

# THE REGIONAL WATER FACILITIES OPTIMIZATION & MASTER PLAN UPDATE

The San Diego County Water Authority's Regional Water Facilities Master Plan guides new infrastructure development to best meet current and future water demands. An update of the Master Plan was last completed in 2013 to identify and assess infrastructure and supply options in the Water Authority's service area through 2035.

The next Master Plan update is anticipated to be completed in 2023, and it will ensure member agency demands for water can be met by the Water Authority in a reliable and cost-effective manner through the 2045 planning horizon. The plan will build on previous successful efforts by the Water Authority and its 24 member agencies to provide safe and reliable water supplies to sustain the region's \$253 billion economy and the quality of life for 3.3 million residents.

## THE "VALUE OF WATER"

The 2023 Master Plan will recognize the necessity of sound, resilient water infrastructure and all the investments that go into supply reliability for the region. The plan will highlight the criticality of water infrastructure and provide infrastructure recommendations to address near-term and long-term needs.

In recent years, the Water Authority has shifted from an emphasis on developing major water supply infrastructure to operating and maintaining regional water production and conveyance systems. Accordingly, the 2023 Master Plan will focus on optimal use of the region's existing infrastructure, account for climate change and seismic resilience, and reexamine the timing and need for projects currently in the Water Authority's Capital Improvement Program.

## The Water Authority uses Master Plan updates to:

- Consider new infrastructure consistent with the latest water demand and supply projections
- Optimize use of the region's existing infrastructure
- Evaluate cost-effective facility options
- Ensure the regional infrastructure can withstand future supply and demand uncertainties
- Integrate asset and energy management priorities into facility planning

## PREPARING FOR UNCERTAINTY

Given the potential impact of future management decisions by federal, state, and local resource agencies, it's impossible to pinpoint the availability of water supplies and the changing water demands over two decades. External factors that contribute to supply and demand uncertainty include environmental challenges and climate change, the potential development of new local supplies in San Diego County, and future regulatory constraints, including water-use efficiency and conservation mandates.

In light of these uncertainties, the 2023 Master Plan Update will use a "scenario planning" approach that includes the Water Authority's 2020 Urban Water Management Plan as a baseline to develop a range of potential future water supply and demand settings to guide the consideration of new infrastructure. In addition, the Master Plan will identify adaptive management strategies to remain flexible no matter what the future holds.

## STAKEHOLDER REVIEW

Engagement with stakeholders is an important component of the 2023 Master Plan Update. Meetings and workshops will be conducted with various Water Authority departments, Water Authority executives, member agency representatives, the Water Authority Board of Directors, and the public. Stakeholders will be asked to provide input into planning for regional water infrastructure to meet the region's changing needs for decades to come.

## ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

In addition to the 2023 Master Plan Update, a Supplemental Program Environmental Impact Report and a revision to the 2019 Climate Action Plan will be prepared concurrently to comprehensively address potential environmental impacts of the Master Plan projects in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act and Executive Order B-55 of 2018 (carbon neutrality). All three planning documents will be presented to the Water Authority's Board of Directors for approval.

## 2013 MASTER PLAN UPDATE

The 2013 Regional Water Facilities Optimization and Master Plan Update played a major role in enhancing regional water supply reliability by recommending the following projects/initiatives:

- Mission Trails Regulatory Storage Structure (currently in construction)
- Hauck Mesa Flow Regulatory Structure (currently in construction)
- Valley Center Emergency Storage Project Pump Station (currently in design)
- Continuation of high priority Asset Management projects (ongoing)
- System reliability improvements and studies (ongoing)

**90%**

of the water used by San Diego County residents and businesses is conveyed through the Water Authority's aqueduct system.

## MORE INFO

[sdcwa.org/master-plan-documents](https://sdcwa.org/master-plan-documents)



Mission Trails Regulatory Storage Structure under construction