



# 2025 Urban Water Management Plan DRAFT

Part 2 Chapter 8

APRIL 2026

SOUTH MESA WATER COMPANY





SOUTH MESA WATER COMPANY

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APRIL 2026

Prepared by Water Systems Consulting, Inc



# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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The 2025 Urban Water Management Plan DRAFT was prepared by Water Systems Consulting, Inc. The primary authors are listed below.

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# 8

## South Mesa Water Company

This chapter describes information specific to the South Mesa Water Company (SMWC), its supplies, demands and water use efficiency programs. The information and analysis in this chapter are supplemental to the regional information presented in Part 1 of the 2025 RUWMP and is provided to meet the South Mesa Water Company's reporting requirements for 2025 under the UWMP Act.

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### IN THIS SECTION

- System Description
- Water Use
- SBX7-7 Compliance & Future Water Use Efficiency Requirements
- Water Supply
- Water Service Reliability and Drought Risk Assessment
- Water Shortage Contingency Plan Summary
- Demand Management Measures
- Adoption, Submittal, and Implementation

## 8.1 System Description

South Mesa Water Company (SMWC) is a mutual water company, which was established in 1912 as a successor to the earliest land and water companies in the area dating back to 19th Century. SMWC provides domestic and irrigation water service to its shareholders within its service territory, which comprises a portion of the City of Yucaipa in San Bernardino County and a portion of the City of Calimesa in Riverside County. SMWC currently supplies water to just under 3,000 water service connections but anticipates exceeding that level in the very near future. SMWC's water supply includes locally produced groundwater from the Yucaipa Sub-basin (DWR 8-02.07), and also groundwater produced from the adjacent adjudicated portion of the San Timoteo Sub-basin (DWR 8-02.08) in accordance with SMWC's adjudicated water rights.

The service area is approximately 85% built-out with ongoing developments under construction or being approved by the planning departments of the governing agencies. The majority of the population in the service area is from the City of Yucaipa at 55% and City of Calimesa at 45%.

SMWC's primary water uses go toward single-family and multi-family households within many lower income communities. Water is currently obtained entirely by pumping from local groundwater sources; however, additional sources can easily be made available to SMWC if needed. SMWC has plans in development to improve the water system capabilities in order to keep up with future needs and requirements. Water shortage and disaster concerns have been mitigated through the development of a Water Shortage Contingency Plan, Emergency Response Plan, and additional emergency preparedness facilities and procedures.

SMWC's service area is shown in Figure 8-1. The regional climate, which includes SMWC's service area, is described in Part 1, Chapter 2 of the 2025 RUWMP.



**Figure 8-1: South Mesa Water Company Service Area Map**

Boundaries of SMWC's service area are subject to the Entry of Final Consent Judgment, March 26, 2026, Yucaipa Valley Water District v. South Mesa Water Company, San Bernardino Superior Court Case No: CIVDS2009681.

### 8.1.1 Population

Estimates of population served by SMWC are based on data from the 2020 U.S. Census Bureau. A geographic information systems (GIS) analysis of 2020 Census data was used to determine the SMWC 2020 service area population as 12,173 people. The 2020 population and the number of residential connections served by SMWC in 2020 were used to derive a 2020 persons per residential connection factor of 4.3. This factor was then multiplied by the number of residential connections in 2024 and 2025 to estimate the 2024 and 2025 population served by SMWC. The 2025 population is reported in this plan.

To project the population served by SMWC in 2030 through 2050, known developments were used to estimate future households. There are 500 single family homes anticipated by 2035 over two developments. It is assumed the developments will come in at approximately 50 new units per year, and that the service area will be built out after those development are completed. It is assumed that the 2020 persons per residential connection factor of 4.3 will hold for all new 500 new homes. This growth in new homes was applied to the 2024 population estimate (projections were completed prior to having 2025 connections data available). Estimated current and projected populations of the SMWC's service area are included in Table 8-1.

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**Table 8-1: DWR 3-1R Current and Projected Population**

POPULATION SERVED	2025	2030	2035	2040	2045	2050
<b>TOTAL:</b>	12,761	13,804	14,885	14,885	14,885	14,885

### 8.1.2 Land Use

The SMWC service area consists of various land uses, while majority of current and future use is single-family and multi-family residential. Within the near future, the area anticipates minimal growth in commercial development.

## 8.2 Water Use

This section describes the current and projected water uses within SMWC's service area. SMWC serves potable water to its customers.

### 8.2.1 Water Use by Sector

SMWC categorizes customers as residential, multi-family, commercial, landscape and industrial. The number of connections for each customer class for 2021 through 2025 are shown in Table 8-2.

**Table 8-2: SMWC 2021-2025 Connections by Customer Class**

CUSTOMER CLASS	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Residential	2,596	2,623	2,659	2,697	2,701
Multi-Family	241	238	238	244	249
Commercial	141	145	144	143	146
Landscape	19	22	20	22	28
Industrial	2	2	2	2	2
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>2,999</b>	<b>3,030</b>	<b>3,063</b>	<b>3,108</b>	<b>3,126</b>

#### 8.2.1.1 Past Water Use

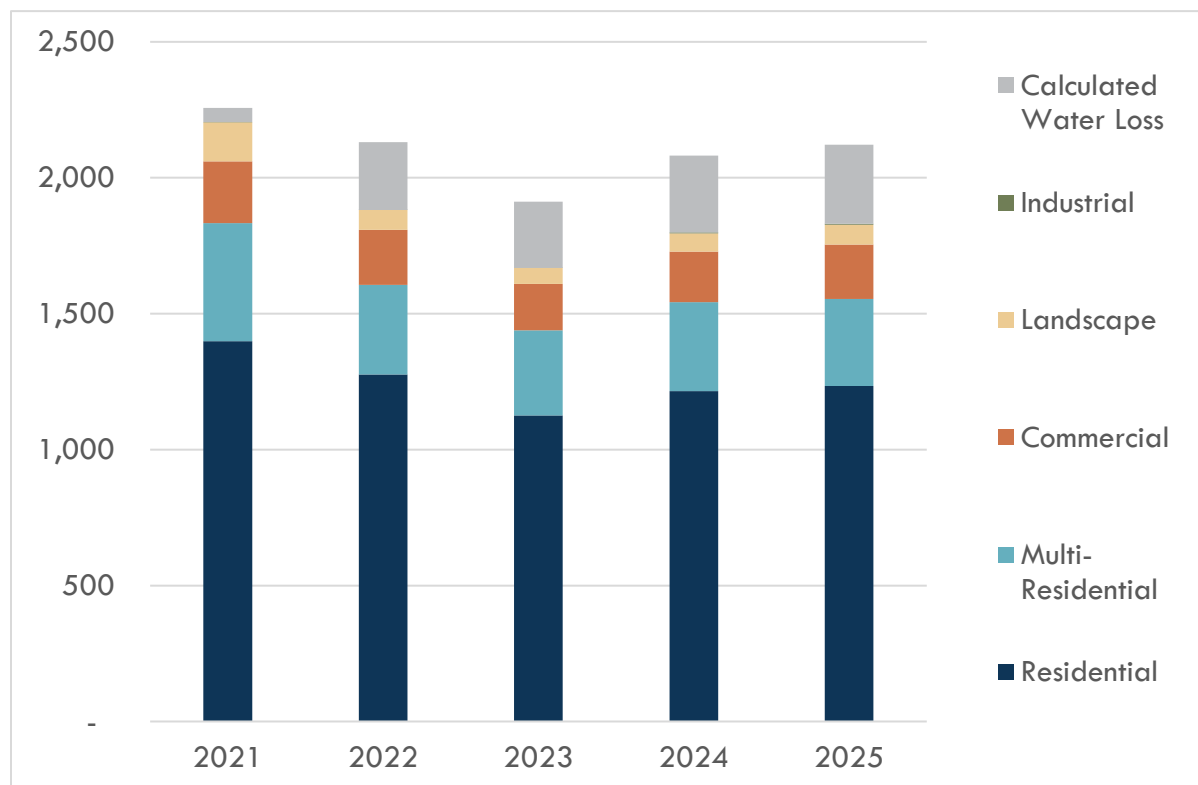
SMWC's water use by customer class from 2021 through 2025 is provided in Table 8-3 and shown in Figure 8-2. Approximately 58% of SMWC's deliveries were to single family residential

## South Mesa Water Company

connections, followed by 15% to multi-family connections, 9% to commercial connections, 3% to landscape connections, and less than 1% to industrial customers.

**Table 8-3: 2021-2025 Actual Water Use (AFY)**

CUSTOMER CLASS	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Residential	1,399	1,276	1,125	1,215	1,234
Multi-Family	434	330	314	328	320
Commercial	227	203	171	186	200
Landscape	144	73	58	67	73
Industrial	1	1	1	3	4
Water Losses	53	249	243	283	291
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>2,257</b>	<b>2,130</b>	<b>1,912</b>	<b>2,082</b>	<b>2,122</b>



**Figure 8-2: SMWC 2021-2025 Water Consumption by Customer Class**

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### 8.2.1.2 Distribution System Water Losses

Distribution system water losses are the physical potable water losses from the point of water entry to the distribution system to the point of delivery to the customer's system. Water loss can result from aging infrastructure, leaks, seepage, theft, metering inaccuracies, data handling errors, and other causes. Addressing water losses can increase water supplies and recover revenue. SMWC monitors its water loss but does not prepare an annual AWWA Water Audit to estimate the volume of water loss. As SMWC is now serving nearly 3,000 connections, they plan to complete an AWWA Water Audit for upcoming years, once required, in accordance with reporting requirements to the State. Water losses are calculated based on production and billed consumption and summarized above in Table 8-3.

**Table 8-4: DWR 4-5R Month Water Loss Audit Reporting**

<b>Public Water System ID # Reported in Table 2-1R</b>	<b>Reporting Period</b>	<b>Submitted to DWR Water Loss Audit Program</b>
<b>CA3310017</b>	2020	N/A
	2021	N/A
	2022	N/A
	2023	N/A
	2024	N/A

### 8.2.2 Projected Water Use

Various demand projection scenarios and conditions were considered for this UWMP. Historic demand trends and water use per connection for each connection type (single family residential, multi-family residential, commercial, etc.) were assessed along with expected growth rates to project demand through 2050. The major assumptions used to develop demand projections are listed below:

**Baseline Water Use:** A historic baseline period is used to approximate “normal” demand patterns representative of what is expected in the future given normal conditions for influential factors impacting demand, known as “demand drivers”. A key demand driver is rainfall. Baseline years incorporate impacts of dry and wet years since demand typically fluctuates with rainfall due to the need for more irrigation in dry years and less in wet years. For this UWMP, a baseline period of 2021-2024 is used, which captures one average rainfall year (2024), one wet year (2023), and two dry years (2021, 2022). A baseline water use per connection was established for each connection type.

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**Connection Growth Rate:** SMWC provided input regarding connection growth rate by customer class for its service area based on known developments. Once these developments are constructed, SMWC expects to reach buildout. As a result, it was assumed that 250 new single-family residential units would be constructed by 2030 and an additional 250 new single-family residential units would be constructed by 2035 (assumed as 50 new connections per year). Commercial and landscape connections are anticipated to increase at five connections per each five-year period. No industrial or multi-family residential growth is anticipated within the SMWC service area.

**Water Loss:** 2022-2024 calculated water losses ranged from 13% to 16%. 2021 calculated water losses were 2% and deemed erroneous. This demand projection assumes water losses will be 14% through 2050.

**Total Projected Demand (“status quo”):** For each connection type, the baseline water use per connection was multiplied by the projected future number of connections to estimate future water use by connection type. The water loss percent was applied to the subtotal of demand for all connection types to determine the total projected future demand. This represents a “status quo” future demand assuming demand patterns remain the same as the baseline period.

**Improvements in Per-Connection Water Use:** To reflect that UWUO requirements, building code changes, and social behavior changes may impact future water use, the following assumptions were made for how existing and future connections’ water use will change:

- Existing Connections
  - Outdoor residential use will become 1% more efficient by 2030
  - Landscape use will become 1% more efficient by 2030
- Future Connections
  - Residential indoor water use will become 5% more efficient by 2030, reflecting that indoor water use in future connections should be 42 gpcd (or less) due to water efficiency standards and building codes
  - Residential outdoor water use will become 10% more efficient by 2030
  - Landscape water use will become 10% more efficient by 2030

Projected future demands by customer class are presented in Table 8-5 and Figure 8-3.

**Table 8-5: DWR 4-2R Projected Demands for Water (AF)**

USE TYPE	ADDITIONAL DESCRIPTION	PROJECTED WATER USE				
		2030	2035	2040	2045	2050
Residential		1,381	1,490	1,490	1,490	1,490
Multi-Family		354	354	354	354	354

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### PROJECTED WATER USE

Commercial	203	210	217	224	231
Landscape	111	130	149	167	186
Industrial	1	1	1	1	1
Water Losses	297	317	320	324	328
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>2,348</b>	<b>2,502</b>	<b>2,532</b>	<b>2,561</b>	<b>2,591</b>

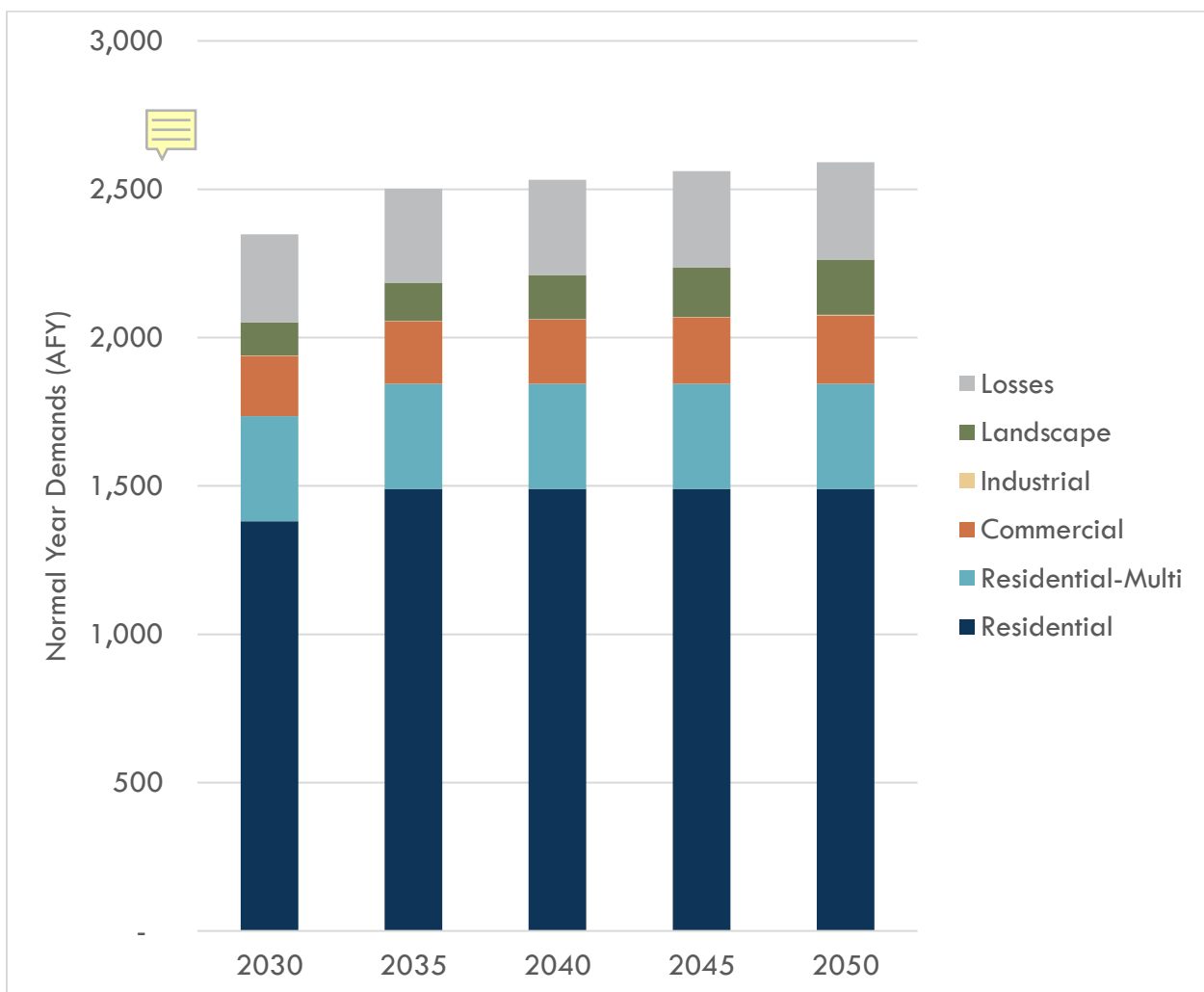


Figure 8-3: SMWC Projected Future Water Consumption by Customer Class

### 8.2.3 Water Use for Lower Income Households

Senate Bill 1087 requires water use projections in an UWMP include the projected water use for single-family and multi-family residential housing for lower income households as identified in the housing element of any city, county, or city and county in the service area of the supplier. The SMWC service area contains the lower income portions of the Cities of Calimesa and Yucaipa. It has been estimated that approximately 58% of projected demand goes to lower income households.

In the Spring of 2020, the State Water Resources Control Board indicated to SMWC that it did not qualify as a disadvantaged community for purposes of grant funding that is specially earmarked for DACs. Upon review of the census tracts that the SWRCB had reviewed regarding SMWC, it was noticed that two of the census tracts in the SMWC service area did not contain any data. SMWC then asked that an income survey be performed to get a better understanding of the economic status of the residents. The income survey as performed over a several month period by Kennedy Communications, Inc. entailed sending out an informational mailing from SMWC letting the residents know why the income survey was necessary. After the initial mailing, Kennedy Communications, Inc. sent out a letter, accompanied by the survey, describing the projects that SMWC wanted to build which would improve water reliability. The residents responded overwhelmingly. After scrubbing the data for duplicates or surveys which were incomplete, the Median Household Income (MHI) was determined to be \$34,299 which qualified it as a severely disadvantaged community. SMWC is now recognized by the state of California as serving a severely disadvantaged community, having a MHI of 60% of the entire state.

The growth projections in this UWMP capture the demands of the existing service area which are inclusive of the water use for lower income households.

**Table 8-6: DWR 4-3R Inclusion in Water Use Projections**

<b>Are Future Water Savings Included in Projections?</b>	Yes
<b>Are Lower Income Residential Demands Included in Projections?</b>	Yes

### 8.2.4 Climate Change Considerations

A topic of growing concern for water planners and managers is climate change and the potential impacts it could have on California's future water supplies.

Recent climate change modeling for the SAR watershed suggests that a changing climate will have multiple effects on the Region. Adaptation and mitigation measures will be necessary to account for these effects. Part 1 Chapter 2 includes an assessment of the potential impacts of climate change.

## 8.3 SBX7-7 Compliance & Future Water Use Efficiency Requirements

SBX7-7 was incorporated into the UWMP Act in 2009 and required that all water suppliers increase water use efficiency with the overall goal to decrease per-capita water consumption within the state by 20 percent by the year 2020.

SBX7-7 required DWR to develop certain criteria, methods, and standard reporting forms through a public process that water suppliers could use to establish their baseline water use and determine their water conservation targets. SBX7-7 and DWR's *Methodologies for Calculating Baseline and Compliance Urban Per Capita Water Use* (State of California Department of Water Resources, March 2021) specify methodologies for determining the baseline water demand, 2015 interim urban water use target and the 2020 urban water use target for the SMWC as described in the 2020 UWMP. This section also demonstrates that the SMWC achieved its 2020 water use target.

Table 8-7 below establishes the SMWC’s 2020 actual and 2020 target GPCD. As shown, the SMWC met its 2020 target. Most recently, in 2025, the water use was 149 GPCD, which is well below the 2020 target of 225 GPCD.

**Table 8-7: SB X7-7 2020 Target Progress**

2020 Target GPCD	2020 Actual GPCD	Did Supplier Achieve Target?
225	204	Yes

New water use efficiency standards from the “Making Conservation a California Way of life Regulation” (CWOL Regulation) supersede SBX7-7 standards. In 2018, two policy bills were enacted by the California Legislature, Assembly Bill 1668 (AB1668, Friedman) and Senate Bill 606 (SB606, Hertzberg), collectively referred to as the “2018 Water Conservation Legislation.” Based on the 2018 Water Conservation Legislation, related legislation, and subsequent adoption of the CWOL Regulation, each urban retail water supplier must comply with its UWUO. DWR and the State Water Resources Control Board (State Board) have developed a reporting framework for calculating the UWUO and compliance annually with efficiency standards becoming increasingly stringent through 2040.

## 8.4 Water Supply

SMWC's water supply is comprised entirely of local groundwater.

### 8.4.1 Purchased or Imported Water

SMWC does not currently purchase imported SWP water for direct use. SMWC purchases imported water from SBV and San Geronio Pass Water Agency for recharge into the Calimesa sub-area. SMWC is able to purchase imported water from either State Water Contractor for the portion of SMWC's service area that is within that State Water Contractor's boundary because SMWC straddles the county line and is partly in each.

### 8.4.2 Groundwater


SMWC produces groundwater from two different groundwater basins: the Yucaipa Sub-basin (DWR 8-02.07), and the adjudicated portion of the San Timoteo Sub-basin (DWR 8-02.08), known as the Beaumont Groundwater Basin. SMWC production wells draw water from two subareas often referred to as "sub-areas" within the Yucaipa Sub-basin: the Calimesa sub-area and the Live Oak sub-area. Detailed discussions of each groundwater basin, water rights, and management are included in Part 1, Chapter 3.

SMWC currently has 8 active groundwater production wells. SMWC Wells 9, 11, 12, 16 and 17 extract drinking water from the Calimesa sub-area of the Yucaipa sub-basin. SMWC Wells 5 and 7 extract water from the Live Oak sub-area of the Yucaipa sub-basin. SMWC Well 4 extracts water from the adjudicated Beaumont Groundwater Basin, which is part of the San Timoteo sub-basin.

SMWC has a storage account within the Beaumont Groundwater Basin which contains a water supply in the amount of approximately 10,000 AF.


SMWC's historical groundwater production for the past five years is shown in Table 8-10.

**Table 8-8: DWR 6-1R Groundwater Pumped Last Five Years (AF)**



GROUNDWATER TYPE	LOCATION OR BASIN NAME	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Alluvial Basin	Yucaipa Sub Basin (DWR 8-02.07)	1,792	1,556	1,634	1,857	1,859
Alluvial Basin	San Timoteo Sub Basin (DWR 8-02.08) (Beaumont Groundwater Basin)	466	575	277	224	263

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 GROUNDWATER TYPE	LOCATION OR BASIN NAME	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
<b>TOTAL:</b>		<b>2,258</b>	<b>2,131</b>	<b>1,911</b>	<b>2,081</b>	<b>2,122</b>

### 8.4.3 Surface Water

SMWC currently has no plans for future use of surface water supplies.

### 8.4.4 Stormwater

SMWC is participating in regional project planning efforts to capture additional stormwater for purposes of groundwater recharge to increase sustainability of the basins SMWC produces water from. These regional projects are discussed in Part 1 Chapter 3.

### 8.4.5 Wastewater and Recycled Water

Yucaipa Valley Water District (YVWD) provides wastewater collection and treatment for the area in which SMWC serves water.

The Henry N. Wochholz wastewater treatment plant, as described by YVWD in the 2015 UWMP, includes the following major components:

Septage receiving station, headworks grit removal system, primary equalization tank, secondary treatment system, advanced tertiary treatment facilities, reverse osmosis, recycled water storage reservoir. Wastewater is conveyed to the plant through 120 miles of gravity sewer pipeline and five pump stations.

Information about wastewater collected and treated is presented in Table 8-9.

#### 8.4.5.1 Potential, Current, and Projected Recycled Water Uses

SMWC does not currently serve recycled water to its customers, but it has developed plans to do so including through coordination with other water agencies.

**South Mesa Water Company**

**Table 8-9: DWR 6-2R Wastewater Collected within Service Area in 2025 (AF)**

**WASTEWATER COLLECTION**

<b>NAME OF WASTEWATER COLLECTION AGENCY</b>	<b>WASTEWATER VOLUME METERED OR ESTIMATED</b>	<b>WASTEWATER VOLUME COLLECTED FROM UWMP SERVICE AREA IN 2025</b>	<b>NAME OF WASTEWATER AGENCY RECEIVING COLLECTED WASTEWATER</b>	<b>WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT NAME</b>	<b>WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT LOCATED WITH UWMP AREA</b>
Yucaipa Valley Water District	Estimated	XX 781?	Yucaipa Valley Water District	Henry N. Wochholz WWTP	No
<b>TOTAL:</b>					



## **8.4.6 Water Exchanges and Transfers**

SMWC does not anticipate in regular or long-term transfers or exchanges, during the period covered by this Plan. Any transfer or exchanges would be as-needed related to an emergency.

### **8.4.6.1 Emergency Interties**

SMWC has an “Emergency Inter-Tie” with YVWD with a capacity of 1,000 to 1,500 gpm. To date, SMWC has not received any water from the inter-tie but has delivered water to YVWD.

## **8.4.7 Future Water Projects**

SMWC is currently in planning and engineering stages with several projects, those being area wide water line infrastructure replacement, booster station replacement, and forward planning for upcoming capacity increases through new reservoir construction. These projects vary throughout the service area and are in various stages of planning and pre-construction. Notably and pending state funding, SMWC has developed plans to upgrade major transmission and distribution lines through a significant portion of County Line Road.

SMWC also has plans to utilize the state water project to convey water to recharge basin facilities, develop additional groundwater wells, recharge basins, and system wide line replacements to increase the available water supplies.

## **8.4.8 Summary of Existing and Planned Sources of Water**

SMWC’s water supply is comprised entirely of local groundwater and will continue to be for this plan period. Based on 2021-2024 production, approximately 60% of SMWC’s production comes from Calimesa, 20% from Live Oak, and 20% from Beaumont. Those proportions are assumed to hold in the future. The volume of water utilized from each source in 2025 is summarized in Table 8-10 and projected supply by source is summarized in Table 8-11.

**South Mesa Water Company**

**Table 8-10: DWR 6-8R Actual Water Supplies in 2025 (AF)**

<b>2025</b>				
<b>WATER SUPPLY</b>	<b>ADDITIONAL DETAIL</b>	<b>ACTUAL VOLUME</b>	<b>WATER QUALITY</b>	<b>TOTAL RIGHT OR SAFE WATER YIELD</b>
Groundwater (Not Desalinated)	Yucaipa Sub Basin (DWR 8-02.07) Calimesa	1,352	Drinking Water	See Note
Groundwater (Not Desalinated)	Yucaipa Sub Basin (DWR 8-02.07) – Live Oak	507	Drinking Water	See Note
Groundwater (Not Desalinated)	San Timoteo Sub Basin (DWR 8-02.08) (Beaumont Groundwater Basin)	263	Drinking Water	See Note
<b>TOTAL:</b>		<b>2,122</b>		

Notes: See Part 1 Chapter 3 for discussion of Rights and Safe Yield

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**Table 8-11: DWR 6-9R Projected Water Supplies (AF)**

		PROJECTED WATER SUPPLY				
		2030	2035	2040	2045	2050
WATER SUPPLY	ADDITIONAL DETAIL	REASONABLY AVAILABLE VOLUME	REASONABLY AVAILABLE VOLUME	REASONABLY AVAILABLE VOLUME	REASONABLY AVAILABLE VOLUME	REASONABLY AVAILABLE VOLUME
Groundwater (Not Desalinated)	Yucaipa Sub Basin (DWR 8-02.07) – Calimesa	1,409	1,501	1,519	1,537	1,554
Groundwater (Not Desalinated)	Yucaipa Sub Basin (DWR 8-02.07) – Live Oak	470	500	506	512	518
Groundwater (Not Desalinated)	San Timoteo Sub Basin (DWR 8-02.08) (Beaumont Groundwater Basin)	470	500	506	512	518
<b>TOTAL:</b>		<b>2,348</b>	<b>2,502</b>	<b>2,532</b>	<b>2,561</b>	<b>2,591</b>

### 8.4.9 Energy Intensity

Reporting water energy intensity has many benefits for water utilities and their customers including:

- Identifying energy saving opportunities as energy consumption is often a large portion of the cost of delivering water.
- Calculating energy savings and greenhouse gas (GHGs) emissions reductions associated with water conservation programs.
- Potential opportunities for receiving energy efficiency funding for water conservation programs.
- Informing climate change mitigation strategies.
- Benchmarking of energy use at each water acquisition and delivery step and the ability to compare energy use among similar agencies.

In 2025, SMWC consumed a total of 2,723,176 kWh of energy for water facilities, and produced 2,122 AF, for a total energy intensity of 1,283 kWh/AF.

## 8.5 Water Service Reliability Assessment

This section considers SMWC's water supply reliability during normal years, single dry years, and up to 5 consecutive dry water years. The supply reliability assessment discusses factors that could potentially limit the expected quantity of water available from SMWC's current source of supply through 2050.

### 8.5.1 Constraints on Water Sources

Based on current conditions, water quality is not expected to affect SMWC's supply reliability. However, water quality issues are constantly evolving. SMWC will take action to protect and treat supplies when needed through water quality treatment. These water quality issues are further discussed at a regional level in Part 1 Chapter 3.

### 8.5.2 Year Type Characterization

In general, groundwater is less vulnerable to seasonal and climatic changes than surface water (i.e. local and imported) supplies. The Yucaipa Groundwater Sustainability Agency and the Beaumont Groundwater Basin Watermaster monitor groundwater levels of the local groundwater sources to maintain long term sustainability of the basins. Further discussion of regional water resource management and challenges is included in Part 1, Chapter 3.

Per UWMP requirements, SMWC has evaluated reliability for an average year, single dry year, and a 5 consecutive dry year period.

The UWMP Act defines these years as:

- **Normal Year:** This condition represents the water supplies a supplier considers available during normal conditions. This could be a single year or averaged range of years that most closely represents the average water supply available.
- **Single Dry Year:** The single dry year is recommended to be the year that represents the lowest water supply available.
- **Five-Consecutive Year Drought:** The driest five-year historical sequence for the Supplier, which may be the lowest average water supply available for five years in a row.

### 8.5.3 Water Service Reliability

Under single dry and consecutive dry year conditions, the assessment assumes that demands will increase by as much as 5% due to increased outdoor water use. Although water use may decrease in the later years of a multiple year drought due to implementation of conservation measures and drought messaging, the assessment is based on a 5% increase throughout the 5-year drought to be conservative.

As described in Part 1, Chapter 3, the effects of a local drought are not immediately recognized since the region uses the local groundwater basins to simulate a large reservoir for long term storage.

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SMWC is able to pump additional groundwater from all of its groundwater basins to meet increased demands in dry years, and also participates in efforts to replenish basins with imported and local water when it is available. SMWC's groundwater supplies are not reduced in dry years, so 2024 (the year demand projections were based on) is considered the base year for all year types. Based on the analysis, SMWC does not anticipate any shortage due to single or consecutive dry years.

Even though localized drought conditions should not affect supply, SMWC participates in several ongoing water conservation measures to optimize and enhance the use and reliability of regional water resources. SMWC also has a water shortage contingency plan to put into action as appropriate to reduce the demand during critical drought years or other supply emergencies. SMWC also requires all new residential connections to purchase 10 AF of imported water for groundwater recharge (recharged when supplies are available). By having developers purchase a roughly 20-year supply of water up front, SMWC ensures the sustainability and reliability of its groundwater basins.

A summary of the basis of water year data is presented in Table 8-12. The percent of average supply increases in drought years because SMWC's groundwater production will increase to meet an assumed increase in demands. The projected supply and demand during a normal year are shown in Table 8-13.

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**Table 8-12: DWR 7-1R Basis of Water Year Data**

<b>YEAR TYPE</b>	<b>BASE YEAR</b>	<b>AVAILABLE SUPPLY IF YEAR TYPE REPEATS AS PERCENT OF AVERAGE SUPPLY</b>
Average Year	2024	100%
Single-Dry Year	2024	105%
Consecutive Dry Year 1 <sup>st</sup> Year	2024	105%
Consecutive Dry Year 2 <sup>nd</sup> Year	2024	105%
Consecutive Dry Year 3 <sup>rd</sup> Year	2024	105%
Consecutive Dry Year 4 <sup>th</sup> Year	2024	105%
Consecutive Dry Year 5 <sup>th</sup> Year	2024	105%

**Table 8-13: DWR 7-2R Normal Year Supply and Demand Comparison (AF)**

	<b>2030</b>	<b>2035</b>	<b>2040</b>	<b>2045</b>	<b>2050</b>
Supply Totals	2,348	2,502	2,532	2,561	2,591
Demand Totals	2,348	2,502	2,532	2,561	2,591
<b>DIFFERENCE:</b>	-	-	-	-	-

The projected supply and demand during a single dry year is shown in Table 8-14. SMWC's demands in single dry years are assumed to increase by 5% above normal year demands. The local groundwater basins SMWC produces water from have storage for use in dry years so SMWC can produce the volume of water needed to meet 100% of demands in single dry years. SMWC's supplies are 100% reliable during single dry years.

**Table 8-14: DWR 7-3R Single Dry Year Supply and Demand Comparison (AF)**

	<b>2030</b>	<b>2035</b>	<b>2040</b>	<b>2045</b>	<b>2050</b>
Supply Totals	2,473	2,636	2,667	2,698	2,729
Demand Totals	2,473	2,636	2,667	2,698	2,729
<b>DIFFERENCE:</b>	-	-	-	-	-

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The projected supply and demand during five consecutive dry years are shown in Table 8-15. SMWC's demands in multiple dry years are assumed to increase by 5% above normal year demands. The local groundwater basins SMWC produces water from have storage for use in dry years so SMWC can produce the volume of water needed to meet 100% of demands in single dry years. SMWC's supplies are 100% reliable during multiple dry years.

**Table 8-15: DWR 7-4R Multiple Dry Years Supply and Demand Comparison (AF)**

		2030	2035	2040	2045	2050
<b>FIRST YEAR</b>	Supply Totals	2,473	2,636	2,667	2,698	2,729
	Demand Totals	2,473	2,636	2,667	2,698	2,729
	<b>DIFFERENCE:</b>	-	-	-	-	-
<b>SECOND YEAR</b>	Supply Totals	2,473	2,636	2,667	2,698	2,729
	Demand Totals	2,473	2,636	2,667	2,698	2,729
	<b>DIFFERENCE:</b>	-	-	-	-	-
<b>THIRD YEAR</b>	Supply Totals	2,473	2,636	2,667	2,698	2,729
	Demand Totals	2,473	2,636	2,667	2,698	2,729
	<b>DIFFERENCE:</b>	-	-	-	-	-
<b>FOURTH YEAR</b>	Supply Totals	2,473	2,636	2,667	2,698	2,729
	Demand Totals	2,473	2,636	2,667	2,698	2,729
	<b>DIFFERENCE:</b>	-	-	-	-	-
<b>FIFTH YEAR</b>	Supply Totals	2,473	2,636	2,667	2,698	2,729
	Demand Totals	2,473	2,636	2,667	2,698	2,729
	<b>DIFFERENCE:</b>	-	-	-	-	-

## 8.6 Drought Risk Assessment

The Drought Risk Assessment (DRA) focuses on a five-year consecutive drought scenario beginning in 2026. Because SMWC relies on groundwater basins with significant storage, available supplies do not vary on a monthly or seasonal basis, so this analysis is conducted on an annual basis.

Demands for 2026-2030 were assumed to increase at a uniform rate between the 2025 actual use and 2025 projected use and were then increased by 5% to reflect higher anticipated demands during dry years. As discussed in the Water Service Reliability Assessment, SMWC can produce additional groundwater to meet any increases in demand in dry years.

**Table 8-16: DWR 7-5 Five-Year Drought Risk Assessment (AF)**

	Gross Water Use	2,283
<b>2026</b>	Total Supplies	2,283
	<b>SURPLUS:</b>	-
	Gross Water Use	2,331
<b>2027</b>	Total Supplies	2,331
	<b>SURPLUS:</b>	-
	Gross Water Use	2,378
<b>2028</b>	Total Supplies	2,378
	<b>SURPLUS:</b>	-
	Gross Water Use	2,426
<b>2029</b>	Total Supplies	2,426
	<b>SURPLUS:</b>	-
	Gross Water Use	2,473
<b>2030</b>	Total Supplies	2,473
	<b>SURPLUS:</b>	-

## 8.7 Water Shortage Contingency Plan

The Water Shortage Contingency Plan (WSCP) is a strategic plan that SMWC has prepared to respond to foreseeable and unforeseeable water shortages. A water shortage occurs when water supply available is insufficient to meet the normally expected customer water use at a given point in time. A shortage may occur due to a number of reasons, such as water supply quality changes, climate change, drought, regional power outage, and catastrophic events (e.g., earthquake). Additionally, the State may declare a statewide drought emergency and mandate that water suppliers reduce demands, as occurred in 2014 and 2022. The WSCP serves as the operating manual that SMWC will use to prevent catastrophic service disruptions through proactive, rather than reactive, mitigation of water shortages. The WSCP provides a process for an annual water supply and demand assessment and structured steps designed to respond to actual conditions. The level of detailed planning and preparation provide accountability and predictability and will help SMWC maintain reliable supplies and reduce the impacts of any supply shortages and/or interruptions.

The WSCP was prepared in conjunction with the 2025 RUWMP and is a standalone document that can be modified as needed. SMWC's WSCP is attached as [Part 4 Appendix I-9](#).

## 8.8 Demand Management Measures

The Demand Management Measures (DMMs) section outlines the water conservation framework SMWC has utilized over the past five years, is currently implementing, and plans to implement to reduce demand. By successfully achieving its SB X7-7 targets in 2020 and 2025, SMWC has demonstrated the effectiveness of its conservation strategy. Moving forward, these measures will serve as the foundation for meeting new urban water use objectives and ensuring long-term supply reliability.

### 8.8.1 Existing Demand Management Measures

Consistent with California Water Code requirements, the following details the specific demand management measures within the service area. These programs represent SMWC's ongoing commitment to water-use efficiency and are designed to maintain consumption levels below established benchmarks. SMWC intends to continue programs for the foreseeable future to provide stable, sustainable water management for all customers.

#### 8.8.1.1 Water Waste Prevention Ordinances

SMWC has adopted a water shortage contingency plan that has a water waste prohibition. SMWC has initiated an aggressive water commodity tiered rate structure to discourage water wasting, if the 20% reduction in per capita use is not met. SMWC also identifies and communicated with high water users, especially if it appears that water waste has occurred.

#### 8.8.1.2 Metering

In 2012, SMWC replaced all of its meters with automated meter readers (AMR). SMWC monitors all meters on a monthly basis and replaces or repairs those meters that appear to be malfunctioning or defective.

Meters that are noticeably not providing proper readings during the reading period and in the calculations for water used as compared to historic usage by water billing personnel are evaluated and replaced or repaired as the situation requires.

#### 8.8.1.3 Conservation Pricing

SMWC conducted a recent review of their water rate structure and new rates went into effect March 1, 2025. Table 8-17 shows the current and future rates for the years 2025 through 2029. SMWC reminds customers that they can control their bill through conservation and reducing non-essential water usage.

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**Table 8-17: Domestic Water Rates for SMWC 2025 to 2029**

<b>METER SIZE</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2026</b>	<b>2027</b>	<b>2028</b>	<b>2029</b>
<b>5/8"</b>	\$20.83	\$22.50	\$24.30	\$26.25	\$28.35
<b>1"</b>	\$45.53	\$49.18	\$53.12	\$57.37	\$61.96
<b>2"</b>	\$136.10	\$146.99	\$158.75	\$171.45	\$185.17
<b>3"</b>	\$292.52	\$315.93	\$341.21	\$368.51	\$398.00
<b>4"</b>	\$523.06	\$564.91	\$610.11	\$658.92	\$711.64
<b>6"</b>	\$1,074.69	\$1,160.67	\$1,253.53	\$1,353.82	\$1,462.13
<b>TIER</b>	<b>UNITS PER SHARE OF STOCK</b>				
1 – Essential Use	1 – 8 units				
2 – Moderate Use	9 – 15 units				
3 – Excessive Use	16+ units				
<b>TIER</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2026</b>	<b>2027</b>	<b>2028</b>	<b>2029</b>
<b>Tier 1</b>	\$1.38	\$1.50	\$1.62	\$1.75	\$1.89
<b>Tier 2</b>	\$3.02	\$3.27	\$3.54	\$3.83	\$4.14
<b>Tier 3</b>	\$4.80	\$5.19	\$5.61	\$6.06	\$6.55

\*1 unit equals 100 cubic feet or 748 gallons of water

The water rate structure is designed as an increasing charge for water as usage increases. Water meter readings are done monthly. By adjusting the tier allotments and tier rates, SMWC has the ability to significantly increase water conservation.


This rate structure, along with the other SMWC programs, is planned to greatly reduce the water running down gutters and other water wasting habits.

### 8.8.1.4 Public Education and Outreach

SMWC goes to great efforts to build upon their relationship with each of their shareholders. They utilize regular website updates and frequent mailers to shareholders to ensure they well-informed and in-touch.

**Some of the information available in the southmesawater.com website include:**

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- The “South Mesa Water Company Strategic Plan – 2021-2026”
- Information and tips about finding leaks, determining the cause of high bills, and addressing water pressure issues.
- Water rates, future water rates and construction meter rates.
- Lists of wasteful water actions which are prohibited, and SMWC issues warnings and fines to identified water wasters.
- Water conservation reminders
- SMWC Consumer Confidence Report 

Each year, on the 4th Tuesday of February, the annual shareholders’ meeting is held. The purpose of the meeting is to elect a board of directors for the coming year and for such other business as may properly come before the meeting. All shareholders are urged to attend. A 20% representation is required to have a quorum in order to conduct business and hold an election. Meeting notices and proxies are mailed to shareholders on February 1st each year.

### 8.8.1.5 Programs to Assess and Manage Distribution System Real Loss

SMWC utilizes a Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system as the foundation for its leak detection and loss management efforts. Upgraded during a 2012 system-wide rehabilitation, the SCADA system provides continuous monitoring of all wells, pumps, and reservoirs, allowing staff to identify situations that may signal a loss of system integrity.

SMWC staff regularly perform acoustic leak detection surveys on distribution mainlines to locate underground failures not visible at the surface. Additionally, during routine meter reading duties, personnel visually and physically inspect service laterals up to the customer meter for signs of leakage. SMWC maintains a strict policy of repairing any found leaks immediately, regardless of size, to minimize real water loss.

Having recently exceeded the 3,000 service connection threshold, SMWC is transitioning to meet the requirements of the Water Loss Control Regulation and plans to begin completing the Annual Water Loss Audit using the AWWA methodology. This standardized audit will help identify specific areas for future infrastructure improvement.

### 8.8.1.6 Water Conservation Program Coordination and Staffing Support

Conservation program coordination is integrated into the core responsibilities of its utility staff. While SMWC does not maintain a single dedicated conservation coordinator, existing personnel are tasked with executing conservation duties alongside their typical operational roles. These staff members are responsible for analyzing system data—including information from the SCADA system and meter records described in other sections—to identify and reach out to high-volume water users. Additionally, staff are responsible for providing advice on water conservation practices to shareholders and proactively notifying customers when potential leaks are detected on their property.

### 8.8.1.7 Other Demand Management Measures

SMWC has few large landscape irrigation areas within its service area. SMWC has met with large landscape owners and has initiated an informal program for water conservation. SMWC does not have a formal landscape conservation program or incentives but will continue to monitor the large landscape projects for cooperation in conservation.

Since replacing all the water meters with AMR, SMWC staff have been able to implement a program to detect leaks within the customer's property. Customers are promptly notified if there appears to be any abnormal water usage.

SMWC anticipates that funding will be made available to Valley District's retailers for high efficiency toilets, shower heads, and turf removal. SMWC plans to participate in these future programs.

If SMWC's aggressive water commodity pricing rate schedule and existing programs do not meet the required future water use objectives, SMWC will initiate additional water conservation programs as necessary.

## 8.9 Adoption, Submittal and Implementation

This section describes SMWC's process for adopting, submitting, and implementing the 2025 RUWMP and SMWC's WSCP.

### 8.9.1 Notice of Public Hearing

A joint notice was provided on behalf of all agencies whose 2025 UWMPs are part of the 2025 IRWUMP to all cities and counties and other stakeholders within the region that that 2025 RUWMP is being prepared. This notice was sent at least 60 days prior to SMWC's public hearing. The recipients are identified in Part 1 Chapter 1 and include all cities and counties within SMWC's service area. A second notice was provided to these cities and counties with the date and time of the public hearing and the location where the draft report was available for review.

SMWC provided notice to the public through its website and published announcements of the public hearing in a newspaper on two occasions before the hearing. Copies of the proof of publication are included in Part 4 Appendix I-2.

### 8.9.2 Public Hearing and Adoption

SMWC held a public hearing on **June 10, 2026** to hear public comment and consider adopting this 2025 RUWMP and SMWC's WSCP.

As part of the public hearing, the SMWC provided information on their baseline values, water use targets, and implementation plan required in the Water Conservation Act of 2009. The public hearing on the 2025 RUWMP took place before the adoption of the Plan, which allowed

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SMWC the opportunity to modify the 2025 RUWMP in response to any public input before adoption. After the hearing, the Plan was adopted as prepared or as modified after the hearing.

SMWC's adoption resolution for the 2025 RUWMP and SMWC's WSCP is included in Part 4 Appendix I-3.

### 8.9.3 Plan Submittal

SMWC will submit the 2025 RUWMP and SMWC's WSCP to DWR, the State Library, and cities and counties within 30 days after adoption.

2025 RUWMP submittal to DWR will be done electronically through WUEdata, an online submittal tool.

### 8.9.4 Public Availability

No later than 30 days after filing a copy of its Plan with DWR, SMWC will make the plan available for public review during normal business hours by placing a copy of the 2025 RUWMP and SMWC's WSCP at the front desk of the City's office, and by posting the plans on the City's website for public viewing.

### 8.9.5 Amending an Adopted UWMP or Water Shortage Contingency Plan

If the adopted 2025 RUWMP or SMWC's WSCP is amended, each of the steps for notification, public hearing, adoption, and submittal will also be followed for the amended plan.