



Western Municipal Water District

Providing reliable drinking water to our customers on a daily basis is fundamental to what we do. Western Municipal Water District works to secure water supply for the future as well as today. It takes engineering, infrastructure, responsible management and strategic governance to ensure the roughly 28 billion gallons of water provided to our customers in western Riverside County is safe and reliable 365 days a year. The District was formed in 1954, and today provides reliable water and wastewater services to retail customers and wholesale agencies from Corona to Temecula. As a member agency of Metropolitan Water District, Western receives most of its water from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Bay-Delta and from the Colorado River. The District has a groundwater supply in its Murrieta Division, which is combined with imported water for the region's residents. Western also has local groundwater wheeled into our Riverside Division through an agreement with the city of Riverside.

Western Municipal Water District supplies water on both a wholesale and a retail basis to a region stretching 527-square miles in western Riverside County with an assessed valuation of \$83 billion and a population of more than 880,000 people. This regional area includes the cities of Corona, Norco and Riverside and the water agencies serving Box Springs, Eagle Valley, Lake Elsinore, Lee Lake and Temecula. Western Municipal Water District is staffed by approximately 125 employees, is managed by John V. Rossi, who also acts as its court-appointed watermaster and the management team; we are governed by an elected board of directors.

While most of Western Municipal Water District's business is in wholesaling of water to water agencies and municipalities, the District directly serves approximately 23,000 residential and business customers in the following areas:

- Riverside -- home to Western's largest grouping of direct customers. Areas served include Orangecrest, Mission Grove, El Sobrante, Eagle Valley, Temescal Canyon, Woodcrest, Lake Mathews, portions of Mead Valley and Perris, and March Air Reserve Base.
- Murrieta -- with the merger of the city's water utility agency in 2005, Western now serves a 6.5-square mile section of western Murrieta, primarily in the historic downtown area of the city.
- Rainbow -- Western's most distant served community is an unincorporated area of northern Riverside County bordering San Diego County.

The District currently sells approximately 85,000 acre-feet (about 28 billion gallons) of water annually.

Role in the Santa Ana River Watershed

Western is one of five of the member agencies of the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority (SAWPA). As a water rights steward for the Santa Ana River Watershed, Western works to protect this important resource by carefully monitoring the quantities of water taken by all regional agencies with rights to this critical resource. Western's general manager also serves as a court-appointed guardian or "watermaster", as required by two 1969 court rulings or adjudications. These judgments determined the rights of the watershed users and other watershed entities.

The court designated four public agencies – including Western – to represent the interests of the upper and lower areas of the Santa Ana River and gave the agencies responsibility to oversee the watershed and fulfill court-ordered obligations.

Western Municipal Water District is involved in four watermaster functions:

- * Santa Ana River – 1969 surface water rights
- * San Bernardino Basin Area – 1969 groundwater adjudication
- * Chino Groundwater Basin – 1978 groundwater adjudication
- * Santa Margarita River – 1964 surface and groundwater adjudication

Work in the watershed

Western Municipal Water District invests in reliability projects to secure water supply both for customers and the region. These investments focus on securing new water rights via stormwater capture, water wheeling from outside the service area, water recycling and groundwater desalting. We believe that reliable water resources are imperative for those not-so-rainy days and years that are common to California.

The District began investing in desalting technology two decades ago to diversify its water supplies with construction of the Arlington Desalter, which was the first groundwater desalter created in Southern California. Opened in 1990 and expanded in 2004, the Arlington Desalter allows for the clean-up of local groundwater to provide high-quality drinking water for the region. In partnership with several other inland agencies, Western is also working to clean-up groundwater and expand local water supplies with additional desalters in the Chino Basin. These techniques and facilities also allow for additional groundwater storage opportunities.

Seeking water rights is another way we are securing water for our customers. The District fought for almost two decades to access rights to stormwater stored behind the Seven Oaks Dam. Western and San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District partnered to secure these new water rights.

Western Municipal Water District believes collaboration is a large part of the success attained in the Santa Ana River Watershed. Reliable water supplies are critical to our customers' way of life and our region's economic vitality.

Why is it important to take a regional approach to management of the watershed?

A local, secure water source is a top priority for Western. Our regional partnership for the Chino Desalters showcases Western's commitment to water supply reliability through technology, providing local, high-quality drinking water in the region. The partnership at the Chino Desalters will provide enough drinking water for more than 1.5 million people in the Inland Empire. Key agency collaboration helps to fulfill the water source needs for many in the region: Western, Jurupa Community Services District and the city of Ontario, the cities of Chino, Chino Hills and Norco and the Santa Ana River Water Company. In addition to a local, less expensive water supply, groundwater quality improves because pumping and treating more groundwater accelerates restoration of local groundwater quality.

Being a part of the One Water One Watershed (OWOW) process helps us to effectively plan projects that not only benefit our customers directly, but also benefit regional residents with water resource management. Securing water supply for our ratepayers is aided through the collaborative efforts in planning by SAWPA.

Key personnel that are thoroughly engaged in the watershed collaborative process include our GM John Rossi; Deputy GM Jeff Sims; Director of Water Resources Jack Safely and Water Use Efficiency Manager Tim Barr. Guiding us at the policy level is our entire board led by Board President and SAWPA Representative Don Galleano.

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