

# What Happens To Agriculture's Water?

Based on available data, averaged over a thirteen-year period (1998-2010), developed water supplies and groundwater delivered to California farms totals 34.1 million acre-feet per year (41.4% of the entire state's water use).

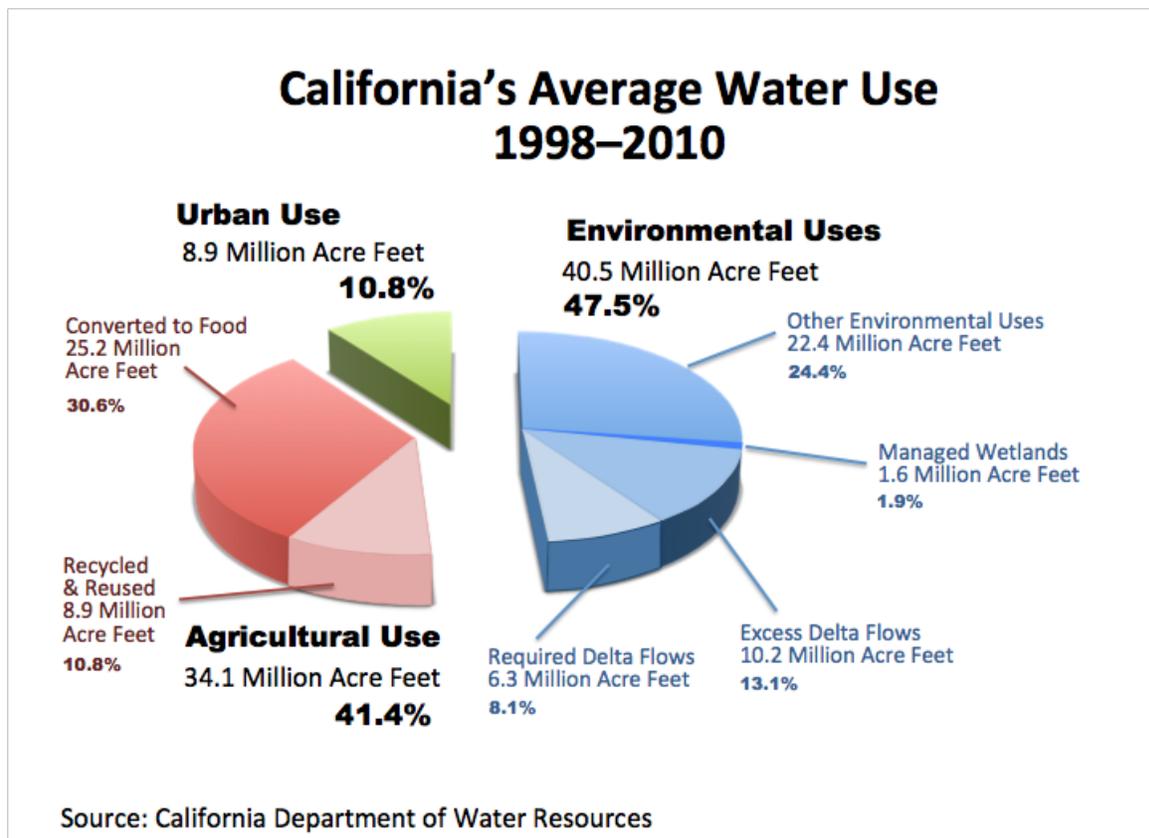
73.9% of that farm water is converted into food and fiber while the remaining 26.1% is recycled as flows to rivers, lakes or recharging groundwater aquifers for use by others or the environment.

California farms provide 50% of the nation's fresh produce accessible year round. California farmers grow over 75% of the nation's lettuce; over 80% of the nation's spinach, strawberries, carrots, and avocados; over 90% of the nation's cauliflower, broccoli, lemons, and apricots; over 95% of the nation's celery, garlic, and plums; and over 98% of the nation's almonds, pistachios, tomatoes, olives & olive oil, grapes, walnuts, pomegranates, peaches, and artichokes. Due to California's farmers U.S. consumers' percentage of consumer expenditures for food averages 6.7% of household income, meaning we in the United States have broad and continuing access to the most affordable and healthful food supply in the world.

SOURCES: <http://www.marketwatch.com/story/why-the-california-drought-will-be-worse-than-everyone-thinks-2015-04-07?page=2>

[http://www.ers.usda.gov/datafiles/Food\\_Expenditures/Expenditures\\_on\\_food\\_and\\_alcoholic\\_beverages\\_that\\_were\\_consumed\\_at\\_home\\_by\\_selected\\_countries/table97\\_2013.xlsx](http://www.ers.usda.gov/datafiles/Food_Expenditures/Expenditures_on_food_and_alcoholic_beverages_that_were_consumed_at_home_by_selected_countries/table97_2013.xlsx)

The amount of water returned by California farmers for reuse by the environment, agriculture, and urban dwellers is virtually equal to the total of actual California urban water use, 8.9 million acre-feet.



**SOURCES (Chart): Data was derived from the California Department of Water Resources, California Water Plan, Update 2013: Document 10 – Water Portfolios – Water Balance Data Summary.** This document estimates and presents actual water uses and water supplies for water years 1998-2010 using improved methods for representing consumptive (depleted) and non-consumptive water uses for environmental, agricultural and urban purposes, and for representing where reuse of water occurs.

Link for the required flows to the Delta, 1998-2010: <http://www.waterplan.water.ca.gov/technical/cwpu2013/index.cfm>, Item 10, DATA SUMMARY: 1998-2010, Water balances revised 02-12-15: [DATA SUMMARY: 1998-2010, Water balances](#).