



WEST BASIN MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT



West Basin Municipal Water District (West Basin) came into existence as an environmental hero, bringing together 17 cities to form the District and join Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) to bring Colorado River water to the coastal area to lessen the demand on local groundwater. Flash forward to 2015 and West Basin is still a hero – this time, West Basin is developing local, drought-proof water supplies to lessen the burden on MWD's imported water system.

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“One of West Basin’s five core commitments is to Environmental Stewardship and a commitment to sustainable and environmentally-friendly business practices. We continue to expand both our recycling and conservation programs as well as research responsible ocean-water desalination to ensure protection of the ocean environment.”

Rich Nagel, General Manager



Ultraviolet Disinfection Unit at the Edward C. Little Water Recycling Facility.

A key part of the West Basin story grows out of a drought in the late 1980s and early 1990s when the West Basin Board of Directors decided to diversify its water portfolio with water recycling and water conservation. Since that time, West Basin has distributed over 300,000 conservation devices and produced over 165 billion gallons of recycled water – enough water to meet the needs of the entire city of Los Angeles for a year.

As California enters its fourth consecutive year of drought, West Basin is proud to announce Fiscal Year 2013-14 was a record year for West Basin’s Edward C. Little Water Recycling Facility. The facility produced 12 billion gallons of recycled water, enough water to meet the needs of approximately 74,000 households and reduce the demand for imported drinking water by approximately 12 billion gallons.

Today, West Basin has a Water Reliability 2020 program to double its recycling and conservation programs and continues to responsibly research the feasibility of ocean-water desalination in order to reduce its dependence on imported water by 50 percent by 2020.

SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVES

- From 1995 to 2013, West Basin’s recycling and conservation programs have reduced per capita water use in the service area 27 percent, which has removed approximately 40 million gallons of sewer water from draining into the Santa Monica Bay each day.
- Solar power accounts for 10 percent of the power to run the water recycling facility. Based on capacity output and solar power in place, this system provided 903,800 kWh for its first year of operation (January to December 2007). This power generation represented an annual power cost savings of \$90,000.
- As part of a recent expansion, West Basin installed six Variable Frequency Drives to ensure efficient operation and energy management. These upgrades reduced emissions of approximately 5.2 million tons of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.



West Basin operates the only water recycling facility in the world that produces five different types of usable water out of wastewater.