

# WATER

Needed Resource,  
Vexing Problem

# It's True!

Following are certain basic truths, although specific percentages may vary from one source to another. Sources used for this presentation include the Water Education Foundation and our three speakers, Mary Ann Lutz, Marisa Lundin, and Danielle Blacet.

# Basically Speaking...

- California most hydrologically altered landmass on the planet
- 75% of California's water from precipitation is north of Sacramento
- 80% of urban and agricultural water demands are in the southern two-thirds of the state
- 75% of the population lives in the central and southern parts of the state

# Where does water go (net water use)?

- 10% - urban use
- 41% - farms and agriculture
- 49% - environmental use (instream flows, maintaining drinking water quality)
- Close to 40 million people and 5.68 million acres of farmland in California need water
- Approx. 400,000 (1% of population) are without access to safe drinking water

# Water, Water Everywhere?

- California has 1,400 dams, two of the largest water storage and transport systems in the world (Central Valley Project [CVP] and State Water Project [SWP]) and some of the largest reservoirs in the country
- The state's largest surface "reservoir" is the Sierra Nevada snowpack, about 15 million acre feet on average, which becomes snowmelt that feeds and replenishes the other surface water reservoirs

# Banking on Groundwater

- Groundwater basins store about 850 million acre-feet of water
- Recharged 3 ways:
  - Rain and snow: 7 million acre-feet per year
  - Agriculture and industry (after-usage): 6.65 million acre-feet per year
  - Districts and regions where water is purposely managed to percolate down into the groundwater basin (O.C. Water District excellent example)
  - SGMA changes the way groundwater is managed
- California pumps out up to 2 million more acre-feet a year than is recharged

# Import/Export

- SF Bay Area imports more than 65% of its water (Hetch Hetchy, Mokelumne Aqueduct, SWP, CVP)
- Southern CA imports more than 50% of its water (L.A. Aqueduct, Colorado River, SWP)
  - Many SoCal cities also rely on groundwater
  - 80% of water in the San Gabriel Valley comes from groundwater
- Central Valley & Kern County relies on SWP
- Imperial Valley uses Colorado River water

# And when it dries up???

- The State Water Resources Control Board issued a mandate in May 2015 for the urban sector to reduce water use by 25% (1.2 million acre feet)
- In 2015, 542,000 acres of farmland were fallowed

# 542,000 acres fallowed means:

- Farmworkers lose work or have to travel further—either result negatively impacts household income
- Fields that are planted yield smaller crops; farmworkers paid based on yield are thus paid less for the same number of hours worked
- Farm owners suffer, but the farmworkers bear the brunt of this loss

# Who Manages the Water?

- State Water Control Board manages state water *rights*
- State Water Quality Control Board manages state water *quality*
- Federal agencies with water management responsibilities:
  - Bureau of Reclamation
  - Army Corps of Engineers
  - Forest Service
  - Bureau of Land Management
  - Department of Energy
- SGMA for groundwater management-Local Agencies

# But wait, there's more...

- Native American tribes have Federal reserved water rights superseding most other water rights
- EPA controls Federal water quality aspects of the Clean Water Act
- Local water providers are critical partners in managing and coordinating water needs with all other players

# What Now?

- Water supply will continue to diminish
- Population will continue to increase
- Conservation (education & improved water use efficiency) as part of a diverse portfolio will be important
- Must develop “real wet water” locally, import less (and less distant) water
- Water reuse, recycling, smart management
- Infrastructure needs updating and upgrading

# Assessing the need: SB 244 and LAFCO

- Purpose of SB 244: to address the barriers to equitable investment and adequate infrastructure in DUCs.
- Requirements for LAFCo:
  - MSR determinations
    - Written determination about water needs of DUCs
  - SOI updates
    - Present and probable needs of public facilities / services
  - Annexation approval restrictions

# WHERE DOES LAFCO FIT IN??

- How many LAFCOs in the room are impacted by water issues?
- LAFCOs that have special policies?
- CKH water provisions– are these adequate?
- How can LAFCOs make a bigger difference going forward?
- What about under served communities?

# WHERE DOES LAFCO FIT IN??

- How can LAFCos encourage recycling, recharge, low impact development, green streets, drought tolerant landscaping, sustainable development?
- Is it time for LAFCos to take another bold step and take a greater role in addressing upcoming critical water issues?