



# County of Riverside General Plan - Hearing Draft

## Multipurpose Open Space Element

**Table OS-2  
Colorado River Region Water Budget with Existing Facilities and Programs**

Water Use	1995		2020	
	Average	Drought	Average	Drought
Urban	418	418	740	740
Agricultural	4,118	4,118	3,583	3,583
Environmental	39	38	44	43
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,575</b>	<b>4,574</b>	<b>4,367</b>	<b>4,366</b>
<b>Supplies</b>				
Surface Water	4,154	4,128	3,920	3,909
Groundwater	337	337	285	284
Recycled and Desalted	15	15	15	15
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,506</b>	<b>4,479</b>	<b>4,221</b>	<b>4,208</b>
<b>Shortage</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>158</b>

Note: Figures in thousands of acre-feet of water.

Of the two Hydrologic Units of the State, the Colorado River Region is of particular concern because it encompasses the Coachella Valley in the West Basin and the desert in the East Basin (Refer to Figure OS-1, Water Resources). Irrigation needs in the Coachella Valley are met almost exclusively by water imported from the Colorado River. Historical extraction of groundwater in the Coachella Valley has caused overdraft. Currently, an extensive groundwater recharge project is being undertaken by the Coachella Valley Water District that recharges Colorado River Water into spreading basins. Within the East Basin, irrigation and domestic water is provided by the Colorado River with only approximately 1% groundwater use and little direct reclamation. Agricultural runoff and some domestic wastewater do get returned to the Colorado River. Therefore, the water source at the southern end of the watershed is actually a mixture of Colorado River water, agricultural runoff, and reclaimed water.

The following policies are intended to address the County’s water supply issues:

**Policies:**

- OS 1.1 Balance consideration of water supply requirements between urban, agricultural, and environmental needs so that sufficient supply is available to meet each of these different demands. (AI 3)
- OS 1.2 Develop a repository for the collection of County water resource information. (AI 11, 55)
- OS 1.3 Provide active leadership in the regional coordination of water resource management and sustainability efforts affecting Riverside County and continue to monitor and participate in, as appropriate, regional activities, addressing water resources, groundwater, and water quality, such as a Groundwater Management Plan, to prevent overdraft caused by population growth. (AI 4, 55, 58)

