

above, simulation studies were made based on a model developed for OSW by Arthur D. Little, Inc. ⁽¹⁾

The model as extended ⁽⁹⁾ essentially forecasts what may happen as a result of reducing the costs of desalted water over the next 50 years and at the same time it compares emerging water problems, where desalting may possibly be used, with solutions to the problems using conventional water sources. The results given by this model vary depending on which forecasts are used for a number of factors. As far as the "base run" of the study is concerned, there is a basis for suggesting that the population projections used, which are basically from the Water Resources Council's 1968 national assessment ⁽¹⁰⁾, are too high and that long term power costs are too low; but if we accept the assumptions made, the results of that run show that by the year 2020, if the cost of desalting sea water can be reduced to approximately 25¢ per 1000 gallons and the cost of desalting brackish water correspondingly reduced to about 13¢ per 1000 gallons, the total water requirement supplied by desalting will be on the order of 7.8 billion gallons per day which is almost double the water quantity presently delivered by all the municipal water systems in California. In the projections which lead to the 7.8 billion