

Where does Santa Clara County water come from?

Where does our water come from? Do you know? Can you guess?

From the mountains to your faucet; it's a complicated quest.
When you turn on the faucet, what would you do if it's not there?
If it's dirty, would you drink it? Do you think you even care?

Where does our water come from? 30% is from the ground.
It seeps from reservoirs and streams and rain that's falling down.
Where does our water come from? From our wells we pump it up,
Nice and clean, you can drink it. Go ahead and fill your cup!
Some is taken from the reservoirs and sent for treatment every day
That means we have to clean it; this costs money, so you pay.

Where does our water come from? We import 55%.
From Lake Oroville and Mt. Shasta, every day the water's sent.
It travels through the Delta, and then is put in an aqueduct.
You know it costs some money to maintain and to construct.
Some of this water goes to percolate ponds, then down into the ground
Some is sent to treatment plants, before it makes its way to town.
San Francisco sends us water from Hetch Hetchy's flow
We needed more water and they couldn't say, "No!"
This water goes to people, not for farming the land.
15% of households in the county is the plan.

Where does our water come from? Some is recycled every day.
In purple pipe it is delivered to schools and businesses who pay.
This is a small amount of water under local control.
Increasing its use is a water district goal.

Where does our water come from? It's a complicated quest.
Now you know where it comes from; you don't have to guess.
We buy water from the government, federal and state.
We get it from the ground at a very good rate.
San Francisco sells us water, lickety split!
And after it's used, we recycle it.
Everyone in the county knows there's a limited supply.
We're asked to conserve before the wells run dry.

Kathy Machado, 12/2009