West Basin provides high-quality drinking water to nearly one million residents living in Los Angeles County.

Introduction
Since West Basin began delivering wholesale imported water from the Colorado River in 1948, the District has provided a safe, secure, and cost-effective water supply to its service area.

Customers
West Basin provides imported water to eight retail water suppliers.

Cities
Investor-owned Utilities  County Water District

Groundwater
In addition to imported water, many West Basin communities receive drinking water supplies by pumping groundwater. West Basin does not directly serve groundwater to local communities, but it provides imported and recycled water supplies that replenish local aquifers, ultimately reaching customers as drinking water.
A Wholesale Water Provider
West Basin delivers wholesale drinking water to communities in Los Angeles County by purchasing imported water from the Metropolitan Water District (Metropolitan). As the regional wholesale supplier, Metropolitan provides imported water supplies to nearly 20 million people in Southern California. Imported water originates from two primary sources: (1) Colorado River Aqueduct (CRA), and (2) State Water Project (SWP).

Colorado River Aqueduct
Completed in 1935, the CRA is a 242-mile imported water conveyance system operated by Metropolitan. It takes water from the Colorado River at Lake Havasu on the California-Arizona border, and delivers it to Lake Matthews in Riverside County. The annual capacity of the CRA is approximately 1.25 million acre-feet (MAF).

State Water Project
Built in the 1960s, the SWP is operated by the California Department of Water Resources. The conveyance system begins at the Sacramento-San Joaquin Bay Delta and extends 700 miles, with an annual capacity of more than four million acre-feet (MAF). Metropolitan is the largest SWP contractor, with annual entitlements that exceed two MAF.

Imported Water Challenges
Imported water is less reliable than local water sources and faces a number of ongoing challenges:

- Transported from hundreds of miles away
- Negatively impacted by drought and climate change
- Many competing demands:
  - Environmental
  - Agricultural
  - Multi-state agreements
- Subject to natural disasters, including earthquakes, floods, and fires
- Environmental regulations restrict deliveries throughout the year