Southern California Groundwater & Climate Workshop

Three Key Elements for Water Supply Reliability in Southern California

February 24, 2012

Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

Regional water wholesaler

Serves 6 counties, 19 million people

\$1 trillion regional economy

Half of region's supply

Sources of Water for Southern California



Presentation Outline

Characterize groundwater in MWD's service area

- Physical characteristics
- Management and use

MWD's IRP—elements for water supply reliability

- Imported water
- Local resources
- Water use efficiency

Research questions—potential effects of climate change

Changing Conditions

- Imported water shortfall mid-2007 through 2010
- Water supply allocation plan in effect July 2009 to April 2011
- Water use reduced by shortage and economy
- Change in availability of imported replenishment water from MWD at reduced price
- Data reported reflect average patterns 1995-2004
- Some trends consistent from 1985-2004
- Key updates since 2004 are noted—e.g. GWRS
- GW storage level data for key GW basins current through November 2011

Groundwater



Status of In-Region Groundwater 1995-2004 average

- Based on findings of 2007 Groundwater Assessment Study Report with key updates
- Over 90% of GW is managed or adjudicated
- 1,500,000 AFY GW production
- 750,000 AFY active recharge
 - 29% imported water—significant decline since 2008
 - 8% recycled water—doubled in 2008 to 16%
 - 63% stormwater runoff—increasing
- 750,000 AFY passive recharge

Groundwater Basin Governance in 2006

Adjudicated

Un-adjudicated

Management Statute / Adopted Plan

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Average	L L	
Groundwater	pro-	The state of the second
Production		way to the second
(Acre-Feet)	1995-′04	
Northwest MWD Service Area Basins	122,206	
San Fernando Valley Basins	109,071	And the the
LA County Coastal Plain Basins	247,732	
San Gabriel Valley Basins	319,959	
Orange County Basins	318,477	The stand of the second
Inland Empire Basins	180,732	
Eastside MWD Service Area Basins	213,355	
San Diego County Basins	52,531	

Groundwater Recharge (Average 1995-2004)

Passive Recharge precipitation, subsurface flow

Active Recharge spreading, injection, inlieu

Recycled

Stormwater

Imported

Wet Year Active Recharge over 1 MAF

	1992-'93	2004-'05 ₆	
Northwest MWD Service Area Basins	104,550	70,050	
San Fernando Valley Basins	64,658	74,198	Synthe 7
LA County Coastal Plain Basins	218,945	223,217	
San Gabriel Valley Basins	311,536	438,168	
Orange County Basins	284,672	258,556	
Inland Empire Basins	14,212	30,060	
Eastside MWD Service Area Basins	24,148	24,632	
San Diego County Basins			

GW Facility Investments as of 2005

- More than 4,300 active production wells
- 36 ASR wells
- 5,000 acres of spreading basins
- 7 seawater intrusion barriers
- 16 desalters
- 400 acres of water quality wetlands
- GWRS on-line in 2008 doubling recycled water

Regional GW Study Findings

- In 2004/05, active recharge utilized 60% of the reported available capacity
- In 2004/05, 21% of production was reported as treated or blended for water quality purposes
- Over 3 million AF of basin capacity is available for storage subject to resolution of issues and determinations of institutional, operational and economic feasibility

Issues for Storage

- Need for funding
 - Water quality treatment
 - Capital infrastructure
- Mismatch of storage with overlying demand
- Resolution of institutional disagreements
- Regulatory issues
- Availability of surplus water to store



Main San Gabriel Basin



Central Basin



Orange County Basin



Available Storage Space (Acre-Feet)

Northwest MWD Service Area Basins	NA
San Fernando Valley Basins	510,000
LA County Coastal Plain Basins	484,300
San Gabriel Valley Basins	353,000
Orange County Basins	218,000
Inland Empire Basins	500,000
Eastside MWD Service Area Basins	600,000
San Diego County Basins	NA

2011

Three Key Elements for Supply Reliability



MWD's Balanced Approach Dry-Year Strategy



Early 1990's

Heavy dependence on imported supplies

Current Strategy

Emphasis on conservation, local supplies, storage & transfers

2010 Service Area Water Supplies Total Retail Demand: 3.6 MAF



Element 1 Imported Water



IRP Strategies for Imported Supply Reliability

- Achieve a Delta solution to restore sustainable supply reliability and ecosystem conditions
 - Recover reliability to 2005 levels by 2025
- Implement programs and agreement on the Colorado system to allow a full aqueduct in dry years
 - Storage and conjunctive use, surplus when available
 - Dry-year fallowing in Palo Verde Irrigation District

State Water Project



SWP Supply

Lake Oroville

Total SWP Contract: 4.2 MAF Historical Range to MWD: .400 – 1.9 MAF

29 State Water Contractors28 dams26 pumping & generating plants660 miles of aqueducts

California Aqueduct

MWD Service Area



Colorado River

Lake Mead



Element 2 Local Resources



IRP Strategies for Local Resources

- Investigate regional partnerships and incentive programs to further local supply development and multi-benefit projects
 - Increase use of recycled water
 - Increase capture of storm water
 - Ocean desalination
- Identify lower-cost planning and feasibility actions to prepare new supply options for longterm risks
 - Foundational actions to improve ability to implement local resources development
 - Evaluation of capability of possible resources

Foundational Actions

Areas

Recycled Water

Stormwater

Seawater Desalination

Processes

Operations

Public Perception

Legislative

Regulatory

Funding

Science

Element 3 Water Use Efficiency



IRP Strategies for Water Use Efficiency

- 20% reduction in regional daily per capita use of potable water through conservation and recycling
 - Early focus on indoor WUE
 - Landscape—California Friendly
 - Commercial and Industrial
 - Innovation

Regional Per Capita Water Use



Focus of MWD's Conservation Program is Market Transformation

Lasting change in market for water-efficient technologies and services

Changing consumer preferences
Public messaging and education
Collaboration
Technology and incentives

Retail water rates

Advancing water efficiency standards











Review

- Total annual retail demand in ranges from 3.6 MAF (2010) to 4.1 MAF (2008)
- Annual GW production is about 1.5 MAF 37% of retail water use
- On average, GW production is supported 50/50 by active and passive recharge
- Need increased GW recharge using stormwater and recycled water for future reliability
- Over 3 MAF of usable storage space is available for increased conjunctive use if a variety of issues can be resolved

Conclusions

- Groundwater basins are a key resource:
 - Expansion of stormwater capture
 - Indirect potable use of recycled water and reduction of per capita potable water use
 - Contribute to dry-year reliability

Foundational actions for groundwater include:

- Evaluation of potential of increased stormwater capture including new methods and tools
- Evaluation of the potential for increased recycled water recharge and identification of issues technical, institutional, regulatory
- Evaluation of climate change effects on runoff, fire, sedimentation, recharge

Climate Change: Questions for Research

- Impacts on Imported Supplies
 - How may agricultural water requirements for a given crop be altered?
 - How may ET by natural vegetation in watersheds change due to warmer temperatures and longer growing seasons? What's effect on runoff?
- Impacts on GW Recharge
 - How will recharge be affected by altered storm patterns?
- Implementing Water Use Efficiency
 - What contributes most to reduced water use: Public education campaigns or water pricing mechanisms (inclining block rates, water budgets)?

