



Fact Sheet

Southern California Needs Governor Schwarzenegger's Water Plan

On July 23, 2007, Governor Schwarzenegger toured the Long Beach Aquifer Storage and Recovery Project to highlight the threats Southern California is facing as a result of drought conditions throughout the region. The Governor called for passage of his \$5.9 billion comprehensive water plan.

This is the driest year Los Angeles and Long Beach history.

- This year Los Angeles received a record low rainfall of about 3 inches. Long Beach got just 2 inches.
- Last month Mayor Villaraigosa and the Metropolitan Water District called on residents to cut their water use by 10 percent. The Long Beach Water Department has also called for greater conservation.
- As a result of the water crisis and other factors, residents are seeing their water bills go up. Long Beach residents are seeing a 5.5 percent jump.

Communities throughout the state are coping with drought conditions by curbing water use. The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, which provides water to 18 million people from Ventura County in the north to San Diego County in the south, is calling for users to reduce water consumption.

- In June, Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa asked residents to reduce their personal water use by 10 percent. The Long Beach Water Department has called for greater conservation and is raising rates 5 ½ percent because of the water shortage.
- The Governor has proclaimed a State of Emergency in both Kings and Riverside Counties due to the drought.

Southern California relies on imported water for more than 60 percent of its drinking and agricultural supplies.

- Between 2000 and 2006, the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California got 36 percent of its total supplies from the Delta.
- Over the same period, Southern California got 20 percent of its supplies from the Colorado River. The Colorado River Basin is in its eight consecutive year of drought conditions.
 - An additional 7 percent of the region's water was imported via the Los Angeles Aqueduct.

The Governor's comprehensive water plan secures and expands Southern California's water supplies by:

- Providing water for up to 1 million homes. The population of Los Angeles County is expected to increase by 3 million people by 2050. The plan invests \$4.5 billion for new surface and groundwater storage facilities, which will let California capture more water from storms and snow run-off, so that cities and farmers don't run low during dry spells.
- Strengthening Southern California's most important water source. The plan invests \$1 billion to strengthen the Delta, including development of a new conveyance system. Southern California relies on the Delta for 36 percent of its drinking water.
- Helping Southern California communities conserve. The Governor's plan invests \$450 million for conservation and restoration. Water conservation has helped Southern California slow the demand for water even as its population grows. More is needed.