

Catalina Island

Water System Fact Sheet



By the NUMBERS:

- Reservoirs: **2**
- Groundwater wells: **10**
- Storage tanks: **13**
- Desalination plant: **1**
- Miles of pipeline: **more than 25**



Overview

Southern California Edison has been providing water service to Catalina Island since 1962. Currently, the water infrastructure includes wells, storage, water treatment and distribution, and a desalination plant. SCE serves about 4,000 year-round residents on the island via 2,000 customer accounts. In addition to SCE's residential and commercial water customers on Catalina, the island is visited by more than 700,000 people annually, most during the summer months. SCE's water utility is regulated by the California Public Utilities Commission and other agencies such as the State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water.

Water Sources on the Island

SCE provides water through pipelines, reservoirs, wells and tanks to both the East End, which includes Avalon, and the West End, which includes Two Harbors. Communities at White's Landing, Airport and Toyon/Gallaghers Cove are served locally by wells at each of these locations.



Middle Ranch Reservoir

Middle Ranch Reservoir:

The East End's main source of fresh water comes from the aquifer connected to the Middle Ranch Reservoir. The reservoir has a capacity of about 1,149 acre feet (1 acre feet=325,851 gallons). Fresh ground water is drawn from the aquifer using three groundwater wells in Middle Ranch and sent to Pump Station 2. The water is aerated and chlorinated and then pumped to Wrigley Reservoir for distribution to the city of Avalon and the rest of the island's East End.



Desalination Plant

Desalination Plant:

Ocean water is pumped through sea water wells to the desalination plant, located at the Pebbly Beach Generating Station in Avalon. The desalination plant uses the reverse osmosis process to make the water fit for drinking. This water is used to augment the fresh water supply for the town. When operational, the plant's maximum daily output is about 200,000 gallons.

Water for the island's West End is provided by ground water wells located at Cottonwood, Sweetwater and Howlands Landing.

Monitoring for Water Quality

SCE ensures that it is providing a safe and dependable supply of drinking water to its customers by regularly monitoring the water supply. SCE is required to test for a number of different contaminants in the water system, with the timing of the sampling varying based on the state's requirements, from daily to annually. The company conducts more than 2,300 tests for over 150 drinking water contaminants. In order to ensure that water is safe to drink, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water, established regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Monitoring results are routinely submitted to the Division of Drinking Water and are subject to review and inspection by the agency. For more information about what SCE tests for and how it compares to California water quality standards, please refer to the company's annual Consumer Confidence Report.

Water Infrastructure Upgrades

Over the past 50 years, SCE has made significant investments to upgrade the water infrastructure on the island to meet population growth and demand. System upgrades include increasing storage capacity at Middle Ranch Reservoir by more than 250 percent, development of seven production wells, increasing tank storage for water fit to drink by 120 percent, and several other improvements. SCE will continue to upgrade the water infrastructure as needed to ensure the delivery of safe, reliable and affordable water on Catalina Island.