

Riverside Public Utilities

Policy Principles for Water Portfolio Management

Background

Riverside Public Utilities has invested significantly in water supply facilities to extract and convey local groundwater resources as well as in peaking, emergency, and redundant supply capacity from the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. The diversity of local water supply facilities -- including 54 active groundwater wells overlying three groundwater basins -- coupled with three primary imported water connections creates a high level of redundancy and reliability for customers served by Riverside Public Utilities. RPU's goal of "Water Independence" will be defined and guided by the following policy principles.

Policy Principles

- Riverside recognizes its important role as stewards managing a publicly owned resource for the benefit of a diverse community of agricultural, commercial, institutional and residential stakeholders.
- Riverside will plan water supply projects to minimize its operational reliance on imported water and insulate the community from external pressures faced by other communities dependent on the Bay-Delta water conveyance facilities while appropriately advocating for a viable state water supply system.
- Riverside will strive to annually exercise its maximum allowable groundwater production and export rights under the 1969 Western Judgment.
 - In exercising its rights, Riverside will preferentially produce water at the lowest cost, while ensuring acceptable water quality, best practices for basin management, and compliance with agreements, judgments, and other restrictions.
- Riverside recognizes the critical role that conjunctive management of surface, recycled, and groundwater supplies play in the protection, reliability and sustainability of local, regional, and statewide water supplies for water users and the environment.
 - In recognizing such, Riverside will work cooperatively with regional and wholesale water agencies to purchase and "bank" imported water when economically and physically feasible.
 - Riverside will continually evaluate the economic feasibility of using imported water to extend recycled water supplies when used for groundwater recharge.
- Riverside will strive to appropriately monetize unused and potentially expiring local water production and export rights through pre-planned and pre-executed water sales agreements.
- Riverside will ensure water supply availability for its customers through appropriate and economically balanced local and imported water supplies, conservation and water use efficiency, and demand management measures.