

November 16, 2015

# Overview of Water Management Issues in the Los Angeles County Region

---

LEGISLATIVE ANALYST'S OFFICE

Presented to:

Assembly Committee on Water, Parks, and Wildlife  
Hon. Marc Levine, Chair

Select Committee on Urban Rivers and Streams  
Hon. Jimmy Gomez, Chair

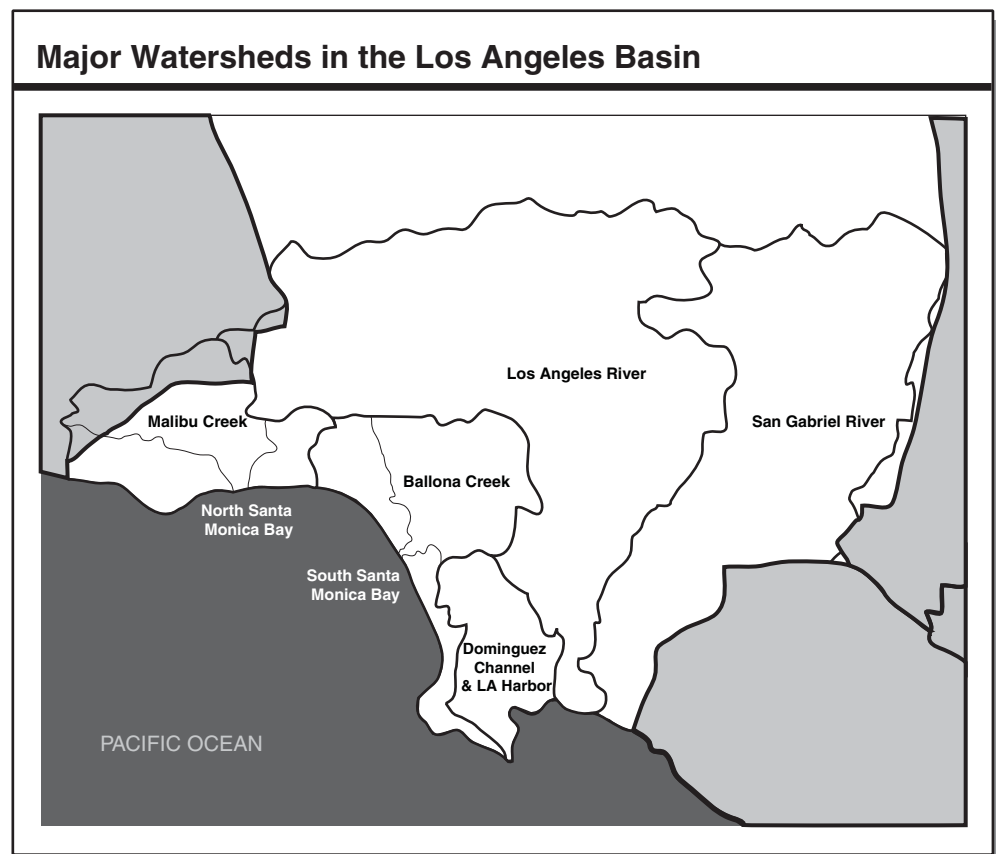




## Complex Water Management in Los Angeles County Region

---

- ✓ Los Angeles Basin Includes Multiple Watersheds
- ✓ Los Angeles County Has Roughly 230 Community Water Systems
- ✓ Region Includes Multiple Integrated Regional Water Management Planning Areas
  - Greater Los Angeles County (divided into five subregions), Los Angeles Gateway Water Management Authority, Upper Santa Clara River, and Antelope Valley.



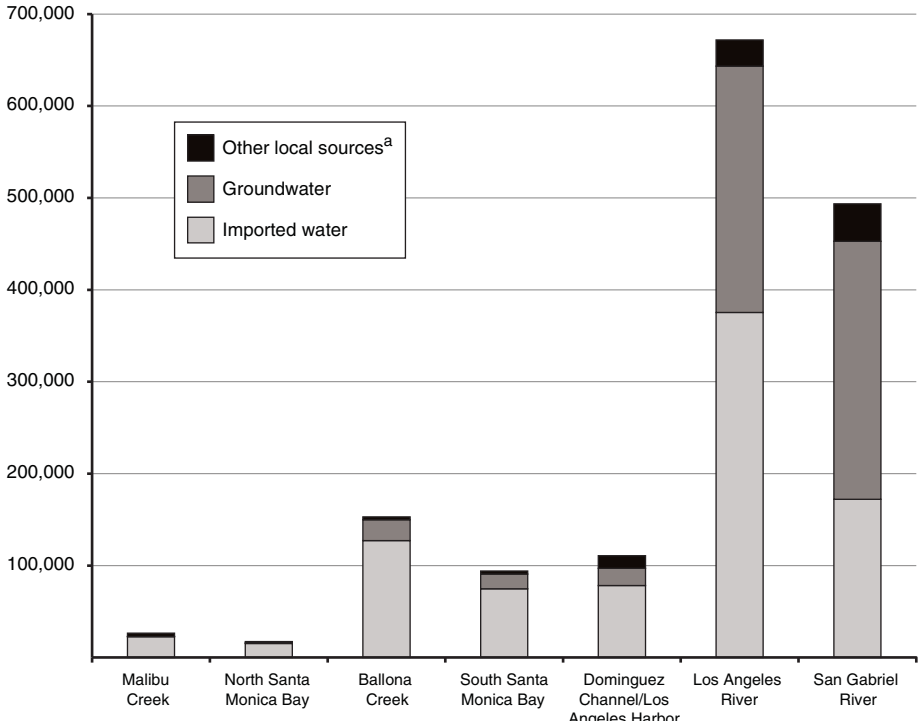


# Regional Sources of Water

- Region Relies Primarily on Imported Water
- Region's Per Capita Water Use Declining Due to Increased Conservation

## Sources of Water Used in Los Angeles Basin

2010, in Acre-Feet Per Year by Watershed



<sup>a</sup> Includes local surface water, desalinated ocean water, and recycled water.



## Regional Water Management Challenges

---

- Growing Population
- Constrained Supply of Imported Water
- Contaminated Stormwater Runoff
- Contaminated Groundwater Basins
- Urbanization Limits Opportunities for Stormwater Capture, Groundwater Recharge, and Natural Spaces
- Constrained Ability to Fund Infrastructure Upgrades
- Maintaining Flood Protection



## Examples of Current and Potential Water Management Projects in Region

---

- Increased Wastewater Recycling
  - Proposed demonstration project collaboration between Metropolitan Water District and Los Angeles County Sanitation District.
  
- Increased Stormwater Capture
  - Green Solution project in Upper Los Angeles River watershed.
  - Sun Valley watershed projects.
  
- Expanded Groundwater Supply and Storage
  - San Fernando Valley groundwater remediation.
  - Water Replenishment District of Southern California project to treat wastewater for groundwater replenishment.
  
- Reenvisioning Flood Control Channels
  - Pacoima Wash Initiative.
  - Los Angeles River restoration.



## Issues for Legislative Consideration

---

- What role should the state play in enabling, encouraging, and funding local water management projects?
  - Are there steps the state can take to increase local ability to fund water infrastructure upgrades?
  - Are there steps the state can take to increase water conservation across the region?
  - How effective is the state at encouraging and supporting local projects?
  
- What are the primary goals for improved water management in the region? Are there particular projects that can accomplish multiple goals?
  
- What types of projects increase the region's flexibility to adapt to changing conditions and future uncertainties?
  
- How should the state weigh the comparative costs and benefits of different types of state-funded projects?
  
- How can the state evaluate the success of different water management strategies, approaches, and projects?
  
- Are there additional steps the state can take to ensure underserved communities are included in regional water efforts?
  
- Are there water management lessons the Los Angeles region can learn from other areas of the state?