

# **WATER RECLAMATION: PUBLIC AWARENESS AND EDUCATION**

BY  
WILLIAM R. MILLS JR.  
GENERAL MANAGER  
ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT

MWD LOCAL PROJECTS WORKSHOP  
SEPTEMBER 22, 1993

# WATER RECYCLING - A NEW WATER SUPPLY TO HELP MEET OUR STATE WATER SUPPLY DEFICIENCIES

- Growing Needs
- Cyclical droughts/shortages

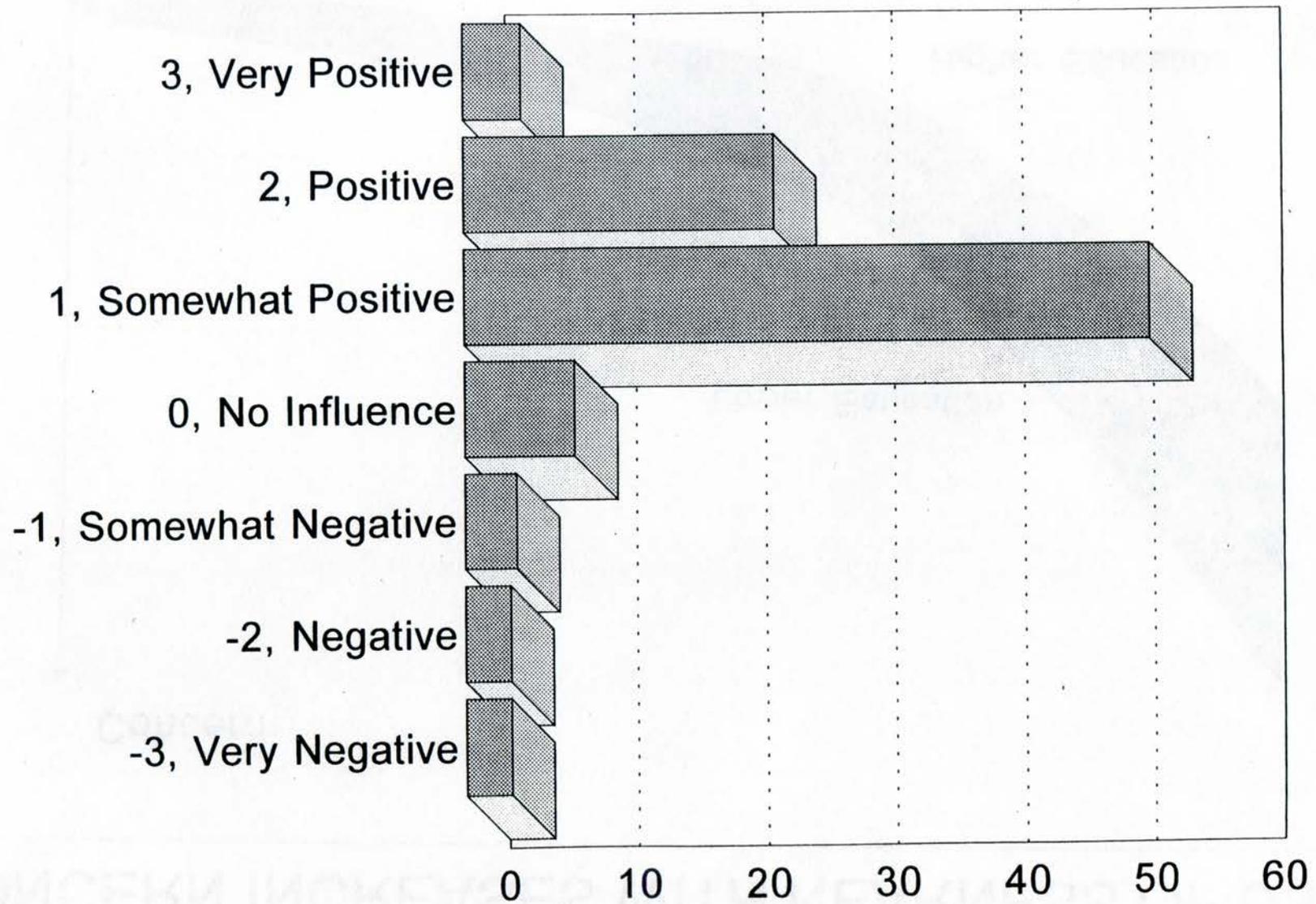
# WASTEWATER RECLAMATION CAN HELP SOLVE STATE'S WATER DEFICIENCIES

- Cost effective
- Large available supply source
- Demonstrated health compliance
- Environmental compatability
- Public Acceptance

# CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE PASSED THE WATER RECYCLING ACT OF 1991

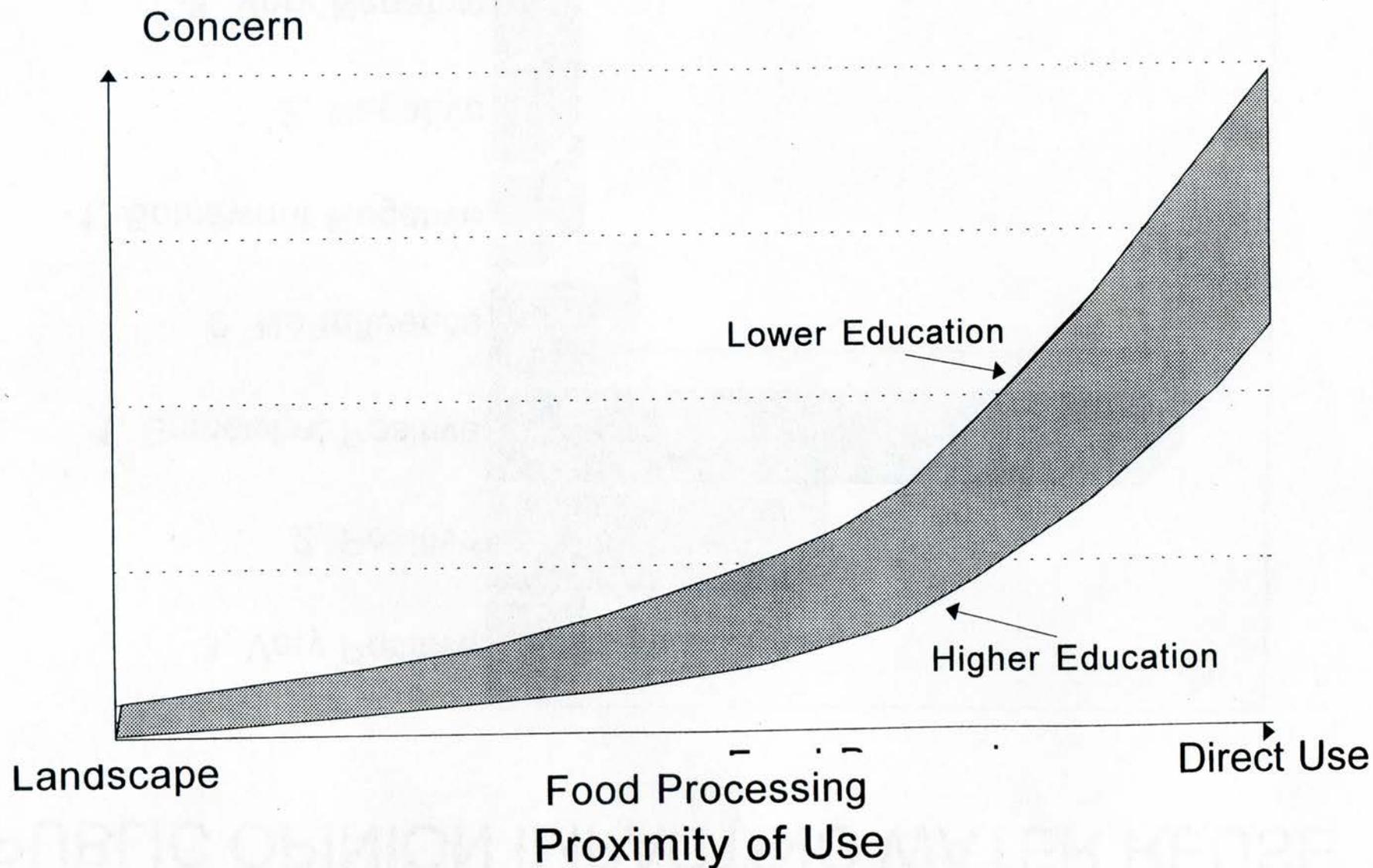
- DECLARED RECYCLED WATER A VALUABLE RESOURCE
- SET STATEWIDE GOALS OF:
  - 700,000 AF/YR BY 2000
  - 1,000,000 AF/YR BY 2010
- ALSO, EXPANDED NUMBER OF MANDATED USES

# PUBLIC OPINION IMPACTING WATER REUSE

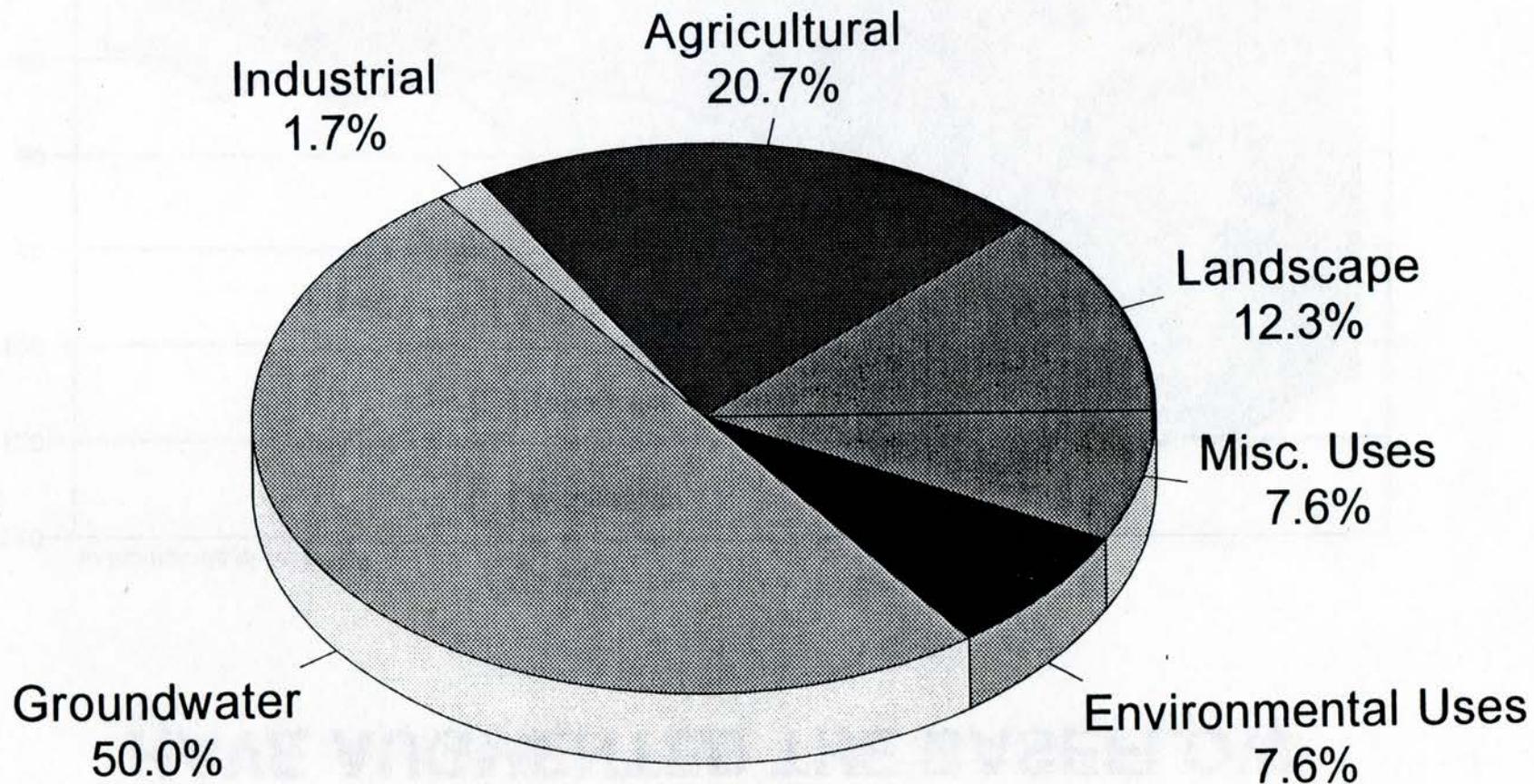


Percent of respondents declaring level of influence

# NATIONAL STUDIES HAVE SHOWN THAT PUBLIC CONCERN INCREASES WITH NEARNESS OF USE

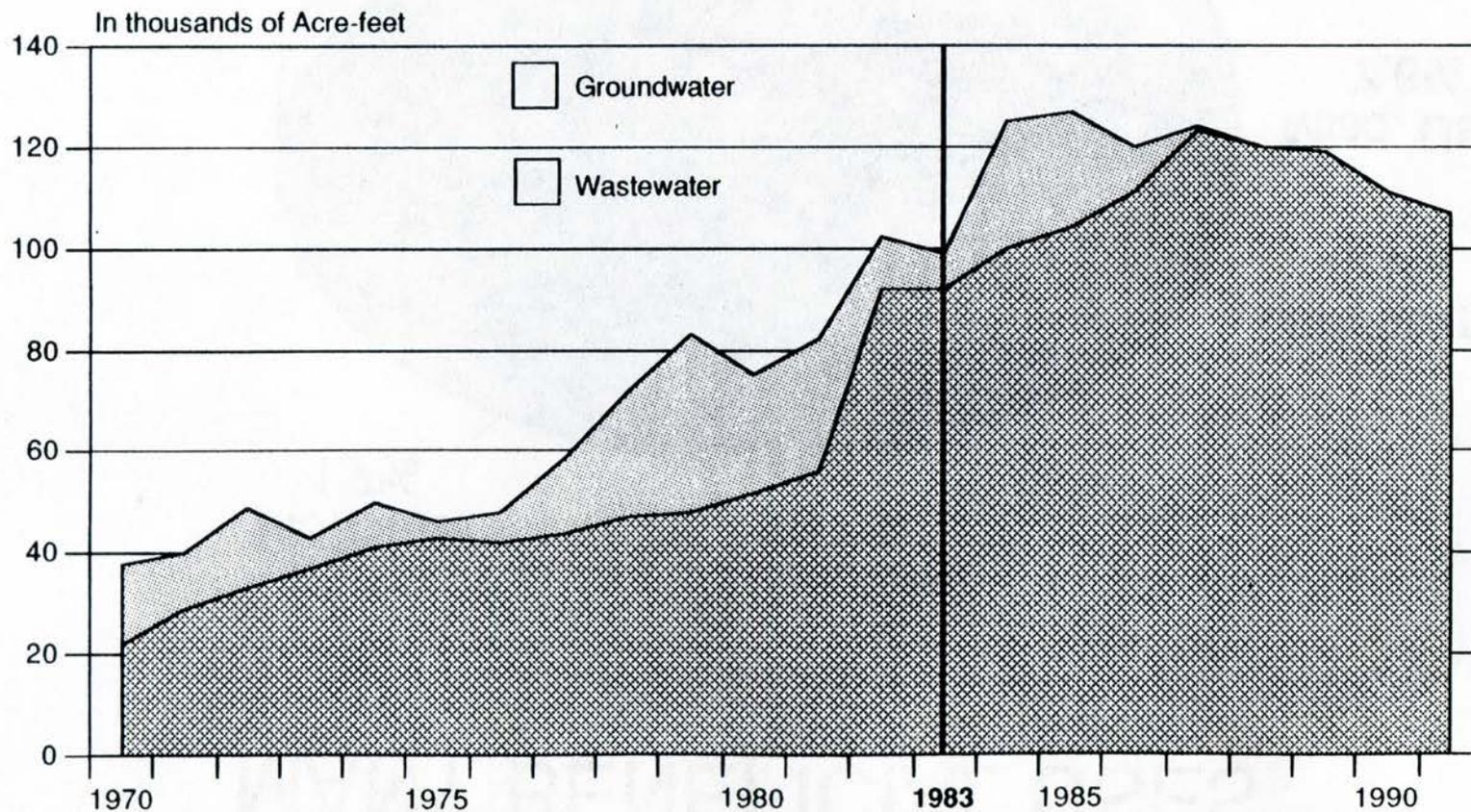


# WATER RECYCLING CAN SATISFY MANY BENEFICIAL USES

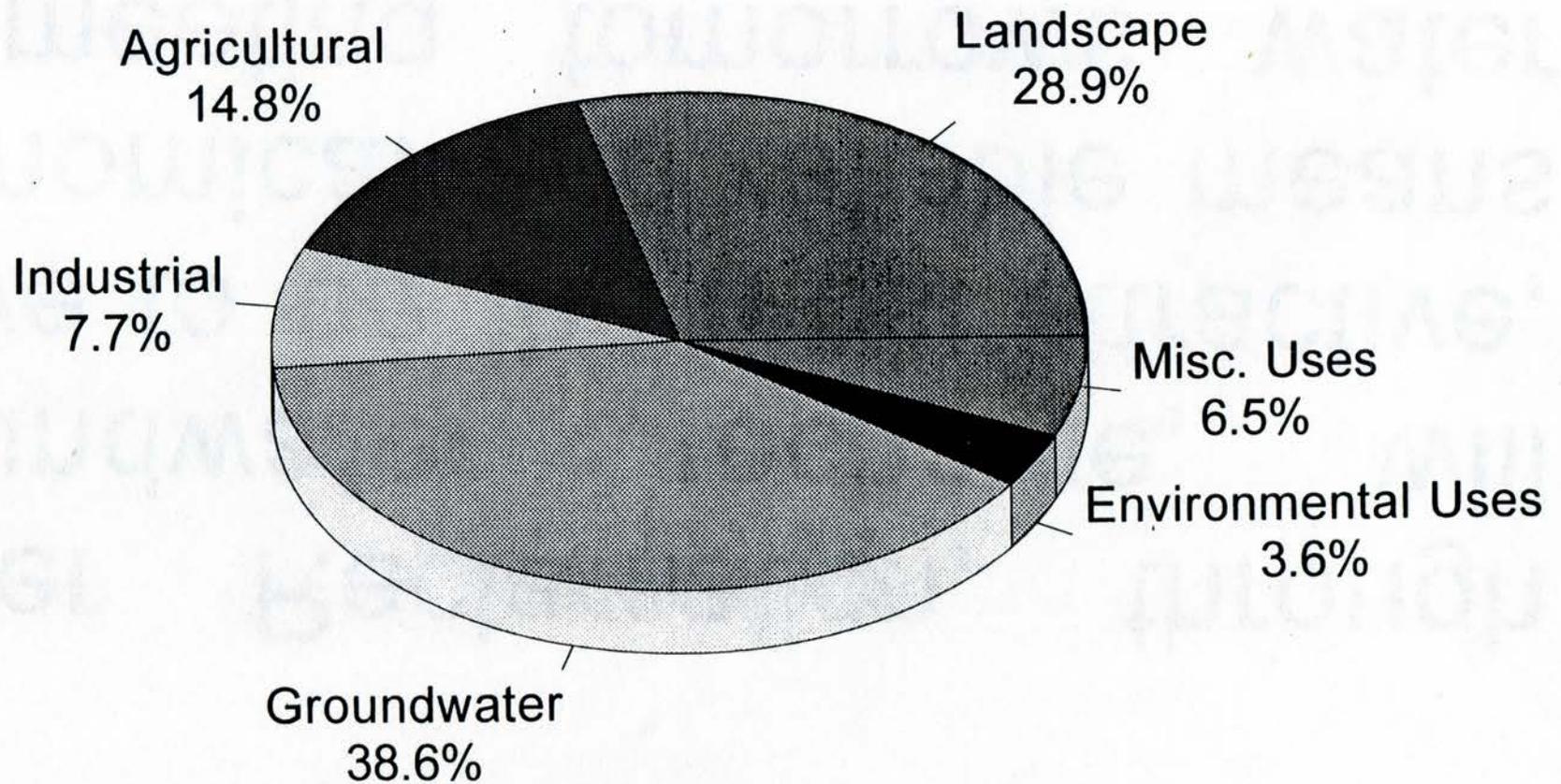


Today's total use is 380,000 AF/Yr

# UPPER AREA WASTEWATER DISCHARGES HAVE AUGMENTED THE BASEFLOW



A RECENT SURVEY REVEALED THAT GROUNDWATER RECHARGE WITH WASTEWATER WILL CONTINUE TO BE THE LARGEST OF ALL BENEFICIAL USES BY YEAR 2010

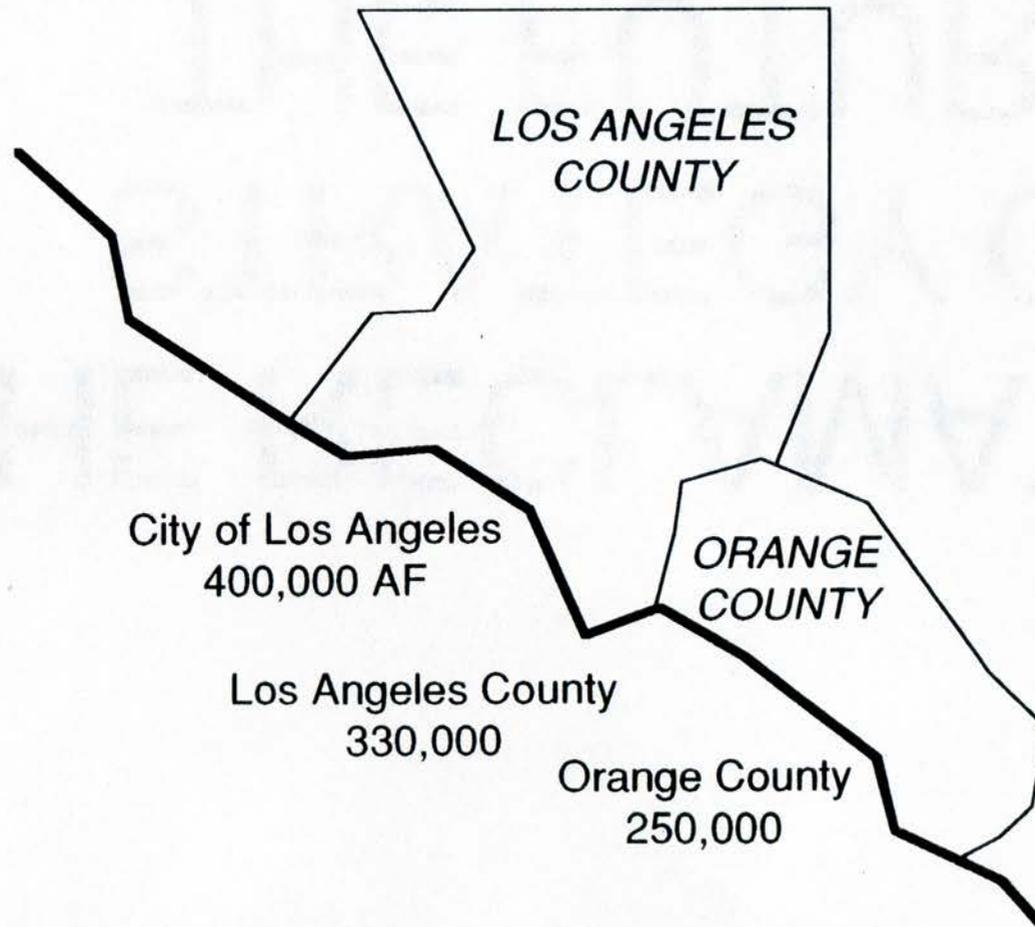


2010 TOTAL = 1,300,000 AF/Yr

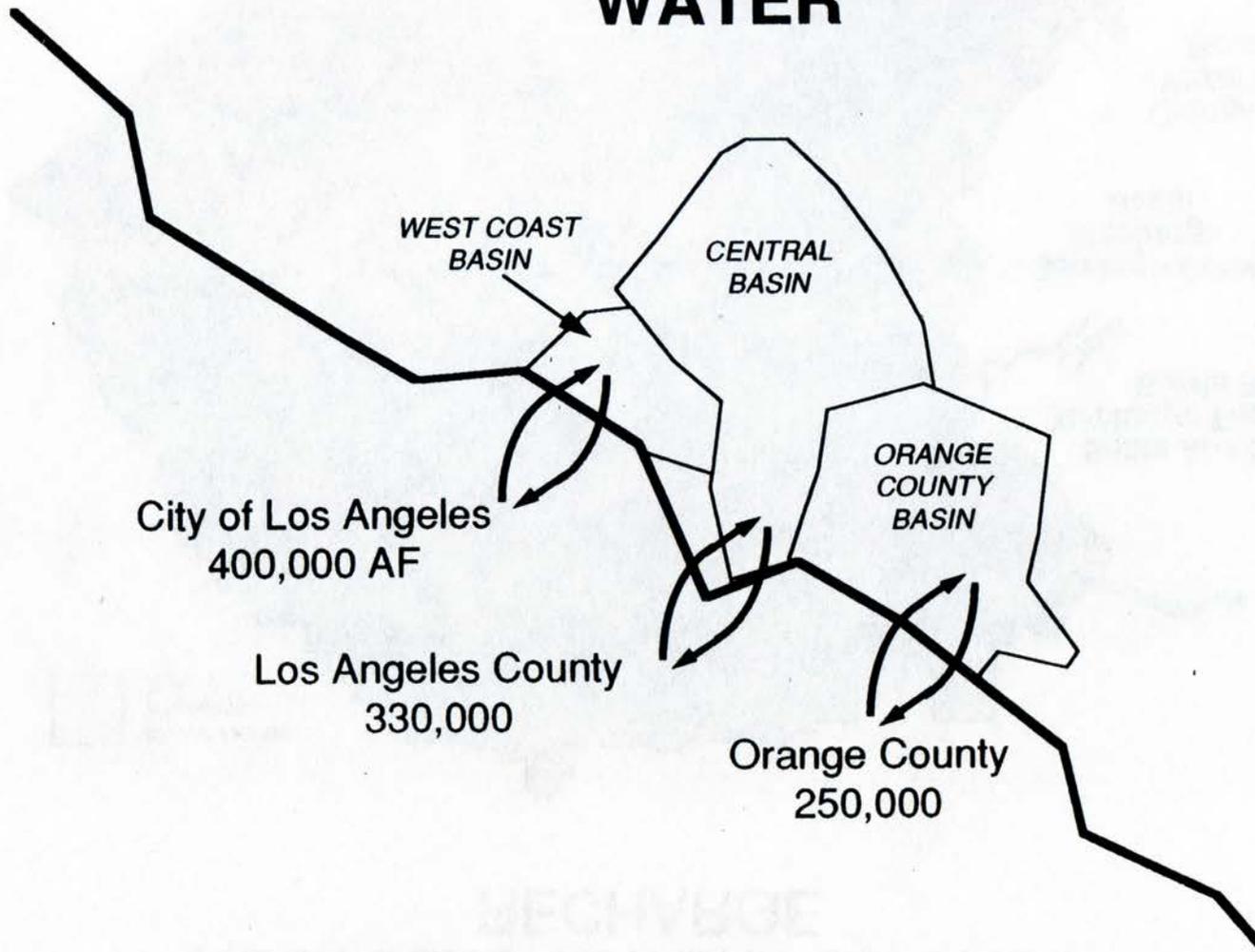
Water Reclamation, through groundwater recharge, will prove to be the most attractive, economical and reliable means of meeting tomorrows water demands.

# THE RECLAMATION STRATEGY OF THE FUTURE

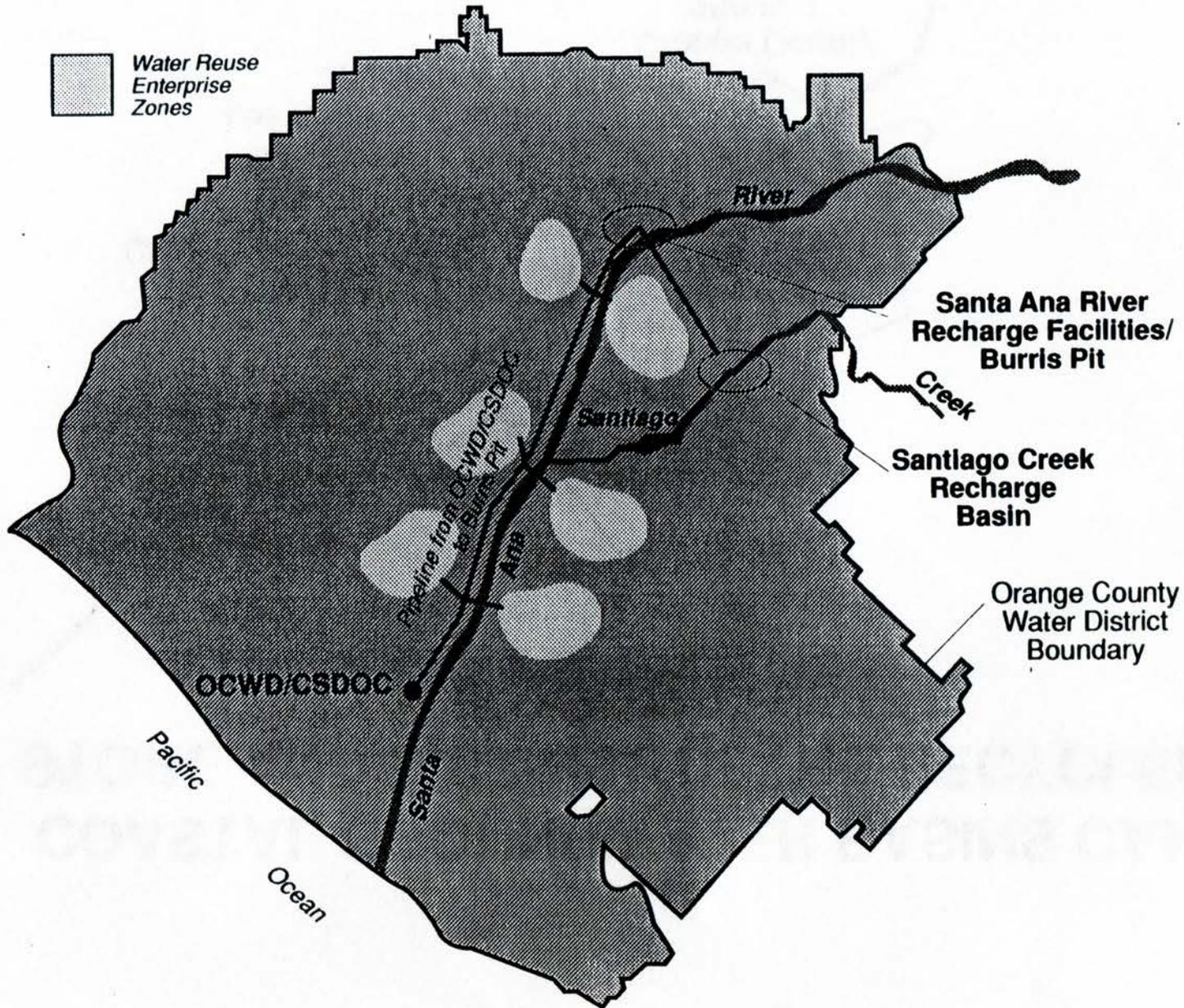
# NEARLY 1,000,000 AF OF WASTEWATER IS DISCHARGED ANNUALLY TO THE OCEAN IN LOS ANGELES AND ORANGE COUNTIES



# COASTAL GROUNDWATER BASINS CAN STORE AND DISTRIBUTE THE RECYCLED WATER



# RECYCLED WATER FOR BASIN RECHARGE



# RECOMMENDATIONS TOWARD PUBLIC ACCEPTANCE OF RECLAMATION

---

- Educate the general public about reclamation
- Develop public education materials and conduct meetings, tours, etc.
- Include the general public in the planning phase of reclamation projects
- Form public advisory committees

# PUBLIC EDUCATION AND AWARENESS PROGRAMS

---

- Water Education Foundation - Layperson's Guide
- WaterReuse Association - "Enhancing California's Future Through Recycling Wastewater"
- Videos
- Newsletters
- Facility tours

# CONCLUSION

---

- Reuse must be a major part of any program to achieve water supply dependability
- We must continue to plan for projects in spite of present day unfavorable conditions
- We need to make the public aware of the State's water supply problems
- We must educate the public about the role that wastewater recycling can play in solving the water problems

**"It may be difficult to convince the public that what goes down the toilet comes up the tap."**