## A Tale of Two Watersheds:

The Delaware River Basin Overview

Elizabeth Brown, Director, External Affairs & Communications April 3, 2025









The Delaware River Basin Commission



Water Demand and Agriculture







The Delaware River Basin Commission

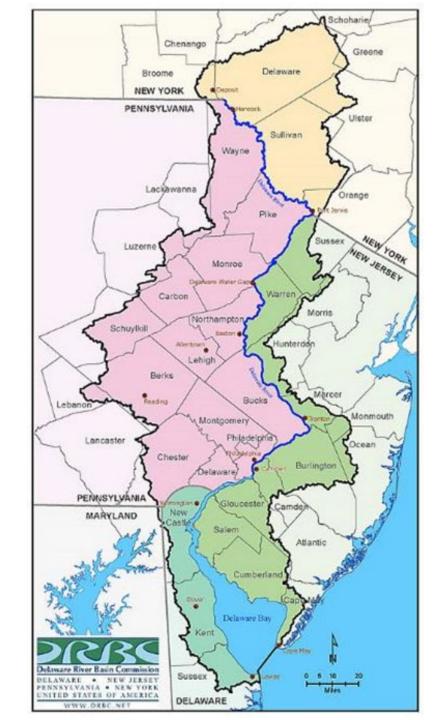


Water Demand and Agriculture



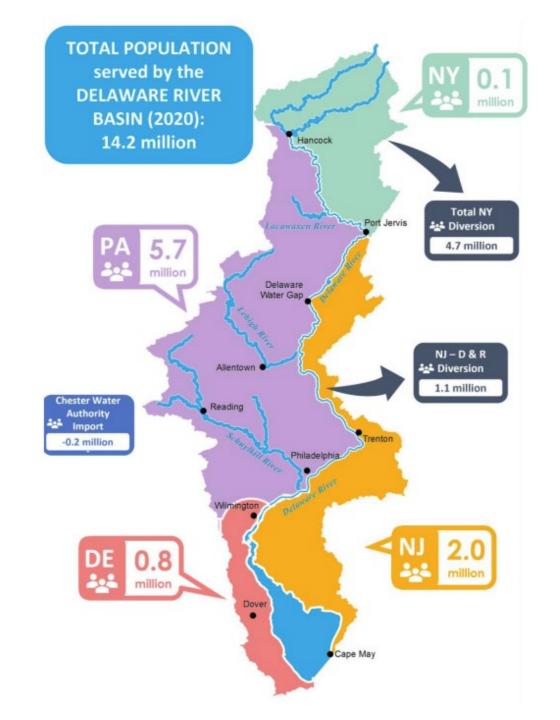
#### The Delaware River

- 330 miles
- 13,500 sq. mi. watershed
- Free-flowing mainstem
- Tidal from ocean to Trenton
- Unique habitats & communities

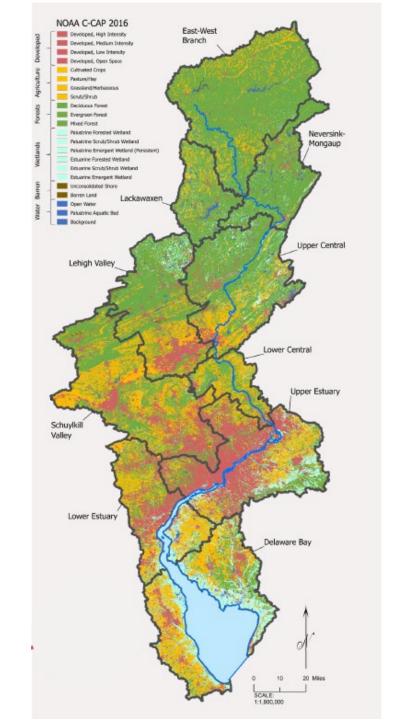


### The Delaware River meets our needs.

- >14 million people in four states
- Half of NYC drinking water
- Four states
- 6.1 billion gallons withdrawn daily
- >\$21billion in economic value
- Interstate boundary



Roughly 20% of the Delaware River Basin's land cover is agricultural.



Public funding for the Delaware River Basin trails other "great waters."







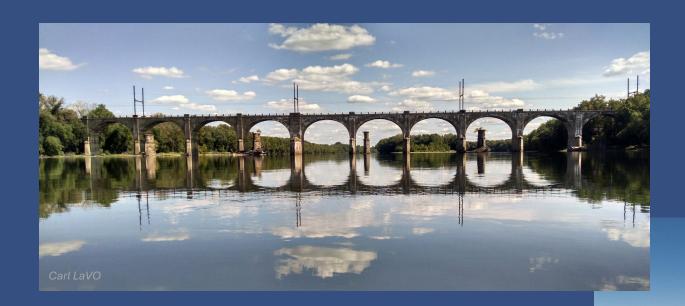
#### The Delaware River Basin Commission



Water Demand and Agriculture



# The Delaware River Basin Commission is a federal-interstate Compact agency established in 1961.



#### Our Mission

Manage, protect, and improve the water resources of the Delaware River Basin.

#### Our Vision

Provide trusted, effective, and coordinated management of the Basin's shared water resources.

### The DRBC's authority and jurisdiction are defined by the Delaware River Basin Compact.

- U.S. Constitution, Compact Clause, Article 1, Section 10, Clause 3.
- Pub. L. 87-328, 75 Stat. Ann.688 (1961).
- Recognized as a regional asset with local, state and national interests.



#### Commissioners of the DRBC





New York Governor Kathy Hochul, DRBC Chair





Delaware Governor Matt Meyer,

DRBC Vice Chair





North Atlantic Division Commander U.S. Army Corps of Engineers BG John Lloyd





Pennsylvania Governor Josh Shapiro



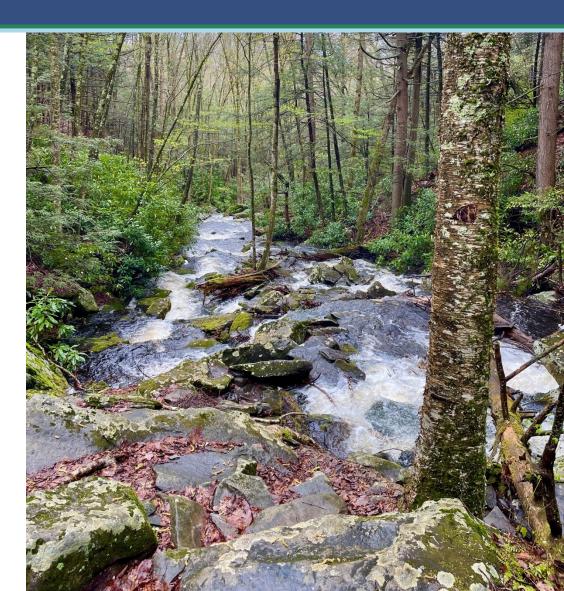


New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy



## The DRB Compact includes broad authority for planning and regulation.

- Abatement and control of pollution
- Development of ground and surface water supply
- Development of recreational facilities
- Protection and aid to fisheries
- Promotion of watershed projects
- Development of hydroelectric power
- Control of movement salt water
- Flood damage reduction



### DRBC's programs fall into two main categories.

**FLOW** 



An adequate and sustainable supply of water

**WATER QUALITY** 

2

Clean and healthy water resources







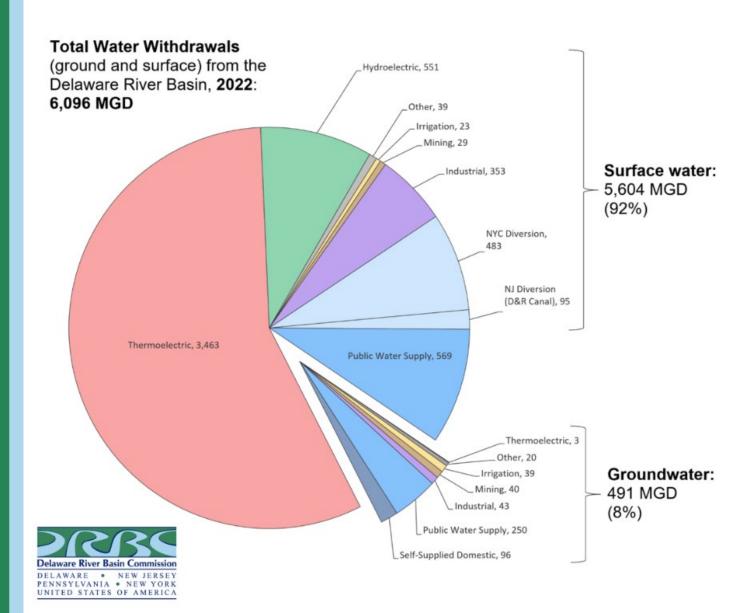
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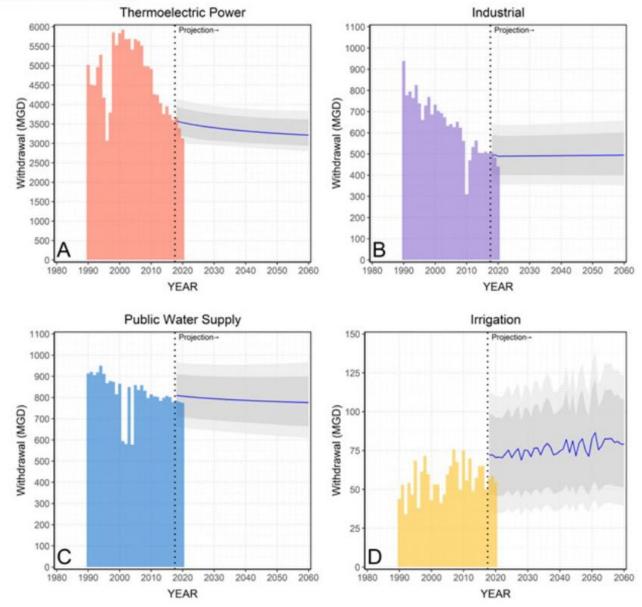
The Delaware River Basin's water supports uses across a wide range of sectors.



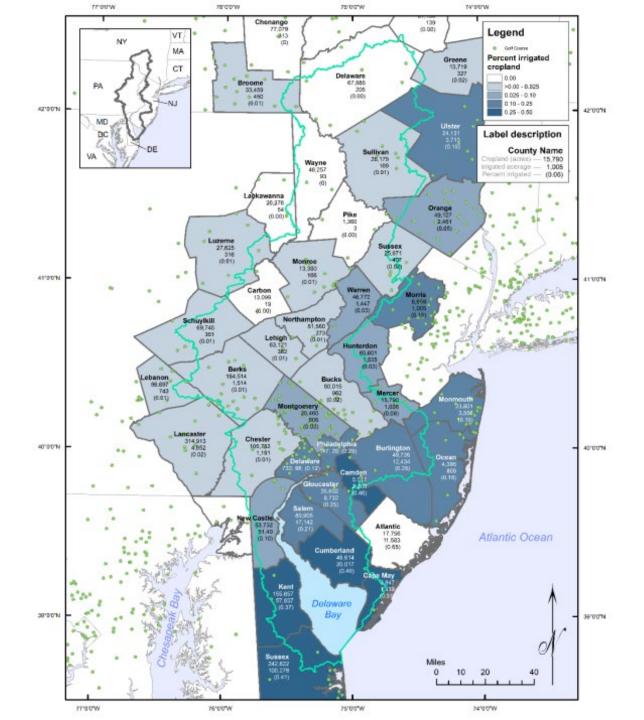
Water demand for irrigation is projected to increase through 2060.



#### Historical & Projected Water Withdrawals in the Delaware River Basin: Major Sectors



Agricultural irrigation varies throughout the Basin.



Drivers of increased demand are varied.



Credit: USDA





The Delaware River Basin Commission



Water Demand and Agriculture



#### Water Quality & Agriculture: Freshwater salinization

- Agricultural runoff, de-icing salt application & more contribute to increasing salinity levels.
- Salinity is a key water quality indicator.





#### Water Quality & Agriculture: Harmful Algal Blooms



Credit: Andrii Shablovskyi, Dreamstime

- Agricultural runoff can contain high nutrient levels
- Cyanobacteria cause freshwater HABs
- Warmer temperatures a trigger



#### Water Quality & Agriculture: PFAS

- DRBC is tracking down sources
- Land application of biosolids is a concern



(c) Dreamstime



The Delaware River Basin Commission ensures an adequate supply of high-quality water for varied uses, including agriculture.





### Stay in touch!

DRBC.gov

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