

Los Angeles Basin Study

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The Los Angeles Basin Study (Basin Study) is a partnership between the Los Angeles County Flood Control District (LACFCD) and the Bureau of Reclamation, Southern California Area Office. The Basin Study encompasses 1,900 square miles and includes the Los Angeles River, San Gabriel River, North Santa Monica Bay, South Santa Monica Bay, Dominguez Channel/Los Angeles Harbor, and Ballona Creek watersheds. The study area is home to over 10 million people, or about ¼ of California's population. Water usage in this area exceeded 1.6 million acre-feet in water year 2010-2011¹, and local regional planning efforts project a potential 800,000 acre-feet/year shortfall by 2025². This shortfall could be exacerbated by climate variability as the area is subject to cycles of changing ocean temperatures, currents, and upwelling known as the El Niño and La Niña cycles.

The purpose of this study is to identify alternatives, conduct trade-off analyses and identify opportunities that could bridge the gap between current and future water supply and demand in the Basin Study watersheds. This study has two objectives. The first is to evaluate the long-term potential of existing LACFCD flood control dams, reservoirs, spreading grounds, and other interrelated facilities to conserve increased amounts of stormwater for water supply. The second objective is to analyze the potential for new facilities and operational changes to capture increased stormwater volumes for water supply. Each objective will be met through detailed scientific, engineering, and economic analyses.

The Basin Study is estimated to cost \$2.4 million. The LACFCD and 21 local project partners will contribute approximately \$1.4 million towards completion of the Basin Study, and Reclamation will fund up to \$1 million, subject to funding availability.



¹ MWD Calculations, IRPSIM Sales Model Projection 20a2, January 2012.

² Greater Los Angeles County Integrated Regional Water Management Plan, 2006, pgs. 2-18, <http://www.ladpw.org/wmd/irwmp>. Metropolitan's Integrated Resources Plan proposes that its member agencies develop projects to increase local water production and conservation, and further suggests that financial incentives can facilitate some of those projects to fill the gap.

