

Imported Water

Fast Facts

- 55% = Percentage of Santa Clara County's water supply imported from the Bay-Delta watershed.
- 40% directly through the Delta and 15% from the Hetch-Hetchy System.
- 7 of 9 Bay Area counties rely on the Bay-Delta watershed for all or some of their water supply (Alameda, Contra Costa, Napa, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, and Solano).

The water district is unique as the only major contractor of both the State Water Project (SWP) and Central Valley Project (CVP):

- 100,000 acre-feet = SWP contract amount
- 152,500 acre-feet = CVP contract amount
- \$44 million = Average annual cost of SWP and CVP imported water.
- Six cities in Santa Clara County receive imported water directly from the Hetch-Hetchy System.
- 60,000 acre-feet = normal year Hetch-Hetchy deliveries to Santa Clara County.
- SWP's Oroville Dam is the tallest dam in the United States.
- San Luis Reservoir is the largest offstream reservoir in the world (2 million acre-feet).
- 1 acre-foot = enough water to meet the needs of two families of five for a year.



California Aqueduct

The abundance of crops and fruit and nut orchards in Santa Clara County during the early 20th century created a great need for water in this "Valley of Heart's Delight."

But even then, local rainfall could not replenish groundwater basins fast enough to meet demand. In parts of San Jose, the pumping of so much water actually caused the ground to sink.

To prevent further land subsidence and secure the region's long-term water future, voters in 1929 approved the creation of a water conservation district, known today as the Santa Clara Valley Water District. In the 1960s, the county looked outside its borders for the water it would need to meet booming population growth and economic development as it transitioned into "Silicon Valley." In 1965, deliveries began from the State Water Project (SWP) through the South Bay Aqueduct. In 1977, the water district signed a contract for water from the federal Central Valley Project (CVP) and those deliveries began from San Luis Reservoir in 1987.

continued on back...

Where does our water come from? **Imported Water**

Imported Water

Today, it surprises many local residents to learn that, like Southern California, the San Francisco Bay Area depends on the Delta watershed for much of its water supply. Rainfall and snowmelt from the Sierra Nevada Mountain Range, flowing through the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, supplies half of the water used in Santa Clara County in an average year. Many are also unaware that most of the water for both San Francisco and Oakland would also flow through the Delta if it were not diverted around the Delta in aqueducts.

Imported supplies are an integral part of the water district's water management, which also includes local supplies, conservation and recycling.

Protection of the county's imported water interests is a key priority. As the only major contractor of both the SWP and CVP, the water district plays a very unique role, working with other SWP and CVP contractors to ensure the delivery, reliability and cost-effectiveness of Santa Clara County's imported water supplies today and into the future.

Santa Clara County

by the numbers

30% local water

15% natural groundwater

10% from reservoirs to groundwater

5% from reservoirs to drinking water treatment plants

55% imported water

15% thru Delta to replenish groundwater

25% thru Delta to drinking water treatment plants

15% from Hetch Hetchy system

5% recycled water

90%

10% savings needed

100%

Water supplies