International Drought Symposium
March 25, 2010
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- Western
- California Water Crisis
- Water Value
- Policies and Politics
WESTERN’S SERVICE AREA

- 527-square miles of western Riverside County
- Population of 850,000+ ...1.5 million by 2030
- 8 wholesale agencies
- 24,000+ retail customers
- 125,000 acre-feet of water annually or 34 billion gallons
- 435 miles of pipelines
- 38 water storage reservoirs
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA’S IMPORTED WATER SUPPLY

State Water Project
Colorado River Aqueduct
Metropolitan Water District
CONTINUING WATER CRISIS

Water Supply Challenges

- Prolonged drought
- Severe drought on Colorado – 2008 1st good year since 1999
- Delta pump restrictions
- 30% State Project flow
- 10% cut in supply allocation from the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
CURRENT RESERVOIR CONDITIONS

Figure 1. Selected reservoir storage for July 28, 2009.
End of Year – Key Reservoir Storage

- 2006: 123%
- 2007: 78%
- 2008: 57%
- 2009: 69%
Precipitation Index 2009-10

Figure 1. Northern Sierra 8-Station Precipitation Index
Fixing the Delta

- Provides environmental sustainability
- Improves supply reliability from State Water Project
- Implements immediate and long-term solutions
“Safe, Clean, and Reliable Drinking Water Supply Act of 2010” – $11.14 Billion
Contributing factors

- Annual Snow & Rainfall
- Water Storage
- Pumping Capacity

What are the risks?

- Higher Water Costs
- Suffering Economy
- Impacted Agriculture
- Job Loss
- Political Fall-out
Price signal is the true cost of water

*Example:* Gas prices in 2009 that peaked at nearly $5/gallon

Price affects use
ROSSI’S HOUSEHOLD COST COMPARISON

- Cable Television: $121/month
- Electricity: $340/month
- Cellular Phone: $225/month
- Water & Sewer: $70/month
Goals

- Revenue Stability
- Fairness
- Conservation

Key Components

- Flexibility
- Extensive Public Outreach
- Individualized Planning
- Customer Surveys
- Public Board Meetings and Workshops
- Incentives for Efficient Water Users
Water agencies need to diversify

- Storm Water Capture
- Santa Ana River Water Rights Application Process
- Water Recycling
- Water Use Efficiency
- Salt Imbalance
- Desalting Collaboration
A National/State Water Policy?

- Balance Water Quality and Water Source Elements
- Water for the Environment
- Ocean Desalination
- Water Recycling
- Water Use Efficiency
SECURING YOUR WATER SUPPLY