WATER SHORTAGE CONTINGENCY PLAN

LOS ANGELES COUNTY WATERWORKS DISTRICTS AND THE MARINA DEL REY WATER SYSTEM

LOS ANGELES COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS

JUNE 2026

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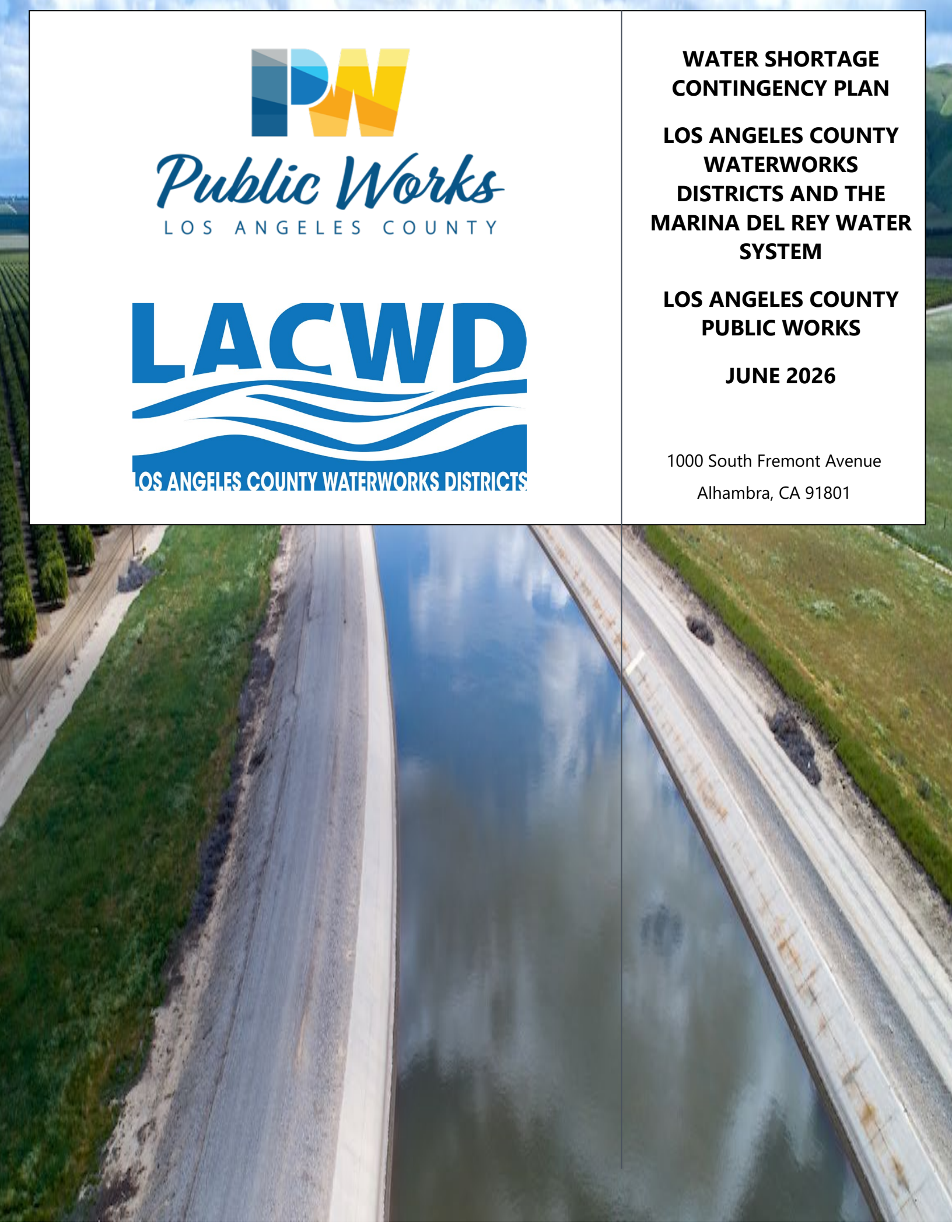
Alhambra, CA 91801



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1. INTRODUCTION

This Water Shortage Contingency Plan (WSCP) describes how the Los Angeles County Waterworks Districts and the Marina del Rey Water System (Districts) prepare for and respond to declared water shortage conditions, including droughts, supply interruptions, and any other circumstances that may affect water supply reliability.

The provisions of this WSCP apply to all persons, customers, and properties utilizing water provided by the following Districts and systems:

- Los Angeles County Waterworks District No. 21, Kagel Canyon (District 21).
- Los Angeles County Waterworks District No. 29, Malibu/Topanga (District 29).
- Los Angeles County Waterworks District No. 36, Val Verde (District 36).
- Los Angeles County Waterworks District No. 37, Acton (District 37).
- Los Angeles County Waterworks District No. 40, Antelope Valley (District 40).
- Marina del Rey Water System.

As used in this WSCP, the terms "person" and "customer" include individuals, corporations, partnerships, associations, and all other legal entities receiving water service from the Districts.

This WSCP is prepared in compliance with California Water Code (CWC) Section 10632, which requires every urban water supplier to prepare and adopt a WSCP as part of its Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP). The California Urban Water Management Planning Act of 1983 requires urban water suppliers providing water for municipal purposes to more than 3,000 customers or supplying more than 3,000 acre-feet of water annually to adopt and submit a UWMP and an associated WSCP.

In addition, smaller water suppliers that are not subject to UWMP requirements are required to prepare water shortage contingency plans pursuant to CWC Sections 10609–10609.8 (SB 552). This WSCP is prepared pursuant to California Water Code Section 10632 and applies to all District-operated systems for purposes of operational drought response, conservation implementation, and enforcement under the Districts' Rules and Regulations, including smaller Waterworks Districts that are not individually analyzed in the UWMPs.

Pursuant to CWC Section 10632.2, an urban water supplier shall follow, where feasible and appropriate, the prescribed procedures and implement the shortage response actions identified in its WSCP, or reasonable alternative actions, provided that descriptions of such alternative actions are submitted with the Annual Water Supply and Demand Assessment Report required under CWC Section 10632.1. The CWC does not prohibit a water supplier from taking actions that are not specifically identified in its WSCP if conditions warrant such actions, without the need to formally amend its UWMP or WSCP.

Per CWC Section 10632.3, the State defers to the locally adopted WSCPs to the extent practicable upon the Governor's proclamation of a state of emergency under the California Emergency Services Act based on drought conditions. The Districts' WSCP provides guidance for managing water supplies, mitigating water shortages, and improving preparedness for droughts and other impacts to water supplies. This WSCP includes an analysis of the Districts' water supply reliability, annual procedures for assessing supply and demand, a description of the standard water shortage levels for the Districts, and potential water shortage response actions. In addition, the WSCP outlines communication protocols, compliance and enforcement guidelines, legal authorities, financial consequences, monitoring and reporting procedures, and processes for future refinement of the plan.

This WSCP incorporates by reference the Districts' existing Phased Water Conservation Plan (PWCP), which is adopted as Part 5 of the Rules and Regulations of the Los Angeles County Waterworks Districts and the Marina del Rey Water System (Rules and Regulations). It is available at the following link: https://pw.lacounty.gov/core-service-areas/water-resources/waterworks-districts/waterworks-rules-regulations/. The PWCP is the primary and enforceable mechanism for implementing mandatory conservation measures, emergency restrictions, drought rates, conservation surcharges, and enforcement actions. The Districts' PWCP was originally adopted in May 1991 and has been amended periodically through updates to the Rules and Regulations, including adjustments to drought rate structures beginning in 2026.

The Districts' WSCP was originally adopted in October 2021 and is updated in coordination with the Districts' UWMP, including the 2025 UWMP. Copies of this WSCP are included as appendices to the 2025 UWMP for the Los Angeles County Waterworks District No. 29, Malibu/Topanga, and the Marina del Rey Water System; and for the Los Angeles County Waterworks District No. 40, Antelope Valley.

2. WATER SUPPLY ANALYSIS

Water supply reliability is a measure of a water system's ability to meet customer demands under varying hydrologic, regulatory, and operational conditions, including droughts and other supply interruptions. For purposes of this WSCP, water supply reliability informs the identification of potential water shortage conditions and the need to implement shortage response actions.

CWC 10635 requires urban water suppliers to assess the reliability of their water service under normal, single dry year, and multiple dry year conditions as part of their UWMPs. The analyses summarized in this section are based on the supply and demand assumptions presented in the UWMPs for Los Angeles County Waterworks District No. 29, Malibu/Topanga and the Marina del Rey Water System, and Los Angeles County Waterworks District No. 40, Antelope Valley. This WSCP does not establish new water supply assumptions or projections. CWC 10632.5(a) also requires a seismic risk assessment and mitigation plan to assess the vulnerabilities of each of the various facilities of a water system and mitigate those vulnerabilities. This is discussed in Section 5.6 of this WSCP.

2.1 Los Angeles County Waterworks District No. 29, Malibu/Topanga, and the Marina del Rey Water System

District No. 29, Malibu/Topanga, and the Marina del Rey Water System rely on purchased potable water supplies provided by West Basin Municipal Water District (West Basin), whose primary source of supply is imported water from the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (Metropolitan). As a result, their supply reliability is largely dependent on West Basin's available supplies and operational conditions, and is directly impacted by Metropolitan's and West Basin's supply reliability, which are influenced by legal, environmental, water quality, and climatic factors. District No. 29 and the Marina del Rey Water System's non-potable recycled water supplies are discussed in Section 12.1.

Recent regional investments and contributions from Metropolitan and West Basin have helped to diversify their supply portfolios and conserve potable water. Metropolitan manages its supply and demand balance through both its Water Surplus and Drought Management Plan and Water Supply Allocation Plan (Metropolitan 1999; Metropolitan 2014). West Basin continues to implement its Water Reliability 2020 Program, which has been re-branded as the "Water for Tomorrow" program (Water for Tomorrow). West Basin's current supply resilience programs all fall under Water for Tomorrow. The program aims to enhance water conservation savings and water use efficiency, increase local water supplies by doubling recycled water production, and exploring opportunities for responsible desalination of ocean water. Water for Tomorrow also aims to communicate West Basin's goal of increasing local water reliability to the public through outreach and education programs. Water for Tomorrow reduces West Basin's dependence on imported water, thereby increasing resilience and enhancing supply reliability to mitigate future water shortages and allocation impacts on customers.

As a result of these efforts, Metropolitan's long-term water service reliability assessment performed for the Metropolitan 2025 UWMP indicates that, under the assumptions required by the Urban Water Management Planning Act, Metropolitan anticipates sufficient regional supply and storage capability to support demands under normal, single-dry, and multiple-dry year conditions. However, District No. 29, Malibu/Topanga and the Marina del Rey Water System remain subject to regional drought conditions, imported water allocation policies, and operational constraints that may require implementation of water shortage response actions consistent with this WSCP.

2.2 Los Angeles County Waterworks District No. 40, Antelope Valley

District No. 40's potable supply portfolio consists mostly of groundwater produced from the District's wells in addition to imported and banked/stored water purchased from the Antelope Valley–East Kern Water Agency (AVEK). District 40's non-potable recycled water supplies are discussed further in Section 12.2.

2.2.1 Groundwater

Groundwater continues to be an important resource within the Antelope Valley Region. With anticipated future urban growth, increased agricultural demand, and limits on the fluctuating supply of imported water, the demand for water is anticipated to continue to increase. District 40's ability to produce groundwater is subject to the Antelope Valley Groundwater Cases Judgment (Judgment), which establishes groundwater rights, allocation limits, and conditions for groundwater production. In addition to its base rights, District 40 may retain unused portions of most of these rights as carryover in accordance with the Judgment and Watermaster accounting procedures. Carryover water provides additional drought-resilience benefits, operational flexibility and supports the District's ability to manage supply variability during extended dry periods and regional supply constraints, consistent with applicable legal, operational, and water quality requirements.

Pursuant to the Judgment, carryover water may be retained for up to ten years, which at that time, unproduced carryover water must be addressed through a Storage Agreement with the Watermaster. District 40 is currently working with the Antelope Valley Watermaster to develop and enter into a Storage Agreement to formalize the long-term management of its carryover supplies.

District 40 currently owns and operates 58 wells. Although overall groundwater quality in the basin is generally suitable for domestic, agricultural, and industrial uses, localized water quality constraints, including arsenic and nitrates, affect the operation of certain District 40 wells. Some wells may be inoperable or may require blending with imported water to meet water quality requirements. District 40 plans to continue utilizing groundwater as its primary source of supply, subject to applicable water quality, operational, and regulatory requirements.

2.2.2 Purchased Water

AVEK is a regional wholesale water agency that supplements groundwater supplies from the Antelope Valley Groundwater Basin with surface water supplies and delivers water to municipalities, ranchers, and agricultural water users. District 40 purchases its entire imported water supply from AVEK and is AVEK's largest municipal customer. However, imported water supplies are still a secondary water source for District 40 and are used in lieu of, or in addition to, pumped groundwater.

AVEK has an annual allotment to receive Table A water deliveries from the Department of Water Resources (DWR). Table A refers to the maximum amount of water a contractor can receive annually and is used by DWR for allocating State Water Project (SWP) supplies and costs among SWP contractors. AVEK's maximum Table A allocation is 144,844 acre-feet per year (AFY); they received 50 percent of this allocation in water year 2025. Historically, the SWP has not been a stable source of imported water supplies for AVEK due to constant fluctuations in climate and precipitation, limited reliability of its conveyance system, regulatory/legislative restrictions, and operational conditions. The SWP is particularly unreliable during dry years. To maximize supply reliability for its retailers, AVEK has developed water banking/storage facilities, including the Westside Water Bank, Eastside Water Bank, and High Desert Water Bank, where in normal or wet years, AVEK can bank/store excess imported water supplies not purchased by District 40 or its other retailers. Furthermore, in years with abundant water supplies, AVEK could purchase surplus SWP water - beyond its Table A allocation - and bank/store it for future recovery during dry-year periods.

In years where AVEK's SWP supplies are not adequate to meet District 40's supplemental imported water demands, AVEK may supplement deliveries with previously banked or stored imported water supplies subject to recovery capacity, operational constraints, and regional demand conditions. Although AVEK's banking and storage programs enhance long-term regional water supply reliability and are projected in the UWMP to meet imported water demands under normal, single-dry, and multiple-dry year planning conditions, District 40 remains subject to regional drought conditions that may require implementation of water shortage response actions consistent with this WSCP.

3. ANNUAL WATER SUPPLY AND DEMAND ASSESSMENT PROCEDURES

The annual water supply and demand assessment (Annual Assessment) is conducted by the Districts' staff annually, on or before July 1 of each year in accordance with CWC Sections 10632(a)(2) and 10632.1. The Annual Assessment evaluates water supply reliability for the current year and one dry year and is used to determine whether water shortage conditions exist or are anticipated.

The results of the Annual Assessment are reported to the California Department of Water Resources through the Annual Water Shortage Assessment Report, which includes information regarding anticipated water shortages, potential shortage response actions, compliance and enforcement actions, and communication actions consistent with this WSCP. The Annual Assessment and associated reporting are conducted based on the procedures described in this WSCP.

3.1 Decision-Making Process

Each year, the Districts evaluate water supply reliability by comparing anticipated water supplies with estimated unconstrained customer demands for the upcoming year. The assessment considers current-year conditions as well as conditions representative of one dry year.

As part of this process, District staff review available supply information, operational conditions, and demand projections to determine whether anticipated supplies are sufficient to meet expected customer needs. Based on the results of the Annual Assessment, the Districts determine whether implementation of water shortage response actions under this WSCP may be warranted.

When appropriate, the findings of the Annual Assessment are used to inform recommendations to the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors regarding water shortage level declarations, conservation actions, and rate-related measures in accordance with the Districts' PWCP.

3.2 Data and Methodologies

The Annual Assessment relies on key data inputs and assessment methodologies used to evaluate water service reliability for the current year and one dry year, consistent with CWC Section 10632(a)(2)(B). The following data inputs and methodologies are considered as part of the Annual Assessment.

3.2.1 Evaluation Criteria

The Districts evaluate water supply reliability for the current year and one dry year. Evaluation criteria include hydrological and regulatory conditions, operational constraints, infrastructure capacity, water quality constraints, and wholesale supply conditions, as applicable.

3.2.2 Water Supply

The available water supply is estimated by source for the current year and a single dry year. Each source of supply is evaluated using methods appropriate to that source and based on available operational data, contractual supply information, and historical production records.

For imported water supplies, available supply estimates are based on delivery information provided by the Districts' wholesale suppliers. This includes consideration of current hydrologic conditions, State Water Project allocation information where applicable, operational constraints within the wholesale distribution systems, and contractual or regulatory limitations on deliveries.

For groundwater supplies, available supply estimates are based on the Districts' historical well production, demonstrated pumping capacity, operational feasibility, water quality considerations, and applicable basin management conditions.

For emergency or supplemental supplies, such as imported water delivered through interconnections with neighboring agencies, the available supply is estimated based on the physical capacity of the interconnection facilities, operational feasibility, and any applicable agreements governing emergency deliveries.

These methods provide a reasonable estimate of the water supplies that could be available to the Districts under normal and dry-year conditions and form the basis for the supply quantities presented in this Water Shortage Contingency Plan.

3.2.3 Current Year Unconstrained Customer Demands

Current year unconstrained customer demand is estimated considering historical water use, weather conditions, population growth, anticipated developments, and other locally relevant factors that influence customer water use. Unconstrained demand represents expected water use absent implementation of water shortage response actions and does not reflect reductions associated with mandatory or voluntary conservation measures.

3.2.4 Current Year Available Supply

The Districts evaluate current year available supply and one dry year supply as part of the Annual Assessment, considering hydrological and regulatory conditions applicable to each water source. The assessment considers factors such as imported water allocations, including State Water Project allocations where applicable, hydrologic forecasting, groundwater availability and quality, capacity of active groundwater wells, operational and maintenance considerations, and restrictions based on prior-year supply availability and use.

3.2.5 Infrastructure Considerations

The Annual Assessment evaluates how existing infrastructure capabilities and plausible constraints may affect the Districts' ability to deliver water supplies to meet anticipated customer demands for the current year and one dry year. This evaluation may include consideration of planned repairs, capital improvements, or new infrastructure projects that could influence system capacity or operational flexibility.

4. SIX STANDARD WATER SHORTAGE LEVELS

The Districts' PWCP, adopted as part 5 of the Rules and Regulations of the Los Angeles County Waterworks Districts and the Marina del Rey Water System, defines six water supply shortage levels (stages) that are consistent with the six standard shortage levels identified in this WSCP. The sixth standard shortage level represents conditions where anticipated water supply shortages exceed 50 percent.

Pursuant to California Water Code Section 10632(a)(3)(A), the appropriate water shortage level may be declared based on the Districts' current water supply conditions, informed by the Annual Water Supply and Demand Assessment and other relevant operational, regulatory, or emergency considerations. The applicable shortage levels are summarized in Table 4-1.

The County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors, acting as the governing body for the Districts, has the authority to determine and declare the appropriate water shortage level and to implement rate changes, drought quantity rates, and conservation surcharges. The Board of Supervisors may also establish water conservation goals or modify shortage level declarations as necessary to align with regional or State water conservation policies, agreements, declarations, or legal requirements.

In addition to Board actions, the District Engineer is authorized under the PWCP to impose emergency restrictions on water use when necessary if they determine over consumption of water, loss of pressure in a system, breakdown, drought conditions, or any similar occurrence. These discretionary restrictions may be implemented with or without a declared water shortage.

Table 4-1 summarizes the standard water shortage levels and corresponding shortage ranges used by the Districts to characterize the severity of anticipated water supply shortages.

TABLE 4-1: WSCP LEVELS (DWR SUBMITTAL TABLE 8-1)		
Shortage Level	**Percent Shortage Range [a]**	**Water Shortage Condition [b]**
1	Up to 10%	**Minor shortage**; Board of Supervisors determines that the Districts will suffer up to a 10% shortage of supplies
2	Up to 20%	**Moderate shortage**; Board of Supervisors determines that the Districts will suffer a 10%–20% shortage of supplies
3	Up to 30%	**Significant shortage**; Board of Supervisors determines that the Districts will suffer a 20%–30% shortage of supplies
4	Up to 40%	**Severe shortage**; Board of Supervisors determines that the Districts will suffer a 30%–40% shortage of supplies
5	Up to 50%	**Critical shortage**; Board of Supervisors determines that the Districts will suffer a 40%–50% shortage of supplies
6	>50%	**Catastrophic shortage**; Board of Supervisors determines that the Districts will suffer a shortage of supplies greater than 50%

a. Water supply condition shortage as percent of current normal year supplies.

b. Emergency restrictions on water use may be imposed by the District Engineer at any time pursuant to the Districts' PWCP, independent of a declared water shortage level.

5. SHORTAGE RESPONSE ACTIONS

This section describes the water shortage response actions that may be implemented by the Districts in response to declared water shortage levels, consistent with California Water Code Section 10632(a)(4). The actions are organized into demand reduction, supply augmentation, operational changes, additional mandatory restrictions, emergency response, seismic risk mitigation, and evaluation of action effectiveness. These actions are implemented progressively based on the severity of the shortage condition.

5.1 Supply Augmentation

Supply augmentation methods and other actions describe the Districts' ability to increase available water supplies in response to water shortage levels. These actions identify the water shortage level at which additional supplies may be accessed or operational adjustments may be made to supplement existing sources.

Supply augmentation actions available to the Districts vary by Waterworks District and are dependent on both locally controlled supplies and wholesale water agency actions.

For Districts that operate groundwater production facilities, supply augmentation during water shortage conditions may include increased groundwater pumping, use of stored or carryover groundwater, and operational adjustments consistent with basin conditions, infrastructure capacity, and regulatory requirements.

In addition, all Districts may rely on supply augmentation actions implemented by their respective wholesale water suppliers, consistent with the wholesalers' adopted Water Shortage Contingency Plans and operational availability.

The primary wholesale suppliers serving the Districts covered by this WSCP include:

- District No. 29, Malibu/Topanga and the Marina del Rey Water System: West Basin Municipal Water District
    - (Marina del Rey Water System is supplied water with connections from District No. 29)
- District Nos. 40 and 37: Antelope Valley–East Kern Water Agency
- District No. 21: Los Angeles Department of Water and Power
- District No. 36: Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency

Each wholesale agency maintains its own WSCP and supply reliability framework, which may include actions such as increased imported deliveries, use of stored or banked water, interagency transfers, or other emergency supply measures. The specific availability, timing, and magnitude of these actions depend on regional hydrologic conditions, infrastructure constraints, regulatory requirements, and contractual provisions.

Table 5-1 summarizes the Districts' supply increase actions by identifying the water shortage level that triggers each augmentation method, in accordance with Water Code Section

10632(a)(4)(A). The supply augmentation applicability and effectiveness vary by District and shortage condition.

TABLE 5-1: SUPPLY AUGMENTATION AND OTHER ACTIONS (DWR TABLE 8-2)			
Shortage Level	**Supply Augmentation Methods and Other Actions by Water Suppliers**	**How much is this going to reduce the shortage gap?**	**Additional Explanation or Reference**
Level 1 - 6	Increase Groundwater Pumping (when available)	Up to 100% (varies)	Applicable to District Nos. 36, 37, and 40; subject to well capacity, water quality, basin conditions, and regulatory requirements
	Use of Stored Groundwater	Up to 100% (varies)	Includes carryover groundwater supplies for District No. 40
	Additional Purchase of Imported Water via Wholesale Supplier	Up to 100% (varies)	Delivered pursuant to wholesale agency contracts and availability
	Wholesale Supply Augmentation Actions	Up to 100% (varies)	Implemented by wholesale suppliers consistent with their adopted WSCPs (e.g., stored water, transfers, regional supplies)
	Imported Water via Existing Emergency Interconnections	Up to 100% (varies)	Emergency or operational interconnections used where physically available and permitted

NOTES:

a. *Supply augmentation actions may be considered at any shortage level, as needed, based on the nature, location, duration, and severity of the shortage.*
b. *Estimated shortage-gap reductions are not quantified because the effectiveness of each action varies by District, source of supply, system conditions, and wholesale supplier availability at the time of implementation.*
c. *Actions requiring increased pumping, use of carryover or stored water, additional imported purchases, or emergency interconnections are subject to available capacity, applicable agreements, regulatory requirements, and operational feasibility.*
d. *Not all actions may be implemented at every shortage level. The District Engineer may determine which actions are appropriate based on system-specific conditions and the shortage response needed.*

5.2 Demand Reduction

Demand reduction is accomplished through a combination of customer-focused conservation actions, operational measures, and mandatory prohibitions that reduce water use within the Districts' service areas. Measures include both voluntary and mandatory actions implemented in response to declared water shortage levels pursuant to the Districts' PWCP and applicable County ordinances.

Table 5-2 summarizes the Districts' demand reduction actions by water shortage level in accordance with Water Code Sections 10632(a)(4)(B) and (a)(4)(E). Any water use restrictions imposed by the State of California take precedence over the demand reduction actions outlined in Table 5-2.

TABLE 5-2: DEMAND REDUCTION ACTIONS (DWR TABLE 8-3)

Shortage Level	Demand Reduction Actions	How much is this going to reduce the water use?	Additional Explanation or Reference
In Effect at all times	County Water Waste Ordinance prohibitions (hard surface washing limits; irrigation hour limits; runoff prohibition; leak repair requirement; vehicle washing restrictions; decorative fountain recirculation; restaurant water upon request)	Baseline Conservation	Los Angeles County Code of Ordinance Title 11, Chapter 11.38
	Ongoing conservation outreach and education		Website, bill messaging, customer education
	Ongoing rebate and incentive program (as available)		Fixture, irrigation, and turf replacement programs
	Water use surveys (upon request)		Customer efficiency assistance program
Level 1	All measures from baseline conservation	Contributes toward up to a 10% reduction	
	Expand public information campaign		
	Implement drought rates and/or conservation surcharges		Implemented pursuant to PWCP and Board of Supervisors' authorization

TABLE 5-2: DEMAND REDUCTION ACTIONS (DWR TABLE 8-3)			
Shortage Level	**Demand Reduction Actions**	**How much is this going to reduce the water use?**	**Additional Explanation or Reference**
	District Engineer discretionary restrictions (as needed)		PWCP Section B
Level 2	All measures from Level 1	Contributes toward a 10- 20% reduction	
	Limit landscape irrigation to specific days and/or hours		PWCP authority builds upon County irrigation limits
	Implement drought rates and/or conservation surcharges		Implemented pursuant to PWCP and Board of Supervisors' authorization
	District Engineer discretionary restrictions (as needed)		PWCP Section B
Level 3	All measures from Level 2	Contributes toward a 20-30% reduction	
	Further reduce landscape irrigation		(e.g., outdoor water limited to 3 days a week)
	Implement drought rates and/or conservation surcharges		Implemented pursuant to PWCP and Board of Supervisors' authorization
	District Engineer discretionary restrictions (as needed)		PWCP Section B
Level 4	All measures from Level 3	Contributes toward a 30-40% reduction	
	Further reduce landscape irrigation		(e.g., outdoor water limited to 2 days a week)
	Implement drought rates and/or conservation surcharges		Implemented pursuant to PWCP and Board of Supervisors' authorization
	District Engineer discretionary restrictions (as needed)		PWCP Section B

TABLE 5-2: DEMAND REDUCTION ACTIONS (DWR TABLE 8-3)			
Shortage Level	**Demand Reduction Actions**	**How much is this going to reduce the water use?**	**Additional Explanation or Reference**
Level 5	All measures from Level 4	Contributes toward a 40-50% reduction	
	Further reduce landscape irrigation		(e.g., outdoor water limited to 1 day a week)
	Implement drought rates and/or conservation surcharges		Implemented pursuant to PWCP and Board of Supervisors' authorization
	District Engineer discretionary restrictions (as needed)		PWCP Section B
Level 6	All measures from Level 5	Contributes toward a reduction greater than 50%	
	Further reduce landscape irrigation		Prohibit outdoor irrigation except necessary to preserve trees (as implemented)
	Implement drought rates and/or conservation surcharges		Implemented pursuant to PWCP and Board of Supervisors' authorization
	District Engineer discretionary restrictions (as needed)		PWCP Section B

NOTES:

a. *Estimated reductions vary based on weather, seasons, customer response, and enforcement intensity.*

b. *Not all actions may be implemented at every level; actions are selected as necessary to achieve the declared shortage reduction target.*

c. *State-mandated water use restrictions, if applicable, take precedence and may be implemented independent of the actions listed above.*

Phased Water Conservation Plan (PWCP)

The Districts' PWCP, adopted as part 5 of the Rules and Regulations, establishes the legal authority for implementing drought response measures including drought quantity rates and conservation rate surcharges. Additionally, the District Engineer may order emergency restrictions upon the use of water from any system if they determine over consumption of water, loss of pressure in a system, breakdown, drought conditions, or any similar occurrence per the PWCP's discretionary actions.

Water Waste Ordinance

The Los Angeles County Water Waste Ordinance, codified in Title 11, Chapter 11.38 of the County Code of Ordinances establishes prohibitions on water waste, regardless of water shortage conditions.

These prohibitions include, but are not limited to:

- Outdoor irrigation runoff and other forms of water waste.
- Leaks from irrigation systems and indoor plumbing, which must be repaired as soon as reasonably practicable.
- Restrictions on irrigation timing, generally limiting watering to no more than once per day.
- CII water use prohibitions, including requirements for commercial car wash operations and water service practices at eating establishments.
- Prohibition of potable water use in ornamental fountains and similar aesthetic features unless water is recirculated.

Public Information and Outreach

Public education and outreach are key components of the Districts' demand reduction strategy. The Districts use multiple communication methods, such as web-based publications, bill inserts, and public outreach events. The Districts also work closely with their wholesalers to expand regional conservation messaging and public information campaigns.

Water Conservation Rebates

The Districts provide rebates for water-efficient plumbing fixtures and devices, including high-efficiency clothes washers, weather-based irrigation controllers, and rotary sprinkler nozzles through the Water Savings Devices Rebate Program. Rebates for landscape irrigation efficiency, including turf replacement with drought-tolerant landscaping are also available to customers of the Districts through the Cash for Grass Rebates Program.

Water Use Surveys

The Districts offer complimentary water use surveys to all customer upon request. These surveys include an in-person assessment of indoor and outdoor water use and provide customers with a personalized report outlining water usage by fixture, an overview of their irrigation system, a recommended watering schedule, and practical tips to help conserve water.

This program supports targeted customer-side leak identification, demand reduction, and improved customer awareness. While the Districts provide the analysis and guidance, it is the customer's responsibility to address any identified customer-side leaks and implement the recommended conservation practices.

5.3 Operational Changes

Operational changes may be implemented at any water shortage level to improve system efficiency and support conservation objectives. These actions include:

- Customer notifications through websites, bill inserts, door hangers, email alerts, text messages, and automated phone calls
- Increased monitoring and analysis of customer water use through the Customer Information System
- Focused review of high-use accounts and water usage trends by Business Operations staff

More details and information on programs can be found in Section 9 of the Districts UWMP.

5.4 Additional Mandatory Restrictions

Additional mandatory restrictions may be implemented during more severe water shortage levels and include limitations on irrigation, vehicle washing, and water feature operations. These restrictions are summarized in Table 5-2 in accordance with Water Code Section 10632(a)(4)(D).

Further details are provided in the Districts' Phased Water Conservation Plan and the County's Water Waste Ordinance.

5.5 Emergency Response Plan

In the event of a catastrophic emergency—such as an earthquake, regional power outage, or other event resulting in a significant water supply interruption—the Districts may implement emergency response actions to protect public health and maintain essential water service. These actions may include use of emergency interconnections, implementation of applicable WSCP measures, and enforcement of the County's Water Waste Ordinance.

The Districts' Emergency Response Plan (ERP), updated in 2026, guides response to catastrophic supply interruptions and other emergencies. The ERP addresses emergency operations, coordination, and communications, including deployment of backup power resources such as portable diesel, natural gas, and propane generators to support critical water supply facilities, continuation of water quality monitoring, and issuance of boil water advisories when necessary. In the event of an emergency, the Districts will implement the ERP in coordination with applicable WSCP actions.

The ERP also establishes an emergency organizational structure and chain of command for managing emergency incidents affecting the Districts' service areas and includes procedures for communicating critical notifications to customers through text messaging and email systems.

Planned or scheduled supply disruptions are coordinated to occur during periods of lower demand and when alternative supplies are available and are not typically addressed through emergency response procedures. The ERP is not included in this document due to security considerations.

5.6 Seismic Risk Assessment and Mitigation Plan

The Districts address seismic risks through regional hazard planning, infrastructure risk assessments, and emergency preparedness planning. Consistent with California Water Code Section 10632.5, the Districts rely on the County of Los Angeles All-Hazards Mitigation Plan (AHMP), which evaluates seismic hazards and mitigation strategies affecting critical infrastructure throughout the County. The AHMP is publicly available from the Los Angeles County website: https://lacounty.gov.

In addition, the Districts have conducted Risk and Resilience Assessment (RRAs) in accordance with the America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018. The RRAs evaluate risks to water systems assets, including wells, pump stations, and storage facilities. The RRAs assess the vulnerability of these facilities and provide a mitigation plan to address these vulnerabilities. Detailed information is found in the Districts' 2026 RRA, but it is not included as an Appendix because it is a privileged and confidential document.

The Districts are additionally vulnerable to seismic risks that may interrupt the SWP's delivery which indirectly supplies water to the Districts through AVEK and West Basin. DWR's *State Water Project Adaptation Strategy* (2025) outlines strategies to ensure long-term reliability in the SWP water distribution for climate change impacts, which includes improving earthquake resilience.

5.7 Shortage Response Action Effectiveness

The Districts monitor water use and demand trends during water shortage conditions using billing data and meter readings. As Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) is implemented, near real-time usage data will enhance the Districts' ability to evaluate the effectiveness of response actions.

Estimated supply augmentation and reductions associated with specific actions are summarized in Table 5-1 and Table 5-2, corresponding to applicable water shortage levels.

6. COMMUNICATION PROTOCOLS

The Districts' communication protocols are designed to inform customers, governing bodies, and other key audiences regarding water supply conditions, implementation of this Water Shortage Contingency Plan (WSCP), and applicable water shortage response actions. Communication efforts are scaled based on the severity of water shortage conditions and coordinated to support efficient water management, regulatory compliance, and customer awareness.

The Districts' communication objectives during water shortage conditions include:

- Educating customers and stakeholders regarding water supply sources and conditions
- Explaining applicable water shortage levels, restrictions, and response actions
- Promoting available water conservation programs and rebates
- Encouraging customer participation in water conservation efforts
- Maintaining clear and consistent communication with governing agencies and key partners.

Customer communications may include, but are not limited to, information regarding:

- Current or anticipated water shortage conditions
- Applicable water use restrictions and conservation requirements
- Water-saving tips and best practices
- Conservation surcharges and drought-related rate components
- Compliance and enforcement provisions
- Implemented or anticipated shortage response actions

Per Section N of the PWCP, customers subject to conservation surcharges, will be notified on their bill as to what the target quantity and the base quantity will be for the applicable billing period.

Collaboration with key audiences is an essential part of the success of the communication plan specifically during water shortage periods. The frequency and extent of the collaboration, outreach, and notification will increase with each increasing shortage level. The Districts' water conservation and water resources staff regularly interact and coordinate with key audiences, including constituents and governing agencies to ensure outreach and notification efforts are consistent with the varying levels of drought periods.

Key audiences may include, but are not limited to:

- Residential, commercial, industrial, and institutional customers
- Homeowner associations, community organizations, and educational institutions
- Construction and development stakeholders

- Local, regional, State, and Federal agencies
- Wholesale water suppliers and neighboring water agencies
- The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
- Internal Los Angeles County Public Works staff
- Media outlets and public information channels

Communication strategies and outreach methods are implemented in accordance with the declared water shortage levels, as summarized in Table 6-1.

TABLE 6-1: COMMUNICATION PROTOCOLS				
Shortage Level	**Percent Shortage Range**	**Communication Strategy**	**Customer Outreach Methods**	**Other Key Audiences Outreach Methods**
1, 2, and 3	Up to 30%	Provide updates on shortage conditions and any status changes. Promote available water conservation rebates and assistance.	Website updates, water-saving tips, social media, customer email blasts, bill inserts, and community events, as appropriate.	Memos and email communications to provide updates regarding shortage conditions, restrictions, and conservation measures.
4 and 5	Up to 50%	Provide updates on shortage conditions and any status changes. Increase outreach. Increase promoting available water conservation rebates and assistance.	Increased website and social media updates, customer email blasts, direct customer notices, bill inserts, community events, and targeted outreach to high-use customers, as appropriate.	Increased coordination with Board offices, wholesale suppliers, neighboring agencies, applicable cities and agencies, and internal Public Works staff.
6	>50%	Provide updates on shortage conditions and any status changes. Specialized outreach and agency communication. Water for essential use only.	Emergency alerts, website banners, direct customer notices, social media, customer email blasts, text/phone notifications, bill inserts, press releases/media coordination, and multilingual outreach, as appropriate.	Board office coordination, coordination with wholesale suppliers, neighboring agencies, applicable cities and agencies, and emergency management agencies, as appropriate.

7. COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT

7.1 Relief from Compliance/Violations/Hearings

Procedures related to relief from compliance, violations, enforcement actions, and administrative hearings are established in the Districts' PWCP, which is Part 5 of the Rules and Regulations of the Los Angeles County Waterworks Districts and the Marina del Rey Water System.

Enforcement may include customer notification, written warnings, assessment of applicable charges or surcharges, administrative review or hearing procedures, and other remedies authorized under the PWCP as the Districts' Rules and Regulations.

Consistent with California Water Code Section 10632, these procedures govern enforcement actions implemented in response to water shortage conditions and are applied as necessary to support implementation of this WSCP.

8. LEGAL AUTHORITIES

The Districts' authority to implement water shortage response actions described in this WSCP is established in the PWCP, which is Part 5 of the Rules and Regulations of the Los Angeles County Waterworks Districts and the Marina del Rey Water System.

The Board of Supervisors, acting as the governing body of the Districts, may declare water shortage levels and authorize applicable rate-related measures in accordance with the Districts' PWCP, Proposition 218, and other applicable law. The District Engineer may also impose emergency restrictions when necessary under the PWCP.

9. FINANCIAL CONSEQUENCES OF THE WATER SHORTAGE CONTINGENCY PLAN

Water providers may experience financial challenges during water shortage conditions. Reduced customer water use associated with conservation requirements and mandatory restrictions can result in decreased revenue from volumetric water charges, while many operational and maintenance costs remain relatively fixed. At the same time, certain expenditures may increase during water shortage periods, including costs associated with customer outreach, conservation program administration, monitoring of water use, enforcement of applicable requirements, and drought planning activities.

The implementation of water shortage response actions under this WSCP may result in short-term reductions in the Districts' revenue. The Districts' funding structure primarily consists of four revenue components: Service Charge, Facility Surcharge, Water Quantity Charge, and Standby Charge. The Service Charge is a fixed connection charge based on the size of the meter. The Facility Surcharge and Water Quantity Charge are based on the actual quantity of water used. The Standby Charge is assessed on all properties and is included on the property owner's tax bill.

Reductions in water sales primarily affect revenues associated with Water Quantity Charge and Facility Surcharge. The Districts' Service Charge and Standby Charge are intended to provide a stable source of revenue to support ongoing operation and maintenance of the water system regardless of fluctuations in water demands.

To address potential financial impacts associated with water shortage conditions, the Districts have established mechanisms through the Phased Water Conservation Plan (PWCP), which is Part 5 of the Rules and Regulations. These mechanisms may include the following:

- Drought-related rate adjustments:
    - Drought-related rates may be applied to volumetric water charges during declared water shortage conditions to help offset revenue reductions associated with decreased water use. These rates are intended to support continued system operations while customers reduce water use in response to shortage conditions.
    - Drought-related rate adjustments may be structured as an increase to the Water Quantity Charge during a water shortage period and would be implemented in place of non-drought quantity charges, subject to approval by the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors pursuant to Proposition 218 and applicable public hearing requirements.
    - Implementation of drought rates is described in detail in the Districts' PWCP.

- Conservation surcharges/Excessive use surcharge:
    - Conservation Surcharges may be applied, where applicable, to customers in the Marina del Rey Water System who exceed established conservation targets during water shortage conditions.
    - The conservation target is a percentage of the quantity used during a "base" billing period set by the Board of Supervisors. Water use up to the target quantities shall be billed at the established quantity charge. Water use exceeding target quantities shall be subject to conservation surcharges in addition to the established quantity charge.
    - Conservation surcharge provisions, including target-setting and surcharge application, are established and implemented in accordance with the Districts' PWCP.
- Adjustment or deferral of capital improvement expenditures:
    - The Districts may consider adjustments to the timing or deferral of capital improvement projects, if necessary.
    - The Board of Supervisors can authorize the transfer of funds for capital improvement projects from the Districts' Accumulative Capital Outlay Fund to the Districts' General Fund.
- Water rate adjustments:
    - In the event that drought-related rate adjustments and conservation surcharges are not sufficient to address operational needs, the Board of Supervisors may consider broader water rate adjustments.
    - Any such rate adjustments would be subject to approval by the Board of Supervisors in accordance with Proposition 218 and applicable public hearing requirements.

10. MONITORING AND REPORTING

The Districts monitor water supply conditions, customer water uses, and implementation of water shortage response actions to evaluate the effectiveness of this WSCP. Monitoring activities support timely decision-making and help inform adjustments to water shortage levels and response actions as conditions change.

Water supply and demand data are collected through operational records, customer billing information, and information provided by wholesale water suppliers. Customer water use is monitored on a bimonthly billing cycle, and supply and demand data are compiled and evaluated on an annual basis as part of the Districts' ongoing water resources management and planning efforts. Monitoring efforts may increase during declared water shortage conditions to better assess customer response, identify compliance concerns, and evaluate the effectiveness of implemented conservation measures.

During water shortage conditions, the Districts compare actual customer water demand to established conservation targets and normal year use patterns to assess compliance with the WSCP. Excessive water use, where applicable, is identified and communicated to customers through bimonthly billing statements consistent with the PWCP. Consistent with California Water Code Section 10632.1, the Districts conduct an annual water supply and demand assessment and submit an Annual Water Shortage Assessment Report to the California Department of Water Resources on or before July 1 of each year, or within 14 days of receiving final imported water allocations, as applicable. The report includes information regarding anticipated water supply conditions, declared water shortage levels, implemented response actions, and associated compliance and communication measures.

If monitoring indicates that conservation targets are not being met or that supply conditions have further deteriorated, the Districts may implement additional or modified water shortage response actions consistent with this WSCP and the PWCP.

11. WATER SHORTAGE CONTINGENCY PLAN REFINEMENT PROCEDURES

The WSCP will be reevaluated and refined every five years in conjunction with the UWMP, or more frequently at the discretion of the Districts. The evaluation will include an assessment of the effectiveness of the water shortage response actions for each shortage level.

The evaluation will compare anticipated demand reductions to actual water use reductions achieved during declared shortage conditions, and will also assess the effectiveness of communication and public outreach efforts. Based on these findings, the Districts may refine response actions, implementation procedures, or communication protocols to improve the effectiveness of the WSCP.

12. SPECIAL WATER FEATURE DISTINCTION

Per California Water Code Section 10632(b), urban water suppliers are required to analyze and define water features that are artificially supplied with water, including ponds, lakes, waterfalls, and fountains, separately from swimming pools and spas. It is the Districts' policy that recycled water be used for non-potable uses wherever its use is financially and technically feasible and consistent with legal requirements. As such, non-pool and non-spa water features may use recycled water where it is available, financially and technically feasible, and consistent with legal and regulatory requirements, whereas pools and spas must use potable water for health and safety reasons.

Response, enforcement, and monitoring actions for pools and spas are consistent with the other potable water end uses discussed in this WSCP. As for non-pool and non-spa water features, such as ornamental fountains, ponds, lakes, or other similar-aesthetic features, the use of potable water is prohibited unless the water is recirculated as outlined in this WSCP and Chapter 11.38 of the Code of Ordinances of the Los Angeles County.

To satisfy the requirements set forth in Section 10632(b) of the CWC, the following water features have been analyzed and defined:

- Artificial Lake: A human-made lake, pond, lagoon, or other body of water that is used wholly or partly for landscape, scenic, or noncontact recreational purposes. (Chapter 6 of the Rules and Regulations).
- Ornamental Fountains: An ornamental structure in a pool or lake from which one or more jets of water are pumped into the air. (General Definition).

12.1 Los Angeles County Waterworks District No. 29, Malibu/Topanga, and the Marina del Rey Water System

Recycled water for reuse within the District 29, Malibu/Topanga service area is produced by Los Angeles County Public Works (LACPW) at the Malibu Mesa Water Reclamation Plant (WRP); the City of Malibu at the Civic Center Wastewater Treatment Facility (CCWTF); and Las Virgenes Municipal Water District at the Tapia Water Reclamation Facility (WRF). LACPW also operates the Malibu Water Pollution Control Point (WPCP) and the Trancas WPCP for secondary wastewater treatment, though their effluent does not meet Title 22 standards for recycled water.

Recycled water is mostly used for landscape irrigation at Pepperdine University and the City of Malibu's Civic Center; while small amounts are used for groundwater injection at the Civic Center and for on-site irrigation at the Malibu Mesa WRP.

Pepperdine University receives recycled water from the Malibu Mesa WRP and the Tapia WRF and stores it in two lake reservoirs before it is used for landscape irrigation on campus. Recycled water in Pepperdine's reservoirs is also available to the Los Angeles County Fire Department for fire suppression when needed.

The City of Malibu Civic Center currently utilizes recycled water from the CCWTF for landscape irrigation on City of Malibu property and groundwater injection. Planned construction of the CCWTF was divided into three phases, the first of which was completed in 2018. As of the adoption of this WSCP, Phase II and III of the CCWTF project are anticipated to be completed by 2035 and will expand the CCWTF's total recycled water production capacity to approximately 560 AFY. Following the completion of Phase II, the Malibu WPCP will be taken out of service. Additionally, the City of Malibu captures and treats stormwater and urban runoff at Malibu Legacy Park with a detention pond and treatment facility; the clean stormwater is reused for on-site irrigation of the park.

12.2 Los Angeles County Waterworks District No. 40, Antelope Valley

Recycled water for reuse within District 40 is produced by the Los Angeles County Sanitation District (LACSD) Nos. 14 and 20 at the Lancaster WRP and Palmdale WRP. LACSD District No. 14 owns, operates, and maintains the Lancaster WRP. The Lancaster WRP provides tertiary treated water that is used for irrigation, agriculture, urban reuse, wildlife habitat, maintenance, and recreational impoundments such as Apollo Community Regional Park. LACSD District No. 20 owns, operates, and maintains the Palmdale WRP. The tertiary treated water is used for agriculture, irrigation, and maintenance.

Recycled water produced at these facilities is retailed by the City of Lancaster, Palmdale Recycled Water Authority, Palmdale Water District, and District 40. The existing recycled water system provides reclaimed water to areas in Lancaster and Palmdale. The City of Lancaster manages Lancaster's Recycled Water Direct Reuse Program. The Palmdale Recycled Water Authority jointly manages recycled water resources created by LACSD District No. 20 for the City of Palmdale and Palmdale Water District and is located outside District 40.

Recycled water is an essential part of District 40's water supply portfolio, as it helps to reduce reliance on groundwater and imported water. Currently, the available volume of recycled water exceeds the potential uses for it within District 40's service area. Future projects may expand distribution infrastructure to convey recycled water to additional users, and thereby further offset potable water demands in the Antelope Valley region.

13. PLAN ADOPTION, SUBMITTAL, AND AVAILABILITY

California Water Code Section 10632 requires urban water suppliers to prepare and adopt a Water Shortage Contingency Plan (WSCP) as part of the Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP). The purpose of the WSCP is to establish advance planning and response actions for a range of potential water shortage conditions, including those resulting from dry hydrologic conditions, natural disasters, system interruptions or failures, groundwater limitations, or regulatory actions.

The Districts provided the required 60-day notices to cities and agencies in accordance with California Water Code Section 10621. Pursuant to California Water Code Section 10642, prior to adoption of the UWMP and associated WSCP, the Districts made the plans available for public review and conducted a public hearing. Notices of Public Hearing were published in accordance with Government Code Section 6066 and provided to applicable cities, agencies, and other interested parties.

Following review and approval as to form by County Counsel, the 2025 UWMPs for Waterworks District Nos. 29 and 40 and the amended WSCP were presented to the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors for consideration and adoption. Following adoption by the Board of Supervisors, the 2025 UWMPs for District Nos. 29 and 40 and the amended WSCP were submitted to DWR.

This WSCP may be amended independently of the UWMP on an as-needed basis. Any amendment to the WSCP shall follow the same public review, hearing, approval, and adoption procedures required under California Water Code Section 10642.

In accordance with California Water Code Section 10635(c), the adopted UWMPs and WSCP were made available to the public and applicable cities and agencies on the Districts' website within 30 days after submittal to DWR (https://pw.lacounty.gov/core-service-areas/water-resources/waterworks-districts/standard-plans-water-mgmt-plan/). Upon review, DWR may include information from the submitted plans in reports to the State Legislature, as applicable.

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