



Fact Sheet: Southern California Living with Less ___

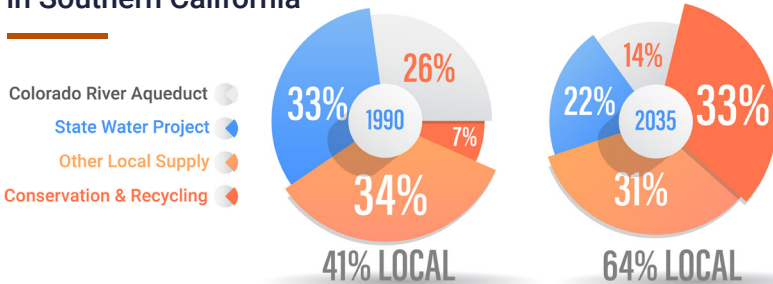
Reducing Reliance on the Colorado River.



Dwindling run-off and dropping reservoir levels exacerbated by climate change have made it clear: **everyone who relies on Colorado River water must do more to reduce their use**, both immediately and in the long-term.

Metropolitan has been preparing Southern California for this reality for decades. Together with our partners across the region, we've invested billions of dollars in projects and programs to lower consumer demands and develop alternative supplies. And more investments are on the horizon.

Building Local Supplies in Southern California



30 years ago, 60 percent of our water was imported from the Colorado River and Northern California. Through investments in conservation and local supplies, we plan to reduce that to about 36 percent by 2035.

Supporting the Basin

- California permanently cut its annual use of Colorado River water by 800,000 acre-feet starting in 2003, with agricultural and urban agencies conserving water to meet the needed reduction
- Metropolitan partnered with agricultural districts to save water by funding land fallowing, crop rotation, and irrigation improvements
- In addition to these permanent water-use reductions, Metropolitan has accumulated 1.2 million acre-feet of water stored in Lake Mead, boosting the reservoir's elevation by about 19 feet
- Metropolitan committed to contribute up to 325,000 acre-feet per year in Lake Mead under the Drought Contingency Plan if reservoir levels continue to drop
- Additionally, Metropolitan and the other California agencies that rely on Colorado River water have submitted proposals to Reclamation to save an additional 400,000 acre-feet of water in Lake Mead annually through 2026

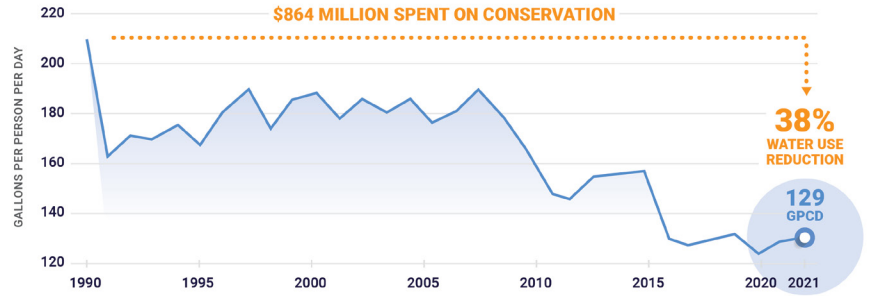
Lowering Demands

Across Southern California, we're building water efficiency into every aspect of our lives. In our homes, our businesses, our schools, our parks – we're finding ways to use less. Southern California's population has grown by 4 million since 1990, but our total water use has declined.

That sustained conservation is thanks, in part, to investments in water efficiency made by Metropolitan over those same three decades.

More than \$860 million in conservation programs has saved 3.5 million acre-feet of water. And those investments continue – Metropolitan has committed \$43 million to our water efficiency programs this year alone.

Decline in Per Person Potable Water Use 1990-2020



Efficient Indoor Use

Southern California is on its way to meeting future state target limiting residential indoor water use to 47 gallons per person per day by 2025.



Changing the Landscape of Southern California

With about half of all Southern California water used outdoors, Metropolitan has invested hundreds of millions of dollars to replace thirsty grass with more water-efficient landscaping. By providing residents and businesses a rebate of \$2 per square foot of grass removed, we're inspiring big water savings and helping Southern California change the way we view our landscape.

- More than 200 million square feet of grass removed
- Enough water saved to serve 62,000 homes annually
- For every 100 lawns converted using a rebate, 132 other nearby lawns converted without a rebate
- Rebate applications surged five-fold this summer compared to last year

Building New Supplies

As Southern California's regional water planner, Metropolitan has long recognized the need to diversify the region's water supplies. Since 1990, we have invested more than \$720 million in recycled water and groundwater recovery projects across Southern California. And our member agencies have spent billions more.

Now we are taking that investment to the next level, developing what will be one of the world's largest water recycling facilities: Pure Water Southern California.

Collectively these projects are driving a paradigm shift at Metropolitan, away from imported water supplies and toward locally produced water. In the 1990s, roughly 60 percent of Southern California's water came from the Colorado River and Northern California. We are working to reduce reliance on imports to roughly 35 percent by 2035.



A New Era of Recycled Water

Water in Southern California is far too precious to use just once. That understanding is inspiring a new generation of large-scale recycled water projects in the region. Using proven technology to purify cleaned wastewater that would otherwise be discharged into the ocean produces a new, drought-proof supply of high-quality water for Southern California.

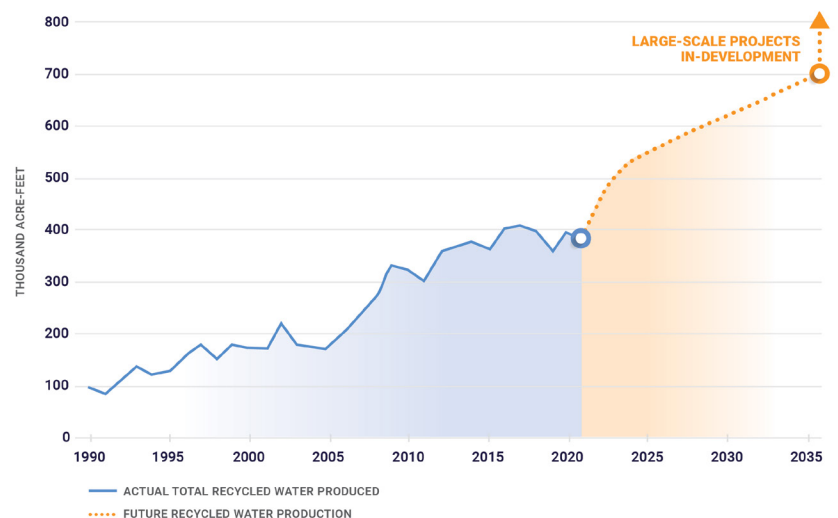
Metropolitan's Pure Water Southern California

- 150 million gallons of water a day
- Enough water for 500,000 homes
- First phase could come online in 2028
- Arizona and Nevada partnering with Metropolitan on project planning, which could lead to long-term partnership that, through exchange agreement, could reduce reliance on Colorado River

Additional large-scale recycled water projects on Southern California's horizon:

- Pure Water San Diego: 30 million gallons/day under construction; 53 mgd in future phase
- Orange County's Groundwater Replenishment System: Expanding from 100 mgd to 130 mgd
- Los Angeles' Operation Next (Hyperion): 207 mgd

Growth in Recycled Water in Southern California Based on Projects in 2020 Urban Water Management Plan



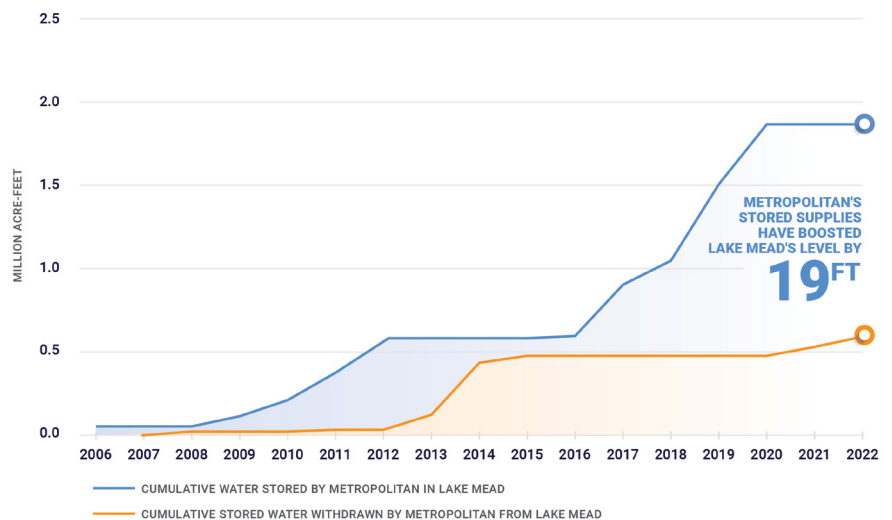


Supporting Basin with Storage and Cuts

Metropolitan has had to manage through large-scale cuts to its Colorado River supply before, and quickly. In 2003, California lost access to 800,000 acre-feet of surplus water almost overnight, after Arizona and Nevada began using their full apportionment along with drought conditions which compelled California to cut back. While it was an enormous challenge, having to achieve those cuts launched California into a new era of collaboration between agricultural and urban water agencies. Metropolitan has since forged partnerships with farmers, funding land fallowing, crop rotation programs, and irrigation improvements. The water saved through these programs is made available to Metropolitan, providing us greater flexibility to plan and withstand times of shortage.

These programs, along with Southern California’s increased water efficiency and Metropolitan’s investments in system flexibility, have allowed Metropolitan to store a record amount of water in Lake Mead – with current storage levels amounting to 1.2 million acre-feet. That stored water has helped significantly boost Lake Mead’s level since 2016, helping stave off a shortage declaration until 2021.

Metropolitan Lake Mead Storage vs. Withdrawals



Drought Contingency Plan

Metropolitan committed to contribute up to **325,000 acre-feet** in Lake Mead per year if Lake Mead levels continue to decline.



About Metropolitan

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California is a state-established cooperative of 26 member agencies – cities and public water agencies – that serve 19 million people in six counties. Metropolitan imports water from the Colorado River and Northern California to supplement local supplies and helps its members develop increased water conservation, recycling, storage and other resource management programs.

