

## 2023 Los Angeles County Water Plan Frequently Asked Questions

### 1. What is the Los Angeles County Water Plan?

The County Water Plan is a forward-looking strategic plan that crafts a vision for the region's water resources management. The County Water Plan articulates strategies to align efforts, both small and large, in order to launch Los Angeles County on a successful path towards water supply resilience. The County Water Plan is a living document, and future iterations of the County Water Plan are intended to evolve and adapt to meet Los Angeles County's changing water resources needs. Finally, the County Water Plan was crafted with resilience, sustainability, and equity as foundational values reflected throughout its entirety.

### 2. Why do we need a County Water Plan?

Climate change is establishing a "new normal" of more frequent and intense droughts, as well as less frequent and more torrential rains. Recognizing this evolving climate reality and the need to be thoughtful stewards of future water supplies, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors envisioned the development of a countywide water plan with a focus on collaborative management of the region's water resources.

### 3. Who developed the County Water Plan?

Collaboration was key to the successful development of the County Water Plan. The County Water Plan was initially envisioned by the Board of Supervisors and led by LA County Public Works. Public Works spearheaded a broad engagement initiative and garnered participation from entities with an interest in water management throughout the region and state, including local water agencies, partners, and community stakeholders.

### 4. How was the County Water Plan developed?

With resilience, sustainability, and equity at the heart of the plan, LA County Public Works conducted over 100 engagement events that consisted of: technical expert workgroups; listening sessions with environmental, environmental justice, and tribal groups; and stakeholder workshops. A Draft County Water Plan was released for public review in September 2023. The CWP was finalized by incorporating the public comments. The final CWP was adopted by the Board of Supervisors on December 5, 2023.

## **5. What is the County Water Plan’s planning horizon?**

The CWP has a planning horizon through 2045.

## **6. Is the County Water Plan a comprehensive water plan for the region?**

This first iteration of the County Water Plan looks to fill in existing planning “gaps” and focuses on water supply resilience in the context of four key focal areas where additional collaboration would be most impactful. It does, however, build upon and leverage other comprehensive efforts like the Los Angeles County *OurCounty* Sustainability Plan, Integrated Regional Water Management Plan, LA River Master Plan, and Metropolitan Water District Integrated Water Resources Plan.

## **7. How is this different from other plans? Don’t we already have regional water plans?**

The County Water Plan will work in concert with existing planning efforts to enhance and support other programs and initiatives while meeting planning needs that are not currently being addressed by other efforts. The goal of the County Water Plan is to complement existing water management planning efforts while also adding meaningful value within this larger planning context.

## **8. How does the County Water Plan relate to the OurCounty Sustainability Plan?**

The County Water Plan is aligned with *OurCounty*, the countywide regional sustainability plan adopted by the County Board of Supervisors in August 2019, and Public Works regularly coordinates with the County Chief Sustainability Office. The County Water Plan directly supports the implementation of several specific water management-related actions from *OurCounty* and adopted a similar planning structure and terminology using targets, strategies, and actions as key planning elements, which will streamline tracking progress toward established targets. Specifically, the CWP embraces *OurCounty*’s target of sourcing 80% of our water supply locally by 2045.

## **9. How does the County Water Plan relate to the Safe, Clean Water Program?**

The Los Angeles County Water Plan is a forward-looking strategic plan that encompasses and is aligned with the Safe, Clean Water Program. The County Water Plan looks at the big picture of regional water supply resilience, whereas, the Safe, Clean Water Program provides much needed local funding to increase our local water supply, improve water quality, and protect public health.

## 10. What's in the County Water Plan?

As a result of this collaborative process, 4 Key Focal Areas, 16 Targets, 14 Strategies, and numerous actions were created to help secure LA County's water future and achieve the collective vision of equitable and sustainable water resources for everyone.

## 11. What are the focal areas of the County Water Plan and why?

The CWP is focusing on key water management issues that have been identified by stakeholders. In this first iteration, the County Water Plan focuses on the following:

1. **Regional Water Supply Reliability:** Climate change, earthquakes, increasing demand, and groundwater quality are among many challenges to LA County's water supply. Coordinated efforts to increase resilience are needed in all water sectors – stormwater, potable water, and wastewater.
2. **Groundwater Management and Quality:** Realizing shared groundwater management opportunities by sharing expertise and resources to overcome challenges.
3. **Small, At-Risk System Resilience and Drinking Water Equity:** Ensuring a consistently high standard of water service for everyone in Los Angeles County by providing regional support for small systems, with focused attention to under-resourced communities.
4. **Watershed Sediment Management:** Mitigating the impacts of wildfire on water supplies through coordinated efforts between land and water managers.

## 12. What are some of the key targets of the County Water Plan?

One key target aims to increase local supply sources by 580,000 AFY by 2045. Another aims to reduce at-risk water systems by 100% by 2045, especially in underserved and under-resourced communities.

## 13. Will the strategies in the County Water Plan help the region achieve the 80% local water supply goal?

Yes. Several of the strategies and actions in the CWP aim to increase our regional local water portfolio by 580,000 AFY, nearly doubling the amount of water that is currently locally generated and would achieve 80% local water supply for Los Angeles County by 2045.

## **14. How does the County Water Plan address the needs of historically underserved communities?**

Many small and at-risk systems provide water to underserved communities and have limited resources and revenue potential to address water quality and quantity needs. In response, the CWP dedicates four targets and several strategies to eliminating at-risk water systems, improving small system resilience, and providing safe, clean, and equitable drinking water to all in Los Angeles County.

## **15. Does the County Water Plan identify specific projects?**

No. The County Water Plan is forward-looking strategic plan that crafts a vision and is intended to be used as a planning tool. It does not identify any specific projects. Nothing in the CWP should be construed as a commitment by any participating entity to fund the implementation of any specific actions within the County Water Plan.

## **16. Who will implement the County Water Plan?**

Public Works will facilitate the implementation of the County Water Plan in partnership with water management entities, community stakeholders, and Tribes.

## **17. Who participated and how can I participate?**

Local water agencies, partners, community stakeholders, and Tribes participated in the development of the County Water Plan. To stay up to date on the County Water Plan, you can visit the [CWP website](#) and join the [CWP mailing list](#) to express interest in CWP implementation and receive updates.

## **18. Is there funding available to implement the County Water Plan?**

Securing resources to implement the County Water Plan will be an important next step for the region's water agencies, stakeholders, and Tribes to make progress on this bold initiative.