

ITEM 9

LTWSP Water Supply Policies

This plan has been developed to evaluate the adequacy and reliability of the City's water supply and provide a long-term view of how the City's water supplies will be managed. It is based on the best currently available projections and assumptions, and is to be considered a plan, not a prescription. New information or conditions may necessitate adjustments or new policy direction. Based on the information contained and referenced herein, the City's water supply management program will be guided by the following policies:

1. Safety Margin: A safety margin of 10% above projected demand will be used for planning purposes to accommodate unplanned increases in demand or decreases in available supply.
2. Demand Reductions During Drought: Planned short-term reductions of up to 15% in customer demand will be a part of the City's response during a critical drought period. Such reductions will be in addition to the ongoing promotion of long-term water use efficiency and will be achieved by measures such as restrictions on landscape irrigation and other water uses, a modified water rate structure, and intensive public information efforts to promote the community goal of reduced water use. This policy of planned cutbacks is established in recognition of short-term elasticity in customer demand that can be tapped during rare emergency conditions to avoid the cost of 100% reliability of the water supply.
3. Recycled Water: State and City regulations requiring use of recycled water where available will be implemented. Capacity in the City's recycled water system will be utilized to continue to serve existing connected demand plus an additional 300 AFY of expanded use, for a total of approximately 1,100 AFY. The use of potable water for blending will be tracked and reported annually. A contingency plan for eliminating the need for blending will be developed for implementation based on economic, regulatory or water supply requirements. The City's goal is to be able to deliver recycled water to its customers, without blending, by the end of the planning period. Status of this goal will be reported at five-year intervals as a part of the City's Urban Water Management Plan updates.
4. Water Conservation: The City will operate a water conservation program aimed at minimizing the use of potable water supplies, meeting the requirements of the California Urban Water Conservation Council Best Management Practices, and achieving compliance with 20 X 2020 per capita water use limitations. Conservation measures will be evaluated for cost effectiveness based on avoided cost of additional water supplies.
5. Groundwater Management: Groundwater production capacity of at least 4,125 AFY will be maintained in Storage Unit No. 1 and the Foothill Basin to augment depleted surface water supplies during a severe drought. Ongoing modeling will

assess strategies for groundwater management, including optimal use of available recharge, injection of potable water for artificial recharge, and injection of recycled water as a barrier to sea water intrusion. Sites for new or replacement production wells will be evaluated with the goal of minimizing sea water intrusion. The City will develop a Groundwater Management Plan, consistent with state law, to provide for the orderly and responsible use of the City's groundwater resources.

6. Gibraltar Pass Through Operations: Pass Through operations will be implemented for storage of Gibraltar water in Lake Cachuma, pursuant to the 1989 Upper Santa Ynez Rive Operations Agreement. An updated analysis of sedimentation management will be conducted to assess whether efforts to arrest or reverse the sedimentation process at Gibraltar Reservoir are feasible.
7. Sedimentation Management at Lake Cachuma: To address ongoing reduction in capacity at Lake Cachuma due to sedimentation, the City will promote development of a long-term strategy to minimize sedimentation in conjunction with Cachuma Project Member Units and other appropriate parties and agencies, including state and federal agencies.
8. Water Banking: The City will investigate opportunities to bank unused State Water, with the goal of using this water to reduce the amount of drought water purchases that may be needed during a critical drought period, and deferring the potential need for production from the desalination facility at least until the sixth year of a critical drought period.
9. Desalination Facility: The City's desalination facility is an important component of the City's water supply, despite the significant cost of activating and operating the plant. The desalination facility will be retained as an official part of the City's water supply for use as may be needed during extended drought.
10. Water Supply Reliability: The City will adequately fund the maintenance, rehabilitation, and replacement of the water conveyance and distribution infrastructure to provide reliable delivery of the City's water supplies and prevent increased costs from deferred maintenance. In addition to planning for periodic droughts, the City will develop an emergency water supply plan to address catastrophic interruption of water supplies due to earthquake, South Coast Conduit failure, or other disaster that could interrupt the City's ability to convey water from the Santa Ynez River for a substantial period of time. The groundwater production capacity identified for drought response will also be maintained for response on short notice to such catastrophic interruptions.
11. Management of Water Fund Assets: Land and equipment assets purchased with Water Fund resources will be managed for the purpose of optimizing the economic and sustainable operation of the water system.

12. Monitoring and Reporting: Ongoing monitoring and reporting of the City's water supply status will be conducted, including annual reports to City Council on the near-term drought outlook, preparation of 5-year updates of the City's Urban Water Management Plan, and an update of this plan in approximately 2030, or sooner as may be appropriate.

Finding

Based on implementation of the above policies, the City's water supply is determined to be adequate to serve anticipated demand for the duration of the planning period.