

Imported Water: Cost and Reliability

Imported water is water brought into our region through large statewide infrastructure systems to Metropolitan Water District (MWD) and then to Calleguas Municipal Water District (Calleguas). For Camrosa, imported water currently serves as an important **supplemental supply**, particularly during periods of high demand. However, imported water is also the most expensive potable water supply.



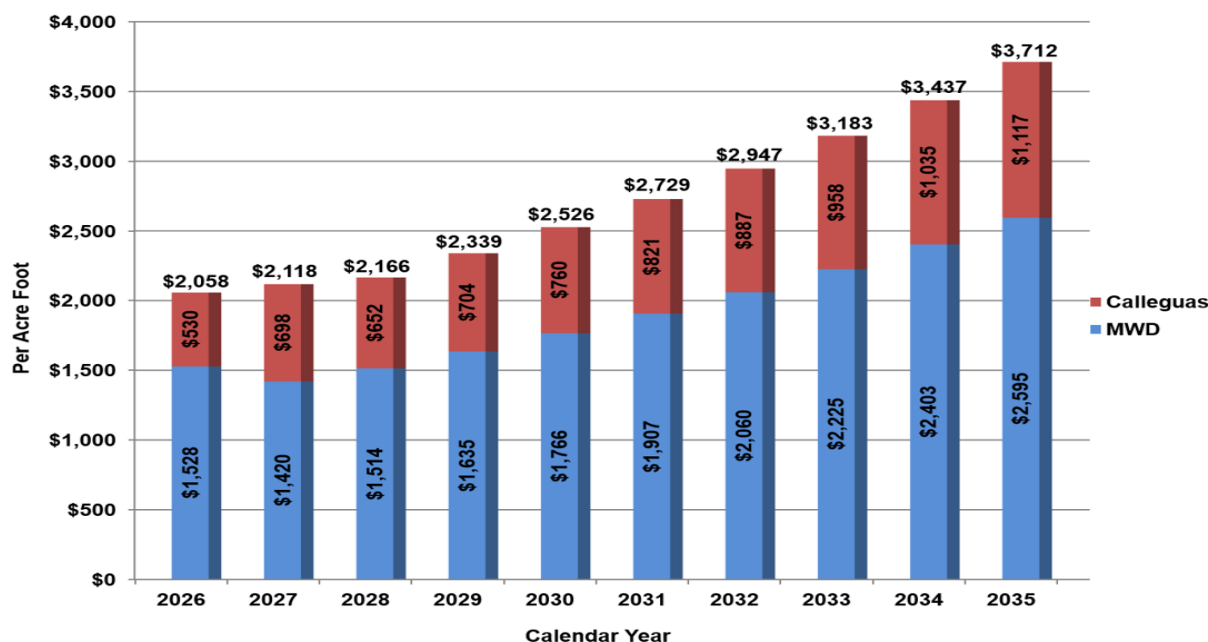
The California Aqueduct – Part of the State Water Project

Questions We Heard

- Why is imported water becoming more expensive?

While imported water is a generally reliable source, it is one of Camrosa's **most expensive water sources**. Costs continue to rise due to statewide infrastructure investments, energy costs, environmental regulations, and water supply challenges.

Projected Cost of Imported Water



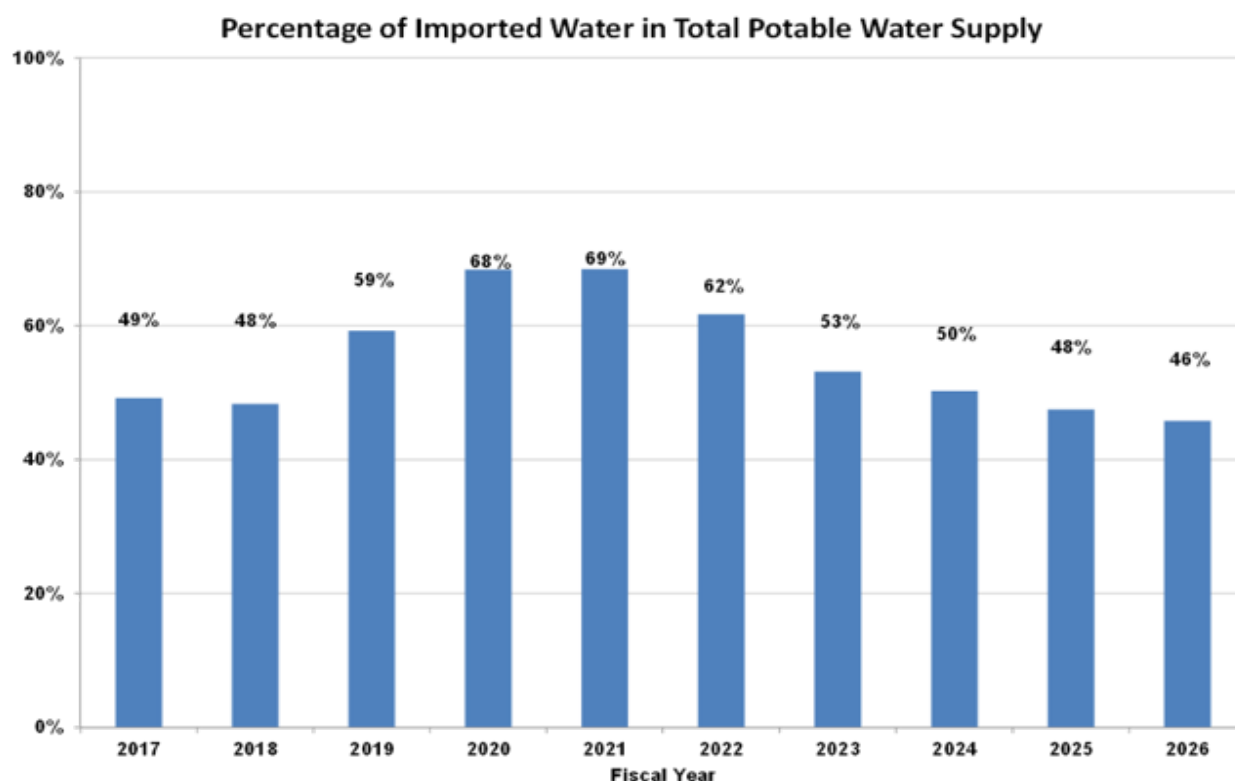
- **Could imported water deliveries be interrupted during emergencies or drought?**

Yes. In the last drought our region was designated as “state water system dependent” and when state water resources were limited, **mandatory water restrictions** were imposed regionally. Also, aging delivery infrastructure increases the risk of imported water supplies being limited in the event of a catastrophic emergency, either regionally within the Metropolitan or Calleguas systems or anywhere along the state’s water distribution system.

- **Why invest in local supplies if imported water is available?**

Customers often ask why Camrosa focuses on developing local water supplies when imported water is available. The answer lies in **reliability** and **cost stability**. Local supplies are generally more resilient to statewide droughts, regulatory restrictions, and disruptions affecting imported water delivery systems. Local supplies can be less expensive to produce, depending on the costs for needed treatments.

The goal is to reduce dependence on imported water when **practical** and **cost-effective** local supply alternatives exist.



- **How much imported water will Camrosa need in the future?**

That depends, in part, on the level of investment Camrosa makes in developing and maintaining local water resources. A significant part of developing the Integrated Master Plan involves evaluating different scenarios for expanding Camrosa’s local supplies and reducing reliance on imported water. These scenarios will consider the investments required, the water supply benefits they could provide, and the long-term reliability and flexibility of each option.

The Master Plan will also explore whether a combination of local groundwater, recycled water, surface water exchange, and other local resources could provide most of Camrosa’s water needs, while identifying the infrastructure and investments necessary to achieve that level of independence. The goal is to help the community understand the costs, benefits, opportunities, and tradeoffs associated with increasing local water resources and **determine what level of investment makes sense** for Camrosa and their customers, now and well into the future.