

to additional water resources or to gain public acceptance for the construction of new reservoirs. These problems will be magnified as the population grows and the Nation becomes even more urbanized. Desalting offers the possibility of economically developing new water sources. It also offers the possibility of "drought proofing" an existing supply thereby greatly improving the firm supply at a relatively low cost. Low-cost desalting could also be used as an interim supply to defer construction of additional reservoir and aqueduct capacity with savings in interest costs and at the same time permit the timely and efficient consolidation of the water supply problem for a number of communities into a single regional project rather than by expensive piecemeal development.

Local water shortages can often be manifestations of problems that are regional in nature. Apart from the possibility of providing a medium-scale interim supply for some communities in a region until sufficient requirements exist to justify a regional water supply system, desalting can also provide for large-scale base loaded water supplies for coastal areas. Also, by exchange of water with former inland sources, it can provide supply for some inland areas as well.