

My Neighborhood...



Water Resources Element

OUR RESOURCES

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Introduction

The Water Resources Element documents the capability of the City to meet the future water needs of the City of Chandler.

Water resources are an essential element supporting the residential, commercial and industrial activities of the City. The Water Resources portfolio, including both potable water and reclaimed water, provides residents of the City with an adequate supply of safe, dependable water to support the activities of the citizens and to allow for the continued orderly, planned growth of the City.

Current Situation

The City of Chandler owns and operates a water supply system that is designed to keep pace with the rapid development of the City. The water supply system initially comprised only potable water supply facilities. However, because water supplies are limited and because of the enactment of the State's Groundwater Management Act, the use of reclaimed water helps supplement raw water supplies for certain uses. Recharge of reclaimed water helps replenish aquifers and allows for the recovery of recharged water to supplement water supplies.

The City has six sources of raw water supply: 1) Salt River Project (SRP) water, 2) Salt and Verde River water, 3) Central Arizona Project (CAP) water, 4) Colorado River water, 5) groundwater, and 6) reclaimed water.

The City introduces these water supplies into the City's distribution system for delivery to its water users in three ways: 1) the City's Surface Water Treatment Plant (SWTP) treats water delivered through the SRP Canal System and delivers this water into the City's distribution system at Pecos Road, east of McQueen Road; 2) a portion of the City's CAP, or Colorado River water, is treated at Mesa's CAP Treatment Plant located on Brown Road, which Mesa delivers to Chandler through interconnects with Mesa's and Chandler's distribution systems in North Chandler; and 3) groundwater, including recovered recharge water, is pumped into the distribution system from wells located throughout the City.

Future Trends

The City will continue to experience growth that will require the development of additional water supplies, including additional use of reclaimed water and recharge. Along with the need for additional water supplies comes the need for additional infrastructure to treat and distribute water to water users.

Planning Issues

Several key planning issues affect the water resources element. These issues are discussed below:

The Groundwater Management Act, administered by ADWR, requires cities in an Active Management Area, such as Chandler, to demonstrate that they have a 100-year assured water supply for existing and future needs. In January 1998, the City of Chandler received from ADWR a Designation of Assured Water Supply. Additional supplies have been or are being acquired, and hence the City will be amending its designation of assured water supply from time to time to reflect these new supplies.

The currently approved Water Resources and Reclaimed Water Master Plans present data concerning the available supplies. Other potential supply sources are discussed further in the Water Resources Master Plan. The currently adopted Master Plans indicate that the City has

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adequate water supplies to meet demand. However, it should be noted that to satisfy demand for its current build-out population projection, the City must develop additional supplies through recharge and recovery of reclaimed water, by securing additional renewable water supplies, or through various mechanisms, including but not limited to: 1) recharge and recovery of reclaimed water; 2) securing additional renewable water supplies; or 3) exchanges of reclaimed water for other renewable surface water supplies.

Goals, Objectives and Policies

GOAL: PROVIDE AN ADEQUATE SUPPLY OF WATER FOR DRINKING AND OTHER NECESSARY USES.

OBJECTIVE: Actively plan the City's water resource systems in response to continued growth in the City and in response to changing regulations.

Policy: Continue to update the Water Resources Master Plan on an as-needed basis.

Policy: Ensure that water resource planning is consistent with the General Plan.

OBJECTIVE: Meet the existing and future water supply needs of the community with an assured water supply including renewable water resources that satisfy the State's Assured Water Supply Requirements.

Policy: Update the Water Master Plan to identify the infrastructure and improvements necessary to treat and deliver water on an as-needed basis.

Policy: Continue to satisfy the provisions of the City's current Designation of Assured Water Supply, as it may be amended from time to time.

Policy: Continue to acquire additional renewable water supplies to meet demands in accordance with the State Groundwater Code, as it may be amended from time to time.

GOAL: MAXIMIZE THE USE OF RECLAIMED WATER WITHIN THE CITY.

OBJECTIVE: Maximize the use of reclaimed water to supplement potable water supplies.

Policy: Provide reclamation treatment facilities to adequately treat wastewater to desired end-use quality levels.

Policy: Increase capacity of recharge facilities for maximum reuse of reclaimed water.

Policy: Update on an as-needed basis the Reclaimed Water Master Plan to provide for the use of reclaimed water.

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GOAL: CONTINUE TO MAXIMIZE WATER CONSERVATION EFFORTS CITYWIDE.

OBJECTIVE: Continue to implement existing education, community outreach, and incentive programs and explore new measures to enhance water conservation.

Policy: Continue to promote the implementation of water conservation practices through citizen education including workshops and voluntary residential water use audits.

Policy: Continue to provide school education programs that teach students the importance of water conservation.

Policy: Continue to provide water conservation information to the public through community events, printed materials, and public service announcements.

Policy: Continue to promote the installation of low water use plant materials in both residential and non-residential settings through education, incentives and mandates.

Policy: Consider new programs and technologies that further enhance the City's water conservation practices.