**Riverside Public Utilities & Western Municipal Water District   
*Regional Water Partnership*FAQ**



**What is the 2017 Water Production, Conveyance and Surplus Sales Agreement?**

* + *Rights to Groundwater Supplies*
    - Western leases water rights from entities in the San Bernardino Bunker Hill groundwater basin that hold water rights (approximately 4,200 – 5,400 acre feet per year or 20-25 percent of Western’s total water demands).
    - Riverside, who holds water rights in the same groundwater basin, will sell at least   
      2,000 acre feet per year of surplus water to Western (approximately 10 percent of Western’s total water demands).
  + *Delivery of Groundwater Supplies*
    - Riverside will lease capacity to Western in the groundwater production wells,   
      pipeline conveyance and treatment facilities that it owns and operates.
    - Riverside will deliver its surplus water and Western’s leased water to Western.
    - Riverside and Western have multiple interconnections, allowing for delivery from Riverside’s facilities to Western’s facilities.
  + *Purchase of Groundwater Supplies*
    - Western will pay Riverside for power, Operations and Maintenance (O&M) and capital recovery for delivery of Western’s leased water.
    - Western will pay Riverside for power, O&M, capital recovery and a   
      commodity charge for delivery of Riverside’s surplus water.

**What does the term “wheeling” mean?**

* + Through this partnership, Riverside “wheels” or conveys Western’s leased water and   
    Riverside’s surplus water using Riverside’s excess capacity of its groundwater production wells, pipelines and treatment facilities.

**Why does Riverside have “surplus water?**

* + In 1969, the Superior Court defined Riverside’s right to water in the San Bernardino Basin Area, based on historical water use.
  + Construction of the John W North Treatment Plant in 2008 enabled the City to become independent of imported water and provided a new, local supply to the City that relieved some demand from the San Bernardino Basin Area. In addition, the Governor’s drought declaration and mandatory conservation imposed by the State Water Resources Control Board also contributed to a reduction in Riverside’s retail demand. These factors have helped to reduce the amount of water produced from the San Bernardino Basin Area.
  + Historically, RPU’s defined water rights have mostly exceeded customers’ demands. If Riverside doesn’t fully utilize their water right from the San Bernardino Basin Area, the unused water right becomes unavailable to the City after five years.
  + Selling surplus water to Wester benefits Riverside as a whole.

**How do Riverside’s customers benefit from this partnership?**

* + Riverside will receive additional revenue from Western to cover the cost of providing the service, as well as revenues for future capital improvements to facilities.
  + The estimated revenue to Riverside for leased (wheeled) and surplus sales to Western is   
    $100 million over the next 20 years; utilizing the surplus water that would be left behind.
  + The increased revenue will help keep Riverside’s rate increases lower.

**How do Western customers benefit from this partnership?**

* + The purchase price for both Western’s leased water and Riverside’s surplus water, will be less expensive than Western’s other main source of water, which is imported water from   
    Northern California.
  + The estimated savings for the purchase of local supplies instead of imported water is   
    $45 million over the next 20 years.
  + This partnership will increase Western’s local water supply reliability, reducing its dependence on  
    imported water, which is critical in a time where regulation and climate change raise concerns of  
    imported water reliability.
  + The less expensive local water helps keep Western’s rate increases lower.