

WHAT IS WATER INFRASTRUCTURE?

Water infrastructure refers to the pipes, pumps and facilities that are a vital part of capturing, storing, treating and delivering water to homes, businesses and farms throughout the state. The specific infrastructure that each water agency uses varies depending on geography and local water sources. As climate change continues to drive higher temperatures, limited precipitation and frequent weather extremes, water supplies will continue to be strained and require investing in and modernizing these vital systems.

GLOSSARY

- An **aqueduct** is a large pipe used to channel water from a source, such as a lake or river, to another destination.
- A **canal** is an open, artificial waterway made to transport water for uses such as irrigation, land drainage and water supply.
- A **dam** is a barrier built across streams or rivers to restrict the flow of water. Dams are used to control flooding and pollution, generate energy and store water for irrigation, industrial processes, and other uses.
- **Groundwater** is freshwater from rain or melting snow that is found underground after soaking through the cracks in soil, sand and rock. Groundwater is used for drinking, irrigation and many other purposes.
- A **groundwater well** is a hole drilled into the ground to gain access to groundwater.
- A **hydropower facility** is used to generate electricity. Water flows through a pipe, then spins the blades in a turbine, which spins a generator that ultimately produces electricity.
- **Intake structures** are structures installed at a water source, such as a river, lake or reservoir, which are used to collect and divert water into a treatment plant.
- An **irrigation system** is a system of canals, ditches, pumps and other structures used to supply water to an area of land. Irrigation systems deliver water to help maintain landscapes and promote the growth of crops.
- A **levee** is a natural or artificial wall that blocks water. Levees are typically built along the edges of a stream or river to protect against flooding.
- A **pipe** is a hollow cylinder made from metal, plastic or other materials and typically buried under roads and sidewalks that is used to transport water. Water is taken from a source and distributed via pipes to our homes and businesses.
- A **pumping plant** is a facility containing pumps and equipment used to transport water from one location to another.
- A **reservoir** is a natural or artificial lake used as a source of water supply. Reservoirs are designed to help control flooding during wet periods and store excess water for use during dry periods.
- A **spillway** is a structure used to provide the controlled release of surplus water from a dam or levee. Spillways are important safety features of dams, built to maintain the level of water in a reservoir.
- **Stormwater** is rainwater or melted snow that runs off streets, lawns and other sites that does not soak into the soil.
- **Stormwater capture** is the process of collecting, accumulating and storing stormwater for reuse. Stormwater capture allows us to capture and treat stormwater flows to use as a water supply resource.

GLOSSARY (CONTINUED)

- **Surface water** is any water collected above ground, including streams, rivers, lakes, ponds and creeks and can be used for drinking, recreation, irrigation, industrial and other purposes.
- **Water reuse (or water recycling) facilities** reclaim water from a variety of sources, such as wastewater, then treat and reuse it, mostly for non-drinking purposes such as agriculture or irrigation.
- A **water storage tank** is a container built to collect and store water for ready access and is used for household, commercial, agricultural, industrial and other needs.
- **Water treatment** is any process that improves the quality of water to make it appropriate for a specific end-use, such as drinking, irrigation, recreation and more. Water treatment facilities are entities or processes that collect, treat, test, store, pump or distribute water for domestic and commercial use.

