

SCV Water 2025 UWMP

Executive Summary



Who We Are

Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency serves approximately ~292,000 residents throughout the region. Its water supply portfolio draws from local groundwater, recycled water, and imported sources, all supported by regional infrastructure, storage facilities, and long-term collaborative partnerships.

The agency's responsibilities extend far beyond routine water delivery. It is also charged with planning for long-term water reliability, making sure that supplies remain secure and resilient in the face of population growth, climate variability, regulatory changes, and environmental challenges.

What is an Urban Water Management Plan – and Why It Matters

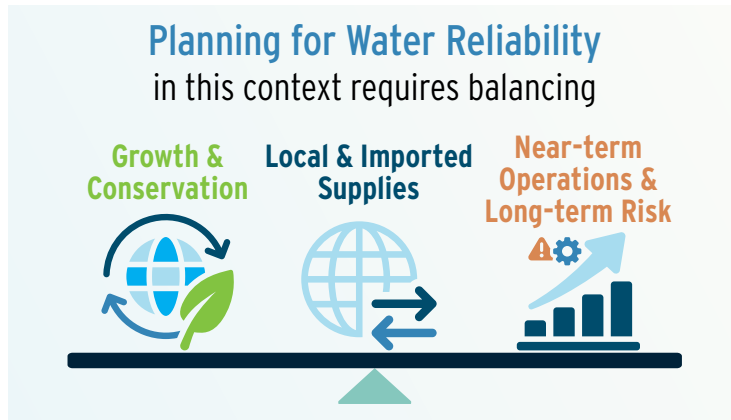
An **Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP)** is a long-term planning document required by California law. The 2025 UWMP evaluates water supply and demand conditions over a 20-year planning horizon and is updated every five years to reflect new data, regulations, and changing conditions.

The UWMP requires water agencies to analyze current and future water needs, review available supply sources, and evaluate supply reliability during droughts and emergencies. SCV Water uses the UWMP to inform infrastructure planning, drought preparedness, conservation strategies, regulatory compliance, and coordination with regional and state agencies. It also supports grant applications and other long-term planning efforts.

Importantly, the UWMP does not approve development, set land-use policy, or authorize construction. Instead, it provides the analytical foundation that supports local, regional, and state decision-making.

Why Long-Term Water Planning Is Especially Important for SCV Water

The Santa Clarita Valley continues to experience population growth, economic activity, and land-use change while also facing increasing climate-driven uncertainty.

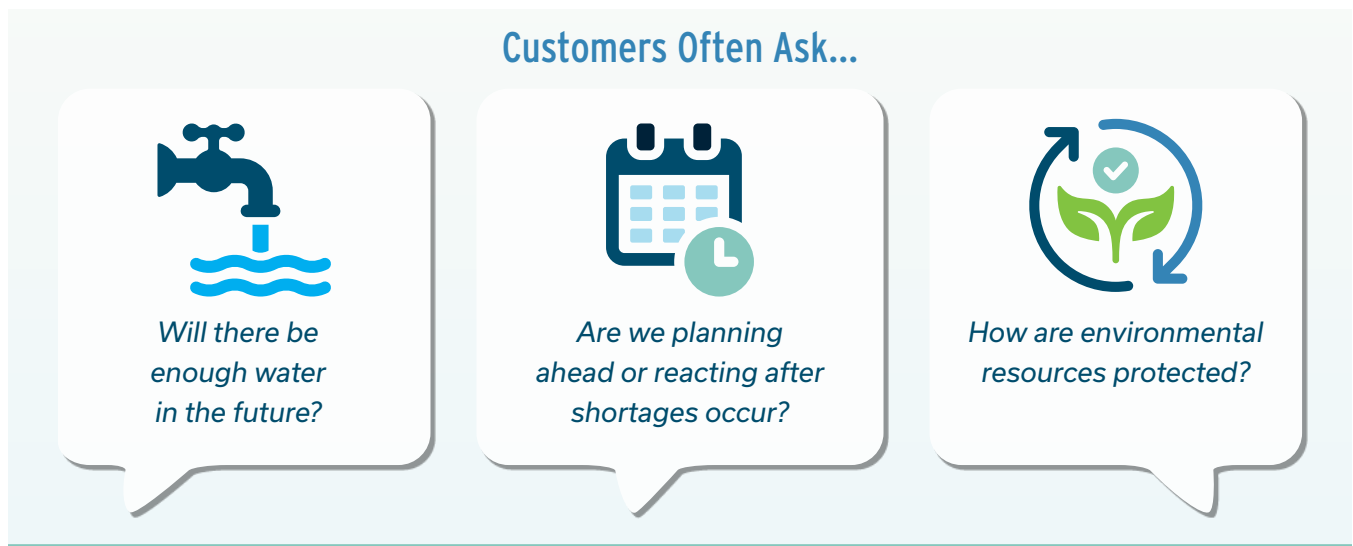


SCV Water's responsibility is not only to meet today's water needs, but to ensure the Santa Clarita Valley remains a sustainable place to live, work, and invest decades into the future. That requires planning for conditions that may differ substantially from today, including:

- 🔥 Hotter and drier climate conditions
- 🌧️ More frequent and prolonged droughts
- 🚰 Changes in hydrology and water quality
- 📋 New regulatory requirements

The UWMP provides the framework SCV Water uses to evaluate these risks before they become problems, using transparent, data-driven analysis.

Addressing the Big Questions – How SCV Water Actually Plans



The UWMP requires SCV Water to present one planning projection for reporting consistency. However, SCV Water's actual planning does not rely on a single future. SCV Water evaluates multiple demand, supply, drought, and climate scenarios. These scenarios examine:

- Slower and faster growth trajectories
- Single-year and multiple-year droughts
- Climate-impacted hydrology
- Conservation performance and demand uncertainty

The UWMP reflects one planning pathway while incorporating stress-testing across these scenarios, ensuring that conservation, groundwater management, imported supplies, recycled water, and operational tools work together as a diversified system rather than as isolated strategies.

What the UWMP Includes – and Where to Find Answers

The 2025 UWMP is organized to allow readers to quickly locate specific topics:

Chapter Name	If you have questions like...
1: Introduction & Purpose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is an Urban Water Management Plan and why is SCV Water required to prepare one? • What is the purpose of this UWMP and how is it used?
2: Plan Preparation & Coordination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How was this UWMP prepared and who was involved? • How did SCV Water coordinate with regional agencies and stakeholders? • How does this UWMP align with other SCV Water planning efforts?
3: Service Area Description	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What geographic area is covered by this UWMP? • How many people does SCV Water serve today, and how is population expected to change over time?
4: Water Use Characterization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How much water is used by homes, businesses, and irrigation today and how will the demand change in 20 years? • What factors are used to project future water demand?
5: SB X7-7 Baselines, 2020 Targets, & 2025 Reporting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How has per-capita water use (GPCD) changed over time? • Did SCV Water meet the State's 2020 water use efficiency targets?
6: Normal-Year Water Supply Characterization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where does SCV Water's water come from in a normal year? • What supplies are assumed to be available for planning purposes?
7: Water Supply Reliability & Drought Risk Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do supplies meet demands during single-dry and multiple-dry-year conditions? • How does climate change affect long-term water supply reliability?
8: Water Shortage Contingency Plan (WSCP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What happens if water shortages occur? • What are the water shortage stages and what actions can SCV Water take at each shortage level?
9: Demand Management Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What conservation and efficiency programs does SCV Water implement? • How does conservation reduce demand during normal and drought conditions?
10: UWMP Adoption, Submittal, & Implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How is the UWMP approved and adopted? • When and how is the UWMP submitted to the State?
Appendix E: Climate Change Technical Memorandum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What specific climate change impacts were evaluated? • How were hotter temperatures and longer droughts incorporated into planning assumptions?
Appendix F: Water Reliability Technical Memorandum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How were water supply reliability calculations performed? • What assumptions were used to test normal, dry, and multiple-dry-year conditions?
Appendix G: Drought Risk Assessment Technical Memorandum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How was drought risk evaluated in the near- and long-term?

At-a-Glance: SCV Water's Planning Snapshot

1. Where SCV Water's Water Comes From

This graphic illustrates SCV Water's existing supply portfolio, including local groundwater, recycled water, and imported supplies. The portfolio is intentionally diversified to reduce reliance on any single source and to provide flexibility during droughts, infrastructure outages, or regulatory constraints.

1 State Water Project (SWP) A statewide water delivery system spanning approximately **700 miles**, conveying water from Northern California through the California Aqueduct to Southern California. SCV Water holds a long-term contract allocation of up to **95,200 acre feet per year (AFY)**, with actual deliveries varying annually based on hydrologic and regulatory conditions.

2 Groundwater SCV Water operates wells in the shallow Alluvial Basin and the deeper Saugus Formation, which together provide up to approximately **40,708 AFY** under the GSP during normal operating years. The ability to shift production between these sources strengthens drought resilience and supports long-term sustainable groundwater management.

3 Castaic Lake Castaic Lake is the end point of the SWP's West Branch, where imported water is received and stored before entering SCV Water's system. With a maximum operating capacity of approximately **323,700 AF**, it provides critical operational and emergency storage that supports local water supply reliability.

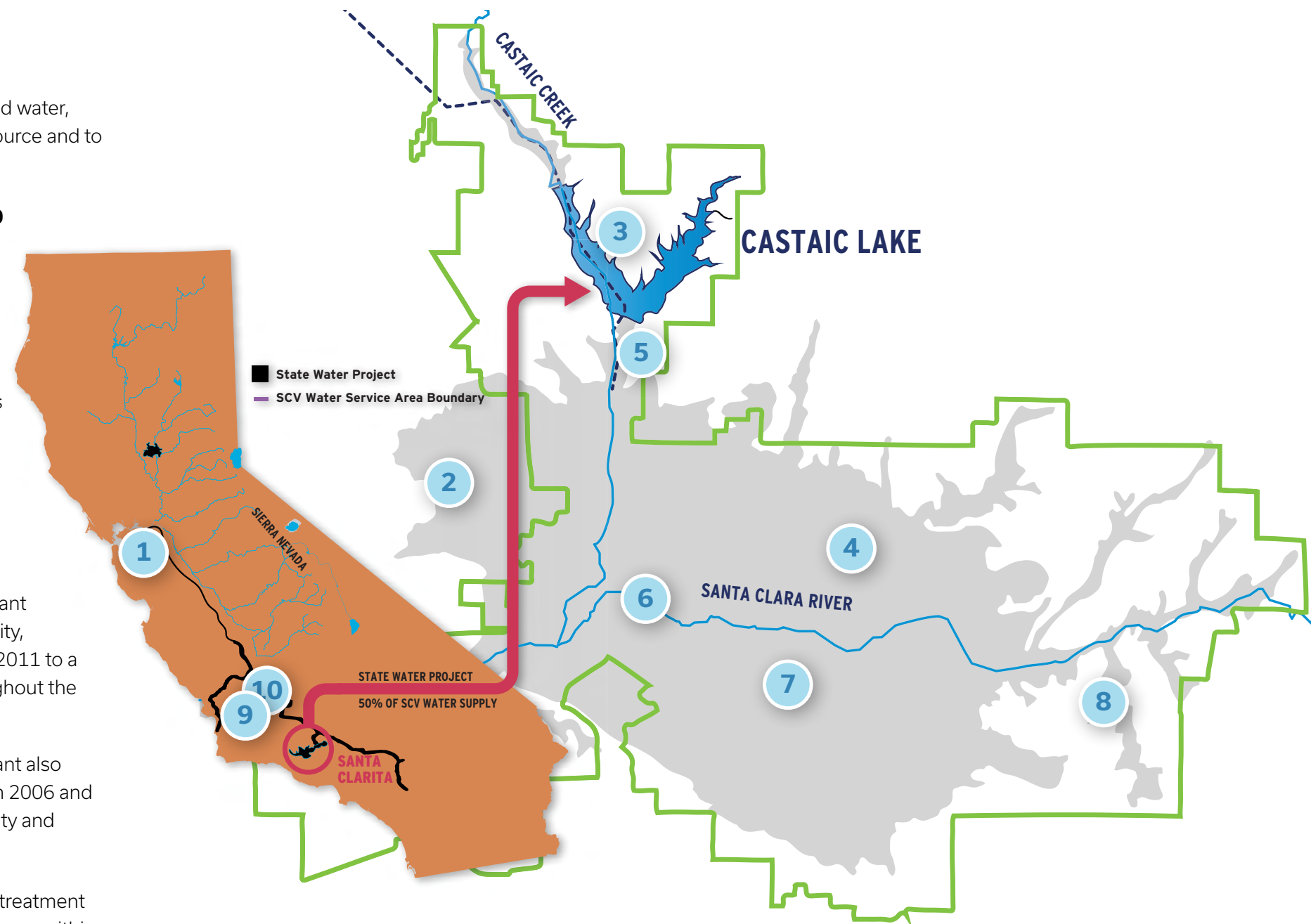
4 E.G. "Jerry" Gladbach Water Treatment Plant E.G. "Jerry" Gladbach Water Treatment Plant (Formerly Rio Vista Water Treatment Plant) is SCV Water's primary imported water treatment facility, originally constructed in 1995 with a 30 million gallons per day (MGD) capacity and expanded in 2011 to a total capacity of **66 million gallons per day (MGD)**. The plant treats water for distribution throughout the Santa Clarita Valley.

5 Earl Schmidt Filtration Plant Originally constructed in 1980, the Earl Schmidt Filtration Plant also treats State Water Project surface water delivered from Castaic Lake. The facility was expanded in 2006 and now has a treatment capacity of **56 MGD**, with ongoing upgrades to enhance operational reliability and regulatory compliance.

6 Valencia Water Reclamation Plant The Valencia Water Reclamation Plant is a wastewater treatment and recycling facility that produces non-potable recycled water for irrigation and other approved uses within the Santa Clarita Valley. The plant has a treatment design capacity of approximately **21.6 MGD** and supports water supply reliability by offsetting demand for potable imported and groundwater supplies.

7 Saugus Water Reclamation Plant The Saugus Water Reclamation Plant (WRP) currently provides primary, secondary, and tertiary treatment for a design capacity of **6.5 MGD** of wastewater and serves population of nearly 80,000 people. The Saugus WRP operates with the Valencia WRP as part of the Santa Clarita Valley Sanitation District.

8 Vista Canyon Water Factory Located in the eastern part of the Santa Clarita Valley, the Vista Canyon Development is a sustainable mixed-use development, which includes a wastewater treatment plant called The Vista Canyon Water Factory. The treatment plant can produce up to **371,000 gallons** of recycled water per day and ownership was transferred to the City of Santa Clarita in 2023.



9 Nickel Water - Newhall Land and Farm Nickel Water is a firm groundwater supply estimated available in 2035 totaling approximately **1,607 AFY** acquired by Newhall Land from Kern County sources in support of the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan. The supply is stored in the Semitropic Water Storage District banking program and will be available in all hydrolic year types in 2035.

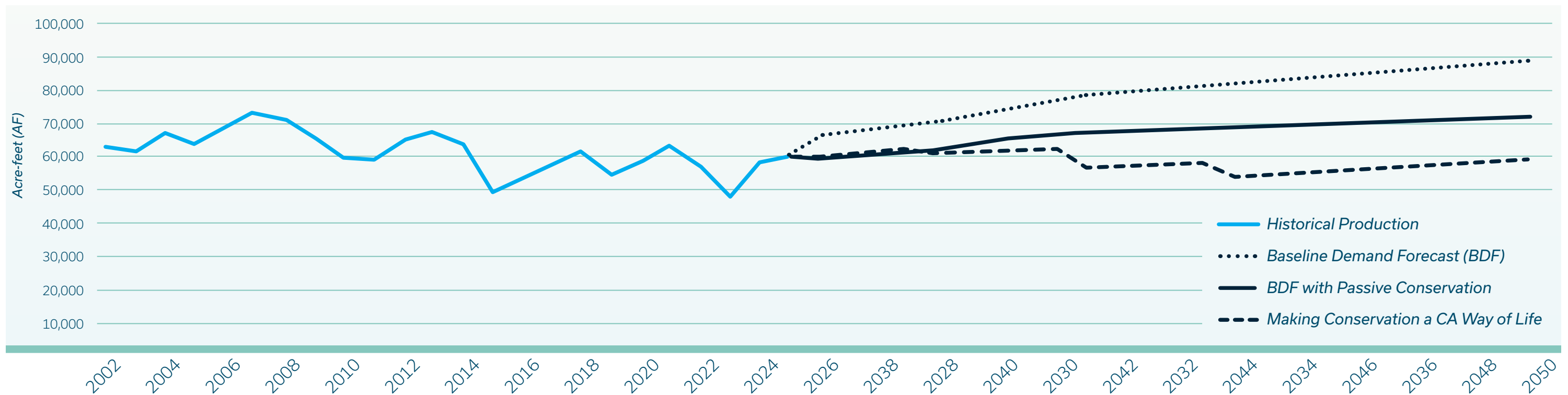
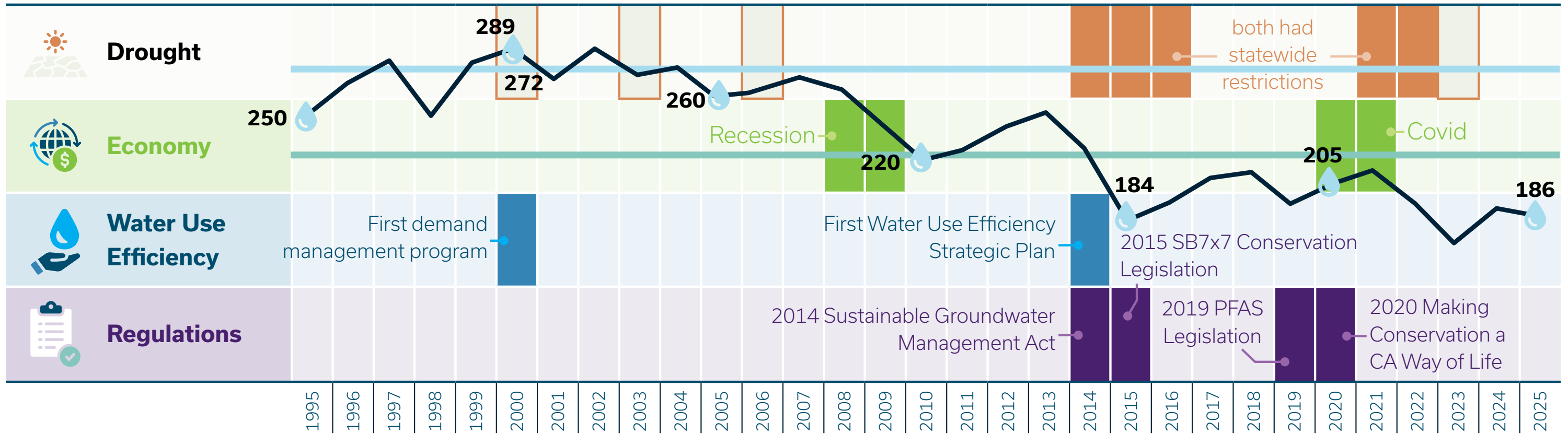
10 Water Storage, Water Transfers, and Exchanges SCV Water's firm supply portfolio includes long-term transfer agreements such as the Buena Vista-Rosedale Rio Bravo contract (**11,000 AFY**) and supplemented by discretionary programs like the Yuba Water Accord (**≈1,000 AFY** in dry years). SCV Water's storage and banking programs further support reliability with recovery capacities (**21,060 AFY in 2030**) through programs including Rosedale-Rio Bravo (**10,000-15,000 AFY**), Semitropic (**5,000 AFY**), Flexible Storage Accounts (**≈4,680-6,060 AFY**), and Semitropic-NLF (**4,950 AFY**).

2. Water Demand: Past, Present, and Future

This graphic shows historical water demand trends alongside projected future demand. The UWMP presents one planning projection. Appendix D includes alternative scenarios reflecting slower and faster growth to test sensitivity and risk.

Water Use in Context

— Historical 10 Year Baseline at 275 — SBX7-7 target (20x2020) — gallons per capita per day — extreme wet periods

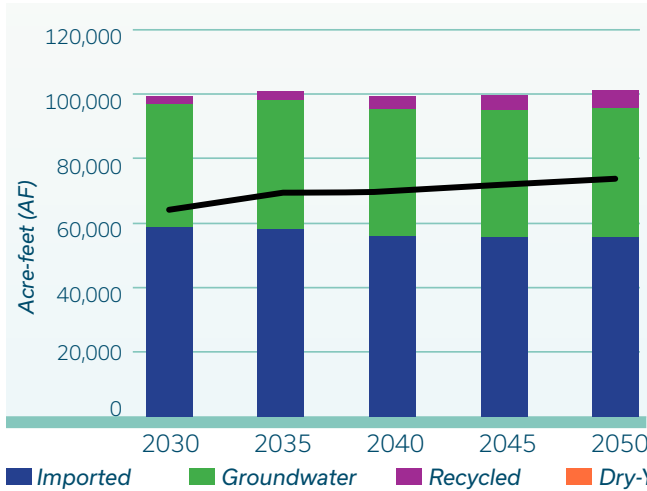


3. Projected Water Supply Portfolio

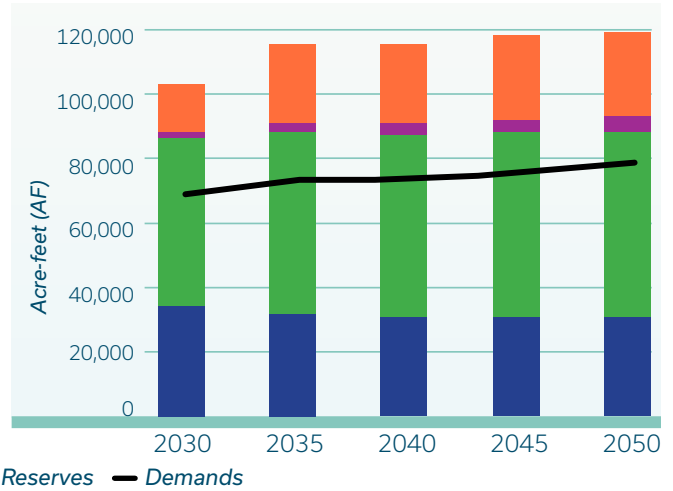
SCV Water's supply portfolio is projected to reliably meet anticipated demands through 2050 under both normal hydrologic conditions and single and extended multiple dry-year periods. These projections incorporate the effects of climate change as well as passive conservation and ongoing water use efficiency improvements. As shown in below, supply reliability in multiple dry-year conditions is maintained through operational adjustments and assumptions, including reduced SWP allocations averaging approximately 15 percent, transitioning from shallow groundwater wells to deeper Saugus Formation wells, and utilizing dry-year reserves and water banking programs to supplement available supplies.

The following figures illustrate projected supplies and estimated demands from 2030 through 2050 under both normal year conditions and multiple dry-year conditions. This graphic highlights how SCV Water's supply portfolio has evolved. Even during periods of:

Projected Normal Year Supplies & Estimated Demand (2030-2050)



Projected Multiple Dry Year Supplies & Estimated Demand (2030-2050)

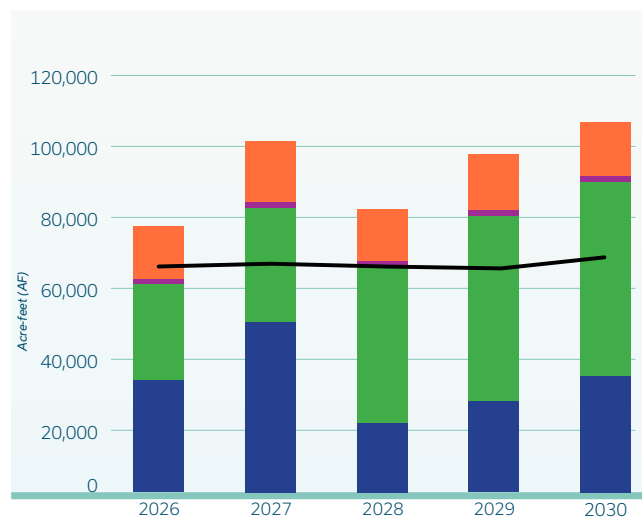


- Reduced State Water Project availability (as low as ~5% in certain years), and
- Reduced groundwater production associated with water quality constraints such as PFAS.

SCV Water has not required customers to reduce demand outside of statewide emergency orders. This reliability is the result of prior investments in water banking, transfers, storage, and portfolio diversification.

4. If a Drought Occurs in the Next Five Years

Based on the analyses described in Chapter 7 and Appendix G, SCV Water's planning does not identify a near-term supply shortfall under the evaluated single-year or multiple-year drought scenarios within the five-year horizon. SCV Water has secured adequate supplies through a combination of groundwater banking, regional transfers, and flexible operations. These strategies, along with robust conservation measures, allow SCV Water to shift between normal and drought portfolios, minimizing risk with the goal of maintaining consistent service for all customers.



How SCV Water Builds Reliability

SCV Water invested early in banking, transfers, and diversified supply options and encourages water conservation and efficiency. Whether conditions are wet or dry, SCV Water's investments in **supply diversification, storage, and contingency planning** provide the resilience needed to meet demand reliably.

Tools in the Toolbox - How SCV Water Builds Reliability

SCV Water's reliability strategy does not depend on any single source. Instead, it relies on a coordinated toolbox that includes:

- Local groundwater management
- Imported water supplies
- Recycled water use
- Conservation and efficiency programs
- Storage and operational flexibility
- Emergency interconnections and contingency planning
- Short-term water shortage contingency planning

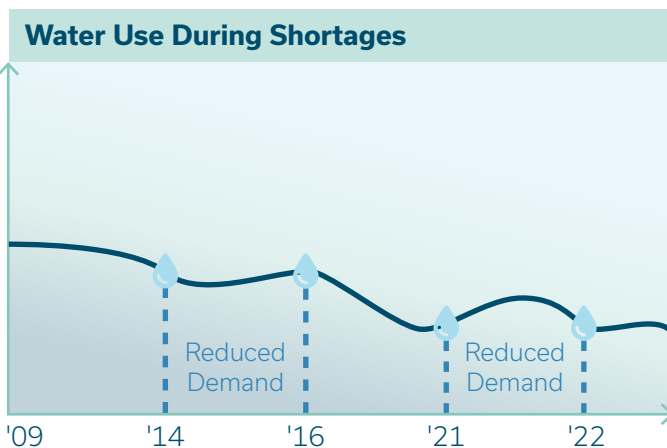
What happens in an emergency or drought?

The **Water Shortage Contingency Plan (WSCP)** is not a prediction; it is a preparedness framework for when droughts, emergencies, contaminants arise.

- It defines clear shortage levels, response actions, and communication protocols
- It incorporates lessons learned from prior droughts

Historical Context

Historical data show that water demand declines during shortage periods, demonstrating that conservation measures are effective and that planning assumptions are grounded in observed outcomes.



Water Shortage Response

	Stage 1 Water Savings Tips	Up to 10%
	Stage 2 Voluntary Conservation	Up 20%
	Stage 3 Mandatory Reductions	Up 30%
	Stage 4 Restricting Outdoor Use	Up 40%
	Stage 5 Limit to Essential Needs	Up to 50%
	Stage 6 Critical Shortage	50%+

UWMP FAQ

Will there be enough water in the future?

Ensuring Reliable Water Supplies for the Future

Yes—based on the assumptions and scenarios evaluated in the UWMP, SCV Water is prepared to meet projected water demands over the 20-year planning horizon, including during drought and climate-impacted conditions.

The UWMP evaluates future water reliability by comparing projected demands to available supplies under multiple required scenarios, including normal years, single-dry years, and multiple-dry-year droughts. These analyses incorporate realistic assumptions about climate change, conservation, groundwater sustainability, imported water reliability, and operational constraints.

While the UWMP is required to present a single planning projection, SCV Water also evaluates additional scenarios in the appendices to test how the system performs under different growth rates, drought severities, and climate conditions. Across these evaluations, SCV Water's diversified water supply portfolio, combined with conservation, storage, transfers, and operational flexibility, demonstrates the ability to meet future needs.

Planning does not assume ideal conditions. It assumes uncertainty and prepares for it. The UWMP shows that SCV Water is positioned to provide reliable water supplies for homes, businesses, and essential services while continuing to adapt as conditions change.

Why plan for growth while asking customers to conserve?

Planning for the Future: *Two Strategies, One Goal*

Planning for future growth and asking customers to conserve water are not competing ideas, they are complementary strategies that work together to ensure long-term water reliability for the Santa Clarita Valley.

Conservation focuses on reducing waste and improving efficiency, especially during dry years and peak demand periods. These actions lower per-capita water use and stretch existing supplies, helping SCV Water manage short-term variability and respond effectively to droughts.

Long-term planning, including planning for growth, ensures that essential water needs can be met under a wide range of future conditions, including population changes, climate impacts, and regulatory constraints. Growth projections in the UWMP do not assume higher water use per person; they are paired with continued efficiency improvements and a diversified water supply portfolio.

By planning for both conservation and future demand, SCV Water can support a stable, resilient community, one that uses water more efficiently over time while maintaining the reliability needed for homes, businesses, public services, and the environment.

UWMP FAQ

What actions does SCV Water take to ensure environmental stewardship and ecological protection while maintaining water reliability for the community?

Environmental Stewardship and Ecological Protection

Water reliability and environmental stewardship are inseparable.

Key actions include:

Groundwater sustainability and basin protection

SCV Water coordinates closely with its adopted Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) to manage pumping levels, protect groundwater quality, and prevent long-term impacts such as overdraft or land subsidence. Groundwater use assumptions in the UWMP reflect sustainability objectives rather than maximum extraction.

Protection of surface water and imported supply systems

SCV Water evaluates the environmental and regulatory constraints affecting imported water supplies, including Delta conditions and reduced reliance scenarios, and plans accordingly to minimize ecosystem impacts while maintaining reliability.

Expansion of recycled water and non-potable uses

SCV Water continues to expand non-potable recycled water use to offset potable demand, reduce reliance on imported supplies, and decrease stress on natural water systems. Recycled water planning considers water quality requirements, beneficial use protection, and long-term environmental compliance.

Climate-informed planning to protect natural systems

Climate change impacts, including hotter temperatures, longer droughts, and altered hydrology, are explicitly evaluated to understand how future conditions may affect ecosystems, water quality, and supply reliability. This allows SCV Water to plan proactively rather than reactively.

Regulatory compliance and environmental coordination

Supply reliability portfolios align with state and regional environmental regulations, including water quality standards, habitat protection requirements, and drought response mandates, ensuring that reliability strategies do not compromise environmental obligations.

Together, these actions integrate environmental protection into water supply planning, making it a foundational consideration in maintaining a resilient and reliable water system for the Santa Clarita Valley.

Conclusion

The 2025 UWMP demonstrates that SCV Water is planning proactively for future uncertainty while maintaining reliability, affordability, and environmental responsibility. The plan does not assume ideal conditions; it evaluates the unknown and prepares for it. Through diversified supplies, conservation, and adaptive planning, SCV Water is positioned to continue serving the Santa Clarita Valley reliably into the future.



<https://www.yourscvwater.com/uwmp>