

IS THE DROUGHT OVER FOR L.A. ■

The most popular question following so much rain is, "Is the drought over?"

For six years now we've been in a drought and the message has been that we must conserve and we must invest in sustainable water resources. That was pretty easy to understand when there was little to no rain year after year. But now, with a steady stream of storms across California in December and January, the state's reservoirs are filling up and we haven't had to water our landscapes for over a month now.

So what's the answer? Well first, remember that we don't get the majority of the water we need year round from local rainfall. Much of Los Angeles' water resources are imported from northern California through the State Water Project and from the east via the Colorado River System (both systems comprise LADWP's purchased water imports), still more water is imported through the LADWP-owned Los Angeles Aqueduct (this water is owned by Los Angeles). Though rainfall and reservoir levels in northern California are doing extremely well following this winter's storms, it isn't enough to meet all of our region's needs. We still rely on supplies from the Colorado River System and its situation, while better than the previous few years, is still dire.

Are we better than we were a year ago?

Yes.

Does Los Angeles go back to using water without concern for the future?

No. One good year of rainfall in Southern California isn't sufficient to meet long-term needs.

What do we do from here?

Keep doing what we have been: Conserve as much as we can and don't waste water.

A lot of what we do in rainy years is store water for use during dry years and that's exactly what we'll do with this winter's water.

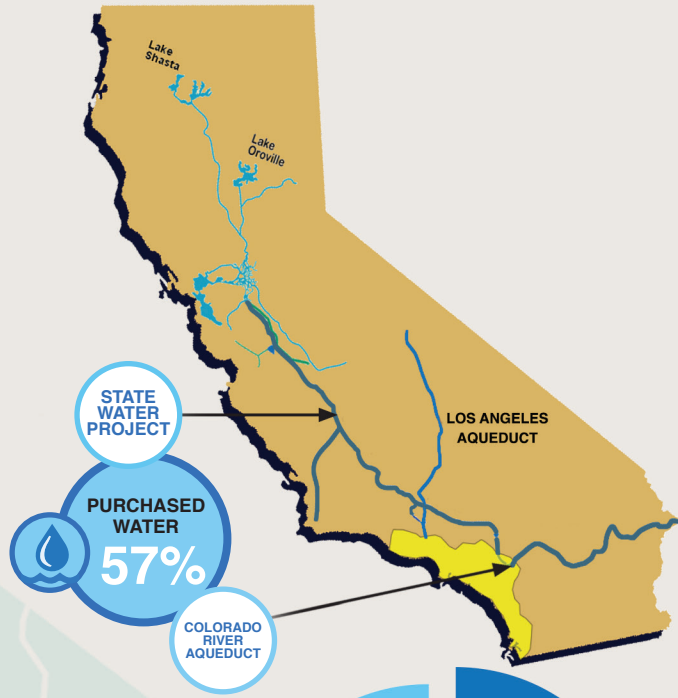
We live in an arid region that requires Angelenos to adopt water conservation as a way of life. While things look promising now, there is no telling what weather future years will bring. Climate change is affecting weather patterns causing us to prepare for hotter and drier years, and Los Angeles' population is expected to keep on growing.

To date LA has done extremely well at conservation. We've met the Mayor's goals of reducing our water use by 20 percent over the past three years and LADWP customers today use less than they did in the 1970s despite a population growth of over a million people.

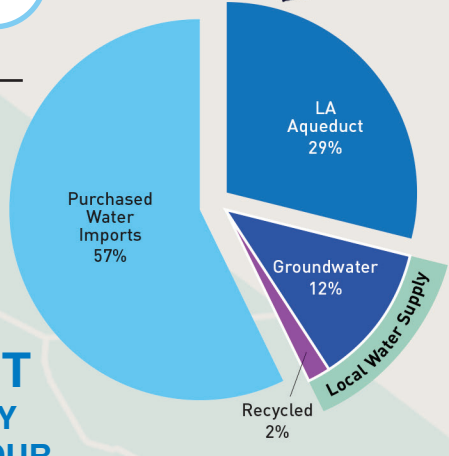
Looking forward, we make projections about future water supply for our growing city by imagining that water savings from conservation equate to a virtual reservoir, bolstering our City's water supply. The less water we use, the further our other supplies will take us.

What other proactive steps are you taking besides relying on continued conservation?

LADWP continues to expand local resources like recycled water and stormwater capture to fill our giant underground aquifer in the San Fernando Valley Groundwater Basin, all so we can provide a more reliable, local supply from which to store more water in wet years to use during dry years. By improving our local supplies and continuing a strong conservation ethic, we won't have to rely as much on costly and unreliable imported sources during times of drought.

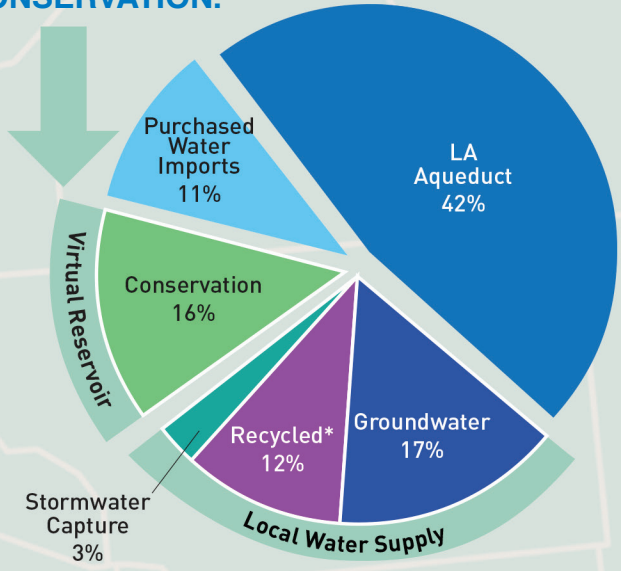


Present
FY 2011-15 Average
Total - 550,355 AF



WE CAN LIVE DROUGHT PROOF BY IMPROVING OUR LOCAL WATER SUPPLIES COUPLED WITH CONTINUED CONSERVATION.

Future
FY 2039-40 Average
Total - 675,700 AF



*Includes 5% groundwater replenishment