



Water is Scarce in LA County

We live in a water-scarce area. Los Angeles County residents rely heavily on imported water from the Sierra Mountains, the Central Valley and other states. Extreme weather conditions and the five-year drought have severely impacted communities across the County.

Over 100 Billion Gallons of Water Lost

Rain that falls on LA County flows through our region's rivers, creeks and streams. It replenishes groundwater, an important source of local drinking water.

However, because so much of our region is paved over, too much precious rainfall is lost to the ocean before we can capture it for use. When we experience heavy rains, our existing system captures only a fraction of rainfall: LA County lost over 150 billion gallons of water during last year's storms – enough to meet the needs of more than 2.5 million people for an entire year.

Pollutants and Toxins Threaten Public Health, Our Water Resources and the Environment

Stormwater picks up chemicals and toxins as it flows through streets and other developed areas to our rivers and streams and into the ocean, threatening public health and marine life. That's why beach closures follow nearly every heavy rain.

Thousands of marine animals have washed up sick or dead along Southern California's shoreline over the last ten years. Each year, stormwater carries 4,200 tons of trash from our streets onto local beaches.

LA County has relied on the US EPA, and State and Federal Clean Water Acts, to ensure strong water quality standards. However, they provide only minimal funding, and it is critically important that we take local action to improve water resources for LA County residents.

Our Solution: Safe, Clean Water Program

The good news is there are smart, modern solutions to help address these problems.

We can use science, technology and nature-based solutions to protect public health and our environment and to maximize a clean, locally-controlled water supply:

- Capture more rainfall to store, clean and re-use
- Protect local lakes, rivers, streams, beaches and the ocean from contamination
- Improve communities' protection against extreme weather patterns while adding natural areas, shade and green space to enjoy

The County and Los Angeles County Flood Control District are reaching out to stakeholders throughout our local communities to get input about how to create a Safe, Clean Water Program to achieve these goals and ensure safe, clean water resources for Los Angeles County residents.

Public input is important to us. For more information, please contact: info@SafeCleanWaterLA.org, and for more information, visit: www.SafeCleanWaterLA.org.

