Ocean Desalination
The Facts

It's the ***most energy-intensive*** water option

Taking salt out of seawater requires more energy than harvesting rainwater, purifying wastewater, and even more than pumping water hundreds of miles across the state to LA.

The energy required to desalinate 20 million gallons of seawater per day, as proposed by West Basin, will result in approximately *44,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide* being released into our atmosphere every year.

…and by far the ***most expensive***.

Due to high capital costs and exorbitant energy demands, desalinated ocean water *costs over $2,100 per acre-foot*, more than desalting (brackish) groundwater, harvesting rainwater, purifying wastewater and far more than water conservation and efficiency programs.

> "*desalination… is unlikely to be a major part of California's water supply portfolio due to its high cost of operation, the availability of other sources of water (such as recycled wastewater), its high energy use and the resulting high levels of greenhouse gas emissions, and siting difficulties given the fragility and importance of California's coastal ecosystems*."
>
> Stanford University, Water in the West. May 2016.

Overall, it's a ***bad investment***

Australia tells a cautionary tale: 4 of the 6 desal plants built during their drought now sit idle, with water bills in Victoria going up 34% and taxpayers on the hook for $1 billion in 2015 alone!

…and should be used as a ***last resort*** in LA and CA.

City of Los Angeles Mayor Garcetti's Sustainability pLAn calls for 50% reduction in purchase of imported water over the next decade, with *<u>none</u> of that local water coming from desalination*.

California State Assembly Select Committee on Water Consumption and Alternative Sources concluded in a March 2016 report that "*[d]esalination should be used as an option of last resort*."

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