

Annual Report



One Region, One Voice

Toward a Resilient Water Supply for Southern California



Letter From the Executive Director



When you bring together hundreds of Southern California's best and brightest from government, agriculture, business, nonprofits and more to work on water issues, great things happen. Annual reports like this one invite SCWC members — and those considering joining us — to look back at our collective accomplishments in 2018 and consider all we can do in the coming year.

Together, we have made significant contributions to the state's water future by educating about and advocating for California WaterFix, two water bond ballot measures, and dozens of local water supply projects promoting stormwater capture, water use efficiency, and groundwater management. As the unifying voice for Southern Californians interested in water supply reliability, we advanced an "all-of-the-above" strategy for the 21st century — one that develops every source of California water.

By the Numbers

300
Supporters
of California
WaterFix

2
White Papers
Published

4
Quarterly
Events

1
Stormwater
Workshop

This report highlights our accomplishments, but here are a few I'm most proud of:

- Continued our impactful WaterNext campaign, garnering a powerful coalition of 300 supporters (and growing) for California WaterFix and educating Californians on the importance of this critical infrastructure project.
- Examined stormwater projects through a workshop and a first-of-its-kind white paper demonstrating costs and benefits from real-world projects, based on data not projections.
- Advocated for and celebrated the passage of Proposition 68, the \$4.1 billion water bond, alongside the coalition of labor, business and environmental interests.
- Published a white paper with recommendations to meet new mandates on outdoor water use efficiency and conservation with a changing environment.

Truly, our success is collaborative and shared by our board members, task force participants and small team of staff and consultants. And though our notable achievements do not belong to any one person or group, SCWC has greatly benefitted from having strong leadership steering the course for our organization.

At our Annual Dinner in October, we gave our special thanks to retiring Riverside County Supervisor Marion Ashley, who stepped down as chair of the SCWC Board of Trustees after four years of service. His leadership often stretched beyond Riverside County and the water community at large, and we are most grateful for his wisdom, vision and community service, which will have a positive impact on generations of Southern Californians.

New leadership stood ready to take the helm, as we welcomed Kathy Tieg from Cucamonga Valley Water District as SCWC's new chair. An esteemed member of the water community, she undoubtedly will lead SCWC forward in its mission of public education and advocacy around existing and emerging water issues. Additional leadership changes are found on page 8 of this report.

Looking ahead this year, know this: complacent we are not. California's water challenges continue to loom large and our work must continue and evolve to meet them. I'm honored to lead this organization, knowing progress and opportunity lie ahead.

Charles Wilson
Executive Director

ABOUT Southern California Water Coalition

Since 1984, SCWC has successfully brought together a diverse group of stakeholders from across our region to serve as a singular voice for the one resource we cannot live without: water. Through education and advocacy, our nonprofit and nonpartisan organization motivates action and drives consensus around our region's water supply.

MEMBERSHIP BY THE NUMBERS



Serving a Region of 23,800,000 People¹



Join Us

Everyone in Southern California has a stake in the future of California's water supply. By joining the conversation and offering your support, you're ensuring that your voice is heard and is among the full range

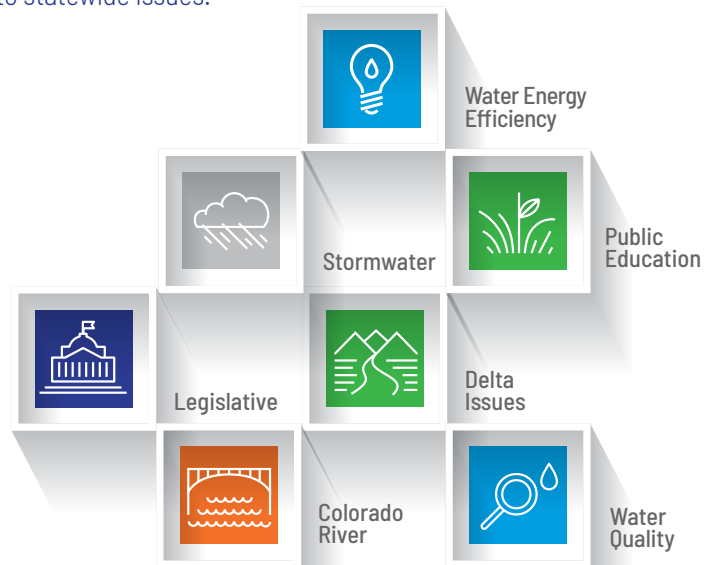
of perspectives represented when critical water infrastructure decisions are being made locally and statewide.

Membership also confers great benefits:

- Share insights, gain knowledge and shape solutions on issues like stormwater, the water-energy nexus and more by joining our task forces.
- Learn and collaborate with experts and stakeholders at our workshops and events.
- Network with water industry leaders at premier regionwide events.
- Tap into policy analysis, outreach and advocacy on issues you care about.

Issue Task Forces

SCWC contributes ideas, resources and viable strategies to statewide issues.



¹ State of California, Department of Finance, E-1 Population Estimates for Cities, Counties and the State with Annual Percent Change – January 1, 2017 and 2018. Sacramento, California, May 2018.

² Ibid.



WaterFix: A VITAL PROJECT ON THE PATH TO CONSTRUCTION

WaterNext: An Education and Outreach Program Supporting California WaterFix



Water reliability tops the list of water policy priorities for Southern California and the entire state – and the best solution is California WaterFix. The \$16.8 billion twin tunnels project is California’s single-most important water infrastructure project to ensure a reliable water supply since the construction of the State Water Project. That’s why SCWC launched an integrated education and outreach program with the goal of serving as a credible, trusted voice for the project regionally and statewide, while simultaneously building and empowering a powerful coalition to push for the timely implementation of this critical project.

Our program, called WaterNext, is driving a fact-based dialogue about the needs and benefits of WaterFix, leveraging a coalition to elevate the conversation surrounding the project and mounting a steady dialogue of support. By utilizing owned, social/digital and earned media channels, we are mobilizing our coalition and producing compelling content that reaches target audiences at key inflection points in the public conversation.

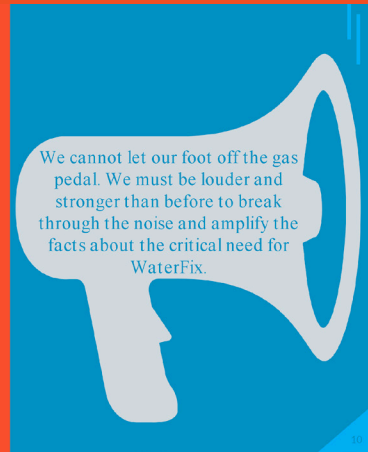
For more information, visit socalwater.org/waternext.



What Can You Do to Help?

- Like Us on Social
- Share Our Content
- Activate your Members
- Issue a Press Release
- Send a Comment Letter

We cannot let our foot off the gas pedal. We must be louder and stronger than before to break through the noise and amplify the facts about the critical need for WaterFix.



WHY WATERFIX

THE DELIVERY SYSTEM IS OLD, VULNERABLE AND IN DESPERATE NEED OF IMPROVEMENT

CA's Backbone Water Supply
30 to 80%
COMES FROM
SIERRA NEVADA
snowmelt via critical
State Water Project
infrastructure

Essential to CA
27 MILLION
CALIFORNIANS
750,000 acres
of farmland
5th largest
economy in the world



Imagine
relying on
100
YEAR-OLD
water infrastructure



In 2018, the program had several key accomplishments:

1 Played a critical role in assuring elected and appointed officials had the information they needed to make an informed choice on WaterFix.

2 Represented strong regional and statewide support by organizing a coalition letter and testimony for the May 2018 Joint Legislative Committee hearing on WaterFix.

3 Developed a SCWC WaterFix Coalition Toolkit to provide coalition members with activation resources and support.

4 Produced coalition letters and coordinated testimony in support of WaterFix for key public proceedings, including legislative hearings on the State Water Project Contract Extension in September 2018 and Delta Stewardship Council hearings related to the Delta Plan Consistency Determination in October 2018.

5 Outreached to Governor-Elect Gavin Newsom and his transition team of Ambassadors following his election to office with a coalition letter extending our congratulations and offering our assistance in determining priorities for the state's water resources and needs.

6 Created a suite of compelling collateral materials for education and outreach to key stakeholders, and distributed them through owned and social/digital communication channels.

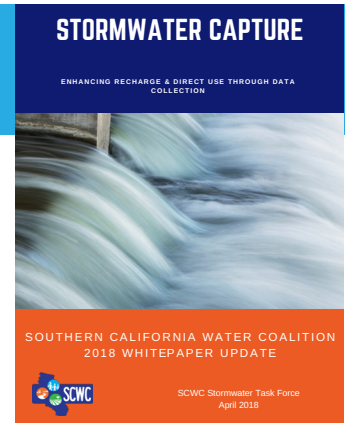
7 Compiling, aggregating and vetting a SCWC WaterFix Supporters list from publicly accessible information, including testimony, comment letters/emails, coalition letters, opinion editorials, blogs and commentary and other advocacy-oriented websites and coalitions. The list features more than 300 of California's most respected statewide and regional organizations, representing business, labor, water, local government, public safety, ethnic/multi-cultural and agriculture constituencies.

DRIVING CONSENSUS

Stormwater Capture: A SCWC White Paper

In April, SCWC released a first-of-its-kind white paper assessing the cost and performance of current stormwater capture projects across Southern California. Produced by SCWC's Stormwater Task Force, the paper titled *Stormwater Capture: Enhancing Recharge and Direct Use Through Data Collection* offered analysis of data from six different water agencies on 32 active projects to determine each project's cost per acre-foot of captured stormwater.

This was the first time such analysis had been done using actual costs (including operation and maintenance) instead of relying on future projections, as well as the first time such data had been presented in aggregate.



Read *Stormwater Capture: Enhancing Recharge and Direct Use Through Data Collection*

KEY FINDINGS

13,400 acre-feet/year
Average Stormwater Captured
(WY 2006-16 | From 32 Projects)

10.0"
Average Rainfall
(WY 2006-16 Below Long-term Average of 15.2")

\$132 million
Total Construction Cost
(In 2017 dollars)

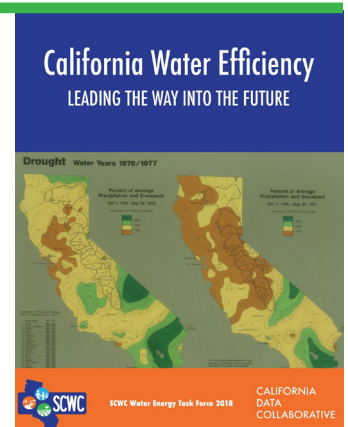
Retrofit > \$600/AF
New Centralized > \$6,900/AF
Distributed > \$25,000/AF
Median Unit Stormwater Cost
(In 2017 dollars)

Water Use Efficiency: A SCWC and California Data Collaborative White Paper

In September, SCWC and the California Data Collaborative released a white paper offering recommendations for meeting new mandates on outdoor water use and conservation while accounting for the increasing impacts of climate change. The paper, titled *California Water Efficiency: Leading the Way Into the Future*, provides a roadmap for how water agencies and others can support and encourage responsible water management.

Developed by experts from SCWC's Water Energy Efficiency Task Force, findings included:

- Promoting customer education and incentives are critical to achieve the opportunity in urban outdoor usage.
- Cooperative purchasing for aerial imagery and other technology is needed to leverage shared resources.
- Quantifying carbon and energy embedded in outdoor water use is a path for unlocking new conservation funding.
- Best in class tools and new technology are required to support water managers in achieving their goals.



Read *California Water Efficiency: Leading the Way Into the Future*

AT THE BALLOT BOX



SCWC urged “Yes” votes on two statewide propositions in 2018. Propositions 68 and 3 were bond measures addressing California’s most pressing water, natural resource, and infrastructure needs. While SCWC celebrated passage of Proposition 68 in June alongside the coalition of labor, business and environmental interests, voters delivered a defeat to Proposition 3 in November despite broad support from water agencies and others.

The mixed results remind us that work must continue. Funding like this is sorely needed for water quality, infrastructure, and supply reliability and we’ll continue to spark conversation, advocate for solutions and keep water issues top of mind among Californians.



SCWC Executive Director Charley Wilson speaking alongside City of Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti in support of Yes on 68 California at a May 2018 rally.

IN THE NEWS

Desert Sun. PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

Preparing for California’s unpredictable water future

“Our new climate reality is one of volatile swings, alternating from drought conditions in one year to flooded basins the following. For our state’s water managers, it’s a bit like riding Mr. Toad’s Wild Ride. We zig and then we zag through the extreme weather cycles.”

By Charley Wilson
Jan. 21, 2018

[READ MORE](#)

LOS ANGELES BUSINESS JOURNAL

Call for Compliance Via Consolidation on Water

“...the 5th largest economy in the world has nearly one million residents who are unable to drink a glass of water from their tap. It’s a scary reality that’s practically unheard of in Southern California. And what makes this issue especially troubling is the fact that many of the more than 320 chronically non-compliant systems are located in rural, isolated communities and lack the resources necessary to invest in system improvements to deliver safe water.”

By Charles Wilson and Danielle Blacet
July 3, 2018

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Water Reliability for Southern California is Right in Front of Us with the California WaterFix

“For the first time in a generation we have a clear path to improve our water delivery system for generations to come. The right choice is clear...It is time to advance WaterFix.”

By Charles Wilson
April 7, 2018

[READ MORE](#)



The Twin Tunnels are Best Water Fix for California

“California WaterFix is the necessary and responsible investment in the state’s water future...One thing’s for sure: there is no future without water.”

By Charles Wilson, Tracy Hernandez and John Hakel
August 18, 2018

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Leading the Conversation

ANNUAL MEETING AND DINNER

Our 34th annual meeting and dinner on Oct. 25 in Long Beach drew 350-plus of the region's most respected leaders in water for a celebration of the year's accomplishments and a look forward at what is to come for 2019.

A few leadership changes happened at that Board meeting as well. We welcomed Kathy Tieggs as new chair of our Board of Directors, taking over from Riverside County Supervisor Marion Ashley who stepped down. Brian Jordan of Tetra Tech will replace Tieggs as vice chair. In 2019, Rich Nagel of Jacobs Engineering will co-chair the Stormwater Task Force along with Adel Hagekhalil of the City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation and Dan Lafferty of Los Angeles County Department of Public Works.



Kathleen Tieggs
SCWC Board Chair



Brian Jordan
SCWC Board Vice Chair



Adel Hagekhalil



Dan Lafferty



Rich Nagel

| Co-chairs, Stormwater Task Force |

California Department of Water Resources Director Karla Nemeth spoke to SCWC's Board of Directors at its annual meeting just prior to the dinner. On the docket: California WaterFix, streamlining permitting processes, and voluntary settlement agreements related to the Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary.

John Myers, Los Angeles Times Sacramento bureau chief, delivered an insider's look at the November 2018 midterm elections at the SCWC Annual Dinner.

SCWC's 2018 Harriet Wieder Award went to Karla Nemeth, director of the California Department of Water Resources, for her role in the critical policies and innovative solutions shaping our water future. The award, a block of wood, symbolizes the words of Orange County Supervisor Wieder, a founder of SCWC, who used to say sometimes you have to hit someone with a 2x4 to get people's attention and drive change.



Events and Workshops



2018 Stormwater Workshop

On Sept. 27, water experts gathered to share innovations at a workshop hosted by SCWC on stormwater project implementation and advancing public-private partnerships. At Metropolitan Water District's offices in downtown Los Angeles, attendees heard from SCWC Stormwater Task Force co-chairs Angela George-Moody and Adel Hagekhalil as well as experts from LA Sanitation, Trust for Public Land, Pacoima Beautiful, Geosyntec, Corvias, Water Replenishment District of Southern California and Downey Brand. State Senator Robert Hertzberg gave the luncheon keynote address, underscoring the importance of stormwater capture as one element in the region's water supply reliability.



(L to R) Charley Wilson, SCWC executive director; State Senator Robert Hertzberg; Ghina Yamout, Alta Environmental; Adel Hagekhalil, LA Sanitation; Richard Atwater, SCWC senior advisor; Wing Tam, LA Sanitation; Matthew Hacker, Metropolitan Water District.

2018 QUARTERLY LUNCHEONS

SCWC's quarterly luncheons are a thriving hub for engagement offering expert analysis and commentary on the state's evolving water challenges. These events offer perspectives on everything water from local projects to national water policy, with the added bonus of exceptional networking opportunities for attendees.

Q1



(L to R) SWRCB Executive Director Eileen Sobeck and SCWC Executive Director Charley Wilson.

Q2

(L to R) Adel Hagekhalil, Angela George-Moody, Rich Atwater, Robb Whitaker, Michael Lewis.



Water rights, water quality, cannabis regulation, snowpack, California WaterFix and post-fire water safety: Eileen Sobeck, executive director of California's State Water Resources Control Board, touched on each in her wide-ranging keynote address at SCWC's January 19 luncheon at the Victoria Club in Riverside.

Q3



Bruce Wilcox, assistant secretary for Salton Sea policy at the California Department of Natural Resources: "We're now at a point where we have a common vision and we can move forward with that vision."

Participants took a figurative "deep dive" into stormwater at SCWC's April 20 luncheon at the SCE Energy Education Center in Irwindale. SCWC Board member Rich Atwater moderated a panel including Angela George-Moody of Los Angeles County Department of Public Works, Michael Lewis of the Construction Industry Coalition on Water Quality, Adel Hagekhalil of LA Sanitation and Robb Whitaker of Water Replenishment District of Southern California.

The long and storied history of the Salton Sea and the Colorado River took center stage at SCWC's July 20 luncheon in Cabazon at the Morongo Casino Convention Center. Rich Atwater moderated a panel including Tom Davis of Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians, Patrick O'Dowd of Salton Sea Authority, Bill Hasencamp from MWD and Bruce Wilcox from California Natural Resources Agency on how a path forward for the lake is taking shape thanks to funding and new efforts.



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