Through bold action, innovation and significant investment, Southern California has dramatically reduced its dependence on imported water and increased the reliability of its local supplies. By incorporating new strategies, imports from the State Water Project have reduced while local water supplies have increased by way of recycled water, groundwater basin management, groundwater contamination clean-up, desalination, stormwater capture, water use efficiency, and increased water storage. These local supply projects, anchored by a Delta Conveyance solution, ensure resiliency in the years ahead.

Recycled Water Investments

From 1987 to 2015 Southern California increased its recycled water use 4x

While the rest of California doubled its use

Southern California will continue to lead the way...

94.5% of future recycled water investments will be made in Southern California.

Our Changing Water Supplies

Supporting a Growing Population and Economy Through Water Conservation

The Unique Problems Facing California

The state of California faces a unique set of problems in securing safe and reliable water supplies, such as drought, increasing climate variability and limited local supplies. Challenges in maintaining healthy surface and groundwater resources such as legacy contaminants, stormwater pollutants and saltwater intrusion present obstacles in maintaining existing supplies.
Leading the Way

The accomplishments of SCWC founding members, leaders in Southern California’s water supply resilience, include:

- **Metropolitan Water District of Southern California**: Invested $43 million+ in conservation, recycling and groundwater recovery programs in Fiscal Year 2020 and $1.5 billion since 1990.
- **County of San Bernardino**: The county meets about 15% of its water demand from recycled water.
- **Inland Empire Utilities Agency**: Annually recharges 21 to 27 billion gallons of water via stormwater, imported water and recycled water.
- **Irvine Ranch Water District**: Began recycling water in 1967. Today it meets a quarter of its water needs with recycled water.
- **Los Angeles County Public Works**: 20 billion gallons of stormwater captured in 2019-20. Through Measure W, 41 new stormwater infrastructure projects were funded last year with more to come.
- **Los Angeles Department of Water & Power**: Has one of the lowest per-capita water use rates in the state, at 105 gallons per person per day.
- **Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District**: Has been recharging groundwater since the 1960s through multi-use facilities such as Don Lorenzi Park.
- **West Basin Municipal Water District**: Has produced more than 200 billion gallons of recycled water since 1995.
- **Water Replenishment District of Southern California** completed its Water Independent Now Initiative, a 15-year effort to make WRD completely independent of imported water for groundwater replenishment.

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1 Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, “Update on 2020 Integrated Resources Plan Process” presentation, February 25, 2020
2 “California Water Plan: Table 1-5 Regional Applied Water Use in 2014”