

**When was
the first Earth
Day?**

**April 22,
1970**

**What is the
Metropolitan Water
District of Southern
California?**

The MWDSC was created in 1927 in order to create the Colorado River Aqueduct. It was built between 1933 and 1941 and is owned and operated by the MWDSC. It ran a water pipeline to LA.

**Who is
Rachel
Carson?**

The author of Silent Spring published in 1962; examined the dangers of chemical pesticides such as DDT on plants, animals, and humans; Silent Spring hugely influenced the way people think about the environment

**Effluent
Standards**

Set restrictions on the discharge of pollutants into the environment. Effluent guidelines reduce the discharge of pollutants that have serious environmental impacts. The EPA has effluent guidelines for more than 50 categories.

Point Source Pollution

Pollution discharged directly from a specific site, such as a sewage treatment plant or an industrial pipe.

Non-point Source Pollution

Contaminated runoff from many sources.

Potable Water

Water that is safe to drink.

Aquifer

One or more strata of rock or sediment that is saturated and sufficiently permeable to yield economically significant quantities of water to wells or springs. An aquifer includes any geologic material that is currently used or could be used as a source of water within the target distance limit.

Estuary

An area where fresh water meets salt water.

Lagoon

A shallow body of water that is located alongside a coast

Marsh

A type of freshwater, brackish water or saltwater wetland found along rivers, ponds, lakes and coasts. It does not accumulate appreciable peat deposits and is dominated by herbaceous vegetation.

Reservoir

A pond, lake, tank, or basin that can be used for the storage and control of water. Can be either natural or man-made.

Surface Water

Includes rivers, lakes, oceans, ocean-like bodies, and coastal tidal waters.

Swamp

A freshwater wetland that has spongy, muddy land and a lot of water.

Watershed

A region drained by, or contributing water to, a surface water body.

Wetlands

Include swamps, marshes, bogs, and other similar areas. They are areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or ground water at a frequency and duration sufficient to support vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions. Wetlands can be natural or constructed.

Clean Water Act

Passed in 1977 as an amendment to the Federal Water Pollutant Control Act of 1972. Requires anyone wanting to discharge pollutants into a body of water to obtain a permit to do so. Regulates the amount of water that may be discharged and the types of pollutants that may be released.

Point Source Discharge Permit

A permit that must be obtained to discharge pollutants into the water. Must be obtained from the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES).

Clean Air Act

Passed in 1990. The federal government sets ambient standards and the states must devise methods that enables these standards to be met. Air cannot be contained in one location, so Air Quality Control Regions (AQCR) were created to measure air quality in airsheds. Like the Clean Water Act, the law required a permit to release pollutants into the air. The Act monitors six pollutants: Ozone, Particulate Matter, Carbon Monoxide, Nitrogen Dioxide, Sulfur Dioxide, and Lead. The Act has provisions that cut off federal funding for metropolitan areas that are not in attainment. In non-attainment areas, new pollution sources are allowed only if there is a reduction in pollutants greater than the pollutants contributed by the source. As of September 2002, there were 124 non-attainment areas.

Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD)

Relates to air quality and requires that a project will not increase emissions above a specified PSD increment.

Ambient Air Quality Standards

The maximum air contaminant concentrations allowed in the ambient air.

National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA)

Resulted in the creation of the Council on Environmental Quality. The Act requires that the environmental impacts of a project be considered. An Environmental Assessment is required to determine whether there is significant environmental impact. One of the major requirements of the Act was to require the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). EISs are required for federal actions significantly affecting the quality of the human environment. If an environmental assessment determines there is a significant impact then an environmental impact statement is required.

The River and Harbors Act of 1899

Prohibited the construction of any bridge, dam, dike, or causeway over any navigable waterway in the U.S. with Congressional approval. The Act also required Congressional approval for all wharfs, piers, jetties, and the excavation of fill of navigable waters.

The Water Pollutant Control Act of 1948

Allowed the Surgeon General of the Public Health Service, in cooperation with other governmental entities to prepare a comprehensive program for eliminating or reducing the pollution of interstate waters and tributaries and improving the sanitary condition of surface and underground waters. The Act allowed the Federal Works Administrator to assist government agencies in construction treatment plants that could help to prevent discharges of inadequately treated sewage and other wastes into interstate waters or tributaries.

Water Quality Act of 1965

Established the Water
Pollution Control
Administration within the
Dept. of the Interior. First time
water quality treated as an
environmental concern rather
than a public health concern.

