MWDOC eCurrents Newsletter

MWDOC ORANGE COUNTY RELIABILITY STUDY: VALUABLE INFORMATION FOR KEY DECISION MAKERS

By Damon Micalizzi

How reliable is our water system? Can demands be met in the event of an emergency? Is Orange County ready for the inevitable natural disaster and perpetual times of drought? The latest edition of the MWDOC Orange County Water Reliability Study (Study) attempts to answer these questions and more. The Study examines present water systems, analyzes pending infrastructure endeavors, and runs all of these projects through a suite of crystal ball scenarios including lower demands, a broad range of weather extremes, and a variety of future investments from Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (Metropolitan) in new supplies.

If you think that's a long-winded explanation, the 261 page report will no doubt overwhelm you. However, we've done our best to condense that extensive analysis into this seven-page executive summary. To take it a step further, here is the long and short of it:

- The Study assumes the successful completion of the California WaterFix, twin tunnels improving the reliability of flows imported from northern California.
- South Orange County (SOC) is far more at risk in the event of an emergency on the Metropolitan system, and is the major driver of the need for new local projects in SOC.
- Even with reduced demands, additional supplies are needed in SOC.
- The Study evaluates a number of projects providing both emergency and supply reliability needs of SOC.
- These projects differ significantly in cost, cost-efficiency, yield, and ability to integrate into the existing system.

The purpose of these project comparisons is to provide independent, objective and consistent information that can be used by key decision-makers regarding the future of Orange County water supplies.

Learn more by watching this video