

Appendix I: Public Services and Facilities Element Resources

I. Imported Water Sources

Colorado River Aqueduct

To alleviate some of the financial burden of importing water from the Colorado River, Los Angeles and several other cities formed the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California under the California Metropolitan Water District Act of 1927. The 242-mile long Colorado River Aqueduct carries a billion gallons (2,778 acre-feet) of water daily to Southern California. Los Angeles County relies on the Colorado River Aqueduct for some of its water supply.

California, along with a number of other states, shares water that is diverted from the Colorado River. Over the past few decades, California has been utilizing more than its allocation of 4.4 million acre-feet of water annually from the Colorado River. Water agencies throughout California, including the Metropolitan Water District, are implementing programs to reduce water drawn from this source to the initial allocation agreement, through water banking, conservation, and recycling.

State Water Project

Following World War II, the California Legislature approved the Burns-Porter Act, which commits the State to the development of a 440-mile aqueduct system that would bring rainwater and snowmelt from Northern California to Southern California. Since 1972, the State Water Project has delivered water to 29 water agencies along the route, including the Antelope Valley-East Kern Water Agency, Castaic Lake Water Agency, Metropolitan Water District, and the San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District. The delivery capacity of the State Water Project is currently 2.4 million acre-feet annually, of which water agencies in Los Angeles County are granted a portion, depending on their contract with the State and available supply.

II. Water Suppliers

There are several water suppliers that serve the unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County: The following section shows a partial list of these suppliers:

Antelope Valley-East Kern Water Agency

The Antelope Valley-East Kern Water Agency (AVEK) holds the third largest entitlement to water from the State Water Project; only the Metropolitan Water District and Kern Water Company have higher entitlements. AVEK's district boundaries extend 2400 square miles from the Antelope Valley in Los Angeles County and well into Kern County. Since 1953, AVEK has brought water to major consumers, including farmers and Edwards Air Force Base. AVEK imports 75,000 acre-feet of water into its district annually. However, demand for water in the Antelope Valley is higher than current delivery capacities.

Castaic Lake Water Agency

The Castaic Lake Water Agency (CLWA) monitors groundwater and provides imported water from the State Water Project to four retail water purveyors for distribution in the Santa Clarita Valley: the Los Angeles County Waterworks District 36, Newhall County Water District, Santa Clarita Water Company, and Valencia Water Company. These agencies collect and maintain data on precipitation, groundwater quality, consumption rates, and surface water delivery throughout the Santa Clarita Valley. The data serves as an indicator of overall water conditions, and is used to project available water supplies and prevent over-drafting of valley groundwater basins.

The Santa Clarita Valley extracts approximately 40 percent of its water supply from groundwater basins. Historically, water use in the Santa Clara Valley was predominantly agricultural. Today, urban development is the primary user, and irrigation demands are expected to continue to decline as the urban areas in the Santa Clarita Valley expand.

Littlerock Creek Irrigation District

The Littlerock Creek Irrigation District (LCID) is a public entity that was created in the late 1880s. LCID was instrumental, along with the Palmdale Water District, in constructing the Littlerock Dam. The completion of Littlerock Dam in 1924 made it possible to store water runoff from the Angeles National Forest.

Metropolitan Water District

The Metropolitan Water District (MWD) serves a vast area of California's southern coast region, from Oxnard to Mexico's border, and supplies water to most of the southern portion of Los Angeles County. It was created in 1928 to develop, store, and distribute water at wholesale rates to its member agencies, who in turn distribute the water to end users. Twenty-seven member agencies contract with MWD and together serve approximately 300 cities and unincorporated communities in Southern California.

The MWD is responsible for purchasing much of Southern California's water from the Colorado River and State Water Project to meet the region's growing demand. The MWD is Southern California's primary water wholesaler, supplying member cities and water districts with approximately two million acre-feet, or 650 billion gallons of water, annually. One acre-foot of water is equivalent to the amount of water covering an acre of land—about the size of a football field—one foot deep.

Palmdale Water District

The Palmdale Water District is one of the oldest water districts in the Antelope Valley. It began in the late 1800s as a water provider for agricultural irrigation. What started as a wooden trestle carrying creek water for farms is now an underground canal feeding Palmdale Lake with water from the Littlerock Dam. Much of this water supplies the expanding urban population in the Antelope Valley. In 1963, the Palmdale Water District began purchasing water from the State Water Project to supplement groundwater and water from Littlerock Dam.