



# WATER WAYS

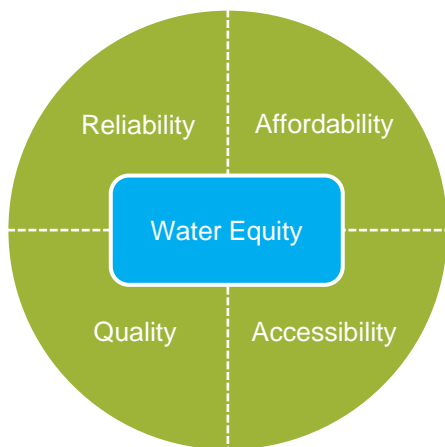
A studyguide highlighting key findings and takeaways from the Regional Water Equity draft report

## ABOUT

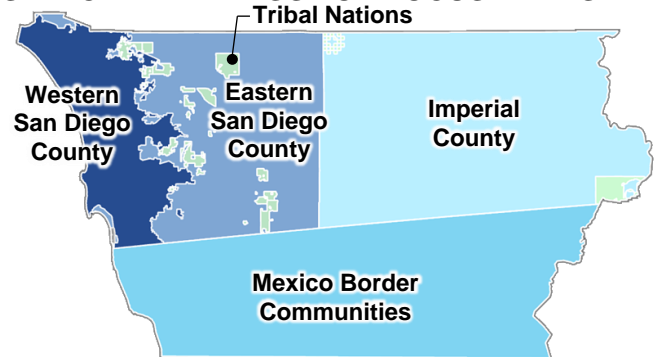
The Office of Sustainability and Environmental Justice is leading an effort directed by the County of San Diego Board of Supervisors to analyze drought management and water sustainability practices throughout our greater region, including San Diego County, Imperial County, Tribal Nations, and the Border Communities. The assessment explored regional and local water recycling, stormwater collection, greywater reuse, ocean desalination, storage above and below ground, water reuse in affordable housing, and urban and agricultural conservation practices.

## CONTEXT

- The majority of the Region’s water supply is imported from the Colorado River and the California State Water Project, augmented by some localized sources from surface water, recycled water, groundwater, and ocean desalination.
- Water equity considers the level of reliability, affordability, quality, and accessibility. Improvements can be tailored to the specific water equity needs of a community.



## SELECTED FINDINGS FOR FOCUS AREAS



- **Western San Diego County** has increased water supply reliability over the years, but water is less affordable. Solutions toward further diversification should consider impacts to water affordability, especially for underserved communities and agricultural producers.
- **Eastern San Diego County** has a low water supply reliability and accessibility to due limited water resources, primarily relying on individual groundwater wells. Communities here would benefit from technical and financial resources.
- **Imperial County** has the most senior water rights on the Colorado River, which has limited the need for water supply diversification. Therefore, reliability is considered neutral. Water is considered more affordable for agricultural producers.
- **Tribal Nations** have low water supply reliability and accessibility. Despite water rights to different water resources, water infrastructure development support and funding has been limited.
- **Mexico Border Communities** have many water/wastewater infrastructure management challenges that have led to low water supply reliability, accessibility, quality, and affordability. Continued partnerships through transboundary water management would be beneficial.

## NEXT STEPS

The *Water Ways* Report will be available for public review in December 2023. The assessment covers a holistic review of existing best practices, and includes a menu of potential recommendations towards an equitable water future throughout the region. To stay informed on this effort, please visit. [sandiegocounty.gov/osej/waterequity](http://sandiegocounty.gov/osej/waterequity)