



City of Santa Barbara
Public Works Department

Interoffice Memorandum

DATE: December 9, 2010

TO: Board of Water Commissioners

FROM: Bill Ferguson, Water Resources Supervisor 

SUBJECT: WATER SUPPLY PLANNING ISSUES

We would like to continue our review of key water supply planning issues at the December 13, 2010 meeting of the Water Commission. As you will recall, we have discussed an appropriate target demand for use in an updated assessment of the water supply. At our last meeting, the Commission suggested that the normal year target demand might be best estimated on the basis of a 5-year moving average of water system production. The attached chart illustrates this approach. The blue line is the annual system production values by water year. Each data point on the red line represents the average of the five years ending in the year shown, which has the benefit of more accurately representing the multi-year nature of our water supply.

We also expect to present and discuss a first draft of a water supply analysis reflecting potential components of the updated LTWSP. This will be in a format similar to the tables we have used over the past 18 months to describe our existing water supply, where estimated normal year supplies and critical drought period supplies are tabulated. Key points to be examined will be the effect of assuming a 6-year critical drought period and deferral of planned use of the desalination facility until the sixth year. This approach will help us estimate the amount of water that might be needed from some sort of additional water banking alternative.

BF/bf

Attachment

Water System Production (AF) Annual & Moving 5-Year Average by Water Year

