

**MONDAY MORNING GROUP OF WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNTY  
ANNUAL ADVOCACY TRIP – WASHINGTON, DC  
APRIL 20-23, 2026**

**WATER SUPPLY RESILIENCY INVESTMENTS**

**ISSUE:** Southern California faces an escalating water supply crisis driven by increasingly volatile weather, reduced snowpack, and aging infrastructure that cannot reliably capture, store, or move water where it is needed. The Colorado River is severely overallocated, and the State Water Project provides only two years of drought resiliency, leaving the region vulnerable to mandatory restrictions during multi-year dry periods. Modernizing Western water systems is essential to protect the more than 60 million people who depend on these supplies and to ensure long term economic and environmental stability.

**ACTION:** The Monday Morning Group urges Congress to prioritize federal investment, regulatory streamlining, and program expansion necessary to modernize water supply infrastructure across the West. Federal support is needed to efficiently capture water during wet years, enhance storage and conveyance capacity, and ensure reliable supplies during droughts. Strengthening these systems will help communities adapt to increasingly unpredictable and extreme weather conditions.

**BACKGROUND:** The West’s water-supply challenges are intensifying as climate conditions shift faster than current infrastructure can adapt.

**Climate Driven Supply Challenges:** Southern California and the broader West face more intense and less predictable hydrology, including reduced snowpack, shorter but more intense storm cycles, and persistently higher temperatures. These shifts strain existing systems and increase the frequency and severity of drought conditions.

**Infrastructure Limitations:** Critical water supply infrastructure across the region is outdated and cannot adequately move water from wet areas to dry ones. During periods of abundance, the system becomes overwhelmed, resulting in millions of acre feet lost to the ocean instead of being captured for future use. Infrastructure modernization is necessary to improve flexibility, enhance regional reliability, and maximize the benefits of wet year conditions.

**Federal Priorities:** The following federal priorities outline the most impactful actions Congress can take to strengthen long-term water resiliency across Southern California and the broader Western region:

- Expand conveyance capacity across interstate, state, regional, and local systems to move water efficiently during both wet and dry periods. Direct federal agencies to expedite approvals for major conveyance projects, including the California Delta Conveyance—and oppose legislation that would delay project advancement.
- Increase storage capacity by expanding surface and groundwater storage, modernizing reservoirs and dams, and scaling aquifer recharge programs that capture water during wet years for use in extended droughts.
- Accelerate development of local supply projects by increasing federal cost share and program eligibility under Title XVI, WIFIA, and Bureau of Reclamation desalination and reuse programs to support recycled water, desalination (ocean and brackish), stormwater capture, and local storage initiatives.
- Strengthen federal investments in water reuse and reclamation to reduce dependence on major river systems and improve local supply reliability, particularly in urban regions facing long term supply constraints.
- Increase funding for voluntary agricultural and municipal conservation programs to stabilize stressed water supplies—especially in the Colorado River Basin—through efficiency improvements and demand reduction strategies.