



Drought Preparedness and Water Shortage Contingency Plan

June 2026

PREPARED BY:



Woodard
& Curran

Acknowledgements

Goleta Water District

Board of Directors

Lauren Hanson, President
Susan Klein-Rothschild, Vice President
Tom Evans
David Linville
Kathleen Werner

David Matson, General Manager

Staff Contributors

Ryan Drake, Water Supply and Conservation Manager
Betty Hall, Senior Water Resources Analyst

Prepared by:

Woodard & Curran

This page intentionally left blank.

Table of Contents

Section 1:	Introduction	1
1.1	Purpose and Intent	1
1.2	Goleta Water District	1
1.3	Historic Drought Activities.....	3
1.4	Relationship to Other Planning	4
1.5	Organization of the Plan.....	5
Section 2:	Drought Severity Indicators.....	6
2.1	Drought vs. Water Shortage.....	6
2.2	Weather Indicators.....	6
2.3	Water Supply Indicators and Reliability.....	9
2.4	Demand Indicators	14
2.5	Uncertainty Associated with Forecasts.....	16
2.6	Annual Supply and Demand Assessment Procedures	16
Section 3:	Determining Water Shortage Stages	19
3.1	Five Stage Approach.....	19
3.2	Water Shortage Stage Determination	24
3.3	Process for Declaring a Water Shortage	26
3.4	SAFE Ordinance Moratorium	26
Section 4:	Water Shortage Impact Mitigation Strategy	28
4.1	Supply Management and Enhancement	28
4.2	Demand Management and Drought Response Programs.....	29
4.3	Interagency Coordination.....	37
4.4	Staff Resources	38
Section 5:	Water Shortage Actions.....	40
5.1	Pre-Water Shortage.....	40
5.2	Stage I Water Shortage.....	41
5.3	Stage II Water Shortage	44
5.4	Stage III Water Shortage.....	48
5.5	Stage IV Water Shortage.....	51
5.6	Stage V Water Shortage	53
5.7	Estimated Supply and Demand Gap Reduction	54
5.8	Water Shortage Conclusion.....	55
Section 6:	Impact of Drought on District Finances	57

6.1	Profile of Goleta Water District Costs and Revenues.....	57
6.2	Planning for Drought Impact on Finances	59
Section 7:	Plan Implementation	63
7.1	Monitoring and Reporting.....	63
7.2	Plan Refinement Procedures	64
Section 8:	References.....	65
8.1	Section 2 References	65
8.2	Section 3 References	65
8.3	Section 4 References	66
8.4	Section 6 References	66

List of Appendices

Appendix A: SAFE Ordinance

Appendix B: Water Shortage Ordinance

Appendix C: Water Shortage Outreach Material Samples

List of Tables

Table 3-1 Water Shortage Stages.....	20
Table 4-1 System-Wide Reduction Targets	28
Table 4-2 Use Priority for Different Goleta Water District Customer Classes.....	30
Table 4-3 Drought Program Management Variables Effect on Residential Water Use	32
Table 6-1 Planning Level Variable Costs by Water Source	58
Table 6-2 Goleta Water District Commodity Charges	58
Table 6-3 Projected Customer Water Sales Revenue	59
Table 6-4 Estimated Revenue Impacts for Various Water Shortage Stages.....	59
Table 6-5 Potential Changes in Costs during Water Shortage Stages.....	60
Table 6-6 Recommended Reserve Levels.....	62

List of Figures

Figure 1-1 Goleta Water District Service Area	2
Figure 2-1 Example Output of the U.S. Drought Monitor	7
Figure 2-2 Santa Barbara County Rainfall as Percent of Normal 1968-2026.....	8
Figure 2-3 Increases in Demand During Drought.....	15
Figure 3-1 Relationships Between the District’s Existing Shortage Levels and the 2025 WSCP Mandated Shortage Levels.....	22
Figure 3-2 Water Supply and Demand Model	25
Figure 4-1 Total Monthly Water Use for Different District Customers in 2025	35
Figure 5-1 Monthly Water Use Reductions Achieved During Stage III Water Shortage (May 2015 – March 2019).....	55

List of Abbreviations and Acronyms

AB	Assembly Bill
AF	acre feet
AFY	acre feet per year
AGM	Assistant General Manager
AWWA	American Water Works Association
CCWA	Central Coast Water Authority
CFO	Chief Financial Officer
CIMIS	California Irrigation Management Information System
Coastal Aqueduct	Coastal Branch of the California Aqueduct
COMB	Cachuma Operation and Maintenance Board
CWC	California Water Code
District	Goleta Water District
DWR	California Department of Water Resources
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
ET	evapotranspiration
GIS	Geographic Information System
GM	General Manager
GW	groundwater
GWD	Goleta Water District
HCF	hundred cubic feet
Mgs	million gallons per day
mg/L	milligrams per Liter
msl	mean sea level
Plan	Water Shortage Contingency Plan
RWEP	Regional Water Efficiency Program
SAFE	Safe Water Supplies Ordinance
SB	Senate Bill
SWRCB	State Water Resources Control Board
SWP	State Water Project
TDS	Total Dissolved Solids
UWMP	Urban Water Management Plan
WMLRP	Water Management and Long Range Planning
WSC	Water Supply and Conservation
WSCP	Water Shortage Contingency Plan

Section 1: Introduction

Droughts occur with unpredictable frequency, intensity, and duration. Developing and maintaining a safe and reliable water supply portfolio to serve its customers is a Goleta Water District (GWD or District) priority, including preparing for drought and water shortages. During a drought or other water shortage, the Goleta Water District Board of Directors will consider drought severity indicators and available supply in determining the need for water shortage declarations and implementation of demand reduction programs and other related activities.

Water supply projections and hydrologic conditions are significant components in deciding when and to what extent a drought response is needed. The degree of the water supply shortage determines the necessary level of response from the District and customers. This Drought Preparedness and Water Shortage Contingency Plan (Plan, or WSCP) recommends and provides the foundation for a progressive response to worsening water shortage conditions.

1.1 Purpose and Intent

The objectives of this Plan are to describe, in a single resource, the conditions which constitute a water shortage emergency, define and discuss the various stages of action, and provide guidance and procedures to undertake during a declared water shortage. The Plan is consistent with the California Department of Water Resources 2025 Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP) Guidebook, California Water Code §§350 – 359, Government Code §§8550-8551, and the Urban Water Management Planning Act (UWMP Act). Broadly, this Plan allows the District to identify and quickly respond to a water shortage in a manner that provides for public health and safety while minimizing the impacts to customers.

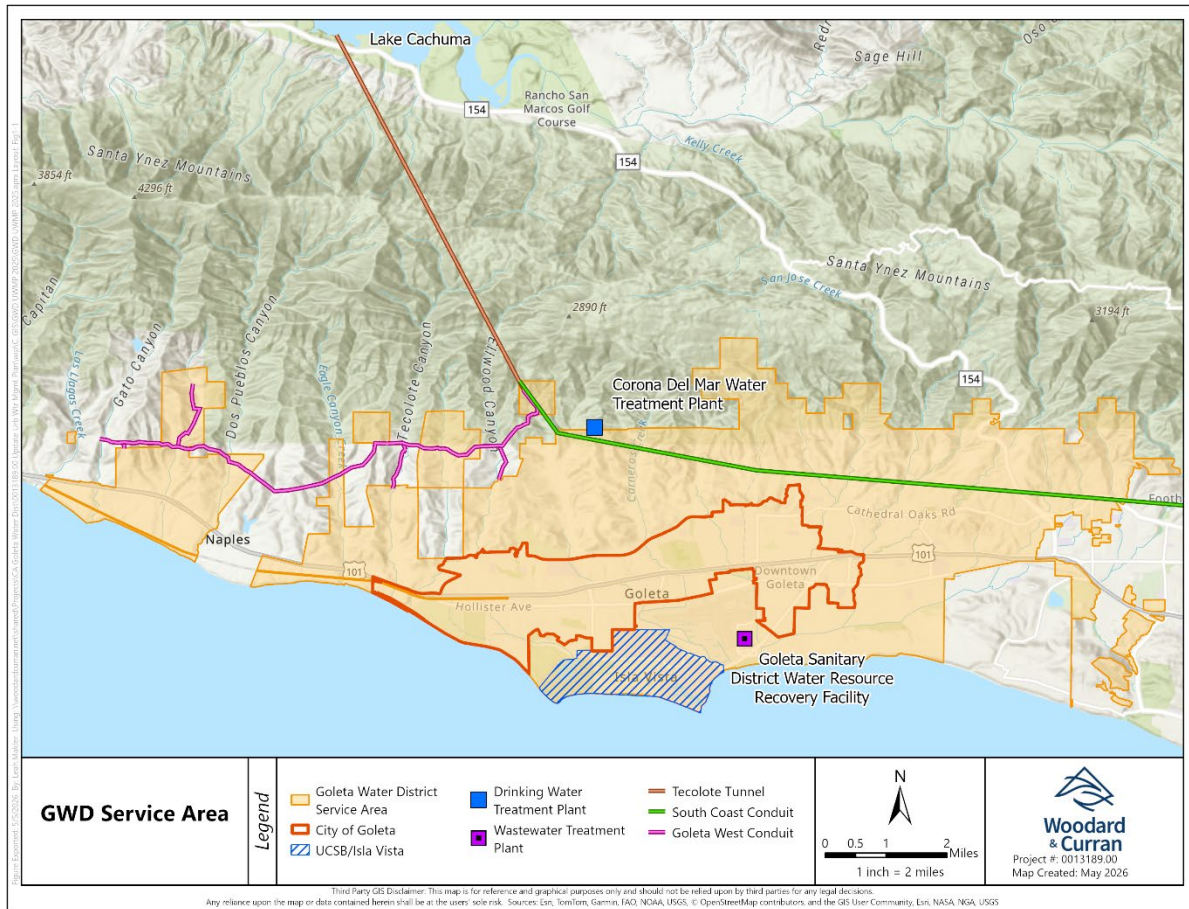
1.2 Goleta Water District

Goleta Water District is a County Water District operating pursuant to the provisions of the California Water Code. The District was formed in 1944 to provide water to the Goleta Valley. The District initially relied on local groundwater until the Federal Cachuma Project began making deliveries in 1955. Since that time, the Cachuma Project has been and continues to be the primary water supply source for the District. As described in Section 2 of this Plan, current District water supplies also include water from the State Water Project (SWP), groundwater, and recycled water.

The District service area is located in the South Coast portion of Santa Barbara County with its western border adjacent to El Capitan State Park, its northern border along the foothills of the Santa Ynez mountains and the Los Padres National Forest, the City of Santa Barbara to the east, and the Pacific Ocean to the south (Figure 1-1). The service area encompasses approximately 29,000 acres, and a population of approximately 85,500 residents.¹ The District service area includes the City of Goleta, University of California, and Santa Barbara Airport; the remainder is located in unincorporated Santa Barbara County. La Cumbre Mutual Water Company is located within the District service area but has its own supply, water distribution facilities, and customers; GWD does not serve these customers.

¹ This excludes populations within the GWD service area that are served by the La Cumbre Mutual Water Company.

Figure 1-1 Goleta Water District Service Area



1.3 Historic Drought Activities

1.3.1 1987-92 Drought

The 1987-92 drought, considered to be one of the three most significant droughts in state history, was notable for its six-year duration and the statewide nature of its impacts. Statewide reservoir storage was approximately 40 percent of average by the third year of the drought and did not return to average levels until 1994. In 1991, Governor Pete Wilson issued an executive order creating a Drought Action Team to coordinate a response to deteriorating water supply conditions and directed the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) to implement a drought water bank. Twenty-three counties, including Santa Barbara County, declared local drought emergencies by the end of 1991.

Following the 1987-92 drought, DWR examined agencies' responses to the dry conditions across the state and their impacts. The majority of the State's urban water retailers implemented demand reduction techniques—either voluntary or mandatory—at some point during the drought. Demand reductions and allocation programs were typically accomplished through extensive customer education and outreach programs where mandatory rationing levels reached as high as 50 percent in some communities. Small communities in isolated areas without back-up water sources and the ability to connect to other water systems typically had no recourse other than demand reduction or hauling water. Customers of agricultural water agencies reduced planted acreage to match demand to projected water supplies. Virtually all the State's larger water agencies implemented short-term demand management actions in response to the ongoing drought conditions. By 1991 most agencies were implementing significant demand reduction measures such as rationing, mandatory restrictions, surcharges, and fines.

In its review of the 1991 drought response, DWR expressed concern with the effects of demand hardening on water agencies' ability to implement shortage contingency measures in the future. Demand hardening is the concept that as water agencies implement plumbing fixture retrofit programs or have greater percentages of new housing stock with low water use fixtures, it becomes increasingly difficult for the agencies to implement rationing programs and achieve measurable savings without affecting customers' lifestyles. Therefore, while the goal is to minimize customer impacts, in the higher water shortage stages lifestyle and habit changes will be necessary.

1.3.2 2012-16 Drought

The 2012-16 drought represents the most recent significant statewide drought emergency. One of the major lessons learned from this drought was that urban water suppliers, small water suppliers, and rural communities must strengthen both local drought resilience and the communication of response actions among various agencies and affected communities. Many urban water suppliers had implemented effective measures to minimize impacts from the drought; however, this outcome was not consistent throughout the state.

On April 1, 2015, as a result of worsening statewide drought conditions, Governor Jerry Brown issued an executive order which directed the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) to impose restrictions to achieve a statewide 25 percent reduction in potable water usage through February 28, 2016, as compared to the amount used in 2013. On May 5, 2015, the SWRCB adopted a revised emergency water conservation regulation to implement this mandatory 25

percent statewide reduction in potable urban water use between June 2015 and February 2016. This revised regulation, which took effect on June 1, 2015, assigned each retail water supplier a water conservation standard that ranged between 8 percent and 36 percent based on the supplier's residential gallons per capita per day water use.

In May 2016, Governor Brown issued an executive order to establish a long-term framework for water conservation and drought planning. In 2018, as a direct outcome of this executive order, the California State Legislature enacted two policy bills, Senate Bill (SB) 606 and Assembly Bill (AB) 1668, to establish a new foundation for long-term improvements in water conservation and drought planning to adapt to climate change and the resulting longer and more intense droughts in California. SB 606 and AB 1668 amended the UWMP Act to incorporate new requirements to address drought resilience and response. Under the new requirements, each urban wholesale and retail water supplier must prepare, adopt, and submit a Water Shortage Contingency Plan (WSCP) and conduct a Drought Risk Assessment every five years in addition to conducting an annual water supply and demand assessment. Each WSCP must include: analysis of water supply reliability; procedures used for conducting an annual water supply and demand assessment; six standard water shortage levels or equivalent²; shortage response actions; communication protocols and procedures; customer compliance, enforcement, appeal, and exemption procedures; legal authorities for WSCP implementation; financial consequences of water shortages; monitoring and reporting requirements and procedures; and reevaluation and improvement of procedures.

During the recent drought, GWD enacted its WSCP at a Stage II shortage level in 2014 and implemented it through a Stage III shortage, which was lifted in early 2019. As discussed in Section 5, the WSCP was effective in achieving the desired reductions in water use.

1.3.3 2021- 23 Drought

On July 8, 2021, due to drought conditions, Governor Gavin Newsom issued a proclamation that a state of emergency exists in a total of 41 California counties, including Santa Barbara County, and called for voluntary customer use reductions of 20%. The Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors lifted its proclamation of drought conditions in June 2023. As GWD had sufficient supplies and its customers had low per capita water use, no mandatory restrictions or shortage stages were enacted.

The WSCP was updated in 2026 to incorporate lessons learned from the recent droughts and reflect the current Annual Water Supply and Demand Assessment process.

1.4 Relationship to Other Planning

This Plan will become part of a larger framework used by the District to responsibly manage water resources and ensure the highest level of reliable service for customers. On a regular basis the District reviews and updates its water supply management strategy based on an extensive evaluation of its various supplies, supply reliability, drought scenarios, and anticipated demand. The Water Supply Management Plan was updated in 2024, and the Groundwater Management Plan was updated in 2022. Every five years, as part of its Urban Water Management Plan, the

² As discussed in Section 3, GWD uses an equivalent system of five water shortage levels that meets this requirement. A crosswalk comparing GWD's five stages to the six standard shortage levels is provided in Section 3.1.

District prepares a “20-year look ahead” and compares estimates of supply against estimates of demand. The most recent Urban Water Management Plan was completed in 2026 in coordination with the update of this Water Shortage Contingency Plan. GWD is also a member of the California Water Efficiency Partnership to provide cutting-edge expertise on critical water issues, challenges, and opportunities. These documents form the basis for understanding supply and demand trends and guiding long-range water management decisions.

This Plan and the District Emergency Response Plan, which was most recently updated in 2025, provide specific guidance related to water management outside of normal conditions. This Plan provides specific protocols for responding to water shortages, such as demand reduction and supply augmentation; whereas the Emergency Response Plan provides procedures for dealing with power outages, earthquakes, fires and other events that could cause a water system outage. The demand reduction measures described in this Plan could be “activated” as part of any emergency response.

1.5 Organization of the Plan

The Plan is organized into seven sections:

- Section 1 provides an introduction to the Plan, including background on the District, historic drought activities, and purpose of the Plan.
- Section 2 identifies and describes the factors affecting water supply, including the indicators of shortage conditions as well as the process and uncertainties inherent in the forecasting process.
- Section 3 establishes five water shortage stages and outlines the “triggers” for each stage, as well as the relationship to the six standard shortage stages required by the UWMP Act.
- Section 4 reviews the general strategies the District will employ to mitigate the impacts of drought and water shortage on the community.
- Section 5 discusses water shortage response actions that apply to each stage. Actions are grouped into the following categories:
 - Public outreach
 - Demand reduction programs
 - Enforcement
 - Other operational actions
- Section 6 provides an overview of the various financial impacts that may occur during each of the five water shortage stages and provides an overview of how to plan for and mitigate the financial impacts of drought.
- Section 7 provides a summary of resources referenced during the development of each section of the Plan, including WSCPs developed by other water providers.
- Section 8 provides an outline for Plan implementation, including monitoring and reporting and procedures for refining the Plan.

Section 2: Drought Severity Indicators

The District tracks the health of its water supplies and trends in demand on an ongoing basis. As discussed, water resource management and reporting tools include the District UWMP (updated every five years, most recently in July 2026), the GWD Water Supply Management Plan (April 2024), Groundwater Management Plan for the Goleta Groundwater Basin (April 2023), Annual Goleta Water District Budget and Comprehensive Annual Financial Report, Annual Shortage Report submitted to DWR, monthly public water supply statistics provided to the California Department of Public Health, and monthly water conservation and production reports submitted to DWR. Tracking supply and demand takes on more significance in a drought. This section discusses the difference between the terms “drought” and “water shortage,” reviews the various indicators of drought and how these indicators can be used to estimate the severity of drought, and informs the necessary level of response. This section also describes key issues that may create a shortage condition, such as unanticipated emergencies or water quality changes.

2.1 Drought vs. Water Shortage

Droughts vary from region to region and are therefore inherently difficult to define. Generally, drought originates from an extended period of dry weather that causes a shortage in water supplies. It is a naturally occurring climatic phenomenon with impacts that vary from area to area. Droughts are different from other natural hazards in that they generally have a slow onset, evolve over a period of time, and are not distinct weather events, such as hurricanes or tornadoes. The DWR defines drought as:

“A deficiency of precipitation over an extended period of time resulting in a water shortage for some activity, group, or environmental sector.”

By contrast, a water shortage often results from a drought, but could also occur due to other causes, such as earthquakes, infrastructure failure, or other emergencies. A water shortage occurs when water supplies are insufficient to support existing demand. GWD triggers for the declaration of a water shortage are defined and discussed in detail in Section 3 of this Plan.

2.2 Weather Indicators

Weather ultimately determines the extent and severity of drought. National, statewide, and local resources provide information that can help water resource managers plan for and gauge the impact of a drought, as discussed further below.

2.2.1 National Resources

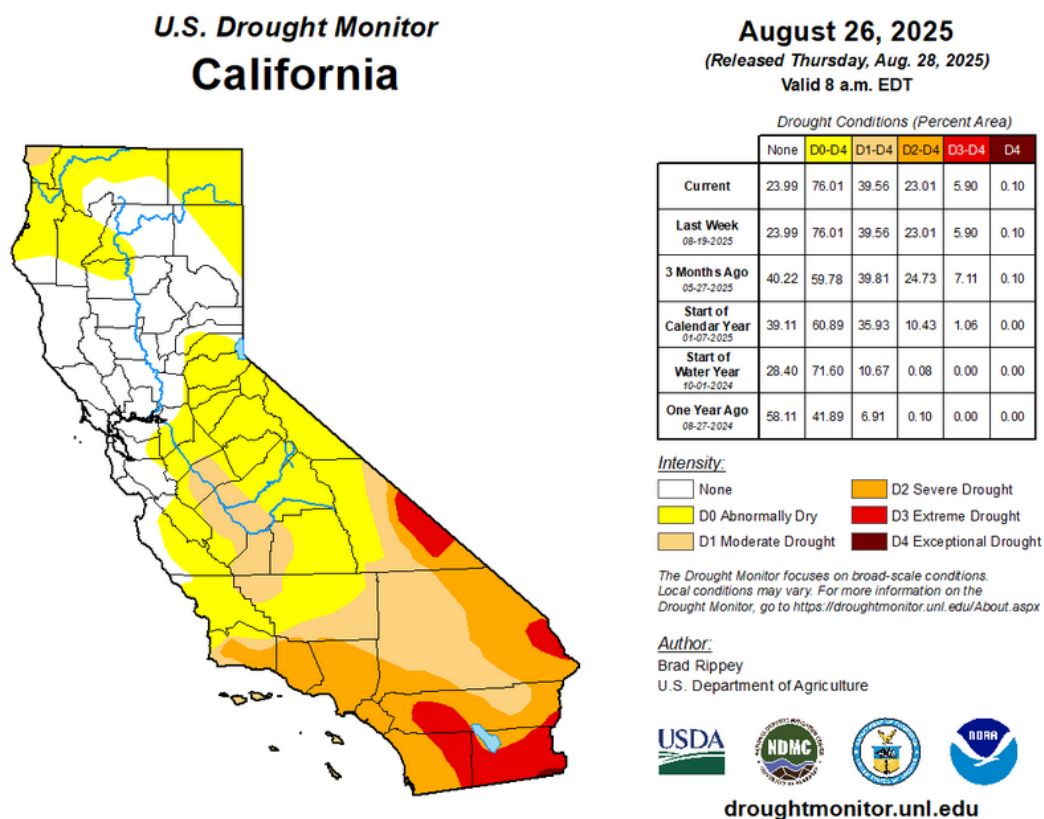
The National Drought Mitigation Center publishes the U.S. Drought Monitor, which maps the intensity of drought throughout the U.S. as well as in individual states (droughtmonitor.unl.edu). The severity of drought is measured based on a combination of soil moisture, stream flow, and precipitation. The following five categories are nationally recognized and used to characterize the severity of drought:³

³ <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About/AbouttheData/DroughtClassification.aspx>

- Abnormally dry – short-term dryness going into or coming out of a drought.
- Moderate Drought – some water shortages developing or are imminent.
- Severe Drought – water shortages common.
- Extreme Drought – widespread water shortages or restrictions
- Exceptional Drought – shortages of water in reservoirs, streams, and wells; water emergencies.

Figure 2-1 provides a snapshot of the output from the U.S. Drought Monitor on August 26, 2025.

Figure 2-1
Example Output of the U.S. Drought Monitor



Note: This date was chosen to represent the U.S. Drought Monitor output during a time with variation in drought intensities.

2.2.2 Statewide Resources

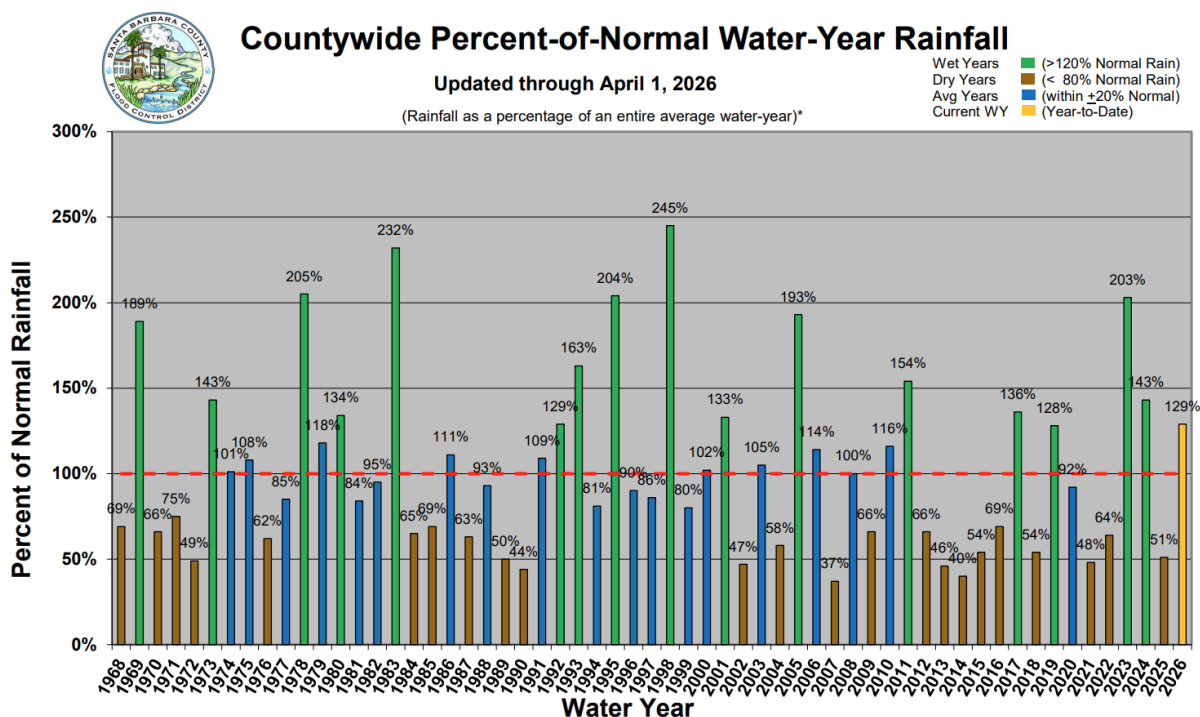
The Data Exchange Center of DWR collects extensive data on climatic conditions, stream flow, and snowpack, runoff, and reservoir conditions. DWR Bulletin 120 is a publication issued four times a year, in the second week of February, March, April, and May. It provides a summary of water conditions statewide as well as for the Central Coast hydrologic region. In addition to

reporting on statewide water conditions (precipitation since start of water year, snow water content, reservoir storage), Bulletin 120 provides a forecast of runoff (compared to normal runoff) for the water year.⁴

2.2.3 Local

Rainfall amounts are one basic indicator of a wet or dry year. Data on local rainfall totals and reservoir levels are maintained by the County of Santa Barbara and updated regularly. On average, the County receives 20 inches of rainfall per year (County of Santa Barbara 2026). The majority of rainfall typically occurs in a five-month period between November and March. The amount of precipitation the county receives varies annually, as reflected in Figure 2-2 below.⁵

Figure 2-2
Santa Barbara County Rainfall as Percent of Normal 1968-2026



Source: County of Santa Barbara, 2026.

Timing and distribution of rainfall are as important to local water supply availability as the quantity of rainfall received. Typically, years in which the majority of rainfall occurs over a short period of time or particularly early in the wet season generally result in lower stream flows and lake levels during the dry summer months. By contrast, years in which storms are spread out over the rainy season and occur later in the spring generally support higher stream flows and

⁴ Bulletin 210 can be found at: <https://cdec.water.ca.gov/snow/bulletin120/>

⁵ County of Santa Barbara, 2026. "Countywide Percent-of-Normal Water-Year Rainfall", updated April 2, 2026. Available: <https://www.countyofsb.org/uploadedFiles/pwd/Content/Water/Hydrology/Rainfall%20-%20Annual%20Percent%20of%20Normal%20-%20CountyWide.pdf>

lake levels. However, heavy rainfall early in the winter season, as experienced in recent years with multiple wet winters, can create significant inflow causing the lake to spill.

2.3 Water Supply Indicators and Reliability

The District water supply portfolio is made up of supplies from Lake Cachuma (Cachuma Project Water), the SWP, the Goleta Groundwater Basin, and recycled water. This section also describes the available water supplies and considers threats that could lead to water supply shortages.

2.3.1 Cachuma Project Water

In a normal year, the majority (approximately 57 percent) of the District water supply comes from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Cachuma Project. The Cachuma Project utilizes water from the Santa Ynez River, which is impounded in Lake Cachuma by Bradbury Dam. Water is provided to Cachuma Project Member Units for irrigation, domestic, and municipal industrial water uses. The Cachuma Member Units include GWD, the City of Santa Barbara, Montecito Water District, the Carpinteria Valley Water District, and the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District Improvement District #1. The Cachuma Operation and Maintenance Board (COMB) operates, repairs, and maintains Cachuma Project facilities.



Water is diverted from Lake Cachuma to the South Coast through the Tecolote Tunnel, which extends from the Santa Ynez Mountains to the South Coast Conduit. The South Coast Conduit delivers water to GWD at the Corona Del Mar Water Treatment Plant for distribution to the District service area. Additionally, the District chlorinates raw lake water at the Glen Annie Turnout for delivery to agricultural customers along the Goleta West Conduit.

District entitlement to Cachuma yield is 9,322 acre feet per year (AFY); normal deliveries to GWD are 9,322 AFY. The amount of Cachuma Project water delivered to member units varies from year to year depending on a number of factors, including winter runoff, stored lake supplies, water demand, downstream releases for fish, and other water supply sources. This supply source is also vulnerable to extended drought periods. For the first time in history, GWD received a zero percent (0%) allocation of Cachuma water for the 2015-16 water year due to prolonged drought. In the more recent 2021-2023 drought, GWD again received reduced allocations from Cachuma, although restrictions were less severe (70 percent allocation).

On September 17, 2019, the State Water Resources Control Board adopted Water Rights Order 2019-0148, modifying U.S. Bureau of Reclamation water rights permits 11308 and 11310 for the purpose of protecting public trust (fishery flows) and water right holders below Bradbury Dam. The State Water Board action follows nearly 20 years of legal efforts to protect water right holders and address long-term declines in native fish populations in the Santa Ynez River. The Order requires the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation to increase flows on the Santa Ynez River below

Bradbury Dam to provide additional habitat for steelhead and prevent its extinction. To minimize impacts on local water users, higher flows are required only during wetter years.

Another element of uncertainty is the available storage in Lake Cachuma. Lake Cachuma had an initial storage capacity of 205,000 acre-feet (AF) with a surface area of 3,090 acres upon its first filling in 1956. In 2009, the storage capacity of the lake was estimated during a bathymetric survey to be 186,636 AF at 750 feet MSL, indicating approximately 18,238 AF loss since completion of the dam in 1953. In 2013, the normal full operating level was officially changed to 753 MSL, increasing the hydraulic height to 201 feet. That same year, an updated bathymetric survey was conducted that estimated a storage capacity of 184,121 AF at 750 MSL, indicating the loss of another 2,515 AF since 2008. However, this survey also estimated a storage capacity of 193,305 AF at the new full operating level of 753 MSL.

There are several models used to estimate Cachuma supplies. The District will utilize current models and discussion among Cachuma Member Unit agencies to prepare a two year look ahead of potential Cachuma supplies. Historically, Cachuma storage is lowest in November and highest in April (Stetson Engineers 2006). Reservoir storage starts to drop in May as releases are made for downstream water rights holders and Member Units. GWD customer water demand is typically lowest in January and February and highest in August and September.

2.3.2 State Water Project Water

In a normal year, GWD plans for the delivery of 3,800 AF of SWP water, which is approximately 24 percent of its supply portfolio. GWD has a SWP allocation of 7,000 AFY and an additional drought buffer allocation of 450 AFY for a total of 7,450 AFY. GWD has 4,500 AFY capacity in the Coastal Branch of the California Aqueduct (Coastal Aqueduct); accordingly, the 7,000 AFY allocation serves to improve SWP supply reliability and increase the amount of carryover SWP water stored and available for use in dry years.



The SWP is a large state-built, multi- purpose system operated by DWR. The SWP includes 36 storage facilities, reservoirs, lakes, 21 pumping plants, multiple hydroelectric plants, and approximately 700 miles of aqueducts and pipelines. The SWP pumps water into the 444 mile long California Aqueduct. The Coast Branch Aqueduct splits from the California Aqueduct near Kettleman City and traverses south where deliveries are made to entities in San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara counties. GWD receives its SWP through a Water Supply Agreement with the Central Coast Water Authority.

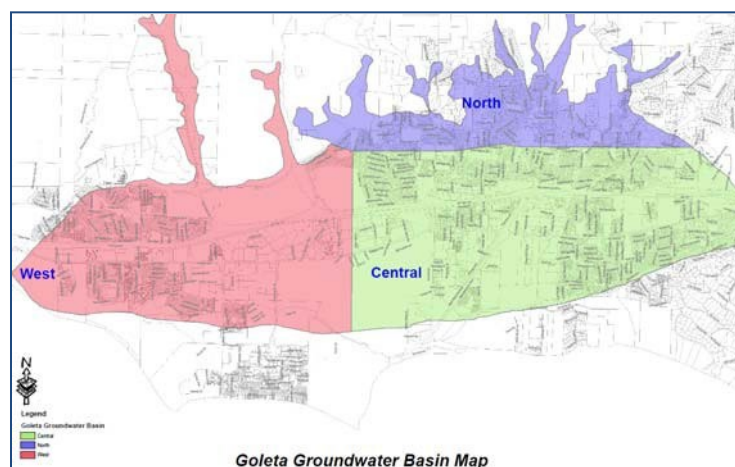
The amount of SWP water delivered in a given year depends on a number of factors, including demand, rainfall, snowpack, runoff, and legal/regulatory constraints on SWP operations. To assist water resource managers in determining the reliability of State water supplies, the DWR (operator of the SWP) prepares a SWP Delivery Reliability Report. The report provides estimates of the current and future SWP delivery reliability given assumptions about climate change and

regulatory requirements placed on the SWP that can be helpful in water supply planning. The State Water Project Delivery Capability Report 2023, which was published in July 2024, estimates that the long-term average delivery of SWP contracts amounts (referred to as Table A deliveries) will be 55percent. This same report estimates that over a six-year drought under current conditions deliveries would be approximately 14 to 21 percent of Table A amounts, and in a single dry year as little as 4 percent. Typically, DWR proposes an initial allocation of SWP water in December and then adjusts the allocations throughout the spring.

Conditions that decrease the reliability of imported supplies and may lead to imported water supply shortages include drought periods in Northern California and natural disasters. Prolonged and severe drought conditions may lead to imported water supply allocation reductions. For example, the January 2014 allocation marked the first time in the 54-year history of the SWP that DWR announced a zero allocation for all 29 SWP contractors. Natural disasters like earthquakes also pose a threat to the hundreds of miles of pipelines and aqueducts that convey imported water. A severe earthquake in the Bay Delta, the source of SWP water supplies, could also compromise the levee system that prevents seawater intrusion and cause a long-term outage of imported water supplies due to degraded water quality. The SWP is also vulnerable to the evolving environmental and regulatory issues in the Sacramento Delta.

2.3.3 Groundwater

The Goleta Groundwater Basin (Goleta GW Basin) is an important local source of supply for GWD. District use of water from the Goleta Groundwater Basin is governed by the Wright Judgment, the voter-approved SAFE Ordinance (Appendix A), and the 2022 Groundwater Management Plan for the Goleta GW Basin (published April 2023).



The Wright Judgment resulted from a lawsuit filed in 1972 by a group of landowners seeking adjudication of water rights in the Goleta North-Central Groundwater Basin, and was settled in 1989. The resulting adjudication gave GWD an appropriative right to extract 2,000 AFY from the basin. Subsequent transfers from other entities overlying the basin have increased the District annual allowable base extraction to 2,350 AFY, which

constitutes approximately 15 percent of the District supply portfolio in normal years. This excludes water the District has stored in the Basin, as well as the drought buffer (described further in Section 3) available to GWD when the Basin is above 1972 levels or when there are reduced deliveries of Cachuma water.

Groundwater level monitoring of the Goleta GW Basin is currently performed in April and December of each year. The U.S. Geological Survey, under contract with GWD, collects data from seven index wells representative of the Basin. The wells have complete historical records dating back to 1972. The “Normal Operations” range for the basin is between the 1972 and 2012 elevations (-26 feet to -1 feet mean sea level). Groundwater elevations below -26 feet mean sea

level (msl) (1972 level) indicate drought or other water shortage condition and the “Drought Plan for Groundwater Pumping” included in the Goleta Groundwater Basin Groundwater Management Plan should be followed.

As further described in Section 4, given the robust GWD drought buffer, it is assumed that in all year types (wet, normal, dry) GWD’s base extraction will be available. Groundwater elevations are reviewed following the December and April measurements to look for indications of drought and to determine appropriate groundwater management consistent with the Groundwater Management Plan.

As described above, groundwater supplies from the Goleta GW Basin are generally reliable but may be impacted by drought conditions. The sudden presence of a contaminant in the Goleta GW Basin could also lead to groundwater supply shortages in the service area. However, the probability of this event occurring is very low and the District does not anticipate significant or immediate changes in groundwater quality. There are no other threats identified in the Goleta GW Basin that could lead to unexpected supply shortages.

2.3.4 Recycled Water

Recycled water is generally considered a “drought-proof” supply. In a normal year recycled water makes up approximately 6 percent of the District water supply, or about 630 AF (GWD 2025). The recycled water production capacity of the Reclamation Plant is approximately 3,000 AFY, but the ability to fully utilize recycled water is limited by condensed use patterns. Recycled water use is heaviest during the irrigation season and is limited to a 12-hour rather than a 24-hour period. Furthermore, storage is available to address daily fluctuations but not seasonal variability. In wet and average years, it is assumed that GWD will have an estimated demand of about 660 AF of recycled water in the near term, decreasing to 460 AF by 2035. In dry years, this demand is expected to remain the same as normal years because drought-related increases in conservation measures do not apply to recycled water.

Because recycled water is a reliable and climate-resilient supply, there are no significant issues that may create a shortage condition for recycled water. However, for the purposes of this Plan, recycled water will not be considered as a source of the District’s supply portfolio because it would not be subject to demand reduction programs, water allocations, or other drought response programs. Recycled water is, however, considered as a potential drought mitigation measure, and the potential to increase recycled water use is described further in Section 4.

2.3.5 Seismic Risk Assessment and Hazard Mitigation Plan

In 2023, GWD prepared an Amendment to the County of Santa Barbara’s 2022 Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan that includes hazard vulnerability assessments and mitigation plans, including specific assessment for earthquakes. GWD is in a high seismic activity zone due to nearby on and offshore fault systems. GWD has identified specific seismic vulnerabilities within its system that could lead to a disruption of service, including the risk for potential collapse of the Tecolote Tunnel and/or transmission mains, damage to system facilities, water quality issues, and power outages. To mitigate these risks, GWD implements numerous proactive measures including designing redundant infrastructure, installing isolation valves and interconnections, conducting geotechnical analysis for soil stability, and inspecting critical

infrastructure regularly. The District's Emergency Response Plan details GWD's procedures for responding to the impacts of an earthquake, which include potential water shortage conditions.

2.3.6 Other Supply Availability Considerations

In determining the availability of supply for any given period (i.e., the next 12 months, the next 24 months, etc.) the District must look beyond the total quantity of supplies and consider other factors that affect water supply availability.

Infrastructure Capacity

Assessing infrastructure capacity to extract groundwater, deliver SWP water, and distribute water through the District distribution system is of paramount importance in determining the availability of supplies. For example, the District uses the Goleta GW Basin for storage of water supplies through its Aquifer Storage and Recovery program. Consistent with recommendations provided in the DWR UWMP Guidebook, the District temporarily suspends groundwater banking practices and withdraws previously banked groundwater to augment other supplies and meet customer demand during drought. At the start of the most recent drought, the ability to extract stored water from the Basin was severely limited by groundwater pumping infrastructure capabilities. Consistent with the supply mitigation options discussed in Section 4 of this Plan and recognizing the decreasing reliability of surface water supplies at that time, the District made focused investments in well infrastructure that increased groundwater production capacity such that minimum public health and safety needs of the community could be met with groundwater alone. Further supply mitigation options include making additional capital improvements to enhance the District's ability to extract groundwater, such as installing new wells or increasing the capacity of existing wells.

Similarly, the Coastal Aqueduct has limited pipeline capacity, which may impact the timing of delivery of SWP water, as discussed below.

Timing of Delivery

The timing of delivery, particularly as it relates to SWP water, must also be considered in evaluating District supply availability. For example, in April 2014 DWR announced a five percent allocation of SWP water (up from zero percent in December), with the caveat that delivery could not be taken until September 2014. Accordingly, the District could not incorporate SWP water into its supply model until September, limiting the availability of that supply. Furthermore, pipeline capacity constraints of the Coastal Aqueduct limits the amount of water that can be delivered to the District. Particularly in times of drought when other State Water Contractors on the Santa Barbara County South Coast are importing State Water, limited delivery amounts are available. Monthly deliveries can range anywhere from 150-400 AF but may be increased when excess capacity becomes available due to other agencies not importing water to Lake Cachuma.

Goleta Water District – City of Santa Barbara Interconnect

The District maintains three interconnects with the City of Santa Barbara that can be used during emergencies, shutdowns of the Corona Del Mar Water Treatment Plant or South Coast Conduit, or other times of need for supplemental supplies. The current capacity of the interconnect is approximately 2.3 million gallons per day (mgd), or 2,576 AFY. The potential to increase the capacity of the interconnect is discussed as a supply mitigation option in Section 3 of this Plan.

Goleta Water District – El Capitan Mutual Water Company Interconnect

The District maintains an interconnect with the El Capitan Mutual Water Company (ECMWC) that is available to supply potable water to Goleta West Conduit customers. The current capacity of the interconnect is 75 gallons-per-minute (0.1 mgd). An existing agreement allows GWD to purchase limited water supply from ECMWC and deliver via this interconnect during emergency and maintenance shutdowns. This arrangement has proven successful as a limited and temporary backup supply during outages.

Water Quality

Decreasing water levels due to drought can sometimes lead to water quality changes that limit the use of a particular source of supply. Based on current conditions and past experiences GWD does not anticipate significant or immediate changes in water quality due to drought.

There is a direct relationship between salinity (measured as total dissolved solids [TDS]) and inflow to Lake Cachuma. Modeling conducted as part of the Cachuma Project Water Rights Hearing demonstrate that salinity concentrations of both the SWP and Santa Ynez River increase as flow decreases. Modeling anticipates that TDS in Lake Cachuma will be less than 500 milligrams per liter (mg/L) in a very wet year to more than 850 mg/L in a dry year. However, even with these increases in salinity, water will continue to meet the primary drinking water standard (1,000 mg/L TDS). The District Corona Del Mar Water Treatment Plant has the capacity to address any water quality issues with lake water, such as increased salinity or turbidity.

In the past, chloride concentrates were a concern in the Goleta GW Basin and peaked during periods of heavy groundwater pumping. This is less likely to occur now that low-chloride Cachuma spill water is used to recharge the groundwater basin. However, long periods of heavy groundwater pumping could degrade groundwater quality. GWD will continue to monitor and test the water quality of all its water supplies during a drought.

2.3.7 Potential Supply Enhancement Opportunities

Supply enhancement options to consider in times of drought or a water shortage emergency generally fall into three broad categories: enhance existing supplies, utilize a reserve supply, and acquire a new supply. Reducing demand is also a critical drought response action. The District will review the potential supply enhancement options as part of its “pre-water shortage” planning, as discussed in Section 5.1.

2.4 Demand Indicators

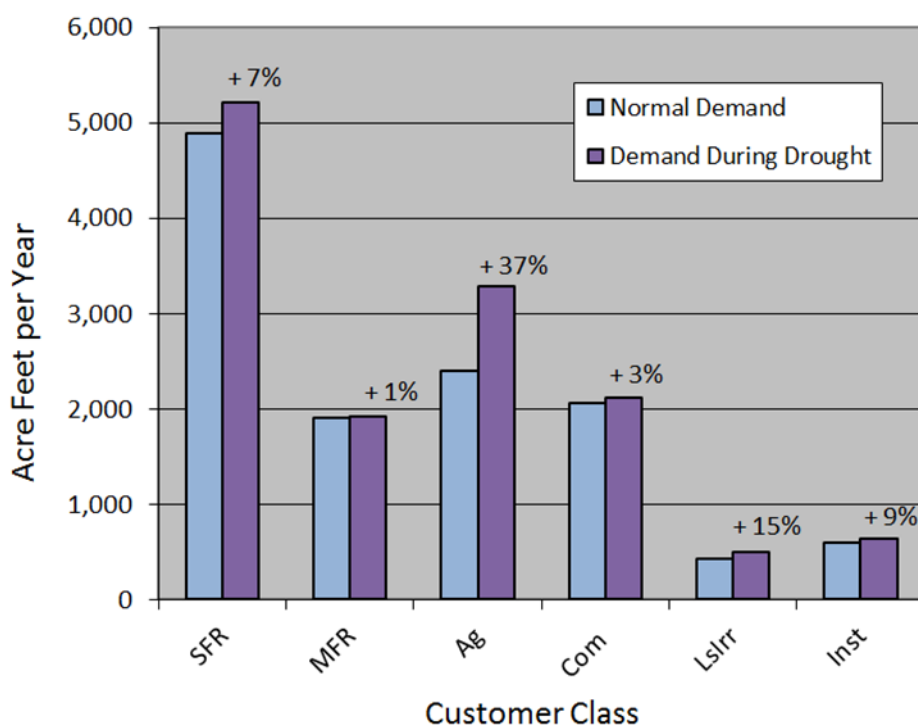
Water use by District customers is primarily influenced by climate (e.g., evapotranspiration, precipitation) and economic factors. The extent of these effects may vary based on local conditions. Hence, it is essential to consider the effect of the various factors influencing water demand and plan accordingly for potential changes in demand.

To determine the factors influencing water use in the GWD service area, GWD billing data for years 2003 to 2012 was examined. Regression analyses were performed to evaluate the correlation between water use for various categories (single family, multifamily,

commercial/industrial and landscape irrigation), weather (ET, precipitation) and economic (unemployment rate) factors⁶. The statistical analyses indicate that water use is affected by both weather and economy. The effect of weather (ET) varied with land use; agricultural and landscape irrigation demand are significantly affected by ET. Figure 2-3 shows the estimated increase in average annual water use by District customers during drought conditions (low precipitation, high ET) for different customer classes, assuming normal unemployment.

Demand analysis indicates that water use is higher for all types of users in a better economy. This Plan assumes a normal unemployment rate (50th Percentile). It is particularly important to estimate increases in demand as they relate to weather when evaluating demand indicators. As reflected above, demand increases among all customer classes when evapotranspiration (a measure of drought) is above average (90th percentile). Multi-family and commercial water uses have little change, but outdoor water uses (agriculture, landscape irrigation) increase much more dramatically. Since agriculture alone represents approximately twenty percent of District water use, seasonal variability in overall demand is particularly high for the District and can be expected during drought conditions. For example, during the most recent drought, agricultural water use increased to 23 percent of total District water use due to the warm, dry weather and the increased need to irrigate.

Figure 2-3
Increases in Demand During Drought



⁶ Weather data for these analyses were obtained from the California Irrigation Management Information System (CIMIS) database for CIMIS Station 107. Unemployment data for Goleta was obtained from the State of California Employment Development Department database.

2.5 Uncertainty Associated with Forecasts

Forecasting the potential severity and duration of drought is difficult. While the current state of climate science can provide information on general trends, uncertainty cannot be entirely eliminated. However, as described in the sections above, proactive planning helps mitigate the impact of these uncertainties. By performing a comprehensive review of water supplies throughout the year, as appropriate for each source of supply, the District gets a preliminary snapshot of conditions that allows for early planning, including lining up resources to mitigate a potential supply shortage and initiating the appropriate customer outreach to reduce demand.

2.6 Annual Supply and Demand Assessment Procedures

Since July 1, 2022, the District is required to prepare and submit an annual water supply and demand assessment (Annual Assessment) to DWR by July 1 of every year. The focus of the Annual Assessment is to evaluate actual forecasted near-term water supply conditions (for the next 12 months) and determine if a water shortage is imminent. This evaluation will ensure appropriate shortage response actions are implemented in a timely manner as needed to produce expected demand response or supply enhancement outcomes. The Annual Assessment will be consistent with DWR's Annual Assessment guidance document that is released annually, generally in the spring. This section includes specific procedures that describe annual steps and timing to complete the Annual Assessment, such that it can be consistently followed year-after-year.

2.6.1 Data and Methodologies

This section provides a description of key data inputs and Annual Assessment methodologies used to evaluate the water system reliability for the coming year, assuming that the year to follow would be dry. For the purposes of this analysis, a dry year is considered an annual period of low rainfall either locally or statewide, which may result in reduced water supplies. Notably, in addition to precipitation, streamflow, groundwater levels, and reservoir levels are used to project potential water shortages and will therefore be used to define the characteristics of a dry year. Particularly if a year is preceded by dry year(s) or drought recovery is underway following a recent drought, a water shortage corresponding to the water shortage levels described in Section 3 is more likely to be triggered.

The Annual Assessment relies on the District's water supply and demand model, described in Section 3.2, to determine the potential for a supply shortage in the upcoming year, and the severity of the water supply shortage based on current trends in demand and supply availability. For this assessment, the current year is considered the twelve-month period ending on June 30 prior to the July 1 deadline. The upcoming year is considered the subsequent twelve-month period (July 1 to June 30). To evaluate reliability, the following inputs are considered.

1. **Current Year Unconstrained Demand.** GWD determines the current year's unconstrained demand, estimated from water sales, estimated water losses, and any applicable water savings reductions. Current year unconstrained demand considers weather, growth, and other influencing factors such as policies to manage current supplies.
2. **Current Year Available Supply.** GWD assesses and quantifies each source of water supply on a monthly basis for the current year. Evaluated supply sources include:

- Surface water supplies from the Cachuma Project, including current reservoir storage;
 - Imported water from the SWP, including statewide water supply conditions; and
 - Groundwater from the Goleta GW Basin, including current groundwater levels.
3. **Upcoming Year Unconstrained Demand.** GWD assumes that demand in the next year will be the projected water use adjusted by the demand increase expected in the applicable dry year condition, as defined in the 2025 UWMP. The dry year condition may be a single dry year (if the current year is normal) or a year within a multiple dry year scenario (if the current and/or previous year(s) have been dry).
 4. **Upcoming Year Available Supply.** GWD estimates the supply that will be available in the next year, which is assumed to be a dry year. Similar to the upcoming year unconstrained demand, the dry year condition may be projected as a single dry year or a year within a multiple dry year scenario, as appropriate.
 5. **Infrastructure Considerations.** As part of its supply availability analysis, GWD evaluates how infrastructure capabilities and constraints may affect the ability to access and deliver supplies to meet projected customer water demand in the coming year. The Annual Assessment also outlines anticipated capital projects identified in the updated Infrastructure Improvement Plan and Annual Budget that may improve capacity or constrain capabilities to meet demand.
 6. **Unconstrained Customer Demand.** GWD determines projected customer water demand for the upcoming year based on current and historical use trends. For the purposes of this analysis, unconstrained demand projections are the District's latest demand forecast (adjusted by previous year consumption) which considers unconstrained demand, weather, population growth, and other influencing factors for the current year and following years.

2.6.2 Decision-Making Process and Submittal

This section describes the decision-making process that the District will use each year to determine, and subsequently report to the state, its water supply reliability. The District's process for assessing projected supply and demand will be consistent with the "Water Shortage Stage Determination" process described in Section 3.2. The District's water supply and demand model will serve as the primary tool for producing projected water supply availability in comparison to projected demand. The District's assessment methodology described here may be adjusted depending on the information available at the time of the Annual Assessment Report.

Steps in the decision-making process include:

1. USBR announces Cachuma Project water allocation determination for Cachuma Member Units. The allocation, combined with any carryover remaining from the previous year (tracked and reported on in COMB's Water Production Use reports distributed to member units monthly), determines the amount of Cachuma water expected to be available.
2. State announces annual allocation for imported water available through the State Water Project. The allocation, combined with any imported carryover water remaining from previous years (tracked and reported on in CCWA's Water Delivery Status Report published quarterly), determines the total amount of imported water available.

3. District determines the amount of groundwater available to pump, taking into consideration the pumping limitations under the SAFE Ordinance, current infrastructure limitations, water quality, groundwater basin levels, and projected groundwater supplies needed in the coming year.
4. District reviews demand projections and makes any adjustments to reflect weather predictions, recent trends, and other demand influencers, to develop monthly customer sector demand projections.
5. District inputs supply and demand projections into the model, which calculates the estimated percent of supply available and corresponding water shortage stage, if applicable. The results determine the water supply reliability for the upcoming year.
6. District prepares and submits Annual Assessment Report to the state by the July 1 deadline.

2.6.3 Reasonable Alternative Actions

State regulations require an urban water supplier to follow, where feasible and appropriate, the prescribed procedures and implement determined shortage response actions in this WSCP, or reasonable alternative actions, provided that descriptions of the alternative actions are submitted with the Annual Assessment Report (CWC subdivision (a) of §10632). Should the assessment indicate a water shortage is anticipated, the District will take the necessary steps to declare a water shortage, as described in Section 3 of this WSCP, and implement the shortage response actions that correspond to the water shortage level, as described in Section 5, to ensure sufficient supplies remain available to meet demand.

Section 3:Determining Water Shortage Stages

3.1 Five Stage Approach

The purpose of establishing water shortage stages is to clearly define the severity of the shortage and establish appropriate targets for customer demand reductions and actions to achieve those reductions. Defining drought stages allows the District to craft a progressive response to worsening drought conditions, with each stage “triggering” different specific actions. The 2014 WSCP originally defined five specific water shortage stages and provided a framework for District actions during each stage. The five-stage approach provided different levels of response for a water shortage event ranging from a 10 percent supply deficiency to a 50 percent or greater deficiency. Table 3-1 summarizes the water shortage stages defined by Goleta Water District in the 2014 WSCP, including the supply shortage condition (potential current year/12-month shortage and anticipated future/24-month supply deficiency), system-wide reduction targets, and demand reduction measures for each stage.

Per the 2025 UWMP guidelines, suppliers are required to include six standard shortage levels corresponding to progressive ranges (up to 10-, 20-, 30-, 40-, 50- percent, and greater than 50-percent shortage compared to the normal reliability condition) in their WSCPs. However, suppliers are also authorized to continue using their own water shortage levels that were included in past WSCPs as long as a graphic showing the Supplier’s water shortage levels in relationship to the six standard water shortage levels is included. The 2020 WSCP, which was the first one that was required to align with the standard levels, maintained the original five stage approach which has proven effective in achieving necessary demand reductions. This 2025 WSCP continues to use the five stage approach and includes a “crosswalk” that translates the District’s existing shortage levels to those mandated by statute (Figure 3-1).

Table 3-1
Water Shortage Stages

Stage	Supply Shortage Condition	System-wide Reduction Target	Demand Reduction Measures
I	If any of the following occur: • District water supply is 85 to 90% of normal (10-15% supply deficiency) for the next twelve months. • District water supply is insufficient to provide 80% of normal deliveries for the next twenty four months. • Contamination of 10% of water supply (pollutant exceeds primary drinking water standards)	15%	• Voluntary water use reductions
II	If any of the following occur: • District water supply is 75 to 85% of normal (16-25% supply deficiency) for the next twelve months. • District water supply is insufficient to provide 75% of normal deliveries for the next twenty four months. • Contamination of 20% of water supply (pollutant exceeds primary drinking water standards)	25%	• Mandatory: limits and prohibitions on certain uses
III	If any of the following occur: • District water supply is 65 to 75% of normal (26-35% supply deficiency) for the next twelve months. • District water supply is insufficient to provide 65% of normal deliveries for the next twenty four months. • Contamination of 30% of water supply (pollutant exceeds primary drinking water standards)	35%	• Same as Stage II, but more severe • Potential drought rates*
IV	If any of the following occur: • District water supply is 55 to 65% of normal (36-45% supply deficiency) for the next twelve months. • District water supply is insufficient to provide 55% of normal deliveries for the next twenty four months. • Contamination of 40% of water supply (pollutant exceeds primary drinking water standards)	45%	• Same as Stage III, but more severe

V	If any of the following occur: • District water supply is less than 55% of normal (46% or higher supply deficiency) for the next twelve months. • District water supply is insufficient to provide 50% of normal deliveries for the next twenty four months. • Contamination of 50% or more of water supply (pollutant exceeds primary drinking water standards) • Unanticipated loss of water distribution or supply facilities due to disaster or man-made emergencies	50% or greater	• Same as Stages III & IV, but more severe
---	--	----------------	--

* While drought rates are not included in the rate structure developed from the 2025 Cost of Service Study, this general planning document includes the option to implement drought rates following a required Proposition 218 process should the need arise.

Figure 3-1
Relationships Between the District's Existing Shortage Levels and the 2025 WSCP Mandated Shortage Levels

Stage	Supply Shortage Condition	System-wide Reduction Target	Demand Reduction Measures
I	If any of the following occur: - District water supply is 85 to 90% of normal (10-15% supply deficiency) for the next twelve months. - District water supply is insufficient to provide 80% of normal deliveries for the next twenty four months. - Contamination of 10% of water supply (pollutant exceeds primary drinking water standards)	15%	Voluntary water use reductions
II	If any of the following occur: - District water supply is 75 to 85% of normal (16-25% supply deficiency) for the next twelve months. - District water supply is insufficient to provide 75% of normal deliveries for the next twenty four months. - Contamination of 20% of water supply (pollutant exceeds primary drinking water standards)	25%	Mandatory: limits and prohibitions on certain uses
III	If any of the following occur: - District water supply is 65 to 75% of normal (26-35% supply deficiency) for the next twelve months. - District water supply is insufficient to provide 65% of normal deliveries for the next twenty four months. - Contamination of 30% of water supply (pollutant exceeds primary drinking water standards)	35%	- Same as Stage II, but more severe - Potential drought rates
IV	If any of the following occur: - District water supply is 55 to 65% of normal (36-45% supply deficiency) for the next twelve months. - District water supply is insufficient to provide 55% of normal deliveries for the next twenty four months. - Contamination of 40% of water supply (pollutant exceeds primary drinking water standards)	45%	Same as Stage III, but more severe
V	If any of the following occur: - District water supply is less than 55% of normal (46% or higher supply deficiency) for the next twelve months. - District water supply is insufficient to provide 50% of normal deliveries for the next twenty four months. - Contamination of 50% or more of water supply (pollutant exceeds primary drinking water standards) - Unanticipated loss of water distribution or supply facilities due to disaster or man-made emergencies	50% or greater	Same as Stages III & IV, but more severe

2020 WSCP Level	Shortage Level
I	<10%
II	10 – 20 %
III	20 – 30%
IV	30 – 40%
V	40 – 50%
VI	> 50%

3.2 Water Shortage Stage Determination

The District has an existing water supply and demand model it runs on a regular basis. Figure 3-2 provides a snapshot of this tool, which the District utilizes to determine the potential for a supply shortage early in the planning process. The necessary steps for determining a water shortage stage involve: (1) evaluating potential changes in demand across customer categories; (2) examining projected supply availability for each supply source including a potential shortage caused by infrastructure limitations; and (3) evaluating and identifying available supply mitigation options, as discussed in Section 4.1 of this Plan.

The District water supply and demand model utilizes supply and demand inputs to produce supply availability percentage outputs for the following 12 and 24 month periods. This allows the District to determine whether a water supply shortage is anticipated in any given year, and the severity of a shortage based on the availability of the different sources of supply and trends in demand. The model is updated regularly with actual customer demand data and any changes in the delivery timing or quantity of water supplies, including projected and actual groundwater production data. The model is also used to inform the Annual Assessment report.

In addition, if conditions authorizing the release of potable water under the SAFE Ordinance (described in Section 3.4) are not met, a water shortage emergency under the SAFE Ordinance is triggered.

**Figure 3-2
Water Supply and Demand Model**

Water Supply & Demand Model

	Year 1												Year 2											
	Oct Actual	Nov Projected	Dec Projected	Jan Projected	Feb Projected	Mar Projected	Apr Projected	May Projected	Jun Projected	Jul Projected	Aug Projected	Sep Projected	Oct Projected	Nov Projected	Dec Projected	Jan Projected	Feb Projected	Mar Projected	Apr Projected	May Projected	Jun Projected	Jul Projected	Aug Projected	Sep Projected
DEMAND																								
Agriculture Irrigation	190	170	166	112	39	29	47	100	132	178	153	197	114	122	123	76	27	30	35	76	103	136	107	152
Commercial	163	200	157	103	83	147	127	148	188	188	138	215	152	171	138	82	79	151	129	135	173	170	115	196
Conveyance	9	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
Fire Service	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Galeta West Conduit	179	150	93	72	5	7	25	45	71	129	125	170	89	95	59	5	5	5	16	28	45	5	5	108
Institutional	43	40	50	36	27	44	45	51	53	59	48	50	34	36	46	30	24	46	42	48	52	56	42	48
Landscape Irrigation	39	42	37	24	11	20	17	22	32	43	40	54	13	14	16	11	11	21	18	18	22	19	12	20
Multi-Family Residence	176	125	144	103	96	169	146	150	174	170	125	159	119	118	140	91	91	174	149	155	185	171	115	167
Single Family Residence	326	333	316	207	150	215	204	232	320	357	288	396	288	303	297	177	132	205	193	223	316	345	256	387
TOTAL DEMAND	1,125	1,067	971	665	419	639	619	756	979	1,132	925	1,248	818	867	827	480	376	640	590	691	903	911	661	1,087
SUPPLY																								
Groundwater																								
Total Available	458	460	491	475	475	527	493	527	505	527	510	527	527	510	527	510	510	549	519	558	517	520	587	676
Total Used	446	460	491	475	414	527	493	527	505	527	510	527	527	510	527	475	371	549	519	558	517	520	587	676
Lake Cachuma																								
Beginning Balance	3,602	2,929	2,319	1,839	1,651	1,649	1,656	1,645	1,614	1,557	1,443	1,333	1,179	923	573	281	286	291	307	312	304	280	296	312
Cachuma Entitlement (Add)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Available Balance	3,602	2,929	2,319	1,839	1,651	1,649	1,656	1,645	1,614	1,557	1,443	1,333	1,179	923	573	281	286	291	307	312	304	280	296	312
- Cachuma Entitlement used	678	607	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
- Cachuma Carryover used	0	0	480	190	5	0	14	34	60	117	114	159	261	357	300	5	5	0	5	17	34	0	0	97
Adjustments (evap, exchange, etc.)	5	(3)	(0)	2	3	0	3	3	3	3	4	5	5	7	8	0	0	0	0	10	10	16	18	10
Total Used (including adjustments)	673	610	480	188	2	0	11	31	57	114	110	154	255	350	316	5	5	0	5	8	24	16	18	87
Total Remaining	2,929	2,319	1,839	1,651	1,649	1,656	1,645	1,614	1,557	1,443	1,333	1,179	923	573	281	286	291	307	312	304	280	296	312	225
State Water																								
Beginning Balance	0	0	0	0	0	0	309	620	847	854	537	409	20	0	0	0	0	0	328	686	992	1,060	1,082	1,107
State water delivered (add)	0	0	0	0	0	425	425	425	425	175	175	175	10	0	0	0	0	425	425	425	425	425	110	0
Available Balance	0	0	0	0	0	425	734	1,045	1,272	1,029	712	584	30	0	0	0	0	425	753	1,111	1,417	1,485	1,192	1,107
- State Table A used						116	112	195	414	487	301	562	30	0	0	0	0	97	66	116	352	397	80	314
- State Carryover used																								
Water Evaporation Adjustment	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	3	4	4	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	3	5	5	5	6
Total Used (including adjustments)	0	0	0	0	0	116	113	198	418	492	303	564	30	0	0	0	0	97	68	119	357	402	85	319
Remaining Delivered State Water	0	0	0	0	0	309	620	847	854	537	409	20	0	0	0	0	0	328	686	992	1,060	1,082	1,107	788
Total Supplies Available	4,060	3,389	2,810	2,314	2,126	2,601	2,883	3,217	3,391	3,113	2,666	2,444	1,736	1,433	1,100	791	796	1,265	1,580	1,981	2,238	2,285	2,076	2,096
Total Supplies Used	1,125	1,067	971	665	419	639	619	756	979	1,132	925	1,248	818	867	827	480	376	640	590	691	903	911	661	1,087
Total Remaining Supplies	2,935	2,322	1,839	1,649	1,707	1,962	2,264	2,461	2,412	1,981	1,741	1,196	918	566	273	311	421	626	990	1,290	1,335	1,374	1,415	1,009
12-Month Drought Threshold	76.3%	72.4%	68.8%	66.0%	65.0%	65.2%	67.4%	69.5%	70.9%	70.7%	69.5%	68.0%	64.3%	63.5%	62.3%	60.7%	61.4%	62.2%	64.9%	67.6%	69.9%	70.5%	71.5%	72.2%
24-month Drought Threshold	66.4%	65.0%	63.7%	62.4%	62.2%	62.8%	64.1%	65.3%	66.2%	66.3%	66.1%	65.5%	63.7%	63.3%	62.5%	61.7%	62.0%	62.4%	63.7%	65.1%	66.3%	66.6%	67.1%	67.4%
Drought Stage	III	III	III	III	III	III	III	III	III	III	III	III	IV	IV	IV	IV	IV	IV	IV	III	III	III	III	III

3.3 Process for Declaring a Water Shortage

Water Code Sections 350 to 352 dictate specific processes to guide the District Board of Directors in declaring a water shortage, including a specially noticed public hearing:

Cal. Water Code Section 350. The governing body of a distributor of a public water supply, whether publicly or privately owned and including a mutual water company, may **declare a water shortage emergency** condition to prevail within the area served by such distributor whenever it finds and determines that the ordinary demand and requirements of water consumers cannot be satisfied without depleting the water supply of the distributor to the extent that there would be insufficient water for human consumption, sanitation, and fire protection.

Cal. Water Code Section 351. Excepting in event of a breakage or failure of a dam, pump, pipeline or conduit causing an immediate emergency, the declaration shall be made only after a **public hearing** at which consumers of such water supply shall have an opportunity to be heard to protest against the declaration and to present their respective needs to said governing board.

Cal. Water Code Section 352. **Notice of the time and place of hearing** shall be published pursuant to Section 6061 of the Government Code at least seven days prior to the date of hearing in a newspaper printed, published, and circulated within the area in which the water supply is distributed, or if there is no such newspaper, in any newspaper printed, published, and circulated in the county in which the area is located.

Per the California Water Code, the District will provide the legally required notice of the time and place of the Water Shortage Hearing at least seven days in advance. The shortage declaration will be accompanied by adoption of a Water Shortage Ordinance establishing regulations and procedures for implementing various water shortage stages. An Ordinance is generally needed when the intent is to regulate persons or property or impose fines. A general draft Water Shortage Ordinance is provided in Appendix B.

3.4 SAFE Ordinance Moratorium

The voter-approved SAFE Ordinance prohibits allocating water to new or additional potable water service connections to properties not previously served by the District unless certain circumstances are met. Specifically, new water allocations may be made only when the following conditions are satisfied:

- The District receives 100 percent of its annual Cachuma Project allocation; and
- The District has met all of its *Wright Judgment* obligations; and
- There is no water rationing; and
- The District has met its obligation to make its annual storage contribution to the drought buffer.

Under the SAFE Ordinance, the District determines each year whether the listed conditions will have been met as of the beginning of the next calendar year. Pursuant to the language of SAFE and the District procedures implementing it, the District adopts a resolution in December setting forth the new water allocation for the subsequent calendar year (1 percent of the total potable District supply if the above conditions are met).

As discussed above, if the listed conditions under the SAFE Ordinance are not met the District will adopt restrictions on new development as set forth in the SAFE Ordinance. Such action will be taken independently of the other actions set forth in this Plan because of the timing requirements in the SAFE Ordinance.

Section 4: Water Shortage Impact Mitigation Strategy

Drought response actions typically rely on the ability of a water agency to either temporarily augment supply and/or reduce water demand. Successful drought response programs typically combine a variety of elements, from outreach and water pricing to use restrictions and enforcement; each increasing in intensity as the shortage persists and progresses. This section reviews the general strategies the District will employ to mitigate the impacts of drought and water shortage on the community. Section 5 adds specificity to these strategies and reviews the specific actions the District will take during each water shortage stage.

Table 4-1, below, provides a summary of the system-wide reduction target for each water shortage stage.

Table 4-1
System-Wide Reduction Targets

Stage	Supply Deficiency		System-wide Reduction Target
	Current Supply (Next 12 months)	Future Supply (Next 24 months)	
I	10-15%	20%	15%
II	16-25%	25%	25%
III	26-35%	35%	35%
IV	36-45%	45%	45%
V	46% or greater	50%	50% or greater

4.1 Supply Management and Enhancement

The District has several foundational planning documents and policies that guide the management of its water supplies. For example, the Water Supply Management Plan recommends a strategy for prioritizing different water sources. Under normal operations, Cachuma project water is used before groundwater is utilized; however, in a drought, the Water Supply Management Plan recommends pumping groundwater first so as to maximize the amount of water that can be extracted from the Basin with existing well facilities. The UWMP and the Groundwater Management Plan are also important planning tools, while the voter-approved SAFE Water Supplies Ordinance and the *Wright Judgment* place specific parameters around when and how the District can pump groundwater above its annual right to 2,350 AFY. While the District will continue to manage its water supplies pursuant to these guiding documents and policies, during times of drought, the District may consider various supply enhancement options, as discussed below.

Supply enhancement options to consider in times of drought or a water shortage emergency generally fall into three broad categories: enhance existing supplies, utilize reserve supplies, and

acquire new supplies. Prior to declaring a water shortage, the District will evaluate potential supply enhancement and mitigation options, which may include:

- Groundwater supply mitigation.
 - Rehabilitate or modify inactive wells to increase pumping capacity.
 - Install new/additional wells to be used in emergencies and during drought.

The “Drought Buffer Management” included in the Goleta Groundwater Basin Groundwater Management Plan should be followed if groundwater elevations drop below - 26 feet mean seal level (1972 level).

- Recycled water. Expand the use of recycled water through infrastructure improvements/modifications, adding new customers, or transporting/trucking recycled water for use in areas not adjacent to the existing distribution system.
- Goleta Water District – City of Santa Barbara Interconnect. Construct a new high-capacity connection (interconnect) between the water distribution systems of the District and the City of Santa Barbara. Design for the high-capacity connection was completed in 2007. This project would add an estimated 2 million gallons per day (MGD) of capacity that could be pumped into the District’s transmission main. Once constructed, the additional interconnect would increase the capacity of the existing interconnect (from 2.3 to 4.3 MGD).
- Central Coast Water Authority (CCWA) acquisition program. Participate with the CCWA to identify and secure supplemental imported supplies for the South Coast. Given the fact that in normal water years the District has more State Water available than it needs to meet customer demand, there could be opportunities for exchanges (balanced and unbalanced), in which the District would secure water supplies during drought and repay those water supplies at a negotiated exchange rate during normal conditions. Purchase opportunities may also be available pursuant to Amendment 21 of the State Water Contract.

There are various considerations for each supply enhancement option, including timeframe for implementation, potential quantity of supply available, length of time supply would be available (seasonally, single year, multi-year), financial implications, and environmental considerations.

4.2 Demand Management and Drought Response Programs

4.2.1 Customer Class Reduction Targets

To determine where reductions could be achieved among District customer classes, water use for each customer class was analyzed by reviewing 10 years of District billing data. This analysis, coupled with an estimate of water needs for health and safety, provided the basis for setting customer demand reduction targets.

Single family residential customer reduction targets are generally slightly higher than the overall system-wide reduction target and more than multi-family customers due to the relatively higher proportion of outdoor to indoor use among single family households. The District will develop regulations to implement scaled reductions in each customer class. Generally, the targets would be achieved through the various demand reduction programs described in this Plan; public outreach, restrictions, incentive programs (landscape rebates, efficient fixtures, etc.), and

disincentive programs (fees, penalties, rates). The District's demand reduction programs are designed to achieve specific demand reduction targets for each customer class.

Priority of Use

Priority for use of available potable water during shortages is based on the legal requirements set forth in the California Water Code, Sections 350-358. Accordingly, water use reduction targets and allocations discussed below have been established according to the following ranking system in this Plan (listed from highest to lowest priority):

1. **Health and Safety.** Minimum health and safety allocations for interior residential needs (includes single and multi-family residential, hospitals and convalescent facilities, retirement and mobile home communities, student housing, firefighting, and public safety).
2. **Business.** Commercial, industrial, institutional/governmental operations (where water is used for manufacturing and for minimum health and safety allocations for employees and visitors), to maintain jobs and economic base of the community (not for landscape use).
3. **Irrigation - Permanent.** Permanent agriculture (orchards, vineyards, and other commercial agriculture which would require at least five years to return to production).
4. **Irrigation - Annual.** Annual agriculture (floriculture, strawberries, other truckcrops).
5. **New connections.** The SAFE Ordinance prohibits the District from making new service connections during times of drought.

Table 4-2 shows how different customer classes are categorized by use priority.

Table 4-2
Use Priority for Different Goleta Water District Customer Classes

Customer Class	Use Priority			
	1 <i>Health and Safety</i>	2 <i>Business</i>	3 <i>Irrigation- Permanent</i>	4 <i>Irrigation - Annual</i>
Single Family Residential	X			
Multi-Family Residential	X			
Commercial		X		
Institutional	X			
Agriculture*	X		X	
Landscape Irrigation				X

*Health and safety for agriculture only applies to Agriculture-Residential accounts that include some domestic or other essential use.

4.2.2 Supplier Efficiency Actions

A demonstrated commitment to efficiency by the supplier can help win public support and cooperation as well as provide valuable examples of where water savings can be achieved. While the District implements many supplier efficiency actions on an ongoing basis, additional or enhanced efforts will be made to conserve water during drought, including:

- Expanding distribution system water audits, leak detection and repair.
- Implementing water theft prevention programs (monitor for mismatches in water deliveries against water sales).
- Limiting landscape irrigation at supplier facilities and working with other local governments to reduce outdoor water uses (i.e., reducing irrigation of medians and parks, replacing lawns with water wise landscaping).
- Reducing water usage for main flushing, and capturing flushed water for irrigation or other uses where possible.
- Expediting identification, testing, and replacement of aged, broken, leaking, and inaccurate meters and other appurtenances.
- Conducting an audit of fixtures (toilets, sinks, etc.) at supplier facilities to determine if newer, higher-efficiency options are available for retrofit.
- Turning off and draining any decorative fountains at District facilities.

4.2.3 Public Outreach Plan

Without exception, experience has shown that a well-informed public is generally more willing to respond to requests to voluntarily conserve or alter water use patterns, and will be more likely to comply if mandatory water use restrictions become necessary. DWR (2008) estimates that public information campaigns alone have reduced demand in the range of 5 to 20 percent, depending on the time, money, and effort invested by an agency. Public information campaigns support voluntary and mandatory reduction measures by educating and convincing the public that a critical water shortage exists and providing information on how water is used and how the public can help.

Information provided to the public should include descriptions of the conditions that will trigger implementation of the drought contingency plan and what the plan entails (restrictions, enforcement provisions, etc.). Providing practical “consumer” information will help water users comply with the plan. For example, information about restrictions on lawn watering might be accompanied with information about proper lawn watering practices.

A study examining the effectiveness of drought management programs in reducing residential water use (Virginia Polytechnic Institute 2006) showed considerable variation in the effectiveness of drought management programs and highlighted the importance of public information and enforcement. Results, shown in Table 4-3, indicate that overall reductions in residential water use ranged from 0 to 7 percent for voluntary restrictions and from 0 to 22 percent for mandatory restrictions. The observed differences were statistically attributed to information efforts for voluntary restrictions and both information and enforcement efforts for mandatory restrictions.

Table 4-3
Drought Program Management Variables Effect on Residential Water Use

Classification	Estimated Change in Water Use	Statistically Different than No Effect?
Voluntary Restrictions		
Little or no information disseminated	-2%	No
Moderate level of information	-2%	No
Aggressive information dissemination	-7%	Yes
Mandatory Restrictions		
Low information and low enforcement	-5%	No
Moderate information and low enforcement	-6%	Yes
Aggressive information and low enforcement	-12%	Yes
Low information and moderate enforcement	-4%	No
Moderate information and enforcement	-9%	Yes
Aggressive information and moderate enforcement	-15%	Yes
Moderate information and aggressive enforcement	-20%	Yes
Aggressive information and enforcement	-22%	Yes

Source: Virginia Polytechnic Institute 2006

The District will implement a public information campaign in all stages of drought, which will become more aggressive as the severity of the drought increases. While general media coverage of a drought is likely to increase awareness, the District will develop and implement an agency-specific, comprehensive outreach program. The goals of the outreach program will be to:

- Educate customers and public about state and local drought conditions.
- Make water shortage stages and customer responsibilities clear.
- Target specific customer groups with specialized messaging.
- Provide information to customers and general public that will assist in reducing water demand.



The District regularly communicates with its customers and has a long history of promoting conservation. Ongoing outreach activities include semi-annual customer newsletters, billing statement messages, and the District website. The District also participates in the Regional Water Efficiency Program with other Santa Barbara County water suppliers, which sponsors programs that promote water conservation and awareness, including WaterWiseSB.org, the water conservation website for Santa Barbara County. WaterWiseSB.org provides additional opportunities for regional collaboration and coordinated outreach.

District public outreach will be expanded beyond these existing ongoing efforts during anticipated water shortages, consistent with the Drought Outreach Plan. In addition to traditional outreach (newsletters, billing statements, website), the District should consider utilizing new and innovative outreach platforms, such as social media. Proposed outreach should include, but is not limited to:

- Using existing outreach platforms to communicate drought information including the District Newsletter, billing inserts, billing statements, and social media platforms.
- Development of drought related post-cards, flyers, and other collateral materials for distribution to District customers.
- Development of new outreach platforms and targeted outreach programs, including:
 - a. Restaurants – “water upon request” table tents.
 - b. Hotels – information about reducing water use during stay, linen service upon request.
 - c. Gyms and athletic clubs – signs to promote shorter showers.
 - d. Recycled water customers – signs to identify landscaping irrigated with recycled water in the District.
- Customized state and regional partner outreach materials and links.
- Enhanced community presence including participation in community events (Earth Day, Lemon Festival, Farmers Markets, etc.), coordination with community organizations to disseminate information (University of California Santa Barbara, Chamber of Commerce, etc.), and distribution of District materials (handouts at schools, plumbing centers, hardware stores, City of Goleta, farmers markets, and community festivals).
- Targeted outreach (contact by letters and phone calls) to large water users and agricultural customers as appropriate, including automated phone calls alerting customers of the water shortage declaration and related restrictions.
- Employee outreach and education to ensure consistent organization messages concerning drought and conservation.
- Enhanced website outreach and information, including updates on current drought conditions, information on water use restrictions in effect, tips for conserving water, information and applications related to conservation incentive programs, and customer web portals providing information on typical water use, conservation levels, and resources for each customer class.

Proposed outreach targets and goals are summarized below:

Outreach Target	Goals of Coordination
All customers of GWD	Educate customers and public about drought conditions
Targeted customer segments (Single- family Residential, Landscape Irrigation, Agriculture, etc.)	Make water shortage stages and customer responsibilities clear
General Public	Target specific customer groups Provide information to customers and general public that will assist them in reducing water demand

4.2.4 Demand Reduction Programs

The types of management measures and restrictions employed for each response stage are related to the severity of the water supply or demand conditions and to specific demand reduction targets for each stage. The following list of principles helped guide GWD's approach to restrictions and the associated customer communication and outreach described in this Plan:

- Eliminate waste: before requiring customers to reduce consumption, the focus should be on controlling waste and unnecessary use. This not only reduces consumption but, also demonstrates public commitment, leadership and sets an example for customers. Restrict less essential uses before essential uses.
- Affect individuals or small groups before affecting large groups or the public as a whole, allowing as much public activity as possible to be unaffected.
- Minimize adverse financial effects.
- Minimize and avoid irretrievable loss of natural resources.
- Enforce restrictions.

There are a variety of demand reduction techniques the District will implement to promote customer conservation during a water shortage, which fall into the following general categories described below.

Voluntary Water Use Reductions

All customers will be asked to voluntarily reduce their water usage by 20 percent during a Stage I Water Shortage. The District will provide water conservation tips and suggestions through various public touch points and outreach, encourage and distribute conservation devices such as low flow shower heads and faucet aerators, discourage excessive outdoor watering, and encourage planting of water wise plants. The District will also work with its largest customers (the University, the County, etc.) to reduce water consumption and will enhance water audits for various classes of customers.

Limits on Certain Uses

The District will place mandatory restrictions on certain uses, such as restricting outdoor watering to prescribed times and number of days per week beginning in Stage II, with days and times for landscape watering further limited in later stages. Limits may also include methods of irrigation (i.e., sprinkler ban).

Prohibitions

Prohibitions will vary by drought stage, with the fundamental purpose of prohibiting non-essential uses not required for basic health and safety. Specific prohibitions will be described in the Water Shortage Ordinance adopted by the Board of Directors. Examples include prohibition on the use of potable water to wash down driveways, sidewalks, and other hardscaping or paved surfaces; washing cars and boats, and use of water for decorative features, cooling purposes, and construction. Decorative features are defined as water features artificially supplied with water, such as ponds, lakes, and fountains, and are separate from pools and spas. In Stage V, all non-essential outdoor water use, except recycled water or grey water, will be banned. Prohibitions and the associated drought stage are summarized in Section 5.

Mandatory Requirements

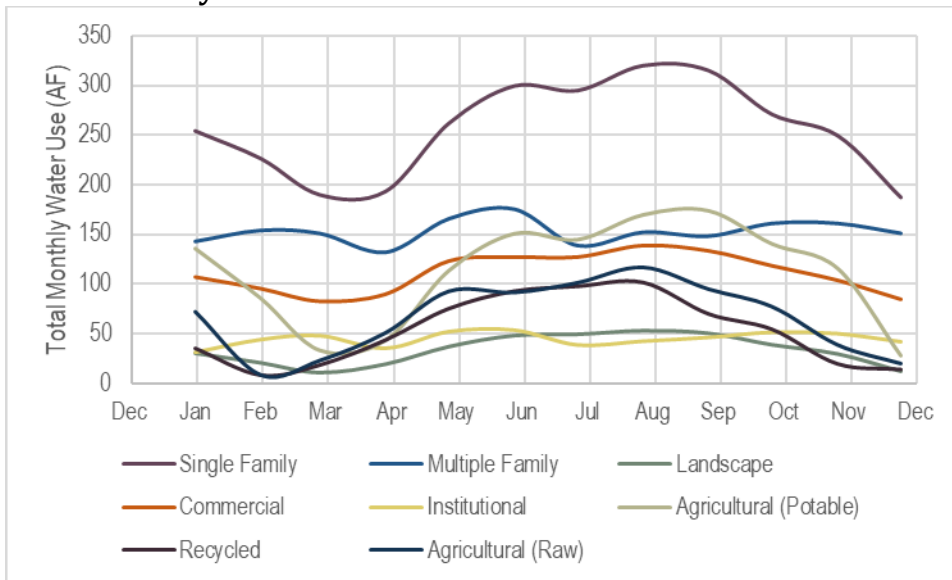
The District Code, which is approved by the Board of Directors, outlines the regulations associated with each water shortage stage. The regulations require customers to take certain measures to promote water conservation, such as limiting landscape irrigation, restricting certain water uses, or posting signage at various establishments, which are summarized for each water shortage stage in Section 5 of this Plan.

Outdoor-Focused Demand Reduction

Since an average of 50 percent of residential water use in Southern California is for outdoor landscape irrigation, restrictions on outdoor water use are generally highly effective in reducing water demand (<http://bewaterwise.com>). Outdoor uses are typically considered to be discretionary or nonessential, are highly visible and relatively easy to monitor, and often are a substantial component of water demand, particularly during the summer months when drought conditions are often most severe.

GWD's monthly variability in 2025 ranged from 7 to 62 percent, illustrating how demand fluctuates throughout the year. Landscape, agricultural, and recycled water uses demonstrate the most seasonal fluctuation. Monthly variability in water use for the different customer classes is provided in Figure 4-1. The range of water use by season underscores the importance of implementing outdoor landscape-focused reduction programs.

Figure 4-1
Total Monthly Water Use for Different District Customers in 2025



Given the significance and visibility of lawn watering as the predominant component of seasonal use, best management practices in drought contingency plans typically prescribe time-of-use and other restrictions on lawn watering. While soil conditions and the type of grass are critical to any lawn's ability to survive with reduced watering, lawn watering restrictions are based on prevailing conditions in the District's service area.

According to studies by the American Water Works Association (2011), a twice-a-week watering schedule is preferable to an alternate-day lawn watering schedule. For example, residences with street addresses ending in even numbers are allowed to water on Sundays and Thursdays and those with addresses ending in odd numbers are allowed to water on Saturdays and Wednesdays. This schedule, coupled with allowances for “anytime watering” with a hand-held hose, bucket, or drip irrigation system, should provide most users with adequate opportunity to maintain both a healthy and attractive landscape.

Kenney, Klein, and Clark (2004) conducted a study of water conservation measures implemented by several cities in Colorado during drought conditions in the summer of 2002 and found that restrictions were an effective tool in meeting demand reduction goals. The study found that during periods of mandatory restrictions savings of 18 to 56 percent were achieved, meeting suppliers' reduction goals. Voluntary restrictions yielded 4 to 12 percent reductions. Many of the water providers specified the time of day watering was to occur, special rules for irrigating trees, and allowances for hand watering. Restrictions, both voluntary and mandatory, were combined with public education campaigns and sometimes included other measures (e.g., price increases). Four of the water providers limited lawn watering to once every three (3) days and saw an average reduction of 22 percent. Three providers limited lawn watering to twice a week and saw an average reduction of 33 percent. One provider limited lawn watering to once a week and saw a reduction of 56 percent. For these studies, water use was calculated as “expected use per capita”, which is a comparison of actual per capita use (deliveries) in 2002 with the level of use anticipated in 2002, had watering restrictions not been in effect and given the adverse climatic conditions associated with drought. They also saw similar results looking at “net use”, which is a calculation that compares daily system-wide water deliveries in 2002 to the 2000 to 2001 average for the same dates.

4.2.5 Enforcement

Mandatory restriction programs require a system of enforcement, which typically combines both monitoring and penalties. Monitoring includes activities to identify instances of noncompliance, and programs are generally most successful when the enforcer has physical presence in the community, combined with a mechanism for residents to report violations. Ultimately, enforcement also requires a system of credible repercussions for those found to be violating the provisions of a drought management program.

GWD may utilize penalty fees and excess use fees as an enforcement tool, when necessary. District Code Chapter 6.20.110 authorizes fines and penalties for violations of District rules and regulations. Penalty fees apply in situations involving a violation of water restrictions and will include the issuance of written warnings. Fines (penalties) are charged for repeat offenders. Customers may appeal any fines or penalties imposed.



Water Use Observation

Date: _____ Time: _____

Address/Location Description: _____

Residential or Commercial or (other): _____

☐ Landscape was being watered on the wrong day.

☐ Landscape was being watered during peak daylight hours.

☐ Excess water running to waste from landscape irrigation.

☐ Water running to waste from a broken/malfunctioning sprinkler
Location: _____

☐ Washing of driveways, sidewalks, or other hard surfaces.

☐ Outdoor hose use without a shut-off nozzle.

☐ Other: _____

Comments: _____

Staff Name: _____

Signature: _____

Please submit completed forms to GWD Water Conservation Compliance Representative upon returning to the office.

In addition to fees, the District may provide for the installation of flow restrictors that will provide the minimum water flow needed for health and safety purposes. In these extreme cases of repeated violations, the customer will be charged a fee to cover the cost of installation of the flow restrictor. The flow restrictor will remain in place for a period of time to be determined by the General Manager. The customer would pay the cost of removal of the device. The District will not use flow restrictors where fire suppression sprinklers are on the same line as the water provided for domestic purposes. In the last major drought (2012-2016), the District did not have to utilize any flow restrictors.

Enforcement mechanisms associated with each water shortage stage are discussed in Section 5 of this Plan. Specific enforcement details, including the use and amount of penalty fees, will be established in the Water Shortage Ordinance requirement associated with the specific water shortage stage.

4.3 Interagency Coordination

Successful implementation of this Drought Preparedness and Water Shortage Contingency Plan will require coordination and communication with agencies that supply water to GWD, neighboring retail water agencies, and land use agencies, for the purposes of water supply planning and public outreach coordination.

4.3.1 Supply Planning

The District will meet with CCWA, COMB, and Goleta Sanitary District as appropriate to confirm assessment of supplies, discuss supplemental supplies potentially available to the District, and identify and refine supply alternatives (such as implementing measures that will increase the amount of water that can be pulled from the lake) and supply enhancement options. In years where conditions are particularly dry or are preceded by a dry year, the District model will be updated with anticipated available supplies and projected demand based on current trends to determine any potential shortfall in supplies during the following 12- and 24-month periods.

4.3.2 Public Outreach Coordination

The District will meet with retail water agencies and land use agencies to ensure that residents in the Goleta area are receiving consistent messages about the drought and water shortage severity, and are aware of the actions they can take to reduce demand. Key agencies would include the Cities of Goleta and Santa Barbara, the County of Santa Barbara, and the Regional Water Efficiency Program partners. The District and these agencies already have many forums in which they interact but will intensify this interaction during drought. The intent of these meetings will be to develop a common message to the community about the drought and to find opportunities to share costs (e.g., share costs of radio announcements, newspaper advertisements, and public outreach materials). As the drought progresses, the meetings will serve to refine the drought messaging to address any common misconceptions or common customer questions.

4.4 Staff Resources

Enforcement, increased customer inquiries, and other water shortage-related actions may necessitate the need for additional staff resources if drought conditions persist. Following are examples of areas that may require additional staff resources and training:

- Goleta Water District service area and customer types
- Customer service standards
- Customer billing system
- Public outreach materials
- Assistance available to customers to reduce water use
- Water rates, charges, and penalties
- Water use restrictions
- Enforcement of water use restrictions
- District safety standards

4.4.1 Water Shortage Response Team

Forming a Water Shortage Response Team is a critical step in the successful implementation of this Plan. The Water Shortage Response Team should include the functions listed below to ensure a coordinated and consistent response across the entire organization. The Water Shortage Response Team will be formed as soon as a potential shortage is identified and will remain in operation until the drought declaration is lifted.

- **General Manager (GM).** Provides the overall direction on the response.
- **Assistant to the General Manager (AGM).** Functions to manage the overall response, assign staff, and outreach to customers. This person should have the authority to speak to the Board of Directors, the public, and the media.
- **Water Supply and Conservation (WSC) Manager.** Familiar with District water sources. Identifies opportunities for new supply or alternative supplies as well as expanded use of non-potable supplies. Develops costs for supply alternatives. Oversees implementation of outreach and conservation programs. Provides liaison with customers to implement demand reduction and provides cost estimates for different demand reduction programs.
- **Engineering and Infrastructure Manager.** Implements programs to reduce system water use. Oversees the team that will provide field enforcement in coordination with Water Supply and Conservation Manager. Monitors daily customer demand/system production and trends. Plans, designs, and oversees development of new and expanded supply infrastructure, such as well rehabilitations or intertie construction.
- **Chief Financial Officer (CFO)/Administrative Manager.** Oversees cost estimates for supply alternatives and demand reduction programs, estimates changes in revenue, and provides guidance on use of reserve funds, and recommended rate changes.
- **Principal Analyst.** Oversees development and implementation of the Drought Outreach Plan and related interdepartmental coordination, designs customer outreach programs and campaigns, assists as needed with external communications, including with other water suppliers or partner agencies, and other duties as assigned.

- **Chief Communications Administrator.** Develops and implements Drought Outreach Plan, implements customer outreach campaigns with local newspapers, billing inserts, direct mail, radio, television, and other drought/water shortage-related tasks.
- **Customer Service Supervisor.** Oversees staffing for customer service needed during drought, including the appeals process associated with water allocations, staffing for any water “water waste” hotlines, creation of door hangers and violation notices, and handles changes to the customer billing system.
- **Legal Counsel.** Reviews legality of programs, moratorium, rate changes, interagency agreements, contracts, and other legal matters.
- **Senior Water Resources Analyst.** Under the direction of the Water Supply and Conservation Manager and in coordination with all of the above roles, manages implementation of all aspects of the Drought Preparedness and Water Shortage Contingency Plan. Updates and maintains the water supply and demand model, tracks and reports on production and customer consumption to ensure targets are being met, drafts monthly water supply updates to the Water Management and Long Range Planning (WMLRP) Committee and quarterly updates to the Board, develops customer demand projections, and completes various supply, demand, and drought-related analyses.

These roles will be needed during all stages of drought and likely can be staffed using GWD’s existing organizational structure. The Water Shortage Response Team will meet regularly during a water shortage, increasing in frequency depending on the severity of the shortage. For example, during a Stage II Water Shortage, the entire team meets quarterly or as needed, and a smaller subset of the team (drought task force) – GM, AGM, WSC Manager, Principal Analyst, Chief Communications Administrator, and Senior Water Resources Analyst – meets weekly to discuss current production, consumption, review the model and shortage projections, discuss current or planned outreach and conservation programs, and discuss any other concerns or issues related to the water shortage.

Section 5: Water Shortage Actions

This Section provides an action plan for implementing each water shortage stage. The actions to be taken during each stage are generally broken into five categories:

- Public Outreach Plan
- Demand Reduction Programs
- Enforcement
- Other Operational Actions

5.1 Pre-Water Shortage

Water supply planning at the District is a continuous, year-round task. This allows the District to plan for the resources needed to mitigate supply and begin customer outreach to manage demand if a water shortage is anticipated. In years where conditions are particularly dry or are preceded by a dry year, the District models a conservative supply availability and projected demand associated with drought conditions. This conservative planning allows the District to estimate any potential shortfall in supplies during the following twelve and twenty-four month periods and respond accordingly. Following is a summary of the activities that take place prior to declaration of a water shortage:

- Monitor supply sources available to the District for the coming 12 month and 24 month periods (supply and demand monitoring is an ongoing activity at the District).
- Monitor customer demand trends and make educated projections.
- Prepare initial assessment of supplies and develop an Annual Assessment.
- Coordinate with CCWA, COMB, and Goleta Sanitary District as appropriate to confirm assessment of supplies and identify additional supply mitigation options.
- Determine initial shortage estimate.
- If shortage anticipated, form Water Shortage Response Team and prepare informational update for the WMLRP Committee.
- Evaluate potential supply enhancement and mitigation options (discussed in Section 4.1).
- Review and update communications plan and public outreach plan.

Under normal water supply conditions, potable water production figures are recorded daily, allowing the District to actively monitor demand. The District includes monthly water production totals as part of their monthly report to the State Department of Health Services and in a monthly report to the WMLRP Committee. Staff also provides regular water supply updates to the committee on a quarterly basis, reporting on current supply conditions and customer demand. These reports increase in frequency to monthly during a drought or declared water shortage, and quarterly updates are provided to the full Board of Directors. Additionally, production figures are closely monitored and reported to the Water Shortage Response Team on a weekly basis to ensure that demand reduction and water production targets are being met.

5.2 Stage I Water Shortage

- **Customer Conservation Goal: 20%.⁷**
- **Demand Reduction Measures: Voluntary**

The District Board of Directors will declare a Stage I Water Shortage when any of the following conditions is met:

- District water supply is 85 to 90 percent of normal (10 to 15 percent supply deficiency) for the next twelve months.
- District water supply is insufficient to provide 80 percent of normal deliveries for the next twenty-four months.
- Contamination of 10 percent of water supply (pollutant exceeds primary drinking water standards).

In anticipation of any one of the above circumstances, staff should prepare a water supply and demand update for the WMLRP Committee recommending that the Board of Directors declare a Stage I Water Shortage. Following review by WMLRP, an item should be taken to the Board of Directors regarding a Stage I Water Shortage Declaration if conditions so warrant. The information presented to the Board of Directors and its appropriate Committees should include:

- A water supply analysis, providing an update on the current and projected status of District water supplies by source of supply.
- A demand analysis providing an overview of current demand and how the District is calculating projected demand.
- Water shortage stage planning, including a potential water shortage stage timeline.
- Stage I implementation details, including the tools and programs the District has in place to successfully implement Stage I demand reductions. This may include topics such as public outreach, customer demand reduction programs, supplier efficiency actions, and any additional planning currently underway.

The Board of Directors shall then adopt a Resolution Declaring a Stage I Water Shortage the month the water shortage conditions related to Stage I (i.e., triggers) are effective, and urge the public to engage in water conservation activities and reduce water use by 20 percent. District staff shall subsequently implement the following Stage I Water Shortage measures.

5.2.1 Public Outreach Plan – Stage I

To maximize the level of voluntary customer conservation the Stage I declaration will be coupled with an aggressive public outreach campaign presented to the District Public Information Committee. Public outreach efforts will focus on educating District customers and the general public about current supply and demand conditions, encouraging customers to understand and

⁷ While the system-wide reduction target is 15%, the conservation goal the District will set for its customers is 20%.

commit to further reducing their water use, and providing tools and resources to customers so they can successfully reduce use. Outreach activities include:

- Press Release following Board Stage I Declaration.
- Development of a Water Shortage media kit.
- Media interviews and inquiries.
- District Newsletter – Water Supply Story, General Manager’s Message, and Water Conservation Tips.
- District website – Updates to the home page, conservation, and water supply sections to provide conservation tools and tips for customers.
- Ongoing conservation related billing statement messages.
- Coordination with regional and statewide partners on messaging and outreach.
- Development and utilization of customized state and regional partner outreach materials and links (SaveOurH2O, ACWA, WaterWiseSB, etc.).
- Outreach at community events (i.e., the Santa Barbara Home and Garden Expo, Santa Barbara Association of REALTORS workshop, school fairs and programs, workshop with landscaping professionals, etc.).
- Outreach to hotels and restaurants to establish opportunities for customers to request daily washing of linens and water for the table, respectively.
- District employee outreach and education to promote consistent organizational messages related to water supply and conservation.

Samples of outreach materials developed and distributed by GWD to encourage conservation in the service area are included in Appendix C.

5.2.2 Demand Reduction Programs – Stage I

Achieving Stage I demand reduction targets will rely largely on public outreach, discussed above. The following additional measures will be taken to facilitate customer conservation, and are consistent with state law, drought management guidelines, and industry best practices:

- Accelerate audit and incentive programs for agriculture, large customers, and irrigation accounts.
- Identify largest water users in each sector and contact for complementary water audits.
- Identify and notify customers of possible leaks.
- Encourage use of drip irrigation and drought tolerant plants.
- Enforce prohibition of water theft.⁸

5.2.3 Enforcement – Stage I

During a Stage I Water Shortage, enforcement is minimal and will rely primarily on observations of District staff in the field and customer reports of violations. Enforcement in Stage I will include:

⁸ Water delivered by the District may not be transported to an off-site location or resold pursuant to District Code Section 6.20.030.

- Active enforcement of water waste prohibition (District Code 6.20.070).
- Water conservation hotline to allow customers to report water waste and leaks.

Customers found to be in violation will be issued a written warning, and may be subject to a fine as authorized by the District Code (6.20.110).

5.2.4 Other Operational Actions – Stage I

Additionally, actions should be taken by District staff to determine impacts of the drought and demand reductions on District operations and prepare for implementation of subsequent water shortage stages. Other operational actions in Stage I include:

- Implement supplier efficiency actions.
- Review District facilities, water fixtures, and landscaping for efficiency and identify any areas for improvement.
- Reduce water usage for main flushing, street flushing, and hydrant flushing.
- Intensify maintenance efforts to identify and correct water leaks in the distribution system.
- Drain and shut off decorative fountains at District facilities.
- Increase frequency and intensity of interagency coordination for the purposes of water supply planning and public outreach coordination, as discussed in Section 4.3 of this Plan.
- Provide customer service staff with information, resources, and talking points to address customer inquiries related to the drought and water shortage declaration.
- Begin drafting Board Resolution, code changes and regulations that will go into effect when a Stage II declaration is made.
- Plan for the funding and implementation of specific conservation programs that will be launched with subsequent water shortage stages.
- Review potential fiscal impacts of drought (i.e., increased water supply, operational, and capital costs); and demand reduction (reduced revenue).
- If needed, start process for evaluating need for and establishing drought surcharge or special rates, which may include consulting special counsel and hiring financial consultants.
- Determine method for charging fees and penalties for customer violations during Stage II (and subsequent stages).
- Identify and plan for the need for additional staff. In planning for additional staff, consideration should be given to available office space, office equipment, computers, and furniture. Field personnel will require items such as cell phones, tablet computers, and vehicles.
- Prepare implementation process for Stage II restrictions.
- Prepare appeals process for Stage II restrictions.

5.3 Stage II Water Shortage

- **Customer Conservation Goal: 25%**
- **Demand Reduction Measures: Mandatory: limits and prohibitions on certain uses**

A Stage II Water Shortage is declared when any of the following conditions is met:

- District water supply is 75 to 85 percent of normal (16 to 25 percent supply deficiency) for the next twelve months.
- District water supply is insufficient to provide 75 percent of normal deliveries for the next twenty-four months.
- Contamination of 20 percent of water supply (pollutant exceeds primary drinking water standards).

In anticipation of any one of the above circumstances, staff should prepare a water supply and demand update for the WMLRP Committee recommending that the Board of Directors declare a Stage II Water Shortage. Following WMLRP review, an item should be taken to the Board of Directors regarding a Stage II Water Shortage Declaration. The information presented to the Board of Directors and its appropriate Committees should include:

- A water supply update, including current and projected status of District water supplies.
- Demand management activities, including all of the activities being implemented under the Stage I Water Shortage (supplier efficiency, demand reduction programs, community involvement, regional partnerships and programs, public outreach, media relations, etc.).
- A customer demand update including actual water demand, how customers have responded to requests for voluntary conservation (Stage I), and projected water use going forward.
- Supply management activities, including how supply sources are being prioritized, capital projects planned or underway that will augment supplies, recycled water options, and any other supply management activities.
- Stage II implementation details, including the tools and programs the District has in place to successfully implement additional demand reduction programs and prohibitions, if needed. This may include topics such as public outreach, customer demand reduction programs, supplier efficiency actions, and any additional planning currently underway.
- Next steps, including potential timing of subsequent stages.

Any proposed changes to the District Code as a result of the Water Shortage Declaration should be reviewed and approved by the Administration Committee prior to consideration by the Board of Directors. The Board shall then adopt a Resolution and/or Ordinance Declaring a Stage II Water Shortage and establishing rules and regulations for addressing the water shortage. District staff shall subsequently implement the Stage II Water Shortage measures described below.

5.3.1 Public Outreach Plan – Stage II

Public outreach efforts associated with Stage II will focus on further educating and informing District customers and the general public about current supply and demand conditions, notifying customers of new demand reduction targets (25 percent), prohibited activities, and associated penalties for violations, and directing customers to tools and resources that will help them conserve water. Outreach activities include:

- Press Release following Board declaration of a Stage II Water Shortage.
- Targeted outreach to customers with large landscapes regarding irrigation restrictions (i.e., schools, parks, property managers, etc.).
- Postcard or letter to all District customers notifying of demand reduction programs/requirements.
- Publish information on how to preserve most valuable landscaping (trees, edible plants, etc.), including appropriate watering systems and use of gray water.
- Enlist support of business groups, such as the Chamber of Commerce, to help encourage conservation among commercial customers.
- Educate customers on how to perform regular household meter reading and leak detection.
- Publish “conservation stories” featuring individuals and businesses demonstrating leadership in water conservation.
- Continued implementation of all other public outreach actions of Stage I (newsletter articles, media interviews, media kit, billing statement messages, District employee outreach, etc.).

Appendix C includes samples of outreach materials developed and distributed by GWD during the Stage II Water Shortage experienced in September 2014. Outreach samples include a billing insert, a screenshot of the GWD webpage, a public informational sheet outlining water use restrictions, and a presentation developed for the WMLRP Committee.

5.3.2 Demand Reduction Programs – Stage II

Achieving Stage II demand reduction targets will rely heavily on water use limits and prohibitions that will reduce non-essential use, as well as ongoing, intensified public outreach. The following additional measures may be taken during Stage II:

- Enact and implement water waste restrictions, which may specifically include:
 - No washing down of sidewalks, driveways, parking lots, or other hardscapes, unless necessary to protect public health and safety.
 - No flooding or runoff into streets or gutters.
 - Prohibit potable water to escape from breaks within the customer’s plumbing system for more than 48 hours after the customer is notified or discovers the break (or provide proof of scheduling repair).
- Potable water not to be used to clean, fill, or maintain levels in decorative fountains, with certain exceptions that will be identified in the Water Shortage Ordinance associated with a Stage II declaration.

- Encourage the use of pool covers when not in active use.
- Promote meter reading and leak detection by all customers.
- Restrict landscape irrigation to designated times (i.e., no watering between the hours of 10:00 AM and 4:00 PM) to be specified in the Water Shortage Ordinance.
- Restrict landscape watering to no more than two days per week (would not apply to agricultural customers). For example:
 - Odd residential addresses to water Saturday and Tuesday.
 - Even residential addresses to water Sunday and Wednesday
 - Commercial, industrial, and institutional customers to water Monday and Friday
- Encourage large landscapes to adhere to water budgets where requested by the District.
- Prohibit exterior washing of buildings, dwellings, or other structures (with certain exceptions to be addressed in the Water Shortage Ordinance).
- Prohibit vehicles and boats to be washed except at commercial car washing facilities, or by use of a bucket and/or hose equipped with a shutoff nozzle.
- Prohibit manual irrigation except with a hose equipped with a shutoff nozzle.
- Prohibit draining and refilling of swimming pools (with certain exceptions to be addressed in the Water Shortage Ordinance), unless specifically authorized.
- Require restaurants in the District to only serve water to customers or patrons upon request, and maintain table signage indicating that water is provided only upon request.
- Encourage hotels, motels, and other lodging to post notice of shortage condition with tips in every guest room and refrain from daily linen washing unless specifically requested by patron.
- Encourage gyms, athletic clubs, public pools, and other similar establishments to post water shortage signs at their facilities, and encourage shortened showers.

5.3.3 Enforcement – Stage II

Similar to Stage I, enforcement of demand reduction programs during a Stage II Water Shortage will rely largely on observations of field staff and customer reports of violations. Additional enforcement mechanisms that will be implemented during a Stage II Water Shortage include written citations, fines, and potential installation of flow restrictors, as detailed below.

In addition to any other penalty permitted by law, the following penalty system may apply to violations of the water use restrictions and limitations discussed above. Specific details and monetary penalty amounts will be established in the Water Shortage Ordinance.

- ***First Violation: Customer notification and education.*** The customer will be notified by District staff of the particular violation observed, and the demand reduction programs (restrictions, limitations, etc.) currently in place. The customer will be directed to resources and tools that will help them comply with requirements. Examples of notification include information posted on the customer's door, mailed materials, and personal or phone contact by District staff.

- **Second Violation: Written citation.** The District will issue a written Notice of Violation notifying the customer of the specific violation, date and time the violation was observed, and consequences for subsequent violations.
- **Subsequent Violations: Fine.** The District may impose a penalty fee (fine) for violation of demand reduction programs, the amount of which is established in the District Code Section 6.21.050.
- **Flow restrictor.** The District may install a flow restrictor on the service where the violation occurred, for a period to be determined by the General Manager.
- Continued use of water conservation hotline will allow customers to report water waste and leaks.
- Enforcement of water waste prohibitions, including hiring/assigning additional field staff as necessary.

5.3.4 Other Operational Actions – Stage II

Additionally, the following actions should be taken by District staff to determine impacts of the drought and demand reductions on District operations and prepare for implementation of subsequent water shortage stages. Other operational actions of Stage II include:

- All supplier efficiency actions of Stage I.
- Comply with all customer restrictions detailed above.
- Convene an appeals process for exceptions and appeals of penalties (staffing, forms, etc.).
- Increase frequency and intensity of interagency coordination for the purposes of water supply planning and public outreach coordination, as discussed in Section 4.3 of this Plan.
- Begin implementing specific conservation programs that will be launched with Stage II (i.e., landscape rebates, toilet rebates, etc.).
- Review additional fiscal impacts of drought (i.e., increased water supply, operational, and capital costs); and demand reduction expected during Stage II (reduced revenue).
- Continue process for evaluating need for and establishing drought surcharge or special rates, which may include consulting special counsel and hiring financial consultants.
- Increase customer service training and support to address Stage II requirements, fees and penalties, etc.
- Identify and plan for the need for additional staff (see Stage I).
- Defer previously scheduled capital projects as necessary to invest in water supply augmentation.
- Provide updates to the Administration, Public Information, and WMLRP committees, and the Board of Directors, as appropriate.
- Begin preparing for implementation of Stage III, as appropriate.

5.4 Stage III Water Shortage

- **Customer Conservation Goal: 35%**
- **Demand Reduction Measures: Same as Stage II, but more severe Potential drought rates**

A Stage III Water Shortage is declared when any of the following conditions is met:

- District water supply is 65 to 75 percent of normal (26 to 35 percent supply deficiency) for the next twelve months.
- District water supply is insufficient to provide 65 percent of normal deliveries for the next twenty-four months.
- Contamination of 30 percent of water supply (pollutant exceeds primary drinking water standards).

In anticipation of the need for a Stage III Water Shortage Declaration, staff should prepare a water supply and demand update for the WMLRP Committee recommending that the Board of Directors declare a Stage III Water Shortage. Subsequently, an item should be taken to the Board of Directors regarding a Stage III Water Shortage Declaration. The information presented to the Board of Directors and its appropriate Committees should include:

- A water supply update, including current and projected status of District water supplies.
- A customer demand update including actual water demand, how customers have responded to the call for a 25 percent demand reduction for Stage II (use limits and prohibitions, etc.), and projected water use going forward.
- Supply management activities, including how supply sources are being prioritized, capital projects planned or underway that will augment supplies, recycled water options, and any other supply management activities.
- Demand management activities, including all of the activities being implemented under the Stage II water shortage (supplier efficiency, demand reduction programs, community involvement, regional partnerships and programs, public outreach, media relations, etc.).
- Stage III implementation details, including the tools and programs the District has in place to successfully implement Stage III demand reduction programs and prohibitions. This may include topics such as public outreach, customer demand reduction programs, supplier efficiency actions, and any additional planning currently underway.
- Next steps, including potential timing of subsequent stages.

Any proposed changes to the District Code as a result of the Water Shortage Declaration should be reviewed and approved by the Administration Committee prior to consideration by the Board of Directors. Following review by the Board's Committees, the Board shall adopt a Resolution and/or Ordinance Declaring a Stage III Water Shortage and establishing rules and regulations for addressing the water shortage. District staff shall subsequently implement the Stage III Water Shortage measures described below.

5.4.1 Public Outreach Plan – Stage III

Public outreach efforts associated with Stage III will focus on large reductions in outdoor water use, notifying customers of heightened demand reduction targets and new rates (if applicable), and directing customers to tools and resources that will help them conserve water. Outreach activities include:

- Press Release following Board Stage III declaration.
- Consider hiring a third party to assist with the launch of a major publicity campaign.
- Publish weekly demand charts in a local newspaper.
- Expand and intensify all other public outreach actions of Stages I and II (newsletter articles, media interviews, media kit, billing statement messages, District employee outreach, etc.).

A public informational sheet outlining water use restrictions during the Stage III Water Shortage experienced in May 2015 is included in Appendix C.

5.4.2 Demand Reduction Programs – Stage III

Achieving Stage III demand reduction targets will continue to rely heavily on water use limits and prohibitions that will reduce non-essential use. While Stage III normally allows for implementation of drought rates (developed in compliance with the requirements of Proposition 218) as a water use reduction mechanism, the District does not anticipate a need to implement drought rates even in the event of multi-year droughts. As determined by the comprehensive Water Supply Reliability Analysis and Drought Risk Assessment conducted in the 2025 Urban Water Management Plan, the District is expected to have sufficient supplies to meet projected demand during single-year and multi-year drought conditions.

The following additional measures may be taken during Stage III:

- Reduce water budgets for large landscapes.
- Encourage all commercial (non-residential) customers to prominently post water shortage signage with specified language at specified locations.
- Further restrict designated days and/or times for landscape irrigation (i.e., no watering between the hours of 9:00 AM and 9:00 PM).
- Prohibit landscape irrigation during or within 48-hours of measurable precipitation.
- Prohibit irrigation of ornamental turf on public street medians.
- Prohibit landscape irrigation outside of newly constructed homes and buildings in a manner inconsistent with regulations.
- Require hotels, motels, and other lodging to post notice of shortage condition with tips in every guest room and refrain from daily linen washing unless specifically requested by patron.
- Continue to enforce the demand reduction programs established during Stage II, with any applicable modifications to programs under Stage III.

5.4.3 Enforcement – Stage III

Specific enforcement mechanisms for Stages III, IV, and V will be established in the respective Water Shortage Ordinance. Although penalty stages may change, as reflected below, and penalty fees may increase, Stage III enforcement may include:

- Modification of penalties for violations to allow for only one written warning (citation) prior to incurring a penalty fee.
 - **First Violation: Written citation.** The District will issue a written notice notifying the customer of the specific violation, date and time the violation was observed, and consequence for subsequent violation(s).
 - **Subsequent Violations:**
 - **Fine** - The District may impose a penalty fee (fine) for violation of demand reduction programs, the amount of which is identified in the District Code Section 6.21.050 Water Shortage Ordinance.
 - **Flow restrictor** – The District may install a flow restrictor on the service where the violation occurred, for a period to be determined by the General Manager.
- Increased penalty fees.
- Expanded water waste enforcement (i.e., additional field staff).

5.4.4 Other Operational Actions – Stage III

Additional actions that should be taken by District staff to determine impacts of the drought and demand reductions on District operations and prepare for implementation of subsequent water shortage stages include:

- All supplier efficiency actions of Stages I and II, plus intensify system leak detection and repair.
- Increase frequency and intensity of interagency coordination.
- Continue implementing specific conservation programs launched with Stage II, as appropriate.
- Continue to review additional fiscal impacts of drought.
- Identify and plan for the need for additional staff.
- Begin preparing for implementation of Stage IV.
- Provide regular updates to the Administration, Public Information, and WMLRP committees, and the Board of Directors, as appropriate.

5.5 Stage IV Water Shortage

- **Customer Conservation Goal: 45%**
- **Demand Reduction Measures: Same as Stage III, but more severe**

A Stage IV Water Shortage is declared when any of the following conditions is met:

- District water supply is 55 to 65 percent of normal (36 to 45 percent supply deficiency) for the next twelve months.
- District water supply is insufficient to provide 55 percent of normal deliveries for the next twenty-four months.
- Contamination of 40 percent of water supply (pollutant exceeds primary drinking water standards).

As with previous water shortage stage declarations, staff should prepare a water supply and demand update for the WMLRP Committee, as well as presenting all proposed revisions to the District Code associated with a Stage IV Water Shortage to the Administration Committee. The Board of Directors shall adopt a Resolution and/or Ordinance Declaring a Stage IV Water Shortage. The information included in the staff reports and attendant Resolution and/or Ordinance should mirror the format and information provided in the Stage III declaration.

5.5.1 Public Outreach Plan – Stage IV

Public outreach efforts associated with Stage IV will focus on large reductions in outdoor water use and educating customers on the severity of the water supply situation. Outreach activities include:

- Press Release following Board Stage IV declaration.
- Implement major publicity campaign initiated during Stage III.
- Provide regular media briefings and updates on supply situation.
- Expand and intensify all other public outreach actions of Stages I – III (newsletter articles, demand graph, media interviews, media kit, billing statement messages, District employee outreach, etc.).

5.5.2 Demand Reduction Programs – Stage IV

The following additional demand reduction programs may be employed during Stage IV Water Shortage.

- Prohibit irrigation of roadway median strips with potable water.
- Limit the use of potable water on golf courses to the irrigation of putting greens and tees.
- Prohibit filling of new swimming pools, spas, hot tubs, or the draining and refilling of existing pools.
- Further reduce water budgets for large landscape customers to irrigate only the most valuable plants and trees.
- Restrict landscape watering to 1 day per week.

- Prohibit use of sprinklers (hand watering only).
- Prohibit irrigation of turf/lawn with potable water (irrigation with recycled water is permitted).
- Prohibit on-site vehicle washing, such as company fleets, dealer lots, etc.
- Prohibit irrigation of new landscaping, with exceptions.
- Require irrigation water for commercial agricultural crops be delivered by drip, microspray, or Low Precipitation Rate Irrigation systems.
- Continue to enforce the demand reduction programs established during Stages II and III, with any applicable modifications to programs under Stage III.

5.5.3 Enforcement – Stage IV

During a Stage IV Water Shortage, the District should continue to implement enforcement mechanisms of Stages I, II, and III and expand water waste enforcement to 24 hours a day. In addition, penalty fees, if implemented, may increase.

5.5.4 Other Operational Actions – Stage IV

Additional actions that should be taken by District staff to determine impacts of the drought and demand reductions on District operations and prepare for implementation of a potential Stage V Water Shortage include:

- All supplier efficiency actions of Stages I – III.
- Continue implementing specific conservation programs, as appropriate.
- Continue to review additional fiscal impacts of increased water supply costs and demand reduction revenue loss.
- Increase administrative staff as necessary to handle increase in appeals, appeal hearings, customer inquiries, etc.
- Increase field staff as necessary to implement 24/7 enforcement of demand reduction programs, install flow restrictors, and/or facilitate shut offs.
- Establish a control center for centralized monitoring of customer demand, reservoir levels, and water supply and production.
- Begin preparing for implementation of Stage V.
- Provide regular updates to the Administration, Public Information, and WMLRP committees, and the Board of Directors, as appropriate.

5.6 Stage V Water Shortage

- **Customer Conservation Goal: 50% or greater**
- **Demand Reduction Measures: Same as Stage IV, but more severe**

A Stage V Water Shortage is declared when any of the following conditions is met:

- District water supply is less than 55 percent of normal (46 percent or higher supply deficiency) for the next twelve months.
- District water supply is insufficient to provide 50 percent of normal deliveries for the next twenty-four months.
- Contamination of 50 percent or more of water supply (pollutant exceeds primary drinking water standards).
- Unanticipated loss of water distribution or supply facilities due to disaster or emergencies.

Staff will present an update to the WMLRP Committee recommending that the Board of Directors declare a Stage V Water Shortage, as well as presenting any proposed revisions to the District Code associated with a Stage IV Water Shortage to the Administration Committee. The Board of Directors shall adopt a Resolution and/or Ordinance Declaring a Stage V Water Shortage. The information included in the staff reports and attendant Resolution and/or Ordinance should mirror the format and information provided in the Stages III and IV, with the addition of any contingency plans that will be implemented during Stage V to ensure the continued delivery of water to the community.

5.6.1 Public Outreach Plan – Stage V

Public outreach efforts associated with Stage V will build on prior efforts and will incorporate implementation of the crisis communication plan included in the District Emergency Response Plan. Outreach activities will include:

- Press release following Board Stage V Declaration.
- Press event at the Goleta Water District Headquarters.
- Implement the District Emergency Response Plan, as appropriate.
- Continue to implement major publicity campaign launched during Stage III.
- Contact critical customers notifying them of the water supply situation (hospital, medical clinics, County jail, UCSB, and other large and critical users).

5.6.2 Demand Reduction Programs – Stage V

The following additional demand reduction programs may be employed during Stage V Water Shortage:

- Prohibit all outdoor irrigation consistent with the Stage V Water Shortage Declaration (with the exception of recycled water and gray water).
- No water for recreational purposes.

- Close public pools.
- Continue to enforce the demand reduction programs established during Stages II – V.

5.6.3 Enforcement – Stage V

During a Stage V Water Shortage, the District will continue the enforcement mechanisms implemented in Stage IV. Additional needs for enforcement will be assessed at the time a Stage V Water Shortage is declared and through its duration. If needed, the District may coordinate with local law enforcement to ensure compliance with demand reduction programs.

- Increase penalty fees.
- Continue to implement enforcement mechanisms of Stages I – IV.
- Coordinate with law enforcement as needed to address demand reduction program enforcement challenges.

5.6.4 Other Operational Actions – Stage V

Additional actions that should be taken by District staff to determine impacts of the drought and demand reductions on District operations and prepare for implementation of a potential Stage V Water Shortage include:

- Coordinate with the California Department of Public Health, local governments, and emergency response agencies regarding water quality and public health issues.
- Continue 24 hour per day water waste enforcement.
- Continue close monitoring and reporting of water production and consumption.
- Undertake emergency planning as needed to address escalating supply shortage.
- Explore possibilities for further enhancing supply, including:
 - Work with Cachuma Member Units to determine the feasibility of extracting water from the Lake Cachuma dead pool.
 - Explore near-term opportunities and feasibility of expanding the use of recycled water within the District service area through a potable reuse project, including developing an implementation plan per recommendations in the Potable Reuse Facilities Plan completed by the District in 2017.

5.7 Estimated Supply and Demand Gap Reduction

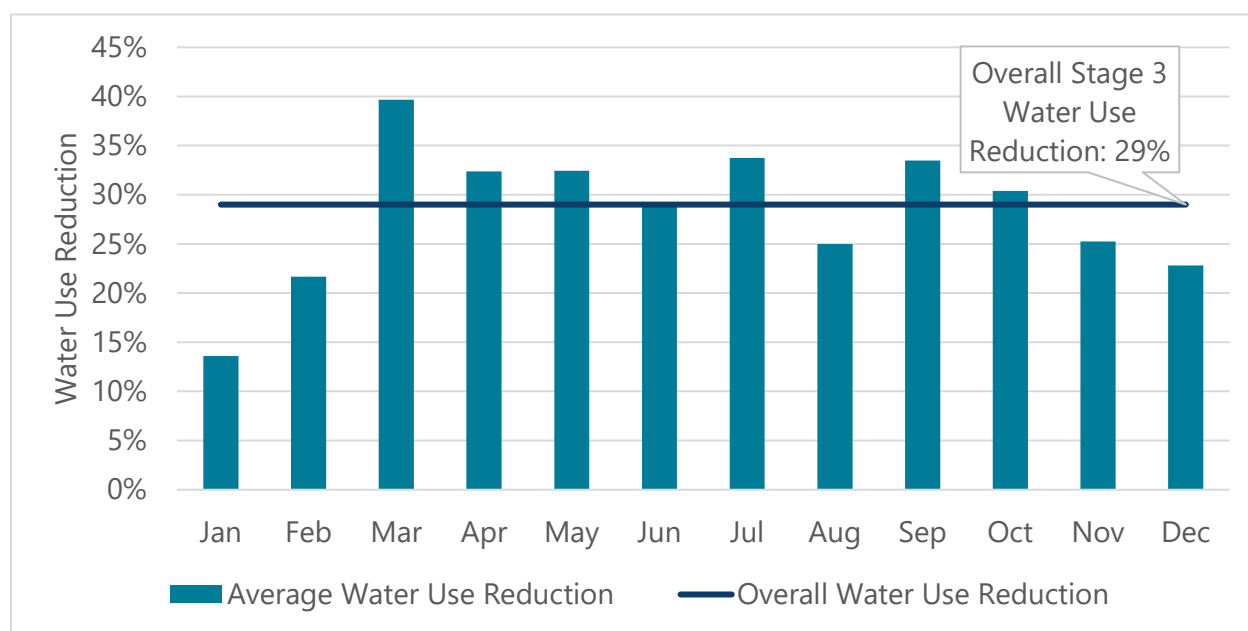
The WSCP was developed to achieve necessary demand reductions for each prescribed stage, taking into account factors such as priority for use of available potable water during shortages, indoor and outdoor water use for each customer category, and impact of each shortage response action on water demand within each customer category.

During the 2012-2016 drought, GWD declared a Stage III water shortage and implemented the associated public outreach, demand reduction, and operational actions. The Stage III water shortage was in effect for a 47-month period from May 2015 through March 2019. Average savings achieved in each month during the timeframe for which the Stage III shortage declaration was in effect are shown in Figure 5-1. Overall, during the nearly 4-year period for which the shortage declaration was in effect, GWD achieved a savings of 29% as compared to the 2013 base

period, within the range of 26% to 35% savings needed during a Stage III shortage. On a monthly basis, water use reductions were greatest during the spring and summer months as compared to the same months in the base period, which was anticipated due to the effect of outdoor water use restrictions on demand during these months.

The effectiveness of water use restrictions in achieving demand reductions may change over time as a result of factors such as demand hardening from ongoing water conservation activities and changes in water use among customer categories. To ensure that necessary water use reductions are achieved in future shortage, GWD has established procedures for monitoring and reporting on plan implementation and for refining or updated the WSCP, described in Section 7.

Figure 5-1
Monthly Water Use Reductions Achieved During Stage III Water Shortage
(May 2015 – March 2019)



5.8 Water Shortage Conclusion

The water shortage ends when water supply and demand return to normal and are sufficiently balanced to provide adequate supplies without the need for restrictions or additional customer conservation. Importantly, the thresholds identified in Table 3-1 must no longer be triggered. Staff will provide a water supply and demand update to the WMLRP Committee recommending that the committee forward a recommendation to rescind the water shortage declaration to the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors will consider the current supply and demand status and, if agreed upon, adopt a resolution terminating the water shortage emergency(ies) and repealing District resolutions that declared the water shortage emergency(ies). The water use rules and regulations in effect as a result of the water shortage declaration will be lifted. The activities listed below will be carried out following Board action:

- Issue a press release or public notice that the water shortage is over and communicate customer appreciation.

- Debrief staff involved in carrying out the water shortage plan regarding effectiveness of actions, identify lessons learned, and document recommended improvements for future water shortage events.
- Compile documentation and files of the water shortage event and related actions for future reference.
- Assess revenue losses and financial impact of water shortage.
- Review status and need for capital projects, programs, and initiatives that were deferred as a result of the water shortage.

Notably, a moratorium under the SAFE Ordinance is not necessarily associated with a specific water shortage stage and cannot be lifted until the conditions triggering a moratorium are no longer present. As such, a moratorium may extend beyond the time that the water shortage ends.

Section 6: Impact of Drought on District Finances

Developing alternative sources of supply and reducing customer demand in response to drought results in increases to water agency costs while reducing revenue. This section provides an overview of the various financial impacts that may occur during each of the water shortage stages. This section also provides an overview of how to plan for and mitigate the financial impacts of drought or prolonged water shortage.

6.1 Profile of Goleta Water District Costs and Revenues

6.1.1 Costs

GWD has three primary water systems to serve customers: a potable system that serves residential, commercial, institutional, and urban agriculture customers; a recycled water system that provides non-potable water for landscape irrigation and other approved non-potable uses; and a raw water delivery system (the Goleta West Conduit) which serves agricultural customers. Each system has associated fixed and variable costs. Fixed costs *do not* vary with the amount of water sold to customers and include items such as fixed contractual costs associated with the District water supply agreements, personnel expenses, and building maintenance. Approximately 80 percent of GWD's non-capital costs are fixed (based on FY 2025-26 Budget). Variable costs *do* change based on the amount of water acquired, treated, and sold. Variable costs include commodity charges associated with the District water supplies, water treatment costs, distribution system O&M, special project and consultant costs, among others.

Table 6-1 provides a rough planning level estimate of the variable costs associated with the various water sources available to GWD. Table 6-1 includes variable costs only and does not reflect the full cost of providing service from a particular water source. As shown in the table, variable costs associated with potable water are approximately \$6.52 per hundred cubic feet (HCF). This means as water sales decrease, costs for potable water also decrease by approximately \$6.52 per HCF. While there is minor savings for each unit of water that is not treated and delivered, any "savings" are greatly outweighed by the fixed costs. Even without diverting, treating, or delivering any water, GWD would have non-capital costs (based on FY 2025-26 Budget) exceeding \$36 million.

Generally, during drought, District costs are likely to increase as a result of water supply augmentation projects, increased operations and maintenance activities, incentive-based water conservation programs, as well as public outreach and education efforts. Additional costs may also include supplemental staff needed to carry out the WSCP. The augmented Drought Response Team may be made up of a combination of staff reassigned from other duties, temporary hires, interns, and consultants; the exact composition will vary depending on District staffing composition at the time of the drought.

Table 6-1
Planning Level Variable Costs by Water Source
(FY 2026)

Current Variable Costs	\$/HCF	\$/AF	Notes
Potable Water (groundwater, CCWA, Cachuma Water)	\$9.09	\$3,960.88	(a)
Recycled Water	\$4.73	\$2,062.22	(b)
Raw Water (Goleta West Conduit)	\$0.46	\$200.70	(c)

Notes:

- a) Variable Costs from Cost of Service Analysis Table 6-6 less variable costs Recycled Water System and Goleta West Conduit. Assumes 3,996,874 HCF potable water based on Cost of Service Analysis Table 6-6.
- b) From Cost of Service Analysis Table 6-6, Water Purchases and O&M Expenses. Assumes 280,927 HCF recycled water based on Cost of Service Analysis Table 6-6.
- c) From Cost of Service Analysis Table 6-6, O&M Expenses, power purchases. Assumes 476,376 HCF raw water based on Cost of Service Analysis Table 6-6.

6.1.2 Revenues

The District does not receive property tax or other pass through revenue. Accordingly, customer rates and charges are the primary source of revenue for funding water system operations, emergency reserves, and capital projects. District revenues are derived from meter charges (fixed) and commodity rates (variable). Under the District rate structure, meter charges make up approximately 30 percent of revenues and water sales make up approximately 70 percent of revenues. Current District commodity rates are shown in Table 6-2 below. Projected revenues from water sales under normal circumstances as outlined in the District Five Year Financial Plan are shown in Table 6-3 (this table does not include meter charges or new service connection charges).

Table 6-2
Goleta Water District Commodity Charges

Commodity Charge	FY 2025-26		FY 2026-27		FY 2027-28	
	\$/HCF	\$/AF	\$/HCF	\$/AF	\$/HCF	\$/AF
Single Family Residential Use (first 6 HCF)	\$8.29	\$3,611.12	\$8.59	\$3,741.80	\$8.90	\$3,876.84
Single Family Residential (next 6 HCF)	\$12.11	\$5,275.12	\$12.54	\$5,462.42	\$12.98	\$5,654.09
Single Family Residential (all additional HCF)	\$16.14	\$7,030.58	\$16.71	\$7,278.88	\$17.30	\$7,535.88
Urban	\$10.98	\$4,782.89	\$11.37	\$4,952.77	\$11.77	\$5,127.01
Urban Agricultural (potable water)	\$3.91	\$1,703.20	\$4.05	\$1,764.18	\$4.20	\$1,829.52
Recreation Irrigation ^(a)	\$12.04	\$5,244.62	\$12.47	\$5,431.93	\$12.91	\$5,623.60
Recycled Water	\$8.20	\$3,571.92	\$8.49	\$3,698.24	\$8.79	\$3,828.92
Goleta West Conduit (raw water)	\$2.76	\$1,202.26	\$2.86	\$1,245.82	\$2.97	\$1,293.73

(a) Recreation Irrigation is defined in the GWD Code as potable water service for irrigation that could be replaced with reclaimed water irrigation, except for the fact that the district's reclaimed water distribution system is not located to as to make reclaimed water deliveries available to the property (1.04.020).

Table 6-3
Projected Customer Water Sales Revenue

	FY 2025-26	FY 2026-27	FY 2027-28
Urban	\$34,133,943	\$35,572,947	\$37,114,059
Single Family	\$15,683,563	\$16,264,947	\$16,867,823
Other (MFR, Commercial, Institutional)	\$18,450,380	\$19,308,000	\$20,246,236
Urban Agricultural (potable water)	\$2,388,407	\$2,491,348	\$2,619,755
Recreation (Potable Irrigation)	\$2,220,077	\$2,299,366	\$2,402,540
Recycled Water	\$1,228,722	\$1,312,550	\$1,450,409
Goleta West Conduit (raw water)	\$1,314,799	\$1,362,436	\$1,414,838
Total Revenue from Water Sales	\$41,285,948	\$43,038,647	\$45,001,601

Source: Cost of Service Study 2025, Table 7-20 Projected Rate Revenues by Customer Class.

Any decrease in water sales results in a corresponding reduction of revenue. Table 6-4 provides an estimate of impacts to revenue based on FY 2025-26 commodity rates and GWD current rate structure. These estimates are for planning purposes only, but illustrate the potential magnitude of fiscal impacts if no revenue mitigation measures are implemented. Revenue may be reduced by approximately \$6.2 million in a Stage I water shortage, but could be reduced by \$20.6million in a Stage V water shortage.

Table 6-4
Estimated Revenue Impacts for Various Water Shortage Stages
(Assuming Customer Conservation Goals Met) in \$000's

	Stage I	Stage II	Stage III	Stage IV	Stage V
Associated Reduction in Water Sales	15%	25%	35%	45%	50%+
Urban	(\$5,120)	(\$8,533)	(\$11,947)	(\$15,360)	(\$17,067)
Single Family (~50% of Urban Demand)	(\$2,353)	(\$3,921)	(\$5,489)	(\$7,058)	(\$7,842)
Other Urban (MFR, Commercial, Institutional)	(\$2,768)	(\$4,613)	(\$6,458)	(\$8,303)	(\$9,225)
Agricultural (potable water)	(\$358)	(\$597)	(\$836)	(\$1,075)	(\$1,194)
Recreation (Potable Irrigation)	(\$333)	(\$555)	(\$777)	(\$999)	(\$1,110)
Recycled Water	(\$184)	(\$307)	(\$430)	(\$553)	(\$614)
Agriculture (raw water)	(\$197)	(\$329)	(\$460)	(\$592)	(\$657)
Change in Revenue for Each Stage	(\$6,193)	(\$10,321)	(\$14,450)	(\$18,579)	(\$20,643)

6.2 Planning for Drought Impact on Finances

If a water shortage is anticipated or underway, GWD will evaluate the anticipated impacts to its operating costs as well as water sales revenues, as outlined in Table 6-5. The magnitude of financial impacts will vary based on the extent and duration of drought, but for conservative planning purposes, GWD will anticipate that overall costs will go up and overall revenues down.

Table 6-5
Potential Changes in Costs during Water Shortage Stages

	Water Shortage stage				
	I	II	III	IV	V
Increased Costs:					
Water Purchases		✓	✓	✓	✓
Capital Projects to Improve Water Supply		✓	✓	✓	✓
Increased O&M Expenses from Change in Water Supply Mix (e.g., increased pumping costs)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Additional Rebates and Conservation Actions	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Increased Communications Costs (e.g., advertising)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Increased Staffing		✓	✓	✓	✓
Decreased Costs:					
Decreased O&M due to less water treatment and delivery	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Decreased Revenues:					
Decreased sales to Single Family customers	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Decreased sales to Multi-Family customers	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Decreased sales to Commercial customers	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Decreased sales to Institutional customers	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Decreased sales to Agricultural customers			✓	✓	✓

6.1.3 Water Rates

GWD undertook a rate setting process in 2025, which took approximately six months. Under the District's current financial plans, the District can fully recover costs, increase cash reserves to build resiliency in the event of drought and provide the ability to respond to unexpected events, maintain healthy debt coverage, and maintain a positive financial trajectory.

Proposition 218, *The Right to Vote on Taxes Act*, was passed by California voters in 1996. Proposition 218 has substantive and procedural requirements for fees related to "Property-Related Services". Under case law (*Bighorn-Desert Water Agency v. Verjil* (2006) 39 Cal.4th 205, 212), water service is a property-related service. Any proposed changes to District rates and charges related to drought must undergo thorough legal review for compliance with the provisions of Proposition 218.

The substantive requirements of Proposition 218 are:

- Revenues cannot exceed the funds required to provide the property-related service.
- Revenues cannot be used for any other purpose.
- The amount of the fee cannot exceed the proportional cost of the service attributable to the parcel.

The procedural steps to revise water rates compliant with Proposition 218 are:

- Determine the cost for providing different customer types water service.
- Propose rates to cover those costs.
- Send all customers of record a notice of the proposed rates and the procedure for protesting the proposed rates.
- Hold a public hearing.
- Solicit and tabulate protests to the proposed rates.

If a majority of protest is not received, then the rates can go into effect. Of note, the District does not anticipate a need to implement drought rates nor consider a rate revision beyond the rates set by the 2025 Cost of Service Study. In addition to the drought resiliency assessment in the 2025 COSS, the independent Water Supply Reliability Analysis and Drought Risk Assessment in the 2025 UWMP indicate the District is well-positioned to have sufficient supplies to meet projected demand should multi-year drought conditions occur.

6.1.4 Penalties

Penalties differ from water rates in that rates are meant to generate revenue while penalties are meant to encourage a change in customer behavior. Penalties result in limited and unpredictable revenues, and are therefore not a true mechanism to reduce the fiscal impact of a drought, but rather a function to drive customer conservation.

Penalties could apply in situations involving violation of water restrictions if, after warning is provided, a violation continued by a customer, with the penalty increasing with subsequent violations. Below is the basic framework through which a penalty system could be implemented.

- First violation – customer notification and education.
- Second violation – customer receives written citation.
- Third and subsequent violation – The District may impose a penalty fee (fine) and may install a flow-restrictor on the service. If a flow-restrictor is installed, the violator pays the cost of the installation and removal of the device.¹ Any willful violation occurring subsequent to the issuance of the second written warning constitutes a misdemeanor and may be referred to the Santa Barbara County District Attorney's office for prosecution. In addition, Code Section 6.21.050 provides for a fine ranging from \$100 to \$1,000, depending on the number of violations and the water use restriction stage (specific charges are listed in Code Section 6.21.050, and are subject to change) and disconnection of water service. If water service is disconnected, it will be restored only upon payment of the turn-on charge set by the Board of Directors in addition to resolving any other outstanding requirements of the District rules and regulations, as provided for by District Code Section 6.28.100.

6.1.5 Reserve Funds

Per District Code, the reserves are to provide the District with (i) an unrestricted contingency reserve necessary to meet significant unexpected capital project requirements, (ii) a cash

¹ A flow restrictor would function to limit water flow, thereby reducing water consumption by the customer.

equivalent for a fixed period of operations and maintenance expenditures, and (iii) such other reserves as the Board of Directors deems appropriate.

Table 6-6 below details the components of the recommended \$25.2M reserve target identified in GWD's 2025 Water Rate Study.

**Table 6-6
Recommended Reserve Levels**

Description	Comment	Value
Capital Contingency Reserve	Estimated cost of significant unplanned capital expenditure	\$14,500,000
Operating Reserve	30-days of operating cash prior to debt service and planned infrastructure projects	\$3,100,000
Resiliency Reserve	Various unanticipated expenditures	\$7,600,000
Total		\$25,200,000

Section 7: Plan Implementation

This Section provides methods for implementing the Plan, including the procedures for monitoring and reporting key water use metrics, and the process for completing Plan updates.

7.1 Monitoring and Reporting

Monitoring and reporting key water use metrics is fundamental to water supply planning and management. Actively monitoring the effectiveness of the Plan is also essential to ensure that the response actions are achieving their intended water use reduction purposes, or whether improvements or new actions need to be considered. Monitoring for customer compliance tracking is also useful in enforcement actions.

The timing, frequency, and metrics monitored are variable and dependent on the metric being monitored and the water shortage level. Under normal water supply conditions, potable water production figures are recorded daily and monthly water production totals are reported to the State Department of Health Services. A monthly water production report is also provided to the GWD WMLRP Committee, and a comprehensive water supply and demand update is provided quarterly. During a drought or water shortage emergency, the following additional measures are taken to monitor Plan effectiveness:

- Production figures are more closely monitored to ensure that reduction targets are being met and potential leaks are addressed in a timely manner.
- Internal weekly meetings with the drought task force (a subset of the water shortage response team) allow staff and management to monitor water supply availability, systemwide production, and customer class demand during declared water shortages, and determine whether additional actions are necessary or more severe stages are anticipated.
- A detailed drought update report (in addition to the water production report) is presented to the WMLRP Committee monthly, and the full Board of Directors quarterly, to ensure GWD decision-makers remain informed and prepared to take appropriate actions where necessary.
- A detailed log of approved customer exceptions to restrictions, water use observations, customer conservation hotline reports, and violations is maintained and reported to the WSC Manager and drought task force weekly. A map tracking the exceptions and violations is updated regularly.

GWD uses total production (excluding recycled water) to determine system-wide reductions in water use and whether conservation targets associated with the relevant water shortage stage are achieved. Customer consumption data recorded by water meters is compiled and analyzed on a monthly basis to track the change in use among various customer classes. This level of analysis allows GWD to identify where additional savings can be achieved, and develop targeted programs and outreach strategies to further reduce demand. If demand reductions consistently fall short of the target and water shortage thresholds are triggered, the GWD Board of Directors may declare increasingly severe water shortage stages and associated demand management programs to accomplish the necessary reductions.

At the time this Plan is being updated, DWR is in the process of preparing guidelines for monthly reporting of water production and other water uses to the State, along with associated enforcement metrics. If necessary, this Plan will be updated once the guidelines are finalized to include any metrics not currently monitored in this Plan. Reporting to DWR will be consistent with future regulations.

7.2 Plan Refinement Procedures

This Plan is an adaptive management plan that is designed to be responsive to the effectiveness of water shortage actions during a declared water shortage. As such, the Plan is subject to adjustments and refinements as needed to ensure that actions are appropriate and effective. Plan updates are generally presented in reports to the WMLRP Committee on a monthly basis, and to the Board of Directors on a quarterly basis, to ensure GWD decision-makers remain informed and prepared to take appropriate actions where necessary. Additionally, under a declared or anticipated water shortage, GWD will convene its regular drought task force meetings to monitor water supplies, demand, and the effectiveness of any actions being implemented. When updates are needed, GWD will refine the Plan and provide updated information to the Board of Directors for approval.

7.2.1 Process for Plan Refinements

In the event that water shortage response actions are not producing the necessary demand reductions, GWD will take adaptive measures necessary to achieve further demand reductions among the various customer categories. This may include adding new or modifying existing water use restrictions, creating targeted outreach programs, or implementing additional conservation incentive programs.

Plan refinements are accomplished through a legislative process that involves staff analysis, presentations to decision-makers, and consideration and approval by Board Committees. Specifically, staff briefs and proposes recommended water shortage response actions to the pertinent Board Committee if necessary updates are identified:

- WMLRP Committee for conservation incentive programs,
- Administration Committee for demand reduction measure/regulation modifications, and
- Public Information Committee for public outreach programs.

Once approved, the updates are incorporated into the Plan and implemented at the appropriate water shortage level.

Section 8: References

8.1 Section 2 References

California State Water Resources Control Board. 2011. Cachuma Project Water Rights Hearing Final Environmental Impact Report. December.

County of Santa Barbara, 2026. "Countywide Percent-of-Normal Water-Year Rainfall", updated April 2, 2026. Available:

<https://www.countyofsb.org/uploadedFiles/pwd/Content/Water/Hydrology/Rainfall%20-%20Annual%20Percent%20of%20Normal%20-%20CountyWide.pdf>

California Department of Water Resources. 2024. The Final State Water Project Delivery Capability Report 2023. August.

Goleta Water District. 2013. Wright Annual Report. May.

Goleta Water District. 2021. 2020 Urban Water Management Plan. July.

Goleta Water District. 2022. Groundwater Management Plan for Goleta Groundwater Basin. Final. November.

Goleta Water District. 2023. Goleta Water District Local Hazard Mitigation Plan, Annex to the Santa Barbara County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan. Available:

<https://content.civicplus.com/api/assets/f6e33a3b-4f9e-41e0-927c-f02ab8bc1fea>

Goleta Water District. 2024. Water Supply Management Plan. May.

Goleta Water District. 2025. Comprehensive Emergency Response Plan. February.

Goleta Water District. 2026. 2025 Urban Water Management Plan. July.

National Drought Mitigation Center. 2021. United States Drought Monitor – California. February. <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About/AbouttheData/DroughtClassification.aspx>

Stetson Engineers. 2006. Memorandum No. 5: Hydrologic Impact Analysis of Possible Cachuma Operations Alternatives. Part of Cachuma Project Water Rights Hearing Final Environmental Impact Report Volume IV. October.

Stetson Engineers. 2001. Technical Memorandum No. 3: Hydrologic Analyses of Surface Water Salinity. Part of Cachuma Project Water Rights Hearing Final Environmental Impact Report Volume IV. February.

8.2 Section 3 References

Department of Water Resources. 1993. California's 1987 to 1992 Drought. July. Goleta Water District. 2013. Wright Annual Report. May.

Goleta Water District. 2024. Water Supply Management Plan. May.

Goleta Water District. 2021. 2020 Urban Water Management Plan. July.

Goleta Water District. 2022. Groundwater Management Plan for Goleta Groundwater Basin. Final. November.

Santa Barbara County Integrated Regional Water Management Group. 2013. South Coast Recycled Water Development Plan. December.

Washington Department of Ecology. 2004. Analysis of Water Banks in the Western States. July. www.water.ca.gov/waterconditions/docs/10_1991-water_bank.pdf

8.3 Section 4 References

American Water Works Association, 2011. Drought Preparedness and Response. Manual of Water Supply Practices, M60.

City of Santa Cruz Water Department, 2009. Water Shortage Contingency Plan.

City of Santa Cruz Water Department, Water Conservation Office, December 2010. The 2009 Water Shortage an Evaluation of Water Management Strategies, Actions, and Results

California Department of Water Resources (DWR). 2000. Preparing for California's Next Drought : Changes Since 1987-92

Goleta Water District, 2013 Technical Report on Optimizing the Goleta Water District Water Conservation Program

Kenney, Douglas S., Roberta A. Klein, and Martyn P. Clark, 2004. *Use and Effectiveness of Municipal Water Restrictions during Drought in Colorado*. Journal of the American Water Resources Association. February

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University Blacksburg, Virginia, 2006. The Effectiveness of Drought Management Programs in Reducing Residential Water-Use in Virginia. <http://water.ky.gov/wa/Documents/AdditlDroughtResources/VirginiaStudyonDroughtProgramEffectiveness.pdf>

8.4 Section 6 References

City of Santa Cruz. 2009. Water Shortage Contingency Plan. March.

California League of Cities. 2007. Proposition 218 Implementation Guide. September.

CDM. 2011. Technical Memorandum from Grant Hoag, P.E., to Matthew Anderson regarding Cost of Service Analysis.

Goleta Water District. 2025. Fiscal Year 2025-26 Final Budget.

Goleta Water District. 2025. Water Rate Study. April.

Appendix A – SAFE Ordinance

FULL TEXT OF MEASURE J94
GOLETA WATER DISTRICT

AN AMENDMENT TO THE SAFE WATER
SUPPLIES ORDINANCE

THE PEOPLE OF THE GOLETA WATER DISTRICT,
COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA, STATE OF
CALIFORNIA, DO ORDAIN AND ENACT THE
FOLLOWING ORDINANCE WHICH SHALL BE AN
AMENDMENT TO THE SAFE WATER SUPPLIES
ORDINANCE:

RECITALS:

WHEREAS, the voters of the Goleta Water District
("District") enacted the SAFE Water Supplies Ordinance
("SAFE") in June 1991 authorizing the participation by
the District in the State Water Project and providing for
the bond financing to develop the Project Facilities
necessary for delivery of that water to the District; and

WHEREAS, the District is now a member of the Central
Coast Water Authority, the members of which are
cooperating collectively to develop the Project Facilities
which are now under construction; and

WHEREAS, SAFE provides for the creation of a Drought
Buffer of water stored in the Goleta groundwater basin to
protect against future drought emergencies and a Water
Supply Distribution Plan to protect the District's water
supplies against new demands until deliveries from the
State Water Project are available; and

WHEREAS, this proposed amendment to SAFE maintains
all the provisions regarding the protection of water
supplies provided by the Drought Buffer and the Water
Supply Distribution Plan; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to provisions of the judgment in the
lawsuit known as Wright v. Goleta Water District, the
District is required to develop a Water Plan to provide the
necessary water supplies to achieve a balance between
supply and demand for water within the District. The
District's Water Plan is based on continuing to use the
maximum amount of water available from the Cachuma
Project; prudent management of the Goleta groundwater
basin; use of the newly constructed wastewater
reclamation project to replace existing use of potable
water for turf irrigation; a continuing water conservation
planning effort; participation in the State Water Project;
and the necessary level of commitment to a desalinated
seawater project. As a result of the long-term water
supply deficit in the District, the District has been
operating under a water connection moratorium for over
twenty years. Once fully implemented the District's
Water Plan should provide adequate supplies to meet long-
term water demand in the District; and

WHEREAS, the forty year water service contract with the
United States Bureau of Reclamation for delivery of water
from the Cachuma Project will expire in May 1995.
Negotiations are currently under way to renew that
contract. The Bureau of Reclamation has required that the
Cachuma Project be subjected to an environmental review
process which is now being undertaken. It appears likely
that the District's yield from the Cachuma Project after
contract renewal will be less than the current yield as a
result of the dedication of water for environmental
enhancement purposes on the lower Santa Ynez River; and

WHEREAS, the Southern California Water Company is a
Santa Barbara County water purveyor which currently
holds rights to an entitlement to 3,000 acre feet per year of
water from the State Water Project and has given notice of
its intent to sell 2,500 acre feet of that entitlement. The
Goleta Water District has identified itself as a potential
purchaser of the entitlement. It is the intent of this
Ordinance to authorize the acquisition and use of that
entitlement; and

WHEREAS, the District estimates the annual cost of the
Southern California Water Company entitlement to be
\$500 per acre foot of water delivered to the District. The
entitlement acquisition is intended to reduce the long-term
costs of water to the District and its customers in that
alternative supplies that would be available, and necessary
to meet the District's long-term demand would be more
expensive than the water available from Southern
California Water Company. The District's cost analysis of
the acquisition is available at the District office.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE FOLLOWING ORDINANCE
IS ENACTED INTO LAW:

1. The District is authorized to acquire an additional
entitlement to the State Water Project in an amount of
up to 2,500 acre feet per year, which is currently
available from the Southern California Water
Company. This entitlement will supplement the 4,500
acre feet per year authorized by the voters in originally
adopting the SAFE Water Supplies Ordinance. This
authorization shall provide for the payment of all costs
of the acquisition and use of any additional entitlement
acquired. Due to the controversy concerning the
physical ability of the State Water Project to deliver its
full contractual commitments, the District shall plan
for the delivery of 3,800 acre feet per year of water as
the amount of firm average long-term yield. The
District's total State Water Project entitlement
includes the basic entitlement of 4,500 acre feet per
year, the District's share of the drought buffer held by
the Central Coast Water Authority and the entitlement
acquired pursuant to this authorization. Any excess
water actually delivered over 3,800 acre feet per year
shall be stored in the Goleta groundwater Central basin
until the basin is replenished to its 1972 level, for use
during drought conditions.
2. Enactment of this Ordinance shall comply with all
applicable law, including the California Environmental
Quality Act.
3. If adopted, this Ordinance shall be an amendment to
the SAFE Water Supplies Ordinance adopted by the
electorate in June, 1991, which amended and
superseded the Responsible Water Policy Ordinance,

originally adopted by the electorate in 1973. Paragraph 1 of this Ordinance shall amend and fully supersede paragraph 6 of the SAFE Water Supplies Ordinance. All other provisions of the SAFE Ordinance shall remain in full force and effect. If adopted, this Ordinance may not be modified except pursuant to a vote of the electorate of the District.

4. This Ordinance shall be liberally construed and applied in order to fully promote its underlying purposes. If any word, sentence, paragraph or section of this Ordinance is determined to be unenforceable by a court of law, it is the intention of the District that the remainder of the Ordinance shall be enforced.

FULL TEXT OF MEASURE H91
GOLETA WATER DISTRICT
Ordinance 91-01
SAFE WATER SUPPLIES ORDINANCE

THE PEOPLE OF THE GOLETA WATER DISTRICT, COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA, STATE OF CALIFORNIA, DO ORDAIN AND ENACT THE FOLLOWING ORDINANCE WHICH SHALL BE KNOWN AS THE *SAFE WATER SUPPLIES ORDINANCE*:

RECITALS:

Whereas, the Goleta Water District ("District") faces a significant shortage of water to meet current long-term water demands of its customers as determined by the State Department of Water Resources and the Santa Barbara County Flood Control and Water Conservation District in their 1985 Santa Barbara County Water Project Alternatives study; and

Whereas, a drought emergency was declared in Santa Barbara County in 1990 following four years of below normal precipitation within Santa Barbara County and, in the future, the District will continue to be subject to recurring drought cycles which will threaten the ability of the District to meet the health and safety needs of its customers unless new and diversified, long term water projects are developed; and

Whereas, the District relies exclusively on local water supplies to meet its current water demand, which supplies originate entirely within Santa Barbara County and which supplies are all subject to the same climatic conditions; and

Whereas, in the absence of a system limiting the District's authority to provide new and/or additional water service connections without first mandating groundwater storage of water in wet years for use in dry years (a "drought buffer program") District customers may face severe water shortage in the future; and

Whereas on October 1, 1990 the Board of Directors of the Goleta Water District adopted a Water Supply Management Plan which includes use of water supplies from both a desalting plant and the State of Water Project; and;

Whereas, the District is a party to an agreement with the Santa Barbara County Flood Control and Water Conservation District entitled "Water Supply Retention Agreement" dated December 11, 1984 which it executed on June 28, 1986 (the "WSRA") entitling the District to 4,500 acre feet per year from the State Water Project, and has executed amendments thereto; and

Whereas, the District is also a party to a "Contract for Preliminary Studies for Financial Feasibility, Preliminary Design and Environmental Review Under State Water Supply Contract" (the "Design and EIR Agreement") dated June 2, 1986 but did not identify itself as a proposed participant in the preliminary studies in response to the "Notice of Intent to Request Preliminary Studies" for the Coastal Branch and the Mission Hills Extension of the California Aqueduct given by the city of Santa Maria on or about May 24, 1986; and

Whereas, the WSRA and its amendments and the Design and EIR Agreement contain the ways and means to provide for a long term solution to the existing drought emergency and to the ongoing water shortage within the County of Santa Barbara; and

Whereas, the District has a duty to provide a permanent, reliable water supply to its residents.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE FOLLOWING ORDINANCE IS ENACTED INTO LAW:

I Drought Buffer

1. In each year, commencing in the first year the State Water Project makes deliveries to the District, the District shall, after providing service to its existing customers, commit at least 2,000 acre feet of its water supply (the "Annual Storage Contribution") to the Goleta Central Basin either by direct injection or by reduction in groundwater pumping. The water so stored in the Central Basin shall constitute the District's "Drought Buffer".

2. The Drought Buffer may be pumped and distributed by the District only to existing customers and only in the event that a drought on the South Coast causes a reduction in the District's annual deliveries from Lake Cachuma. The Drought Buffer cannot, under any circumstances, be used by the District as a supplemental water supply to serve new or additional demands for water within the District.

3. Unless and until the Central Basin water level rises to 100% of its 1972 levels, the District shall be required to make its Annual Buffer Commitment. Thereafter, for so long as the District maintains the Central Basin at or above 1972 levels, the District may utilize the yield of the Central Basin to lower the cost of water service to existing customers.

II Water Supply Distribution Plan

4. The District shall be forbidden from providing new or additional potable water service connections to any property not previously served by the District until all of the following conditions are met:

a. District is receiving 100% of its deliveries normally allowed from the Cachuma Project;

b. The District has met its legal obligations required by the judgment in *Wright v Goleta Water District*;

c. Water rationing by the District is eliminated;

d. The District has met its obligation to make its Annual Storage Commitment to the Drought Buffer.

5. For each year in which the conditions of paragraph 4, have been met, the District shall be authorized to release 1% of its total potable water supply to new or additional service connections and if such new releases are authorized, the District shall permanently increase the size of the Annual Storage Commitment made to the Drought Buffer by 2/3 of the amount of any release for new or additional uses so that safe water supplies in times of drought shall not be endangered by any new or additional demands.

III State Water Supply

6. Due to controversy concerning the physical ability of the State Water Project to deliver its full contractual commitments, District shall plan for delivery of only 2,500 acre feet per year as the amount of the firm new yield from the State Water Project. Any excess water actually delivered shall be stored in the Goleta Groundwater basin for use in drought.

7. The District shall immediately either (a) give Notice of its Intention to Request Construction of

Described Project Facilities under the State Water Contract, as provided for in Section 5(a)(1) of the WSRA or (b) respond to any such notice previously given by any other Contractor as provided for in Section 5(a)(2) of the WSRA that it wishes to participate in the described project.

8. The Project Facilities to be constructed pursuant to the Notice of Intention shall be the Mission Hills and Santa Ynez Extensions of the Coastal Branch of the California Aqueduct and required water treatment facilities and other appurtenant facilities (herein the "Project Facilities").

9. The District agrees, pursuant to section Section 5(a)(2) of the WSRA, that the time for determination of participation and sizing of the Project Facilities may be any date on or after September 1, 1992 agreeable to the other participants.

10. The District shall, in the shortest time lawfully possible, exercise all of its rights and fulfill all of its obligations under the WSRA, including the payment of any monies required thereunder.

11. The District shall file a Late Request to Amend, pursuant to Section 3(f) of the Design and EIR Agreement, and agrees to pay its proportionate share of all costs required by said Section 3(f) and any amounts required under Section 3(g) of said Design and EIR Agreement.

12. The District, or the Santa Barbara Water Purveyors Agency, or any other joint powers agency of which the District is a member or may become a member for such purposes, may issue revenue bonds ("bonds") from time to time in an amount not to exceed Forty-Two Million Dollars (\$42,000,000.00) to provide funds to finance the District's pro rata share of the costs and expenses under the WSRA and the Design and EIR Agreement. Said bonds shall be used for the purposes of constructing the Project Facilities, including without limitation, any and all necessary facilities required for the delivery of State Project Water pursuant to the WSRA to the District through the Coastal Branch of the California Aqueduct, including any and all expenses incidental thereto or connected therewith, and shall include, without limitation, the cost of acquiring rights of way, the cost of constructing and/or acquiring all buildings, equipment and related personal and real property required to complete the Project Facilities, and the engineering, environmental review, inspection, legal and fiscal agent's fees, costs incurred by the District or joint powers agency in connection with the issuance and sale of such bonds, and reserve fund and bond interest estimated to accrue during the construction period and for a period of not to exceed twelve (12) months after completion of construction, such bonds to be payable from the District's water revenues, to bear interest at a rate or rates not to exceed the legal maximum from time to time, and to mature in not more than forty (40) years from the date of issuance.

13. This Ordinance shall be submitted to a vote of the people of the District in compliance with the requirements of Section 5(a)(4)(1) of the WSRA and pursuant to Elections Code Section 5201.

14. All actions taken pursuant to this Ordinance shall be in compliance with all local, state and federal environmental protection laws. Nothing in the Ordinance shall be construed to require such compliance prior to the election provided for herein.

15. This Ordinance shall be liberally construed and applied in order to fully promote its underlying purposes. If any word, sentence, paragraph or section of this Ordinance is determined to be unenforceable by a court law, it is the intention of the District that the remainder of the Ordinance shall be enforced.

16. If adopted, this ordinance shall be an amendment to the Responsible Water Policy Ordinance adopted by the people in May, 1973, and may not be modified except pursuant to the vote of the electorate of the District. To the extent that the provisions of this ordinance conflict with that ordinance or any prior ordinance or measure previously enacted by the District or the voters of the District, the provisions of this ordinance shall control. To the extent that the provisions of this Ordinance conflict with any other ordinance or measure adopted at the same election, the ordinance or measure receiving the highest number of affirmative votes shall control.

17. Nothing herein is intended to affect the rights of any parties nor the obligations of the District pursuant to the judgment in the action know as Wright v Goleta Water District, Santa Barbara Superior Court Case No. SM57969.

18. This ordinance shall take effect immediately upon being approved by a majority vote of the votes cast at the election.

Appendix B – Draft Water Shortage Ordinance

RESOLUTION NO. 20__-__

**A RESOLUTION OF THE GOLETA WATER DISTRICT BOARD OF
DIRECTORS DECLARING A STAGE ____ WATER SHORTAGE
EMERGENCY**

WHEREAS, the Goleta Water District (“District”) is a County water district organized and existing under the laws of the State of California; and

WHEREAS, California Water Code section 350 provides that the District Board of Directors (“Board”) has the authority to declare a water shortage emergency condition when it finds and determines that the ordinary demands and requirements of water consumers cannot be satisfied without depleting the District’s water supply to the extent that there would be insufficient water supply for human consumption, sanitation, and fire protection; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the District’s Water Shortage Contingency Plan (“Contingency Plan”), a Stage ____ water shortage exists when one of the following occurs: water supply is ____ to ____ percent of normal for the next twelve months, water supply is insufficient to provide ____% of normal deliveries for the next twenty four months, or contamination of ____% of water supply exceeds primary drinking water standards; and

WHEREAS, if current conditions persist, the District’s estimated future water supply is projected to be ____% of normal, defined in the District Urban Water Management Plan as 15,472 acre feet excluding recycled water, for the next twelve months; and

WHEREAS, as of [date] yearly rainfall in Goleta was ____% of normal and the Cachuma Reservoir levels was at ____% of capacity; and

WHEREAS, if system-wide demand reductions are not achieved, the District’s estimated future supply will not be sufficient to satisfy the ordinary demands and requirements of District water consumers such that there would be insufficient water for human consumption, sanitation, and fire protection; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to California Water Code Section 350 et seq., the District Board conducted a duly noticed public hearing on [date] to provide customers an opportunity to be heard and protest against a declaration that a water shortage emergency condition exists within the District, and protests and testimony have been duly received and considered by the District Board.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED FOUND AND DETERMINED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE GOLETA WATER DISTRICT AS FOLLOWS:

1. FINDINGS AND DETRMINATIONS: The Board, based on the foregoing facts and circumstances, set forth above, does hereby find and determine that there is a drought related water shortage emergency.
 - a. The above recitals are true and correct,

- b. The ordinary demands and requirements of District water consumers cannot be satisfied without depleting the water supply of the District in that there would be insufficient water for human consumption, sanitation, and fire protection, and
 - c. There is a drought-related water shortage emergency.
- 2. DECLARATIONS: In order to protect the water supply and reduce water use demand, the Board does hereby declare that a Stage ____ Water Shortage emergency exists.
- 3. ACTIONS: Pursuant to the District's Contingency Plan, the District shall carry out actions to reduce water demand including:
 - a. Urge the public to engage in water conservation activities and to reduce water use by at least ____%;
 - b. Intensify drought outreach programs to educate the public with respect to water conservation;
 - c. Enact demand reduction restrictions and prohibitions included in Chapter 6 of the District Code that will reduce non-essential water use, including an enforcement component to achieve compliance; and
 - d. Analyze drought impacts and demand reductions, and prepare for implementation of subsequent water shortage stages.
- 4. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Directors of the Goleta Water District this ____ day of _____, 20__ by the following roll call vote:

AYE:

NAY:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

ATTEST:

JOHN MCINNES
DISTRICT SECRETARY

PRESIDENT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Appendix C – Example Outreach Materials



MANDATORY RESTRICTIONS - 25% WATER USE REDUCTION SEPTEMBER 2014



Stage II Water Shortage Emergency Information

The District Board of Directors declared a Stage II Water Shortage Emergency on September 9, 2014. The District set a 25% district-wide reduction in water usage to help extend available water supplies and has established mandatory water use restrictions to help achieve reductions.

Water use restrictions include:

- ◆ Hoses used for any purpose must be equipped with a shut-off nozzle.
- ◆ Direct application of water to sidewalks, pavements, open ground, or other hard surfaced area is generally prohibited.
- ◆ Washing buildings, dwellings or other structures is generally prohibited.
- ◆ Vehicles and boats may only be washed at commercial car washing facilities or with a hose equipped with a shut-off nozzle.
- ◆ Use of water in outdoor fountains, reflection ponds, and decorative water features is prohibited unless located on a residential property or home to aquatic life as of September 9, 2014.
- ◆ Outdoor landscape irrigation is limited to no more than two times per week during early morning or late evening hours, as follows.
 - Manual watering allowed between 4:00 p.m. and 10:00 a.m. no more than two days per week.
 - Use of fixed (i.e., installed) sprinkler systems must comply with the following schedule:
 - Residential properties may water Wednesdays and Saturdays, before 7 a.m. or after 7 p.m.
 - Commercial and institutional properties may water Tuesdays and Fridays, before 7 a.m. or after 7 p.m.
- ◆ Restaurants and other food establishments may not serve water unless specifically requested by the patron.
- ◆ Hotels, motels, and other lodging are encouraged to post water shortage notices and water conservation tips, and refrain from daily linen washing unless specifically requested by the patron.
- ◆ Gyms, athletic clubs, public pools, and other similar establishments are encouraged to post water shortage notices at their facilities and promote shortened showers.
- ◆ Agricultural customers using water to irrigate commercial crops, including nurseries, are generally exempt from the irrigation restrictions, but are strongly encouraged to avoid watering during daylight hours and utilize efficient irrigation systems.

In addition, water waste is prohibited, including irrigating in a manner resulting in runoff off of the property, and allowing water to escape from plumbing breaks for more than 48 hours.

Repeated violations will be penalized with fines ranging from \$100 up to \$500 following a warning and written notice. The District Board also amended the District Code to further specify unlawful uses of water, such as through a fire hydrant or fire line, through a waterline with no meter, or from another account holder or property.

For more information, including a complete list of restrictions and specific exceptions, visit

www.GoletaWater.com

THE DISTRICT HAS DECLARED A STAGE II WATER SHORTAGE EMERGENCY
MANDATORY WATER USE RESTRICTIONS EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY
25% DISTRICT-WIDE WATER USE REDUCTION



For more information, including a complete list of restrictions and specific exceptions, visit

www.GoletaWater.com



Welcome to

Goleta Water District

September 10, 2014

Site Map

SEARCH

- Conservation
- Customer Service
- Rates, Bills & Budget
- Agendas & Minutes
- Newsletters & Press
- About the District
- Home
- Pay Your Bill Online
- New Water Services
- Backflow / Cross Connection
- Videos
- Documents
- Water Quality
- Water Supply

WELCOME TO GOLETA WATER DISTRICT!

MANDATORY RESTRICTIONS - 25% WATER USE REDUCTION

The District has declared a
Stage II Water Shortage Emergency

- Click here for more information -



24/7 EMERGENCY INFO: (805) 964-6761

(805) 964-6761 • 4699 Hollister Ave. Goleta, CA 93110 • info@goletawater.com

FEATURE STORY

Protecting Steelhead and Water Supplies

The United States Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) built the Bradbury Dam and associated facilities along the Santa Ynez River in the 1950s...

Click here to read more.

Drought and Water Shortage Update

On March 11, 2014, the Goleta Water District (District) declared a Stage 1 Water Shortage and called for a voluntary 20% water reduction.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Click here to report a
→ **LEAK** or
WATER WASTE

NEWS

Stage II Water Shortage Emergency Information

Click here for information.

Summer 2014 Newsletter

Click here for information.

Consideration of a Stage II Water Shortage Emergency Declaration

Click here for information.

Statewide Emergency Regulations in Effect

UPCOMING EVENTS

Board Meetings

The next regular meeting of the District Board of Directors will be on Tuesday, October 14, 2014, starting at 5:30 pm. Board meetings are held at Goleta Water



WATER MANAGEMENT &
LONG RANGE PLANNING
COMMITTEE
AGENDA LETTER

**Secretary of the Board of
Directors**

4699 Hollister Avenue,
Goleta, CA 93110
(805) 879-4621

Department Name: Water Supply &
Conservation

For Agenda Of: August 20, 2015

Estimated Time 20 minutes

Continued Item: No

If Yes, Date From: N/A

TO: Committee Members

FROM: Department: Water Supply & Conservation

Contact Info: Ryan Drake, Water Supply & Conservation Manager

SUBJECT: Drought: Stage III Water Supply and Demand Update

Legal Concurrence:

As to form: N/A

Recommended Action:

Receive an update on the Stage III Water Shortage and the status of the Goleta Water District (District) water supply and demand, and provide direction to staff as appropriate, including forwarding to the Board of Directors for receipt and filing.

Summary Text:

On May 12, 2015, the District Board of Directors (Board) declared a Stage III Water Shortage. At that time, District modeling indicated that water supply for the subsequent twelve months would be approximately 74% of normal beginning in May 2015, triggering a Stage III Water Shortage pursuant to the District's Board-adopted Drought Preparedness and Water Shortage Contingency Plan (Drought Plan). This update provides best and most recent information on customer response to the 35% system-wide demand reduction target under a Stage III declaration and current and projected water supplies available to the District for Water Year (WY) 2015-16 (October 2015 - September 2016). The update also provides a summary of the drought-related water supply and demand model the District maintains to help determine whether a water shortage is imminent based on current and projected supply and demand.

Supply and demand management is the cornerstone of the District's management strategy to ensure adequate water is available to meet the needs of District customers. While supply augmentation and maintenance is vital, the need for continued conservation and demand management is equally important as part of the supply/demand equation.

Water Supply Update

The status of District water supplies has not changed significantly since the Stage III declaration in May. The District continues to use its operational wells to pump groundwater at maximum capacity while taking the necessary steps to rehabilitate existing and build new wells that will provide greater access to stored groundwater. The 2015 State Water allocation of 1,490 AF, or 20% of total District entitlement, has been fully utilized, and customer demand above and beyond groundwater production is currently being met with water from Lake Cachuma. Based on current projected supplies and customer conservation trends, a Stage IV Water Shortage will be triggered in the fall of 2016. A summary of each District supply source is provided below.

Lake Cachuma

Cachuma Member Agencies, including the District, received a 45% allocation of entitlement for WY 2014-15. That equates to 4,195 acre feet (AF), which the District is currently utilizing. Based on projected demand, the District will have approximately 2,469 AF of carryover water availability in WY 2015-16. The preservation of water in the lake is critical as the District and other Cachuma Member Agencies have been notified by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) that no Cachuma water will be made available in WY 2015-16 (a zero percent allocation). The percent allocation of Cachuma water could change if substantial rainfall and associated inflow to the lake occurs during the winter/spring of 2016, which would have a significant impact on the District's current projected drought stage triggering events. While current forecasts suggest that significant rainfall may be associated with the El Niño weather pattern in the rainy season, for the time being, the District will continue to project a zero percent Cachuma allocation until its Lake Cachuma supply allocation is adjusted by the USBR.

State Water

The District received a 20% allocation of 1,490 AF of State Water for the 2015 calendar year. This represents the second lowest allocation in the history of the State Water Project (SWP), behind last year (5%). The District is currently projecting a 30% allocation of State Water in WY 2015-16 and beyond based upon DWR long-term State Water supply availability projections, recognizing that the initial allocation may be lower. Specifically, DWR estimates in its 2013 SWP Delivery Reliability Report that the long-term average delivery of SWP Table A Water is 58%, and a low of 26% during a six-year drought. However, staff has modeled various State Water allocation scenarios, including zero and ten percent, given the historically low snowpack recorded in the spring of 2015. An allocation below 30% of State Water would result in the need for the District to expedite a Stage IV water shortage declaration if the availability of Cachuma and/or groundwater does not change.

Groundwater

Seven active groundwater wells currently deliver approximately 450 acre feet per month of water into the distribution system and several well enhancement projects are planned, as called for in the District's adopted Infrastructure improvement Plan. The District expects to produce 4,997 AF of groundwater in the current water year, and 6,200 AF in WY 2015-16 based on planned capital improvements.

Notably, the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) recently measured groundwater levels in the Goleta Basin in late April, which showed levels below the 1972 level; the level required to be sustained during non-drought years under the Wright Judgement.¹ All water below the 1972 level is considered the "drought buffer" and was intended under the SAFE Ordinance for use during drought. As planned, the District is

¹ USGS groundwater levels were reported to the Water Management and Long Range Planning Committee on July 16, 2015 and are available on the District website. The report showed that, while below the 1972 level, groundwater levels are not near historic lows, and the District has not observed any deleterious effects related to continued pumping of District wells.