It should be noted that the study referred to above is based on a steady lowering of the unit cost of desalted water through continual refinements of the technology together with economies that result from building large-scale plants. An assumption is also made that a big contributor to future economy in desalting of water is the construction of nuclear-powered dual purpose electric energy desalting plants whereby energy is available for desalting. In the study referred to, which builds on water use data published by the Water Resources Council [10], it is assumed that desalting is used to meet regular long-term water needs and that the plants involved will produce fresh water from the sea, from brackish water sources, or as part of recycle/reuse systems.

It is assumed that desalting is only used for meeting long term water needs, thus in examining conventional competing sources of water that would be available to each subregion, only water that would be available on a long term basis was recognized.

Within the computer model used in this study it was necessary to assign a cost for conventional recycling wastewater for reuse. To make the model reflect present community behavior, an artifically