



Long Beach Water Department
The Standard in Water Conservation &
Environmental Stewardship

**Long Beach Fills Underground Reservoir Account For Metropolitan;
Stored Water Can Supply 8,600 Families For A Year**

LOS ANGELES, CA - An aquifer under the City of Long Beach is becoming another reservoir available to benefit local residents, as well as the other 18 million people within the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. The Long Beach Water Department has stored 13,000 acre-feet in the aquifer for Metropolitan, adding it to local groundwater and having it available for later use.

"The program's well on its way to being a great success, and we're talking about ways to expand it," said Kevin L. Wattier, General Manager of the Long Beach Water Department. "In the future, when required by a drought or other emergency, we'll be able to draw on that Metropolitan water and Metropolitan can send its imported supplies to others."

The Long Beach program was the first local storage agreement to receive some of the Proposition 13 water bond monies that the state allocated to Southern California, receiving \$4.5 million-100 percent of the project's cost.

Two new wells and modifications to two existing wells are being constructed in central and north Long Beach to withdraw the water, with completion expected early next summer.

"This is the kind of innovative program that MWD and its member agencies, such as Long Beach, are working on to bolster water-supply reliability for our region," said Ronald R. Gastelum, Metropolitan Chief Executive Officer.

Approximately 4,300 acre-feet of Metropolitan's stored water can be withdrawn from the aquifer annually. An acre-foot is about 326,000 gallons, and provided the needs of two typical families for a year.

Importing freshwater from the Colorado River and Northern California and distributing it to 26 cities and public water agencies throughout Southern California, Metropolitan also has storage agreements with Calleguas Municipal Water District, Upper San Gabriel Municipal Water District, Three Valleys Municipal Water District, Inland Empire Utilities Agency, Pasadena, Foothill Municipal Water District, Central Basin Municipal Water District and the Municipal Water District of Orange County.

Metropolitan's regional water supply also is stored in conjunction with local groundwater in aquifers in California's Central Valley, in the Coachella Valley, and in Arizona.

Surface reservoirs, however, comprise the bulk of Metropolitan's storage facilities, the largest being Diamond Valley Lake, near Hemet in southwestern Riverside County, which has a capacity of about 800,000 acre-feet.

SOURCE: Metropolitan Water District of Southern California