

high price was used in the early years of the 50-year projection period. If public acceptance of reused water changes over time more rapidly than the model assumes, then the model projections would need to be re-examined.

It is expected that in the future the total number of desalting plants that will be built will mostly be smaller than 10 mgd. It can be expected, however, that a relatively small number of large plants will also be found economical if the projections of water cost reductions are in fact realized. If in addition desalting plants are used for peak loading or as interim supplies, then plant capacity to supply the needs would be in addition to the above.

An essential ingredient in the data on which the recommendations of this report are based is the estimates of what desalted water will cost in the future. In terms of today's prices, the Office of Saline Water is confident that given sufficient resources it can devise technology to convert sea water to fresh water at a cost as low as 20 cents per thousand gallons based on 1970 prices and 7 percent fixed charges at the 100 mgd scale. It follows from the computer studies that the cost of achieving that goal would be a good investment of public money. At 20 cents per thousand gallons for desalted sea water at the 100 mgd