



San Diego County
Water Authority



Re-Imagining Water Resiliency – The San Diego Story

September 16, 2024

Water Resources Research Center
The University of Arizona

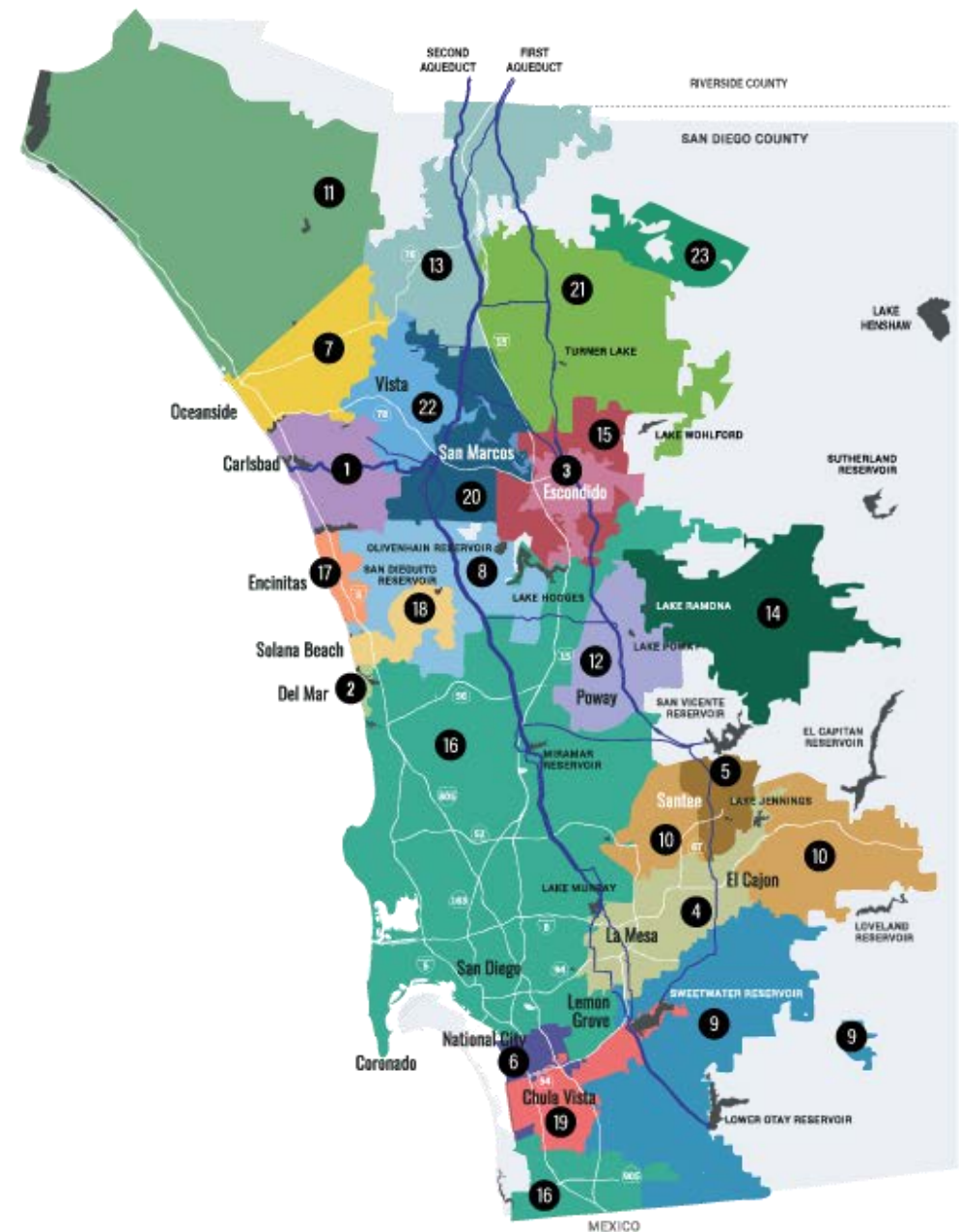
Dan Denham
General Manager



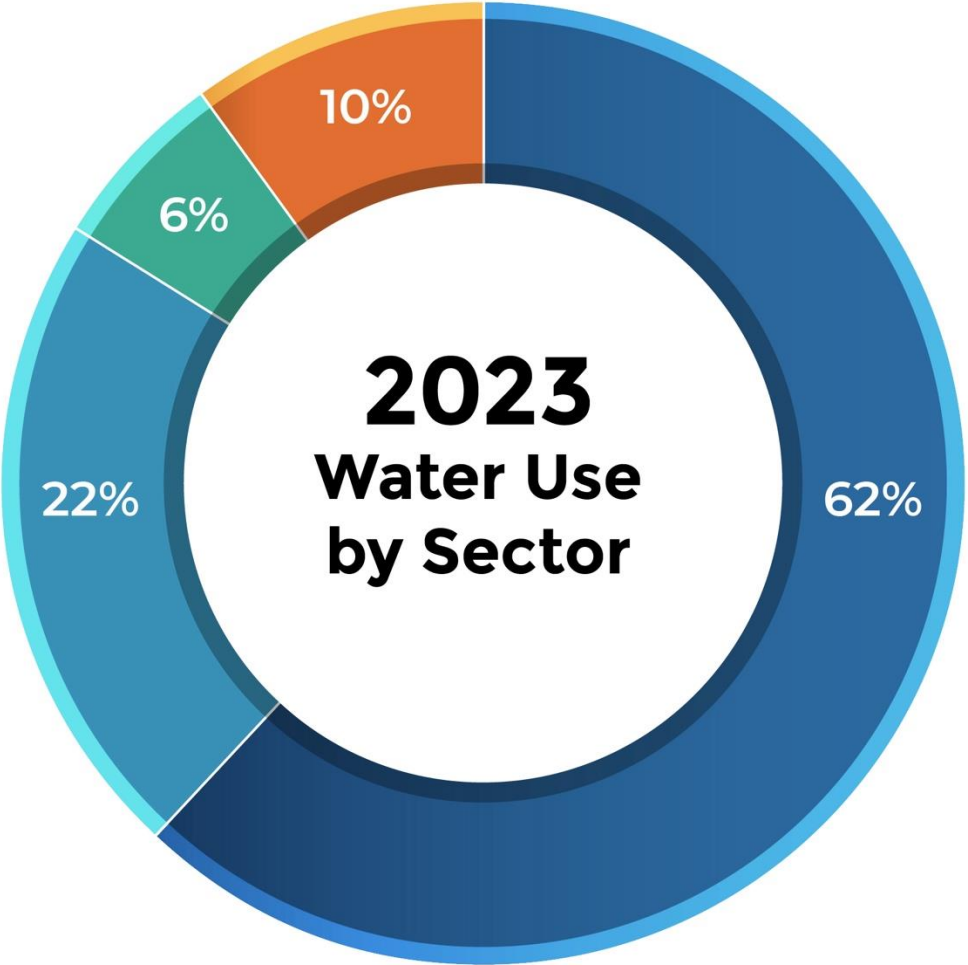
**A Region
Shaped by Water**

Serving a Vibrant Region

- Established in 1944
- 23 member agencies
- 3.3 million people
- \$268 billion economy



FY 2023 Water Use by Sector



- Residential**
(273,992 AF)
- Commercial & Industrial**
(98,600 AF)
- Agricultural**
(28,082 AF)
- Public & Other**
(43,380 AF)

Note: Figures are rounded.
(AF = Acre-Feet)

A Diverse Supply

Reducing dependence on imported water

29%
Local Water Supply

71%
Colorado River

<1%
State Water Project



1990s Sparked Change

Companies cringe at 50 percent cut in water

Firms offer conservation plans to mayor; some say cutbacks could cripple growth

State to Shut Off Water Delivery to Southland

By VIRGINIA ELLIS
and TED ROHRLICH
TIMES STAFF WRITERS

SACRAMENTO – Gov. Pete Wilson on Monday announced new and unprecedented cutbacks of state water deliveries so drastic that Southern California will be cut off from this traditional source of water by mid-March.

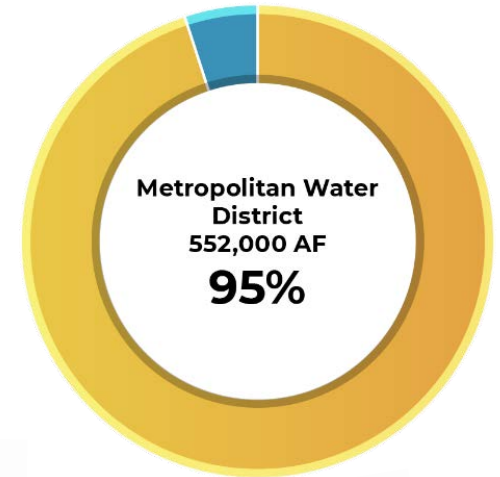
Wilson said that heightened drought conditions had forced the state to notify cities and industry

Water Dependence Bodes a Dry San Diego Future

■ **Drought:** A twisted history of water politics has left the county at the vulnerable end of the supply pipeline.

50% Water-Delivery Cut Will Be Blow to San Diego

■ **Drought:** Metropolitan Water District directors also vote a 90% cut in allocation for agricultural users.



Grim water outlook is getting even worse

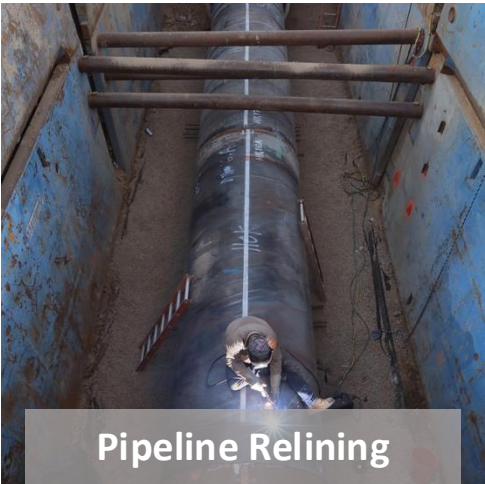
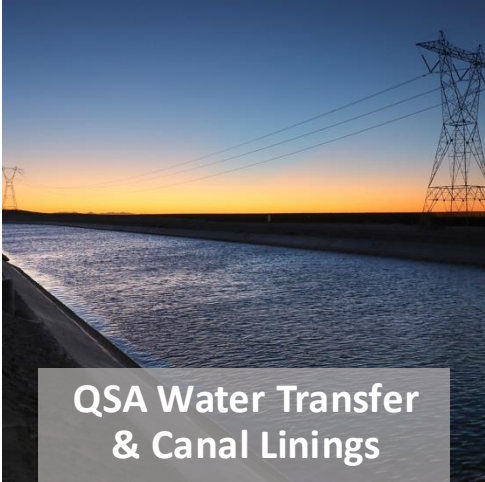
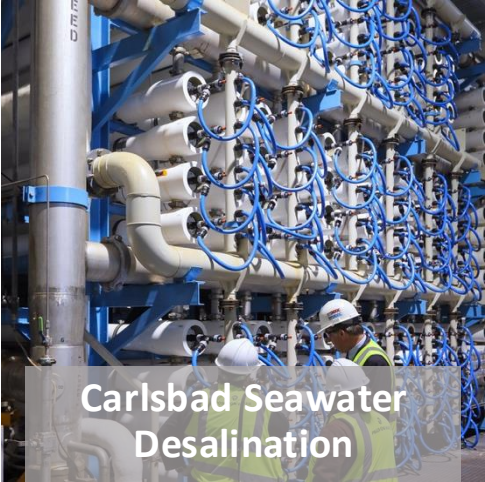
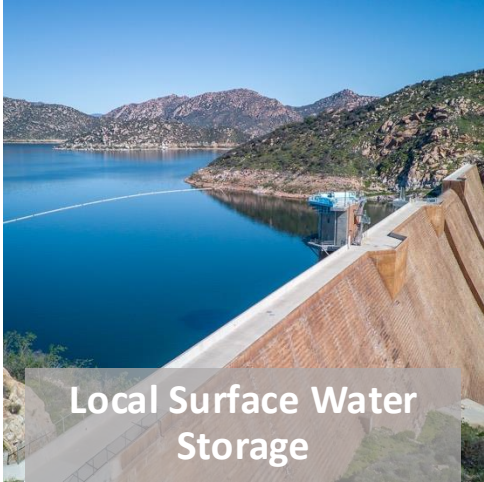
By Steve LaRae
Staff Writer

SACRAMENTO – Southern Californians are likely to be ordered to cut back their water consumption by an unprecedented 30 percent this spring unless more snow falls on the Sierra Nevada, the area's chief water official said yesterday.

State Water Project cuts off water to farms; urban slash expected

Strategic Investments in Supply Reliability

\$3 Billion in new infrastructure since 2000



Conserved Water Supplies

Quantification Settlement Agreement (QSA)



All-American and Coachella canal lining projects



Conserved agricultural runoff and water transfer agreements

Infrastructure Upgrades Protect Region



The San Vicente Dam Raise, completed in 2014, produced the largest increase in water storage in San Diego County History.

Carlsbad Desalination Plant

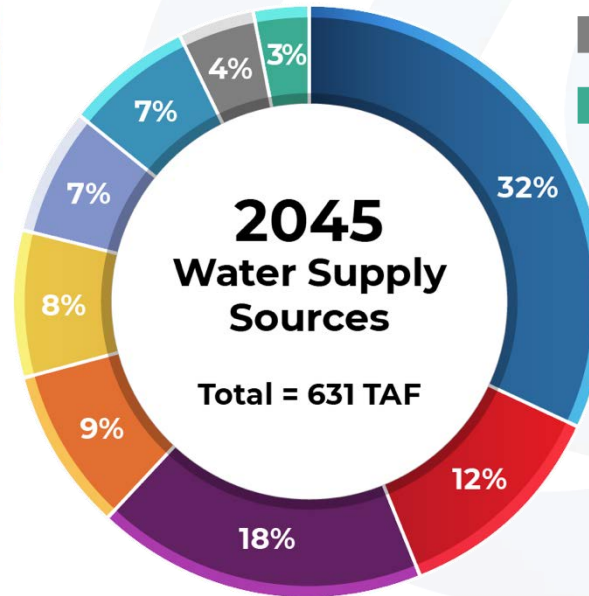
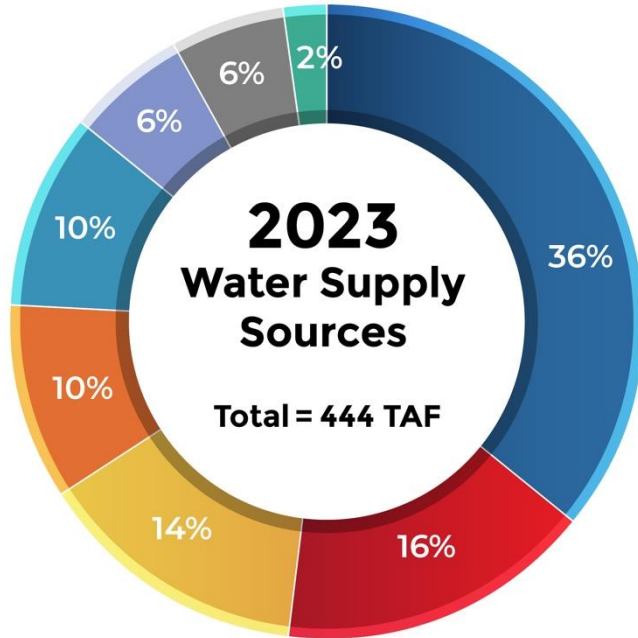
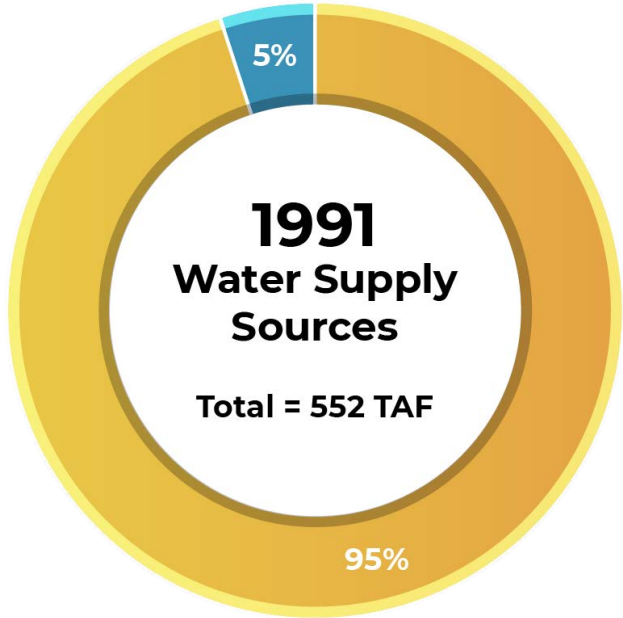


The Carlsbad Desalination Plant is the largest seawater desalination plant in the nation.

Potable Reuse Projects



Results of Supply Diversification



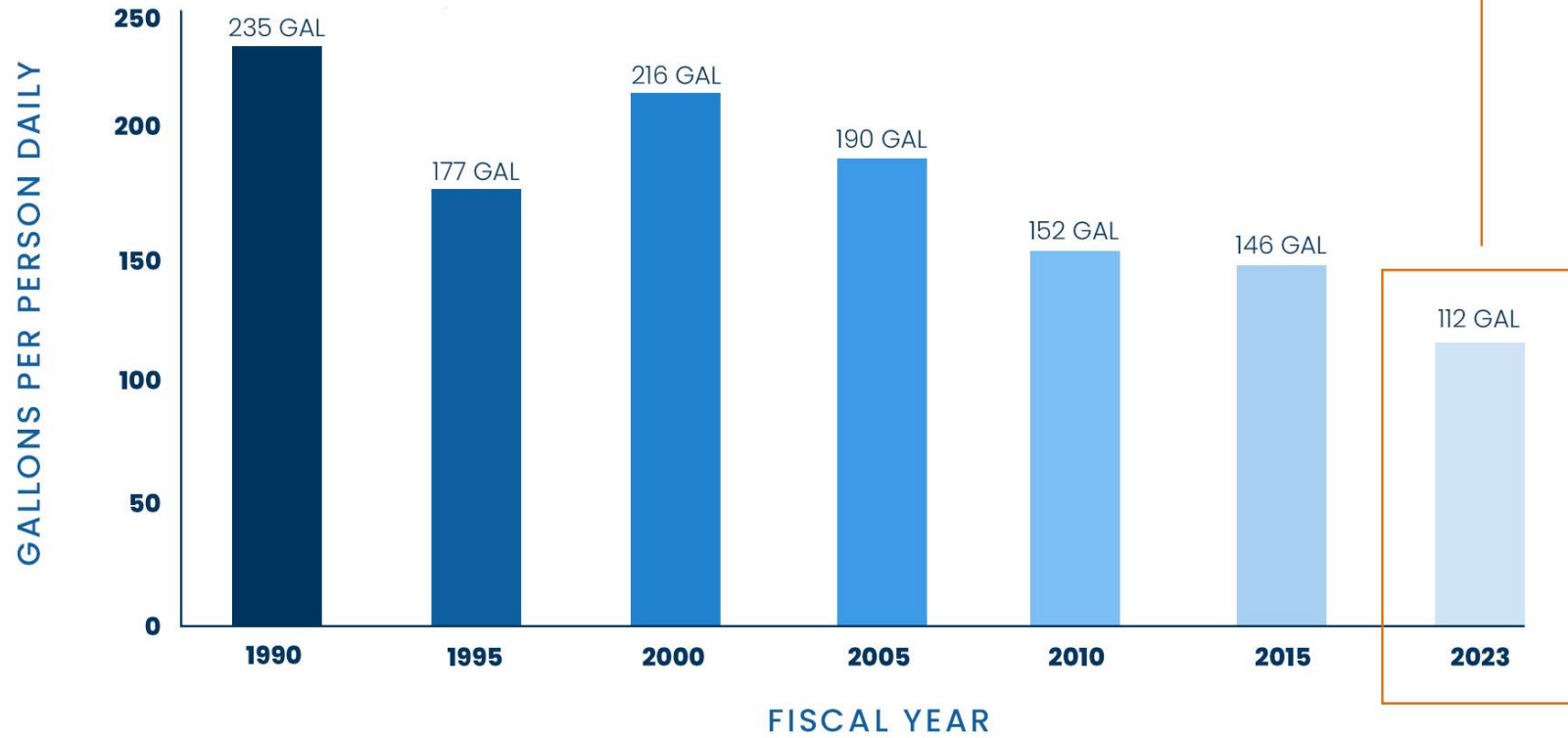
- Conserved Water/IID
- Conserved Water/Canal Lining
- Potable Reuse
- Seawater Desalination
- Metropolitan Water District
- Recycled Water
- Local Surface Water
- Groundwater
- San Luis Rey Water Transfer

Conservation: San Diego County's Way of Life



Water Savings Continue

Per capita water use in San Diego region has declined more than 50% since 1990



Climate Whiplash



After multiple years of drought, 2023 brought above average precipitation, raising reservoir levels statewide.



Mitigating Pressures that Challenge Rates



The Future of Water

The San Diego Union-Tribune

Michael Smolens: Let's make a (water) deal!

San Diego County Water Authority opens negotiations to sell some of its surplus to a small district in southern Orange County. It's another step in a new direction for the agency.

THE ORANGE COUNTY
REGISTER

Ocean water from San Diego could stabilize south OC supply, boost desal

Moulton Niguel Water District will consider buying rights to water desalinated in Carlsbad. Deal could also help bail San Diego out of what some call a 'boondoggle.'

 VOICE of SAN DIEGO

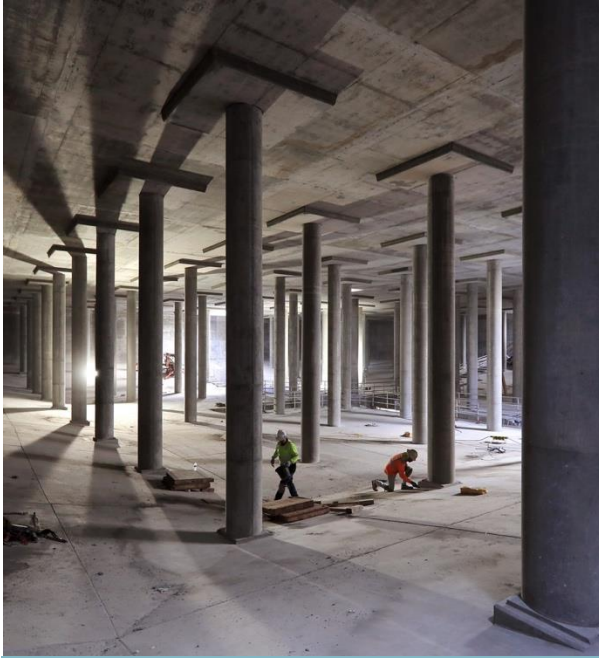
Can the Ocean Save the Colorado River? San Diego Thinks so.

The Water Authority is both selling off its expensive desal water and trying to make more of it. Here's why.





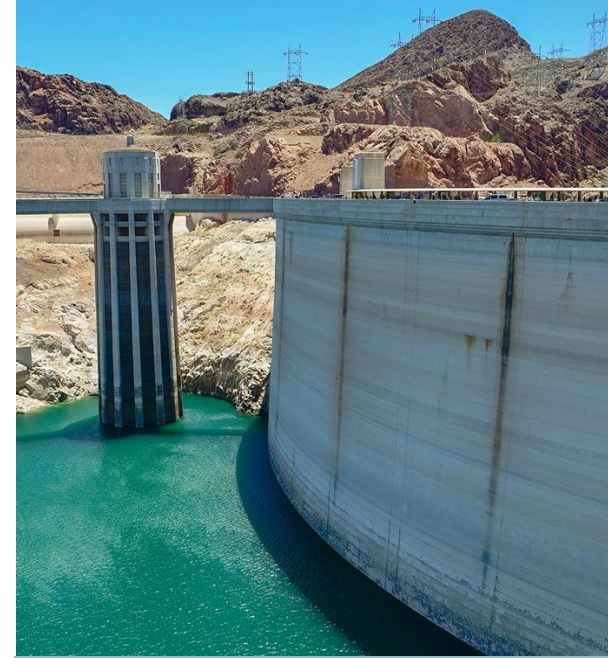
Affordability



Infrastructure
Maintenance



Workforce



Colorado River

Water Authority Focus Areas for 2024

Thank You!

