Nearly 100 percent of the water that is used in the Coachella Valley comes from an underground aquifer – or groundwater basin. This water is located beneath the surface, where it is stored and eventually pumped for use by nine cities, 400,000 people, numerous businesses and thousands of acres of farmland.

Due to the dry climate in the Coachella Valley, the groundwater basin must be very carefully managed. The very little precipitation that is seen in the desert and nearby mountains helps to replenish the aquifer but must be augmented by importing additional supplies.

Currently, groundwater levels are declining but together, the Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD) and Desert Water Agency (DWA) have been working hard to replenish the aquifer and protect this important resource. Since 1973, the agencies have replenished the aquifer with more than 3.1 million acre-feet (1 trillion gallons) of imported water.

Together, the agencies have made great strides when it comes to recycling wastewater and encouraging and implementing conservation programs – efforts that reduce the region’s reliance on the aquifer.

Imported water, conservation programs and local efforts are important tools that CVWD and DWA employ to ensure that the aquifer will continue to provide Coachella Valley residents, businesses and farmland the water they depend on.
Colorado River Water flows to the valley through a canal and an aqueduct, and is used to recharge the aquifer. The aquifer receives small amounts of water from snowmelt and rainfall.

The Coachella Valley’s 9 cities, 400,000 people, 7,000 businesses, and 66,000 acres of farmland rely on groundwater, which constitutes 99% of the region’s water supply.

While groundwater levels are declining, CVWD and DWA are working hard to replenish the groundwater basin and ensure a reliable water supply for the region. Since 1973, the agencies have imported more than 3.1 million acre-feet to replenish the aquifer.

Irrigation facilities have recharged 3.1 million acre-feet, which is enough to serve the water needs for 6 million families of four for one year.

100% of wastewater is recycled by DWA. Consumers have reduced water use by 20% since 2007.

Cross Section of Coachella Valley Aquifer

3-4” RAINFALL ANNUALLY

Our Dry Climate

TEMPERATURES UP TO 120°F

Who Uses This Groundwater?

9 CITIES
400,000 PEOPLE
7,000 BUSINESSES
66,000 ACRES OF FARMLAND

Replenishing The Aquifer

How It Works

Water is carried into the recharge basin.
The water seeps into the ground.
And replenishes the aquifer.

What This Means

3 Million ACRE-FEET OF WATER
is enough to serve the water needs for
6 Million FAMILIES OF FOUR FOR ONE YEAR

CVWD & DWA ACTIONS TO CONSERVE WATER

100% of wastewater is recycled by DWA.
Consumers have reduced water use by 20% since 2007.

How You Can Help

Use Low Flow Toilets
Plant Water Wise Landscaping
Fix Leaky Faucets
Install Water Smart Sprinkler Systems

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3 Million squarfeet of lawn are gone thanks to CVWD’s landscape rebate.
The Coachella Valley Water District is a public agency governed by a five-member board of directors. The district serves approximately 108,000 residential and business customers across 1,000 square miles, located primarily in Riverside County, but also in portions of Imperial and San Diego counties.

Desert Water Agency is a public, non-profit agency and a State Water Contractor, serves a population of 60,000 people in a 325-square-mile area, including parts of Cathedral City, outlying county areas, Desert Hot Springs and Palm Springs. An elected five-member board sets policy and represents the ratepayers.