Metropolitan's Water Treatment Plants

Safeguarding the Public's Drinking Water

Before water pours from a tap in Southern California, chances are it passed through one of Metropolitan Water District's five water treatment plants, which include some of the largest in the nation. These facilities together can disinfect more than two billion gallons of water daily using a five-step treatment process. With advanced technology and the expertise of highly skilled staff, Metropolitan's water meets or surpasses all state and federal regulatory requirements.

Lake Mathews

Infrastructure Serving Our Communities

Metropolitan imports water from the Colorado River and Northern California. Colorado River water is brought via Metropolitan's 242-mile Colorado River Aqueduct extending from Lake Havasu on the California-Arizona border to Lake Mathews near Riverside. Northern California supplies are drawn from the western Sierra Nevada, delivered through the confluence of the Sacramento and San Joaquin rivers in the Delta and imported via the the State Water Project's 444-mile California Aqueduct to serve urban and agricultural needs in the San Francisco Bay area as well as the Central Valley and Southern California. Water imported by Metropolitan supplements local water supplies in Southern California.

Colorado River Aqueduct

About Metropolitan

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California is a state-established regional cooperative of 26 cities and public water agencies, which collectively serve nearly 19 million people in six counties. Metropolitan imports water from the Colorado River and Northern California to supplement local supplies and supports its members through the development of increased conservation, recycling, storage and other resource management programs.

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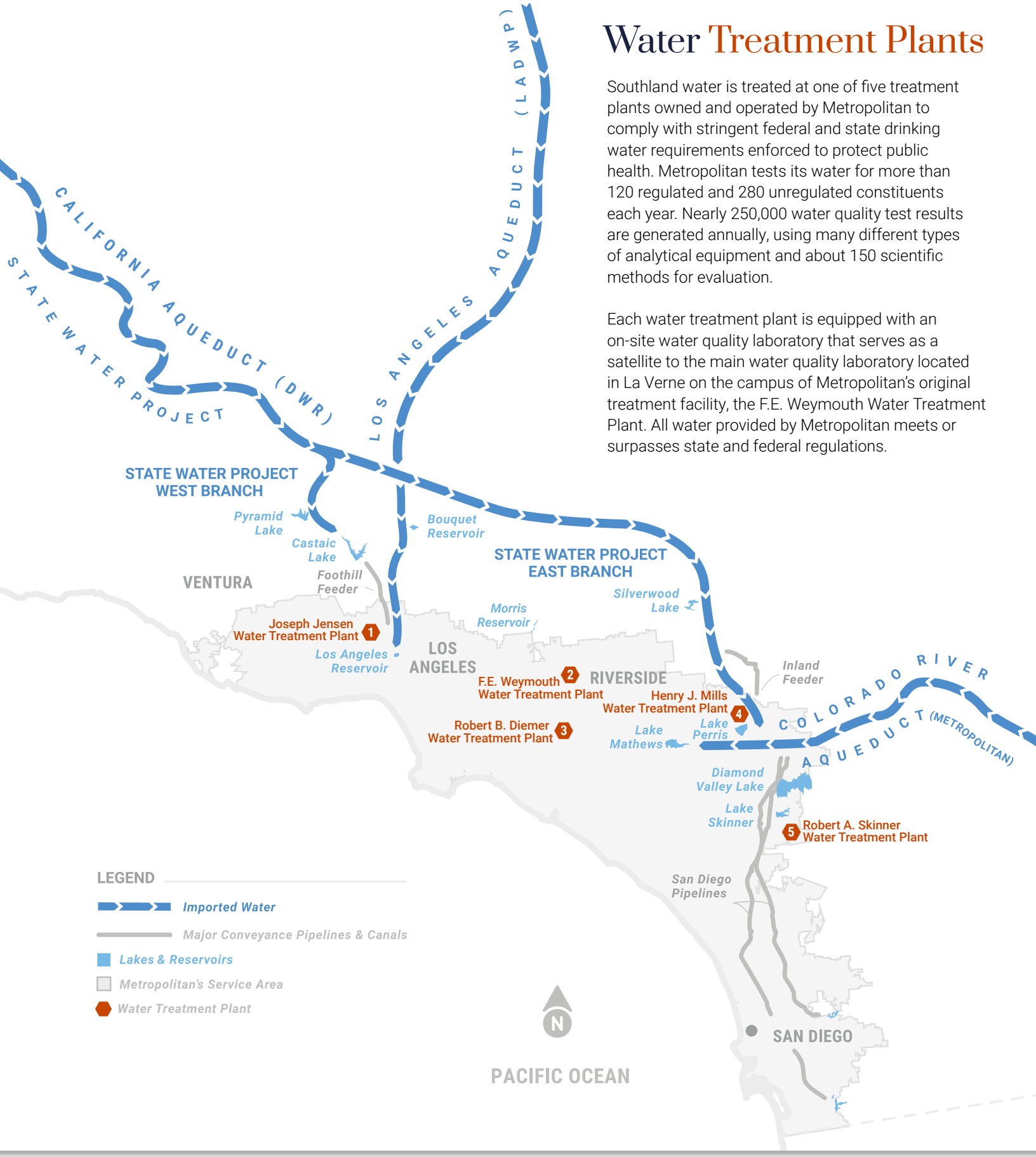
Water Treatment Plants

Southland water is treated at one of five treatment plants owned and operated by Metropolitan to comply with stringent federal and state drinking water requirements enforced to protect public health. Metropolitan tests its water for more than 120 regulated and 280 unregulated constituents each year. Nearly 250,000 water quality test results are generated annually, using many different types of analytical equipment and about 150 scientific methods for evaluation.

Each water treatment plant is equipped with an on-site water quality laboratory that serves as a satellite to the main water quality laboratory located in La Verne on the campus of Metropolitan's original treatment facility, the F.E. Weymouth Water Treatment Plant. All water provided by Metropolitan meets or surpasses state and federal regulations.



1 Joseph Jensen Water Treatment Plant

GRANADA HILLS

The Joseph Jensen Water Treatment Plant started operation in 1972 and treats water from the State Water Project. It is located in Granada Hills and distributes water to the San Fernando Valley, Ventura County and central Los Angeles. Jensen is Metropolitan's largest treatment plant and the largest plant west of the Mississippi River, with a capacity of 750 million gallons a day. The plant is named after Joseph Jensen who served as chairman of Metropolitan's Board of Directors for a record 25 years beginning in 1949.

Joseph Jensen Water Treatment Plant

Robert B. Diemer Water Treatment Plant

2 Robert B. Diemer Water Treatment Plant

YORBA LINDA

The Robert B. Diemer Water Treatment Plant began operation in 1963 and is located on a hilltop in Yorba Linda. The plant distributes water via gravity-flow to coastal Los Angeles and Orange County. The Diemer plant treats water from both the Colorado River Aqueduct and the State Water Project and has a treatment capacity of 520 million gallons a day. The plant is named after Robert B. Diemer who started at Metropolitan in 1929 and served as general manager from 1952 to 1961.

3 Henry J. Mills Water Treatment Plant

RIVERSIDE

The Henry J. Mills Water Treatment Plant is located in the city of Riverside near the Box Springs foothills at an elevation of 1,650 feet, the highest elevation of Metropolitan's treatment plants. It became operational in 1978 and exclusively treats water from the State Water Project's East Branch and provides treated water to the city of Riverside, Eastern Municipal Water District and Western Municipal Water District in Riverside County. The plant was named for Henry J. "Hank" Mills who capped a 41-year Metropolitan career by becoming general manager in 1967, a post he held for almost five years before retirement. Mills has a treatment capacity of 220 million gallons per day.

Henry J. Mills Water Treatment Plant

4 Robert A. Skinner Water Treatment Plant

WINCHESTER

The Robert A. Skinner Water Treatment Plant is located in the southwest Riverside County community of Winchester and treats Colorado River Aqueduct and State Water Project water and for western Riverside and San Diego counties. Skinner started operation in 1976 and has a capacity to treat 350 million gallons of water a day. The plant is named for Robert A. Skinner, Metropolitan's general manager from 1962 to 1967. The adjoining Lake Skinner is a popular recreation spot for sailing and fishing. There's also hiking trails and horseback riding.

Robert A. Skinner Water Treatment Plant

F.E. Weymouth Water Treatment Plant

5 The F. E. Weymouth Water Treatment Plant

LA VERNE

The F.E. Weymouth Water Treatment Plant began operation in 1941 as the first plant built by Metropolitan. The plant treats both Colorado River and State Water Project and serves parts of Los Angeles County, including the San Gabriel Valley, and areas of Orange County. Weymouth has a treatment capacity of 520 million gallons a day – roughly the equivalent of filling the Rose Bowl every four hours. Weymouth is also the location of Metropolitan's state-of-the-art Water Quality Laboratory, one of the nation's most advanced facilities. The plant was named for Frank E. Weymouth, Metropolitan's first chief engineer and general manager who served from 1929 to 1941 and supervised construction of the Colorado River Aqueduct. The plant is noted for its Mission Revival-style architecture.

Ozone Treatment

Metropolitan invested in the addition of ozone treatment at all five water treatment plants. Compared to the more traditional chlorine disinfection process, ozone destroys a wider range of micro-organisms, produces fewer byproducts and more effectively removes unpleasant tastes and odors.

Additional Information

MWD | Water Quality and Treatment

MWD | How We Get Our Water