The State Water Contractors — 27 public water agencies that bring fresh water to California through the State Water Project — are stewards of the state’s precious and finite water resources. Only by responsibly managing this crucial supply to ensure the consistent and stable delivery of imported water throughout the state, are the Contractors able to invest in alternative sources of water supplies. Contractors are finding new ways to expand local sources of water by:

- Applying best practices in water supply management to reduce consumption
- Seeking additional local and regional water supply sources
- Investing in new infrastructure to facilitate water reuse, recycling and desalination
- Working with local municipalities and regions to enable more stormwater capture
- Developing strong water conservation and education programs
- Creating increased opportunities for groundwater storage and recharge
- Collaborating with fellow water agencies to pool our collective knowledge, resources and experience

Coachella Valley Water District produces water from 100 groundwater wells, which are recharged via percolation basins with SWP imported water and recycled water. By blending recycled water with Colorado River water to irrigate public spaces, CVWD is able to reduce its reliance on groundwater replenished by the SWP.

Metropolitan Water District of Southern California’s Local Resource Program uses revenues to fund local resource projects and reduce its demand on the Bay-Delta. To date $626 million has been invested yielding over 1 trillion gallons in local recycled water and groundwater recovery.

San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District is partnering with 10 other agencies to develop a watershed-wide Habitat Conservation Plan, securing endangered species permits for new local supply projects like stormwater capture, providing an additional 26 billion gallons per year of new local supply.

Zone 7 Water Agency is converting gravel mining pits into a series of reservoirs, increasing local storage and stormwater capture while providing a local emergency supply for use during drought periods.

Yuba City maximizes the use of local water resources and reduces waste by implementing demand management measures such as water waste patrols in homes and businesses, automatic meter-reading systems, and conservation pricing to incentivize limiting water use.

Alameda County Water District owns and operates the Newark Desalination Facility – the very first in Northern California – which produces potable water from brackish groundwater while cleaning up the impacts of historic salt intrusion.
Improving California’s Self Reliance: It’s Just Common Sense

Each and every day, more than 27 million California residents and countless businesses depend on Sierra Nevada snowmelt traveling through the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta for anywhere from 30 to 80 percent of their water supply, which is captured, delivered and stored through the State Water Project. As our state’s water supply is threatened by climate change and the realities of more intense droughts and floods, public water agencies are hard at work expanding more local sources of water supplies – ensuring more water is available for those regions that need it most during dry years.

“public water agencies are hard at work expanding more local sources of water supplies”

Desert Water Agency is investing in additional supplies to augment its imported water portfolio, including local recycled water and water conservation. The Agency is currently at work on filtration for its surface water supplies in order to fully utilize that source, which will augment supplies by 1.4 billion gallons per year.

The SWP infrastructure proved invaluable during the recent 2012-16 drought when the Central Coast Water Authority actively pursued the purchase of additional water supplies from other Contractors as well as other sources throughout the State, ensuring all of its member agencies were able to continue to meet their demand and provide water to their customers. Without this infrastructure, severe supply disruptions would have occurred.

San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District has recently completed a stormwater capture feasibility study to determine additional opportunities to expand its already diverse water supply portfolio, reducing its demand on water imported through the SWP.

Mojave Water Agency has developed a regional “Reduced Future Reliance” strategy through a successful groundwater recharge program, which allows the Agency to be completely independent from the SWP during times of stress on the Delta. There is currently over 57 billion gallons stored in their local aquifer to meet future demands.

In the Santa Clara Valley Water District, groundwater pumping accounted for over 40 billion gallons from 2016-2017, providing 42% of the total water used by county residents and businesses. Using about 30 billion gallons of local and imported surface water to replenish the groundwater basins, as well as treated and recycled water deliveries, the District was able to reduce demands on groundwater in 2017 by over 63 billion gallons.