



Striving to rival nature's efficiency

Aqueduct

METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
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*S*outhern Californians have been accused of robbing nature and the north of water. Then, the story goes, they squander their ill-gotten gains by hosing down their driveways.

Such a gross misrepresentation threatens the state's ability to solve its very real water problems.

California must get its act together and call a cease fire in the squabbles among environmentalists, farmers, city dwellers, public agencies, private interest groups, and north and south. Such quarrelling blocks, as effectively as any stone wall, any answer to the dilemma.

For the moment, for a variety of reasons not the least of which is luck, the state's water needs are being met. That's the good news. The bad news is that any increase in reliable water supplies anywhere requires a long lead



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2. The Santa Ana River—
good to the very last drop

7. Earthquake: Will the
Southland be shaken dry?

**12. Where it comes from;
where it goes**

**14. Arizona cheers the
arrival of water that was once
“ours”**

18. Water treatment devices:
Lifesavers or pocket pickers?

22. Hoover Dam: The bless-
ings have flowed for two score
and ten years

26. Water shortage: Are
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shower?

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Metropolitan Water District is one of the world's largest water agencies. From the Colorado River and from Northern California through the State Water Project, it imports about half of all the water used by some 13 million consumers in urban Southern California from Ventura to Riverside to San Diego counties. Metropolitan wholesales this water to 27 member public agencies which, along with about 130 subagencies, deliver it to homes, businesses, and even a few farms in Metropolitan's 5,200-square-mile service area.

time. If the time comes when enough good quality water isn't available, it may take many painful years for the entire state to recover. And the notion that no further improvements are needed on the State Water Project is naive. The project must become more efficient, if for no other reason, so the Sacramento-San Joaquin delta levee system and water quality can be protected.

The Southland is teeming with some of the most productive, concerned people in the world. A recent survey of Aqueduct readers brought more than a thousand replies, underlining their interest in water supply, conservation and quality. Most of the following articles were written in response to some of their many requests for more information, and to foster an understanding of the state's dependence on imported water.