



SUSTAINABLE

focus

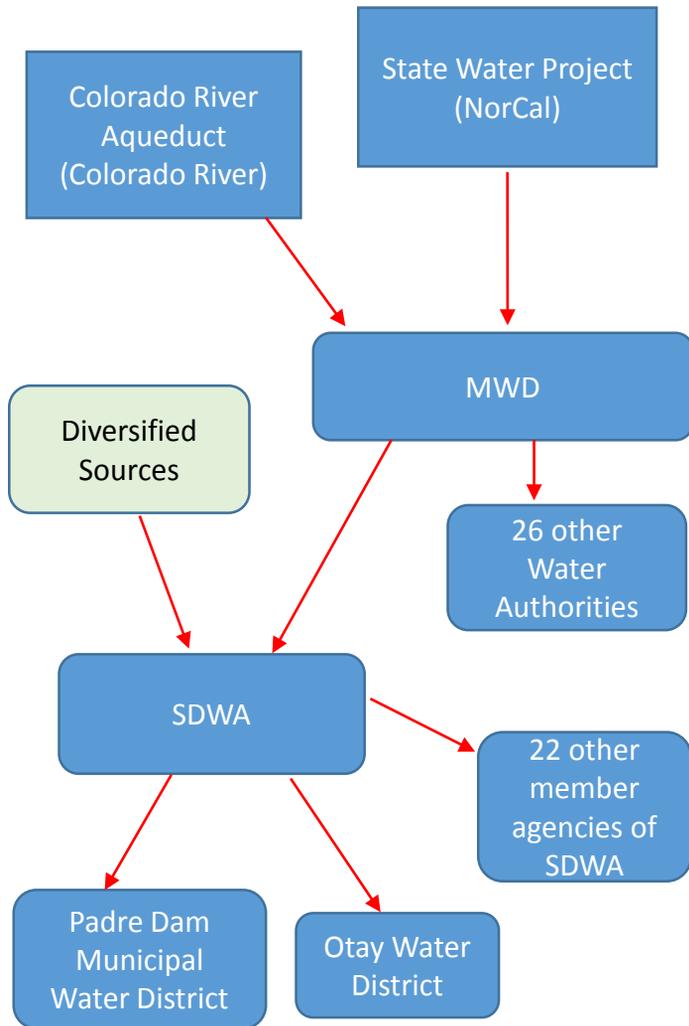
March – Focus on Water Management

Clean water is a vital and increasingly scarce resource. Reducing water is one of GCCCD's top sustainability priorities. In this edition, you will find a background of where water comes from, Districtwide water project updates, as well as water-saving tips for work and at home.

Where SoCal Water Comes From

If you live in San Diego County, your water is provided by San Diego Water Authority (SDWA), a member agency of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD). SDWA has 24 member agencies in San Diego County, including Padre Dam Municipal Water District and Otay Water District, which service Grossmont and Cuyamaca, respectively.

Water provided by MWD is sourced from two natural resources- the Colorado River and the State Water Project. In San Diego, most water sourced from the MWD originates in the Colorado River Aqueduct (see [map](#)). In 1991, MWD was the source for nearly 95% of San Diego County's water. Noting that this caused acute vulnerability to water supply shortages, the Water Authority board has since helped San Diego secure diversified water supplies. Diversified sources include groundwater, recycled water, desalination, conservation, and a long-term transfer agreement with the Imperial Irrigation Department.



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GCCCD Water Conservation at Work

Grossmont College and Cuyamaca College recently completed projects with a water saving, sustainable, and security focus. The medians throughout each campus were previously full of eucalyptus trees and other overgrown, water intensive crops. These landscapes were replaced with native plants for a more sustainable landscape, and rocks and bollards for security. The original irrigation systems, consisting of aluminum pipes and spray nozzles, were removed and replaced with drip irrigation connected to the Cal-Sense irrigation controls. These projects were funded by Capital Project Funds.

Top Photo: Cuyamaca College's Drought-Tolerant Secure Campus Median. Bottom Photo: Grossmont College's Drought-Tolerant Secure Campus Median.



Save Water at HOME

According to the EPA, replacing turf and other water-intensive plants with native plants and landscapes can reduce the average homeowner's water consumption by 60%! Interested in learning more? Look into taking one of the complimentary [drought -tolerant classes](#) offered by SDWA.



Quick Water Saving Tips

- Clean vegetables and fruits in a bowl of water instead of running water (save 2.5 gallons/minute).
- Shorten showers (save 2.5 gallons/minute). In collaboration with Metro Water District of Southern California , **Pandora offers a "Water-Lover's Station"** which plays songs all 5 minutes or less- ideal for curbing shower times!
- Wash only full loads of laundry (15-50 gallons/load).
- Fix Leaky toilets (save 30-50 gallons/day/toilet)

Find other tips at the SDCWA [Save Every Day](#) site.

Did you know?

Homeowners can sign up for a *free Watersmart Checkup* through the San Diego County Water Authority. Through this program, a professional irrigation specialist will provide an analysis and site specific recommendations for your home. Go to [Watersmartcheckup.org](#) for more information and to sign up!