

BAY AREA REGIONAL Desalination Project

The Bay Area's four largest water agencies, Contra Costa Water District, East Bay Municipal Utility District, San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, and Santa Clara Valley Water District, are jointly exploring developing regional desalination facilities that would benefit the 5.4 million Bay Area residents and businesses served by these agencies.

Desalination removes salts from the ocean or brackish water to produce fresh water through distillation or filtration. The Bay Area Regional Desalination Project would provide an additional water source, diversify the area's water supply, and foster long-term regional sustainability. The project could consist of one or more desalination facilities, with an ultimate total capacity of up to 65 million gallons per day. The four partner agencies are focusing on optimizing technologies that minimize power requirements and environmental effects.

Three sites identified as possible locations



Goals and Benefits

- Provide additional sources of water during emergencies such as earthquakes or levee failures.
- Provide a supplemental water supply source during extended droughts.
- Allow other major facilities, such as treatment plants, water pipelines, and pump stations, to be taken out of service for maintenance or repairs.
- Reduce costs and minimize environmental impacts by leveraging existing water infrastructure as a regional partnership.

What's Been Done to Date

In May 2003, the partner agencies initiated a pre-feasibility study to determine if there were fatal environmental or technical flaws for a regional facility to serve all four partners. The study concluded there are at least three locations in the Bay Area where a regional desalination facility could be located. The agencies then conducted further analysis of these sites to better define project facilities, conveyance options, and institutional issues.

Project Partners



Current Status

The agencies are now conducting a feasibility study to refine the institutional, technical, environmental and scientific merits of a regional facility. Public presentations and informational materials are being provided in Fall 2006 to let people know what's been done and next steps.

Next Steps

The agencies are planning to implement a pilot facility in 2007. The proposed pilot facility will be located in Contra Costa County to test pretreatment options, membrane performance, and approaches for brine disposal. Based on the results of the feasibility study and pilot study, the four partner agencies will determine the next step in proceeding with the comprehensive environmental study required for a full-size regional desalination facility.

Schedule

Pre-Feasibility Studies	2003 – 2005
Feasibility Study	2005 – 2006
Pilot Testing	2007 – 2008
Environmental Study	2009
Design	2010
Plant Construction	2012



Funding and Costs

The pre-feasibility studies were funded by the four partner agencies with costs shared equally (split four ways). The feasibility study is being funded by a grant administered by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) through Proposition 50 — the Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Act passed by voters in 2002. The feasibility study costs \$500,000, and the DWR grant represents 50% of the study estimate. In June 2006, the agencies were awarded an additional grant for close to \$1 million for a pilot study. The complete pilot study is estimated to cost about \$2 million.



Contact Us

We appreciate your interest in the Bay Area Regional Desalination Project.

Visit our website: www.RegionalDesal.com. To contact us, please email info@RegionalDesal.com.

Here are the ways you can stay involved:

- Provide us your contact information (address and e-mail) to receive project updates and meeting notices.
- Attend a public meeting or presentation. Meetings will be noticed through the web site and other means.