

Untapped Savings

21ST CENTURY SOLUTIONS
FOR A SUSTAINABLE WATER
SUPPLY FOR CALIFORNIA

Every year, California uses
**6 MILLION
ACRE-FEET**
more water than our rivers and
aquifers can sustainably provide

Every year, California
could save up to
**14 MILLION
ACRE-FEET**
of water to close this gap



That's enough water to irrigate
all of the orchards, nuts, berries, vineyards,
tomatoes, lettuces, rice, and vegetables grown
in California, with water left over.

Agricultural Efficiency: 5.6-6.6 MILLION ACRE-FEET

- Use smart irrigation scheduling to ensure crops are watered when they most need it
- Use deficit irrigation to limit water use at drought-tolerant growth stages
- Expand efficient drip and sprinkler irrigation technology



Water Reuse: 1.2-1.8 MILLION ACRE-FEET

- Use recycled water to irrigate landscapes and crops
- Install graywater systems to water lawns and flush toilets in homes and businesses
- Recharge groundwater with recycled water



Stormwater Capture: 0.4-0.6 MILLION ACRE-FEET

- Install rainwater barrels and cisterns at homes and businesses
- Recharge groundwater with stormwater runoff



Urban Efficiency: 2.9-5.2 MILLION ACRE-FEET

- Replace unneeded turf grass with native and drought-tolerant plants
- Accelerate replacement of inefficient plumbing fixtures and appliances
- Find and fix water leakage in buildings and under streets
- Operate cooling towers more efficiently in factories and office buildings



Get the Drought Series Fact Sheets at:
www.nrdc.org/water/ca-water-supply-solutions.asp
www.pacinst.org/publication/ca-water-supply-solutions

* 1 Million Acre-Foot is generally enough to supply
2 million families for 1 year (until we all become more efficient!)