

A DEVELOPMENTAL CONUNDRUM?

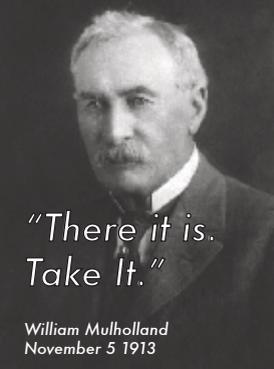
Southern California's idyllic climate and paradisiacal setting made for convenient fodder: the region's boosters constructed a mythic allure that produced the fastest growing and 2nd largest Megalopolis in North America. The problem, of course, is that Southern California is essentially a desert; there's nowhere near of enough local resources to support such a huge population. Proving the ingenuity of 20th century civilization, however, visionaries such as William Mulholland accomplished massive infrastructural projects that both effectively relocated needed resources, while maximizing the region's property values. Residents of Southern California are special citizens: they believe that all their desires can be magically accommodated. A green lawn in the desert is a sure sign of progress!



As Southern California becomes a global development model, how can a precedent of violent relocation and magic abundance be sustained?

Water in Southern California could metaphorically stand in for resource concentration and distribution worldwide

As Hollywood became the media capital of the world, Southern California's landscape quickly became the most recognizable and most desired on the globe. From Ju Jun, China to Jabodetabek, Indonesia, global citizens agree: we want the Real Housewives of the OC!



"There it is. Take It."

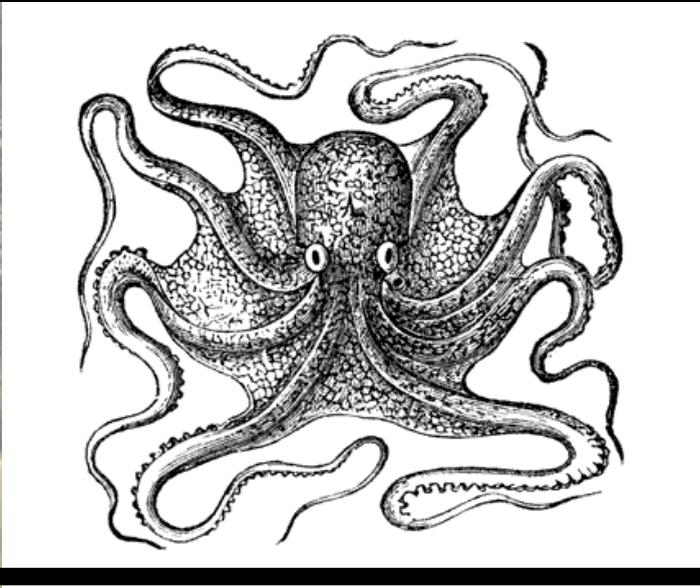
William Mulholland
November 5 1913

The People's Drinking Straw

85%
of Los Angeles' water is imported

90%
of San Diego's water is imported

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"Most water supplies in Southern California begin as snowmelt or rainfall that flows into rivers. However, most of that precipitation—75 percent—occurs in the north, while the majority of people live in the south. To alleviate the imbalance, water is imported from one end of the state to the other through aqueducts that are several hundred miles long."

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
<http://www.mwdh2o.com/mwdh2o/pages/yourwater/story/story01.html>

A comprehensive guide to Southern California's water delivery infrastructure

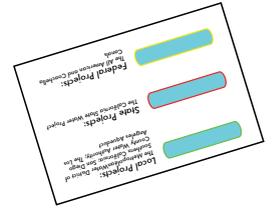
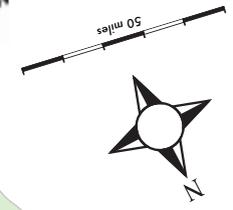


With over 3,000 miles of canals and drains, and delivering 3.1 million acre-feet to 500,000 acres of prime farmland, the Imperial Irrigation District is the largest irrigation district in the nation. It was formed in 1911 to acquire the bankrupt California Development Corporation's property and facilities to import and distribute Colorado River water to the Imperial Valley. IID holds legal title to all its water and water rights which it holds in trust for landowners and water users.

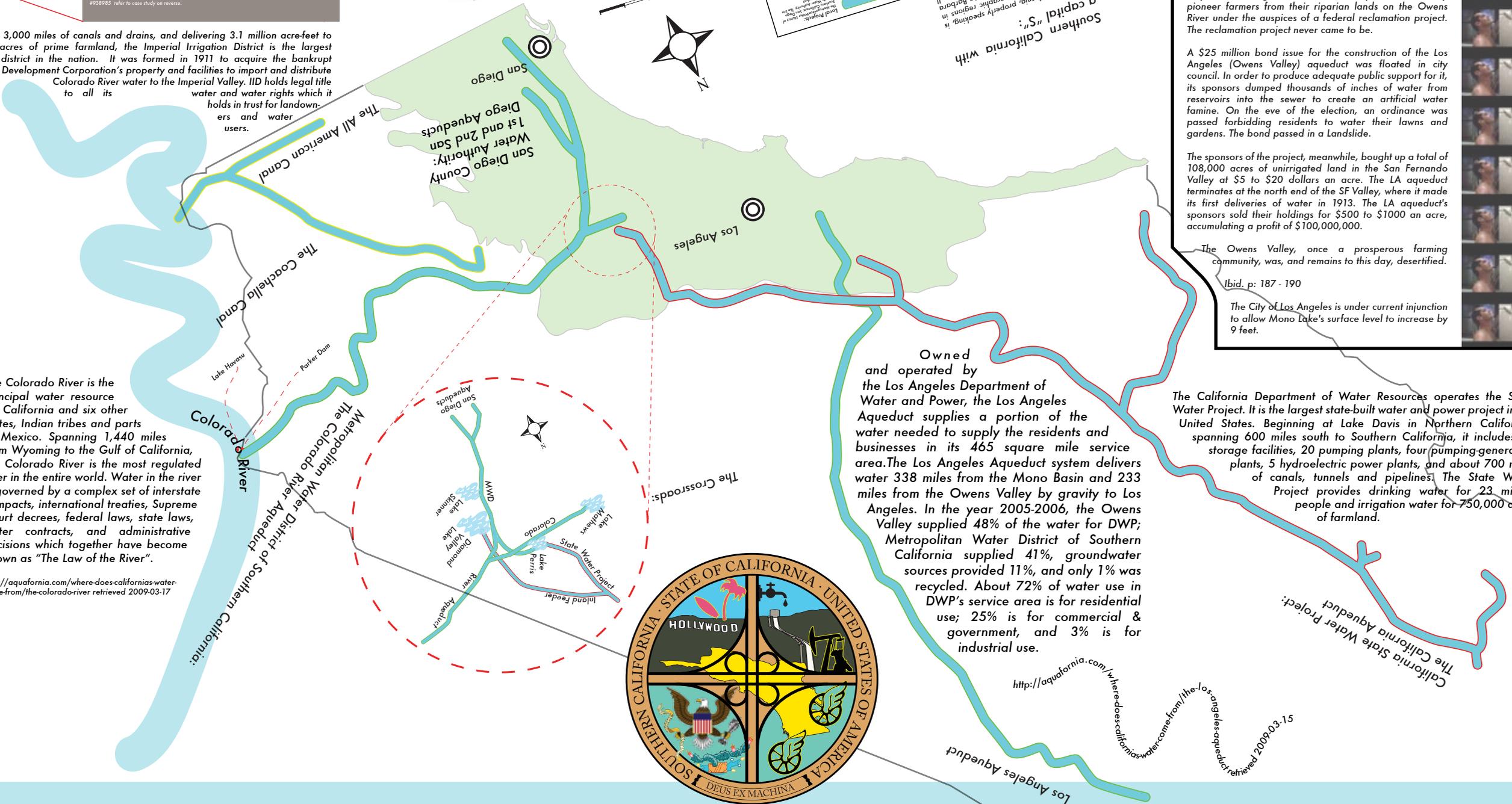
<http://aquaforia.com/where-does-californias-water-come-from/the-colorado-river> retrieved: 2009-03-17

The Colorado River is the principal water resource for California and six other states, Indian tribes and parts of Mexico. Spanning 1,440 miles from Wyoming to the Gulf of California, the Colorado River is the most regulated river in the entire world. Water in the river is governed by a complex set of interstate compacts, international treaties, Supreme Court decrees, federal laws, state laws, water contracts, and administrative decisions which together have become known as "The Law of the River".

<http://aquaforia.com/where-does-californias-water-come-from/the-colorado-river> retrieved 2009-03-17



"Southern California properly speaking is one of the smallest geographic regions in America (the portion south of Tehachapi), all County Los Angeles, and Orange County (the portion south of Santa Barbara) belong geographically to Imperial Valley the Colorado River Basin." -Carey McWilliams, "Southern California: An Island on the Land," 1947



"The greatest good for greatest number is, indeed, familiar American doctrine."

-Carey McWilliams, Southern California: An Island on the Land, 1947

-An unfortunate, but necessary tragedy-

In 1903, J. B. Lippincott, chief engineer of the United States Reclamation Service in California, and Fred Eaton, former mayor of Los Angeles, were able to cajole Owens Valley pioneer farmers from their riparian lands on the Owens River under the auspices of a federal reclamation project. The reclamation project never came to be.

A \$25 million bond issue for the construction of the Los Angeles (Owens Valley) aqueduct was floated in city council. In order to produce adequate public support for it, its sponsors dumped thousands of inches of water from reservoirs into the sewer to create an artificial water famine. On the eve of the election, an ordinance was passed forbidding residents to water their lawns and gardens. The bond passed in a landslide.

The sponsors of the project, meanwhile, bought up a total of 108,000 acres of unirrigated land in the San Fernando Valley at \$5 to \$20 dollars an acre. The LA aqueduct terminates at the north end of the SF Valley, where it made its first deliveries of water in 1913. The LA aqueduct's sponsors sold their holdings for \$500 to \$1000 an acre, accumulating a profit of \$100,000,000.

The Owens Valley, once a prosperous farming community, was, and remains to this day, desertified.

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The City of Los Angeles is under current injunction to allow Mono Lake's surface level to increase by 9 feet.



Owned and operated by the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, the Los Angeles Aqueduct supplies a portion of the water needed to supply the residents and businesses in its 465 square mile service area. The Los Angeles Aqueduct system delivers water 338 miles from the Mono Basin and 233 miles from the Owens Valley by gravity to Los Angeles. In the year 2005-2006, the Owens Valley supplied 48% of the water for DWP; Metropolitan Water District of Southern California supplied 41%, groundwater sources provided 11%, and only 1% was recycled. About 72% of water use in DWP's service area is for residential use; 25% is for commercial & government, and 3% is for industrial use.

The California Department of Water Resources operates the State Water Project. It is the largest state-built water and power project in the United States. Beginning at Lake Davis in Northern California, spanning 600 miles south to Southern California, it includes 34 storage facilities, 20 pumping plants, four pumping-generating plants, 5 hydroelectric power plants, and about 700 miles of canals, tunnels and pipelines. The State Water Project provides drinking water for 23 million people and irrigation water for 750,000 acres of farmland.



<http://aquaforia.com/where-does-californias-water-come-from/the-colorado-river> retrieved 2009-03-15