



2020 Urban Water Management Plan

Frequently Asked Questions

What is an Urban Water Management Plan?

The City's Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP) is a water supply planning document that the City updates every five years. The plan documents the following:

- The City's current and projected water supply and demands over the next 25 years during normal and drought years
- The City's progress toward achieving long-term water conservation targets according to State requirements (Water Conservation Act, SB x7-7)
- Measures the City is taking to manage water demand
- Factors that may affect the reliability of the City's water supplies
- Steps the City can take if water supplies are projected to be insufficient to meet demand

How does the City's past and current water use compare to future demand?

The City's water use, or water demand, has been as high as 7,590 acre-feet per year (2007); however, current water demand is significantly lower on account of permanent improvements in water use efficiency. In 2020 water consumption was approximately 5,750 acre-feet per year (AFY). The City projects demand will increase to approximately 9,450 AFY at buildout, which is expected to occur after 2045, or an increase of approximately 25% relative to maximum past use.

Does the City have enough water for the existing community and planned growth?

Yes, the City's water supplies are sufficient to serve current demands and the projected future demands of the community during normal and extended drought periods. This is due, in part, to the community's investments in diversifying our water sources, which contributes to the overall reliability of our water supply portfolio.

How does the UWMP account for growth and new development?

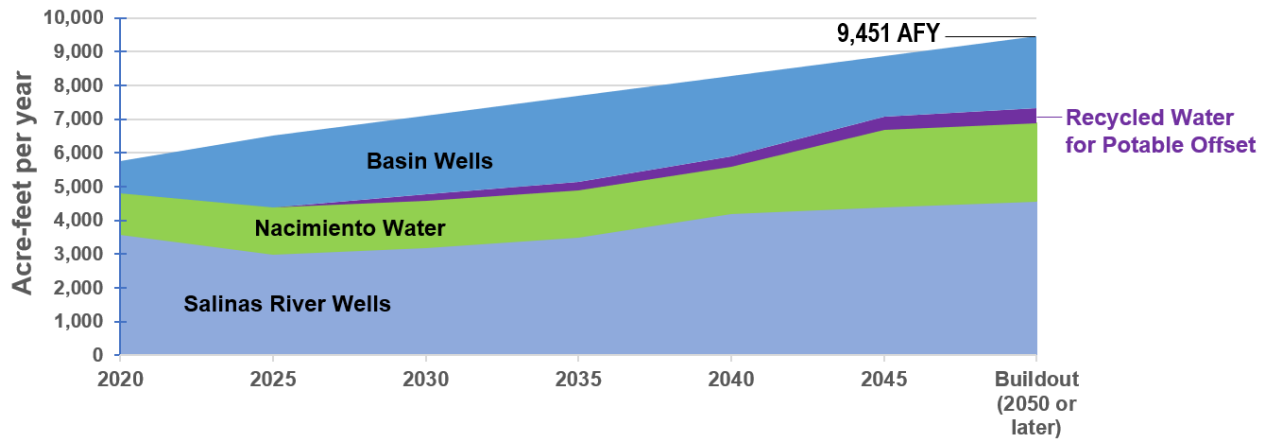
The UWMP accounts for planned growth and development consistent with the City's land use planning. Although the UWMP does not include the more granular project-level demands for proposed projects, demands from proposed projects are evaluated individually to determine whether available supplies are sufficient to meet the project's proposed water demand. These evaluations are conducted for each individual project during the project review process. Additionally, regular updates to the UWMP will capture changes in zoning, community planning, and development trends.

How reliable is the City's water supply?

The City maintains a diverse water supply portfolio that has been very reliable, even in times of extreme drought. For example, during the longest drought in California on record, from 2011 to 2017, the City had sufficient water supply available to meet the community's need. However, due to state-mandated drought emergency requirements (not actual deficiency of the City's water supply), the City still needed to reduce community water use during this time. The City projects that it will be able to serve demands even during the prescribed 5-year drought conditions described in the UWMP.

Where does the City's water come from?

The City has three water supplies available: water from the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin, water from the Salinas River, and water from Lake Nacimiento. The City balances its use of these supplies to benefit from their unique characteristics and to avoid over-reliance on any one supply. The City is also developing a recycled water system to further diversify its water sources. The City's use of available supplies in 2020 and expected future use of these supplies are represented below.



Supply amounts shown above do not reflect total supply available to the City from each source, nor do they reflect any limits on the City's groundwater rights, but instead the water utilized by the City to supply projected demand.

How does agriculture and the growing wine industry impact the water level in the basin?

The Paso Robles Groundwater Basin is shared by many users, including agriculture, which accounts for the majority of basin pumping. Although the City does not have jurisdiction over water use outside of City limits, County measures limiting installation of new wells and state requirements for sustainable management of the basin help lessen the impacts to the basin and improve water availability for basin users.

How does the water level in Lake Nacimiento Water affect availability?

The Nacimiento Water Project and City entitlement to water from Lake Nacimiento is for the last remaining water available in the lake, making it a very reliable long-term water supply for the City. The Nacimiento Water Project is able to take delivery of water even when lake levels are well below suitable recreational levels and when release are minimal.

How will the City respond to problems with our water supply or supply interruptions?

The City monitors water supplies and demands as part of routine operations. If there are interruptions in one of the City's water supplies, the City will increase use of another supply to avoid impacting service to our water customers. This highlights the benefits in having a diversified water supply portfolio. In the unlikely event that the total supply available to the City is projected to be insufficient due to unexpected interruptions, or if there are other immediate needs for demand reduction, the City can implement our Water Shortage Contingency Plan. The Water Shortage Contingency Plan outlines action levels and steps the City can take to respond to supply shortage. These measures include additional public notifications and outreach regarding conservation, restrictions on discretionary water use in the

community (e.g. limiting landscape watering), and water conservation patrols and enforcement, if needed.

Where can I get more information on the City's Urban Water Management Plan and Water Shortage Contingency Plan?

Additional findings and information from the City's UWMP is provided below, and both plans are available on the City's website at <http://www.prcity.com/421>.

Summary of Key Findings from the 2020 Urban Water Management Plan

- City water use is projected to increase to approximately 9,450 acre-feet per year at buildout.
- The City has met the Water Conservation Act Urban Water Use Targets for 2015 and 2020. Community water use in 2020 was 164 gallons per person per day, well below the target of 193 gallons per person per day, and in the future, gross per-capita water use will remain below this prescribed use target.
- Currently, much of the City's water demand is for single family residential use; however, non-residential demands are projected to increase relative to residential demands.
- The City has a diverse water supply portfolio that increases overall City water supply reliability, and manages its use of water from the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin, the Salinas River, and Lake Nacimiento to meet water demands. The City is also developing a recycled water project to further diversify supplies.
- During extended drought (e.g. 2011 – 2017) the City has been able to serve all water demands, and the City does not project supply shortage due to drought.
- The City will continue long-term water conservation measures and will utilize its Water Shortage Contingency Plan if water supplies are projected to be insufficient to meet demands.