The State Water Project is a vast network of canals, pipelines, tunnels and reservoirs that serve as California’s lifeline, bringing fresh water to 27 million Californians, 750,000 acres of farmland, and businesses statewide. The 27 public water agencies who receive water from the State Water Project are dedicated to responsibly managing and promoting the efficient use of our most valuable natural resource. Collectively, these agencies are implementing best practices for water management and efficiency, ensuring a clean, reliable water supply for generations to come.

How We’re Making a Difference

The State Water Contractors are deploying a host of water supply management solutions to ensure California’s water supply is managed with great care:

- Water Banking
- Recycled Water
- Stormwater Capture
- Groundwater Storage & Recharge
- Desalination

Alameda County Water District has permanently reduced demand by ~14 million gallons per day over the past 20 years through water-saving programs, and the gradual replacement of old clothes washers, toilets, faucets and showerheads.

Solano County Water Agency’s toilet, washer and turf replacement rebate programs save ~219 million gallons per year. All three programs have cumulatively saved ~2.2 billion gallons since the District first began implementing them in 2007.

Coachella Valley Water District’s Water Waste Investigation Program has two full-time staffers conducting water waste patrols. In addition, the District has replaced over 16 million square feet of turf with desert landscaping through various rebate programs.

Dudley Ridge Water District has upgraded all facilities with concrete-lined canals and pipelines to help prevent unrecoverable seepage loss. The District’s agricultural water users have installed and operate drip or micro-sprinkler systems on all 16,600 acres of farmland in their service area.

San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District has implemented several groundwater storage programs over the years, including enhanced water recharge which produces approximately 1.7 billion gallons of water per year.
Managing our Water Supply through California’s Climate Extremes

Climate change is having a significant impact on California’s water supply. The state has experienced nine droughts since 1900, totaling 41 years, and climate extremes are the new reality. Public water agencies are taking the necessary and prudent steps to carefully manage supplies, and invest in infrastructure and programs to provide a reliable, cost-efficient supply now and in the future.

“Public water agencies are taking the necessary and prudent steps to carefully manage supplies.”

Desert Water Agency has been recycling water since the 1980s in order to offset groundwater pumping, and uses imported water from the State Water Project to keep groundwater levels stable.

San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency is investing $9 million in a regional recharge facility to be able to take advantage of wet years, enabling the Agency to purchase and locally bank more water. This helps to drought-proof the region as it continues to grow by allowing it to take less water in dry years.

Santa Clara Valley Water District is developing a county-wide Water Reuse Master Plan to integrate and expand recycled and purified water as a local, reliable, environmentally sustainable, drought-resistant water supply to guide investment of public funds for the next 20 years.

Metropolitan Water District of Southern California has expanded its cyclic storage program to allow for the pre-delivery of surface water to member agencies when surplus conditions exist in wet years. In 2017, Metropolitan stored nearly 40 billion gallons with its member agencies. Absent the cyclic storage program, water would have been lost, forcing Metropolitan to compete for costlier and more limited SWP water transfers in dry years.

San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District awards $200,000 annually in grant funding to school districts and cities to help install drought tolerant landscaping, including five schools, a YMCA, a large corporate location and each of the four cities within the District’s service area.