



Water Conservation

In order to help bridge the projected gap between water supply and demand in Riverside County in 2020, water conservation must be a priority. Following are water conservation policies that seek to manage existing supplies, by promoting the efficient use of water to the maximum extent possible, so that they can be maintained for future use.

Policies:

- OS 2.1 Encourage the installation of water-conserving systems such as dry wells and graywater systems, where feasible, especially in new developments. The installation of cisterns or infiltrators shall also be encouraged to capture rainwater from roofs for irrigation in the dry season and flood control during heavy storms. (AI 57, 62)
- OS 2.2 Where feasible, decrease stormwater runoff by reducing pavement in development areas, and by design practices such as permeable parking bays and porous parking lots with bermed storage areas for rainwater detention. (AI 57, 62)
- OS 2.3 Encourage native, drought-resistant landscape planting. (AI 3, 57, 62)
- OS 2.4 Support and engage in educational outreach programs with other agencies that promote water conservation and wide-spread use of water-saving technologies. (AI 58)
- OS 2.5 Encourage continued agricultural water conservation and recommend the following practices where appropriate and feasible: lining canals, recovering tail water at the end of irrigated fields, and appropriate scheduling of water deliveries. (AI 57)



A watershed is the entire region drained by a waterway that drains into a lake or reservoir. It is the total area above a given point on a stream that contributes water to the flow at that point, and the topographic dividing line from which surface streams flow in two different directions. Clearly, watersheds are not just water. A single watershed may include combinations of forests, glaciers, deserts, and/or grasslands.

Watershed Management

Four distinct watershed areas are incorporated in Riverside County and are mapped in Figure OS-1. These are the Santa Ana River Basin, which drains into the Pacific Ocean; San Diego Basin, the West Basin of the Colorado River, and the East Basin of the Colorado River. The East Basin of the Colorado River drains into the Colorado River and the West Basin of the Colorado River drains primarily into the Salton Sea Trough. The Santa Ana River Basin drains into the Pacific Ocean in Orange County while the San Diego Basin drains into the Pacific Ocean in San Diego County. These large watersheds are further divided into smaller sections by internal surface water drainage areas and groundwater basins.

Watershed management relates to sustaining watersheds at an acceptable level of quality, contributing to resource quality, and maintaining groundwater supplies.