

# California's Water Cycle

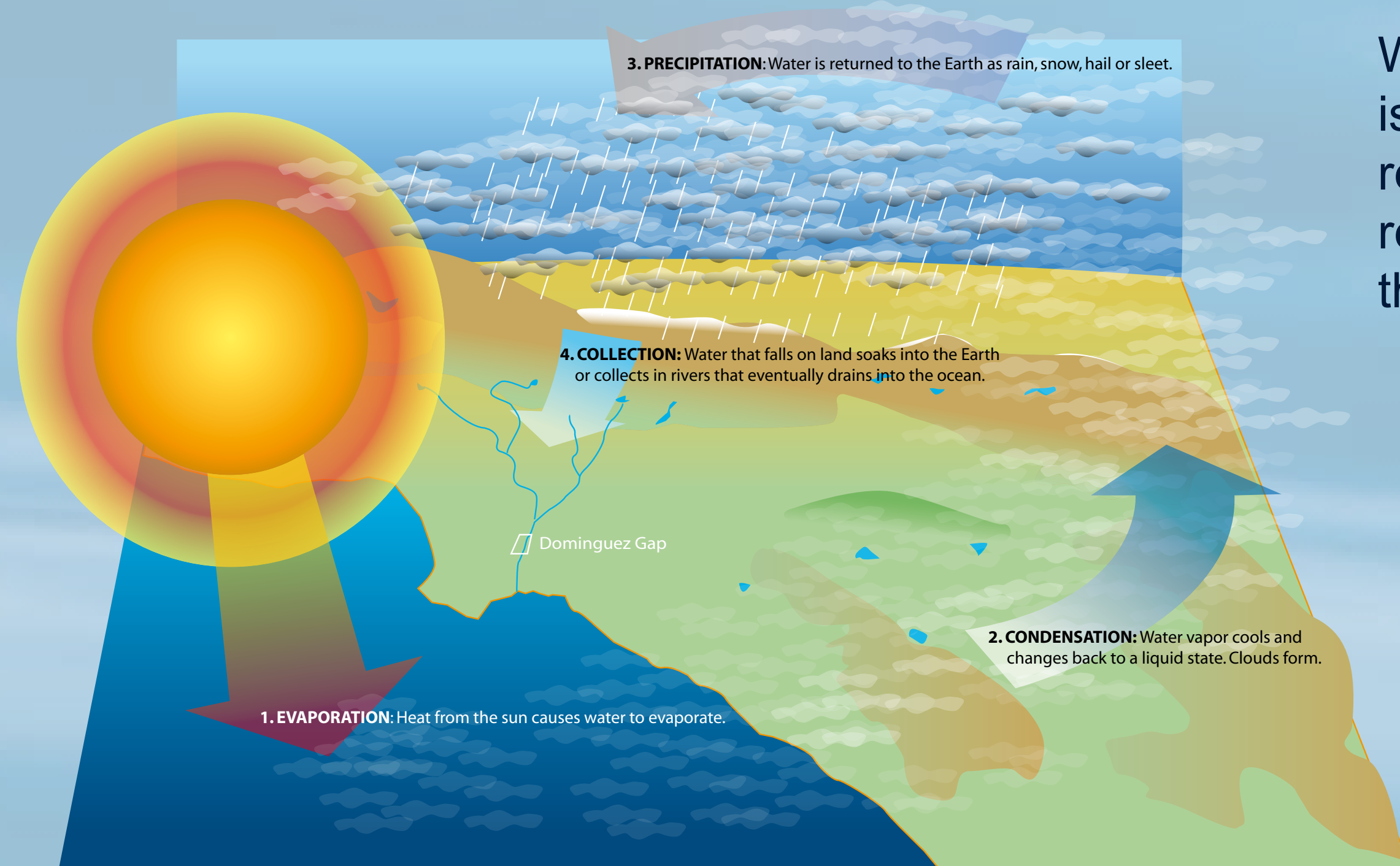
During winter the rain falls, but not always where we need it

Dominguez Gap Wetlands Project  
Los Angeles River



Clouds over Los Angeles

Through the water cycle, water is continually cycled on the planet. The heat from the sun causes water in the ocean and other bodies of water to evaporate. Vapors rise and condense into clouds, and moisture is returned to Earth in the form of ice, snow, or rain. Streams and rivers fill and eventually flow back into the ocean where the cycle begins again.



Water on Earth cycles continuously

While the water cycle is predictable, the location and amount of rainfall is not. Here in Southern California we use more water than our rainfall replenishes. Since the early 1900s we have needed to import water from regions such as the Owens Valley, Bay-Delta area near San Francisco, and the Colorado River to meet the demands of a growing human population.



Sources of Southern California's imported water

The Dominguez Gap Wetlands Project can help reduce our dependence on imported water. Its large basins store water from the river and stormwater, and recharge groundwater. Over time, the project will provide a cost savings by increasing local water supplies, while providing valuable wetlands habitat for wildlife and the enjoyment of visitors.



The Dominguez Gap Wetlands project under construction in 2006