

The San Diego County Water Authority sustains a \$245 billion regional economy and the quality of life for 3.3 million residents through a multi-decade water supply diversification plan, major infrastructure investments and forward-thinking policies that promote fiscal and environmental responsibility. These strategies have created a diversified water supply portfolio and new water facilities that will enhance the reliability of the region's water supply for decades to come.



**3.3**  
MILLION RESIDENTS

**124 GALLONS**

Per person per day used  
in San Diego in 2019

ACRES SERVED

**946,000**



**46%**

Decline water per capita water  
use regionally since 1990

**279,000**

acre-feet of conserved water each year  
delivered though a landmark 2003 agreement

**24** MEMBER AGENCIES

**\$245** BILLION REGIONAL ECONOMY

**18%**

of Water supplies  
from MWD in 2020

**95%**

of water supplies from the Metropolitan  
Water District in 1990

**\$1.5** BILLION

EMERGENCY & CARRYOVER  
STORAGE PROJECT

**157,000**

acre-feet of storage added with the San  
Vicente Dam Raise Project

**5** PRIMARY PIPELINES

**310** MILES OF LARGE-SCALE PIPELINES

**50** million-gallon-a-day production capacity at the Claude "Bud" Lewis Carlsbad Desalination Plant



# KEY WATER AUTHORITY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

San Diego County's history revolves around a never-ending search for a safe, reliable water supply. When World War II brought a vastly expanded military and industrial presence, doubling the local population, local water supplies were not enough to serve the growing population and economy. President Franklin D. Roosevelt issued an executive order directing the Navy to build the area's first aqueduct to bring additional water supplies to the region. In 1944, the state Legislature created the San Diego County Water Authority to administer the region's Colorado River water rights, import water, and take over the operation of the aqueduct from the Navy. The first imported water arrived here in 1947.

**2003**



The U.S. Secretary of the Interior, the Water Authority and other parties sign the historic Colorado River Quantification Settlement Agreement, and QSA water begins flowing to the San Diego region.

**2010**



Projects to replace nearly 60 miles of earthen canals with concrete-lined canals are completed, providing San Diego with approx. 80,000 acre-feet of high-priority, low-cost water through the QSA.

**2014**



The San Vicente Dam Raise, the largest water storage increase in San Diego County history, is completed as the last major component of the agency's \$1.5 billion Emergency & Carryover Storage Project.

**2015**



In 2015 the Claude "Bud" Lewis Carlsbad Desalination Plant began delivering drought-proof drinking water – approximately 50 million gallons per day.

**2020**



The Water Authority's water supply portfolio serves as a statewide model in line with Gov. Newsom's strategy for improving California's water resiliency.

## MEMBER AGENCIES

