

LA COUNTY WATER PLAN

LOS ANGELES COUNTY WATER PLAN

Our Route to Water Supply Resilience

July 2023 | Draft

equity
sustainability
opportunity
local
water
resources
collaboration
relationships
regional
resilience



LA COUNTY WATER PLAN EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

OUR ROUTE TO RESILIENCE, TOGETHER

Climate change is establishing a “new normal” of more frequent and intense droughts, coupled with less frequent but more torrential rains. Recognizing this new climate reality and the need to be thoughtful stewards of future water supplies, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors envisioned the development of a countywide water plan focused on collaborative management of Los Angeles County’s water resources. Los Angeles County Public Works (Public Works) developed this Los Angeles County Water Plan (CWP), together with water resources organizations and an array of diverse stakeholders, to secure Los Angeles County’s water future and achieve our collective vision of equitable and sustainable water resources for everyone. The CWP builds upon the Infrastructure LA initiative, establishing the path to realizing our vision that is rooted in cross-sector collaboration and coalition building.

VISION

The CWP articulates a shared, inclusive, regional path forward to sustainably achieve safe, clean, and reliable water resources for Los Angeles County.

SHARED OPPORTUNITIES FOR WATER RESILIENCE

THE CWP FOCUSES ON ACHIEVING REGIONAL WATER RESILIENCE THROUGH COLLABORATIVE STRATEGIES.

Over 200 agencies in Los Angeles County manage a complex network of water systems to meet the needs of our communities and environment. To achieve sustainability and resilience, cross-sector teamwork and a holistic approach to best leverage natural systems and infrastructure are essential. The CWP is a living document. The Targets, Strategies, and Actions are a starting point in this effort.

It is not intended to address every water-related issue in Los Angeles County. Instead, it builds upon and complements the many existing local and regional water planning efforts by focusing on four key focal areas where new or additional regional collaboration can add value. These four key focal areas were established through a gaps analysis, which included a review of local and regional planning documents, along with initial stakeholder discussions encompassing a variety of perspectives. For each of the four key focal areas, the CWP describes shared desired outcomes, identified by Public Works through discussions with numerous groups and individuals. The CWP provides an approach for achieving these desired outcomes through collaboration and a platform for measuring progress.

CWP Four Key Focal Areas



REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY RELIABILITY

Improving regional water supply reliability by better leveraging our collective local and imported water resources and infrastructure.



GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT AND QUALITY

Realizing our shared groundwater management opportunities by sharing expertise and resources to overcome challenges.



SMALL, AT-RISK SYSTEM RESILIENCE AND DRINKING WATER EQUITY

Ensuring a consistently high standard of water service for everyone in Los Angeles County by providing regional support for small systems, with focused attention to underserved communities.



WATERSHED SEDIMENT MANAGEMENT

Mitigating the impacts of wildfire on our water supplies through coordinated efforts between land and water managers.

REGIONAL STRATEGIES, REGIONAL BENEFITS

The CWP is organized around a framework of targets and strategies, which are supported by specific actions. Targets measure collective progress toward the shared desired outcomes for the key focal areas of the CWP. These targets are intended to help Los Angeles County achieve regional water resilience by 2045. See Chapter 2 for more on targets. We will publish an interactive dashboard to track progress toward these targets. Strategies provide the overarching approaches to achieving the targets. Actions support the strategies and include specific steps to drive results, along with timing, and responsible agencies.

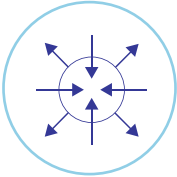
Strategies for a Resilient Water Future



STRATEGY 1
Achieving the most efficient water use possible countywide



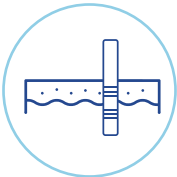
STRATEGY 2
Collaborating on consistent drought preparedness and response messaging



STRATEGY 3
Coupling local supply development with regional conveyance



STRATEGY 4
Managing salt and concentrate regionally



STRATEGY 5
Leveraging regional groundwater storage potential



STRATEGY 6
Collaborating on water quality needs and treatment technologies



STRATEGY 7
Enhancing cost-effectiveness of pumping and treating impaired groundwater



STRATEGY 8
Protecting coastal groundwater basins from seawater intrusion



STRATEGY 9
Facilitating regional groundwater recharge understanding and initiatives



STRATEGY 10
Facilitating natural infiltration of precipitation



STRATEGY 11
Providing regional support for small, at-risk water systems



STRATEGY 12
Mitigating wildfire effects on water supply and quality



STRATEGY 13
Managing invasive species in riparian areas



STRATEGY 14
Facilitating sediment management and debris removal from flood control facilities

VALUES GUIDING FUTURE ACTION

At the onset of CWP development, Public Works proactively reached out to a diverse group of stakeholders to understand what matters to them. We identified several broad, overarching values for the CWP through these conversations. Some of these values provided core tenets to our overall process for preparing the CWP. Others guided us in establishing targets, strategies, and actions. Other values, while not directly addressed through the actions in the CWP, will continue to inform how water resource management is approached. Each of these values will guide future iterations of the plan, as well as steps taken throughout CWP implementation.

These values are aligned with LA County's Anti-Racism, Diversity, and Inclusion (ARDI) Initiative, which aims to guide the County by offering training and capacity building, technical assistance and planning, policy analysis and development, data collection, analysis and reporting, community and stakeholder engagement, and equity infused resourcing and programming to help reach its goals.

CWP VALUES

- Consider equitable benefits and impacts of water resource management decisions
- Ensure inclusive, diverse, multigenerational, and sustained community engagement
- Use data to inform policies, priorities, and practices
- Encourage multi-benefit projects and green infrastructure
- Integrate vegetated and nature-based solutions
- Promote capacity building of a local skilled workforce
- Incorporate tribal knowledge into water management
- Ensure CWP is actionable and adaptable
- Address climate resiliency
- Establish clear communications—outline priorities, listen, incorporate feedback, maintain dialogue



The CWP aims for sound stewardship of all watersheds and groundwater basins that uplifts all communities. The CWP outlines a path to achieve a resilient water future for all Los Angeles County residents. Everyone has a role in successfully realizing the CWP. By working across County departments and with other partners, actively engaging stakeholders, seeking funding to support CWP implementation, and tracking and reporting on progress, we are committed to facilitating the ongoing collaboration that is core to making the CWP successful.



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LACountyWaterPlan.org

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