233-mile aqueduct from the Owens Valley was completed in 1913, with a second aqueduct completed in 1970 to increase capacity. Approximately 480,000 acre-feet per year of water can be delivered to the City of

Los Angeles each year; however the amount of water the aqueducts deliver varies from year to year due to fluctuating precipitation in the Sierra Nevada Mountains and mandatory instream flow requirements (DWR, 2010).

Diversion of water from Mono Lake has been reduced following State Water Board Decision 1631. Exportation of water from the Owens Valley is limited by the Inyo-Los Angeles Long Term Water Agreement (and related Memorandum of Understanding) and the Great Basin Air Pollution Control District/City of Los Angeles Memorandum of Understanding (to reduce particulate matter air pollution from the Owens Lake bed) (DWR, 2010).

Over time, environmental considerations have required that the City reallocate approximately one-half of the LAA water supply to environmental mitigation and enhancement projects. As a result, the City of Los Angeles has used approximately 205,800 acre-feet of water supplies for environmental mitigation and enhancement in the Owens Valley and Mono Basin regions in 2010, which is in addition to the almost 107,300 acre-feet per year supplied for agricultural, stockwater, and Native American Reservations. Limiting water deliveries to the City of Los Angeles from the LAA has directly led to increased dependence on imported water supply from MWD. LADWP's purchases of supplemental water from MWD in FY 2008/09 reached an all-time high (LADWP, 2010).

LAA deliveries comprise 39 percent of the total runoff in the eastern Sierra Nevada in an average year. The vast majority of water collected in the eastern Sierra Nevada stays in the Mono Basin, Owens River, and Owens Valley for ecosystem and other uses (LADWP, 2010).

Annual LAA deliveries are dependent on snowfall in the eastern Sierra Nevada. Years with abundant snowpack result in larger quantities of water deliveries from the LAA, and typically lower supplemental water purchases from MWD. Unfortunately, a given year's snowpack cannot be predicted with certainty, and thus, deliveries from the LAA system are subject to significant hydrologic variability (LADWP, 2010).

The impact to LAA water supplies due to varying hydrology in the Mono Basin and Owens Valley is amplified by the requirements to release water for environmental restoration efforts in the eastern Sierra Nevada. Since 1989, when City water exports were significantly reduced to restore the Mono Basin's ecosystem, LAA deliveries from the Mono Basin and Owens Valley have ranged from 108,503 acre-feet in 2008/09 to 466,584 acre-feet in 1995/96. Average LAA deliveries since 1989/90 have been approximately 264,799 acre-feet, about 42 percent of the City of Los Angeles' total water needs (LADWP, 2010).

3.5.4.2 Local Water Supplies

Approximately 50 percent of the region's water supplies come from resources controlled or operated by local water agencies. These resources include water extracted from local groundwater basins, catchment of local surface water, non-MWD imported water supplied through the Los Angeles Aqueduct, and Colorado River water exchanged for MWD supplies (MWD, 2010).

Local sources of water available to the region include surface water, groundwater, and recycled water. Some of the major river systems in southern California have been developed into systems of dams, flood control channels, and percolation ponds for supplying local water and recharging groundwater basins. For example, the San Gabriel and Santa Ana rivers capture over 80 percent of the runoff in their watersheds. The Los Angeles River system, however, is not as efficient in capturing runoff. In its upper reaches, which make up 25 percent of the watershed, most runoff is captured with recharge facilities. In its lower reaches, which comprise the remaining 75 percent of the watershed, the river and its tributaries are lined with concrete, so there are no recharge facilities. The Santa Clara River in Ventura County is outside of MWD's service area, but it replenishes groundwater basins used by water agencies within MWD's service area. Other rivers in MWD's service area, such as the Santa Margarita and San Luis Rey, are essentially natural replenishment systems (MWD, 2010).

3.5.4.3 Surface Water

Local surface capture plays an important water resource role in the South Coast region. More than 75 impound structures are used to capture local runoff for direct use or groundwater recharge, operational or emergency storage for imported supplies, or flood protection. While precipitation contributes most of the annual volume of streamflow to the region's waterways, urban runoff, wastewater discharges, agricultural tailwater, and surfacing groundwater are the prime sources of surface flow during non-storm periods. The South Coast has experienced a trend of increasing dry weather flows during the past 30 years as the region has developed, due to increased imported water use and associated urban runoff (DWR, 2101).

Surface water runoff augments groundwater and surface water supplies. However, the regional demand far surpasses the potential natural recharge capacity. The arid climate, summer drought, and increased urbanization contribute to the inadequate natural recharge. Urban and agricultural runoff can contain pollutants, which decrease the quality of local water supplies. Local agencies maintain surface reservoir capacity to capture local runoff. The average yield captured from local watersheds is estimated at approximately 90 thousand acre-feet per year. The majority of this supply comes from reservoirs within the service area of the San Diego County Water Authority (MWD, 2010).

3.5.4.4 Groundwater

During the first half of the 20th century, groundwater was an important factor in the expansion of the urban and agricultural sectors in the South Coast region. Today, it remains important for the Santa Clara, MWD Los Angeles and Santa Ana planning areas, but only a small source for San Diego. Court adjudications recharge operations, and other management programs are helping to maintain the supplies available from many of the region's groundwater basins. Since the 1950s, conjunctive management and groundwater storage has been utilized to increase the reliability of supplies, particularly during droughts. Using the region's other water resources, groundwater basins are being recharged through spreading basins and injection wells. During water shortages of the imported supplies, more groundwater would be extracted to make up the difference. Water quality issues have

impacted the reliability of supplies from some basins. However, major efforts are underway to address the problems and increase supplies for these basins (DWR, 2010).

The groundwater basins that underlie the region provide approximately 86 percent of the local water supply in southern California. The major groundwater basins in the region provide an annual average supply of approximately 1.35 million acre-feet. Most of this water recharges naturally, but approximately 200 thousand acre-feet has historically been replenished each year through MWD imported supplies. By 2025, estimates show that groundwater production will increase to 1.65 million acre-feet (MWD, 2010).

Because the groundwater basins contain a large volume of stored water, it is possible to produce more than the natural recharge of 1.16 million acre-feet and the imported replenishment amount for short periods of time. During a dry year, imported replenishment deliveries can be postponed, but doing so requires that the shortfall be restored in wet years. Similarly, in dry years the level of the groundwater basins can be drawn down, as long as the balance is restored to the natural recharge level by increasing replenishment in wet years. Thus, the groundwater basins can act as a water bank, allowing deposits in wet years and withdrawals in dry years (MWD, 2010).

3.5.4.5 Recycled Water

Local water recycling projects involve further treatment of secondary treated wastewater that would be discharged to the ocean or streams and use it for direct non-potable uses such as landscape and agricultural irrigation, commercial and industrial purpose and for indirect potable uses such as groundwater recharge, seawater intrusion barriers, and surface water augmentation (MWD, 2010).

Within MWD's service area, there are approximately 355,000 acre-feet of planned and permitted uses of recycled water supplies. Actual use is approximately 209,000 acre-feet, which includes golf course, landscape, and cropland irrigation; industrial uses; construction applications; and groundwater recharge, including maintenance of seawater barriers in coastal aquifers. MWD projects the development of 500,000 acre-feet of recycled water supplies (including groundwater recovery) by 2025 (DWR, 2010).

Current average annual recycled water production in the MWD Los Angeles Planning Area is approximately 225 million gallons per day (mgd), which represents approximately 25 percent of the current average annual effluent flows. The Water Replenishment District (WRD) is permitted to recharge up to 50,000 acre-feet per year (45 mgd) of Title 22 recycled water for ground water replenishment of the Montebello Forebay. West Basin Municipal Water District's (WBMWD) Edward Little Water Recycling Facility in El Segundo, which produced approximately 24,500 acre-feet in 2004-2005, recently completed its Phase IV Expansion Project. Approximately 12,500 acre-feet per year of the water produced at this facility is purchased by WRD and injected into the West Coast Barrier. The use of recycled water by LADWP is projected to be approximately 50,000 acre-feet per year by 2019 (DWR, 2010).

Recycled water currently represents approximately four percent of the total water demands in the Santa Ana Planning Area. Eastern Municipal Water District (EMWD) recycles effluent from four wastewater treatment plants. EMWD is also investigating the feasibility of indirect potable reuse through groundwater recharge. The Irvine Ranch Water District (IRWD) has developed an extensive recycled water treatment and delivery system and will expand capacity through 2013 to meet expected recycled water demand. The Inland Empire Utilities Agency is expanding its water recycling with a goal of meeting 20 percent of their demand or 50,000 acre-feet with recycled water. The Western Water Recycling Facility, owned and operated by Western Municipal Water District, is currently being upgraded and expanded. As infrastructure is further developed, recycled water is projected to surpass surface water as a water supply source for the planning area. The Orange County Water District (OCWD) and Orange County Sanitation District's Groundwater Replenishment System provides 72,000 acre-feet per year of recycled water for groundwater recharge and injection along the seawater barrier (DWR, 2010).

The San Diego Planning Area contains a number of recycled water facilities. In Riverside County, water reclamation facilities include Santa Rosa and Temecula Valley which provide non-potable supplies for local use. Seventeen recycled water tertiary treatment facilities are located within San Diego County. The use of tertiary treated recycled water within the San Diego area is projected to increase from 11,500 acre-feet per year in 2005 to 47,600 acre-feet per year in 2030. In September 2008, the City of San Diego approved funding for a demonstration project that releases advanced treated wastewater to San Vicente Reservoir for blending and subsequent additional treatment prior to redistribution (DWR, 2010).

3.5.4.6 Desalination Plants

In the MWD Los Angeles Planning Area, the Robert W. Goldsworthy Desalter, owned and operated by the WRD, processes approximately 2.75 mgd of brackish groundwater desalination for the purpose of remediating a saline plume located within the West Coast sub-basin and providing a reliable local water source to Torrance (DWR, 2010).

The potential for groundwater banking in the Santa Ana Planning Area is substantial, but the volume of clean water that can be stored may be hindered by high salt concentrations in the existing groundwater. In the Santa Ana watershed, three groundwater desalination plants have been constructed and are producing a total of 24 mgd. The Temescal plant, constructed and operated by the City of Corona, has a capacity of 15 mgd. The Menifee and Perris Desalters, owned and operated by EMWD, are producing seven MGD. The Chino Basin Desalter Authority operates Chino I and Chino II Desalters, which are producing 24 mgd (26,000 acre-feet per year) (DWR, 2010).

The Irvine Desalter Project, a joint groundwater quality restoration project by Irvine Ranch Water District and Orange County Water District, yields 7,700 acre-feet per year of potable drinking water and 3,900 acre-feet per year of non-potable water. The Tustin Seventeenth Street Desalter, owned and operated by the City of Tustin yields approximately 2,100 acre-feet per year. The Arlington Desalter, managed by Western MWD, delivers approximately 6,400 acre-feet of treated groundwater annually to the City of Norco (DWR, 2010).

3.5.5 Water Conservation

In the MWD Los Angeles Planning Area, MWD assists member agencies with implementation of water conservation programs. MWD's conservation programs focus on two main areas: residential programs, and commercial, industrial and institutional programs.

Water conservation continues to be a key factor in water resource management in southern California. For MWD, water-use efficiency is anchored by the adopted Long-Term Conservation Plan (LTCP) (August 2011) and the Local Resources Program (LRP). The LTCP sets goals to help retailers achieve water conservation savings, and at the same time, support technology innovation and transform public perception about the value of water. This plan is market oriented and has both incentive and non-incentive drivers to ultimately change how water is used by southern California consumers. Additionally, the LRP encourages the development and increased use of recycled water through incentives (MWD, 2012).

Outdoor water use is a key focus as watering landscapes and gardens accounts for about half of household water use in MWD's service area. MWD will work with water agencies, landscape equipment manufacturers and other stakeholders to make proper irrigation control more effective and easier to understand. A similar effort will be made to reach out to the region's businesses, industries and agriculture to focus on process improvements that can save both money and water. The final focus will be on residential water use, where MWD will work with water agencies and energy utilities to better promote the choices that consumers have for water-efficient products like faucets, shower heads and high-efficiency clothes washers (MWD, 2012).

MWD's incentive programs aimed at residential, commercial and industrial water users make a key contribution to the region's conservation achievements. The rebate program is credited with water savings of 156,000 acre-feet annually. Funding provided by MWD to member agencies and retail water agencies for locally-administered conservation programs included rebates for turf removal projects, toilet distribution and replacement programs, high-efficiency clothes washer rebate programs and residential water audits (MWD, 2012).

3.5.5.1 Residential Programs

MWD's residential conservation consists of the following programs:

- **SoCal Water\$mart:** A region-wide program to help offset the purchase of water-efficient devices. MWD issued 54,000 rebates for residential fixtures in fiscal year 2008/09, resulting in approximately 2.3 thousand acre-feet of water to be saved annually.
- **Save Water, Save A Buck:** This program extends rebates to multi-family dwellings. More than 40,000 rebates were issued fiscal year 2008/09 for high-efficiency toilets and washers for multi-family units.
- **Member Agency Residential Programs:** member and retail agencies also implement local water conservation programs within their respective service areas

and receive MWD incentives for qualified retrofits and other water-saving actions. Typical projects include toilet replacements, locally administered clothes washer rebate programs, and residential water audits.

MWD has provided incentives on a variety of water efficient devices for the residential sector, including: 1) high-efficiency clothes washers; 2) high-efficiency toilets and ultra-low toilets; 3) irrigation evaluations and residential surveys; 4) rotating nozzles for sprinklers; 5) weather-based irrigation controllers; and, 6) synthetic turf.

3.5.5.2 Commercial, Industrial and Institutional Programs

MWD's commercial industrial and institutional conservation consists of three major programs:

- **Save Water, Save-A-Buck Program:** The Save-A-Buck program had its largest year in fiscal year 2008/09, providing rebates for approximately 145,000 device retrofits.
- **Water Savings Performance Program:** This program allows large-scale water users to customize conservation projects and receive incentives for five years of water savings for capital water-use efficiency improvements
- **Member Agency Commercial Programs:** Member and retail agencies also implement local commercial water conservation programs using MWD incentives.

A fourth program, the Public Sector Demonstration Program also resulted in water savings. From August 2007 through 2008, MWD offered a one-time program to provide up-front funding to increase water use efficiency in public buildings and landscapes within its service area. Participants included various special districts, school districts, state colleges and universities, municipalities, counties, and other government agencies.

- Enhanced incentives were provided to replace high water-use equipment including toilets, urinals, and irrigation controllers. Program incentives were often sufficient to cover the total cost of the equipment.
- Pay-for-performance incentives were also offered to reduce landscape irrigation water use by at least 10 percent through behavioral modifications.
- MWD's programs provide rebates for water-saving plumbing fixtures, landscaping equipment, food-service equipment, cleaning equipment, HVAC (heating, ventilating, air conditioning) and medical equipment (MWD).

LADWP implements public outreach and school education programs to encourage conservation ethics; seasonal water rates that are approximately 20 percent greater during the summer high use period; and free water conservation kits. In addition, LADWP implemented Mandatory Water Conservation measures in 2009, which are still in effect today. Mandatory Water Conservation restricts outdoor watering and prohibits certain uses of water such as prohibiting customers from hosing down driveways and sidewalks, requiring all leaks to be fixed, and requiring customers to use hoses fitted with shut-off nozzles. As a result of these conservation efforts by LADWP, the water demand for Los

Angeles is about the same as it was 25 years ago, despite a population increase of more than one million people. LADWP projects an additional savings of at least 50,000 acre-feet per year by 2030 through additional water conservation programs. The Central Basin Municipal Water District and the WBMWD recently completed water conservation master plans to coordinate and prioritize conservation efforts and identify enforcement protocols (DWR, 2010).

OCWD implements several water use efficiency programs in the Santa Ana Planning Area, including a hotel/motel water conservation program, an annual Children’s Water Festival, a Water Heroes program, and water saving tips and tools. Eastern Municipal Water District has a strategic goal to reduce per capita water use and has several programs to replace existing inefficient water devices and encourage water efficiency in new development. Inland Empire Utilities Agency provides multiple rebate programs, including turf removal and water efficient fixtures, and has established the Inland Empire Landscape Alliance to promote the use of water efficiency landscaping by its cities and retail agencies. Western Municipal Water District operates the preeminent water conservation demonstration center in the southland, Landscapes Southern California Style, which has been educating the public about water efficient planting and irrigation for over 15 years (DWR, 2010).

3.5.6 Water Quality

Water quality is a key issue in the South Coast region. Population and economic growth not only affect water demand, but add contamination challenges from increases in wastewater and industrial discharges, urban runoff, agricultural chemical usage, livestock operations, and seawater intrusion. Urban and agricultural runoff can contribute to local surface water sediment from disturbed areas; oil, grease, and toxic chemicals from automobiles; nutrients and pesticides from turf and crop management; viruses and bacteria from failing septic systems and animal waste; road salts; and heavy metals. Three areas that are receiving intense interest are nonpoint source pollution control, salinity management, and emerging contaminants (DWR, 2010).

Three Regional Water Quality Control Boards (Regional Water Boards) have jurisdiction in the South Coast: Los Angeles (Region 4), Santa Ana (Region 8), and San Diego (Region 9). Each Regional Water Board identifies impaired water bodies, establishes priorities for the protection of water quality, issues waste discharge requirements, and takes appropriate enforcement actions within its jurisdiction. Specific water quality issues within the South Coast include beach closures, contaminated sediments, agricultural discharges, salinity management, and port and harbor discharges. Outside the region, high salinity levels and perchlorate contamination contribute to degraded Colorado River supplies, while seawater intrusion and agricultural drainage threaten SWP supplies (DWR, 2010).

3.5.6.1 Non-Point Source Pollution Control

All non-point source pollution is currently regulated through either the NPDES Permitting Program or the Coastal Non-point Pollution Control Program. The Regional Water Boards issue municipal, industrial, and construction NPDES permits with the goal of reducing or eliminating the discharge of pollutants into the storm water conveyance system. The coastal

program requires the U.S. EPA and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to develop and implement enforceable BMPs to control non-point source pollution in coastal waters. Further, the Los Angeles Regional Water Board has adopted conditional waivers for discharges from irrigated agricultural lands, which require farmers to measure and control discharges from their property (DWR, 2010).

South Coast agencies have recently begun to implement Low Impact Development (LID) as a way of improving water quality through sustainable urban runoff management. LID practices include: bioretention and rain gardens, rooftop gardens, vegetated swales and buffers, roof disconnection, rain barrels and cisterns, permeable pavers, soil amendments, impervious surface reduction, and pollution prevention. The Los Angeles and San Diego Regional Water Boards have both incorporated LID language into Standard Urban Storm Water Mitigation Plan requirements for municipal NPDES permits (DWR, 2010).

3.5.6.2 Salinity Management

Surface and groundwater salinity is an ongoing challenge for South Coast water supply agencies. Higher levels of treatment are needed following long-range import of water supplies, as TDS levels are increased during conveyance. Salinity sources in local supplies include concentration from agricultural irrigation, seawater intrusion, discharge of treated wastewater, and recycled water. MWD depends on blending the higher salinity CRA supply at Parker Dam with the lower salinity SWP supply to maintain 500 milligrams per liter (mg/L) TDS or lower. Further, seawater intrusion and agricultural drainage threatens to increase the salinity of SWP supplies. Reduced surface water quality would require additional or upgraded demineralization facilities. Increased salinity also reduces the life of plumbing fixtures and consequently increases replacement costs to customers (DWR, 2010).

Groundwater quality has also been degraded by a long history of groundwater overdrafting and subsequent seawater intrusion. Orange County Water District (OCWD), Water Replenishment District of Southern California (WRD), and Los Angeles County Department of Public Works (LACDPW) operate groundwater injection programs to form hydraulic barriers that protect aquifers from seawater intrusion. Brackish groundwater treatment occurs throughout the Santa Clara and Santa Ana planning areas. Various local agencies have developed salinity and nutrient management plans to reduce salt loading. For example, the Chino Basin Watermaster developed an Optimum Basin Management Plan ([Chino Basin Watermaster](#), 1999) to develop the maximum yield of the basin while protecting water quality. Further development of groundwater recharge programs within the South Coast may exacerbate groundwater salinity and require additional technological advances in desalination (DWR, 2010).

3.5.6.3 Potential Contaminants

Chemical and microbial constituents that have not historically been considered as contaminants are increasingly present in the environment due to municipal, agricultural, and industrial wastewater sources and pathways. Established and emerging contaminants of concern to the region's drinking water supplies include pharmaceuticals and personal care products; disinfection byproducts; those associated with the production of rocket fuel such

as perchlorate and nitrosodimethylamine; those that occur naturally such as arsenic; those associated with industrial processes such as hexavalent chromium and methyl tertiary butyl ether (MTBE). Wastewater treatment plants are not currently designed to remove these emerging contaminants (DWR, 2010).

3.5.6.4 Planning Area Impairments

Water quality issues within the MWD Los Angeles planning areas (Los Angeles Regional Water Board) stem from a range of sources, including industrial and municipal operations, flow diversion, channelization, introduction of non-native species, sand and gravel operations, natural oil seeps, dredging, spills from ships, transient camps, and illegal dumping. Over time, these practices have resulted in the bioaccumulation of toxic compounds in fish and other aquatic life, instream toxicity, eutrophication, beach closures, and a number of Clean Water Act 303(d) listings. Water bodies within this planning area have been listed for metals, pesticides, nitrates, trash, salinity, and pH. The Regional Water Board is developing TMDLs for nutrients, pathogens, trash, toxic organic compounds, and metals (DWR, 2010).

Key issues within the Santa Ana Planning Area (Santa Ana Regional Water Board) include: nitrogen/TDS due to flow diversion; nitrogen/TDS associated with past agricultural activities and dairies in the Chino Basin; and pathogen issues from urbanization impacting river and coastal beaches, and past contamination of groundwater basins from perchlorate which is related to rocket fuel disposal and fertilizer use. Water bodies within this planning area typically have nutrient issues, including organic enrichment, low dissolved oxygen, and algal blooms. These are particular problems in Big Bear Lake and Lake Elsinore. Water quality issues also include pathogens, metals, and toxic organic compounds in the lower watershed due to urbanization and agricultural activities. TMDLs have been developed throughout the Santa Ana River and San Jacinto River watersheds for nutrients and pathogens. Along the Newport coast, TMDLs are in place for metals, nutrients, pathogens, pesticides/priority organics, and siltation (DWR, 2010).

The Chino Basin maintains a large concentration of dairy operations along with livestock. Runoff from the dairies contributes nitrates, salts, and microorganisms to both surface water and groundwater. Since 1972, the Santa Ana Regional Water Board has issued waste discharge requirements to the dairies in this basin. Groundwater quality in this basin is integrally related to the surface water quality downstream in the Santa Ana River, which in turn serves as a source for groundwater recharge in Orange County.

3.5.7 Wastewater Treatment

The CWA requires wastewater treatment facilities discharging to waters of the U.S. to provide a minimum level of treatment commonly referred to as tertiary treatment. Modern wastewater treatment facilities consist of staged processes with the specific treatment systems authorized through NPDES permits. Primary treatment generally consists of initial screening and clarifying. Primary clarifiers are large pools where solids in wastewater are allowed to settle out over a period of hours. The clarified water is pumped into secondary clarifiers and the screenings and solids are collected, processed through large digesters to

break down organic contents, dried and pressed, and either disposed of in landfills or used for beneficial agricultural applications. Secondary clarifiers repeat the process of the primary clarifiers further, refining the effluent. Other means of secondary treatment include flocculation (adding chemicals to precipitate solids removal) and aeration (adding oxygen to accelerate breakdown of dissolved constituents). Tertiary treatment may consist of filtration, disinfection, and reverse osmosis technologies. Chemicals are added to the wastewater during the primary and secondary treatment processes to accelerate the removal of solids and to reduce odors. Hydrogen peroxide can be added to reduce odors and ferric chloride can be used to remove solids. Polymers are added to secondary effluent as flocculate. Chlorine is often added to eliminate pathogens during final treatment and sulfur dioxide is often added to remove the residual chlorine. Methane produced by the treatment processes can be used as fuel for the plant's engines and electricity needs. Recycled water must receive a minimum of tertiary treatment in compliance with DHS regulations. Water used to recharge potable groundwater supplies generally receives reverse osmosis and microfiltration prior to reuse. Microfiltration technologies have improved substantially in recent years and have become more affordable. As levels of treatment increase, greater volumes of solids and condensed brines are produced. These by-products of water treatment are disposed of in landfills or discharged to local receiving waters.

Wastewater flows and capacities of major treatment facilities are shown in Table 3.5-5. Much of the urbanized areas of Los Angeles and Orange Counties are serviced by three [agencies that operate](#) large publicly owned treatment works (POTWs): the City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation's Hyperion [Treatment Plant in El Segundo](#), the City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation's Terminal Island [Facility in San Pedro](#), ~~the Joint Outfall System of~~ the Los Angeles County Sanitation District's [\(LACSD\) Joint Water Pollution Control Plant \(JWPCP\) in Carson](#), and the Orange County Sanitation District's [\(OCSD\) treatment plants in Huntington Beach and Fountain Valley](#). These ~~three~~ facilities handle more than 70 percent of the wastewater generated in the entire SCAG region (SCAG, 2010).

In addition to these large facilities, medium sized POTWs (greater than 10 mgd) and small treatment plants (less than 10 mgd) service smaller communities in Ventura County, southern Orange County, and in the inland regions. Many of these treatment systems recycle their effluent through local landscape irrigation and groundwater recharge projects. Other treatment systems discharge to local creeks on a seasonal basis, effectively matching the natural conditions of ephemeral and intermittent stream habitats (SCAG, 2012).

Many rural communities utilize individually owned and operated septic tanks rather than centralized treatment plants. The RWQCB generally delegates oversight of septic systems to local authorities. However, water discharge requirements are generally required for multiple-dwelling units and in areas where groundwater is used for drinking water. These water discharge requirements are only issued to properties greater than one acre and are not required for properties greater than five acres in size (SCAG, 2012).

TABLE 3.5-5
Wastewater Flow and Capacity in the SCAG Region

WASTEWATER AGENCY	CURRENT FLOW (MGD)	CAPACITY FLOW (MGD)
Los Angeles County		
Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts		
Joint Water Pollution Control Plant Outfall System	406.1	590.2
Lancaster Water Reclamation Plant	12.0	16.0
Palmdale Water Reclamation Plant	8.0	15.0
Santa Clarita Water Reclamation Plant	20.0	28.6
City of Los Angeles	554.5	580.0
Las Virgenes Municipal Water District	9.5	16.0
City of Burbank	9.0	9.0
Orange County		
Orange County Sanitation District	221.0	699.0
Irvine Ranch Water District	12.3	23.5
South Orange County Wastewater Authority	26.5	37.7
El Toto Water District	5.4	6.0
Riverside County		
Eastern Municipal Water District	37.3	59.0
City of Riverside	36.0	40.0
Coachella Valley Water District	18.0	31.0
San Bernardino County		
Inland Empire Utilities Agency	60.0	84.0
City of San Bernardino	25.5	33.0
Victor Valley Wastewater Reclamation Authority	12.5	14.5
City of Redlands	6.0	9.5
Ventura County		
City of Oxnard	22.5	31.7
City of Simi Valley	10.0	12.5
City of Thousand Oaks	10.5	14.0
City of Ventura	9.0	12.0
Camarillo Sanitation District	4.0	7.3
Total	1,535.6	2,369.5

Source: SCAG, 2012