

WATER TRANSFERS AND WATER MARKETING

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Abstract: Faced with the current and projected water supply shortages in its service area, The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (Metropolitan) is aggressively pursuing various programs aimed at improving the adequacy and the reliability of the short- as well as the long-term water supplies of Southern California. Such programs include water conservation, local wastewater reuse, conjunctive use, groundwater storage and recovery, water transfers and exchanges, and other innovative water management programs. Urban water demand reduction through water conservation alone will not be sufficient to bridge the gap between supply availability and demand in Southern California. More efficient and effective use of agricultural water brought about through economic incentive has proven to be a viable option for enhancing urban water supplies as evidenced by the 1988 Water Conservation Agreement between the Imperial Irrigation District and Metropolitan. Reaching such agreements is a complex process involving technical, legal, institutional, and political issues. An update on the current and projected water supply demand situation in Southern California, and a summary of the programs being pursued by Metropolitan to enhance its water supplies, in particular those involving Colorado River water, will be presented.

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