



San Bernardino County Countywide Water Inventory Executive Summary August 10, 2018

REGIONAL, INTEGRATED, STRATEGIC PLANNING

In January 2012, leaders representing public and private water agencies, regulators, planners, education, and business began working together as the Countywide Vision Water Element Group to develop a long-range plan to ensure water sustainability for San Bernardino County's future. The effort marked the first time that San Bernardino County endeavored to address its water needs in a comprehensive, collaborative environment that incorporated multiple watersheds. The initial product was a countywide water inventory – a comprehensive survey of current and future water needs based on available water resources and planned projects – presented at the 2012 San Bernardino County Water Conference.

WATER INVENTORY UPDATE

In 2018, the Water Element Group revisited the countywide water inventory, evaluating updated data and projections. They found that adequate water will be available to sustainably meet the needs of San Bernardino County residents and businesses through 2040 only if water users continue to improve water use efficiency efforts and the public; state; regional and local government leaders; and developers are willing to collaborate and invest in projects that will store, reuse, protect and convey water supplies.

The water inventory was prepared by compiling data and projections from regional and retail water providers' 2015 Urban Water Management Plans (UWMPs). 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
- Mojave Water Agency



On average, the county's water supplies come from local precipitation (59%), imported water from the State Water Project (26%) and recycled water (15%). In 2020, water supplies are projected to be about 775,000 acre-feet per year (afy), increasing to about 819,000 afy by 2040. The 2040 supply projection assumes substantial investment in enhancements to the State Water Project, stormwater capture and recycled water. 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.

The combined service areas covered by these UWMPs represent approximately 98% of the County's population. The population within the service areas is projected to grow from 2.18 million in 2020 to 2.78 million by 2040 while the combined Urban and Agricultural water demand within the county is expected to increase at a much slower pace – from a total of about 600,000 afy in 2020 to about 700,000 afy in 2040. Per-capita water demand (total water use divided by population) is projected to decrease about 8% during the same period as more residents and businesses make conservation a way of life. Enacted in May 2018, Senate Bill 606 (Senator Hertzberg) and Assembly Bill 1668 (Assemblymember Friedman) established guidelines for efficient water use, including the establishment of an indoor, per person water use goal of 55 gallons per day until 2025, 52.5 gallons from 2025 to 2030 and 50 gallons beginning in 2030.

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 efficient use 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 continue to 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 embrace the environment in which we live.