



Achieving Our Countywide Vision

San Bernardino County Countywide Water Inventory

Executive Summary

September 5, 2012

During the past two years, the Countywide Vision Project has convened a cross section of stakeholders to discuss major regional issues and needs specific to elements of a complete community, and how those needs could be addressed through collaboration and collective community action. Leaders from public and private water agencies, regulators, planners, education and business formed the Countywide Vision Water Element group in January 2012 and have been meeting regularly to discuss the challenges faced by the county community as it strives to meet the water needs of an ever-growing region.

The Water Element Group recognized the need for a high-level, comprehensive look at countywide water management. With participation from water agencies throughout the County, the Water Element Group prepared an inventory of current and planned water needs and available water resources. The inventory found that more than enough water will exist to meet the needs of San Bernardino County residents and businesses through 2035 only if water users step-up conservation efforts and the public and local government leaders are willing to invest in projects that will store and protect additional water supplies.

The water inventory was prepared by compiling data from regional and retail water providers' Urban Water Management Plans (UWMPs) and Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority's (SAWPA) One Water One Watershed (OWOW) plan. Data included in the inventory was provided by the following agencies:

- 29 Palms Water District
- City of Big Bear Lake DWP
- Crestline-Lake Arrowhead Water Agency
- Inland Empire Utilities Agency
- San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District
- Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority
- Mojave Water Agency

The combined service areas covered by these UWMPs represent approximately 2.02 million people, or 98% of the County's population. Population identified in the UWMPs was projected to grow from 2.02 million in 2010 to 2.92 million by 2035.

In a normal year, the county's water supplies come primarily from groundwater (56%), imported water from the State Water Project (24%), recycled water (11%) and surface water (9%). Combined Urban and Agricultural water uses within the county total 694,000 acre-feet per year (afy) and average annual water supplies total 795,000 afy. Water demands are projected to increase to 826,000 afy by 2035 and

supplies to increase to 1,040,000 afy. The supply projection assumes substantial investment in new water supplies. A significant portion of the new water supplies from now until 2035 will come from increased use of recycled water.

Per-capita water demand is projected to decrease from 260 gallons per capita per day (gpcd) in 2015 to 240 gpcd by 2035 as we move toward achieving the state's goal of a 20% reduction in per-capita water use by the year 2020. During droughts, water supplies available from surface water and imported water are reduced and the county depends more on groundwater supplies to sustain water needs.

Although we are in a good position to meet the future water needs of the county as a whole, individual regions and water providers within the county may have specific challenges and opportunities. Therefore, a diversified portfolio of water management both on the supply side and the demand side will be needed to secure our water resources at the county level. We hope to accomplish this through a whole systems approach by collaborating with related and seemingly unrelated groups that have both short term and long term effects on our water supplies and demands. Both the securing of supplies and the conservation of water will continue to play a role in water management. Not only do we hope to work collaboratively, but we hope to also share both the costs and benefits of these strategies as we pursue these collaborative measures to achieve our goals as San Bernardino County grows.

The County Vision Water Element group will use the information contained in the inventory to promote partnerships among water agencies and other stakeholders within the county, improve water management and efficiency, protect and conserve water resources, and identify the most important next steps the group should take to further these goals.