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SPECIAL MEETING
of the
STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE
MONTECITO WATER DISTRICT
583 SAN YSIDRO ROAD, MONTECITO, CALIFORNIA

TUESDAY, APRIL 14, 2026
1:00 P.M.

Attend in Person or Join by Teleconference:
https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1613426079?pwd=Hr6gY1tx0Ctahb1EZHdUWPV5g8NlEG.1
Webinar ID: 161 342 6079; Passcode: 461524
Tel: (669) 254-5252

AGENDA

1. **CALL TO ORDER, DETERMINATION OF QUORUM**

2. **PUBLIC FORUM**

   NOTE: This portion of the agenda may be utilized by any person to address the Committee on any matter within the jurisdiction of the Committee. No consideration or discussion shall be undertaken by Committee members at this time on any item not appearing on this agenda except as permitted by the Ralph M. Brown Act. Discussion items receiving recommendations by the Committee, and/or items requiring action will be placed on the agenda of a future meeting of the Montecito Water District Board of Directors.

3. **ITEMS FOR COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION**

   *A. Review of draft 2025 Urban Water Management Plan

4. **ITEMS FOR A FUTURE AGENDA**

5. **ADJOURNMENT**

   Note: Montecito Water District conducts its meetings in-person in accordance with the Brown Act and also provides alternative methods of participation which permit members of the public to observe and address public meetings telephonically and/or electronically. These methods of participation can be accessed through the internet link provided at the top of this agenda.

   This agenda was posted on the District website, and at the Montecito Water District outside display case at 5:00 p.m. on April 10, 2026. The Americans with Disabilities Act provides that no qualified individual with a disability shall be excluded from participation in, or denied the

* Indicates attachment included for this item

benefits of, the District's programs, services, or activities because of any disability. If you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the District Office at 805-969-2271. Notification at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to the meeting will enable the District to make appropriate arrangements.

Agendas, agenda packets, and additional materials related to an item on this agenda submitted to the Committee after distribution of the agenda packet are available on the District website.

MONTECITO WATER DISTRICT
MEMORANDUM

SECTION: 3-A

DATE: APRIL 14, 2026

TO: STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE

FROM: ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER & GENERAL MANAGER

SUBJECT: REVIEW OF DRAFT 2025 URBAN WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN

RECOMMENDATION:

Information only.

DISCUSSION:

Every urban water supplier that either provides over 3,000 acre-feet of water annually or serves more than 3,000 urban connections is required to prepare an Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP). UWMPs are prepared by urban water suppliers every five years. These plans support long-term resource planning to ensure adequate water supplies are available to meet existing and future water needs. The District's most recent 2025 UWMP was completed and filed with the Department of Water Resources (DWR) in June 2021.

In September 2025, the District Board of Directors awarded a contract to Rincon Consultants for the preparation of the 2025 UWMP. Since the project award, District staff has consulted Rincon on the preparation of the draft 2025 UWMP, including the Water Shortage Contingency Plan (WSCP). On February 5 and March 17 2026, the Strategic Planning Committee reviewed the initial water service reliability assessment, including the initial supply and demand projections for normal years, single dry years and multi-year dry periods, and the updated WSCP. This was also reviewed by the Board of Directors at its regular meeting held on March 24, 2026.

Attached to this memorandum is the draft UWMP and WSCP for review. The draft 2025 is consistent with District ordinances and long-range planning documents such as the *Future Demand and Water Supply Options 2025 Update*, *Water Use Efficiency Plan* and *Climate Action & Adaptation Plan*. Representatives from Rincon will provide a brief overview and then address any questions.

Based on the analysis presented in the draft 2025 UWMP, the District anticipates a diversified and reliable source of supply to meet expected demands under various circumstances for the foreseeable future. Additionally, the analysis projects water shortages may occur in the 5th year of a multi-year drought and can be fully mitigated with the implementation of the demand reduction actions outlined in Stage 1 of the WSCP.

SCHEDULE:

The 2025 UWMP must be submitted to DWR by July 1, 2026. Subject to Committee feedback, the draft 2025 UWMP document will be presented to the Board of Directors for review at their April 28, 2026, meeting.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Rincon is under contract to develop the 2025 UWMP for $104,500 which is within the adopted budget of $150,000. The work is anticipated to be completed on budget.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Draft 2025 UWMP, prepared by Rincon Consultants
2. Presentation - draft 2025 UWMP

2025 Urban Water Management Plan

Draft

prepared by

Montecito Water District
Montecito Water District
583 San Ysidro Road
Montecito, California 93108

prepared with the assistance of

Rincon Consultants, Inc.
2060 Knoll Drive
Ventura, California 93003

April 14, 2026

RINCON CONSULTANTS

Table of Contents

Tables

Figures

Appendices

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

Below is the full list of acronyms and abbreviations used in the Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP).

AB	Assembly Bill
ADU	Accessory Dwelling Unit
AF	Acre-feet
AFY	Acre-feet per year
AMI	Advanced Metering Infrastructure
CAAP	Climate Action and Adaptation Plan
CCWA	Central Coast Water Authority
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
COMB	Cachuma Operations and Maintenance Board
CWC	California Water Code
DMM	Demand Management Measure
DRA	Drought Risk Assessment
DWR	California Department of Water Resources
EEWTP	El Estero Wastewater Treatment Plant
GPCD	Gallons per capita per day
GSA	Groundwater Sustainability Agency
GSP	Groundwater Sustainability Plan
IPR	Indirect potable reuse
kWh	Kilowatt-hours
MGD	Million gallons per day
MSD	Montecito Sanitary District
NMFS	National Marine Fisheries Service
SB	Senate Bill
SCC	South Coast Conduit
SGMA	Sustainable Groundwater Management Act
SSD	Summerland Sanitary District
SWP	State Water Project
SWRCB	State Water Resources Control Board
UWMP	Urban Water Management Plan

UWUO	Urban Water Use Objective
AMI	Advanced Metering Infrastructure
RWEP	Regional Water Efficiency Program
USBR	United States Bureau of Reclamation
WSA	Water Supply Agreement
WSCP	Water Shortage Contingency Plan
WUEP	Water Use Efficiency Plan

Executive Summary

The Urban Water Management Act (Act) became part of the California Water Code (CWC) with the passage of Assembly Bill (AB) 797 during the 1983-1984 regular session of the California Legislature. The CWC requires every urban water supplier providing water for municipal purposes either directly or indirectly to more than 3,000 customers or supplying more than 3,000 acre-feet per year (AFY) to adopt and submit an Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP) every five years to the California Department of Water Resources (DWR). The specific planning requirements are in the CWC Division 6, Part 2.6 Urban Water Management Planning.

Subsequent legislation has been passed that updates and provides for additional requirements for the UWMPs and water management, such as reporting on energy intensity, an expanded Water Shortage Contingency Plan, and a 5-Year Drought Risk Assessment.

The core requirements for the UWMP include:

- Description of the water service area.
- Estimates of past, present, and projected water use.
- Estimates of existing and planned supply sources.
- Analysis and target compliance per Senate Bill (SB) X7-7.
- Description of existing and planned Demand Management Measures (DMMs) and other conservation measures.
- Dry year supply estimates, including 5-Year Drought Risk Assessment.
- Water Shortage Contingency Plan.

The 2025 UWMP must submit data in specific tables to DWR. DWR has provided these tables and this UWMP utilizes the provided tables with minor changes to format or organization where applicable. This Montecito Water District (District) 2025 UWMP presents each required element per DWR's 2025 Urban Water Management Plan Guidebook. A copy of the DWR checklist for compliance is included in Appendix A.

Plan Summary

Based on the information and analysis presented in this 2025 UWMP, the District anticipates a diversified and reliable source of supply to meet expected demands under various circumstances for the foreseeable future. Under normal conditions, the District estimates it will need approximately 4,900 acre-feet (AF) production to meet expected demands in 2050. To meet this demand, the District manages reliable supplies, including a desalinated water purchase agreement with the City of Santa Barbara and a contract for long-term water storage at Semitropic Groundwater Bank in the Central Valley. These supplies provide stable water sources which makes the District less reliant on imported water and rainfall-dependent sources of supply.

This UWMP assesses the near- and long-term reliability of the District supplies to meet expected demands in various hydrological conditions, including normal and single dry years, as well as during a drought condition lasting five consecutive years. In normal hydrologic years, the District has more than sufficient supplies to meet demands without implementing demand management measures through 2050. The District also has sufficient supplies to satisfy demands in all single dry year

scenarios analyzed, which means the District is well prepared to weather short droughts without needing to reduce customer demands. During Year 5 of severe multi-year droughts, this UWMP anticipates that there may be a supply shortage of up to 5 percent.

The District has updated its Water Shortage Contingency Plan (WSCP) in conjunction with this 2025 UWMP. The WSCP is a tool aimed at addressing supply shortages identified through an annual assessment of available supplies and unconstrained demand. The District's demand management and supply augmentation tools provide necessary actions to address and mitigate projected supply shortfalls, if necessary. As described in this UWMP, water use during Year 5 of severe multi-year drought could feasibly be reduced, if needed to align with available supplies through implementation of Stage 1 of the WSCP. No further WSCP stages are anticipated to be required to meet demands during multi-year drought periods, though the WSCP does provide for additional water shortage stages should an emergency shortage occur. The determination of supply shortages in this UWMP is specific to the District's water supply outlook, which may not align with statewide conditions.

1 Introduction and Lay Description

An Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP) is a water supply planning document that serves to help guide the sustainable and efficient use of urban water resources. In alignment with California Water Code (CWC) Sections (§) 10610.2(a)(2) and § 10608(h), presented below, UWMPs recognize that while water conservation is a statewide priority, water supply reliability planning and the implementation of effective conservation efforts are best achieved at the local level.

> CWC § 10610.2(a)(2) states, "[t]he conservation and efficient use of urban water supplies are of statewide concern; however, the planning for that use and the implementation of those plans can best be accomplished at the local level."
>
> CWC § 10608(h) states, "[t]he factors used to formulate water use efficiency targets can vary significantly from location to location based on factors including weather, patterns of urban and suburban development, and past efforts to enhance water use efficiency."

In accordance with the Urban Water Management Planning Act (UWMP Act), water supply providers with at least 3,000 service connections or that provide at least 3,000 acre-feet per year (AFY) of water are responsible for developing a UWMP. The UWMP must account for region-specific factors, including but not limited to climate patterns and the effects of climate change, as well as the type and extent of existing and anticipated development, and historical conservation efforts. Additionally in accordance with the UWMP Act, UWMPs are updated every five years, accounting for updated conditions and development characteristics with associated water demand forecasts and supply availability projections.

Montecito Water District (District) is an independent special district governed by an elected Board of Directors chosen by voters within its service area. The current District service area encompasses 15.4 square miles and includes a small eastern part of the City of Santa Barbara, the unincorporated communities of Montecito and Summerland, and Toro Canyon. The District operates pursuant to CWC §§ 30000-33901, which authorize the District to acquire and operate water systems, treat and distribute potable and recycled water, collect and treat wastewater, issue bonds and levy assessments, and enter into interagency agreements for regional water and wastewater services.

The District has prepared this 2025 UWMP to guide its conservation and water resource management programs, consistent with CWC and UWMP Act requirements. The UWMP will be updated every five years, with annual reviews conducted by the District to track progress and address any unanticipated factors affecting supply reliability. Information and analysis provided in the District's 2020 UWMP, adopted on June 22, 2021, has been updated and incorporated into this 2025 UWMP. In addition, this UWMP has been prepared in accordance with guidance provided by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) in its *Final Urban Water Management Plan Guidebook for Urban Water Suppliers* (2025 UWMP Guidebook[1]), to facilitate the DWR review process and support compliance with all applicable standards for urban water supply planning.

[1] The 2025 UWMP Guidebook is available online at: https://wuedata.water.ca.gov/public/public_resources/4825681388/2025_Draft_UWMP_Guidebook_Release.zip

The 2025 UWMP serves as a long-term planning document to ensure a reliable water supply at the local level. The District has implemented its 2020 UWMP strategies with substantial progress towards diversifying supplies, promoting water use efficiency, and improving local supply reliability. Efforts continue towards the ongoing achievement of greater potable water savings, including reduced per capita water use and progress on development of alternative sources of potable water supply.

1.1 UWMP Organization

Guidance provided by DWR in its 2025 UWMP Guidebook has been incorporated into this 2025 UWMP. Use of the 2025 UWMP Guidebook is intended to facilitate the DWR review process, support compliance with applicable standards for urban water supply planning, and provide structural consistency with UWMPs produced by other public water suppliers. As such, this UWMP is organized as follows.

- Chapter 1: Introduction and Lay Description
- Chapter 2: Plan Preparation
- Chapter 3: System Description
- Chapter 4: Water Use Characterization
- Chapter 5: SB X7-7 Baselines, Targets, and 2025 Reporting
- Chapter 6: Water Supply Characterization
- Chapter 7: Water Service Reliability and Drought Risk Assessment
- Chapter 8: Water Shortage Contingency Plan
- Chapter 9: Demand Management Measures
- Chapter 10: Plan Adoption, Submittal, and Implementation

In addition to the chapters listed above, this 2025 UWMP includes an Executive Summary to provide an overview of the contents, findings, and recommendations.

1.2 Urban Water Management Plans and the California Water Code

1.2.1 Urban Water Management Plan Act of 1983

The UWMP Act requires urban water suppliers to report, describe, and evaluate various aspects of their water resources and plans for providing water services, such as:

- Water deliveries and uses
- Water supply sources
- Water use efficiency and Demand Management Measures (DMM)
- Water shortage contingency planning

The UWMP Act directs water agencies to plan for long-term water resource management to ensure adequate water supplies are available to meet both current and future demands. Urban water suppliers are required to assess current demands and supplies over a 20-year planning horizon (with an additional five-year option) and consider various drought scenarios. Among other things, the

UWMP Act also requires plans to include water shortage contingency planning and drought response actions.

UWMPs are to be prepared every five years by urban water suppliers. The UWMP Act defines urban water suppliers as those providing water for municipal purposes, either directly or indirectly, to more than 3,000 customers or supplying more than 3,000 AFY of water. Updated 2025 UWMPs must be adopted and submitted to DWR on or before July 1, 2026. Although submitted in 2026, these UWMPs are referred to as 2025 UWMPs because they include 2025 data. This naming convention also provides consistency with the five-year submittal cycle under the UWMP Act.

As discussed in Section 1.1, this 2025 UWMP was prepared following the DWR's 2025 UWMP Guidebook and addresses all requirements of the UWMP Act, as well as recent code changes and other relevant information.

1.2.2 New Requirements for 2025 UWMPs

Since the completion of the District's 2020 UWMP, several requirements have been clarified by DWR for the 2025 UWMPs. Clarifications include:

- **SB X7-7 Compliance and 2025 Reporting:** The 2025 UWMP Guidebook directs urban water suppliers to report on their progress in meeting the SB X7-7 targets established in the 2015 and 2020 UWMPs. Simplified guidance is provided to address the reporting requirements for continued compliance with the 2020 targets. Chapter 5 contains this information.
- **Integration of Potable Reuse:** Regulations adopted by the State Water Resource Control Board (SWRCB) in December 2023 (effective October 2024) require documentation of direct and indirect potable reuse projects. Minor changes to the tables provided by DWR for Chapters 4 and 6 allow for clearer accounting of potable reuse supplies.
- **Water Loss Standard Reporting:** Guidance has been provided for how urban water suppliers can report progress toward compliance with their Water Loss Standard (Chapter 4 of the 2025 UWMP Guidebook) which has been available since the 2020 UWMPs.

1.2.3 Water Conservation Regulations

Senate Bill X7-7 (Water Conservation Act of 2009)

Senate Bill (SB) X7-7, passed in 2009, defined a key goal to reduce statewide per capita urban water use and by 2020 achieve a 20 percent reduction in per capita urban water use. In accordance with SB X7-7, UWMPs were required to support the achievement of this goal by reporting technical information such as base daily per capita water use (baseline), or gallons per capita per day (GPCD), as well as urban water use targets, interim urban water use targets, and compliance with daily per capita water use quotas. The District's 2020 UWMP demonstrated that the District was successful in achieving a 20 percent per capita water use reduction by 2020. Although the 2020 milestone has passed, this 2025 UWMP is required to report on the District's ongoing compliance with its SB X7-7 targets.

Senate Bill 606 and Assembly Bill 1668 (Urban Water Use Objectives)

The Urban Water Use Objective (UWUO) is a new water use efficiency legislation requirement authorized by Making Conservation a California Way of Life (SB 606 and Assembly Bill [AB] 1668), which was signed into law in 2018 and finalized by SWRCB on July 3, 2024. Under this legislation,

urban water suppliers are required to begin submitting annual reporting requirements to DWR and SWRCB on January 1, 2024, and to report UWUOs beginning January 1, 2025 (CWC § 10609.60).

The Making Conservation a California Way of Life[2] regulation uses SB X7-7 targets (for 20 percent water use reduction by 2020) as a backstop for its calculations setting customized water use efficiency standards for each urban water supplier. In comparison to SB X7-7, which sought to reduce overall per capita urban water use, the UWUO requires more granularity in water use reductions, incorporating standards for indoor residential use, outdoor irrigation efficiency, overall system water loss, and dedicated irrigation meters for commercial, industrial, and institutional customers. Below is an overview of the UWUO requirements considered in this 2025 UWMP:

- **Indoor Residential Use:** Calculated as 47 GPCD in 2025, reducing to 42 GPCD in 2030.
- **Outdoor Irrigation Efficiency:** Estimate outdoor water use objectives using Landscape Efficiency Standards including 0.80 for existing outdoor landscapes in 2025, reducing to 0.63 for outdoor landscapes in 2035, and 0.55 in 2040.
- **CII-DIM Budgets:** Report water budgets for DIMs serving CII customers to align actual water deliveries with performance standards.
- **Water Loss Audits:** Include validated water loss data (full compliance with water loss standards begins in 2028).
- **Annual Reporting**: Submit annual UWUO data starting January 1, 2024, and every year thereafter, via DWR's Water Use Efficiency Data (WUEdata) portal: https://wuedata.water.ca.gov/.

The District's UWUO has been established in the District's UWUO Fiscal Year 2024-2025 report, which sets the District's UWUO at 1,241,287,323 gallons per year (3,809 AFY) of water use.[3] This UWUO objective is based on the District's service population water use in accordance with the water efficiency standards listed above.

Assembly Bill 1572 (Nonfunctional Turf Ban)

Passed in 2023, AB 1572 enacted legislation to significantly reduce potable water use for irrigation of nonfunctional turf. Nonfunctional turf is defined as grass that serves no practical purpose for human activity or recreation, including ornamental grass strips along roadways, expansive lawns in business parks, unused patches of grass in front of commercial buildings, and other similar areas that are not regularly used for sports, play, or social gatherings. The rationale behind this ban is straightforward: in a state facing chronic water scarcity, dedicating potable water to maintain purely aesthetic or unused landscapes is considered an unsustainable and wasteful practice. AB 1572 features a phased implementation schedule to allow property owners and managers sufficient time to adapt and transition their landscapes, applying to government properties in January 2027, CII properties in January 2028, and Homeowners Associations common areas in January 2029, with flexible compliance for properties in disadvantaged communities in 2031 or later.

[2] https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/conservation/regs/water_efficiency_legislation.html
[3] https://wuedata.water.ca.gov/uwuo_plans

Senate Bills 610 and 221 (Water Supply Assessments)

Passed in 2001, SB 610 (CWC §§ 10910 through 10915) and SB 221 (California Government Code §§ 65867.5, 66455.3, and 66473.7) added and amended provisions of state law to improve the link between water supply availability and land use planning decisions.

In general terms, SB 610 requires that when a proposed project meets the definition of a project under SB 610, including that it is subject to California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and would rely on groundwater, the applicable public water provider is required to adopt a Water Supply Assessment as part of the project's CEQA review. A Water Supply Assessment must demonstrate water supply availability for the project over a 20-year planning horizon and with consideration to various climatic scenarios (i.e., drought) and may be used to inform water demand projections in the applicable UWMP.

SB 221 generally requires the approval of a development agreement or tentative map that includes more than 500 dwelling units to be conditioned on a written verification from the applicable public water system that sufficient water supplies will be available. No new projects triggering a Water Supply Assessment under SB 610 have occurred since the 2020 UWMP. No projects triggering a Water Supply Assessment under SB 610 are anticipated in the District service area.

1.3 Urban Water Management Plans and Grant or Loan Eligibility

Completion of a UWMP, including discussion of the status of a water supplier's implementation of DMMs, is required for urban water suppliers to be eligible for water management grants or loans administered by DWR, SWRCB, or the Delta Stewardship Council (CWC § 10631.5(a)). A current UWMP must be maintained by water suppliers throughout the term of any grant or loan administered by DWR. Water suppliers must also comply with the water conservation requirements established by the Water Conservation Act of 2009 and the Making Conservation a California Way of Life legislation, which was signed into law in 2018 and finalized by SWRCB in 2024. While the Water Conservation Act and Making Conservation a California Way of Life legislation do not directly establish funding eligibility criteria, they influence water suppliers' access to state grants and loans because achievement of conservation targets and compliance with annual urban water use objectives and annual reporting are prerequisites for funding and loan eligibility.

1.4 Demonstration of Consistency with the Delta Plan for Participants in Covered Actions

1.4.1 Background

The Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Plan (Delta Plan) is a long-term management strategy developed by the Delta Stewardship Council under the Delta Reform Act of 2009 to manage the Delta's environmental resources including water supply.[4] Major water supply projects that rely on the Delta include the State Water Project (SWP), operated by DWR, and the federal Central Valley Project, operated by the United States Bureau of Reclamation (USBR).

[4] Delta Stewardship Council. 2013. Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Plan. https://www.deltacouncil.ca.gov/delta-plan/

An urban water supplier that anticipates participating in or receiving water from a proposed project, such as a multiyear water transfer, conveyance facility, or new diversion that involves transferring water through, exporting water from, or using water in the Delta, should provide information in their UWMP to demonstrate consistency with the Delta Plan's Water Resource Policy 1, Reduce Reliance on the Delta Through Improved Regional Water Self-Reliance (California Code of Regulations, Title 23, § 5003). The type of information that can demonstrate such consistency includes description of locally available, cost-effective, and technically feasible projects that reduce the water supplier's reliance on the Delta, such as but not limited to water conservation and efficiency, recycled water use, groundwater development, and stormwater capture and reuse. The UWMP should report the percentage of the supplier's total supply that would be sourced from the Delta, as well as demonstrate a measurable reduction in this reliance over time. This information is provided in Appendix B and summarized in this section.

1.4.2 Consistency with Water Resource Policy 1

As a recipient of SWP supplies and an agency that may conduct future potential water sales, transfers, or exchanges using the Delta, the District is required to demonstrate its UWMP's consistency with Delta Plan Policy Water Resource Policy 1 (Consumer Confidence Report, tit. 23, § 5003).

Over the last decade, the District has implemented supply acquisition and conservation projects that reduce its reliance on water supply from the Delta. The 2025 UWMP Guidebook Appendix C provides suggested methodologies to demonstrate reduced Delta reliance. The District has completed this analysis, and using 2010 as the base year, projects a 28 percent reduction in Delta reliance by 2050. The analysis is presented in Appendix B. In summary, the District is in compliance with all aspects of Water Resource Policy 1 through its own activities.

Table 1-1 Calculation of Reliance on Water Supplies from the Delta Watershed (Percent)

Percent Change in Supplies from the Delta Watershed (As a Percent of Demand w/out WUE)	Baseline (2010)	2015	2020	2025	2030	2035	2040	2050
Percent of Supplies from the Delta Watershed	45.44%	25.16%	--	--	21.51%	20.10%	18.77%	17.80%
Change in Percent of Water Supplies from the Delta Watershed	--	-20.28%	--	--	-23.93%	-25.33%	-26.67%	-27.63%

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2 Plan Preparation

This chapter provides an overview of the District and the steps taken to assemble the 2025 UWMP, including but not limited to agency coordination, public hearings, and distribution of notices to stakeholders and the public on how to review and provide comments on the Draft 2025 UWMP.

2.1 Basis for Preparing a UWMP

The District is an independent special district serving the unincorporated communities of Montecito and Summerland, and Toro Canyon. The District provides retail potable water service to over 3,000 connections per year and over 3,000 AFY throughout its service area. As such, the District is considered an "urban retail water supplier" per CWC §10608 and 10617 and is subject to the requirement of the UWMP Act to prepare a UWMP every five years. Table 2-1 provides the District's public water system information and Table 2-2 specifies the units of measurement. Data in this UWMP is presented on a calendar year basis and volumes are reported in acre-feet (AF), unless otherwise noted. This 2025 UWMP reports solely on the District's service area and is therefore considered an individual UWMP.

Table 2-1 Public Water System Information (DWR Submittal Table 2-1 Retail)

Public Water System Number	Public Water System Name	Number of Municipal Connections 2025	Volume of Water Supplied 2025
CA4210007	Montecito Water District	4,674	4,195

Table 2-2 Supplier Identification (DWR Submittal Table 2-3)

Type of Supplier	
☐	Supplier is a wholesale supplier
☒	Supplier is a retail supplier
Fiscal or Calendar Year	
☒	UWMP Tables are in calendar years
☐	UWMP Tables are in fiscal years
Units of measure used in UWMP	
Unit	Acre-Feet (AF) (1 AF = 325,851 gallons)

2.2 Coordination and Outreach

2.2.1 Wholesale and Retail Coordination

To adequately demonstrate regional water supply reliability through the next 25 years, this UWMP quantifies the regional mix of existing and projected local and imported supplies necessary to meet future demands within the District's service area. Although this UWMP includes specific documentation regarding the District's supplies, plans submitted by wholesalers provide further details that contribute to the diversification and reliability of supplies in the region.

Central Coast Water Authority (CCWA) is a regional wholesaler, responsible for the delivery of all SWP water to Santa Barbara County. The District is one of eight CCWA member agencies. As a "urban wholesale water supplier" CCWA also prepares and submits a UWMP to DWR. CCWA's 2020 UWMP is available at: https://www.ccwa.com/2020-urban-water-management-plan.

Reasonable consistency among the UWMPs of the District and its wholesaler is important to accurately identify the projected supplies available to meet regional demands. To facilitate coordination within the District's service area, the District provided CCWA staff with demand projections for its service area. The District also provided public notice materials to CCWA (see Appendix C).

2.2.2 Coordination with Other Agencies and the Community

Agency coordination information is summarized herein. The District has encouraged community awareness of water issues and participation in water planning. Notices of the public hearing were published in the local press and copies of the Draft UWMP were made available at the District office and through the District's website, as included Appendix C.

The City of Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara County Water Agency, CCWA, Carpinteria Valley Water District, Montecito Sanitary District, and Summerland Sanitary District were notified of the District's intention to prepare and adopt the 2025 UWMP, as included in Appendix C.

2.3 Public Hearing and Adoption

The draft 2025 UWMP was reviewed and discussed with the District's Board of Directors on April 28, 2026; at which time the Board of Directors supported staff's efforts to complete the plan in compliance with State UWMP requirements. A public hearing, with public notice pursuant to California Government Code §6066, was held before the Board of Directors on May 26, 2026. The Board voted to adopt Resolution No. [Insert Number] adopting the UWMP on June 23, 2026 (see Appendix C).

2.4 Plan Submittal and Availability

Copies of this 2025 UWMP will be sent to the office of the Clerk of the Board for Santa Barbara County and the California State Library at the time of submittal to DWR, by July 1, 2026.

A copy of this 2025 UWMP will be posted on the District's website within 30 calendar days of the filing date with a hard copy available for review at the District's office at 583 San Ysidro Road, Montecito, California 93108 during normal business hours.

3 System Description

This chapter describes the District's service area, climate, population and demographics, and land uses, in accordance with CWC §10631(a) and the 2025 UWMP Guidebook. It provides a concise basis for subsequent chapters on water use and water supply characterization.

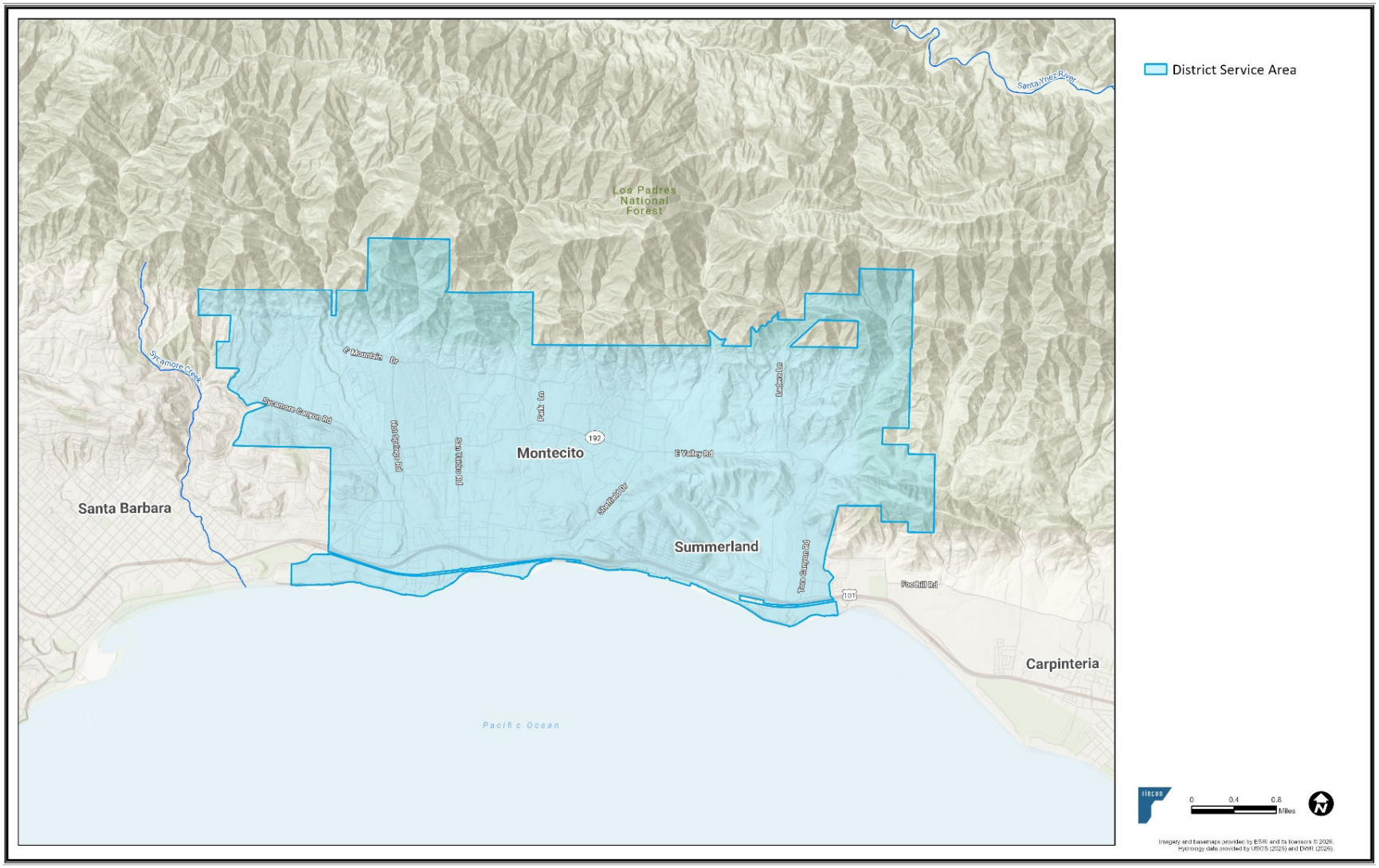
3.1 General Description

The Montecito Water District (District) is an independent special district governed by a publicly elected five-member Board. The District's service area is shown in Figure 3-1. Originally formed in 1921 to improve local water reliability, the District is rooted in agricultural estate beginnings. Montecito had grown into an unincorporated community consisting of several large estates by the early 1920s. Water was provided by numerous small private water companies that tapped into springs, creeks, and water wells that were at times unreliable due to inadequate seasonal rainfall. In 1921, local voters established the Montecito Water District to improve water supply reliability.

District pipeline construction, circa 1930

The District was formed as a County Water District in November 1921, in accordance with the CWC, with the purpose of furnishing potable water within the District. Following the formation of the District, management and its five-member Board of Directors set out to build Juncal Dam, the 2-1/4 mile long Doulton Tunnel through the Santa Ynez coastal range, and 50 miles of distribution pipelines within its service boundary. By 1930, the District had a fully functional distribution and reservoir storage system along with reliable and adequate water supplies. In 1949, the District executed the first contract with the Santa Barbara County Water Agency who was the designated local governmental agency and signature to the Cachuma Project with USBR. USBR held the federal Santa Ynez River water rights and owned, built and operated Bradbury Dam as a regional water supply. Lake Cachuma serves the District and four other Santa Barbara County water agencies, including the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District 1, Goleta Water District, City of Santa Barbara and Carpinteria Valley Water District. The District has 10.3 percent of the reservoir's current annual safe yield.

Figure 3-1 District Service Area



The District's potable water service area encompasses approximately 15.4 square miles along the South Coast of Santa Barbara County, including the unincorporated communities of Montecito, Summerland, and Toro Canyon, with small areas of the city of Santa Barbara. The District's public water system identification is CA42100007. Figure 3-1 illustrates the District's service area boundary. The District's service area extends from the Pacific coastline into the foothills of the Santa Ynez Mountains.

The District provides water service to approximately 4,600 residential, commercial, institutional, and agricultural service connections. Approximately 92 percent of the service connections are low-density, single-family housing. Elevations in the District range from sea level up to about 1,820 feet in the coastal foothills in the northern area. Table 3-1 presents the historical and current breakdown of service connections by customer class.

Table 3-1 Customer Water Service Connections

Customer Class	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Single Family Residential	4,244	4,254	4,282	4,277	4,282
Multi-Family Residential	65	65	66	67	70
Commercial	136	136	134	132	135
Institutional/Government	132	129	127	130	136
Non-Potable	8	8	8	8	8
Agricultural Irrigation	42	41	42	42	43
Total	**4,627**	**4,633**	**4,659**	**4,656**	**4,674**

The majority of the District's potable water distribution system was designed and operated as gravity-fed system with a series of pressure regulating stations from the late 1920's to 1949. The primary source of water during this period was from Jameson Lake, located in the upper reaches of the Santa Ynez River and the 2-1/4 mile long Doulton Tunnel through the Santa Ynez coastal range that connected the Jameson Lake supply to the District service boundary. In 1949, the District connected to the USBR Cachuma Project via the South Coast Conduit, a water transmission pipeline conveying Lake Cachuma water to the South Coast. The hydraulic grade line of the SCC was below the operational grade line of District's storage reservoirs which required the construction of pump stations at the SCC turnouts to boost water into the District's distribution system.

Currently, the District's potable water treatment and distribution system is comprised of two surface water treatment plants, nine storage reservoirs, approximately 114 miles of distribution pipeline, and seven pumping stations. The District also operates twelve active groundwater wells. Supplies from Lake Cachuma and the SWP are conveyed via the South Coast Conduit and treated at the City of Santa Barbara's Cater Water Treatment Plant (WTP) before delivery to the District. Jameson Lake supplies are conveyed through the Doulton Tunnel to the District's Bella Vista and Doulton WTPs. Groundwater for potable use is treated at well sites as needed.

Not all properties within the District's service area are served by the District. A portion of properties within the area are supplied by private groundwater wells operated either individually or by private water companies. The use and treatment of groundwater for potable purposes by private well owners is subject to permitting authority by Santa Barbara County.

3.2 Service Area Climate

The District's service area has a Mediterranean climate characterized by cool, wet winters and warm, dry summers, with ocean-moderated temperatures. Seasonal Santa Ana winds can increase evapotranspiration and landscape irrigation needs during late summer and fall.

Historical climate patterns indicate that January is typically the coolest month, while February is the wettest in the service area. July through September are generally the warmest months, and June through August are the driest. The wet season extends from October through March, during which the area receives an average of approximately 20 inches of annual rainfall. The mean annual temperature is about 60.2°F, though summer daytime highs commonly reach the mid- to upper-70s, and winter nighttime lows often fall into the mid-40s.

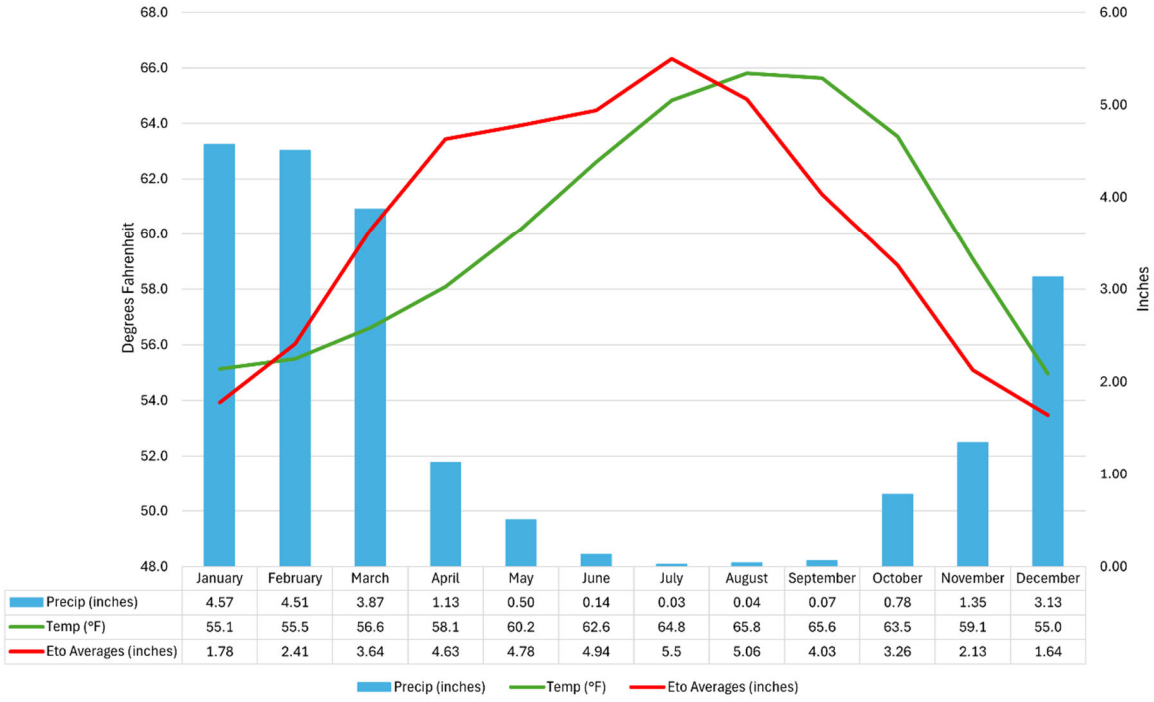
Seasonal marine fog is another defining feature of the local climate. Fog commonly moves inland from the Santa Barbara Channel, especially during May and June, producing a persistent overcast layer ("June Gloom"). This phenomenon contributes to a seasonal dip in reference evapotranspiration observed in long-term averages for June.

Snowfall is rare, but occasional cold frontal systems can bring freezing temperatures and trace amounts of snow or ice to the higher elevations of the Santa Ynez Mountains. Autumn typically begins warm and dry, transitioning to cooler and wetter conditions later in the season.

The area is also periodically affected by hot, dry Santa Ana winds, most commonly in late summer and early fall, which can elevate evaporative demand and drive higher water use late into the year. The final spring rains generally occur in late April or early May.

Figure 3-2 illustrates the average monthly temperature, rainfall, and evapotranspiration for the service area based on monthly data from 1991 to 2024. As shown, when temperatures increase, evapotranspiration rates increase while precipitation decreases. Actual annual rainfall totals deviate quite significantly from the average as illustrated in Figure 3-3; in most years, precipitation totals fall below the mean.

Figure 3-2 Historic Average Climate Conditions

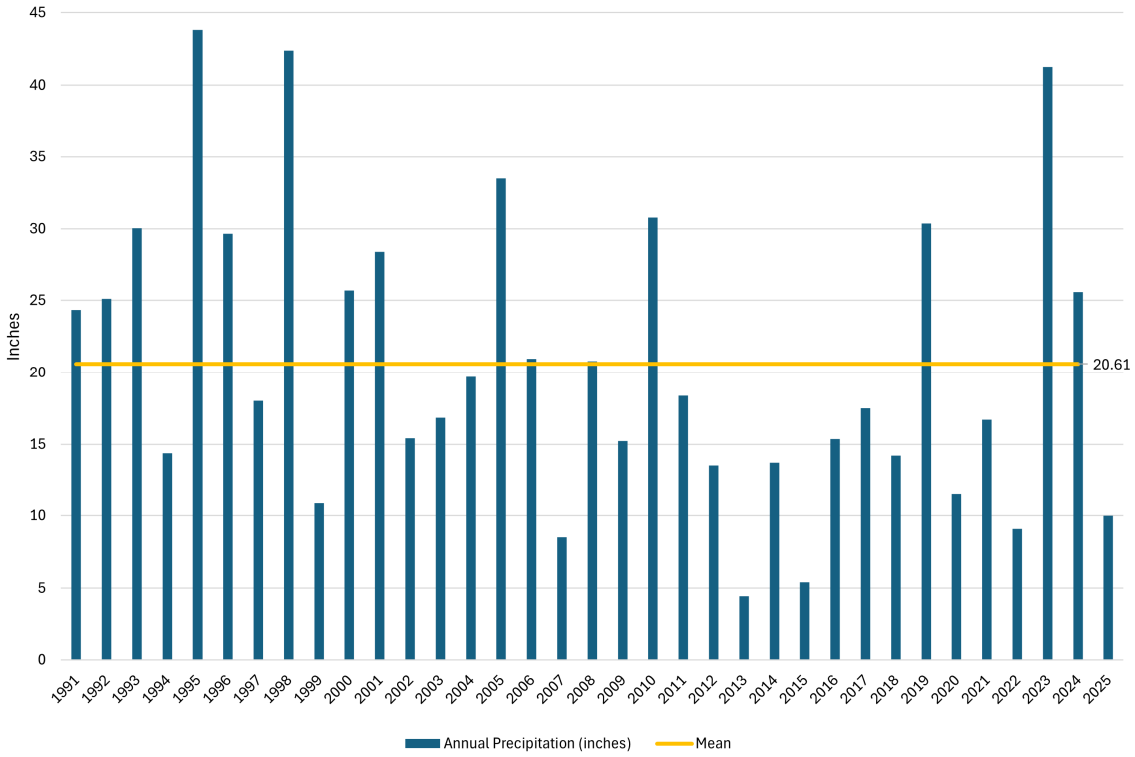


	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Precip (inches)	4.57	4.51	3.87	1.13	0.50	0.14	0.03	0.04	0.07	0.78	1.35	3.13
Temp (°F)	55.1	55.5	56.6	58.1	60.2	62.6	64.8	65.8	65.6	63.5	59.1	55.0
Eto Averages (inches)	1.78	2.41	3.64	4.63	4.78	4.94	5.5	5.06	4.03	3.26	2.13	1.64

Source: PRISM Climate Group; California Irrigation Management Information System[5]

[5] 1991-2024 temperature and rainfall data from the PRISM Climate Group https://prism.oregonstate.edu/ Location: Lat: 34.4196 Lon: -119.6257 Elev: 46ft; Evapotranspiration data is from CIMIS Santa Barbara Station 107 https://cimis.water.ca.gov/

Figure 3-3 Annual Precipitation Variability in Montecito (1991-2025)



Source; PRISM Climate Group; County of Santa Barbara[6]

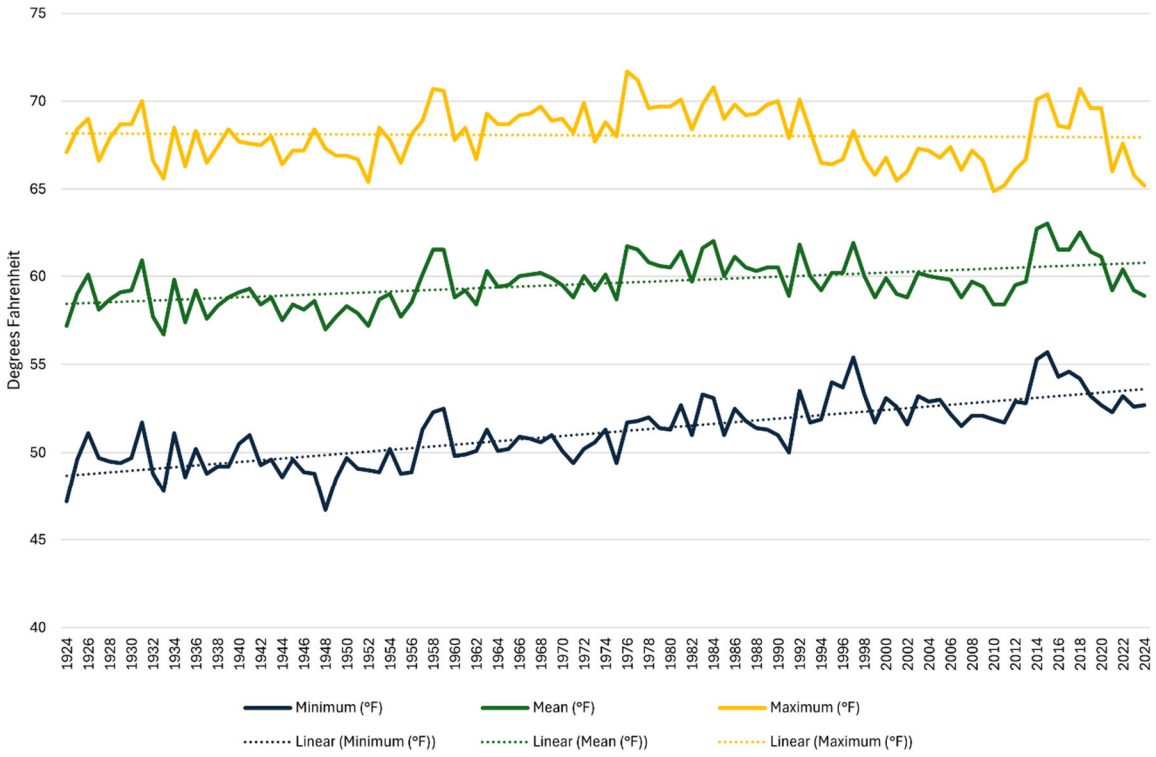
3.3 Climate Change

The CWC does not mandate specific climate-change analyses for UWMPs; however, the 2025 UWMP Guidebook directs urban water suppliers to consider climate change when assessing drought risk, long-term water supply reliability, water conservation and efficiency, and demand management. Climate change is relevant to the District's planning because changes in temperature, precipitation timing and intensity, and hydrologic variability affect both local and imported water supplies, as well as customer demand.

Long-term temperature records indicate a warming trend in the Montecito area, consistent with statewide observations of increasing temperatures and hydrologic variability. Figure 3-4 shows historical annual temperature in Montecito from 1924 to 2024.

[6] 1991-2024 rainfall data from PRISM Climate Group https://prism.oregonstate.edu/ Location: Lat: 39.1239 Lon: -121.6174 Elev: 56ft. 2025 rainfall data from Santa Barbara County https://files.countyofsb.org/pwd/hydrology/historic%20data/rainfall/325mdd.pdf

Figure 3-4 Historical Annual Temperature (1924-2024)



Source: PRISM Climate Group[7]

The District completed its first Climate Action & Adaptation Plan (CAAP) in 2025, which provides a comprehensive evaluation of climate trends that could potentially affect the District's water sources, facilities, and operations.[8] Key findings from the CAAP include:

- **Temperature Trends:** Average maximum temperatures at the District Headquarters are projected to increase by approximately 6.3°F by the end of the century, with heat days greater than 87°F increasing from two days historically to up to 17 days per year.
- **Precipitation Variability:** While annual precipitation totals are projected to remain broadly similar on average, future rainfall is expected to occur in fewer but potentially more intense storm events.
- **Sierra Nevada Snowpack:** Reduced snowpack and higher temperatures can result in variability in the timing of precipitation and reduce SWP supply deliveries.
- **Extreme Events:** Wildfire, extreme heat, atmospheric rivers, and post-fire debris flows are expected to continue to be important considerations for infrastructure and watershed management.

These climate drivers affect both water supply availability (local and imported) and water demand patterns, particularly landscape irrigation during prolonged hot and dry periods.

[7] PRISM Climate Group https://prism.oregonstate.edu/ Location: Lat: 39.1239 Lon: -121.6174 Elev: 56ft
[8] Montecito Water District. 2025. Climate Action and Adaptation Plan.

3.3.1 Climate Hazards Relevant to UWMP Reliability Planning

The CAAP identifies several climate hazards with direct implications for the District's water supply reliability assessments in Chapters 6 and 7:

- **Drought:** Increased frequency of dry years poses risk to Jameson Lake, Cachuma Project supplies, SWP deliveries, and groundwater recharge.
- **Wildfire:** Watersheds above Jameson Lake and Lake Cachuma are susceptible to burn related sedimentation, water quality degradation, as experienced during the 2017 Thomas Fire. District infrastructure within the District service area is also vulnerable to wildfire damage.
- **Extreme precipitation and debris flows:** Postfire debris flows can severely impact conveyance and treatment facilities as seen in the 2018 Montecito Debris Flow; several the District facilities are located within 100- and 500-year flood zones.
- **Extreme heat:** Elevated temperatures increase reservoir water quality risks and can drive higher evapotranspiration-based irrigation demand.
- **Sea level rise:** Longterm risk to coastal imported water infrastructure, including the City of Santa Barbara's desalination plant; groundwater basins currently have low susceptibility to seawater intrusion but require continued monitoring.
- **Landslides:** Steep hillside areas pose risks to pipelines, reservoirs, and the Highline transmission main.

3.3.2 Adaptation Strategies that Support UWMP Planning

The CAAP identifies adaptation and operational strategies that directly support DWR's guidance to incorporate climate considerations into UWMPs, including:

- **Infrastructure hardening:** Fire resistant materials, ember resistant retrofits, floodproofing, landslide stabilization, reservoir mixers, and protections for critical facilities.
- **Supply diversification and reliability:** Groundwater banking evaluation, recycled water feasibility analysis, continued conservation programs, and maintenance of emergency interties.
- **Enhanced operational monitoring and resilience:** Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) improvements for system monitoring; expanded backup power to address outages associated with heat, wildfire, or extreme storms.
- **Demandside efficiency:** Continued implementation of statewide "Making Water Conservation a California Way of Life" requirements.

These measures align with DWR's recommended practices for addressing climate change through adaptive management, demand efficiency, and a diversified, resilient supply portfolio.

Although hotter and drier conditions may increase outdoor water use potential, the District has observed lower residential demands since 2021, reflecting enduring demand hardening as a result of conservation behaviors. The District will continue to monitor climate influenced demand patterns and incorporate updated information into future UWMP cycles.

3.4 Service Area Population, Demographics, and Land Uses

Service area population and land use projections are critical to developing an effective planning framework, as population growth and demographic trends are primary drivers of water demand. These projections directly influence planning measures for system supply, delivery, infrastructure, and demand management. Similarly, understanding the economic, social, and demographic trends give valuable insight into water management and planning. This section of the UWMP addresses these factors to provide a basis for forecasting future water use.

3.4.1 Current Population

The large majority of the District service area connections are in the unincorporated communities of Montecito, Summerland, and Toro Canyon, along with very small portions of the city of Santa Barbara. For the purposes of calculating the historical service area population and historical growth rates this UWMP uses data from the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey and Westmont College.

Since the formation of the District in 1921, Montecito Water District population has seen slow growth, the largest increase coming with the annexation of the Summerland County Water District in 1995. With high property values and cost of living, Montecito does not generally see the same population growth due to new residents moving to the area compared to other locations within the County. The last property annexation into the service area was approximately 14.9 acres in 2022.

The residential population of the District's service area has not fluctuated significantly over the past 25 years, as the unincorporated areas on the South Coast have had limited growth opportunities.

The 2025 population estimate for the District's service area is based on the methodology developed in its 2022 Water Use Efficiency Plan, which integrates multiple data sources to better reflect the unique characteristics of the District service area. The District reviewed U.S. Census datasets for the communities of Montecito, Summerland, and Toro Canyon, analyzed the vacation rental and second home market using AIRDNA, and incorporated Westmont College enrollment data.

Estimating population within the District service area is challenging because of several factors not captured in traditional Census counts. A substantial portion of the District's customers maintain secondary residences in Montecito and are officially counted as residents of another city or state. Additionally, many large estates rely on onsite staff and caretakers, who may reside outside the service area but contribute to daily water use. These populations create measurable water demand, yet do not appear in standard residential population datasets.

Table 3-2 presents the District's 2025 population estimate, with annual values calculated using the residential occupancy rate and active service-connection data shown in Table 3-1.

Table 3-2 2025 Estimated Population

Population	Source
7,719	100 percent of the U.S. Census population for Montecito (8,823) after subtracting non-institutionalized group quarters (1,104)
1,248	100 percent of the U.S. Census population for Summerland (1,248) after subtracting non-institutionalized group quarters (0)
1,289	75 percent of the U.S. Census population for Toro Canyon (1,736 total) after subtracting non-institutionalized group quarters (17)
917	Population of people occupying a second home in Montecito based on average size of owner occupied unit (2.3) multiplied by vacant units (798 in the ACS 2023 5 Year Survey DP04 table) multiplied by a 50 percent occupancy rate. This percentage of the population does not characterize their Montecito home as their primary residence, implying they are there less than 50 percent of the year.
258	Population of people occupying a second home in Summerland multiplied by a 50 percent occupancy rate.
195	Population of people occupying a second home in Toro Canyon multiplied by a 50 percent occupancy rate. Household size is multiplied by 75 percent of the vacant units.
372	The approximate number of total full-time equivalent people in a short-term rental, per year, using a second home when the second homeowner isn't there. This is a weighted average from data found on Keydatadashboard.com, which includes the average number of active rentals available in Montecito + Summerland in 2025 (356), weighted using the number of rooms (resulting in an average 3.9 persons per household for the rented days), and a weighted renter occupancy rate (26.84 percent).
1,104	Total number of Westmont College Students consistent with Census Fall 2025 on campus enrollment reports (1,150)
Total 2025 Population:	**13,102**

3.4.2 Projected Population

Developing accurate service area population forecasts requires evaluation of historical growth patterns, local economic conditions and projections, and current and anticipated land uses. Table 3-3 projects population growth by applying an annual growth rate of 0.5 percent to the baseline population shown in Table 3-2 consistent with the Montecito Community Plan and the *Future Demand and Water Supply Options Update 2025* prepared for the District (Bachman 2025; Appendix D).

Table 3-3 Population Forecast (DWR Submittal Table 3-1 Retail)

	2025	2030	2035	2040	2045	2050
Population Served	13,102	13,433	13,772	14,120	14,476	14,842

Source: Appendix D

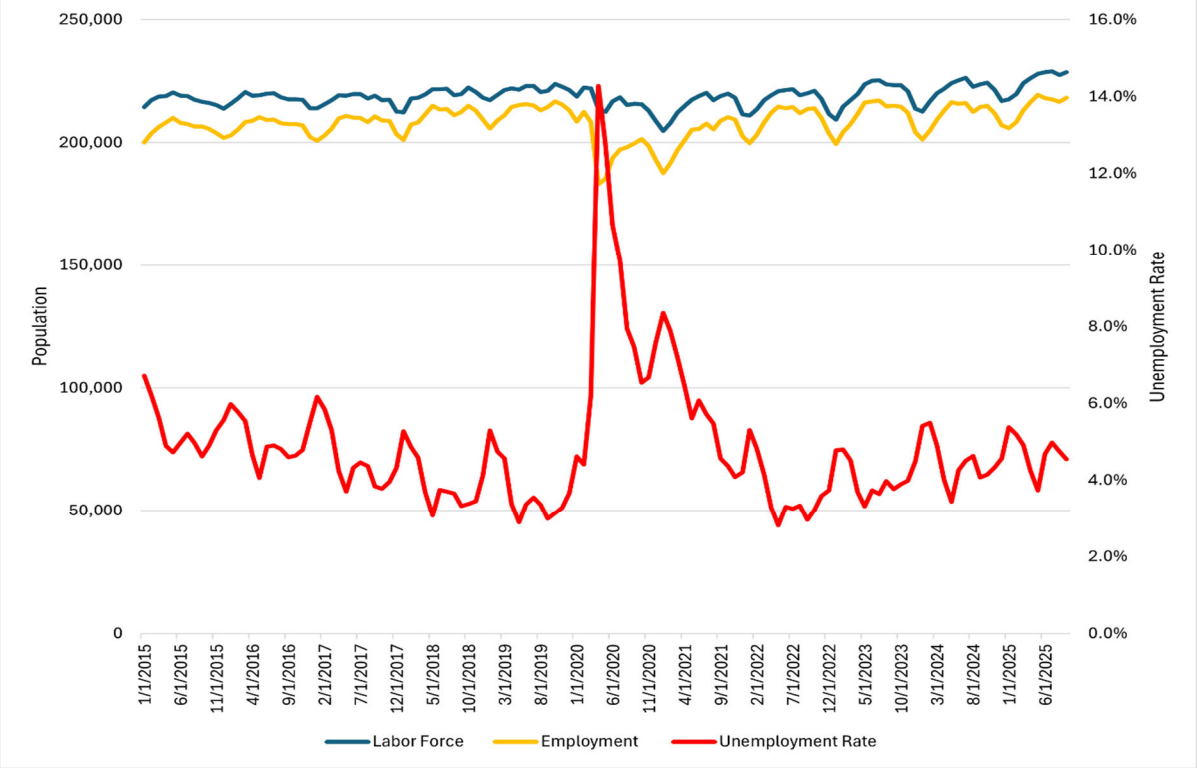
3.4.3 Economic Trends & Other Social and Demographic Factors

The District includes the unincorporated communities of Montecito, Toro Canyon, and Summerland. These three communities are similar in their economic and demographic makeup. The service area is characterized by affluent residential neighborhoods, large landscape parcels, and a relatively small commercial base. These characteristics result in a demand profile with a high proportion of single

family residential outdoor use, especially during dry and warm conditions. Additionally, Westmont College, sits on a 111-acre campus with approximately 1,300 students and 300 faculty and staff.

Santa Barbara County employment and unemployment data from 2015 to 2025 is presented in Figure 3-5. The coronavirus pandemic affected the national (and global) economy in 2020. As shown in Figure 3-5, the County's unemployment rate spiked to 14 percent in April 2020. Since 2020, unemployment has declined, with an annual countywide average unemployment rate of 5.8 percent in 2021, and a 4.5 percent annual countywide average unemployment rate in 2024. The District staff anecdotally understand that some of its customers who only reside in their homes seasonally may have become permanent residents during the coronavirus pandemic but now have continued to use their homes seasonally.

Figure 3-5 Santa Barbara County Employment and Unemployment



Source: California Employment Development Department 2025[9]

3.5 Land Uses Within the Service Area

CWC §10631(a) requires the UWMP to describe current and projected land uses within the service area and to coordinate, as appropriate, with local land-use authorities. This section summarizes the land-use pattern that informs the District's demand forecasting and supports consistency between this UWMP and regional land-use plans and policies.

[9] California Employment Development Department. 2025. Unemployment Rates (Labor Force). https://labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov/cgi/dataanalysis/labForceReport.asp?menuchoice=LABFORCE

Land use in the District's service area is predominantly low-density single-family residential, with a 111-acre liberal arts college campus and a small share of multi-family, commercial/institutional, golf course irrigation, and agricultural irrigation. As reflected in customer classifications and service connections, approximately 92 percent of connections are single-family residential, which aligns with observed demand patterns and the outdoor-use sensitivity described in Chapter 4.

The service area is largely built out, with limited new development potential. The District's current planning assumptions include:

- Modest residential growth through development of remaining buildable lots and small infill, with a greater share of additional single family units than multifamily units; and
- Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) added on some existing parcels. The District currently assumes a net neutral effect of ADUs on parcel level water use over the long term, as added indoor use may be offset by reduced landscape area. These assumptions are revisited as part of each UWMP update.

The District coordinates UWMP preparation with local and regional agencies and provides notice to affected cities and the County. The District's demand projections and land-use-based growth assumptions are designed to be consistent with regional expectations used in this UWMP's water use characterization (Chapter 4).

3.6 Delivery System Details

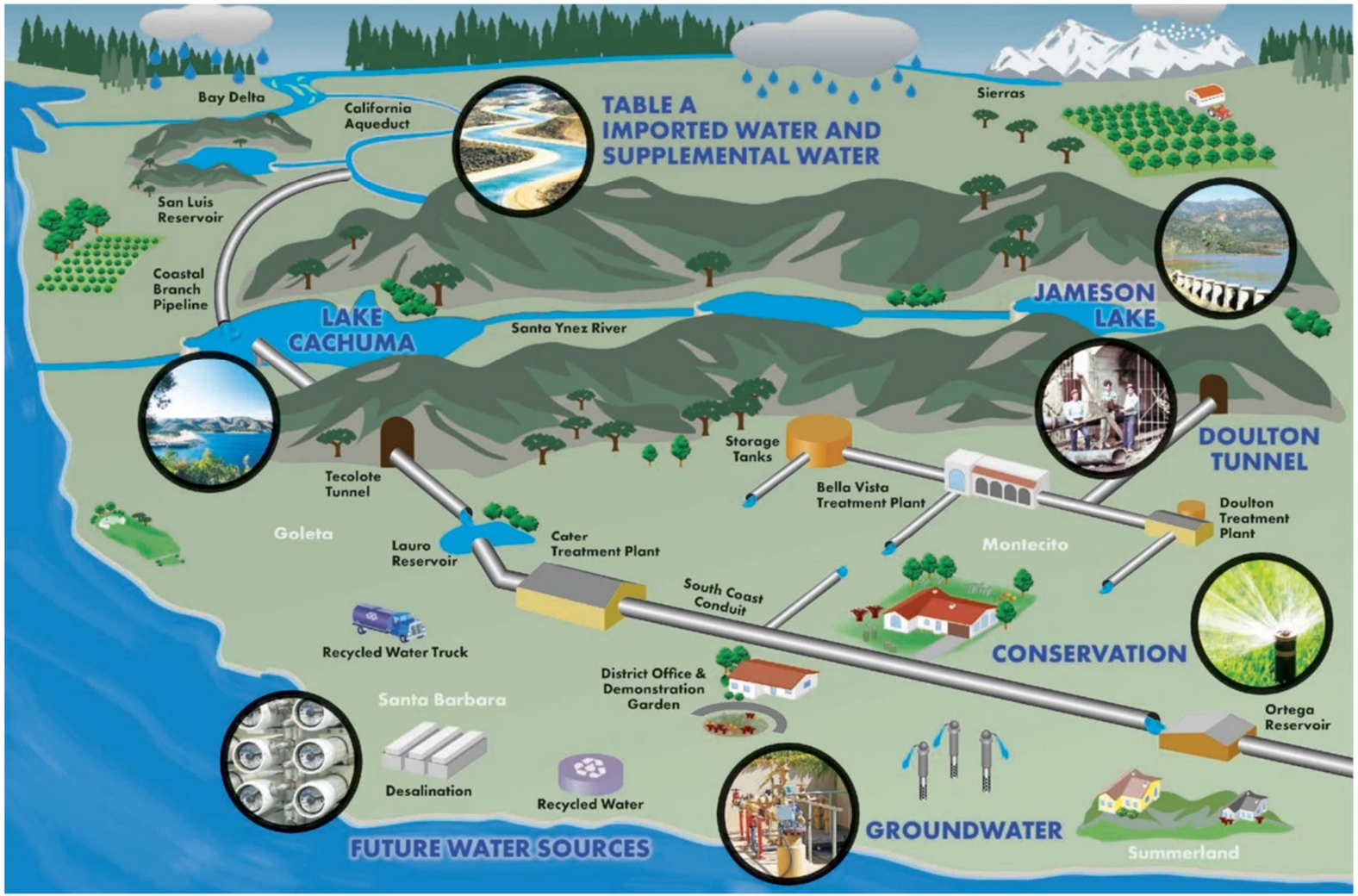
The District operates a potable water delivery system that conveys, treats, stores, and distributes water to customers throughout its 15.4 square mile service area. This subsection provides an overview of the District's water system in order to support the water use and supply analyses presented in later chapters.

The District's potable water system is supplied by a combination of local surface water, regional surface water, imported water, and local groundwater, as described in Chapter 6. These supplies enter a complex distribution network shaped by the District's topography, elevation differences, historic gravity-fed infrastructure, and reliance on both local and imported sources.

The District's current delivery system includes the following. A visual of the District's delivery system is shown in Figure 3-6.

- Two surface water treatment plants (Bella Vista and Doulton WTPs), which treat Jameson Lake supplies conveyed through the Doulton Tunnel.
- Eight active storage reservoirs and tanks providing operational storage and balancing service area elevations.
- Approximately 114 miles of distribution pipeline, much of which dates from the 1920s–1940s, serving a predominantly low-density, hillside residential area.
- Seven pump stations, necessary to lift imported supplies from the South Coast Conduit into the higher portions of the District's distribution system.
- Twelve active groundwater wells, with onsite treatment as required.
- Conveyance connections to regional facilities, including the South Coast Conduit (for Cachuma Project and SWP deliveries), the City of Santa Barbara's Cater WTP, and the City of Santa Barbara's Charles E. Meyer Desalination Plant.

Figure 3-6 Delivery System



Imported SWP water is conveyed from San Luis Reservoir via SWP facilities (i.e., the California Aqueduct and subsequently the Coastal Branch Pipeline) to Lake Cachuma. Lake Cachuma is a reservoir located on the Santa Ynez River created by the Bradbury Dam and is a primary source of water for the District. The 6.4-mile Tecolote Tunnel brings water from Lake Cachuma through the mountains to the South Coast and into the South Coast Conduit pipeline which runs from Goleta to Carpinteria. Water from this source is treated by the City of Santa Barbara at the Cater WTP and is conveyed to the District via the South Coast Conduit.

The District-owned Jameson Lake and Juncal Dam are located along the upper reaches of the Santa Ynez River. Water from this primary water source is conveyed in the 2.25-mile long Doulton Tunnel through the mountains and delivered to the District's Doulton and Bella Vista WTPs.

In 1948, USBR started the Cachuma Project to capture Santa Ynez River water and the District signed on to the project in 1949. As previously described, this water is conveyed via the South Coast Conduit, but since it lies below the service area, pump stations are required to boost South Coast Conduit water into the District's distribution system. The Summerland County Water District, which was contiguous with the District, was annexed in 1995 resulting in an initial 540 new customers and both Cachuma and SWP water entitlement.

The District's groundwater is sourced from the Montecito Groundwater Basin and the Toro Canyon Subbasin, most of which lies within the Montecito Groundwater Basin and service area. Groundwater from the local production wells is treated onsite as necessary and delivered into the District's distribution system.

The Bella Vista and Doulton WTPs serve the District exclusively and treat surface water from Jameson Lake, which is delivered through the Doulton Tunnel. The tunnel was completed in 1928 and currently supplies water to the 2.25 million gallons per day (MGD) combined treatment plant capacities. Water treatment for supplies delivered through the South Coast Conduit from the SWP is treated at the Cater WTP in a joint operation with the City of Santa Barbara and Carpinteria Valley Water District. This traditional coagulation and flocculation type plant is currently sized for 37 MGD to meet the needs of the multiple South Coast agencies.

Potable water pipes (i.e., pipes used to convey purified water) owned by the District represent a range of materials and ages. Approximately 80 percent of the pipelines in the system are ductile iron or cast iron and approximately 70 percent of all pipes in the system 6-inch to 8-inch. Approximately 82 miles of pipes date from before 1980 with the earlier pipes dating back to the early 1920s.

Historic infrastructure continues to play a critical operational role, though portions are subject to aging and hazard vulnerability, as demonstrated by damage sustained during the January 2023 winter storm, which temporarily severed the Jameson Lake transmission pipeline before repairs were completed in mid-2023.

These system details, together with the land use and population projections described in Section 3.4, provide the basis for the water use forecasting in Chapter 4, and the water supply assessment in Chapters 6 and 7.

4 Water Use Characterization

Understanding trends in water use is essential to enable the District to reliably and cost-effectively manage its water supplies and continue to meet customer needs. Characterization of past and current water use, coupled with considerations of anticipated growth, new regulations, changing climate conditions, and trends in customer water use behaviors are all considered in projecting demands. The chapter presents water use analysis and demand projections, as well as other statutory requirements.

4.1 Potable Water Versus Non-Potable Use

Currently, the District's potable water treatment and distribution system is comprised of two surface water WTPs, nine storage reservoirs, approximately 114 miles of distribution pipeline, and seven pumping stations. In addition, the District also includes six potable water production wells and six non-potable production wells. All District potable water is treated to meet all federal and state drinking water standards.

The District is one of many public water agencies in Santa Barbara County. Not all properties within the District's service area are served by the District. Those properties not served by the District use private groundwater wells operated individually or by private water companies. The use and treatment of water from groundwater wells for potable use by individual private water well operators is under the permit authority of Santa Barbara County. Table 4-1 shows the District's 2025 actual total uses for potable and non-potable water.

Table 4-1 2025 Actual Total Uses for Potable and Non-Potable Water (DWR Submittal Table 4-1)

	2025 Actual Water Use	
Use Type	**Level of Treatment When Delivered**	**Volume**
Single-Family Residential	Potable	2,729
Multi-Family Residential	Potable	86
Commercial	Potable	260
Institutional/Governmental	Potable	317
Agriculture	Potable	276
Juncal Exchange	Potable	300
Distribution System Water Loss		164
Subtotal Potable		*4,132*
Non-Potable Water Use	Non-potable	106
Subtotal Non-Potable		*106*
Total		**4,328**

[1] The total Juncal Exchange volume is 300 AF; however 297 AF is reported as 3 AF was exchanged through interties.

4.2 Past, Current, and Projected Water Use by Sector

As described in Chapter 2, the District currently supplies potable water to approximately 4,674 customer connections. The current customers, their recent and expected water use trends, and the District's on-going demand management efforts targeting these customers provide a foundational basis for this UWMP's water use forecast to 2050.

4.2.1 Water Use Sectors

As shown in Table 4-1, above, water use sectors in the District's service area include single-family residential, multi-family residential, commercial, institutional/governmental, and agriculture uses. Non-potable water use in the District's service area is used for outdoor landscaping.

4.2.2 Past and Current Water Use

Table 4-2 presents the District's past and current customer water use by sector for 2021 through 2025. This information is provided as context for recent water use trends, including the duration of a short drought period (2021-2022). Figure 4-1 presents total water use from 2021 to 2025 and Figure 4-2 presents the monthly single family residential demands over the same period. The District's water service demand under each customer classification dropped substantially between 2021 and 2024 as the result of water shortage restrictions implemented in response to the 2021-2022 drought. However, water use in 2025 has increased as a result of below average rainfall received in the first part of 2025. Of these water use sectors, single-family residential utilizes the most water and has the largest variability between years. For all water use sectors, water use is higher in the summer months compared to the winter, when rainfall helps to meet the water needs of landscapes.

Table 4-2 Customer Use: 2021 to 2025 (values in AF)

	Annual Demands				
Category	**2021**	**2022**	**2023**	**2024**	**2025**
Single Family Residential	3,280	3,187	2,544	2,528	2,729
Multi Family Residential	112	100	90	85	86
Commercial	217	234	213	232	260
Institutional/Governmental	294	335	223	278	317
Agricultural	310	319	234	229	276
Juncal Exchange	297	295	296	298	297
Distribution System Water Loss	218	254	93	250	164
Non-Potable	150	137	98	109	106
Total	**4,879**	**4,861**	**3,790**	**4,010**	**4,321**

[1] The total Juncal Exchange volume is 300 AF, some of which is exchanged through interties

Figure 4-1 Customer Use: 2021 to 2025 (values in AF)

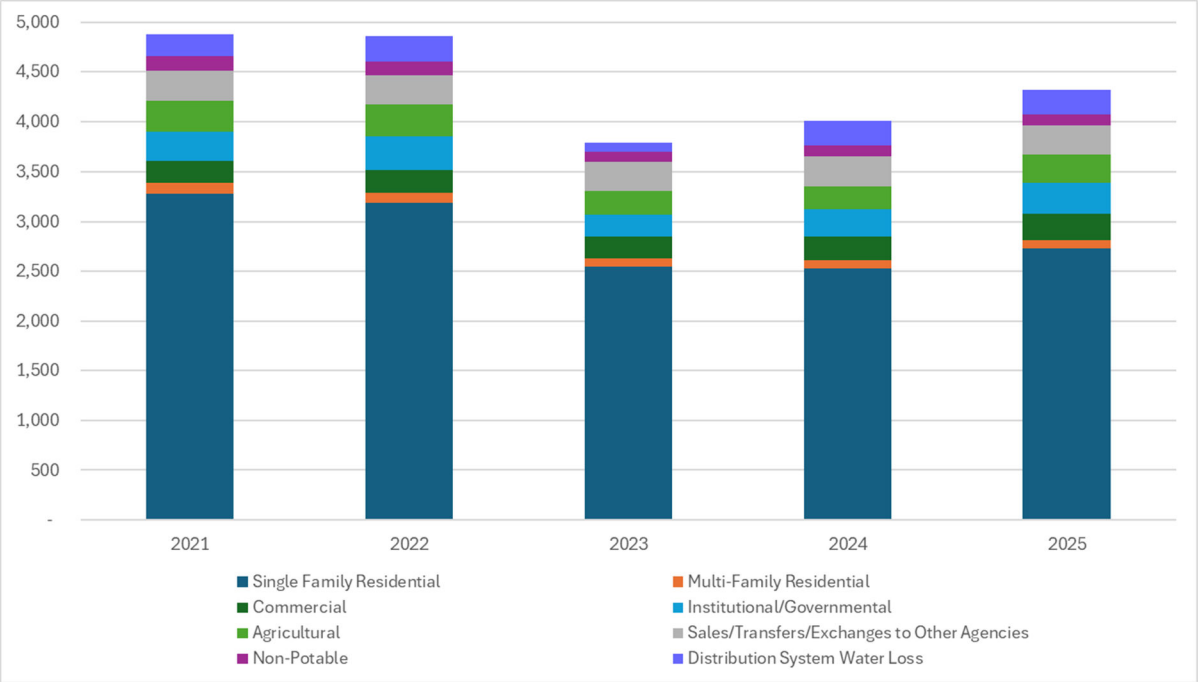
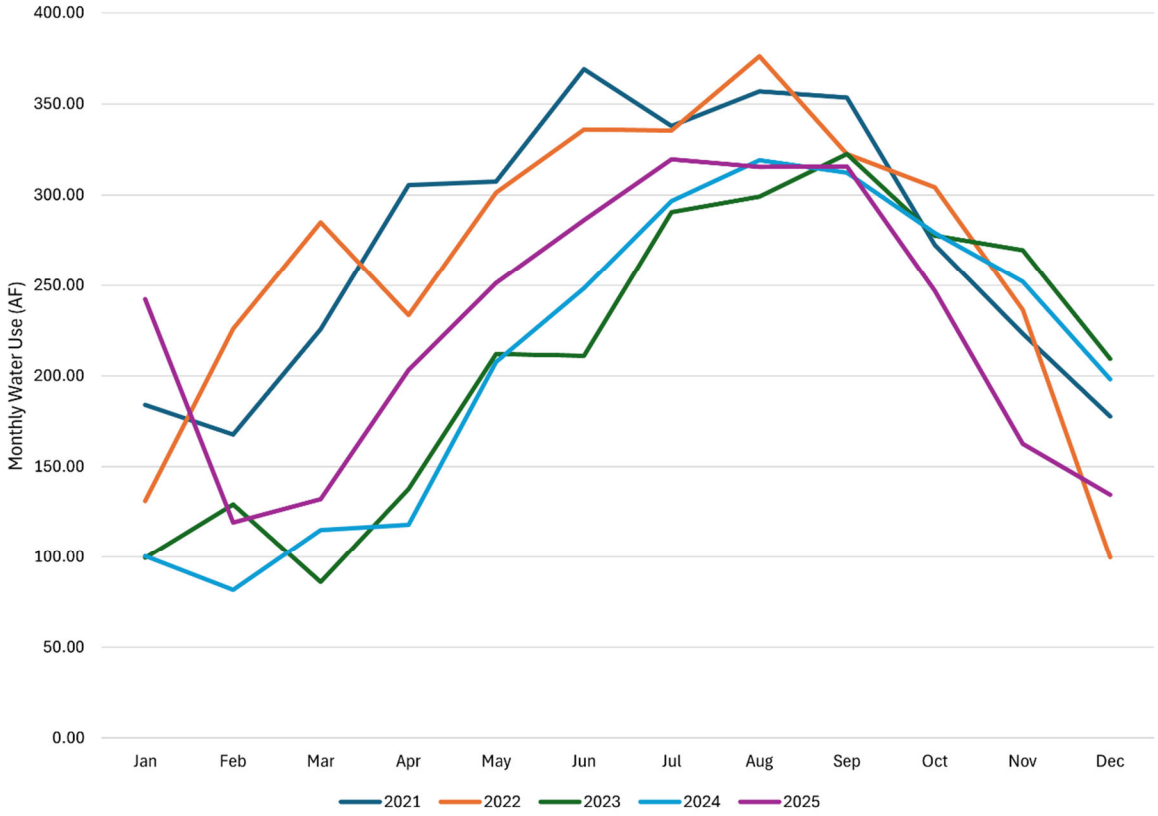


Figure 4-2 Single Family Residential Monthly Use: 2021 to 2025 (values in AF)



The single-family residential classification illustrates three important characteristics of the District's water service: (1) it represents over 70 percent of the annual use in every month, (2) it has summer uses that are over two to three times the monthly volume needed in winter months, and (3) it appears highly dependent on weather conditions in non-summer months (e.g. use can range from under 100 AF to over 200 AF in December). This understanding supports the District with additional insight necessary for assessing the seasonal reliability of its water supplies, forecasting use into the future, and developing and quantifying successful water shortage contingency response actions.

The 2025 annual customer use reported in Table 4-1 of 4,071 AF is 15 percent less than the 2021 customer water use of 4,661 AF. A major contributor to this decrease was the decline in single-family residential use from 3,280 AF in 2021 to 2,729 AF in 2025 resulting from high levels of rainfall in 2023 and 2024. When water shortage measures are put in place, they often trigger permanent shifts in how people use water, leading to a long-term reduction in demand that persists well beyond the emergency. Irrigation controllers and landscape changes made during drought reduce outdoor use in ways that don't fully rebound, while fixture upgrades lock in lower consumption structurally. At the same time, conservation habits formed during the shortage may persist, reinforcing a new, lower baseline. Together, these behavioral and infrastructural changes "harden" demand, meaning the reduced consumption carries forward into subsequent years. For example, when the single-family maximum monthly value for 2025 was compared to the maximum monthly value from the 2021 to 2024 period, the 2025 maximum monthly value was approximately 17 percent lower than the pre-drought value, demonstrating the difference in demands before and after implementation of water conservation efforts.

4.2.3 Water Budgets

In April 2025, the District introduced property-specific Water Budgets,[10] a data-driven tool that provides each customer with a unique, science-based guide for efficient indoor and outdoor water use based on their specific property characteristics. Property-specific Water Budgets account for seasonal changes in water use such as irrigation in winter versus summer and provide flexibility for customers to choose how they use water on their property while discouraging water waste and excessive use. While property-specific Water Budgets are not used as a demand forecast, the implementation of the Water Budget program has allowed the District to effectively plan and anticipate yearly customer demands. The cumulative water budget for all District customers is 4,334 AFY. As shown in Table 4-1, the District's actual use totals of 4,325 AF did not exceed the cumulative water budget for all District customers. This comparison demonstrates that recent normal-year customer demands are broadly aligned with the efficient use expectations embedded in the Water Budget framework. The District uses this alignment as a qualitative validation of the demand baseline used for projecting future water use, rather than as a substitute for the UWMP demand forecast methodology.

4.3 Projected Water Use

Forecasting future water demands begins with an understanding of existing customer demands and trends, recognizing the additional customers expected through growth, and considering the factors that will influence the water use of both existing and new customers well into the future – especially factors that directly affect the efficiency of water use. As required by the UWMP Act, the future

[10] Montecito Water District. 2025. Water Budgets. https://www.montecitowater.com/conservation/water-budgets/

water uses of both existing customers and those added over the 25-year planning horizon should reflect the "efficient use" of water.

4.3.1 Existing Customer Future Use

To be conservative and assure the analysis of water system reliability is adequate, the District is maintaining the annual "current" customer demand, as shown in Table 4-2, which equates to a total annual customer demand of just over 4,000 AF, with a production need of about 4,200 AF when considering system losses (described further in Section 4.6).

While these existing customers may undertake a variety of conservation measures – actively through decisions to modify behavior or water use, or passively through the purchase of appliances and fixtures that simply use less water – they may also expand their future use. Holding the current use as a constant for all existing customers into the future will provide a conservative number that can be re-evaluated over time and in compliance with forthcoming urban water use objectives.[11]

4.3.2 New Customer Future Use

As detailed in Section 3.4.2, the District anticipates only a small amount of growth with an associated increased demand placed upon its water supplies. Forecasting the needs of these future customers is dependent upon the type and number of customers and the unit water demand factors associated with each customer type.

Several factors generally affect the forecast of future customer use, ranging from State and local landscape regulations, building code requirements, and other water use mandates, to changes in the types of housing products being offered. However, as described in Section 3.4.3, the District's service area is unique in that it is a small, affluent residential community that has limited growth potential because it is nearly built out. Thus, many of the standard factors affecting future water use are not applicable to forecasting the future water needs for the District's customers.

As discussed in Section 3.5, the District anticipates the growth of ADUs, a type of housing product that is also non-traditional. While plumbing codes and the availability of fixtures and appliances will conform to the State building codes, ADUs are anticipated to use water consistent with long-term average expectations on a unit-by-unit basis. Furthermore, the construction of ADUs will often displace current landscape and thus displace the outdoor landscaping demand – replacing it with an overall lower water use for the same parcel footprint.

For this 2025 UWMP, the District assumes a gradual increase in both residential and non-residential service connections. Residential customers will include both single-family dwelling units built under a variety of densities and multi-family residential dwelling units. Non-residential uses are expected to include mostly new commercial establishments. To be conservative with the future water use forecast, the District also anticipates a slight increase in irrigated agricultural acres which are served with potable water supplies. This expansion reflects trends for locally grown agricultural products. As new Agricultural customers are currently not allowed, growth in water demand of existing customers is projected through increased acreage.

Table 4-3 summarizes the District's anticipated new customer growth to occur by 2050, based on the population growth projections shown in Section 3.4.2. For purposes of this 2025 UWMP, the annual growth rate of 0.5 percent was used to forecast demand consistent with the Montecito

[11] Per CWC §10609.20, urban water suppliers shall calculate a urban water use objective composed of, among other factors, aggregated efficient indoor water use based upon standards of no more than 55 GPCD, decreasing to 50 GPCD by 2030

Community Plan and the *Future Demand and Water Supply Options Update 2025* prepared for the District (Appendix D).

Table 4-3 Anticipated Growth by Customer Classification

	Forecast New Connections				
Category	**2030**	**2035**	**2040**	**2045**	**2050**
Single-Family Units Added	19	19	19	19	19
Multi-family Units Added	4	4	4	4	4
Agricultural Acres Added	1	1	1	1	1
Commercial Connections Added	1	1	1	1	1

Notes:
Forecast new connections based on percentage growth in connections from 2021-2025.

Demand factors were calculated for each of the land use categories served by the District by dividing the average water use by category from 2021 to 2025 by the average number of connections by category for that same timeframe. While the demand factors were not used to forecast future demands, they provide the District with information about water use trends within each customer category. Demand factors are as follows:

- Single Family Residential – 0.67 AFY/connection which illustrates the affluent, large lot characteristics of the Montecito area.
- Multi-Family Residential – 1.42 AFY/connection for multiple dwelling units served through a single meter, such as apartments and townhomes.
- Commercial – 1.72 AFY/connection for a wide array of commercial users such as restaurants and retail establishments
- Institutional/Governmental – 2.21 AFY/connection which includes parks, government buildings, and schools.
- Agriculture – 6.51 AFY/connection for small-scale farming operations.

In addition, the District utilizes a Smart Rebates Program which provides rebates to owners of single-family residential, multi-family residential, commercial, and institutional land uses which implement a Smart Rebate offered by the District. These rebates include the use of mulch, drip irrigation, smart irrigation controllers, high efficiency residential appliances, high efficiency toilet and urinals, and replacement of turf landscape with native or drought tolerant planting. Based on District statistics from 2023-2025, the District achieves a water savings of approximately 2.53 AFY from the Smart Rebate Program, which is accounted for in demand forecasts.

4.3.3 Summary of Forecast Water Use

Based upon the estimated water use of the existing and new customers, the District anticipates a gradual increase in use over the planning horizon. Table 4-4 presents the forecast customer water use. Although the forecast is presented in 5-year increments through 2050, the monthly pattern is expected to mimic the current monthly pattern detailed in prior tables. This characterization is important when evaluating the District's water service reliability as detailed in Chapter 5. Distribution system losses are presumed to further decrease with the District's AMI technology into the future, but are held to a conservative 5 percent for this forecast.

Pursuant to CWC §10631.1, retail suppliers are required to include the projected water use for lower income households in 2025 UWMPs. Per California Health and Safety Code §50079.5, a lower income household has an income below 80 percent of area median income, adjusted for family size. The annual median household income from the 2024 U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey is approximately $155,814 for the District's service area.[12] Therefore, to be considered a lower income household, a household would need to have an annual income less than approximately $124,651 per year. According to the Census data, approximately 30 percent of the households are below this 80- percentile income. All demands, including those for lower income households, are included in the demand projections presented in Table 4-4.

[12] This data is from the Median Household Income American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates Data Profile DP03: Selected Economic Characteristics
https://data.census.gov/table/ACSDP5Y2024.DP03?q=Montecito+CDP,+California&g=160XX00US0675714,0679529&d=ACS+5-Year+Estimates+Data+Profiles

Table 4-4 Total Uses of Potable and Non-Potable Water - Projected (DWR Submittal Table 4-2)

Use Type	Additional Description (as needed)	Projected Water Use (AF)					
		Level of Treatment	2030	2035	2040	2045	2050
Single Family Residential		Potable	2,798	2,869	2,941	3,015	3,091
Multi Family Residential		Potable	88	91	93	95	98
Commercial		Potable	267	273	280	287	294
Institutional/Governmental		Potable	325	333	342	350	359
Agricultural		Potable	283	290	297	305	312
Juncal Exchange		Potable	300	300	300	300	300
Distribution System Water Losses		Potable	305	313	319	326	334
Subtotal Potable			4,366	4,469	4,572	4,678	4,788
Non-Potable	Landscaping	Non Potable	109	112	115	118	121
Smart Rebate Program Savings			-3	-3	-3	-3	-3
Subtotal Non-Potable			109	112	115	118	121
Total			**4,472**	**4,577**	**4,684**	**4,795**	**4,908**

4.4 Adjusting Water Use Forecasts for Single-Dry and Multiple Dry Conditions

The demand forecast presented above represents expected water needs under normal hydrologic conditions. To credibly forecast potential maximum future water use, the forecasted normal-year water uses must be modified to reflect anticipated increases in demand during drier conditions. In the case of the District, this can also include the high-wind, dry conditions that can occur in fall or early winter months coupled with limited rainfall which can dramatically increase single-month demands.

Conservative modifications to the forecasted normal year water use to more likely reflect use conditions during drier years are warranted to help adequately address water service reliability in Chapter 7. For purposes of this UWMP, the following adjustments are made:

- Single dry year: Landscape irrigation needs would increase to reflect the generalized earlier start of the landscape irrigation season due to limited rainfall in the single driest year or to reflect continued demands when rainfall is still absent in November or December. Since this increase only applies to the outdoor portion of a customer's use, a simple adjustment factor of nine percent is applied to the total normal-year forecasts to conservatively reflect the expected increase in demand for water for landscaping. This increase would represent the "unconstrained demand" expected prior to any District -imposed conservation measures (e.g., as proposed in the WSCP).
- Multiple dry years: During multiple dry years, demands are expected to increase at an additional rate of two percent increase year over year from the single dry year increase of nine percent. This is representative of an "unconstrained demand" that would be expected prior to any WSCP actions the District may find are warranted to reduce customer demands.[13]

These values are reflected in tables provided for the Drought Risk Assessment presented in later subsections.

4.5 Climate Change Considerations

Including climate change into a water use analysis aids in understanding the potential effects on long-term reliability, which in turn, allows the District to proactively begin planning appropriate responses. For example, hotter and drier weather may lead to increased demand in landscape and agricultural irrigation especially during spring and fall months, increasing the pressure on water supplies that may have availability restrictions during these periods.

This potential is reflected in the consideration of the single dry year increase of nine percent that is used for the water service reliability analysis, as discussed previously. Whether the elevated single dry year water forecast becomes more akin to the "normal" demand will become more apparent as the District continues to assess monthly water use trends throughout its service area.[14]

[13] CWC §10632(a)(2) states water suppliers should use "unconstrained demand" when performing their annual water supply and demand assessment.

[14] A closer assessment of the correlation of monthly water use by customer type to rainfall and temperature will help the District improve water use forecasts to assure the effects of climate change are adequately being reflected in water service reliability analyses.

4.6 Existing Distribution System Losses

Distribution system water losses are the physical water losses from the District's water distribution system up to the point of delivery to the customer's system (e.g. up to the residential water meter). Since 2016, the District has been required to quantify its distribution system losses using the American Water Works Association Method (Title 23 California Code of Regulations §638.1 et seq.). The District submits its water loss report annually by October 1 of each year for the prior year's estimated system losses. Table 4-5 presents the loss based upon the difference between total customer sales and total production as reported by the District in various annual water loss reports (see Appendix I). Average water loss over the 2021 to 2025 timeframe was 4.8 percent. Average annual water loss for 2020 to 2025 was 5.3 percent of potable water use, with a peak water loss of 6.8 percent in 2024.

Table 4-5 Distribution System Loss: 2020 through 2024

Year	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Distribution System Loss	288	218	254	93	250

As can be anticipated given the dynamic functions of a pressurized potable water distribution system, the estimated annual distribution system loss as a percentage of water entering the system will vary year-to-year and month to month. While conservatively high given additional savings with the installation of AMI meters, a distribution system water loss of 5 percent is used for purposes of water use forecasting. CWC §10608.34 requires water suppliers to provide data to determine whether the supplier will meet its State Water Board water loss performance standard for real and apparent losses. The real water loss performance standard for the District is 36.2 gallons per connection per day, a 1.4 percent reduction from the State-estimated baseline of 36.7 gallons per connection per day. Suppliers will be required to submit a registry of breaks, repairs, and estimates of water loss every three years, beginning in 2029 for the 2025 to 2027 period. Water losses for the supplied data period will be assessed compared to the performance standard. The District's apparent water loss currently averages about 12.7 gallons per connection per day, per the most recently submitted water loss report. Table 4-6 shows the District's progress towards the 2028 Water Loss Standard.

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Table 4-6 Progress Towards 2028 Water Loss Standard (DWR Submittal Table 4-6 Retail)

		Real Water Loss					Apparent Water Loss				
		State Water Board Standard		Most Recent AWWA Water Loss Audit			State Water Board Standard		Most Recent AWWA Water Loss Audit		
Public Water System ID #	Did the Water Board Calculate a Water Loss Standard for this Public Water System?	2028 Real Water Loss Standard per Unit per day	Units for Real Water Loss	Number of Units (Connections or Miles corresponding with units selected)	Volume of Total Real Loss	Real Water Loss Per Unit per Day	2028 Apparent Water Loss Standard per Unit per Day	Units for Apparent Water Loss	Number of Connections	Volume of Total Apparent Loss	Apparent Water Loss Per Unit per Day
CA4210007	Yes	36.2	Gallons per Service Connection per Day (GPSCD)	4,811	180.4	33.5	18.3	GPSCD	4,811	68.2	12.7

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4.7 Forecasting Water Use for the DRA and Annual Assessment

Two UWMP requirements that help water suppliers assess and prepare for drought conditions are the Drought Risk Assessment[15] and the Annual Water Supply and Demand Assessment.[16] These planning requirements were established in part because of the significant duration of recent California droughts and the predictions about hydrological variability attributable to climate change. The Drought Risk Assessment requires assessing near-term water supply reliability over five consecutive dry years, covering 2026 to 2030 for this UWMP. The Annual Water Supply and Demand Assessment (Annual Assessment) undertakes a similar analytical exercise as the DRA but uses actual conditions anticipated for the particular upcoming water year. The Annual Assessment is further detailed in Chapter 1.

4.7.1 Projecting Water Use for 5-year Drought Risk Assessment

The Drought Risk Assessment uses supplier-defined hypothetical drought conditions expected to occur from 2026 to 2030 to test the resiliency of their water supply portfolio and their WSCP actions to meet severe conditions.

DWR recommends that suppliers first estimate expected water use for the next five years without drought conditions (also known as unconstrained demand). These estimates would then be adjusted to estimate the five-years' cumulative drought effects. Total water use for 2026, for example, is developed by modifying the water use representation for "current" conditions (see Table 4-7) taking into consideration the anticipated demand response to dry conditions, with each subsequent year further adjusted as appropriate. Adjustments year-to-year reflect several factors the District anticipates may occur, including increases from growth and outdoor landscape needs.

Each year is further adjusted to reflect anticipated increases in the "unconstrained demand" during a single dry year. As noted previously, this is reflected by applying a 9 percent increase to the total estimated demand in each year (greater than the 2 percent increase used in the multiple dry year analysis in Section 7.1). This conservative assumption (9 percent increase in demand year-over-year) serves as a stress case for drought response by the District, in terms of managing local water supplies and implementing the WSCP shortage actions to mitigate unsourced demand.

Table 4-7 Forecast DRA Water Use for 2026 through 2030 (AF)

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
2026	193	225	243	343	417	426	519	532	808	459	366	254	**4,785**
2027	197	230	249	351	426	435	530	543	818	469	374	258	**4,880**
2028	202	235	254	358	435	444	542	555	829	479	382	263	**4,978**
2029	206	241	260	366	444	454	553	566	839	489	390	270	**5,078**
2030	211	246	265	374	454	463	564	578	850	499	399	276	**5,179**

Notes: DRA forecast includes the 300 AFY transfer required pursuant to the Juncal Exchange

[15] CWC §10635(b)
[16] CWC §10632.1

5 SB X7-7 Baselines, Targets, and 2025 Reporting

This chapter describes the Water Conservation Act of 2009, also known as SB X7-7, and demonstrates the District achieved the 2020 urban per capita water use reduction of 20 percent as directed under the UWMP Act for urban retail suppliers (CWC §10608.40).

In 2009, the Senate Bill 7 of Special Extended Session 7 (SB X7-7) was incorporated into the UWMP Act requiring that all water suppliers increase water use efficiency with the overall goal to decrease per capita water consumption within the state by 20 percent by the year 2020. SB X7-7 required DWR to develop certain criteria, methods, and standard reporting forms through a public process that water suppliers could use to establish their baseline water use and determine their water conservation targets. SB X7-7 and DWR's *Methodologies for Calculating Baseline and Compliance Urban Per Capita Water Use*[17] specifies methodologies for determining the baseline water demand, the 2015 interim urban water use target, and the 2020 urban water use target. This section demonstrates that the District achieved its 2020 water use target in 2020.

5.1 SB X7-7 Baselines and 2020 Targets

SB X7-7 required urban water suppliers to establish a per capita water use target for 2020 to be calculated by using one of four methods. Method 1 was the per capita water use that is 80 percent of the urban retail water supplier's baseline per capita daily water use using a 10-year average starting no earlier than 1995. The District selected to use Method 1, which calculated a 2020 urban water use target of 338 GPCD, derived as the gross water use divided by the population during a defined baseline period.

5.1.1 Calculating Population and Gross Water Use

To assess compliance with the 2020 water use target in GPCD, the District's population and gross water use were compared to the SB X7-7 target. Gross water use was calculated as the total amount of water received, including local and regional surface water, groundwater, imported SWP water, and seepage into the Doulton Tunnel. Gross water use excludes recycled water, agricultural water deliveries, and exchanges or transfers conveyed to other urban water suppliers. The District's target water use was calculated as 338 GPCD for year 2020.

5.2 District Met 2020 Water Use Target in 2020

Urban water retail suppliers are required to report on their SB X7-7 progress to identify if they met their 2020 urban water use target pursuant to CWC §10631.

[17] DWR. 2016. Methodologies for Calculating Baseline and Compliance Urban Per Capita Water Use. February 2016

The District met their 2020 target as reflected in Table 5-1 below, which includes their 2020 target and 2020 Actual GPCD. The District was not a part of a merger or consolidation and was not a part of an SB X7-7 Regional Alliance target.

Table 5-1 SB X7-7 2020 Target Progress (DWR Submittal Table 5-1 Retail)

Was Supplier part of a merger or consolidation since 2020?	Regional Alliance Target or Individual Target?	2020 Target	Actual 2020 GPCD	Did Supplier Achieve Targeted Reduction for 2020?
No	Individual Target	338	319	Yes

6 Water Supply Characterization

This chapter provides an overview of the District's water supplies and estimates water supply use in a normal year.

6.1 Water Supply Analysis Overview

The District relies on a variety of local, regional, and State water supply sources to meet its customers' needs, while continuing to work with neighboring water purveyors on the South Coast to identify, investigate, and implement new sources. The District's current water sources include the following:

- Water Supply Agreement (WSA) with the City of Santa Barbara in connection with its desalination facility
- Lake Cachuma/Cachuma Project – regional surface water
- Jameson Lake surface water from the Santa Ynez River
- Doulton Tunnel groundwater infiltration
- Montecito Groundwater Basin well production
- SWP/CCWA – State surface water
- Supplemental water purchases

These water supply sources are detailed further in Section 6.2.

6.1.1 Special Considerations

The District takes into consideration certain conditions that affect the District's water supply availability. These considerations include the effects of climate change and water quality concerns, each of which have an effect on water availability. These considerations are described in greater detail below.

6.1.1.1 Climate Change Effects

According to California's Fourth Climate Change Assessment,[18] the Central Coast Region will face numerous climate impacts, including increased maximum and minimum temperatures, by midcentury. Multi-year average precipitation is expected to increase slightly, but "normal" years will become less frequent and both dry and wet extremes will become more frequent, heightening the risk of both droughts and floods. Precipitation variability will have detrimental effects on stream flows and aquatic organisms, including sensitive species whose protection drives state and federal regulation of water resources. Year-to-year fluctuations are expected to decrease the reliability of local surface water supplies, while rising temperatures will increase evaporation and may harm water quality. Imported water supplies conveyed through the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta face the additional threat of sea level rise interfering with Delta conveyance systems. The State's Climate Change Assessment predicts that "Water supply shortages, already common during drought, will be exacerbated. Higher temperatures may result in increases in water demand for agriculture and

[18] California Natural Resources Agency. 2018. California's Fourth Climate Change Assessment Central Coast Region Report. https://www.energy.ca.gov/sites/default/files/2019-11/Reg_Report-SUM-CCCA4-2018-006_CentralCoast_ADA.pdf

landscaping."[19] Reduced surface water availability may lead to increases in groundwater extractions, which would threaten the sustainability of supplies for groundwater-dependent water suppliers. Rising sea levels will increase the risk of saltwater intrusion into coastal aquifers. Extremely destructive wildfires, like the 2017- 2018 Thomas Fire, may become more frequent and heighten the risk of property destruction, public safety power shut offs, and air and water quality impacts. Wildfire impacts will also accelerate sedimentation into water supply reservoirs and smoke will have public health impacts on residents.

Currently, there is still considerable uncertainty about the timing, direction, and magnitude of climate change impacts on various aspects of water resource management. Despite this uncertainty, it is still possible for water suppliers to prepare for future climate change impacts. The District's efforts to obtain additional local, independent water supplies will help ensure reliable water supplies in the face of climate change. The Montecito Groundwater Basin Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP),[20] approved by DWR in February 2025, provides an improved framework for responsible management of local groundwater supplies. Additional adaptation strategies less directly related to water resources include preparedness for public safety power shutoffs and land management practices that protect native species and reduce the risk of catastrophic fire. The Montecito Basin GSP includes a Climate Change scenario which models future groundwater conditions representing an anticipated change in temperature, precipitation, and corresponding groundwater demands. The modeling included within the Montecito Basin GSP concludes that the Montecito Groundwater Basin is not anticipated to experience chronic groundwater level lowering throughout the UWMP horizon. The District is committed to using the best available scientific information to inform decision-making now and in the future.

6.1.1.2 Water Quality

All water served to District customers meets or exceeds Federal and State drinking water standards as defined by the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act and the State Water Resources Control Board requirements. The District's water quality is documented annually in Consumer Confidence Reports which are available publicly on the District's website (see Appendix E). Each Consumer Confidence Report presents the primary and secondary water quality standards and the measured quality of the District's supplies from each source. Generally, surface water from the Santa Ynez River watershed is of excellent quality and local groundwater is good to moderately good; all water sources are treated before delivery to customers with the exception of non-potable well deliveries for irrigation purposes. In addition to testing water immediately after treatment, the District conducts periodic testing at customer tap to ensure water quality remains reliable throughout the distribution system. Continued close monitoring of water quality carries the additional water conservation benefit by reducing the need for water line flushing.

Despite supplying water of generally excellent quality, the District has encountered water quality challenges in recent years. The 2017-2018 Thomas Fire burned 100 percent of the watershed above Jameson Lake, and subsequent runoff from the burned area impacted this source of supply, resulting in elevated levels of organics and ultimately elevated levels of disinfection byproducts. The District's response included suspending deliveries of water from Jameson Lake for approximately one year. Upgrades were made to the Bella Vista WTP to reduce the potential for the development

[19] Langridge, Ruth. (University of California, Santa Cruz). 2018. Central Coast Summary Report. California's Fourth Climate Change Assessment. Publication number: SUM-CCCA4-2018-006.
[20] Montecito Groundwater Agency. 2023. Groundwater Sustainability Plan https://www.montecitogsa.com/doc/7530/

of disinfection byproducts in the distribution system. These upgrades will make the District more resilient to future wildfire impacts.

Other potential threats to the quality of the District's water supplies include droughts and heatwaves, which can lead to harmful algae blooms in surface reservoirs, and potentially saltwater intrusion increasing the salinity of groundwater. The District maintains an Algaecide Application Permit to treat algal blooms at Jameson Lake should algae blooms occur. The District will continue to monitor water quality proactively to mitigate future threats.

6.2 Water Supply

6.2.1 Desalinated Water

6.2.1.1 Water Supply Agreement with the City of Santa Barbara

Desalinated water opportunities on the South Coast of Santa Barbara County began with the construction of the City of Santa Barbara's Charles E. Meyer Desalination Facility, built between 1990 and 1992 as an emergency drought water supply during the 1987-1992 drought. The facility was placed in standby mode in 1992 following a wet winter and was recommissioned in 2017. In September 2020, the District and the City of Santa Barbara executed a 50-year WSA which secures the District 1,430 AFY local drought-proof potable water from the City of Santa Barbara's Charles D. Meyer Desalination Facility that the District is obligated to purchase and receive, regardless of hydrologic conditions. This supply source is considered very reliable and supplied the District with approximately 35 percent of its 2025 water supply needs. Delivery of water supplies from the Charles D. Meyer Desalination Facility began in 2022.

The water delivered to the District meets all state and federal primary water quality requirements and can be supplied from any City water supply source or a combination thereof, which offers the City additional operationally flexibility. The WSA greatly reduces the risk of shortages in dry years and reduces the District's reliance on imported supplies from the Delta.

6.2.2 Surface Water

Surface water supplies have historically constituted more than 95 percent of the District's typical water year supply. Surface water runoff to Jameson Lake and two other small tributaries in the upper Santa Ynez watershed were the District's primary source of water supply from the 1920s until the 1950s when the Cachuma Project was completed. While the District's supply portfolio has diversified considerably since then, local surface water is still an important source of water in normal years.

6.2.2.1 Lake Cachuma/Cachuma Project – Regional Surface Water

The District receives regional surface water from the Santa Ynez River watershed via Lake Cachuma, which can supply up to 58 percent of the District's total supply in wet years or be curtailed to zero in critically dry years. USBR owns the Cachuma Project and contracts with the Cachuma Operations and Maintenance Board (COMB) for operations and maintenance. COMB is a Joint Powers Authority whose members include Goleta Water District, City of Santa Barbara, Carpinteria Valley Water District, and Montecito Water District. Each member water agency has individual contracts which define each water agency's proportionate share of the Lake Cachuma water supply. The District's proportionate share of the Lake Cachuma water supply is 10.3 percent.

Water in Lake Cachuma is impounded by the federally owned Bradbury Dam, which was constructed in 1953 on the Santa Ynez River approximately 30 miles northwest of Montecito. The dam is a zoned earth-fill structure that is 206 feet high above the streambed. The dam was seismically retrofitted in 2001 and was fitted with flashboard extensions to increase the capacity of the lake in 2004. Per a bathymetric survey conducted in 2021, Lake Cachuma's overall capacity is 192,978 AF.

The Cachuma Project operates under a permit granted by the SWRCB. The current Water Rights Order 2019-0148 continued earlier requirements for water releases to protect downstream interests of the City of Lompoc, Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District - Improvement District No. 1, and riparian groundwater pumpers located along the Santa Ynez River. This Order required hearings and its Environmental Impact Report was completed in 2011. The final Water Rights Order was issued in 2019.[21]

The USBR and the Cachuma Project Member Units have developed revisions to Project operations since 1993 to improve habitat conditions for steelhead trout while still maintaining water supplies. In 2000, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) issued a Biological Opinion for USBR's operation and maintenance of Bradbury Dam. NMFS is the agency within the Department of Commerce that oversees the protection of Southern California steelhead trout. The 2000 Biological Opinion addresses the effects of Cachuma Project operations on steelhead and its designated critical habitat in accordance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act. In 2014, the NMFS and USBR formally initiated re-consultation of the Biological Opinion which may change the amount of future deliveries allowed from Lake Cachuma allocation to the District. This process is still ongoing.

The District's full entitlement from Lake Cachuma during years of normal rainfall is 2,651 AFY, which is curtailed on a percentage basis in dry years. Lake Cachuma is operated based on an operational yield that was developed through experience during long-term droughts and acceptable delivery reductions during such drought periods. Water is diverted from Lake Cachuma through the Tecolote Tunnel, which extends approximately 6.4 miles through the Santa Ynez Mountains to the head works of the South Coast Conduit. The South Coast Conduit is a gravity-fed concrete pipeline that runs approximately 26.4 miles and includes four regulating reservoirs - Glen Annie Dam and Reservoir (not in service since 2002 due to seismic concerns), Lauro Reservoir, Ortega Reservoir, and Carpinteria Reservoir. Lake Cachuma water supplies delivered to the South Coast Conduit are treated at the City of Santa Barbara's Cater WTP.

For the District's Cachuma Project surface water supply (including SWP delivered to Lake Cachuma), the District entered a Joint Powers Agreement with the City of Santa Barbara in 1978 for the construction, operation, and maintenance of the Cater WTP, a regional water treatment facility serving the City of Santa Barbara, Carpinteria Valley Water District, and Montecito Water District. The Cater WTP has a production capacity of 37 MGD and is owned and operated by the City of Santa Barbara. The District has a 20 percent interest in the Cater WTP which provides water deliveries daily to meet customer usage at all demand levels. Treated water from the Cater WTP is delivered to Montecito through the South Coast Conduit operated by COMB.

The District has metered turnouts supplied by the South Coast Conduit. These metered turnouts include; Barker Pass, Office, East Valley, Lambert, Toro Canyon, Sheffield, Asegra Road, Ortega Pump Station Control, and County Yard.

[21] The District's Lake Cachuma supply is currently allocated pursuant to short-term extensions of the existing Cachuma Project water service contracts. While the District has a preference for a long-term contract to provide greater planning certainty and operational stability, the absence of such as contract does not indicate an anticipated loss of supply. Consistent with conservative UWMP planning practices, and independent of ongoing contract discussions with federal and state partners, the District has incorporated the 30 percent reduction scenario for Lake Cachuma supplies to account for contractual, regulatory, and hydrologic uncertainties.

6.2.2.2 Jameson Lake & Doulton Tunnel

Jameson Lake provides the District an average of 1,392 AFY, based on historical supply data from 1942-2024. Jameson Lake is formed by Juncal Dam, located on the upper reaches of the Santa Ynez River at the confluence with the North Fork stream. It is supplemented by seasonal diversions from Alder Creek. Water from Jameson Lake is diverted through the Doulton Tunnel under the Santa Ynez Mountains into the District's service area. There is significant infiltration of groundwater into the tunnel, which supplements this source with an additional volume of water. Natural inflow into Doulton Tunnel produces approximately 424 AFY based on average inflows from 1942-2024. When the District acquired the rights to Jameson Lake from the City of Santa Barbara, the District agreed to transfer 300 AF of water annually to the City in perpetuity.

Operations at Jameson Lake were disrupted by the Thomas Fire in December 2017. The massive wildfire, California's largest ever recorded at the time, burned 100 percent of the watershed above the reservoir and destroyed the dam caretaker residence and other MWD maintenance structures. Jameson Lake's supply was rendered undeliverable due to contamination from the Thomas Fire from December 2017 until May 2019.[22] The District implemented a treatment improvement project at its Bella Vista water treatment facility to respond to the increased presence of ash and other debris that react during the treatment process. Total deliveries from Jameson Lake were 746 and 634 AF in 2024 and 2023, respectively.

When Juncal Dam was completed in 1930, the reservoir had a capacity of approximately 7,000 AF. Siltation over time (and especially after the Thomas Fire) has reduced its capacity to 4,587 AF, as measured by a bathymetric survey in 2024.[23] Periodic surveying of the reservoir bottom has shown that siltation has reduced reservoir capacity by an average of about 25 AFY during normal (non-fire) years. The District continues to perform periodic silt surveys and other studies on the reservoir and has developed a conjunctive use operational plan for all District supplies that includes an operational annual yield and rule curve based on Jameson Lake capacity. The 2020 rule curve for Jameson Lake was used to project future water supplies. The 2020 rule curve is intended to reduce diversions and prioritize multi-year storage, which preserves water in storage for use in the later years of a multi-year drought.

Jameson Lake supply availability is directly related to rainfall. Deliveries were reduced during the during water years 2021-2022 due to drought conditions, but has since been increased due to above average rainfall. Droughts and catastrophic wildfire events may become more frequent or prolonged in the future, reducing the reliability of this water supply.

6.2.3 Groundwater

6.2.3.1 Basin Description

The District overlies the Montecito Groundwater Basin (Montecito Basin; Basin No. 3-049) which occupies approximately 9.6 square miles between the Santa Ynez Mountains and the Pacific Ocean.[24] The District owns and maintains six potable water production wells and six non-potable production wells, which together supplied an average of 381 AFY between 1942 to 2024. Entitlements to groundwater in the Montecito Basin have not been adjudicated and are subject to

[23] Prober Land Surveying. 2024. Jameson Reservoir Bathymetry Survey 2024.
[24] DWR. 2004. Montecito Groundwater Basin. https://water.ca.gov/-/media/DWR-Website/Web-Pages/Programs/Groundwater-Management/Bulletin-118/Files/2003-Basin-Descriptions/3_049_Montecito.pdf

the rules of prior appropriation. Figure 6-1 illustrates the location of the Montecito Basin and the service areas of local water suppliers, including the District.

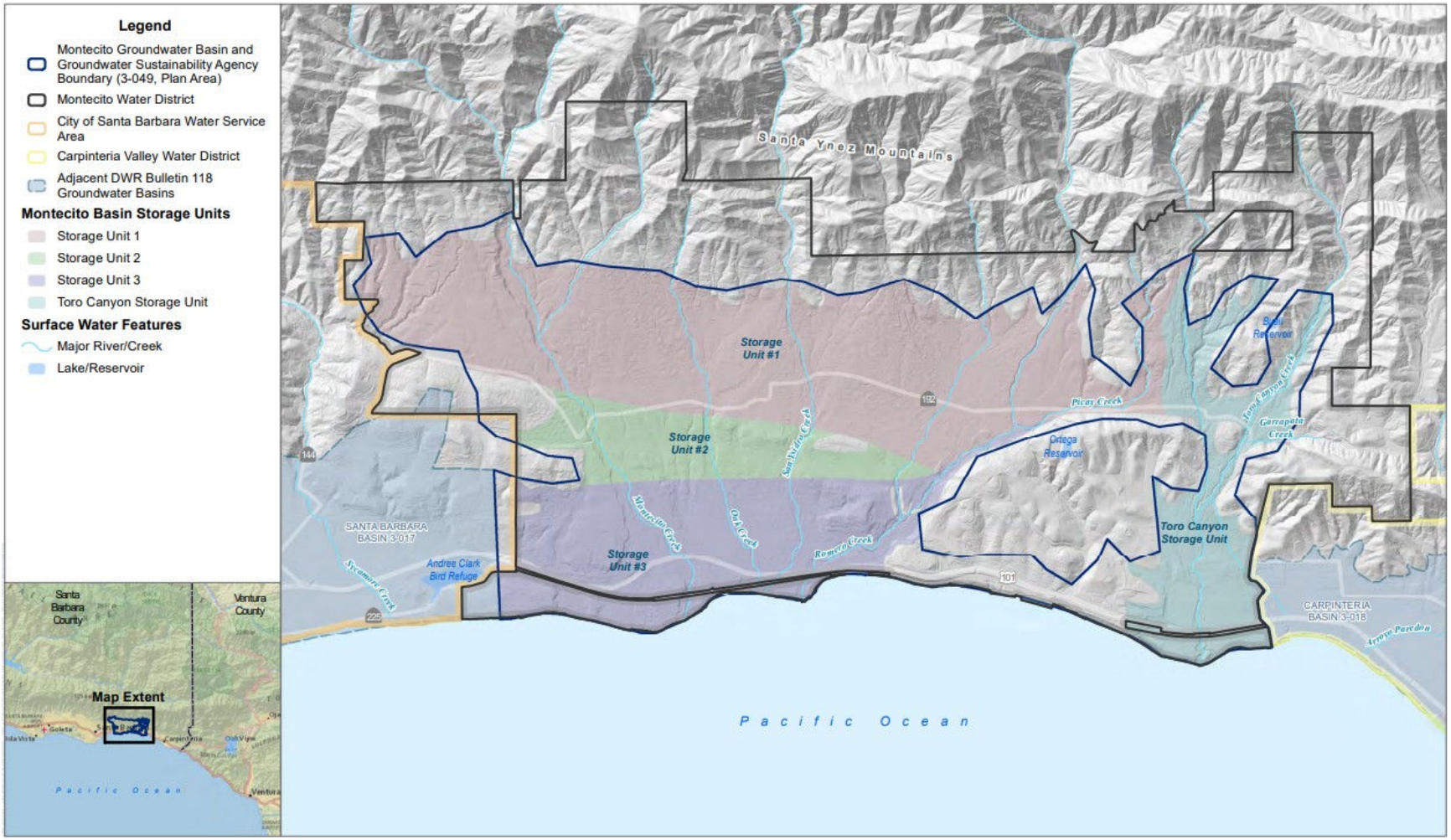
The Montecito Basin is bounded on the north by the Santa Ynez Mountains, on the east by consolidated rocks, on the southeast by an administrative boundary with Carpinteria Valley Water District, and on the northeast by a surface drainage divide that separates the Montecito and Carpinteria Basins. The offshore Rincon Creek fault and the Pacific Ocean bound the basin on the south. An administrative boundary on the west separates the Montecito Basin from the Santa Barbara Basin. The area overlying the basin contains several small creeks that flow from the Santa Ynez Mountains south to the Pacific Ocean.[25] The Montecito Basin is divided into 4 subbasins or "storage units". The first three are divided by east-west trending faults that act as semi-barriers to groundwater movement. The northern unit (Storage Unit 1) is bounded on the south by the Arroyo Parida fault, the central unit (Storage Unit 2) by the Montecito Fault in the south, and the southern unit (Storage Unit 3) by the Rincon Creek Fault. The fourth, the Toro Canyon Storage Unit, is separated from the rest of the Montecito Basin by surfacing sedimentary bedrock and a surface water drainage divide. The extent to which the offshore Rincon Creek fault is an effective barrier to seawater intrusion into the deeper water-bearing zones of the Basin is unknown. The primary water-bearing deposits in the Montecito Basin are the unconsolidated alluvial deposits, and the Casitas and Santa Barbara Formations.[26] Natural recharge in the basin is derived from infiltration of precipitation over the Basin, seepage from streams, and subsurface inflow from consolidated rock.

The shallowest alluvium deposits are of Holocene age and consist of lenses of gravel, sand, silt, and clay. These deposits occur along stream channels and range to 80 feet thick. Deeper alluvium of Pleistocene age is composed of boulders and reddish clay, which, where saturated, yields only modest amounts of water to wells. Groundwater is generally unconfined within alluvial deposits.[27]

The Pleistocene age Casitas Formation consists of clay, silt, sand, and gravel. Groundwater is extracted mainly from the upper Casitas Formation, as it is the chief water-bearing deposit; the lower Casitas Formation is very fine-grained and displays poor water transmitting characteristics.[28]Groundwater in this formation is partially confined along the north side of the Arroyo Parida fault in Storage Unit 1 the northern part of the Basin.

[25] DWR. 2004. Montecito Groundwater Basin. https://water.ca.gov/-/media/DWR-Website/Web-Pages/Programs/Groundwater-Management/Bulletin-118/Files/2003-Basin-Descriptions/3_049_Montecito.pdf
[26] Montecito Groundwater Agency. 2023. Groundwater Sustainability Plan https://www.montecitogsa.com/doc/7530/
[27] DWR. 2004. Montecito Groundwater Basin. https://water.ca.gov/-/media/DWR-Website/Web-Pages/Programs/Groundwater-Management/Bulletin-118/Files/2003-Basin-Descriptions/3_049_Montecito.pdf
[28] Montecito Groundwater Agency. 2023. Groundwater Sustainability Plan https://www.montecitogsa.com/doc/7530/

Figure 6-1 Map of the Montecito Groundwater Basin and Water District Boundaries



Source: Montecito Groundwater Basin Groundwater Sustainability Plan (2023)

Lastly, the Pliocene to Pleistocene age Santa Barbara Formation consists of marine sand, silt, and clay and has a maximum thickness of 2,200 feet in the southern part of the basin. Groundwater within the Santa Barbara Formation is generally confined. This formation occurs only in a restricted area in the southwest portion of the basin and, thus, is of negligible use as a groundwater source. [29]

6.2.3.2 Basin Management

The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) was signed into law by California Governor Jerry Brown on September 16, 2014, and created a framework for statewide groundwater management in California with an emphasis on local control.

In November 2018, DWR approved the District as the Montecito Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA), making it responsible for fulfilling the requirements of SGMA for the Montecito Groundwater Basin (Basin).[30] The Basin is designated as a Medium-Priority basin by DWR, which means that the GSA is responsible for the preparation and implementation of a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) to guide sustainable management of groundwater. The Basin's GSP was completed and adopted in May 2023 and submitted to DWR in June 2023. In February 2025, DWR approved the GSP. As stated in the GSP, the estimated total extraction by all users (the District, private well owners, and mutual water companies) between 2015-2019 averaged 1,266 AFY. In addition, the GSP estimates the sustainable yield for the Basin to be 1,600 AFY. The sustainable yield is defined as the maximum amount of water that can be sustainably extracted from the Basin without causing undesirable results defined in the GSP. Management of groundwater production within this sustainable yield will ensure basin sustainability through the SGMA planning horizon. The GSA is the monitoring entity for the purpose of tracking and reporting groundwater conditions under SGMA to DWR. The District also helps coordinate SWRCB's Groundwater Ambient Monitoring and Assessment Program to evaluate groundwater quality within the Basin.

6.2.3.3 Other Considerations

Contracts for Groundwater Storage

Studies have concluded that the potential for expanded use of local groundwater storage beyond current practices is limited by the relatively small size of the Basin and the lack of suitable locations for enhanced aquifer recharge with recycled water.[31,32] In 2017, the District entered into a long-term groundwater water banking arrangement with the Semitropic Water Storage District (Semitropic Bank) in Kern County to bank surplus SWP and/or supplemental water. The District's portion of the Semitropic Bank is 4,500 AF, with an annual recovery limit of 1,500 AF unless additional capacity is available. Access to this facility provides the District greater supply reliability and protects water in multi-year storage from the risk of spillage or evaporation in surface water reservoirs. Although the Semitropic Bank is located south of the Coastal Branch turnout of the SWP, deliveries can occur to the District through the Coastal Branch in dry years, with the same amount of water returned to the SWP downstream from water pumped from the Semitropic Bank. Water deposited in the Semitropic Bank is subject to a 10 percent loss (for example; 1,000 AF deposited results in 900 AF later recovered). As with the District's other remote supplies, access to the Semitropic Bank could be disrupted by a natural disaster such as an earthquake.

[29] Montecito Groundwater Agency. 2023. Groundwater Sustainability Plan https://www.montecitogsa.com/doc/7530/
[30] Montecito GSA. 2026. https://montecitogsa.com/about/mission-purpose/
[31] Dudek. 2015. Montecito Groundwater Basin Recharge Feasibility Study. Prepared for Heal the Ocean, Montecito Water District, and Montecito Sanitary District. September 2015.
[32] Montecito Water District. 2019. Montecito Recycled Water Facilities Plan. https://www.montecitowater.com/doc/5346/

Groundwater stored in the Semitropic Bank is used as part of a conjunctive use program, in which deposits (recharge) are made during normal and wet years and withdrawals (pumping) are made during dry years when other supplies are less available. In 2020, the District had 1,800 AF stored in the Semitropic Bank. Since initiating participation in the Semitropic Bank, the District has yet to recover water for its use. As of 2025, the District has 5,802 AF stored and available for use.

6.2.3.4 Past Five Years Groundwater Pumping

The GSA conducts a survey of approximately 70 water wells (consisting of both District-owned and private wells) located within the District's service boundary twice a year. Prior to the formation of the GSA in 2018, the survey was conducted by the District. The survey consists of measuring the static water elevations in wells and converting this data to a water elevation level with reference to mean sea level. This data is being collected to continue the ongoing efforts to monitor the Basin and is input into a Basin Numerical Model to ascertain groundwater storage conditions within the four defined groundwater storage units. The collection of data twice a year reflects groundwater conditions following the rainfall/groundwater recharge season (spring) and the groundwater extraction season (fall).

Data from monitoring wells with the most complete records in the Basin date back to the 1940s, with data coverage generally improving over time. After a basin-wide low water level period in the mid-1960s, groundwater levels stabilized and recovered from the late 1960s until the mid-1980s, when drought and increased pumping led to rapidly dropping groundwater levels including elevations below mean sea level near the coast. Groundwater levels reached their lowest levels ever recorded at the time in 1991. Representative Monitoring Points (RMPs) are wells identified in the GSP as being representative of groundwater conditions and having the longest and most complete historical records. Hydrographs for the RMPs show that from the late 1980s to the early 1990s groundwater levels declined by approximately 100 feet in Storage Unit 1 and 50 feet in Storage Unit 3.[33] In general, it appears that the most extreme fluctuations in groundwater levels occurred in Storage Unit 1.

After the drought conditions of the early 1990s yielded to wetter hydrologic conditions in the late 1990s, groundwater levels in general recovered until the mid-2000s. The arrival of SWP imports in the late 1990s probably contributed to this recovery by reducing extraction. Then, starting in 2007, water levels again began to rapidly decline by a rate of 6.4 feet per year in Storage Unit 1. From 2007-2019, groundwater levels declined by as much as 77 feet in Storage Unit 1, with declines in the other Storage Units being about half that value.[34] In 2020, water levels began to recover from their recent lows. There are cones of depression apparent around areas with high well densities in Storage Unit 1 and 3, with measured water levels below mean sea level in parts of storage unit 3. As a coastal aquifer, the Basin carries a risk of seawater intrusion, but intrusion may be blocked to some degree by the offshore Rincon Fault. Studies to date have been inconclusive about the magnitude, extent, and even existence of seawater intrusion in the Basin. Because seawater intrusion is an undesirable result under SGMA, the GSA will continue to gather data and closely monitor groundwater conditions particularly in the southern edge of the Basin.

[33] Montecito Groundwater Agency. 2023. Groundwater Sustainability Plan. https://www.montecitogsa.com/doc/7530/ https://montecitogsa.com/about/mission-purpose/
[34] Montecito Groundwater Agency. 2023. Groundwater Sustainability Plan. https://www.montecitogsa.com/doc/7530/ https://montecitogsa.com/about/mission-purpose

In addition to the wells owned by the District, the Montecito Basin also contains private wells. While the precise number of active wells is not known, the GSA has a Well Registry Program that requires all wells in the Basin be registered. As of 2025, the GSA estimates the number of active private wells in the Basin to be between 400 to 500. Most of these private wells are unmetered. Some are used for private domestic water use and some are dedicated to outdoor landscape irrigation. Total Basin extractions depend on a multitude of factors and are estimated from 2020 – 2025 to range from approximately 950 AFY to 1,460 AFY.

The District's last five years of pumping are summarized in Table 6-1.

Table 6-1 Groundwater Volume Pumped (DWR Submittal Table 6-1 Retail)

		Produced Volume (AF)				
Groundwater Type	**Basin Name**	**2021**	**2022**	**2023**	**2024**	**2025**
Alluvial Basin	Montecito Groundwater Basin	312	396	113	121	248

6.2.4 Purchased or Imported Water

The District's water supply includes two sources of purchased or imported water: purchased SWP water from Central Coast Water Authority (CCWA) and supplemental water purchases such as transfer agreements.

6.2.4.1 State Water Project / CCWA – State Surface Water

The District purchases SWP supplies as a member of the Central Coast Water Authority (CCWA). The CCWA is the Joint Powers Authority administrator formed to construct, manage, operate, and maintain the SWP coastal aqueduct treatment and conveyance facilities serving Santa Barbara County. In 1963, the Santa Barbara County (County) Flood Control and Water Conservation District contracted with DWR for the delivery of up to 57,700 AFY of SWP water. The contract did not include the cost of constructing the necessary delivery system to bring SWP water into Santa Barbara County and, when a bond election failed in 1979, the County Flood Control and Water Conservation District sought financing through agreements with local water retailers to provide them entitlements for project funding. The contracts with the local water retailers provided the allotment of 45,486 AFY of SWP water, of which 3,300 AFY was allocated to the District.

The drought of 1987-91 illustrated the vulnerability of the county water agencies to multi-year below average rainfall years. The dwindling local surface water supplies caused mandatory cutbacks in customer water use and residents voted to connect to the State Water Project. In 1991, voters in a number of county communities with retained allocations, including the District, voted to fund the formation of the Central Coast Water Authority to manage and construct facilities for the import of State Water. Through the sale of water to customers, the CCWA member agencies are reimbursing the CCWA and the State Water Project for all costs, including construction and operation.

Construction of SWP conveyance facilities on the South Coast was completed in 1997, which included the 102-mile Coastal Branch of the California Aqueduct and the 42-mile Santa Ynez extension ending at Lake Cachuma where it comingles with other local surface water. Once SWP water reaches Lake Cachuma, it is conveyed through the Tecolote Tunnel to the City of Santa Barbara's Cater WTP for treatment before being conveyed via the South Coast Conduit to the District.

DWR determines the percentage of water available to each SWP Contractor each year as a function of available water supplies within the SWP based on hydrology, reservoir storage, Sierra Nevada

snowpack, and operational and regulatory requirements. The percentage allocation determined by DWR is the SWP Contractor's Table A amount available for delivery that year. The District's full annual SWP Table A water amount is 3,300 AFY for a DWR annual water supply percentage of 100 percent. Since 2000, the annual DWR Table A allocation has averaged 41 percent and ranged from a low of 5 percent to a high of 100 percent.

When delivered, the District's SWP water is conveyed west through the Coastal Branch to Lake Cachuma. Any Table A water not delivered in the year allocated, becomes carryover water and is stored in San Luis Reservoir, located along the California Aqueduct near Los Banos. If San Luis Reservoir reaches full capacity and spilling occurs, any carryover water stored can be lost. To mitigate this risk, the District participates in the Semitropic Groundwater Banking and Exchange Program. This program offers the District a guaranteed right to store and recovery water (Table A and carryover) annually. As of the end of 2025, the District has 5,802 AF of water stored in the Semitropic Groundwater Bank and available for future use.

The 2012-2016 drought lowered the previously published annual reliability of the SWP. The 2023 SWP Delivery Capability Report[35] was used in the 2025 Future Demand and Water Supply Options (Appendix D) to estimate anticipated deliveries over the planning period under various hydrologic conditions.[36] The District relies on the 75 percent level of concern projections in the 2023 SWP Delivery Capability Report to project future deliveries. Table 6-2 contains the amount of water projected to be available to the District based on its current allocation of 3,300 AFY under various hydrologic conditions.

Table 6-2 Current and Projected Annual SWP Table A Allocation

	Year 2023 DWR Baseline[1]		Future Climate Change Scenario	
Simulated Time Period[2]	% of SWP Annual Allocation (Baseline)	Supply Available to District Acre-feet (AF)	% of SWP Annual Allocation (75% LOC)	Supply Available to District Acre-feet (AF)
Long Term Average	53%	1,749	44%	1,452
Single Dry Year 1977	4%	132	2%	66
Single Dry Year 2014	6%	198	5%	165
2-Year Drought 1976-1977	22%	726	11%	363
2-Year Drought 2014-2015	9%	297	7%	231
6-Year Drought 1987-1992	21%	693	15%	495
6-Year Drought 1929-1934	14%	462	12%	396

[1] DWR identifies 2023 as a baseline for the 2023 SWP Delivery Capability Report as the hydrologic modeling prepared by DWR is reflective of 2023 hydrologic conditions.

[2] DWR simulated time periods were manually selected to include the driest and most recent years from modeling conducted by DWR.

Source: DWR 2023 Delivery Capability Report (Table 7-4)

[35] DWR released its Draft 2025 Delivery Capability Report in December 2025 for public review and comment. Comments were accepted through February 2026. For the purposes of this UWMP, the 2023 Delivery Capbility Report is referenced as it aligns with the data used in the 2025 Future Demand and Water Supply Options (Appendix D). The Draft 2025 Delivery Capbility Report is available at: https://data.cnra.ca.gov/dataset/state-water-project-delivery-capability-report-dcr-2025/resource/5d238ff5-899b-4357-8835-5b043f61f5da

[36] DWR. 2023. Delivery Capability Report 2023. https://data.cnra.ca.gov/dataset/finaldcr2023/resource/92356681-957a-48ee-97c4-529d25b9dbb2

As Table 6-2 indicates, the District's allocation of SWP supplies can be significantly reduced during droughts. During the most severe year of the most recent drought, in 2022, the SWP allocation was five percent based on the driest January and February in over 100 years. The District was allocated only five percent of its Table A amount, which equated to 165 AF. To combat historically low deliveries, California's Governor Gavin Newsome issued Executive Order N-7-22 which required all water suppliers across the State to implement their WSCPs for a shortage Level 2 to achieve 20 percent water use reduction. The District considers a five percent allocation to represent the "worst-case scenario" for supply planning purposes based on recent experience.

6.2.4.2 Supplemental Water Purchases

At the height of the 2012-2016 drought, DWR began allowing SWP Contractors to sell water to one another using DWR's SWP conveyance system. Supplemental water purchase agreements, typically coordinated by CCWA through its Supplemental Water Purchase Program, sometimes require an exchange component whereby the District is required to return an amount equal or greater amount of water purchased, typically over a ten-year period. This water return is often referred to as "water debt". The supplemental water purchase agreements include the return conditions of this water debt, which often dictate the return period and other conditions that must be met. Other transfers more closely resemble a one-time purchase and do not require water to be returned at a future date. Avoiding legal injury to other water users is a key determination that DWR examines when considering whether to allow a transfer, and each transfer requires approval from both agencies on a case-by-case basis.

The District purchased 17,806 AF of supplemental water from a variety of other SWP Contractors from 2014 to 2018. The District's latest supplemental water purchase occurred in April 2018. Some transfer agreements the District executed included return requirements. Because of the favorable hydrologic conditions in water years 2017 and 2019, the District was able to fully return owed water. In 2025, the District sold an additional 1,000 AF of excess water to its transfer partners for use by transfer partners.

While supplemental water purchases have proven to be crucial in meeting the District's dry-year needs in the past, the District remains committed to reducing its reliance on this source of water over time in compliance with The Delta Plan. The District's progress towards this goal and demonstration of compliance is included in Section 1.4.2.

6.2.5 Stormwater

Stormwater is not currently a quantifiable source of water supply to the District, and due to hydrogeologic and other limitations, is not expected to provide a measurable amount of water over the planning horizon.

6.2.6 Wastewater and Recycled Water

6.2.6.1 Recycled Water Coordination

The District does not currently use any recycled water as a source of supply. Recycled water was previously considered in the District's 2020 UWMP as a potential option for future water supplies. An initial Recycled Water Facilities Plan was completed by the District in 2018, which recommended non-potable reuse for large irrigation users with the option of indirect potable reuse as the recommended project, pending a hydrogeologic investigation of the Montecito Basin. A Groundwater Augmentation Feasibility Study prepared for the District in 2019 indicated limited

potential of the Montecito Basin for groundwater replenishment with recycled water. In 2023, an Enhanced Recycled Water Feasibility Analysis was prepared in collaboration with the Montecito Sanitary District to inform the future direction of recycled water projects.[37] At this time, recycled water projects within the Enhanced Recycled Water Feasibility Analysis are not considered as long-term options for water supply due to cost constraints.

6.2.6.2 Wastewater Collection, Treatment, and Disposal

There are two independent special districts located within the District's service boundary that provide wastewater collection, treatment, and disposal. The Montecito Sanitary District provides wastewater collection, treatment, and disposal services within the areas of Montecito, while the Summerland Sanitary District serves the community of Summerland. In addition, a very small portion of wastewater generated inside the District's service area along Coast Village Road is served by the City of Santa Barbara with that wastewater conveyed to the City's El Estero Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP). Wastewater collected in the service area is summarized in Table 6-3 and Table 6-4 summarizes the discharge of each entity.

Table 6-3 Wastewater Collected within Service Area in 2025 (DWR Submittal Table 6-2 Retail)

Wastewater Collection			Recipient of Collected Wastewater	
Name of Wastewater Collection Agency	**Wastewater Volume Metered or Estimated?**	**Volume of Wastewater Collected from UWMP Service Area 2025 (AF)**	**Name of Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP)**	**Is WWTP Located Within UWMP Area?**
Montecito Sanitary District[1]	Metered	517	Montecito Wastewater Treatment Plant	Yes
Summerland Sanitary District[1]	Metered	58	Summerland Wastewater Treatment Plant	Yes
City of Santa Barbara[2]	Estimated	46	El Estero Wastewater Treatment Plant	No
Carpinteria Sanitary District[2]	Estimated	92	Carpinteria Sanitary District Wastewater Treatment Plant	No
Total Wastewater Received from UWMP Service Area in 2025:		**713**		

Notes: The "Volume of Wastewater Collected from UWMP service area" for Santa Barbara's EEWTP and the Carpinteria Sanitary District's WWTP was estimated based on the proportion of service area population living in the District's service area, which is approximately 0.34% for EEWTP and 6.9% for the Carpinteria Sanitary District's WWTP

[1] Data for November-December 2025 is not available for these districts.

[2] 2025 volumetric reports for El Estero Wastewater Treatment Plant and Carpinteria Sanitary District Wastewater Treatment Plant are not currently available; therefore, data for these plants represents estimates based on the 2024 Volumetric Annual Report

[37] Montecito Water District. 2025. Recycled Water. https://www.montecitowater.com/our-water/water-sources-supply-copy/recycled-water/

Montecito Sanitary District

Montecito Sanitary District is an independent special district voted into existence in 1947 by the residents of Montecito to provide for the collection, treatment, and disposal of wastewater. In 1961, Montecito Sanitary District constructed a secondary level wastewater treatment plant capable of processing 750,000 gallons per day, including ocean outfall (located 1,500 feet offshore), and trunk sewer system. Twenty years later, voters approved $3.1 million in revenue bonds to incorporate new technology, double the plant's capacity to 1.5 MGD, implement more stringent testing procedures, and provide emergency power. Montecito Sanitary District provides service to approximately 9,000 people through 3,185 service connections. It maintains approximately 61 miles of sewer pipelines and five pumping stations. Montecito Sanitary District's collection system is predominantly vitrified clay pipe with some areas of polyvinyl chloride pipe.[38] In 2025, Montecito Sanitary District treated approximately 517 AF of wastewater which was discharged through their ocean outfall.

Summerland Sanitary District

Summerland Sanitary District is an independent special district that was voted into existence by the citizens of Summerland in 1957. Summerland Sanitary District provides wastewater collection, treatment, and disposal for approximately 10 percent of the District's service area. Summerland Sanitary District operates and maintains more than eight miles of sewer pipelines and three pumping stations, a 0.3 MGD treatment plant, and a 12-inch diameter ocean outfall extending 740 feet into the Pacific Ocean. The Summerland WWTP was originally designed and constructed as a conventional activated sludge treatment process, however in 1991, the Summerland Sanitary District upgraded to a tertiary treatment facility. In 2025, Summerland Sanitary District treated approximately 58 AF of wastewater which was discharged through ocean outfall.

City of Santa Barbara

The City of Santa Barbara operates a wastewater collection system consisting of 257 miles of sewer pipe and seven lift stations. The City of Santa Barbara owns and operates the El Estero WWTP, which has a design capacity of 11 MGD and serves a population of approximately 86,451 as of 2025[39]. Construction of El Estero WWTP was completed in 1979, providing secondary treated wastewater. El Estero WWTP includes both a secondary treatment facility that discharges to the Pacific Ocean and a 4.3 MGD tertiary treatment train for recycled water. In October 2015, the City began distributing recycled water from the newly constructed tertiary treatment facility. The tertiary treatment facility uses ultrafiltration technology to supply recycled water to parks, schools, commercial landscapes, golf courses, and public restrooms, thereby freeing up potable water for other uses in the City. El Estero WWTP treated a total of approximately 7,689 AF of wastewater in 2024.[40] El Estero WWTP provides wastewater collection and treatment for approximately 3 percent of the District's service area along Coast Village Road.

[38] Montecito Sanitary District. 2025. About the District. https://www.montsan.org/about-the-district
[39] California Department of Finance E-5 Population and Housing Estimates for Cities, Counties, and the State, 2020-2025. https://dof.ca.gov/forecasting/demographics/estimates/e-5-population-and-housing-estimates-for-cities-counties-and-the-state-2020-2025/
[40] State Water Resources Control Board. 2026. Volumetric Annual Report of Wastewater and Recycled Water. https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/recycled_water/volumetric_annual_reporting.html

Carpinteria Sanitary District

The Carpinteria Sanitary District is an independent special district that was formed in 1928 to provide wastewater collection, treatment, and disposal services to the residences and businesses of the City of Carpinteria and unincorporated areas of Carpinteria Valley. The Carpinteria Sanitary District's current wastewater collection system consists of approximately 42 miles of sewer pipeline and eight sewage pump stations which convey flow to the WWTP. The WWTP treats approximately 2.5 MGD of wastewater per day on average. In 2024, the Carpinteria Sanitary District WWTP treated a total of approximately 1,334 AF of wastewater. Carpinteria Sanitary District WWTP provides for approximately 7 percent of the District's service area.

Table 6-4 Wastewater Treatment and Discharge within Service Area in 2025[1] (DWR Submittal Table 6-3 Retail)

Wastewater Treatment Plant Name	Discharge Location	Discharge Location Description	Method of Disposal	Does this plant treat wastewater generated outside of service area?	Treatment Level	Wastewater Treated (AF)	Discharged Treated Wastewater (AF)	Recycled within Service Area (AF)	Recycled outside of service area (AF)
Montecito WWTP	Pacific Ocean	Pacific Ocean	Ocean outfall	No	Secondary	517	517	0	0
Summerland WWTP	Pacific Ocean	Pacific Ocean	Ocean outfall	No	Secondary	58	58	0	0
El Estero WWTP	Pacific Ocean	Pacific Ocean	Ocean outfall	Yes	Secondary	6,791	6,791	0	0
El Estero WWTP	Pacific Ocean	Pacific Ocean	Ocean outfall	Yes	Tertiary	898	0	0	898
Carpinteria Sanitary District WWTP	Pacific Ocean	Pacific Ocean	Ocean outfall	Yes	Secondary	1,334	1,334	0	0
Total						**9,598**	**8,700**		**898**

Sources: Volumes for Montecito WWTP and Summerland WWTP provided from communications with MSD and SSD staff. Volumes for El Estero WWTP and Carpinteria Sanitary District WWTP obtained from the SWRCB 2024 Volumetric Annual Report

[1] The 2024 Volumetric Annual Report represents the most recently available data.

6.2.6.3 *Future Recycled Water Use Options*

The Enhanced Recycled Water Feasibility Analysis[41] evaluated five project concepts for the use of recycled water in the Montecito area and concluded indirect potable reuse via groundwater replenishment in Carpinteria Basin as the preferred concept. This would involve Montecito Sanitary District producing purified wastewater and sending to Carpinteria Valley Water District for injection into the Carpinteria Basin, with Carpinteria Valley Water District providing water supply through an exchange agreement supplied through the South Coast Conduit. The Enhanced Recycled Water Feasibility Analysis identifies potential next steps for this project concept, which include developing a memorandum of understanding between the District, Montecito Sanitary District, and Carpinteria Valley Water District, preparing additional groundwater basin modeling, initiating design, and submit for grant funding. An overview of this project is provided in Table 6-5. However, given the financial constraints of this project, the District assumes no recycled water supply would be available for use in this 2025 UWMP.

Table 6-5 Methods to Encourage Future Recycled Water Use (DWR Submittal Table 6-6 Retail)

Name of Action	Description	Planned Implementation Year	Expected Increase in Recycled Water Use (AFY)
Indirect Potable Reuse via Groundwater Replenishment in Carpinteria Basin	Montecito Sanitary District and the District would provide purified wastewater to Carpinteria Valley Water District and receive water via an exchange through the South Coast Conduit.	N/A	560
Total			**560**

6.2.7 Water Transfers and Exchanges

Water transfers and exchanges have historically been important to meeting the District's water demands, and will continue to play a role in the future.

The District's longest running transfer agreement is with the City of Santa Barbara which originated with the transfer of Jameson Lake water rights from the City to the District in the 1920s. In return, the District agreed to transfer 300 AFY to the City in perpetuity.

In addition, the District has a 2024 Water Management Program Agreement in place with Homer, LLC, which allows the District to assess water supplies and transfer surplus SWP water to Homer, LLC through 2029.

Purchases of supplemental water delivered via the SWP are discussed above in Section 6.2.1. While this supply has been important to meet District demands in the past, it is not projected to be a significant source of District supplies in the future.

6.2.8 Supply From Storage

As described in Section 6.2.2.3, groundwater stored in the Semitropic Bank is used as part of a conjunctive use program, in which deposits (recharge) are made during normal and wet years and withdrawals (pumping) are made during dry years when other supplies are less available. In 2020,

[41] Montecito Sanitary District and Montecito Water District. 2023. Enhanced Recycled Water Feasibility Analysis. https://www.montecitowater.com/doc/8784/

the District had 1,800 AF stored in the Semitropic Bank. Since initiating participation in the Semitropic Bank, the District has yet to recover water for its use. As of 2025, the District has 5,802 AF stored and available for use. While the full 1,500 AF withdrawal limit is available to the District any year, the District will not likely make withdrawals during normal years or single dry years.

6.2.9 Other

The District does not supply water from sources other than those described above.

6.2.10 Future Water Projects

Currently, the District does not anticipate future projects or programs that are expected to have a quantifiable increase in the District's water supply and can reasonably be expected to be implemented within the 20-year planning horizon of the 2025 UWMP.

6.3 Energy Use

An urban supplier must include information on the amount of energy used for various processes of water supply management, including an estimation of energy use for treated water supplies and non-treated water supplies, to the extent that the information is readily available. Energy use is provided herein as Energy Intensity, defined as the total amount of energy expended in kilowatt-hours (kWh) by the urban water supplier on a per AF basis to take water from the location where the urban water supplier acquires the water to its point of delivery.

It is not currently possible to separate out extraction, treatment, storage, and distribution energy uses. System supply is conveyed from a combination of District owned sources (Lake Jameson, Bella Vista and Doulton WTPs, groundwater wells) and SWP and Santa Barbara City and County sources (Lake Cachuma, Cater WTP). Given these complexities, the District uses the Total Utility Approach. This method sums the annual energy consumed for all water management processes, divided by the total volume of water in AF. These processes include diversion, conveyance, placement into storage, treatment, and distribution. The total energy intensity is reported in Table 6-6.

Table 6-6 Energy Intensity – Total Utility Approach[1] (DWR Optional Submittal Table O-1B)

Sum of All Water Management Processes	
Volume of Water Entering Process	**3,955** AF
Energy Consumed	1,776,176 kWh
Energy Intensity	449 kWh/AF

[1] Data is based upon energy and total water production for January 2025 through December 2025.

In January 2025, the District adopted a Climate Action & Adaptation Plan (Appendix F) which provides a comprehensive assessment of the District's current operations and water supplies as it related to climate vulnerabilities and to identify strategies to enhance resiliency. The Climate Action & Adaptation Plan includes measures to increase the District's operational energy efficiency. These include Measure 7, which relates to increasing on-site energy generation and storage where feasible, and Measure 10, which relates to energy conservation in alignment with the District's Environmental Policy. Implementation of measures from the Climate Action & Adaptation Plan would enhance energy efficiency through the planning horizon of the UWMP.

6.4 Normal Year Water Supply

The WSA with the City of Santa Barbara represents a local purchased supply of 1,430 AFY that is expected to yield 1,409 AFY of supply after accounting for line losses (evaporation, conveyance losses, etc.) in all hydrologic conditions. Deliveries of this supply are expected to remain constant throughout the UWMP planning horizon.

The District's full entitlement from Lake Cachuma during years of normal rainfall is 2,651 AFY, which is curtailed on a percentage basis in dry years. The amount of Lake Cachuma water distributed to Cachuma Member Units, such as the District, was modified by the updated Water Rights Order 2019-0148 amending permits 11308 and 11310. This UWMP assumes that the updated Water Rights Order will reduce the water available to the District from this source by 30 percent from its historic average. Accounting for the effects of this reduction, the annual supply available from Lake Cachuma is expected to average 1,855 AFY. In a normal year, not all this available supply may be needed. The District will withdraw only as much surface water from Lake Cachuma as needed to meet normal year demands.

Jameson Lake is operated according to a rule curve that has recently been updated to preserve water supplies from this source for use in the later years of a multi-year drought, which has had the effect of reducing the supply available from this source during normal years. Jameson Lake was also affected by siltation and runoff from the Thomas Fire, which reduced the capacity of this reservoir from 5,144 AF before the fire to 4,587 AF during the most recent bathymetric survey in 2024. Future siltation is expected to continue to reduce the capacity of Jameson Lake at an approximate rate of 25 AFY, which will reduce the reservoir's capacity to 4,072 AF by 2045. Projections for the availability of future supplies from Jameson Lake were prepared using the modified rule curve and assume a constant lake capacity of 3,518 AF. Under these conditions, the available supply yield is based on the District's maximum allocation of 2,000 AFY, set forth as a result of the ruling in Gin Chow v. City of Santa Barbara. This value is the assumed normal year availability for projecting future supplies.

Groundwater infiltration into Doulton Tunnel is a reliable local supply that has averaged 424 AFY over the historical record. This historical average is assumed to be available in future normal years.

Groundwater wells provide both potable and non-potable water to the District and are an important source of supply during drought conditions. Under a strategy of conjunctive use, the District plans to rely on groundwater less during average or above average hydrologic conditions. The projected normal year supply of 300 AFY is based on the *Future Demand and Water Supply Options Update 2025* (Appendix D).

The SWP supply projections are based on 75 percent level of concern projections identified in DWR's 2023 SWP Delivery Capability Report to project long-term annual average deliveries of the District's SWP Table A amount. The 2023 Delivery Capability Report projects that the percent allocation will drop from its current average in 2021 of 53 percent to 44 percent by 2043. With regards to the District's Table A amount (3,300 AFY), this would be a reduction in SWP deliveries from 1,628 AF in year 2030 to 1,452 AF in year 2050.

Supply from storage of banked groundwater is available to the District through its participation in the Semitropic Bank. The District can bank excess supplies during normal and wet years and recover those supplies at a later time, subject to a withdrawal limit of 1,500 AFY. Banked supplies will play an important role in helping the District achieve its goals of reliable, drought-proof supplies. While the maximum withdrawal of 1,500 AF is expected to be available to the District during normal

hydrological conditions, in practice, the District does not plan to produce water from this source during normal years. Use of banked supplies is further limited by the South Coast Conduit capacity. The South Coast Conduit can convey a maximum of 2,916 AFY if Lake Cachuma is below the storage threshold of 25,340 AF. At that point, the combined Cachuma, SWP, and Semitropic supplies are limited by the conveyance cap.

Supplemental water purchases, which have historically been important to meeting District demands during multi-year droughts, are not projected to be a major source of District supplies in the future. The District anticipates 0 AFY of supplemental water purchases in normal years.

The District's 2025 water supply portfolio is summarized in Table 6-7. A summary of the District's projected water supplies under normal year conditions is provided in Table 6-8.

Table 6-7 Water Supplies – 2025 Actual (DWR Submittal Table 6-8 Retail)

		2025		
Water Supply	**Additional Description**	**Water Type**	**Actual Volume**	**Total Entitlement**
Desalinated Water	WSA with the City of Santa Barbara	Potable	1,380	1,430
Imported Water	SWP/CCWA – State Surface Water	Potable	0	3,300
Purchased Water	Supplemental Water Purchases	Potable	0	--
Groundwater	Montecito Groundwater Basin	Potable	248	--
Groundwater	Doulton Tunnel Groundwater Infiltration	Potable	311	--
Surface Water	Jameson Lake	Potable	839	2,000
Surface Water	Lake Cachuma/Cachuma Project – Regional Surface Water	Potable	1,177	2,651
Supply from Storage	Semitropic Groundwater Bank	Potable	0	1,500
Total			**3,955**	**--**

Table 6-8 Water Supplies (Normal Year) – Projected (DWR Submittal Table 6-9 Retail)

		2030	2035	2040	2045	2050
Water Supply	**Additional Description**	**Reasonably Available Volume**	**Reasonably Available Volume**	**Reasonably Available Volume**	**Reasonably Available Volume**	**Reasonably Available Volume**
Desalinated Water	WSA with the City of Santa Barbara[1]	1,409	1,409	1,409	1,409	1,409
Imported Water	SWP/ CCWA – State Surface Water[2]	1,628	1,560	1,493	1,452	1,452
Purchased Water	Supplemental Water Purchases	0	0	0	0	0
Groundwater	Montecito Groundwater Basin[3]	300	300	300	300	300
Groundwater	Doulton Tunnel Groundwater Infiltration[4]	424	424	424	424	424
Surface Water	Jameson Lake[5]	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
Surface Water	Lake Cachuma/Cachuma Project – Regional Surface Water[6]	1,855	1,855	1,855	1,855	1,855
Supply from Storage	Semitropic Groundwater Bank[7]	0	0	0	0	0
Total		**7,616**	**7,548**	**7,481**	**7,440**	**7,440**
Demand		**4,472**	**4,577**	**4,684**	**4,795**	**4,908**
Surplus/(Shortage)		**3,144**	**2,971**	**2,796**	**2,645**	**2,532**

Notes:

In a normal year, the District does not anticipate needing SWP supplies to fulfill demands. Lake Cachuma water supply fluctuation reflects supplies needed to meet normal year demands.

[1] Water Supply Agreement is for 1,430 AFY; estimated supply reflects line loss during conveyance.

[2] SWP allocation is for 3,300 AFY; normal year deliveries based on 2023 SWP Delivery Capability Report 75% LOC (assumes deliveries decrease from 53% in 2023 to 44% in 2043) minus reduction due to SCC capacity constraints (assumes Cachuma supply is priority in conveyance. SWP is assumed not needed in Normal years and results in Surplus.

[3] Normal year supply based on *Future Demand and Water Supply Options Update 2025* (Appendix D).

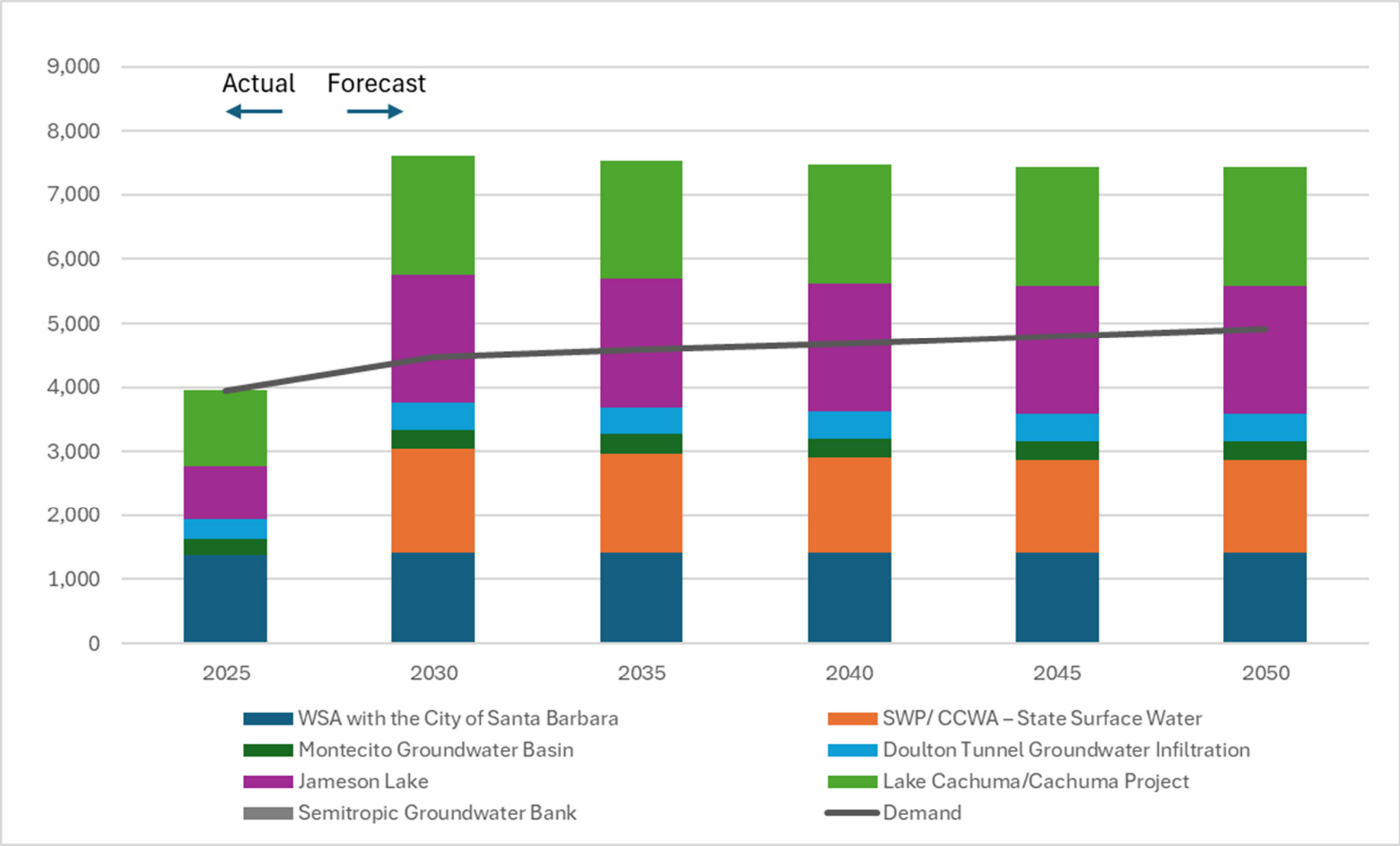
[4] Groundwater infiltration into Doulton Tunnel assumes average yield over historical record 1942-2024 (424 AFY).

[5] Total available supply in the Jameson Lake is based on the 2,000 AFY maximum allocation based on the ruling in Gin Chow v. City of Santa Barbara. Total deliveries based on the Jameson Lake 7-yr modified rule curve and average yield over historical record 1942-2024 is 1,138 AFY.

[6] Cachuma water right is for 2,651 AFY; estimated supply cap of 1,855 AFY reflects estimated 30% reduction per the Future Demand and Water Supply Options Update 2025 (Appendix D). The 1,855 AFY does not account for carryover water from Lake Cachuma. The District will withdraw only as much surface water from Lake Cachuma as needed to meet normal year demands.

[7] Semitropic maximum contractual storage capacity is for 4,500 AFY; maximum annual recovery is 1,500 AFY; assumed not needed in normal water years.

Figure 6-2 Available Water Supplies (Normal Year)



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7 Water Service Reliability and Drought Risk Assessment

This section describes the District's water service reliability to meet demands under various conditions, including normal year, single dry year, and multiple dry year scenarios. The District's assessment of water service reliability is used to direct management actions, provide insight on funding allocations, and allows for project prioritization aimed at increasing service reliability under all scenarios. The UWMP Act also requires a Drought Risk Assessment, which evaluates the reliability of the system assuming the next five consecutive years are dry. Because of the District's diversified water supply sources and recently improved access to local drought-proof supplies, combined with effective demand management as necessary, the District's supplies are found to be reliable through all scenarios examined in this 2025 UWMP.

Constraints on water sources considerations are described in Section 7.1. During one or more dry years, the total water available to the District is constrained. Important examples of supply constraints include reduced inflow to surface reservoirs such as Jameson Lake and Lake Cachuma and limitations due to water rights and contracts such as the Jameson Lake rule curve or Semitropic Groundwater Bank extraction limits, reduced groundwater infiltration into Doulton Tunnel, and reduced deliveries from the SWP/CCWA. In addition to an overall reduction in surface water supplies during multiple dry year conditions, the water quality of the region's open-air reservoirs can also be adversely affected during these extended periods of drought. Each of these sources, to varying degrees, is also vulnerable to natural disasters like earthquakes and wildfires. To compensate, the District will typically pump more local groundwater and withdraw water from long-term storage (groundwater banks and carryover) during dry years.

District demands are also affected by single and multiple dry year conditions, as discussed in Section 7.2. This analysis assumes that unconstrained demands increase by nine percent from normal conditions during the first dry year, and two percent for each subsequent dry year. As necessary, the District can reduce demands by implementing the DMMs as outlined in the WSCP presented in Appendix G.

7.1 Water Service Reliability Assessment

In addition to evaluating the District's preparedness for a severe drought in the near future through the Drought Risk Assessment (Section 7.2), the District is required to assess three scenarios when considering the reliability of a supply source, including the normal year, single dry year, and multiple dry year scenarios. These assessments must be completed at 5-year intervals over the 20- to 25-year planning period.

Each water source among the District's portfolio of current and planned future sources was evaluated for this analysis. Deliveries from these sources, to the extent possible, were compared to their historic record of performance during droughts in 1945-1951, 1983-1990, and 2012-2016. Where appropriate, the District engages in additional ongoing evaluations of supply sources such as periodic siltation surveys of surface reservoirs and participation in local groundwater monitoring through the Montecito Basin GSA. The reliability of each source during a severe multi-year drought beginning in 2030 is briefly discussed below.

City of Santa Barbara Water Supply Agreement

The completion and adoption of the WSA with the City of Santa Barbara in 2020 for 1,430 AFY of desalinated water from the City's Charles E. Meyer Desalination Facility secures a reliable purchased supply for the District in all year types, independent of rainfall. This assessment assumes a constant supply of 1,409 AFY in all years throughout the planning period, which accounts for water lost during conveyance.

Lake Cachuma (Cachuma Project)

The District's available supply from Lake Cachuma during years of normal rainfall is 2,651 AFY. However, over the last 10 years, the allocation has averaged only 72 percent of total, and dropped as low as 0 percent in 2016, the fifth year of a multi-year drought. Due to the regional dependence on this source, it is estimated that allocations during a multiple dry year scenario would be reduced when recharge conditions of the lake are at a minimum. The available capacity forecast for Lake Cachuma during a single-dry year assumes that the total 1,855 AF would be available pursuant to the Future Demand and Water Supply Options Update 2025 (Appendix D). During multiple dry years, the District relies more heavily on Lake Cachuma supplies as other supply sources are reduced. Based on the District's history of relying on Lake Cachuma supplies and carryover water to supplement demands during multiple dry years, the availability of Lake Cachuma supplies are projected to be maintained at 1,855 AF through Year 3 of a multi-year drought. During Year 4 and Year 5, the Lake Cachuma supply is anticipated to be 1,699 AF, consistent with the District's average Lake Cachuma deliveries during historical multi-year drought periods. During years when Lake Cachuma has a capacity of at least 25,340 AF, the elevation of the lake is high enough such that the water from Lake Cachuma is able to move to the South Coast Conduit via gravity at a rate of approximately 389 AF per month. However, in drought years, emergency pumps are required to pump water from Lake Cachuma to the South Coast Conduit, which results in a slower transfer rate of approximately 243 AF per month. The Years 3-5 forecast assumes that this constraint lowers the amount of water supply able to be conveyed to the District.

Jameson Lake

The District relies upon the operational rule curve published in the Water Supply Options 2020 Update and utilized in the Future Demand and Water Supply Options Update 2025 (Appendix D) to determine the annual diversion from Jameson Lake. During the 2012-2016 drought, the previous rule curve was found to drain Jameson too quickly in the early years of a multi-year drought, which resulted in insufficient water in storage for subsequent dry years. The Jameson Rule Curve was updated in May 2020 as part of the *Future Water Demand and Water Supply Options 2020 Update*, so that it now provides a 7-year water supply. The rule curve has also been updated to reflect ongoing siltation at the reservoir, including major sediment inputs which resulted from the Thomas Fire. Total reservoir storage in Jameson Lake is estimated to have dropped to 4,587 AF due to rapid siltation in the years following the 2017 Thomas Fire. Continued siltation at a rate of 25 AFY is expected. The projections for the single dry year supplies assume that the total available allocation of 2,000 AF, pursuant to the Gin Chow v. City of Santa Barbara ruling, would be available for the District to utilize. During the multiple dry year condition, diversions are projected to be reduced from the single dry year supply in accordance with the rule curve to reserve this water supply when recharge is at a minimum.

Doulton Tunnel Infiltration

The projections for the single dry year supplies are based on the average of supplies of all dry years from 2001-2024. For multiple dry year projections, it is estimated that this rainfall-dependent source will see a reduction in supply of 5 percent year over year from the single dry year amount, based on average historical losses during multiple drought years.

Groundwater Wells

The District reduces production from Montecito Basin during normal and wet hydrologic periods to allow the basin to recharge, which then allows for increased production during times of drought when other District sources are diminished. Although the long-term average (1942 to 2024) of the District well production was approximately 381 AFY, groundwater wells play an important role in supplementing District supplies during dry periods. For example, District well production reached an all-time high of 637 AF in 2015, the fourth year of a multi-year drought. This strategy is expected to continue, even as SGMA is implemented in the Montecito Basin. The projections for the single dry year and multiple dry year supplies are assumed to be 600 AFY which represents the approximate historic maximum AFY drawn from the Montecito Basin during drought.

State Water Project/CCWA

The District's full allocation of SWP water is 3,300 AFY. The District's water supply projections for this source are based on the average historical reduction in allocation delivered in single dry years from 2001 – 2025, which averaged an 8 percent reduction from normal year allocations. In a single dry year, no SWP supply is anticipated to be needed to meet demand. Given the variability of cost to deliver SWP water to Lake Cachuma, in addition to pumping constraints at Lake Cachuma described in Section 6.4 above, in drought years the District is only using enough SWP water necessary to satisfy demand. In addition, surplus SWP water is stored in the Semitropic Groundwater Bank or sold pursuant to the 2024 Water Management Program agreement with Homer LLC.

Supplemental Water Purchases

Supplemental supplies are not part of the District's plan to develop local, reliable supplies going forward. Supplemental water purchases are limited by the delivery infrastructure of the SWP and potential losses/spills associated with San Luis Reservoir and Lake Cachuma. While the District has used supplemental water purchases in the past to cover shortages, it is expected that the local, reliable supplies as discussed in Chapter 6 will reduce the need for supplemental supplies in the future. Supplemental water purchases are assumed to be zero.

Stormwater

Supply from this source is not projected to provide a quantifiable supply to the District over the planning period.

Recycled Water

The District does not currently use any recycled water as a source of supply. Recycled water was previously considered in the District's 2020 UWMP as a potential option for future water supplies, but as described in Section 6.2.6.1, recycled water projects are not considered as long-term options for water supply due to cost constraints.

Supply from Semitropic Bank

The District's portion of the Semitropic Bank is 4,500 AFY, with an annual withdrawal limit of 1,500 AF. The District's 2025 balance of stored and available water in the Semitropic Bank is 5,802 AF. This source of reliable water will be a primary water supply for the District as the multiple dry year period progresses. The single and multiple dry year scenarios assumes that the District will make withdrawals necessary to meet demands. However, supply from the Semitropic Bank is constrained by conveyance through the Cachuma Project when lake levels are low and the emergency pumping barge is in use. This assessment assumed Semitropic Bank water may not be able to be pumped from Lake Cachuma in Year 5 of a drought when Lake Cachuma drops below 25,340 AF storage and the South Coast Conduit limits total cumulative water conveyance.

The following sections present the District's projected available supplies under future normal conditions, a single dry year, and multiple dry years respectively.

7.1.1 Normal Year

Table 7-1 shows anticipated normal year supply and demand totals in five-year increments through 2050. Section 6.4 above contains a detailed list of the individual supply sources that comprise the District's supply portfolio in normal year conditions. The District has supplies that are more than sufficient to meet demands during normal years.

Table 7-1 Projected Normal Year Reliability (DWR Submittal Table 7-2 Retail)

	2030	2035	2040	2045	2050
Supply totals	**7,697**	**7,629**	**7,562**	**7,521**	**7,521**
Use totals	**4,472**	**4,577**	**4,684**	**4,795**	**4,908**
Surplus/(shortfall)	**3,225**	**3,052**	**2,878**	**2,726**	**2,613**

Notes: For a summary of water supply by source for normal year conditions, refer to Table 6-8. Lake Cachuma carryover supplies are not included in supply totals as such carryover supplies are variable; however, Lake Cachuma carryover supplies contribute to additional surplus not captured herein.

7.1.2 Single-Dry Year

Table 7-2 presents the anticipated supply and demand totals in five-year increments through 2050 for a single dry year. For all the years simulated, the District has adequate supplies to meet unconstrained demands without implementing its WSCP. Newly developed sources of supply, especially the Santa Barbara WSA and Semitropic Bank storage, are critical to providing the District with reliable supplies during critically dry years. Based on the analysis presented below, the District is well prepared for a severe drought lasting one year.

Table 7-2 Projected Single Dry Year Reliability (DWR Submittal Table 7-3 Retail)

	2030	2035	2040	2045	2050
Supply totals	7,590	7,528	7,466	7,429	7,429
Use totals	4,874	4,989	5,106	5,226	5,349
Surplus/(shortfall)	2,715	2,538	2,360	2,203	2,079

Table 7-3 Detailed Water Supplies (Single Dry Year) – Projected

Water Supply	Additional Description	2030 Reasonably Available Volume	2035 Reasonably Available Volume	2040 Reasonably Available Volume	2045 Reasonably Available Volume	2050 Reasonably Available Volume
Desalinated Water	WSA with the City of Santa Barbara[1]	1,409	1,409	1,409	1,409	1,409
Imported Water	SWP/ CCWA – State Surface Water[2]	1,492	1,430	1,368	1,331	1,331
Purchased Water	Supplemental Water Purchases	0	0	0	0	0
Groundwater	Montecito Groundwater Basin[3]	600	600	600	600	600
Groundwater	Doulton Tunnel Groundwater Infiltration[4]	234	234	234	234	234
Surface Water	Jameson Lake[5]	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
Surface Water	Lake Cachuma/Cachuma Project – Regional Surface Water[6]	1,855	1,855	1,855	1,855	1,855
Supply from Storage	Semitropic Groundwater Bank[8]	0	0	0	0	0
Total		**7,590**	**7,528**	**7,466**	**7,429**	**7,429**
Demand		**4,874**	**4,989**	**5,106**	**5,226**	**5,349**
Surplus/(Shortage)		**2,715**	**2,538**	**2,360**	**2,203**	**2,079**

Notes:

In a single dry year, the District does not anticipate needing SWP supplies to fulfill demands. Lake Cachuma water supply fluctuation reflects supplies needed to meet single dry year demands.

[1] Water Supply Agreement is for 1,430 AFY; estimated supply reflects line loss during conveyance.

[2] SWP allocation is for 3,300 AFY; single dry year deliveries based on average allocation delivered in single dry years from 2001 – 2025 (48.6%), adjusted for LOC 75% decline, minus reduction due to SCC capacity constraints (assumes Cachuma supply is priority in conveyance. SWP is assumed not needed in single dry years and results in Surplus.

[3] Dry year supply based on the District's modeled maximum average production of groundwater (600 AFY).

[4] Groundwater infiltration into Doulton Tunnel assumes average yield over recent dry years 2001-2024 (234 AFY).

[5] Total available supply in the Jameson Lake is based on the 2,000 AFY maximum allocation based on the ruling in Gin Chow v. City of Santa Barbara.. Deliveries based on the 7-yr modified rule curve and average yield over recent dry years 2001-2024 is 1,373 AFY.

[6] Cachuma water right is for 2,651 AFY; estimated supply cap of 1,855 AFY reflects estimated 30% reduction per the Future Demand and Water Supply Options Update 2025 (Appendix D). The 1,855 AFY does not account for carryover water from Lake Cachuma. The District will withdraw only as much surface water from Lake Cachuma as needed to meet single-dry year demands.

[7] Semitropic maximum contractual storage capacity is for 4,500 AFY; maximum annual recovery is 1,500 AFY; assumed not needed in normal water years.

7.1.3 Multiple Dry Years

Table 7-4 presents the multiple dry year supply and demand totals in five-year increments through 2050. Under multiple dry year conditions, the District will rely on desalination pursuant to the WSA with City of Santa Barbara, and regional surface water (Cachuma Project and Jameson Lake) until those supplies diminish and then, as needed, introduce groundwater, SWP and banked supplies to meet demands.

Lake Cachuma supplies are assumed to be more heavily relied on as Jameson/Doulton supplies decline. The typical decline in base supplies after Year 2 resulting from lower rainfall volumes is balanced with use of carryover storage in Lake Cachuma. The maximum supply from Lake Cachuma in Years 4-5 (1,699 AFY) is based on the average drought deliveries 1984-1990, 2012-2016, and 2021-2022.

Given the constraints related to South Coast Conduit pumping capacity, however, supplies are not always considered sufficient to meet unconstrained demands during multi-year droughts. Shortfalls are projected to occur in Year 3 which the assumed year that Lake Cachuma drops below 25,340 AF storage and results in South Coast Conduit capacity constraints. Shortages would be addressed by invoking WSCP conservation measures, as needed.

The SWP allocations in multiple dry years have shown to decline from the single dry year average (48.6 percent) to a low of 5 percent in the fifth year of drought. The multiple dry year forecast below assumes a linear decline in SWP deliveries from Year 1 (48.6 percent) to Year 5 (5 percent).

The District's diversified supply portfolio is important for assuring supply reliability, especially during the simulated droughts. Even with multiple sources of supply, the District's conservation programs will remain in effect along with the potential for WSCP implementation if needed during the later years of severe multi-year droughts.

Table 7-4 Projected Multiple Dry Year Reliability (DWR Submittal Table 7-4 Retail)

		2030	2035	2040	2045	2050
First year	Supply totals	7,590	7,528	7,466	7,429	7,429
	Use totals	4,874	4,989	5,106	5,226	5,349
	Surplus/(shortfall)	**2,715**	**2,538**	**2,360**	**2,203**	**2,079**
Second year	Supply totals	5,930	5,930	5,930	5,930	5,930
	Use totals	4,972	5,089	5,208	5,331	5,456
	Surplus/(shortfall)	**958**	**840**	**722**	**599**	**474**
Third year	Supply totals	5,508	5,508	5,508	5,508	5,565
	Use totals	5,071	5,191	5,312	5,437	5,565
	Surplus/(shortfall)	**437**	**317**	**196**	**71**	**0**
Fourth year	Supply totals	5,173	5,295	5,418	5,546	5,677
	Use totals	5,173	5,295	5,418	5,546	5,677
	Surplus/(shortfall)	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Fifth year	Supply totals	5,276	5,401	5,466	5,466	5,466
	Use totals	5,276	5,401	5,527	5,657	5,790
	Surplus/(shortfall)	**0**	**0**	**-61**	**-191**	**-325**

Table 7-5 Detailed Water Supply (Multiple Dry Years – Year 1) – Projected

Water Supply	Additional Description	2030 Reasonably Available Volume	2035 Reasonably Available Volume	2040 Reasonably Available Volume	2045 Reasonably Available Volume	2050 Reasonably Available Volume
Year 1						
Desalinated Water	WSA with the City of Santa Barbara	1,409	1,409	1,409	1,409	1,409
Imported Water	SWP/ CCWA – State Surface Water	1,492	1,430	1,368	1,331	1,331
Purchased Water	Supplemental Water Purchases	0	0	0	0	0
Groundwater	Montecito Groundwater Basin	600	600	600	600	600
Groundwater	Doulton Tunnel Groundwater Infiltration	234	234	234	234	234
Surface Water	Jameson Lake	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
Surface Water	Lake Cachuma/Cachuma Project – Regional Surface Water	1,855	1,855	1,855	1,855	1,855
Supply from Storage	Semitropic Groundwater Bank	0	0	0	0	0
Total		**7,590**	**7,528**	**7,466**	**7,429**	**7,429**
Demand		**4,874**	**4,989**	**5,106**	**5,226**	**5,349**
Surplus/Shortage		**2,715**	**2,538**	**2,360**	**2,203**	**2,079**

Table 7-6 Detailed Water Supply (Multiple Dry Years – Year 2) – Projected

Water Supply	Additional Description	2030 Reasonably Available Volume	2035 Reasonably Available Volume	2040 Reasonably Available Volume	2045 Reasonably Available Volume	2050 Reasonably Available Volume
Year 2						
Desalinated Water	WSA with the City of Santa Barbara	1,409	1,409	1,409	1,409	1,409
Imported Water	SWP/ CCWA – State Surface Water	1,243	1,243	1,243	1,243	1,243
Purchased Water	Supplemental Water Purchases	0	0	0	0	0
Groundwater	Montecito Groundwater Basin	600	600	600	600	600
Groundwater	Doulton Tunnel Groundwater Infiltration	222	222	222	222	222
Surface Water	Jameson Lake	600	600	600	600	600
Surface Water	Lake Cachuma/Cachuma Project – Regional Surface Water	1,855	1,855	1,855	1,855	1,855
Supply from Storage	Semitropic Groundwater Bank	0	0	0	0	0
Total		**5,930**	**5,930**	**5,930**	**5,930**	**5,930**
Demand		**4,972**	**5,089**	**5,208**	**5,331**	**5,456**
Surplus/Shortage		**958**	**840**	**722**	**599**	**474**

Table 7-7 Detailed Water Supply (Multiple Dry Years – Year 3) – Projected

Water Supply	Additional Description	2030 Reasonably Available Volume	2035 Reasonably Available Volume	2040 Reasonably Available Volume	2045 Reasonably Available Volume	2050 Reasonably Available Volume
Year 3						
Desalinated Water	WSA with the City of Santa Barbara	1,409	1,409	1,409	1,409	1,409
Imported Water	SWP/ CCWA – State Surface Water	933	933	933	933	933
Purchased Water	Supplemental Water Purchases	0	0	0	0	0
Groundwater	Montecito Groundwater Basin	600	600	600	600	600
Groundwater	Doulton Tunnel Groundwater Infiltration	211	211	211	211	211
Surface Water	Jameson Lake	500	500	500	500	500
Surface Water	Lake Cachuma/Cachuma Project – Regional Surface Water	1,855	1,855	1,855	1,855	1,855
Supply from Storage	Semitropic Groundwater Bank	0	0	0	0	58
Total		**5,508**	**5,508**	**5,508**	**5,508**	**5,565**
Demand		**5,071**	**5,191**	**5,312**	**5,437**	**5,565**
Surplus/Shortage		**437**	**317**	**196**	**71**	**0**

Table 7-8 Detailed Water Supply (Multiple Dry Years – Year 4) – Projected

Water Supply	Additional Description	2030 Reasonably Available Volume	2035 Reasonably Available Volume	2040 Reasonably Available Volume	2045 Reasonably Available Volume	2050 Reasonably Available Volume
Year 4						
Desalinated Water	WSA with the City of Santa Barbara	1,409	1,409	1,409	1,409	1,409
Imported Water	SWP/ CCWA – State Surface Water	699	699	699	699	699
Purchased Water	Supplemental Water Purchases	0	0	0	0	0
Groundwater	Montecito Groundwater Basin	600	600	600	600	600
Groundwater	Doulton Tunnel Groundwater Infiltration	201	201	201	201	201
Surface Water	Jameson Lake	400	400	400	400	400
Surface Water	Lake Cachuma/Cachuma Project – Regional Surface Water	1,699	1,699	1,699	1,699	1,699
Supply from Storage	Semitropic Groundwater Bank	165	287	410	538	669
Total		**5,173**	**5,295**	**5,418**	**5,546**	**5,677**
Demand		**5,173**	**5,295**	**5,418**	**5,546**	**5,677**
Surplus/Shortage		**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**

Table 7-9 Detailed Water Supply (Multiple Dry Years – Year 5) – Projected

Water Supply	Additional Description	2030 Reasonably Available Volume	2035 Reasonably Available Volume	2040 Reasonably Available Volume	2045 Reasonably Available Volume	2050 Reasonably Available Volume
Year 5						
Desalinated Water	WSA with the City of Santa Barbara	1,409	1,409	1,409	1,409	1,409
Imported Water	SWP/ CCWA – State Surface Water	165	165	165	165	165
Purchased Water	Supplemental Water Purchases	0	0	0	0	0
Groundwater	Montecito Groundwater Basin	600	600	600	600	600
Groundwater	Doulton Tunnel Groundwater Infiltration	191	191	191	191	191
Surface Water	Jameson Lake	350	350	350	350	350
Surface Water	Lake Cachuma/Cachuma Project – Regional Surface Water	1,699	1,699	1,699	1,699	1,699
Supply from Storage	Semitropic Groundwater Bank	862	987	1,052	1,052	1,052
Total		**5,276**	**5,401**	**5,466**	**5,466**	**5,466**
Demand		**5,276**	**5,401**	**5,527**	**5,657**	**5,790**
Surplus/Shortage		**0**	**0**	**-61**	**-191**	**-325**

7.2 Drought Risk Assessment

This subsection provides the detailed approach for conducting the District's Drought Risk Assessment, including the data and methods used.

7.2.1 Data, Methods, and Basis for Water Shortage Condition

District demands included in the Drought Risk Assessment include anticipated deliveries for treated water to customers and system losses. The projected demands considered climate characteristics, current land uses, and population and growth trends within the service area. Data comes directly from Section 4, with future projections supported by the District's Future Demand and Water Supply Options Update 2025 (Appendix D).

Demand increases are assumed to result from hotter and drier conditions, with values based on historical demand response by District customers between the drought periods of 1945-1951, 1984-1990, and 2012-2016.

If reductions in demand are needed due to an unanticipated supply constraint, the District's WSCP shall be implemented (Appendix G). If results of administering shortage response actions for the initial Stage Declaration indicate adequate supplies to meet expected demands, the Stage Declaration is proclaimed. Conversely, if results of administering shortage response actions for the initial Stage Declaration indicate inadequate supplies to meet expected demands, the Stage Declaration is increased, and the resulting shortage response actions are analyzed. This process is repeated until an appropriate Stage Declaration (and subsequent shortage response actions) results in expected supplies able to meet expected demands.

7.2.2 DRA Water Source Reliability

The assumptions used to analyze long-term service reliability from each supply source were the same as described in Section 7.2, except as specifically noted here.

7.2.3 Total Water Supply and Use Comparison

Table 7-10 below, shows the District's supplies and demands over the next five years assuming the next five years are as dry as the 2012-2016 drought. In the later years of the drought, the supply available from the SWP/CCWA and Jameson Lake decline significantly. The District instead relies on Lake Cachuma carryover water, groundwater production, Santa Barbara WSA deliveries, and withdrawals from Semitropic Bank. The District anticipates only withdrawing modest amounts from Semitropic Bank in the later years of multi-year droughts.

The results presented in Table 7-10 indicate that the District does not have sufficient supplies to meet unconstrained demands in the later years of a multi-dry year scenarios without implementing WSCP actions.

Table 7-10 Five-Year Drought Reliability Assessment (DWR Submittal Table 7-5 Retail)

Water Supply	Additional Description	2026 Reasonably Available Volume	2027 Reasonably Available Volume	2028 Reasonably Available Volume	2029 Reasonably Available Volume	2030 Reasonably Available Volume
Year 5						
Desalinated Water	WSA with the City of Santa Barbara	1,409	1,409	1,409	1,409	1,409
Imported Water	SWP/ CCWA – State Surface Water	1,492	1,243	933	699	165
Purchased Water	Supplemental Water Purchases	0	0	0	0	0
Groundwater	Montecito Groundwater Basin	600	600	600	600	600
Groundwater	Doulton Tunnel Groundwater Infiltration	234	222	211	201	191
Surface Water	Jameson Lake	2,000	600	500	500	350
Surface Water	Lake Cachuma/Cachuma Project – Regional Surface Water	1,855	1,855	1,855	1,699	1,699
Supply from Storage	Semitropic Groundwater Bank	0	0	0	165	489
Total		**7,590**	**5,930**	**5,508**	**5,173**	**4,903**
Demand		**4,785**	**4,880**	**4,978**	**5,078**	**5,179**
Surplus/Shortage		**2,805**	**1,049**	**530**	**95**	**-277**

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8 Water Shortage Contingency Plan

This chapter provides a summary of information from the District's Water Shortage Contingency Plan (WSCP) to demonstrate compliance with DWR requirements. The District's WSCP is a standalone document included as Appendix G.

The WSCP describes how the District intends to predict and respond to potential water shortages, which occur when available water supplies are reduced to a level that cannot support projected demands. The WSCP serves as a planning document to guide the District by identifying response actions for efficient and accountable management of water shortages with predictability and transparency. While the WSCP does not provide absolute direction, it offers a range of response options to address varying water shortage conditions.

Water shortages may be triggered by hydrologic limitations such as prolonged periods of below-normal precipitation, failures or limitations in conveyance or treatment infrastructure, or a combination of both. Hydrologic or drought-related shortages typically develop and subside gradually, whereas infrastructure-related shortages tend to occur more suddenly and unpredictably. Water supplies may be interrupted or substantially reduced due to events such as drought, earthquakes that damage delivery or storage facilities, regional power outages, or toxic spills that affect water quality.

8.1 Water Supply Reliability Assessment

In Chapter 7 of its 2025 UWMP, the District evaluates its ability to meet water demands under normal, single dry, and multiple dry year conditions, as well as through a formal Drought Risk Assessment. Thanks to a diversified supply portfolio—including desalinated water, groundwater, surface reservoirs, and banked storage—the District water service is reliable in all scenarios except the fifth year of a multiyear drought, where small shortages occur.

Demand is assumed to rise during hotter and drier conditions associated with drought. The District faces several supply vulnerabilities during drought, including:

- Reduced surface water inflows to **Jameson Lake** and **Lake Cachuma**
- Reduced **Doulton Tunnel** infiltration
- Reduced **State Water Project (SWP)** allocations
- Water quality degradation in open-air reservoirs
- Natural disaster risks (earthquakes, wildfires)

To compensate for reductions in regional supply sources, the District increases groundwater pumping and withdraws banked water during dry years.

In normal and single dry years, the District supplies can fully meet demands without additional conservation measures. During most of the multiple dry year scenario (years 1-4), no shortages occur. However, in the fifth year, shortages occur due to conveyance constraints that limit the delivery of both Cachuma Project and Semitropic Bank supplies. Implementation of Stage 1 of the WSCP is likely necessary to reduce demand.

This pattern is observed in the Drought Risk Assessment for years 2026-2030 that is modeled after local demand and supply response in the 2012-2016 and 2021-2022 droughts. In this scenario, the District can meet demands in years 1-4, but shortages occur in year 5. The fifth consecutive year of a drought requires WSCP implementation, along with other potential supply acquisition projects being considered by the District.

8.2 Annual Water Supply and Demand Assessment

As required by the CWC §10632(a), the District conducts an Annual Water Supply and Demand Assessment (AWSDA) to help inform water resources management decisions for the coming year. The AWSDA methodology is described in the District's WSCP.

The District's 2025 AWSDA[42] concluded the District's current water supply outlook, which assumes dry weather conditions return next winter and customer demand remains at planned levels, projects sufficient water supply to meet demands over the next 3 years without water shortages or the need to acquire supplemental water supplies.

8.3 Six Standard Water Shortage Levels

Pursuant to CWC §10632(a)(2), the District adopted the State's six standard water shortage levels representing 10 percent, 20 percent, 30 percent, 40 percent, 50 percent, and >50 percent supply shortages. These standardized stages, developed by DWR, provide a consistent statewide method for identifying and communicating shortage conditions.

The District's WSCP outlines response actions for each stage, including associated demand reduction or supply augmentation estimates, as required by CWC §10632(a)(3). During a shortage, the District will select only those actions appropriate to the specific conditions; not all actions will be used in every event.

8.4 Shortage Response Actions

The District's WSCP establishes a comprehensive set of actions to address water shortages, organized into key categories to ensure flexibility and effectiveness.

8.4.1 Demand Reduction

The District promotes efficient water use at all times through permanent conservation measures outlined in its 2022 Water Use Efficiency Plan and 2024 Ordinance No. 99. These ongoing efforts, supported by education and outreach, form the foundation for managing demand during both normal and shortage conditions. The DMMs outlined in Ordinance 99 include the following described in Table 8-1.

[42] Montecito Water District. Annual Water Supply and Demand Assessment July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026. https://wuedata.water.ca.gov/public/wsda_attachments/2218488395/AWSDA%20MWD%202025.pdf

Table 8-1 Ordinance 99 Demand Management Measures

Ordinance 99 Demand Management Measure 5.0	
Water Use Efficiencies and Best Practices	
A	Use District-provided smart water meters and the customer interface, WaterSmart to monitor real-time water use and to identify potential leaks.
B	Redesign landscape to replace some or all vegetation with drought-tolerant or native plants.
C	Water lawns and outdoor areas only when needed. Most landscapes do not need to be watered daily and excess watering not only wastes water but can cause harm to the landscape.
D	Improve irrigation management with the installation of a soil moisture sensor for measuring soil moisture and determining when irrigation is needed.
E	Replace or upgrade old irrigation systems with state-of-the-art efficient drip or spray systems.
F	Place 3" to 4" of mulch around trees and plants to retain moisture in the soil.
G	Set lawn mower blades at 3" to 4" to keep lawn longer and retain moisture in the soil.
H	Install water harvesting and diversion features, such as rain gutters, rain barrels, in-ground storage, and rain gardens to capture runoff from roofs and pavement for use on the property and/or groundwater recharge.
I	Install or replace plumbing fixtures with water-conserving plumbing fixtures such as high-efficiency toilets, showerheads, and faucets
J	Reduce the length of showers or the amount of water used for baths.
K	Turn off the water while brushing your teeth or shaving.
L	Install high efficiency appliances including washing machines and dishwashers.
M	Only wash laundry and dishes with full loads.
N	If on a septic system, install a "laundry-to-landscape" graywater system
O	For pre-cleaning dishes, use a filled sink instead of running water.
P	Consider installing an instant water heater on sinks that are located far from the main water heater and/or hot water recirculating system.
Q	Wash vehicles using a waterless car wash product. A waterless car wash is an eco-friendly and efficient car wash that uses little or no water. Alternatively use a commercial car washing facility.
R	Report broken, poorly timed or misaligned sprinklers around the community.
S	After a power outage, irrigation timers often reset to default. Check irrigation timers often.
T	Replace batteries in irrigation timers annually.
U	Cover swimming pools, spas, and hot tubs to reduce water loss due to evaporation.
V	Hotels, motels, etc., offer an option of not laundering towels and linens daily and displaying a notice of this option.
W	Implement additional, available property specific efficiencies as appropriate.
Prohibition Against Waste of Water	
A	Washing of hard surfaces such as driveways, sidewalks, patios and parking lots except where necessary to protect health and safety. Pressure washing for maintenance or repair is not considered water
B	Applying water to landscaping during, and within 48 hours after measurable rainfall of at least one-quarter inch of rain.
C	Applying water to outdoor landscaping in a manner that causes significant runoff such that water flows onto an adjacent property, non-irrigated areas, private and public walkways, parking lots or structures.
D	Washing a vehicle without the use of a bucket and/or hose equipped with a hand-operated shut off nozzle.
E	Using potable water in ornamental fountains or other decorative water features that do not use a water recirculating system.

Ordinance 99 Demand Management Measure 5.0	
F	Irrigating turf on public street medians or publicly owned or maintained landscaped areas between the street and sidewalk where the turf does not serve a community or neighborhood function such as for picnicking, sports, pet walking, etc.
G	Irrigating outdoor landscaping during the warmest part of the day when evaporation is the greatest. Irrigation is most efficient between evening and mid-morning, such as between the hours of 6 p.m. and 10 a.m.
H	Draining and refilling a swimming pool, spa or hot tub more than once every five years.
I	Using potable water to fill new ponds and maintaining the water level for unlined ponds.
J	Allowing an identified water line break or leak to continue without immediately making the necessary repairs or turning off the water service to the property temporarily to prevent water loss until such time as the repair has been completed.

In drought conditions, the District has established its WSCP to further reduce water use. The demand reduction actions for each stage in the WSCP are provided in Table 8-2.

Table 8-2 Demand Reduction Actions (DWR Submittal Table 8-3 Retail)

Shortage Level	Demand Reduction Actions	How much is this going to reduce the shortage gap?		Penalty, Charge, or Other Enforcement?
		Volume or Percentage	Shortage Gap Reduction Value	
1+	Increase communication to customers about parcel specific Water Budgets	Percentage	0-10%	No
1+	Increase Customer's use of WaterSmart, expanding leak alerts	Percentage	0-10%	No
1+	Promote Rebates program, Customer Water Audits and other water efficiency campaigns	Percentage	0-10%	No
1+	Expand public information campaign to enhance awareness of water use efficiency and conservation	Percentage	0-10%	No
2+	Targeted outreach to customers using water in excess of their Water Budget	Percentage	11-20%	No
2+	Targeted outreach to highest water users	Percentage	11-20%	No
2+	Expand conservation communication campaign using methods such as electronic signage	Percentage	11-20%	No
2+	Discourage discretionary uses such as the filling of pools, fountains, and water features	Percentage	11-20%	No
2+	Increase property specific water use efficiency audits	Percentage	11-20%	No
2+	Increased rebates specifically for landscape conversions	Percentage	11-20%	No
2+	Limit sale of water for construction occurring outside the District's service area	Percentage	11-20%	No
2+	Increase system water loss reduction efforts	Percentage	11-20%	No
2+	Implement or Modify Drought Rate Structure or Surcharge	Percentage	11-20%	No
3+	Apply a Drought Factor to Water Budgets aimed at reducing outdoor irrigation for residential and CII customers	Percentage	21-30%	Yes
3+	Establish penalty for water use in excess of Water Budgets; consider establishing budget based rates	Percentage	21-30%	Yes
3+	Pool, spa, and pond refills prohibited; topping off is permitted	Percentage	21-30%	Yes
3+	Limit hydrant flushing	Percentage	21-30%	Yes
3+	Prohibit the sale of water for construction purposes	Percentage	21-30%	Yes
4+	Increase Drought Factor and apply it to Water Budgets	Percentage	31-40%	Yes
4+	Limit outdoor irrigation for residential and CII customers to 1 day per week	Percentage	31-40%	Yes

Shortage Level	Demand Reduction Actions	How much is this going to reduce the shortage gap?		Penalty, Charge, or Other Enforcement?
		Volume or Percentage	Shortage Gap Reduction Value	
4+	Use of mechanical devices to restrict flow through service lines on severely over-budget accounts that are non-responsive to outreach, and other mandatory restrictions and enforcement	Percentage	31-40%	Yes
5+	Increase Drought Factor and apply it to Water Budgets	Percentage	41-50%	Yes
5+	Prohibit outdoor irrigation for all customers. Use limited to public health and safety water	Percentage	41-50%	Yes
6+	Prohibit all outdoor use except as necessary to protect public health and safety.	Percentage	Over 50%	Yes
6+	Issue-specific measures developed as needed	Percentage	Over 50%	Yes

8.4.2 Supply Augmentation

During a water shortage, the District may pursue supply augmentation measures to help maintain supply reliability and reduce the need for additional demand reductions. These actions are intended to supplement existing supplies and provide flexibility when conditions limit normal water availability. The District will evaluate potential augmentation options based on feasibility, cost, and availability at the time of implementation, using them as needed to support overall supply and demand balance during shortage events.

Table 8-3 Supply Augmentation and Other Actions (DWR Submittal Table 8-2 Retail)

Shortage Level	Supply Augmentation Methods and Other Actions by Water Supplier	How much is this going to reduce the shortage gap?		Additional Explanation or Reference
		Volume or Percentage	Shortage Gap Reduction Value	
1+	Other Actions (describe)	As Needed	As Needed	Obtain additional supplies through District's ongoing water supply portfolio, as needed to meet shortfall

8.4.3 Operational Changes

During shortage conditions, operations may be affected by demand reduction responses. Operational changes to address a water shortage may be implemented based on the severity of the reduction goal. The District, with Board of Directors approval as needed, will consider their operational procedures at the time of a shortage to identify changes they can take to maximize supply and reduce demand during a water shortage stage.

8.4.4 Additional Mandatory Restrictions

In addition to any shortage response level being declared, the District maintains prohibitions and restrictions at all times pursuant to the District's Ordinance No. 99.

8.4.5 Seismic Risk Assessment, Mitigation Plan, and Emergency Response Plan

The District maintains several emergency planning documents including its Hazard Mitigation Plan, Emergency Response Plan, and seismic evaluations that together guide preparedness, response, and recovery efforts during major emergencies. These plans are regularly updated and supplemented by the County's Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan.

To ensure continuity during a sudden water supply interruption, the District relies on a diverse supply portfolio, backup power at critical facilities, remote system monitoring, 24/7 on-call staffing, and well-maintained equipment and materials for emergency repairs. Coordination with mutual-aid partners such as CalWARN further strengthens response capabilities.

While earthquakes present a key hazard, District facilities have historically performed well. Ongoing mitigation includes seismic upgrades, emergency distribution planning, and regular staff training. The District's diversified supplies and established emergency procedures together enhance system resilience during catastrophic events.

8.4.6 Shortage Response Action Effectiveness

The District routinely tracks water production, distribution, and customer billing data. During a water shortage, this information is compared to normal year demand or to a designated State-required baseline to evaluate progress toward meeting shortage stage objectives. Estimated water savings for each WSCP action are provided in Table 8-2, with higher savings achieved when multiple actions are implemented together. Some measures provide substantial reductions at advanced shortage stages. For example, prohibiting outdoor irrigation in Stage 5 is estimated to reduce the shortage gap by up to 50 percent. These estimates guide the District in selecting and adjusting response actions to meet demand reductions.

8.5 Communication Protocols

The District uses its established communications program to keep customers and stakeholders informed during a water shortage. Public notifications for Board meetings related to the Annual Water Supply and Demand Assessment or potential shortage declarations follow standard Board noticing and press release procedures.

When the Board declares a shortage stage, the District announces the declaration and associated restrictions through press releases, billing statements, and updates to the District website, which will feature the current stage, restrictions, and available customer resources. Ongoing Board meetings will review conditions, customer response, and any recommended adjustments to the shortage actions.

8.6 Compliance and Enforcement

In accordance with CWC §10632(a)(6), the District enforces water-use restrictions through a tiered compliance approach that may be adjusted as needed. Enforcement measures include:

- First violation: Written warning.
- Second and subsequent violations: A $250 fine, which doubles with each additional violation up to a maximum of $1,000 per violation.
- Fourth violation (or earlier if warranted): The General Manager may require installation of a flow restrictor on the customer's service line.
- The District may apply additional penalties or charges as needed to enforce prohibitions on specific water uses.

These measures support effective implementation of shortage response actions and ensure adherence to District water-use requirements.

8.7 Legal Authorities

The District's authority to manage water supplies and prevent waste is established under the County Water District Law and supported by California Constitution Article X, Section 2. State law (CWC §§31026–31028) authorizes the District to declare water shortages, restrict water use, and adopt ordinances needed to enforce those restrictions. Additional emergency powers under CWC §§350–359 allow the District to declare a water shortage emergency when normal demands cannot be met and to impose regulations that conserve water for essential needs.

The District also coordinates with local agencies under the California Emergency Services Act when broader emergency declarations are necessary. A water shortage emergency will be declared when projected supplies cannot meet demand, and appropriate WSCP measures or additional ordinances will be implemented to ensure compliance.

8.8 Financial Consequences

Implementation of the WSCP can affect the District's finances because reduced water use lowers revenue while costs increase for monitoring, enforcement, customer outreach, and potential supplemental supplies. The District's rate structure, which is composed of fixed monthly charges and variable volumetric rates, means that reductions in water sales can significantly impact revenue, as volumetric charges make up the majority of income.

During shortage conditions, the District may incur additional expenses for staffing, third-party support, equipment, and data tracking. Supplemental water supplies, if pursued, are expected to be more costly than regular sources and will be evaluated as needed.

The District maintains strong financial management practices and can mitigate impacts through tools such as reserve funds, deferring capital or operational expenses, and collecting penalty revenues. Although the District has used drought surcharges in the past, its updated rate structure is designed to withstand lower demand, and surcharges are not anticipated except under exceptional circumstances.

8.9 Monitoring and Reporting

In accordance with CWC §10632(a)(9), the District monitors and reports on the effectiveness of WSCP actions to ensure supply and demand remain in balance. After implementing shortage-stage measures, the District tracks both water use and available supplies using the same data sources that support its supply and demand assessments.

District staff will report to the Board at least quarterly with updates summarizing:

- Actual vs. projected demands by customer class and total use
- Actual vs. projected supply availability for each water source
- Supply projections for the next 36 months
- Any additional reporting required by the State

Based on the results, the District will evaluate whether adjustments to the shortage stage or response actions are needed. If necessary, the District may adopt additional measures, update ordinances, or revise the WSCP through the Board process unless urgent conditions require earlier action.

8.10 WSCP Refinement Procedures

The WSCP is designed to remain adaptable, consistent with CWC §10632(a)(10). The District will regularly review its shortage criteria and response actions to ensure they remain effective, incorporating lessons learned and findings from its monitoring and reporting program.

Refinements such as changes to shortage triggers, stage structure, or response actions will be incorporated into future WSCP updates. New actions identified by District staff or the public may be introduced as voluntary measures before being formally adopted.

8.11 Special Water Feature Distinction

CWC §10632(b) requires distinguishing pools and spas, which must use potable water for health and safety reasons, from other decorative water features, which may use recycled water. Under normal conditions, District Ordinance No. 99 prohibits operating decorative water features without recirculation and limits draining/refilling pools and spas to once every five years. At Stage 2+, refilling of pools, spas, and ponds is prohibited, while topping off remains permitted.

8.12 Plan Adoption, Submittal, and Availability

The District's WSCP was prepared and adopted in accordance with CWC §10632(a)(3)(C). The WSCP was presented at a duly noticed public hearing and formally adopted by the District Board of Directors on [DATE] by Resolution No. [XXXX]. Required public and agency notifications were provided, and the WSCP was made available for public review prior to adoption.

Following adoption, the WSCP was made publicly available within 30 days and submitted electronically to DWR through the Water Use Efficiency Data Portal concurrent with the UWMP. Hard copies of the adopted WSCP and UWMP were submitted to the California State Library, and copies were distributed to applicable cities and counties within the District's service area within 30 days of adoption. Any future amendments required by DWR will be adopted by the District Board of Directors and resubmitted to DWR within 30 days of adoption.

9 Demand Management Measures

This chapter describes the District's implementation of Demand Management Measures (DMMs) in accordance with the CWC and the 2025 UWMP Guidebook. It describes implementation during the past five years, actions taken to support State conservation targets, and planned near-term measures. The District's DMM program builds on long-standing conservation efforts, the District's Water Use Efficiency Plan (WUEP),[43] and Ordinance 99 (Water Conservation Ordinance), forming a comprehensive and adaptive water-use efficiency strategy.

9.1 Conservation Legislation and Regulatory Context

In 2018, Senate Bill (SB) 606 and Assembly Bill (AB) 1668 were enacted to establish long-term indoor and outdoor water use conservation goals across the state. Collectively referred to as "Making Conservation a California Way of Life," the bills are companion measures that link state water-efficiency targets with local water-supply planning achieve statewide water conservation goals and maintain reliable water supplies. AB 1668 directs DWR and the SWRCB to develop long-term water use efficiency standards and adopt drought planning measures into the California Water Plan. SB 606 strengthens urban water management planning objectives, requires annual reporting on actual water usage and grants the SWRCB the authority to monitor, verify and take corrective action to remedy violations if a supplier is non-compliant. A key principle of the legislation is development of and compliance with the UWUO, which defines the maximum amount of aggregate water usage for a water purveyor when water is managed efficiently. Further, the UWUO promotes water-use efficiency goals by encouraging permanent conservation practices at the agency level rather than temporary drought restrictions.

California Code of Regulations Title 23, §965 et seq, establishes a framework for calculating an UWUO. SB 1157 set the residential indoor water use standard at 55 GPCD until January 1, 2025, when it lowers to 47 GPCD, and finally lowers to 42 GPCD on January 1, 2030. For the outdoor water use standards, compliance is based on a landscape efficiency factor which indicates the amount of water a supplier needs to deliver to maintain healthy and efficient landscapes.

SB 1572 further directed conservation of potable water by eliminating non-functional turf. The bill mandates removal of non-functional turf and associated reduction in water use, includes a phased compliance schedule with public landscapes by January 1, 2027, CII landscapes by January 1, 2028, and HOA common areas by January 1, 2029.

9.2 History of Conservation Programming

Over time, the District's conservation programming has progressed from traditional, compliance-oriented measures toward a comprehensive, data-driven water use efficiency strategy guided by the District's WUEP. The WUEP evaluated historic performance, identified key drivers of demand, and established a long-term, cost-effective portfolio of efficiency investments aligned with statewide objectives.

[43] Montecito Water District, 2022. Water Use Efficiency Plan. (December 13, 2022)

To support continued long-term reductions, the District evaluated a range of potential measures and ultimately selected the WUEP Strategic Program (Program B) as its preferred implementation pathway. This portfolio emphasizes high-value conservation actions, including AMI engagement, parcel-level water budgeting and monitoring, landscape and device rebates, water audits, and ongoing customer education. According to the WUEP, implementation of the Strategic Program is projected to achieve approximately 842 AFY of water savings by 2045.

9.3 Implementation Over Past Five Years (2021-2025)

Over the past five years, the District has implemented a coordinated suite of conservation measures from the WUEP, including:

- AMI Customer Portal and Targeted Outreach
- Water Loss (District System Leak Detection)
- Mulch Program
- Indoor Appliances Rebate Program – Commercial/Institutional
- Indoor Appliances Rebate Program – Residential
- High Efficiency Toilet Rebates
- Outdoor Water Audits
- Drip Irrigation Rebate
- Smart Irrigation Controller Rebate
- As-Needed Water Budgeting/Monitoring at Parcel Level
- Landscape Conservation/Improvements— Residential
- Community Outreach and Education
- Demonstration Garden
- Commercial/Institutional Audit Program

These measures demonstrate durable conservation beyond temporary drought restrictions and position the District to meet emerging performance standards.

9.4 Demand Management Measures

This section provides a narrative discussion of the District's DMMs. The District's DMM program is designed to reduce potable water demand, improve system efficiency, and enhance long-term water supply reliability under a wide range of hydrologic conditions. These measures support achievement of the District's UWUO established pursuant to State law and complement supply-side investments described elsewhere in this UWMP.

The District implements all foundational DMMs required of retail urban water suppliers, as described below. In addition, the District participates in regional conservation programming through the Santa Barbara County Regional Water Efficiency Program (RWEP)**,** which provides coordinated outreach, technical assistance, and incentive programs throughout the South Coast region.

9.4.1 Water Waste Prevention Ordinances

In June 2024, the District Board of Directors adopted Ordinance 99 (Appendix H) establishing permanent prohibitions on water waste and detailing recommended best practices such as soil-moisture-based irrigation, mulch use, and efficient irrigation hardware. Examples of

water-waste prohibitions include runoff, irrigation during and within 48 hours after measurable rainfall of at least one-quarter inch, and use of potable water in non-recirculating decorative features. Enforcement escalates from a written warning to $250 and then doubles with subsequent violations up to $1,000, with authority to install a flow restrictor in egregious cases and a defined appeal process.

9.4.2 Metering

The District meters all potable water deliveries to customers and maintains production, transmission, and distribution system metering to accurately account for water use and system losses. The District operates ongoing meter testing, calibration, and replacement program to ensure data accuracy.

9.4.3 Property Specific Water Budgets

The District has fully transitioned to AMI, which serves as the foundation for its modern demand management strategy. In April 2025, the District introduced property-specific Water Budgets,[44] a data-driven tool that provides each customer with a unique, science-based guide for efficient indoor and outdoor water use based on their specific property characteristics. The District provides calculated property-specific Water Budgets to all customers on their monthly bill, free of charge. This system integrates with the WaterSmart customer portal, enabling residents to track daily usage and receive automated alerts for potential leaks. More information about Water Budgets, including the methodology for calculations are available at https://www.montecitowater.com/conservation/water-budgets/.

9.4.4 Conservation Pricing

In June 2024, the District adopted a new five-year schedule of rate increases following a comprehensive Cost of Service study.[45] This updated structure maintains a three-tiered pricing system for single-family and multi-family residential connections, designed to provide clear conservation price signals based on consumption levels. Under this methodology, Tier 1 covers efficient indoor use (0-9 hcf), while Tiers 2 (10-35 hcf) and 3 (36+ hcf) are priced significantly higher to reflect the cost of securing supplemental water supplies, such as desalination and SWP imports. This conservation-based rate structure aims to reduce customer water use while ensuring the financial stability needed for critical infrastructure and long-term supply reliability.[46]

9.4.5 Public Education and Outreach

The District provides ongoing public education and outreach to promote water conservation and efficient water use. Outreach efforts include customer bill inserts, District website content, targeted communications, press releases, workshops, and direct customer assistance. The District's website (https://www.montecitowater.com/conservation/) provides access to a wide range of conservation information, rebates and incentive programs, and activities.

Through participation in the RWEP, District customers have access to regionally coordinated education programs, school curricula, professional trainings, and conservation messaging that

[44] Montecito Water District. 2025. Water Budgets. https://www.montecitowater.com/conservation/water-budgets/
[45] Montecito Water District, 2024. "Water Rate Study: Final Report (May 1, 2024) https://www.montecitowater.com/doc/9719/
[46] Montecito Water District, 2024. Rates & Fees https://www.montecitowater.com/customer-service/rates-fees-meters/

leverage economies of scale and consistent regional messaging. These efforts support long-term behavioral changes and improved water use efficiency across all customer sectors.

9.4.6 Distribution System Water Loss

The District proactively manages distribution system water loss through a combination of advanced technology and infrastructure maintenance. A cornerstone of this program is the 2024 rollout of District-wide AMI smart meters, which allow for real-time monitoring of system-wide water demand and the rapid identification of distribution-side leaks. The District is responsible for the ongoing repair and maintenance of its treatment and distribution network up to the customer meter and for any significant water leak on their side of the meter due to circumstances out of their control.[47]

To support these responsibilities, the District implements the following strategies to reduce water loss and protect system reliability:

- **Real-Time Monitoring:** Utilizing the WaterSmart customer portal, the District and its customers receive automated notifications of unusual flow patterns, significantly reducing the duration of undetected leaks.
- **Infrastructure Investment:** The District's water rates and its Water Availability Charge provides dedicated annual funding for capital improvement projects, including the replacement of aging pipelines and upgrading distribution services to minimize physical water loss.
- **Asset Management:** The District employs a proactive asset management strategy to evaluate the condition of its distribution infrastructure and prioritize repairs before catastrophic failures occur. The District completed the first ever Asset Management Plan (AMP) in 2024 which is used to inform long range capital project planning.

The District's American Water Works Association Water Audit is included as Appendix I.

9.4.7 Conservation Program Coordination and Staffing

Since 2020, the District has expanded water conservation programs, coordination and staffing following adoption of the WUEP and Ordinance No. 99. Conservation program management is performed by District staff, who administer audits and rebates, oversee AMI/analytics, coordinate with RWEP, and manage reporting. The District maintains dedicated staffing resources to support water conservation program implementation. The District's Water Conservation Specialist position is responsible for conservation program administration, customer assistance, water audits, landscape efficiency evaluations, and coordination with regional partners.

9.4.8 Other Demand Management Measures

In addition to the foundational measures described above, the District implements supplemental DMMs tailored to local conditions as implemented through the WUEP programs. The WUEP evaluated 20 conservation measures to select DMMs that would meet regulatory and compliance mandates. This included analysis of water savings and benefits based on demands, including cost and savings associated with each program. From this analysis, an implementation strategy and schedule was identified to track progress for 17 identified DMMs as reflected in Table 9-1.

[47] Montecito Water District 2025. Resolution No. 2308. https://www.montecitowater.com/doc/9306/

Table 9-1 Conservation Measures Implementation Schedule (2022–2045)

Measure	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	2037	2038	2039	2040	2041	2042	2043	2044	2045
AMI Customer Portal and Targeted Outreach [B,C]																								
Water Loss (MWD System Leak Detection) [B,C]																								
Mulch Program [A,B,C]																								
School Building Retrofit (implemented through CII indoor rebates) [B,C]																								
Indoor Appliances Rebate Program – Commercial/Institutional [A,B,C]																								
Indoor Appliances Rebate Program – Residential [A,B,C]																								
High Efficiency Toilet (HET) Rebates – Residential [A,B,C]																								
Outdoor Water Audit [B,C]																								
Drip Irrigation Rebate [A,B,C]																								
Smart Irrigation Controller Rebates [A,B,C]																								
Water Budgeting/Monitoring at Parcel Level [B,C]																								
Landscape Conversion/Improvements – Residential [A,B,C]																								
Community Outreach and Education [B,C]																								
Demonstration Garden [B,C]																								
Commercial/Institutional Audit Program [B,C]																								
Water Budget-Based Billing (as needed) [B,C]																								
Grey Water System Rebates (implemented through Landscape Conservation/Improvement rebates) [B,C]																								

Notes:

This schedule does not include any measures that were not included in the Strategic Program as described in the 2022 WUEP.

Superscript notes are defined as follows:

A = measures in the Pilot Program

B = measures in the Strategic Program

C = measures in the All-Inclusive Program

The District's programs include targeted efforts to address water use efficiency for CII, large landscape, and residential customers. Since implementation of the WUEP, the following programs have been implemented by the District.

9.4.8.1 Demonstration Garden

In partnership with the Montecito Community Foundation and Lotusland, the District constructed a Demonstration Garden for the public to learn about sustainable landscaping and efficient outdoor water use. The garden is located at the District's office on 583 San Ysidro Road, Montecito, California 93108. More information is available at https://www.montecitowater.com/conservation/demonstration-garden/.

9.4.8.2 California Water Efficiency Partnership Rebates

The District promotes and participates in the California Water Efficiency Partnership's (CalWEP) Smart Rebates program which offers financial incentives for qualified purchases single-family residential, multi-family residential, commercial, and institutional. Through the District's WUEP, rebate programs were developed intended to reward conservation actions which include installation of mulch, drip irrigation, smart irrigation controllers, landscape conversion/improvements, installation of high- efficiency indoor appliances, toilets, and urinals. More information on the rebate program can be found at https://www.montecitowater.com/conservation/rebates/.

9.4.8.3 Free Water-Wise Checkups

Starting in 2023, the District offers free WaterWise checkups for customers by conducting property evaluations, identifying efficiency improvements, and helping residents reduce both water use and costs. Customers can schedule a visit or request assistance by calling the District's main conservation line at (805) 969-2271, or by visiting the District's website at https://www.montecitowater.com/conservation/on-site-visits/.

9.4.8.4 WaterWise Programs

The District has partnered with Santa Barbara County to promote several WaterWise programs offered to elementary through high school students, including High School Video Contest, free assembly performances (virtual and in-person) for elementary school students, and free parent and teacher resources to promote water use efficiency. More information about these programs can be found at https://www.montecitowater.com/conservation/for-kids/.

In addition, the Santa Barbara County hosts the WaterWise Garden Contest which recognizes water-efficient residential gardens. Residents of Santa Barbara County can apply through the County's website, and awards are given to a residential property in each water provider's service area throughout Santa Barbara County. Landscapes are evaluated based on visual qualities as well as irrigation methods and other sustainable design criteria. More information about this contest can be found at https://www.waterwisesb.org/2325/WaterWise-Garden-Contest.

9.5 Planned Demand Management Measures

The District will continue to evaluate and refine its DMMs to support compliance with UWUO established pursuant to CWC §10609.20 and related statutes. Guided by the WUEP schedule and annual work planning, the District will:

- **Expand AMI analytics** and customer alerts to shorten leak duration;
- **Deepen parcel level water budgeting/monitoring** and high use engagement;
- **Continue indoor/outdoor retrofit incentives and audits** where cost effective;
- **Scale staffing/administration** per WUEP to maintain delivery capacity and reporting; and
- **Monitor and report** UWUO progress and water-loss performance consistent with the Guidebook's reporting tables.

Resources for DMM activities will continue to be incorporated into the District's annual budget and long-range planning processes. Special consideration will be given to evolving water use patterns, climate change impacts, and future regulatory requirements.

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10 Plan Adoption, Submittal, and Implementation

This chapter provides an overview of public and agency notifications completed per CWC requirements, public availability, and UWMP and WSCP adoption.

10.1 Notice of Plan Preparation

CWC §10621(b) requires that water suppliers notify cities and counties within their service area that the UWMP and WSCP are being updated at least 60 days prior to the public hearing. The District's service area includes the unincorporated communities of Montecito, Summerland, and Toro Canyon, as well as small portions of the City of Santa Barbara. The City of Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara County Water Agency, CCWA, Montecito Sanitary District, Summerland Sanitary District, and Carpinteria Valley Water District were notified of the District's intent to prepare a 2025 UWMP on March 16, 2026. Copies of the notification letters to the Cities and Counties can be found in Appendix C. Table 10-1 shows the notification provided to cities and counties. In addition, agencies and members of the public have been provided opportunities to attend regularly scheduled District Strategic Planning Committee and Board of Directors meetings to discuss the UWMP and WSCP.

Table 10-1 Notification to Cities and Counties (DWR Submittal Table 10-1 Retail)

Entity Name	60 Day Notice	Notice of Public Hearing
City/Special District Name		
City of Santa Barbara	Yes	Yes
Carpinteria Valley Water District	Yes	Yes
Montecito Sanitary District	Yes	Yes
Summerland Sanitary District	Yes	Yes
County Name		
Santa Barbara County Water Agency	Yes	Yes
Other Agency Name		
Central Coast Water Authority	Yes	Yes

10.2 Notice of Public Hearing, Plan Adoption, and Plan Submittal

The 2025 UWMP and WSCP were included as agenda items, noticed, and reviewed at regularly scheduled District Board of Directors meetings held on March 24, 2026, April 14, 2026, and April 28, 2026, and in a Public Hearing held on May 19, 2026. The hearing was held at 9:30am at the District offices, 583 San Ysidro Road, Montecito, California 93108 to provide the public with an opportunity to provide input on the 2025 UWMP and WSCP before adoption was considered on June 23, 2026.

Per Government Code 6066, the District noticed the 2025 UWMP and WSCP public hearing at least two weeks in advance in a local newspaper, with at least five days between the first and second publications. The public hearing was first noticed in the local paper on April 30, 2026 and noticed again on May 7, 2026. The hearing notices are attached as Appendix C.

The District Board of Directors adopted the 2025 UWMP and WSCP on [INSERT DATE]. A copy of the District Board of Directors resolution of adoption is included as Appendix J.

The 2025 UWMP and WSCP will be submitted to DWR by July 1, 2026 using the DWR Water Use Efficiency Data Portal. The documents will also submitted to the California State Library and to all cities and counties within the District's service area within 30 days of adoption. The District is not regulated by the California Public Utilities Commission, so notification to the Commission does not apply.

Commencing no later than July 1, 2026, the District will have a copy of the 2025 UWMP and WSCP available for public review at the District's office (see address below) during regular business hours.

Montecito Water District
583 San Ysidro Road
Montecito, CA 93108

The final documents will also be posted on the District's website at https://www.montecitowater.com/our-water/long-term-planning-uwmp/.

10.3 Amending an Adopted Plan

Amendments to the District's 2025 UWMP and WSCP will be made on an as needed basis. Should the District need to amend the adopted 2025 UWMP or WSCP in the future, the District will hold a public hearing for review of the proposed amendments to the document. The District will send a 60-day notification letter to all cities and counties within the District's service area and notify the public in the same manner as set forth above. Once the amended document is adopted, a copy of the finalized version will be sent to the California State Library, DWR (electronically using the WUEdata reporting tool), and all cities and counties within the District's service area within 30 days of adoption. The finalized version will also be made available to the public both online on the District's website and in person at the District's office during normal business hours.

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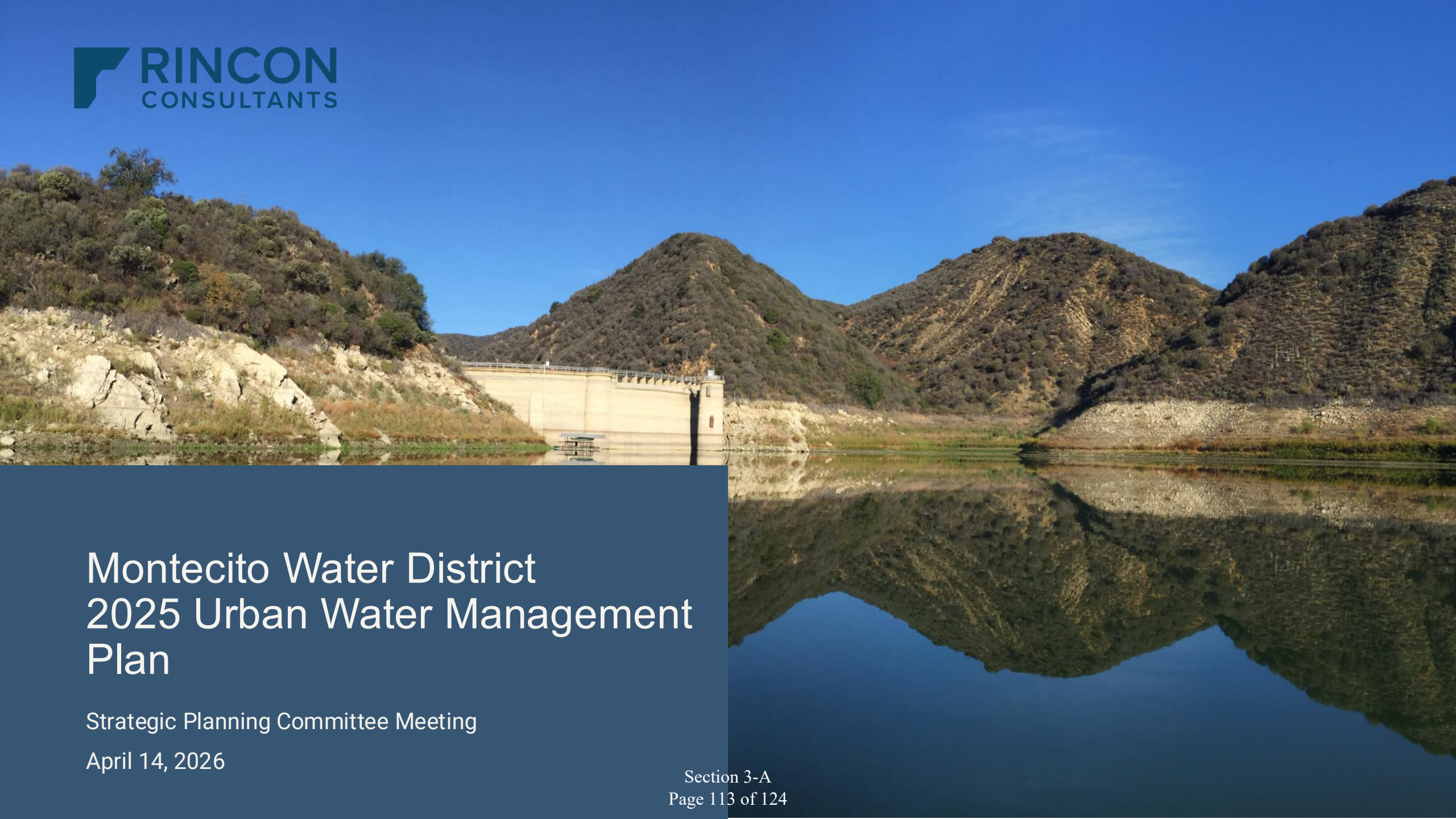
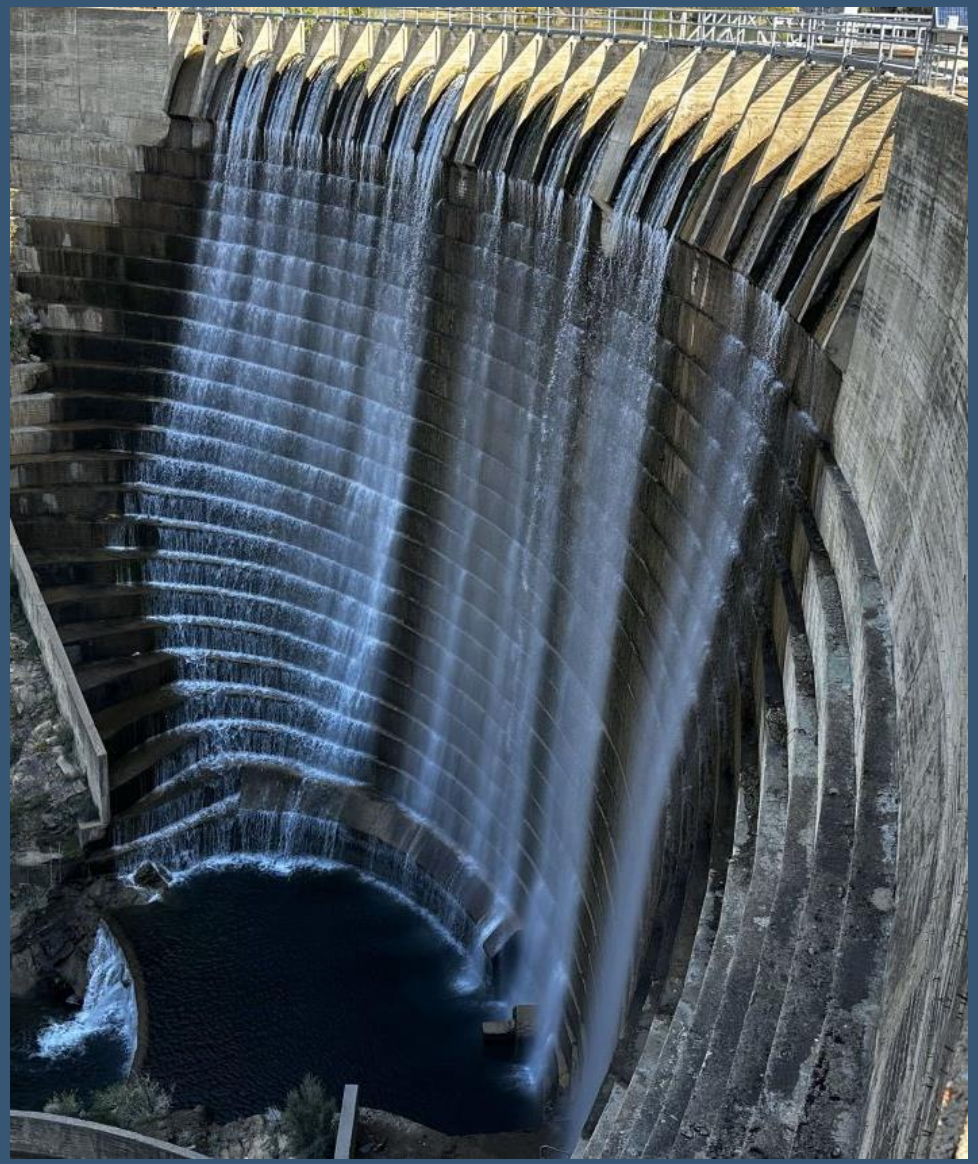


Montecito Water District 2025 Urban Water Management Plan

Strategic Planning Committee Meeting

April 14, 2026



Agenda

- Schedule Overview
- UWMP Act Requirements
- Service Area
- Water Demands and Conservation
- Water Supply Portfolio
- Water Supply Availability
- Drought Risk Assessment
- Water Shortage Contingency Plan
- Timeline to Adoption

Schedule Overview

UWMP Act Requirements

Assembly Bill (AB) 797 - UWMP Act (1984):

Requires every **urban water supplier providing water for municipal purposes** either directly or indirectly **to more than 3,000 customers** or supplying more than 3,000 acre-feet per year (AFY) **to adopt and submit a UWMP every five years to DWR by July 1**.

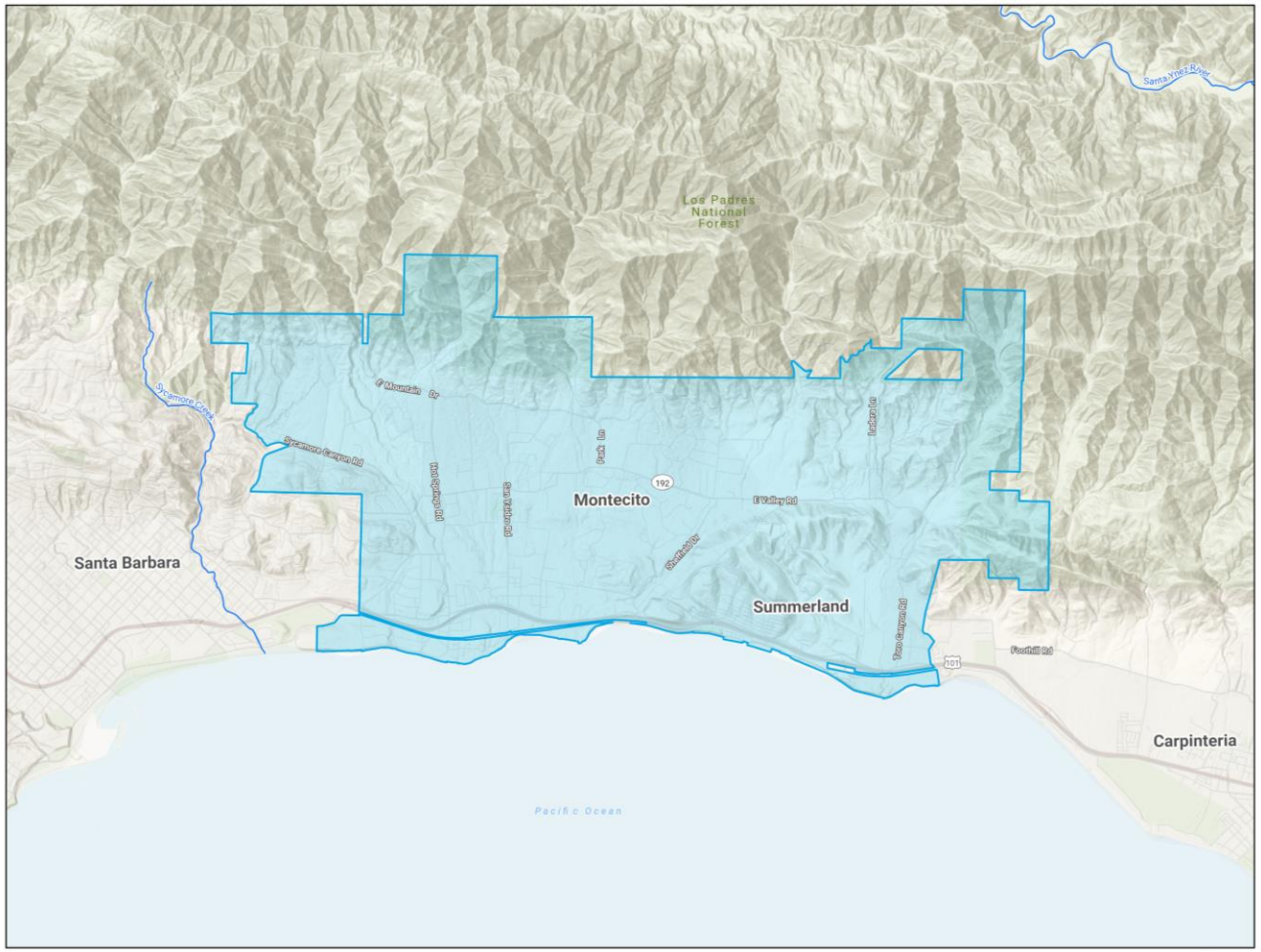
Core requirements for the UWMP include:

- Description of the water service area
- Estimates of past, present, and projected water use
- Estimates of existing and planned supply sources
- Senate Bill (SB) x7-7 analysis and target compliance
- Existing and planned demand management and other conservation measures
- Dry year supply estimates, including 5-year drought risk assessment
- Water Shortage Contingency Plan (WSCP)

Service Area

- Provides potable and non-potable water services to an estimated 13,102 customers
- Delivers water to approximately 4,674 service connections
- Maintains and operates:
  - 2 surface water treatment plants
  - 8 active storage reservoirs
  - 114 miles of distribution pipeline
  - 7 pumping stations

Population - Current and Projected						
	2025	2030	2035	2040	2045	2050
Population Served	13,102	13,433	13,772	14,120	14,476	14,842



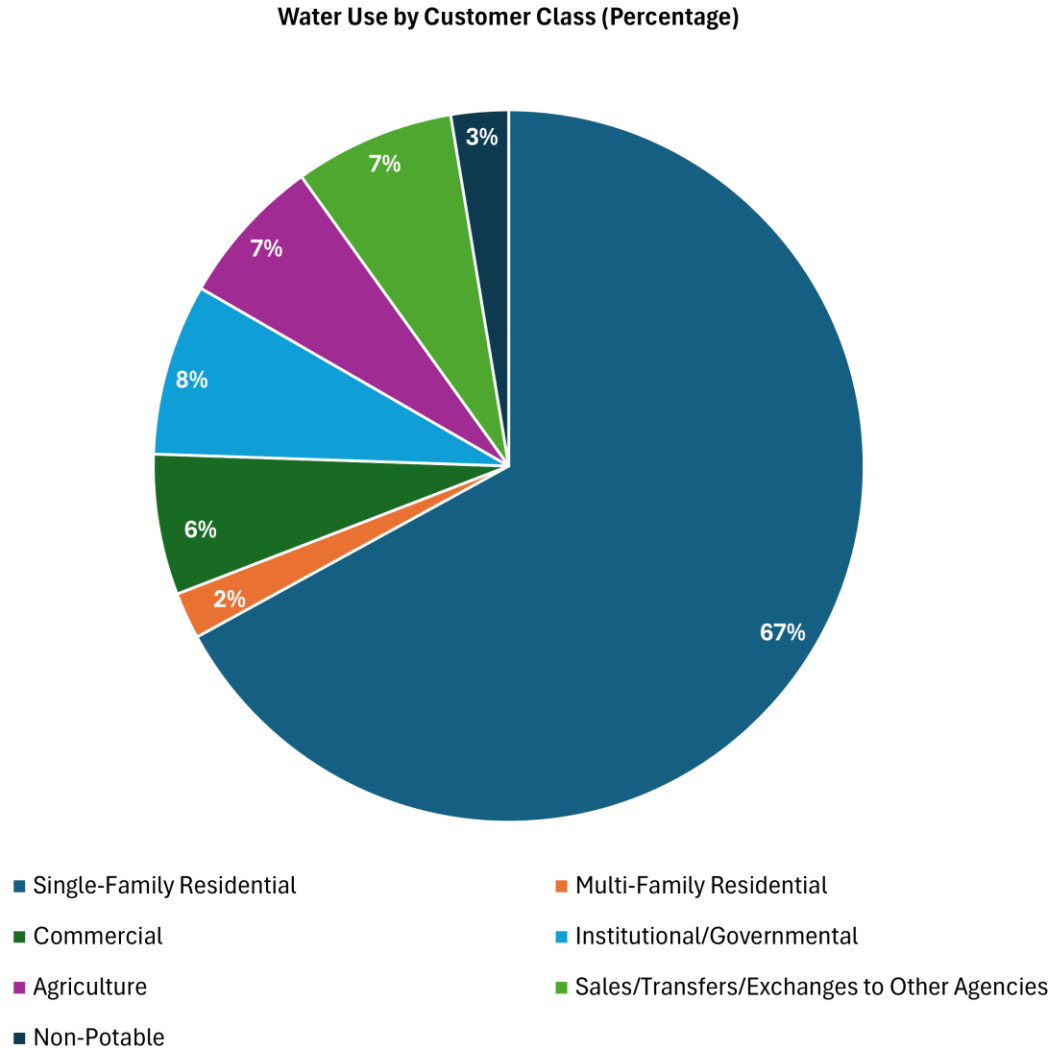
Water Demands and Conservation

Drivers of future demand:

- Future development
- Public education and outreach
- Ongoing conservation programs
- Continued improvements in water-use efficiency

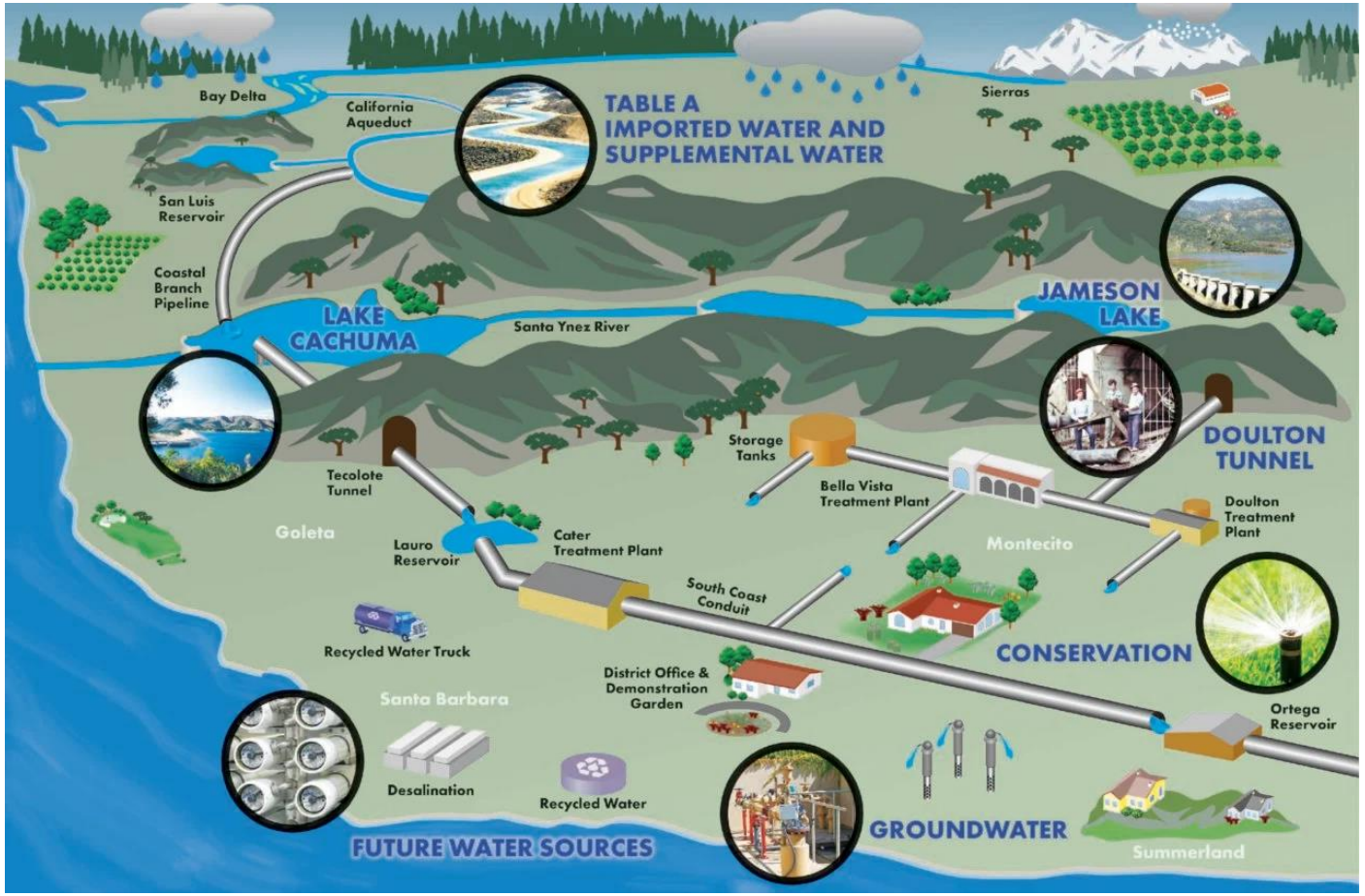
Demand Management Measures:

- District implements demand management measures through the Water Use Efficiency Program and Ordinance 99
- Implementation progress for 17 demand management measures tracked in UWMP



Water Supply Portfolio

- **Desalination** - Water Supply Agreement (WSA) with the City of Santa Barbara
- **Cachuma Project** - surface water from the Santa Ynez River
- **Jameson Lake** - surface water from the Santa Ynez River
- **Groundwater** - Montecito Basin
- **Groundwater infiltration** - Doulton Tunnel
- **State Water Project** (SWP)
  - **Annual SWP Entitlement**
  - **Stored SWP supply** - Semitropic
  - **Supplemental water purchases**, if needed



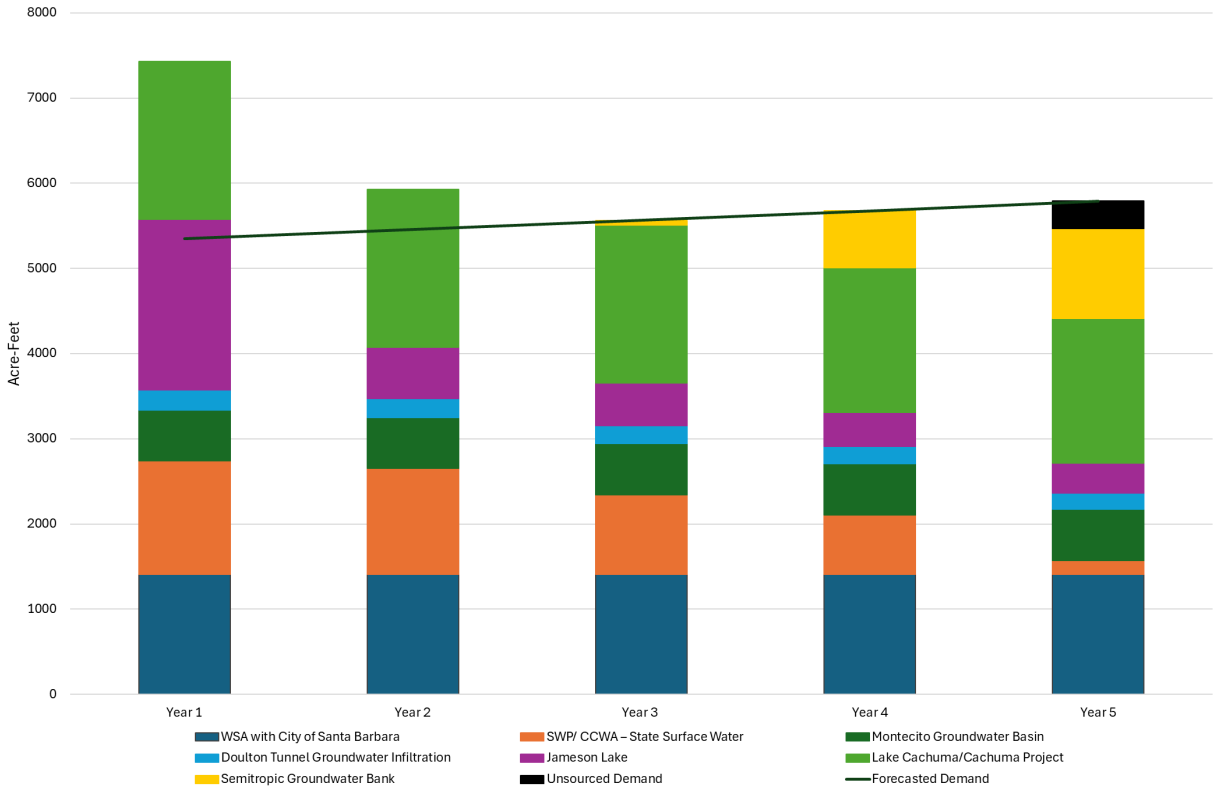
Water Supply Availability (Normal Year)

Water Supply	Description	2030	2035	2040	2045	2050
Purchased or Imported Water	WSA with the City of Santa Barbara	1,409	1,409	1,409	1,409	1,409
Purchased or Imported Water	SWP/ CCWA – State Surface Water	1,628	1,560	1,493	1,452	1,452
Groundwater	Montecito Groundwater Basin	300	300	300	300	300
Groundwater	Doulton Tunnel Groundwater Infiltration	424	424	424	424	424
Surface Water	Jameson Reservoir	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
Surface Water	Cachuma Lake/Cachuma Project – Regional Surface Water	1,855	1,855	1,855	1,855	1,855
Supply from Storage	Semitropic Groundwater Bank	0	0	0	0	0
Total Supply		**7,616**	**7,548**	**7,481**	**7,440**	**7,440**
Demand		**4,472**	**4,577**	**4,684**	**4,795**	**4,908**
Surplus/(Shortage)		**3,144**	**2,971**	**2,796**	**2,645**	**2,532**

Drought Risk Assessment

Water Supply Availability in a Multi-Year Drought, 2050

- Water stored in Semitropic, Jameson Lake, and Cachuma carryover water are not shown, but represent additional water supply for the District
- Supply availability for SWP, Semitropic, and Cachuma water are constrained by conveyance capacity of barge pumps at Cachuma in Years 3-5
- Jameson Lake amounts based on 7-year rule curve
- Minor shortage projected in Year 5
- Full mitigation anticipated
  - Voluntary conservation and/or implementation of Stage 1 WSCP; or
  - Supply augmentation – e.g. future local GW banking, increased GW pumping, increased Jameson diversion, Cachuma barge modification



Water Shortage Contingency Plan

- Describes how the District intends to **predict and respond to foreseeable and unforeseeable water shortages**
- Describes communication protocols, compliance and enforcement, legal authorities, and plan adoption

Core components of the WSCP include:

- Six standard shortage stages
- Shortage response actions
- Communication protocols
- Compliance and enforcement
- Monitoring and reporting

Shortage Level	Demand Reduction Actions	How much is this going to reduce the shortage gap?		Penalty, Charge, or Other Enforcement?
		Volume or Percentage	Shortage Gap Reduction Value	
1+	Increase communication to customers about parcel specific Water Budgets	Percentage	0-10%	No
1+	Increase Customer's use of WaterSmart, expanding leak alerts	Percentage	0-10%	No
1+	Promote Rebates program, Customer Water Audits and other water efficiency campaigns	Percentage	0-10%	No
1+	Expand public information campaign to enhance awareness of water use efficiency and conservation	Percentage	0-10%	No

Demand Reduction Actions shown here are only for Stage 1, which is the only WSCP Stage required to cover unsourced demand in multi-year drought

Timeline to UWMP Adoption

- Board Meeting for Review of Draft UWMP – **April 28**
- Notice Public Hearing in Montecito Journal – **April 30 and May 7**
- Public Hearing – **May 19**
- Board to Consider Adoption – **June 23**
- Deadline for Submittal to DWR – **By July 1**

RINCON CONSULTANTS

Questions?