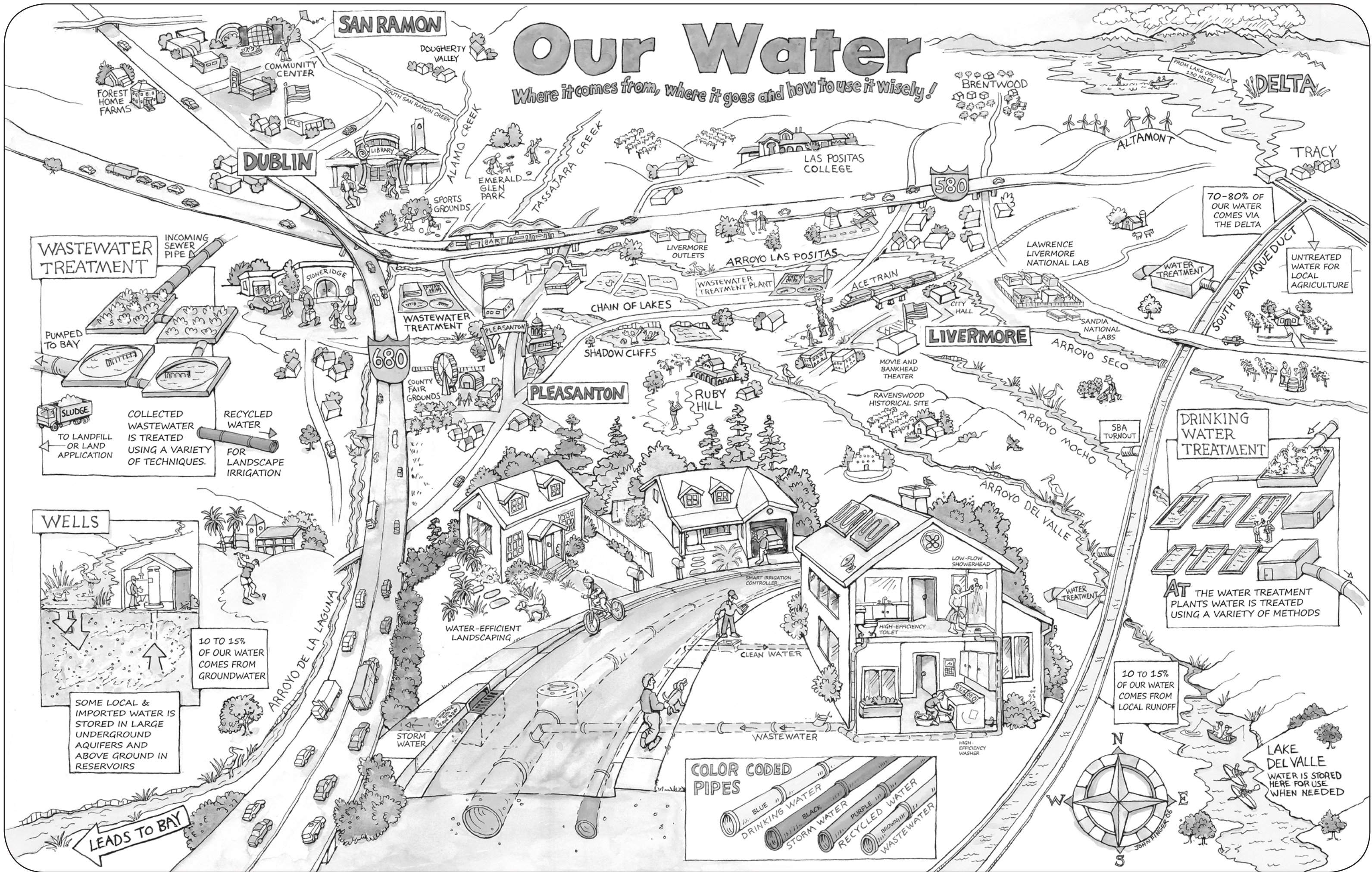


Our Water

Where it comes from, where it goes and how to use it wisely!



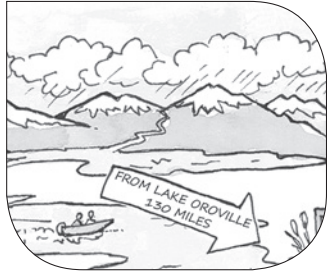
Our Water

Where our water comes from

With its dry climate, the Tri-Valley must get water from far and near.

Mountain snow supplies 70-80%

Most of our water is imported from hundreds of miles away. It starts as snow that falls in the northern Sierra Nevada range. When the snow melts each spring, it is captured in Lake Oroville. All through the dry summer and fall, water is released from the lake into the Feather River, which joins the Sacramento River system and then the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta. At the south end of the Delta, some of this water is diverted into the South Bay Aqueduct, which brings it into the Tri-Valley.

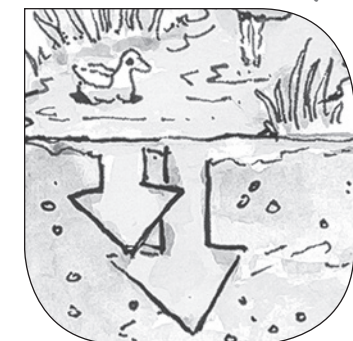


Local runoff provides 10-15%

While most of our local rainfall soaks into the ground or flows into storm drains and out to the San Francisco Bay, up in the hills rainwater runs off into Lake Del Valle reservoir and is stored for later use.

Groundwater supplies another 10-15%

Much of the Tri-Valley sits on top of a large groundwater basin—also called an aquifer. Think of it as a huge, underground sponge made of sand and gravel that can store vast amounts of water in its cracks and crevices. Water percolates naturally into the basin from rainfall and streams. The valley’s water managers also artificially recharge (refill) the basin by releasing imported and Lake



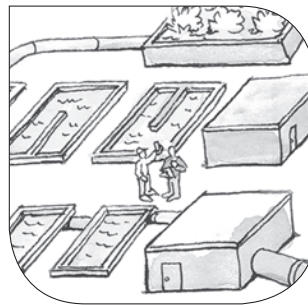
Del Valle water into streams, arroyos, and lakes being created from old quarries. Water stored in the groundwater basin is like money in a bank account—ready to use when we need it most (such as when there is not enough mountain snow to produce all of the imported water we need).

Where it goes

Water from the South Bay Aqueduct flows first in an open concrete channel and then in underground pipes. Some of the pipes are so big you could drive a car through them if they weren’t filled with water!

Treatment keeps water safe

Most of our imported water is treated at either the Patterson Pass Water Treatment Plant in the east or the Del Valle Water Treatment Plant near Sycamore Grove Park. Treatment removes contaminants so the water is safe to drink. Chemicals also are added to keep the water safe as it travels through pipes or stands in storage tanks.



Pipes, pumps, people deliver water

The treated water is sent in pipes to Livermore, Pleasanton, Dublin and part of San Ramon. The water treatment plants are located at higher elevations than the communities they serve so gravity helps deliver the water, boosted by pump stations where needed. Each community has its own water distribution system—the pipes, pump stations, and storage tanks that deliver water to homes, schools, and businesses.

How to use it wisely

Our water is a limited and very precious resource that must be used wisely. We need water to survive and we use it every day to make life more enjoyable—in a cold drink, a hot shower, or a cool pool. Yet most of us could easily use less by making small changes in our daily lives.

Most water is used outdoors

- Learn how much water your landscaping needs. Overwatering is a common mistake.



- Use mulch around plants and water very early in the morning to reduce evaporation.

- Adjust watering schedules in step with the weather, or get a “smart” controller that does it for you.

- Rethink your landscaping. Choose plants that thrive in our dry climate with very little water. Minimize thirsty lawns.

- Fix leaks in toilets, faucets, and sprinkler systems.

- Never let the water run needlessly.

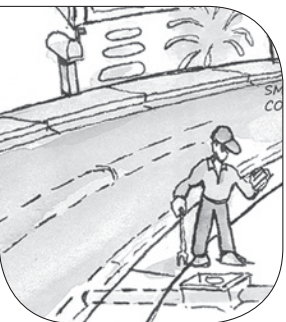
- Wash only full loads of dishes and clothes.

- Make water- and energy-efficiency a priority when replacing toilets, faucets, showerheads, and appliances.

Water utilities manage your water wisely

Our local water utilities are doing their part to conserve. They protect watersheds and groundwater to maximize these supplies and reduce our dependence on imported water. They plan ways to reduce water demand and increase water savings, so we are prepared to face the droughts that are inevitable in our dry climate.

Most water used in the Tri-Valley eventually ends up in the San Francisco Bay, where it is “recycled” through the natural water cycle. Water we use for car washing and gardening goes into the streets, enters the storm water system, and travels through local arroyos to the Bay. Water used indoors travels to the wastewater treatment plants in our communities. The wastewater is treated so it is clean enough to be piped over the hills to the Bay.



Some wastewater receives more treatment and is recycled to irrigate parks, school grounds, golf courses, and roadway medians. Recycling water keeps a local resource local and reduces energy-intensive water imports and wastewater pumping. Every gallon of recycled water used for irrigation saves a gallon of precious drinking water.

Our population will continue to grow in the Tri-Valley, but our water supply will not.

To avoid future water shortages, we must use our water more wisely.