

Water Supply Projects

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The Water Management District manages the water resources in an area with more than 30 water distribution systems and over 400 private wells. The largest system is operated by the California-American Water Company (Cal-Am) – providing water to 95 percent of the people and producing about 80 percent of the total water supply. Each of the smaller water suppliers has its own water rights and operates under varying rules and conditions.

Under Order 95-10, any new supply developed or distributed by Cal-Am must first be used to make up for the 75 percent regulatory shortfall. Once the shortfall is met, any additional water supplies can be allocated for new uses.

Quantify Future Water Needs

In order to plan for the future water needs of communities, the District has undertaken studies to determine how much water will be needed to meet the water demand associated with remodel projects and new residential and commercial development.

1998 Estimated Future Water Need for Buildable, Legal Lots of Record on Vacant Parcels

A 1998 report estimated that within the Cal-Am service area, 923 acre-feet of water would be needed for new buildings on existing, buildable legal lots of record on vacant parcels as of 1/1/97 and remodels through the year 2006.

1999 Study Will Estimate Needs of Vacant Lots on Improved Parcels

A follow-up study begun in 1999 will estimate the additional water for vacant lots on improved parcels. This report should be completed by Fall 2000.

Local Jurisdictions Estimate Additional Water Needs over Next 20 Years

In 1999, the District asked jurisdictions to develop their own estimates of future water needs through the year 2020. Submissions from all eight jurisdictions totaled 3,480 acre-feet of water. For reference, total water production in 1999 was 17,800 acre-feet. The jurisdictions' estimates are preliminary and will not be used to establish future water allocations.

Expanded the Scope of EIR on Cal-Am Reservoir Proposal

The District is the lead agency for preparation of the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) on a reservoir project proposed by Cal-Am. As defined by Cal-Am, the purposes of the project are to: provide a new source of water that would make up for the shortfall identified by state Order 95-10; provide drought protection for existing customers; and maintain the environmental health of the Carmel River. Cal-Am intends that no water from the project be made available for new construction or remodel projects.