

# Water for an Arid Land

The Bay Area is home to millions of people who have grown accustomed to enjoying an abundant water supply in a semi-arid environment.

But just where does the water come from that allows us to call this area home?

The answer might surprise you.

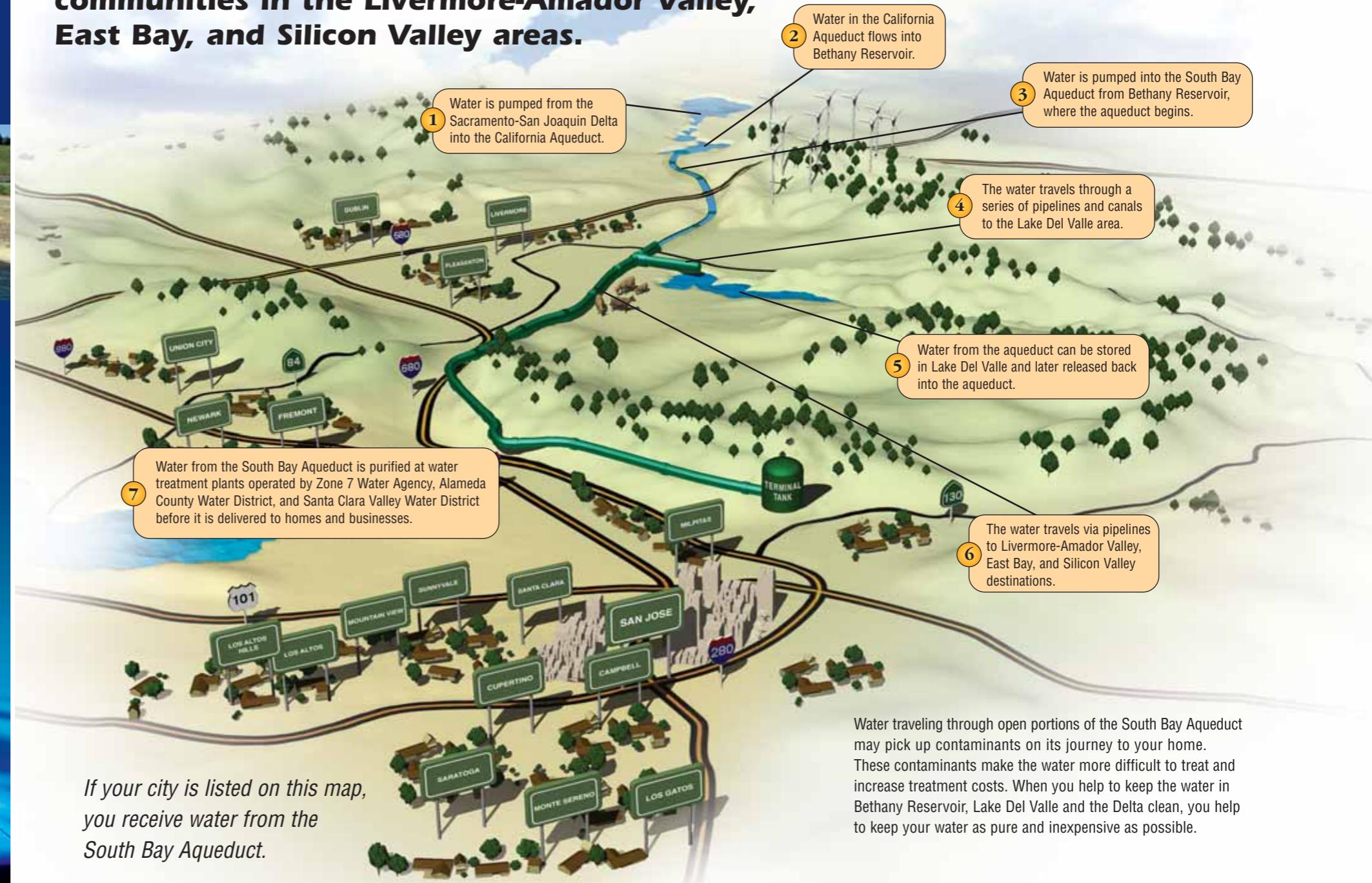


*Protecting the watershed lands surrounding South Bay Aqueduct facilities helps to enhance Bay Area drinking water quality.*

Less than one-half of the water used in Livermore-Amador Valley, southern Alameda County, and Silicon Valley communities is produced locally; much of it is imported from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. Large pumps at the south end of the Delta move water into the California Aqueduct which transports water to farms and cities throughout California. A branch of the California Aqueduct, known as the South Bay Aqueduct, moves water from the Delta through a series of canals and pipelines to nearly 2.3 million people in the greater Bay Area. In a very real way, the South Bay Aqueduct acts as a lifeline to the Bay Area, for without it there would not be enough water for us to maintain the lifestyle we now live.



## The South Bay Aqueduct supplies water to communities in the Livermore-Amador Valley, East Bay, and Silicon Valley areas.



## Quenching the Bay Area's Thirst

For more than a century, communities in the Livermore-Amador Valley, southern Alameda County, and Silicon Valley relied almost exclusively on local water supplies. Explosive population growth after World War II, however, made it apparent that the Bay Area, and indeed, all of California needed additional water supplies. In order to provide adequate water to new residents and businesses, Oroville Dam on the Feather River was constructed, and with its completion the State Water Project (SWP) was born.

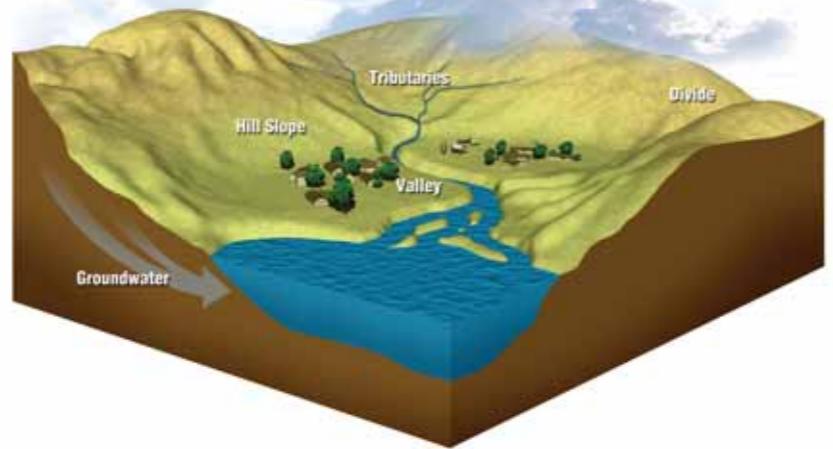


Lake Del Valle was created in 1968 to provide flood control, recreation, and an additional water supply for the Bay Area.

Today, the SWP forms the backbone of California's water supply system. Bethany Reservoir, Lake Del Valle, and the South Bay Aqueduct are the parts of the system which help to keep eastern and southern Alameda County and Silicon Valley from

going thirsty. Caring for both the reservoirs and the lands surrounding them are responsibilities we need to take seriously if we want to maintain the purity of the water we drink.

Bethany Reservoir and Lake Del Valle collect the water that flows across the land surrounding them. Limiting your impact on the watersheds will help to protect your drinking water supplies.



## The South Bay Aqueduct Watershed – Critical to Drinking Water Quality

Bethany Reservoir and Lake Del Valle are surrounded by watersheds. A watershed is the land over which water flows into a common water body. The watersheds surrounding Bethany Reservoir and Lake Del Valle consist of the hills, peaks, fields, and developed areas over which water flows before entering the lakes. As water flows through these watersheds, it can pick up contaminants which then accumulate in the lakes and pollute part of the Bay Area's water supply. You can help protect these critical drinking water sources by limiting your impact on the watersheds.

**Watershed: the land over which water flows into a common water body.**

*Keeping your boat well-maintained and taking restroom breaks while swimming aren't the only things you can do to protect your water supply. Caring for the watershed that surrounds you will also help to ensure unpolluted drinking water.*

<i>These activities...</i>	<i>...can prevent these contaminants from entering the water</i>
✓ Using trash cans and recycling bins	✗ Pollutants as a result of littering
✓ Fixing automobile fluid leaks	✗ Petroleum products
✓ Respecting park signage in environmentally sensitive areas	✗ Sediment through erosion
✓ Fixing leaking septic tanks	✗ Untreated sewage

*Treat the watershed with the same respect you would treat your water supply.*



*This brochure was produced through a Proposition 13 Non-point Source Pollution Control Grant from the State Water Resources Control Board by the South Bay Aqueduct Watershed Workgroup.*

## The South Bay Aqueduct



A Lifeline to the Bay Area



The South Bay Aqueduct