



WATER CONSERVATION: VOCABULARY LIST



Aqueduct	Aquifer	Condensation	Conservation
Delta	Drought	Evaporation	Gas
Groundwater	Infiltration	Liquid	Natural Resource
Precipitation	Recharge	Runoff	Solid
Surface water	Transpiration	Wastewater	Water Cycle
Watershed	Well		

- **Aqueduct:** A fabricated watercourse constructed to convey water from one location to another. An aqueduct is any system of pipes, ditches, canals, tunnels, and other structures used for this purpose.
- **Aquifer:** A geological formation or structure that stores and/or transmits water, such as to wells and springs. Use of the term is usually restricted to those water-bearing formations capable of yielding water in sufficient quantity to constitute a usable supply for people's uses.
- **Condensation:** The conversion of a gas to liquid, which is the opposite process of evaporation.
- **Conservation:** The act of conserving; such as saving Natural Resources.
- **Delta:** A delta is an area of land in which a river divides into smaller rivers and empties into a larger body of water. Ex: The Sacramento Delta.
- **Drought:** A period of below-average precipitation in a given region, resulting in prolonged shortages in its water supply.
- **Evaporation:** Evaporation is the process by which water changes from a liquid to a gas or vapor.
- **Gas:** Water converted into a gaseous or vapor state.
- **Groundwater:** Is the water found underground in the cracks and spaces in soil, sand and rock. It is stored in and moves slowly through geologic formations of soil, sand and rocks called aquifers.
- **Infiltration:** The process by which water on the ground surface enters the soil. A flow of water from the land surface into the subsurface.
- **Liquid:** Fluid that has no fixed shape. Ex: Water at room temperature
- **Natural Resource:** A substance or material such as water or trees that is naturally found on Earth and is necessary or useful to humans.
- **Precipitation:** Water released from clouds in the form of rain, sleet, snow, or hail.
- **Recharge:** Water added to an aquifer. For instance, rainfall that seeps into the ground.
- **Runoff:** Something that drains or flows off, as rain or snowmelt that flows off from the land into streams.
- **Solid:** Firm, hard, or compact in state.
- **Surface Water:** Water that is above ground such as in a river, lake, wetland, or ocean.

- **Transpiration:** Process by which water that is absorbed by plants, usually through the roots, is evaporated into the atmosphere from the plant surface, such as leaf pores.
- **Wastewater:** Any water that has been adversely affected in quality. Wastewater can originate from agricultural activities, surface runoff or storm water, and from sewer inflow or infiltration.
- **Water Cycle:** A natural process by which water circulates between the Earth's oceans, atmosphere, and land, involving precipitation as rain and snow, drainage in streams and rivers, and return to the atmosphere by evaporation and transpiration. Also known as the Hydrologic Cycle.
- **Watershed:** An area of land where surface water drains down to a single point (ex: the Santa Ana Watershed leads to the Pacific Ocean).
- **Well:** Manmade hole deep in the ground through which water can be removed.