

Water

H₂O=Life

Water: A California Story

Water: H₂O=Life takes a global perspective, but in many ways, southern California acts as a microcosm for exploring the worldwide water crisis. Many global dilemmas are represented in southern California: infrastructure challenges, transportation of water, shortages, conservation, restoration, agriculture, and the effects of climate change.

The San Diego Natural History Museum is developing *Water: A California Story*—a unique 2800-sq.-ft. exhibition that explores the vulnerability of our water supply in southern California. *Water: A California Story* addresses where our water comes from, how we use water, and where our water goes after we use it, all within the context of global climate change and people as major players in the ecosystem.

Through photos, maps, video, and hands-on activities, visitors will see that water is a service provided by nature that shouldn't be taken for granted. Natural history specimens and live animals will serve as reminders that the natural environment and its inhabitants are also legitimate users of water resources.

Water: A California Story teaches visitors about current, local issues on land (adaptations to water scarcity, increasing wildfires due to prolonged drought) and in the ocean (urban run-off, ocean pollution, and overfishing). Examining the infrastructure of the regional water system, visitors will learn about how we import the majority of our water, and the costs associated with this practice. *Water: A California Story* also looks at effects of a changing climate on our region's water supply and reveals how southern Californians can help protect water for future generations.

The advisory board guiding the creation of *Water: A California Story* includes Jason Foster, San Diego County Water Authority; Marsi A. Steirer, City of San Diego Water Department; Peter MacGlaggan, Poseidon Resources Corporation; Eric Larsen, San Diego Farm Bureau; Helen McBrady, SMART Building Products; Wesley Schultz, Professor of Psychology at California State University, San Marcos; Marty Eberhardt, the Water Conservation Garden; Paula Silva, CH2MHill; and Paul Engstrand, Esq.

Even after the departure of *Water: H₂O=Life* to continue its international tour, *Water: A California Story* will remain in the Museum's Discovery Center for two years.

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Water: H₂O=Life is organized by the American Museum of Natural History and the Science Museum of Minnesota, in collaboration with the San Diego Natural History Museum, Great Lakes Science Center, The Field Museum, Instituto Sangari (São Paulo, Brazil), National Museum of Australia, Royal Ontario Museum, and Singapore Science Centre with PUB Singapore.

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