

QUICK FACTS



Water in the High and Low Desert areas of San Bernardino County

Where does our water come from?

MWA's Service Area is located in the most arid region in Southern California receiving less than six inches of rain annually making water conservation and steadfast water management critical to long-term sustainability.



How does MWA manage water supplies?

One of the primary ways MWA ensures a sustainable water supply is through a 1996 court action designed to ensure users are not over pumping water from the ground and depleting supplies. This action, called the Mojave Basin Area Judgment (Judgment), determined pumping rights for those who were pumping or "producing" more than 10 acre-feet of water a year. New pumpers who will pump more than 10 acre-feet annually, stipulate to the Judgment allowing them to be part of the solution. The court also recognized those pumpers who produce or pump less than 10 acre-feet of water a year as "minimal producers."

What group ensures we have enough water?

The Mojave Water Agency (MWA), by state law, is responsible for water management over a 4,900 square-mile area in the high and low desert areas of San Bernardino County including the Victor Valley area, Barstow and surrounding communities, and the Morongo Basin region.



How much is an acre-foot of water?

An acre-foot of water is equivalent to about 326,000 gallons, or enough water to cover an acre of land, about the size of a football field, one foot deep. A typical residence on 1/2 acre of land and average landscaping uses less than an acre-foot of water annually. A farm or ranch can use 100 to 3,000 acre-feet of water annually.



How does MWA ensure we have enough water and no one is over pumping ?

Under the Judgment, MWA must provide pumping or production data to the court each year. The court reviews the amount of water that can be pumped from the Mojave Basin Area free of replacement water charges. Excess pumping is charged and billed to those who pump more than allowed by the court to provide replacement water. MWA then recharges the basin by using water purchased from the California Department of Water Resources (DWR). The price per acre-foot of water varies based on market conditions. The current billing rate per acre foot can be found on the MWA website.

For more information contact MWA at 760.946.7000 or www.mojauewater.org