



Los Angeles Department of Water and Power in the Mono Basin

From the Sierra Nevada and the Colorado River to the ground beneath our feet in Los Angeles, our city's water comes from a variety of diverse sources. One of those is through the Los Angeles Aqueduct, carrying fresh runoff from the Eastern Sierra through the Mono Basin, 338 miles south to the San Fernando Valley.



ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDS

Angelenos have long-standing water rights that provide them with clean, affordable drinking water. Those water rights also come with an important responsibility of protecting the environment where we operate.

For nearly 40 years, LADWP has been working hand-in-hand with the state of California, advocates, and local voices to improve the environment. To date, LADWP has 66 ongoing, in progress or complete restoration efforts in the Mono Basin alone. As a result, while the entire state grapples with the impacts of climate change, the ecological vibrancy of the Mono Basin continues to be restored.

WATER RESTORATION & SUPPLY

Since 1985, LADWP has reduced the city's historical water supplies by over 50% from the Eastern Sierra and over 80% in the Mono Basin. We now dedicate this water to environmental projects throughout the region. This amount of water is not insignificant – it's enough to supply over one million Angelenos with a year's worth of clean, reliable water.

66

LADWP has 66 ongoing, in progress or complete restoration efforts in the Mono Basin.



Rush Creek is the largest stream in Mono Basin carrying 45% of the total runoff into Mono Lake.

Before restoration



After restoration



ECOSYSTEM HEALTH

For over a decade, LADWP monitored and controlled the flows running from the Grant Dam through the stream tributaries into Mono Lake, and in 2010, stream scientists appointed by the State Water Resources Control Board determined these ecosystems as healthy and continuing to recover.

Stream Restoration

As a result of the stream restoration, there has been significant improvement in the health of the entire Mono Basin ecosystem, including the fish, birds, and other riparian habitats that call Mono Basin home.

Fish Populations



LADWP's flow and fishery restoration in Lee Vining, Rush, and Walker Creeks, now entering its 24th year of observation, have resulted in remarkable progress for the region's

fish populations. In 2010, scientists determined that fish populations are reproducing naturally. The continued study demonstrates the ongoing active growth.

- In 2019, Upper Rush Creek supported ~2,647 newborn Brown Trout compared to ~1,572 in 2018

Bird Life

Restoration of the streams and the increase in Mono Lake water levels have led to significant improvements in the region's bird life.

- Several species of migrant songbirds have colonized riparian resources along Rush and Lee Vining Creeks.
- Restoration has improved habitat for breeding waterfowl such as Green-winged Teal and Mallard in lake-fringing wetlands and deltas.
- In 2011 the State Water Resources Control Board found that the ecosystem is significantly supporting the waterfowl.

