



Water is Scarce in L.A. 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 L.A. 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: Each year over 100 billion gallons of water goes down the drain — enough to meet the needs of more than 3.5 million people for an entire year.

Pollutants Threaten Public Health, Our Water Resources and the Environment

Stormwater picks up trash, plastics, and pet waste 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.

Each year, many marine mammals, seabirds and fish die, either from mistakenly eating plastic garbage and other toxins, or ensnaring themselves. Each year, more than 4,200 tons of trash is picked up from local beaches.

L.A. 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 L.A. 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

County leaders and the L.A. County Flood Control District worked with stakeholders throughout our local communities to develop the Safe Clean Water Program to accomplish these goals. The County Board of Supervisors has voted to place the Safe Clean Water Program on the ballot for voters to consider in the November 6, 2018 election.

Please visit www.safecleanwaterLACounty.org and click on Frequently Asked Questions and Program Details for more information on the program and funding measure.

