USGS Data Directory - Definitions

Mgal/d - million gallons per day (pool about 267 feet long (almost as long as a football field), 50 feet wide, and 10 feet deep)

year- year of data

state - state abbreviation (postal ID)

state code (scode) - state code(numeric Fips code)

county code - county fips code

county name - county name

totalpop - total population of the area, in thousands (total population of the county)

ps - Public Supply

po(p)- Population

gw - groundwater

sw - surface water

to - total

fr-fresh

w - water withdrawals

prcap - per capita use

facil - number of facilities, in area

facdb - number of facilities, water-use database

co - commercial

totl - total

del - delivers from water supply

cuse - consumptive use

do - domestic

ss- self supplied

pcp - per capita use

in - industrial

sa - saline water

recww - reclaimed swage

pt - thermoelectric power(electric)

pf - thermoelectric power(electric), fossil fuels

power - power generation, gigawatthours/year

pg - thermoelectric power(electric) geothermal

pn - thermoelectric power(electric) nuclear

mi - mining

ls (li)- livestock

la - animal specialties

lv - total livestock

ir - irrigation

hy - hydroelectric power

ww - sewage treatment

re - reservoir evaporation

to - total water use

PO - thermoelectric once-through

PC - thermoelectric recicrculation

LA - aquaculture

IG - irrigation golf

STATE: State postal abbreviation

STATEFIPS: State FIPS code

COUNTY: County Name

COUNTYFIPS: County FIPS code

FIPS: Concatenated state-county FIPS code

YEAR: Year of Data

FIPS: Federal Information Processing Standards (FIPS), now known as Federal Information Processing Series, are numeric codes assigned by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). Typically, FIPS codes deal with US states and counties. US states are identified by a 2-digit number, while US counties are identified by a 3-digit number. For example, a FIPS code of 06071, represents California -06 and San Bernardino County -071.

Public supply:

Refers to water withdrawn by public and private water suppliers that provide water to at least 25 people or have a minimum of 15 connections. Public-supply water is delivered to users for domestic, commercial, and industrial purposes. Part of the total is used for public services, such as public pools, parks, firefighting, water and wastewater treatment, and municipal buildings, and some is unaccounted for because of leaks, flushing, tower maintenance, and other system losses. Domestic deliveries represent the largest single component of public-supply withdrawals.

Domestic water use:

Includes indoor and outdoor uses at residences, and includes uses such as drinking, food preparation, bathing, washing clothes and dishes, flushing toilets, watering lawns and gardens, and maintaining pools. Domestic water use includes potable and non-potable water provided to households by a public water supplier (domestic deliveries) and self-supplied water use. Self-supplied domestic water use is typically withdrawn from a private source, such as a well, or captured as rainwater in a cistern.

Irrigation water use:

Includes water that is applied by an irrigation system to sustain plant growth in agricultural and horticultural practices. Irrigation also includes water that is used for pre-irrigation, frost protection, chemical application, weed control, field preparation, crop cooling, harvesting, dust suppression, and leaching salts from the root zone. Estimates of irrigation withdrawals are generally accounted for at the point of diversion (wells, springs, streams, ponds) and include water that is lost in conveyance prior to application on fields, as well as water that may subsequently return to a surface-water body as runoff after application, water consumed as evapotranspiration (ET) from plants and evaporated from the ground, or water that recharges aquifers as it seeps past the root zone.

Water for thermoelectric power:

is used in the process of generating electricity with steam-driven turbine generators. Since 2000, thermoelectric-power withdrawals have been compiled by cooling-system type. Once-through cooling refers to cooling systems in which water is circulated through heat exchangers, and then returned to the source. Recirculating cooling refers to cooling systems in which water is circulated through heat exchangers, cooled using ponds or towers, and then recirculated. Subsequent water withdrawals for a recirculating system are used to replace water lost to evaporation, blowdown, drift, and leakage. Prior to 2000, thermoelectric-power withdrawals were compiled by fuel type (fossil-fuel, nuclear, and geothermal).

Thermoelectric power cooling water sources include fresh and saline water from both surface-water and groundwater sources. Reclaimed wastewater is a supplemental source of water for thermoelectric power, especially in areas where additional water sources are needed for plant operations.

Industrial withdrawals:

provide water for such purposes as fabricating, processing, washing, diluting, cooling, or transporting a product; incorporating water into a product; or for sanitation needs within the manufacturing facility. Some industries that use large amounts of water produce such commodities as food, paper, chemicals, refined petroleum, or primary metals. Water for industrial use may be delivered from a public supplier or be self supplied.

Mining water use:

is water used for the extraction of minerals that may be in the form of solids, such as coal, iron, sand, and gravel; liquids, such as crude petroleum; and gases, such as natural gas. The category includes quarrying, milling of mined materials, injection of water for secondary oil recovery or for unconventional oil and gas recovery (such as hydraulic fracturing), and other operations associated with mining activities. Dewatering is not reported as a mining withdrawal unless the water was used beneficially, such as dampening roads for dust control.

Livestock water use:

is water associated with livestock watering, feedlots, dairy operations, and other on-farm needs. Livestock includes dairy cows and heifers, beef cattle and calves, sheep and lambs, goats, hogs and pigs, horses, and poultry. Other livestock water uses include cooling of facilities for the animals and products, dairy sanitation and wash down of facilities, animal waste-disposal systems, and incidental water losses. The livestock category excludes on-farm domestic use, lawn and garden watering, and irrigation water use.

Aquaculture water use:

is water associated with raising organisms that live in water—such as finfish and shellfish—for food, restoration, conservation, or sport. Aquaculture production occurs under controlled feeding, sanitation, and harvesting procedures primarily in ponds, flowthrough raceways, and, to a lesser extent, cages, net pens, and closed-recirculation tanks.