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Water Supply & Quality

Essential Investments in Water Supply and Water Quality

With California voters' strong support for ballot measures to fund conservation, our state has invested wisely in protecting our land, water and parks. These essential investments have strengthened California's economy by enhancing our environment, attracting tourists and creating jobs.

By protecting critical watersheds, wetlands and bays, these investments are improving the quality of water in our ocean, rivers, lakes and streams. Investments in local water agencies are improving the quality of our drinking water, increasing our water supplies, improving the infrastructure that brings water to our homes and businesses and protecting our communities from drought.

Although we have made great improvements, there is still much to be done. The future of all of California — from its wide diversity of plants and animals to the wide diversity of people who live here — depends on these essential investments in the land, water and parks that make the Golden State the unique and promising place we all cherish. Among the many noteworthy investments in water supply and water quality are:

STORMWATER CLEAN UP

Pollution from stormwater and daily urban runoff plagues California's rivers, streams, lakes, coastal waters, bays and beaches, endangering the health of people, animals and the aquatic and marine life that depend on these waters for survival. Addressing these issues has become an increasingly serious and pressing need for California, where extensive urbanization has resulted in vast areas of paved surfaces and high volumes of contaminated runoff. Through funding from the Propositions 40, 50, and 84 Clean Beaches and Stormwater programs, local governments and others have been able to employ a variety of innovative solutions to begin addressing water pollution problems, meet Clean Water Act requirements, and reduce contamination-related beach closures.



Stormwater Pollution
Photo: Peter Bennett

INTEGRATED REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS

Water is the lifeblood of California, sustaining its people, businesses, farms and critical ecosystems. But it's a limited resource. With \$1.5 billion from Propositions 50 and 84, Californians are helping finance Integrated Regional Water Management programs around the state. These programs help local water agencies meet long-term water needs and reduce our dependence on imported water. Our investments are helping ensure that all of us have clean and reliable water supplies. These investments also promote sustainable water use and environmental stewardship by reducing the strain on our freshwater sources. By investing in our water supply now, we are ensuring a better future for all of California's families.



Integrated Regional Water Management Programs



The future of all of California...depends on these essential investments in the land, water and parks that make the Golden State the unique and promising place we all cherish.

GROUNDWATER STORAGE

Aiming to help sustain regional water supplies especially during times of drought, Californians have made significant investments in groundwater storage through bonds. Proposition 13 alone has already provided more than \$165 million in funds to local water agencies to construct and improve groundwater storage facilities. These facilities are helping local water agencies continue to provide safe, reliable water supplies to Californians.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA INTEGRATED WATERSHED PROGRAM

The Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority (SAWPA) developed the Southern California Integrated Watershed Program in Santa Ana to alleviate dependence on imported water during drought years. It is a series of projects that have generated more than 300,000 acre-feet of water — enough to serve 2.4 million people annually. The program, financed with \$235 million from Proposition 13 and \$565 million in local agency funds, has made SAWPA a leader in watershed management for water agencies throughout the state.

GROUNDWATER REPLENISHMENT SYSTEM

The largest water purification system of its kind, Orange County's Groundwater Replenishment System in Fountain Valley produces enough water to meet the needs of 500,000 people annually. This state-of-the-art purification system reclaims wastewater and returns it to the local groundwater basin where it blends with water from the Santa Ana and Colorado rivers and the State Water Project before it is pumped into homes and businesses. The project, financed with \$37 million from Proposition 13 and funding from other sources, has been so successful that other cities consider it a model to follow in seeking new water supplies.

AMERICAN RIVER BASIN INTEGRATED REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN

A partnership of 22 Sacramento-area water providers is increasing water supply reliability and quality, improving flood protection and protecting the lower American and Cosumnes rivers watersheds with a \$25 million investment from Proposition 50. The grant is financing key elements of the Regional Water Authority's management plan, including groundwater wells, surface water pipelines, water treatment plants and water recycling facilities. These projects also benefit the entire state by improving habitat and the quality of water reaching the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, an ecologically sensitive estuary that is a critical link in the state's water delivery system.



Southern California Integrated Watershed Program (Santa Ana)
Photo: Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority



Groundwater Replenishment System (Fountain Valley)
Photo: Orange County Water District & Jim Kutzle



American River Basin (Sacramento County)
Photo: American River Conservancy & Mark Leder-Adams

CONSERVING CALIFORNIA

A public education program about our essential investments in land, water and parks presented by Audubon California, California Council of Land Trusts, Ocean Conservancy, The Nature Conservancy and WiLDCOAST.

For more information, please visit our website:
www.conservingcalifornia.org

