



# **WATERMASTER ADMINISTRATIVE BODY**

*Central & West Coast Groundwater Basins*



WATERMASTER ADMINISTRATIVE BODY

# ADJUDICATED GROUNDWATER BASINS



## YEAR OF ADJUDICATION

- West Coast Basin: 1961
- Central Basin: 1965



## CURRENT ADJUDICATION LIMITS (ACRE FEET/YEAR)

- West Coast Basin: 64,468.25 AFY
- Central Basin: 217,367.00 AFY



## SERVICE AREA

- West Coast Basin: 160 square miles
- Central Basin: 227 square miles



## POPULATION SERVED

- West Coast Basin: 1,321,000
- Central Basin: 2,421,000



## ADJUDICATED STORAGE SPACE

- West Coast Basin: 120,000 AF
- Central Basin: 330,000 AF



## AVERAGE ANNUAL PRODUCTION

- West Coast Basin: 34,000 AF
- Central Basin: 189,000 AF

For more information regarding Watermaster, visit [wrd.org](http://wrd.org)

1 Acre Foot = 325,000 gallons

# THE NEED FOR A WATERMASTER

The Central and West Coast Groundwater Basins in southern Los Angeles County rely heavily upon groundwater extracted from local wells to meet the water needs for the numerous residences, institutions, and businesses that overlie the basins. Unregulated and excessive groundwater extractions occurred in the early 1900s as populations grew to the point where the removal rate of groundwater far exceeded its natural replenishment. This overdraft caused groundwater levels to plunge, wells to go dry, and seawater to invade into the coastal aquifers contaminating the fresh water with salt.



In response to this overdraft, the Superior Court of the State of California for the County of Los Angeles (the Court) ruled to regulate (or adjudicate) the basins in the 1960s, placing a cap on the amount of groundwater that could be pumped from each basin. For the Central Basin the cap is 217,367 acre-feet per year and for the West Coast Basin the cap is 64,468.25 acre-feet per year. The adjudication, along with the formation of WRD to assist in replenishing the basins, has eliminated the overdraft and restored the basins as a reliable source of local water supply.



The adjudications included the creation of a Watermaster to be an extension of the Court to monitor, record, and enforce the terms of the adjudications, including the limits placed on groundwater extraction.

Prior to 2014 (Central Basin) and 2015 (West Coast Basin), the California Department of Water Resources acted as the Court-appointed Watermaster. Since that time, and after amendments to the Judgments, a new three-branch Watermaster structure was established to include an Administrative Body, a Water Rights Panel, and a Storage Panel.

## WATERMASTER STRUCTURE CENTRAL & WEST COAST BASINS



### ADMINISTRATIVE BODY

CENTRAL BASIN  
WATERMASTER



WEST COAST BASIN  
WATERMASTER

The Administrative Body oversees the Watermaster accounting and reporting functions. WRD was appointed by the Court to fulfill this role for both basins and holds the following responsibilities:



*Collecting and recording monthly groundwater pumping amounts*



*Tracking water right sales, leases, storage, and carryover conversion transactions*



*Producing an annual report for each basin summarizing water rights accounting for each respective administrative year, including groundwater extractions and storage*



*Setting an annual budget to fund the Administrative Body's duties*



*Reporting to the Water Rights Panel and Storage Panel on Administrative Body activities*



### WATER RIGHTS PANELS

CENTRAL BASIN  
WATER RIGHTS PANEL

7 Elected  
Water Rights Holders

WEST COAST BASIN  
WATER RIGHTS PANEL

3 Elected + 2 Appointed  
Water Rights Holders

The Water Rights Panels (WRP) represent one of the branches in the region's Watermaster. The Central and West Coast Basin each have a Panel, comprised of water rights holders from their respective areas. Each panel acts to enforce the terms of the Judgments, including enforcement of pumping rights. The Central Basin WRP is made up of seven water rights holders who are elected by fellow rights holders. The West Coast Basin WRP is composed of three elected water rights holders and two appointed members from the West Basin Water Association.



### STORAGE PANELS

CENTRAL BASIN  
STORAGE PANEL

Central Basin WRP  
&  
WRD Board of Directors



WEST COAST BASIN  
STORAGE PANEL

West Coast Basin WRP  
&  
WRD Board of Directors

The Storage Panel branch consists of two Storage Panels which are composed of each basin's Water Rights Panels and the WRD Board of Directors. Together, they evaluate and approve groundwater augmentation and storage projects, specifically they ensure the proposed projects will not cause any material physical harm to the basins. Parties to the Amended Judgments have access to a total of 450,000 acre-feet of Storage Space (nearly 147 billion gallons) to maximize reliability and resiliency of local groundwater supplies.

## ABOUT WRD

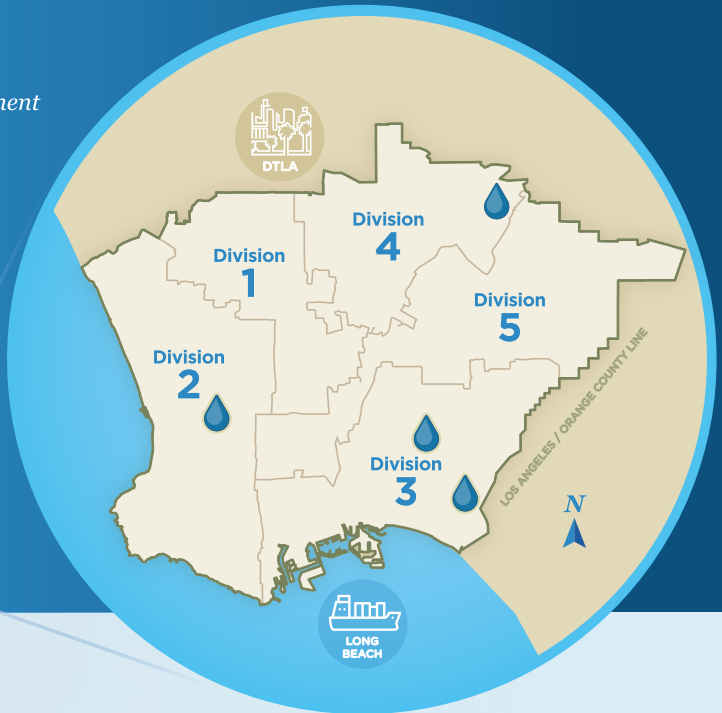
The Water Replenishment District (WRD) was established in 1959 to manage, protect, and replenish the Central and West Coast Groundwater Basins. WRD achieves its mission by:

- » Using effective and environmentally sound basin management practices and serving as the Administrative Body of the Watermaster for both basins
- » Monitoring and remediating the groundwater basins affected by natural and human-made contaminants
- » Owning and managing two advanced water treatment facilities and a groundwater desalter

*WRD manages and protects two of the most utilized urban groundwater basins in the nation. Groundwater from these basins provides nearly 50% of the total water supply for the four million residents in WRD's 43-city service area which covers 420 square miles in southern Los Angeles County. WRD ensures that a reliable and locally sustainable supply of high-quality groundwater is available through replenishment with recycled water and stormwater capture.*

The Water Replenishment District's service area in southern Los Angeles County

 = WRD Facility



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