California’s High and Low Desert Regions would not be the same without the State Water Project (SWP), a foundational network woven into the fabric of the community.

**THE SWP PROVIDES**

- **30%** of the High Desert’s average annual water supply
- **15%** of the Low Desert’s average annual water supply
- **1.2 million residents** in the High and Low Desert regions with high-quality water daily for their homes and businesses
- **186,500 acre-feet** of high-quality, clean drinking water in an average year

The SWP fuels the High Desert’s booming aerospace and defense industries and the Low Desert’s thriving tourism economy.

**THE SWP SUPPORTS**

- **30,000+** jobs annually in the High Desert aerospace industry*
- **$3 billion annually** in economic activity from Edwards Air Force Base and the China Lake Naval Air Weapons Station, adding 12,500 jobs to the High Desert region**
- **$7 billion annually** from tourism in the Low Desert, supporting over 51,000 jobs***


†2019 GAVEA Economic Roundtable Report at: www.socalleadingedge.org/resources/studies
The SWP is California’s most critical infrastructure and must be maintained for future generations. Because of the system’s significance, it is vital to appreciate the momentous work being done behind the scenes every day to keep water running in the High and Low Desert regions. **We must not underestimate the important management and operation efforts in place to make the SWP possible for most of California.**

**AN IRREPLACEABLE SOURCE OF AFFORDABLE, HIGH-QUALITY WATER**

One acre-foot is equivalent to 326,000 gallons, or enough water to supply 1-2 households for an entire year. Without the SWP, the Desert regions would need to replace about 186,500 acre-feet per year of high-quality water supply. That’s enough water to fill the Indian Wells Tennis Garden over 5,000 times.

**THE STATE WATER PROJECT SYSTEM**

**A Foundational Source of Water Supply for the High Desert**

The High Desert sits within an adjudicated groundwater basin, with limits on the amount of water that can be pumped from the ground. Not only does the SWP help replenish the groundwater basins that the entire region depends on, surplus imported water from the SWP is banked in the basins during wet years so that it can be used to help meet demand in dry years.

**A Vital Part of Regional Water Supply Now and Well Into the Future**

California’s Low Desert region relies heavily on imported water. Public water agencies in the Low Desert are hard at work increasing their water management efficiencies and conservation measures. With reductions in Colorado River water continuing, the SWP will remain critical as the region diversifies and expands its sources of water supplies.

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**HIGH DESERT REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY SOURCES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>AFY</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Groundwater</td>
<td>126,200</td>
<td>56%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recycled Water</td>
<td>14,000</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SWP</td>
<td>66,200</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**LOW DESERT REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY SOURCES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>AFY</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Groundwater</td>
<td>289,600</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recycled Water</td>
<td>14,200</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SWP</td>
<td>120,300</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colorado River Water</td>
<td>329,000</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Surface Water</td>
<td>65,500</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Imported SWP water and local surface water replenish the groundwater aquifer supply to replace groundwater pumped throughout the year. The Desert Water Agency and the Coachella Valley Water District have a combined total SWP Table A allotment of 194,100 AFY. On average, 120,342 AFY is delivered for groundwater recharge.**

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State Water Contractors  
swc.org/the-state-water-project