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## Desalting and Water Purification Research Program

An Expert System for Decision making in the Use of Desalination for Augmenting Water Supplies

DWPR Report #107, G. Characklis, UNC - CH

A tool for evaluating total water costs from alternative sources was developed using Reclamation's WaTER program for estimating treatment costs as well as other available treatment cost models. The tool takes into account the cost of acquiring water, treatment, compliance with regulations pertaining to the source and the delivered quality and storage costs. Among other findings, the study revealed that when these external costs are taken into consideration, in many cases imported fresh water sources require the same investment as nearby brackish sources between 1,000 and 10,000 mg/L TDS.

