



Advancing California's Water Supply Strategy

Climate change is affecting California in many ways. Hotter, drier conditions threaten the state's water supply, while intermittent flooding underscores the need for more storage. Further investments are needed to make the most of existing resources and maintain water supply reliability into the future.

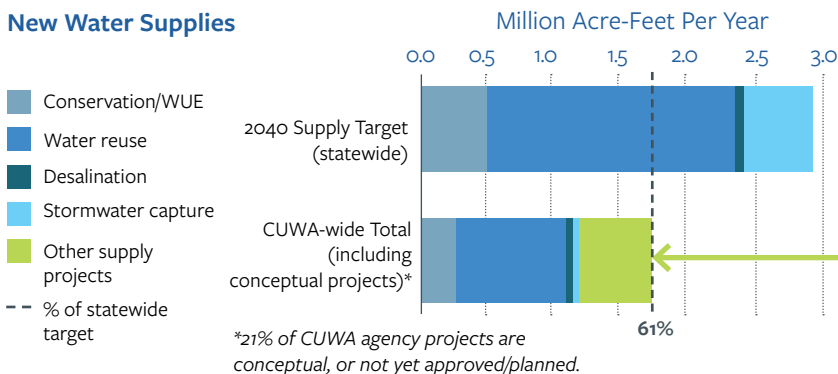
FUTURE RESILIENCE REQUIRES BOLD ACTION BY STATE AND LOCAL LEADERS

California's Water Supply Strategy highlights the urgency of our water supply challenge, setting ambitious targets for new supply, storage, and water use efficiency (WUE) by 2030 and 2040. In alignment with this strategy, CUWA agencies are advancing local and regional efforts to encourage wise water use and develop supply reliability projects. However, statewide targets cannot be achieved through these planned projects alone.

CUWA agencies have several conceptual projects that are not yet approved due to future uncertainties or currently prohibitive barriers (e.g., high cost of implementation). And while CUWA doesn't represent all local water agencies, others face similar challenges and constraints. Unlocking the full potential of these projects requires bold action by state and local leaders—working together, we can permit projects faster, improve public perception of alternative supplies, and reduce the cost of these critical projects for ratepayers struggling with affordability.

CUWA agencies, who collectively serve about two-thirds (67%) of the state's population, could achieve nearly two-thirds of the overall new supply target, as indicated by the dashed lines below. However, the types of supply vary by agency and include a broader mix of projects, beyond those highlighted in the state's strategy.

New Water Supplies

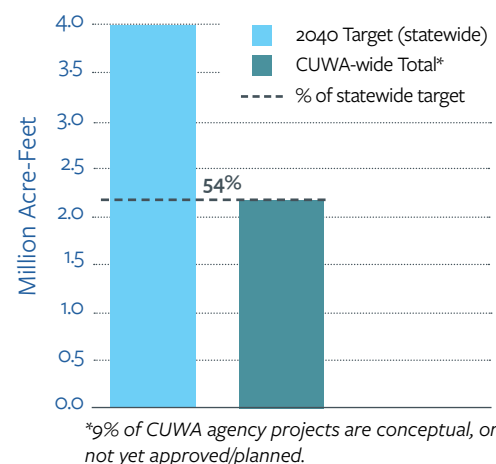


While not reflected in the state's targets, **other supply projects**, such as groundwater expansion, new conveyance, and water treatment plant improvements can contribute a significant amount of new supply by leveraging more surface water when available and enabling greater use of groundwater in dry years. These projects also tend to be relatively cost-effective.

Storage plays a critical role in water supply resilience and flood control by allowing water managers to capture flow during wet periods for later use in dry periods. Both surface reservoirs and groundwater storage are key elements of California's supply strategy. Investments in dam safety are also critical for retaining and/or regaining existing reservoirs' storage capacity.

Projects that CUWA agencies are leading or participating in—including three of the projects supported by Proposition 1—make up **more than half of the State's goal of 4 million acre feet of new storage capacity**. Other agencies, particularly those with substantial groundwater recharge potential, play a major role in achieving this statewide target.

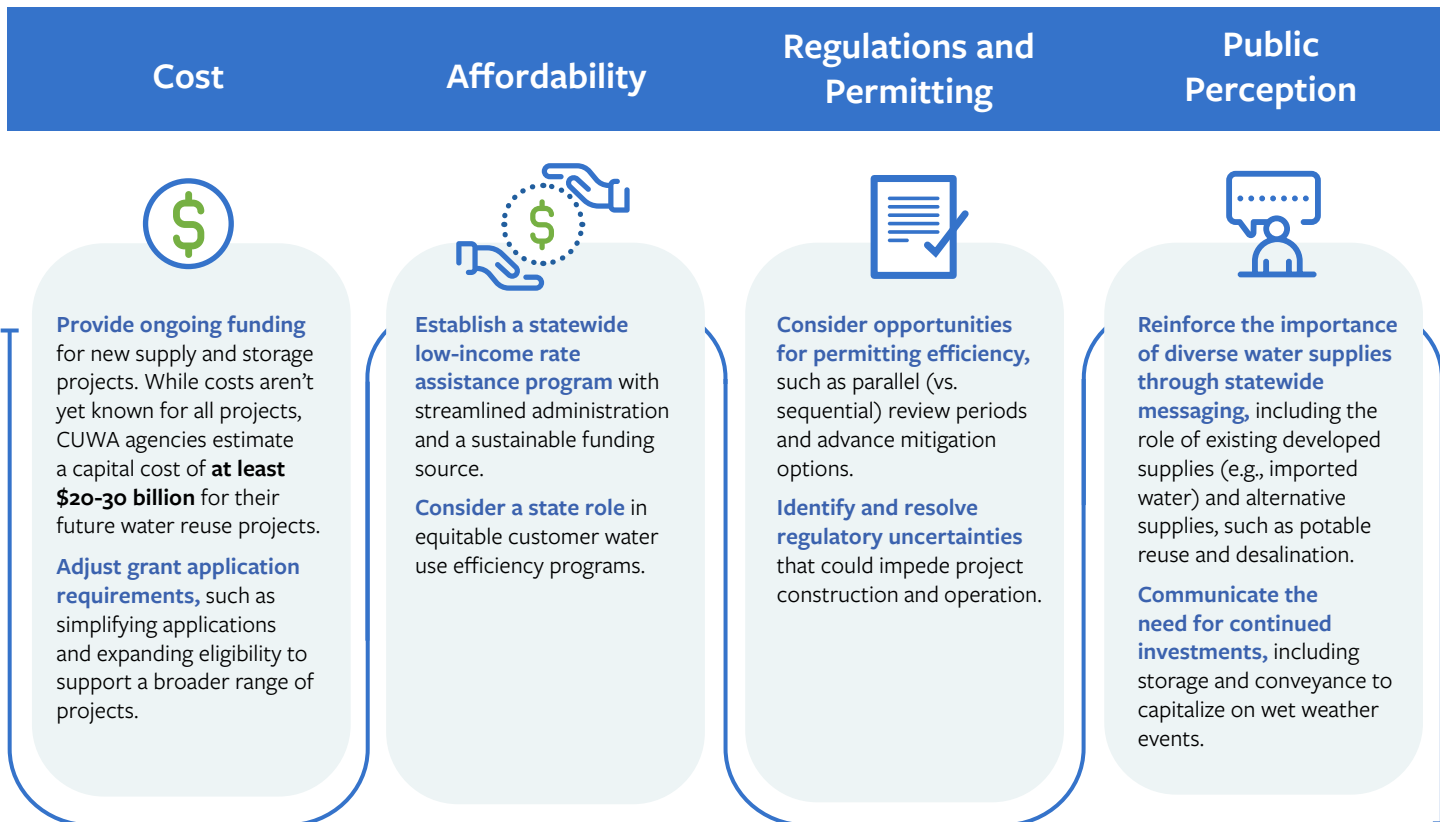
New or Expanded Storage Volume



OVERCOMING BARRIERS TO SUPPLY AND STORAGE PROJECTS

Some projects are limited by local resources and constraints. For example, most coastal urban areas have insufficient space for stormwater capture and recharge—much of the potential for recharge is in agricultural areas. Conversely, potable reuse and desalination are generally more accessible and affordable in coastal regions, due to limited and costly brine management options for inland agencies.

In addition to site-specific constraints, there are some universal hurdles that impede or delay implementation of new supplies, such as cost, affordability, regulatory obstacles, and public perception of alternative supplies. Many of these hurdles also affect storage, conveyance, and operations and maintenance projects, such as dam safety improvements and replacement of aging conveyance infrastructure. **The state plays a key role in helping local agencies overcome these barriers to bolster existing supply reliability and unlock the potential for new projects.**



TOGETHER, WE CAN SECURE RELIABLE WATER FOR OUR COMMUNITIES, THE ENVIRONMENT, AND ECONOMY.

All members of the water community—including water suppliers, regulators, NGOs, and the public—share overarching goals: building reliable water supply for our communities, protecting the environment, and sustaining the economy. All stakeholders play a role and must work together to secure funding (for capital projects and ongoing rate assistance), streamline permitting processes, and align messaging. Only through collaboration can we accomplish such an ambitious and worthwhile endeavor: achieving the objectives of California's water supply strategy.

Who is CUWA?

California Urban Water Agencies (CUWA) is a non-profit corporation representing the collective voice of 11 major urban water agencies that serve two-thirds of the state's population and power the bulk of the state's \$3 trillion economy. CUWA agencies are committed to providing reliable water supplies for the state's current and future urban water needs in a cost-effective manner for the public, the environment, and the economy.