

# San Diego's Water Supply Outlook

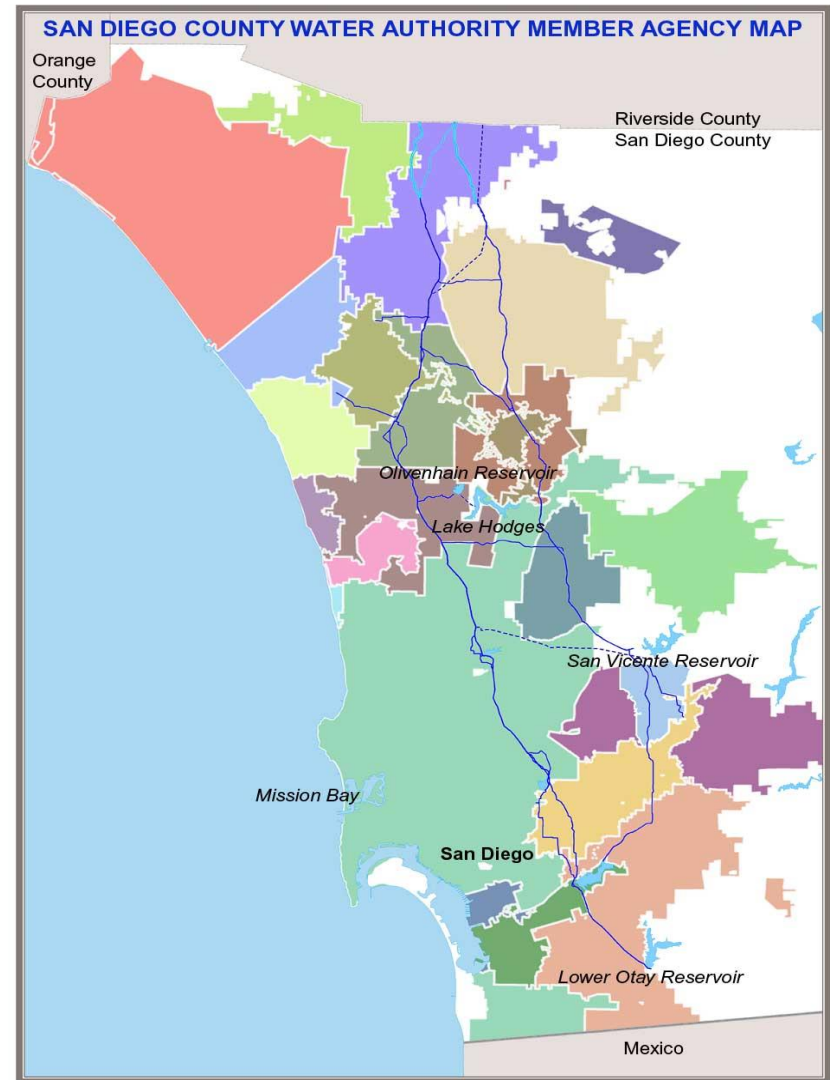


City of San Diego  
Community Planners Committee

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San Diego County Water Authority  
May 26, 2009

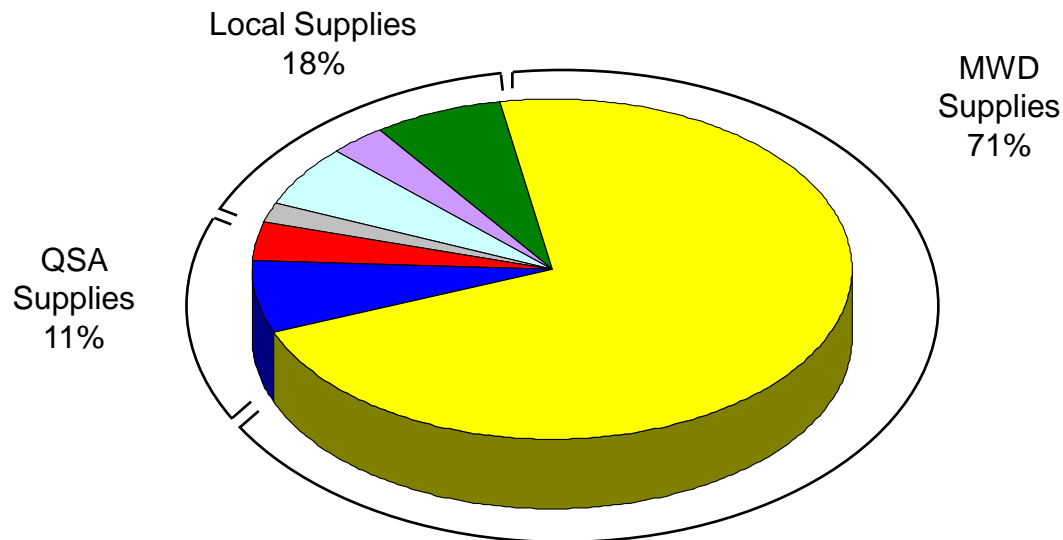
# Water Authority Background

- Wholesale water agency created by State Legislature in 1944
  - 24 member agencies
  - 35-member board of directors
- Service area
  - 97% of county's population
  - Serves 3 million people and region's \$171 billion economy



# Current Sources of Supply

2008



 Metropolitan Water District (MWD)


## Quantification Settlement Agreement (QSA)

 Imperial Irrigation District Transfer


 All American & Coachella Canal Lining

## Local Supplies

 Groundwater

 Local Surface Water

 Recycled Water

 Conservation

# Sources of Imported Water from MWD



# Three Challenges Influencing our Current Water Supply Situation

## 1. Regulatory

- Pumping restrictions limit imported water deliveries from State Water Project



## 2. Drought

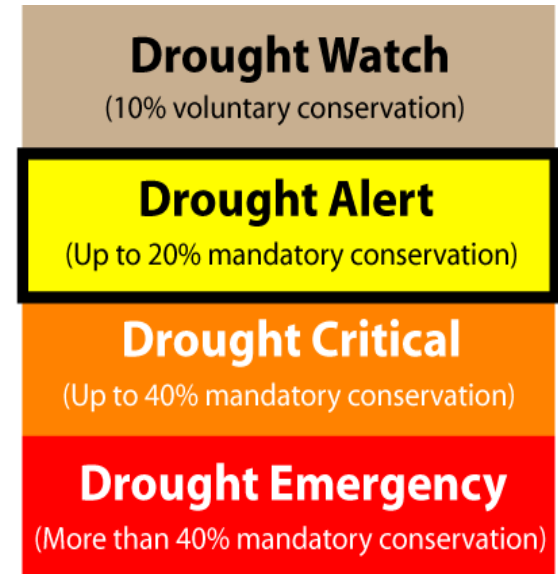
- Last three years in California
- 8 of last 10 on the Colorado River

## 3. Low storage levels



# Impacts to San Diego County

- Metropolitan Water District (MWD) will allocate supplies
  - 13% reduction from MWD
- Water Authority allocating supplies to its 24 member retail agencies
  - Because of diversification, able to reduce shortfall to urban water customers to 8%
  - Cutbacks to agriculture: 13% to 30%
  - Financial penalties in place for exceeding allocation
- “Drought Alert” condition
  - Mandatory water use restrictions



# Local Agency Shortage Actions

Local water agencies take differing approaches to reduce demand

- Mandatory water use restrictions
- Escalating drought/conservation water rates
- Setting water “budgets” that determine amount each customer should use
- Public outreach efforts

The screenshot displays the City of San Diego Water Department website. The main heading is "Water Emergency Information and Resources". A prominent banner reads "NO TIME TO WASTE NO WATER TO WASTE" with a sub-header "MANDATORY WATER USE RESTRICTIONS START JUNE 1, 2009". To the right, a vertical "DROUGHT WATCH" scale shows levels from 1 (WATCH) to 4 (EMERGENCY), with the current status at Level 2 (ALERT). The page includes a "Water Supply Crisis" section with a video player and a "Recent Changes to the City's Emergency Water Regulations" section. A sidebar on the left lists various water department topics.

Water Emergency Information and Resources | Water Department

THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

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WATER DEPARTMENT

WATER DEPARTMENT HOME GENERAL INFORMATION CITY LAKES AND RECREATION WATER & SEWER BILL/RATES WATER CONSERVATION RECYCLED WATER WATER QUALITY INFRASTRUCTURE/CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

Water Emergency Information and Resources

MANDATORY WATER USE RESTRICTIONS START JUNE 1, 2009

Our City's water supplies are currently in crisis. There are unprecedented challenges facing our water system including the prolonged and continuing drought conditions across the west and mounting legal restrictions on deliveries of imported water for our region. Our water wholesalers have already informed us that water deliveries will be reduced. [More...](#)

WATER EMERGENCY HOME

PERMANENT WATER-USE PROHIBITIONS

ENFORCEMENT AND PENALTIES

IMPROVING OUR LONG-RANGE WATER SUPPLY

NEWS & EVENTS

HELP SPREAD THE WORD

RELATED LINKS

**NO TIME TO WASTE  
NO WATER TO WASTE**

MANDATORY WATER USE RESTRICTIONS START JUNE 1, 2009

Water Supply Crisis

The San Diego region is experiencing an unprecedented water supply crisis. There are environmental stresses, including the ongoing drought in the Colorado River basin and reduced snow pack and runoff in Northern California. In addition to these environmental stresses, court-ordered pumping restrictions on the State Water Project have continued to reduce the amount of water that can be delivered to our region. San Diego's water wholesalers have already announced that the will reduce their water deliveries to the area. Since San Diego imports 85-90 percent of its water, these conditions put considerable stress on the City's water system. Due to these circumstances, and the threat of further limitations on our water supplies, the City of San Diego has declared a Level 2 – Drought Alert. All customers now have restrictions on how they can use water. Please go to the [Drought Alert](#) page to see how this impacts you.

- [Level 2 Public Outreach Meetings Set](#)
- [Level 2 Fact Sheet \(PDF: 52K\)](#)
- [Hardship Variance and Cost Recovery Fee](#)
- [Water use and Drought Ordinance \(PDF: 85K\)](#)

**CITY OF SAN DIEGO DROUGHT WATCH**  
CLICK BELOW FOR MORE INFORMATION

LEVEL 4: DROUGHT EMERGENCY CONDITION

LEVEL 3: DROUGHT CRITICAL CONDITION

LEVEL 2: DROUGHT ALERT CONDITION

LEVEL 1: DROUGHT WATCH CONDITION

STARTS HERE

WATER CONSERVATION

REPORT WATER WASTE

SPEAKERS BUREAU

Recent Changes to the City's Emergency Water Regulations

On December 2, 2008 the San Diego City Council officially approved an ordinance revising the City's Emergency Water Regulations. The amended regulations are designed to improve the City's response in the event of a water supply shortage and to provide greater consistency with the Model Drought Response Conservation Program Ordinance recently approved by the San Diego County Water Authority. The new regulations are effective January 14. [More...](#)

[Report to City Council \(PDF: 58K\)](#)

<http://www.sandiego.gov/water/conservation/drought/> (1 of 2) [5/6/2009 2:05:25 PM]

# Water Authority Drought Management Plan

Orderly, progressive approach:

- 1) Promote voluntary conservation (20-Gallon Challenge)
- 2) Augment supplies with short-term transfers from Northern California agricultural districts
- 3) Allocate supplies to member agencies if experience cutbacks from MWD





# Strategy for Long-Term Reliable Water Supply

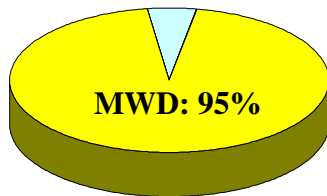
- Comprehensive solution to fix the Delta
- Diversify supply / add new supply
  - Reduce demands for imported supplies
- Permanent ethic of conservation/efficiency



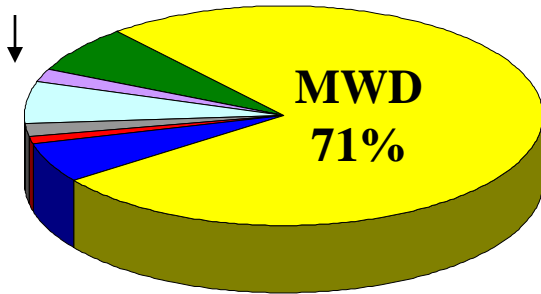
# Diversifying San Diego County's Water Supply Portfolio

**1991**

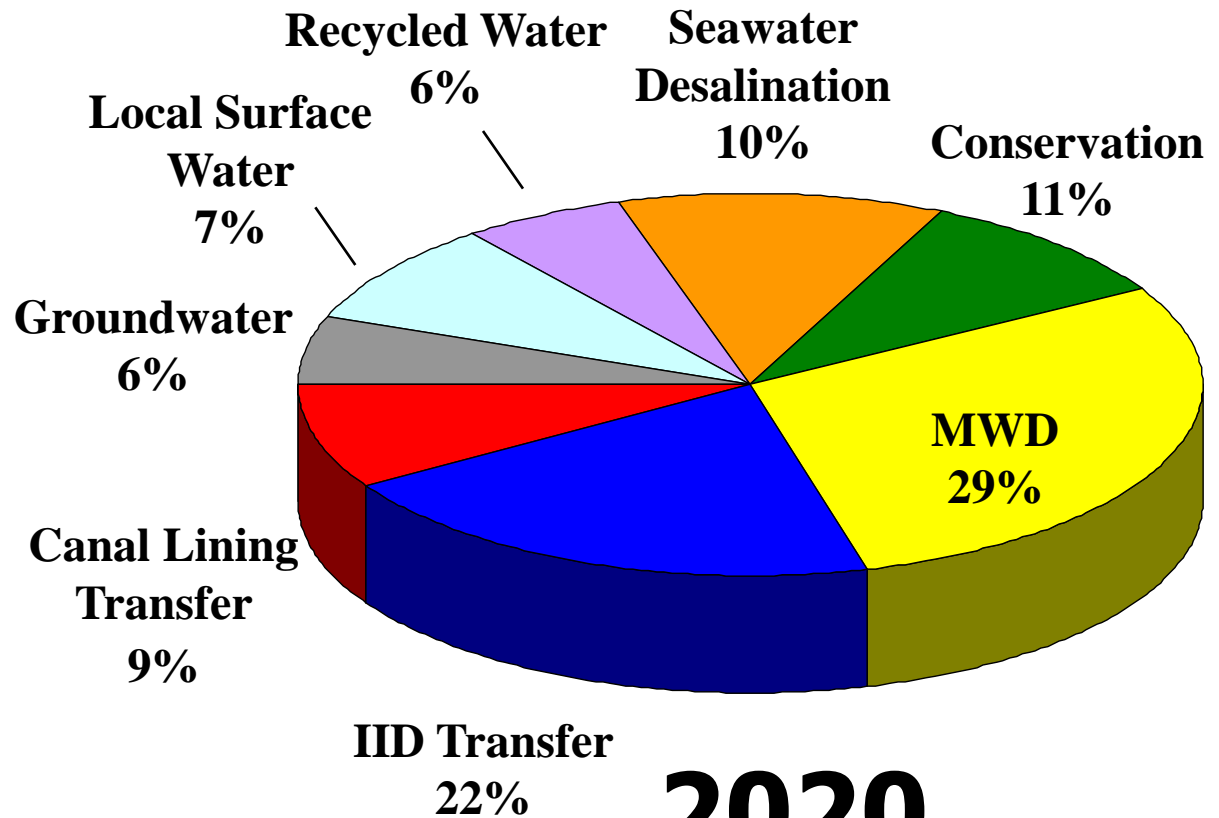
Local Supplies: 5%



Local & QSA Supplies 29%



**2008**



**2020**

# Water Conservation Ethic

- Water efficiency becomes the norm
- Landscape can be water efficient and still be beautiful
- Water smart land-use planning
  - Update landscape irrigation ordinances
  - Adopt “green” building codes





# What can YOU do?

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- Businesses/residents must save more water now
  - Make immediate changes to reduce water use
  - Learn about drought ordinances/restrictions put in place by your water agency
  - Visit [www.20gallonchallenge.com](http://www.20gallonchallenge.com) for more ideas on how to save water
  - Adopt permanent ethic of conservation/efficiency
- Support water supply reliability efforts
  - Push state leaders to fix Bay-Delta
  - Continue to support expansion of local supply projects
    - Desalination, recycling, groundwater