

The Journey of Water

Water's journey to LA County starts far from our taps. It begins as snow in distant mountains, flows through rivers, and travels hundreds of miles through a massive system of aqueducts, pipelines and reservoirs. Along the way, experts clean and test it to make sure it meets some of the toughest safety standards in the country. By the time it reaches your home or business, every drop has taken a long, carefully managed journey designed to protect both quality and reliability.



The Trip to Your Tap

From the Mountains and Rivers

The California State Water Project delivers water to 27 million Californians through canals, pipelines, reservoirs and hydroelectric power facilities. Along with water from the Colorado River, this water—known as imported water—is brought to Southern California by water wholesalers, which are responsible for sourcing, treating and delivering water to their region.



Moving Millions of Gallons

A large network of massive pipelines, reservoirs and pumping plants spanning more than 400 miles moves water across Southern California. Some parts of the system rely on gravity, while others use energy-intensive pumps to move water over mountains and across basins. This complex network ensures a steady and reliable supply every day of the year.



The Science That Keeps Our Water Safe

Water is cleaned by local water providers to meet strict water quality and safety standards. California has some of the strictest water quality standards in the United States, ensuring the water that reaches your tap is safe to drink and use around your home.

The Final Stretch

Many retail water providers, like Los Angeles Department of Water & Power or Glendale Water & Power, rely on a combination of imported water supplies purchased from Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, and local water supplies such as groundwater. Retail water agencies use local distribution systems to deliver water directly to homes and businesses throughout Southern California, ensuring every drop is safe and clean.

The Bigger Picture

Understanding water's journey helps us appreciate the systems that keep our taps running and the importance of both imported and local supplies. When we know the work behind every drop, we're empowered to protect our water and support the investments that ensure long-term reliability.



Learn More

To learn more about the journey from the mountains to your tap, visit waterforla.com.