Reasons to oppose ocean desalination

It costs too much

A gallon of desalinated water costs twice as much as a gallon of recycled water and as much as three times more than a gallon of groundwater.[1]

Desalinated water is not optimal for human consumption

Desalinated water is high in boron which affects the male reproductive system. [2]

Desalinated water raises risk of heart disease. [3]

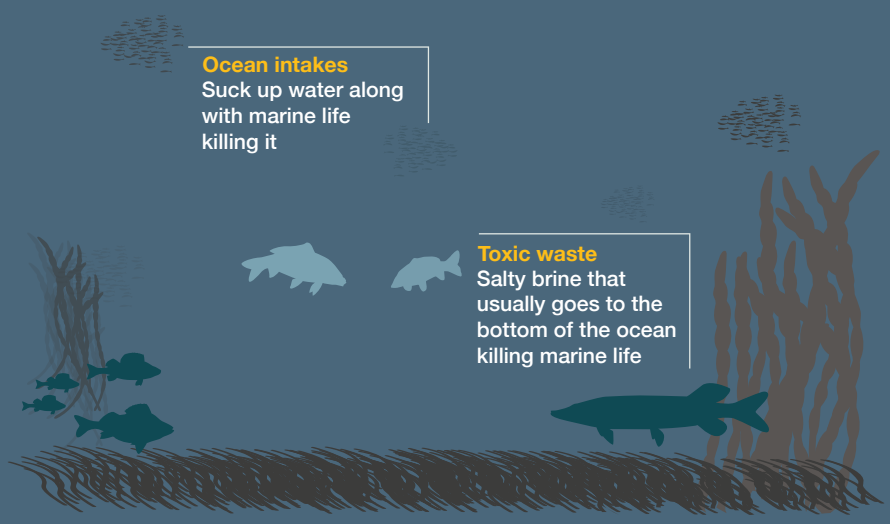
It is energy intensive

Desalination simply can't compare to relatively low-energy water supplies like groundwater or or stormwater capture (or just using less water, which takes no energy at all!) [5]

Energy required by existing plants to produce safe drinking water from various sources (kWh per cubic meter).

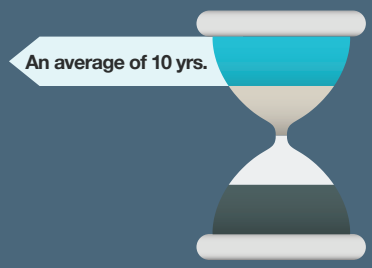
It kills marine life

Open intake pipes can suck up millions of gallons of seawater daily, along with any marine life unlucky enough to be in close proximity. In the end, plants generate enormous volumes of salty brine, a toxic by-product that is dumped back into the ocean. [4]



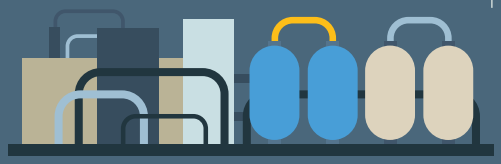
It takes too long

From start to finish, getting a desalination plant up and running is a multi-year process.



It takes funding away from better options

The resources, investments and jobs could be going towards proven technologies that are more efficient, take less money and have far less negative impacts on the environment.



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1. https://healthebay.org/5-reasons-to-be-wary-of-desalination
2. http://www.worldwatch.org/node/5720
3. https://www.timesofisrael.com/major-study-suggests-desalinated-water-raising-risk-of-heart-disease
4. https://pacinst.org/publication/desal-marine-impacts
5. https://www.technologyreview.com/s/533446/desalination-out-of-desperation