

SOUTH BAY IRRIGATION DISTRICT

District Background

Although empowered to provide water, hydro-electric, and park and recreation services, the South Bay Irrigation District (SBID) does not directly provide services. Water service within the SBID is provided by the Sweetwater Authority.¹

DISTRICT CHARACTERISTICS

Principal Act:	Water Code § 20500 et seq.
Services:	Conveys entitlement to imported water to Sweetwater Authority; Hydro-electric; Park & Rec
District Area:	32.29 square miles
Population:	121,534 (2009 SANDAG)
Sphere of Influence:	Larger than District
Sphere Adopted:	July 1, 1985
Sphere Affirmed:	August 6, 2007
Revenue Source:	Fees
Governance:	Elected 5-member Board of Directors
Board Meeting:	3rd Monday: 3:30 p.m. Sweetwater Authority 505 Garrett Avenue Chula Vista, CA 91912
Contact:	sbid.us c/o Sweetwater Authority 505 Garrett Avenue Chula Vista, CA 91912 P.O. Box 2328 Chula Vista, CA 91912 619/4270-1413
View Map:	sdlafco.org/Webpages/agency_maps_links.htm

The primary functions of SBID are to: (1) uphold a joint powers agreement with the City of National City that establishes the Sweetwater Authority; and (2) convey entitlement to water imported by the San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA) to the Sweetwater Authority.

Creation of SBID in 1951 resolved problems in distributing imported water purchased from

SDCWA to unincorporated areas that were not eligible to join SDCWA as member agencies.

The local water distribution system, which included the Sweetwater Dam and Reservoir, had been developed over 80-years by private owners. Imported water purchased by the Cities of Chula Vista and National City was transported to the Sweetwater Reservoir for distribution in the private system. The private system also covered the unincorporated Sweetwater Valley and there was no practical way to exclude the unincorporated area—which was not entitled to the imported water—from the distribution system.

The SBID was formed to cover the City of Chula Vista *and* the unincorporated Sweetwater Valley. The City's SDCWA membership was reassigned to SBID and the District distributed imported water to both the city and the unincorporated area. In subsequent years, SBID voters approved bonds to acquire the private water system. In 1972, the City of National City and SBID created the Sweetwater Authority to oversee water service within both agencies and in 1990, the Authority purchased the water system from SBID.

LAFCO approved a sphere-of-influence for the South Bay Irrigation District in 1985 that is larger than the district boundary.

¹ See: Agencies with Limited or No LAFCO Review: *San Diego County Water Authority*.