



2020 Urban Water Management Plan Final

June 2021

2020 URBAN WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN



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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

%	Percent
20x2020	20% water use reduction in GPCD by year 2020
Act	Urban Water Management Planning Act of 1983
AF	Acre-Feet
AFY	Acre-Feet per Year
AWWA	American Water Works Association
BEA	Basin Equity Assessment
Biops	Biological Opinions
BMP	Best Management Practice
BPP	Basin Production Percentage
CDR	Center for Demographic Research at California State University Fullerton
CEC	Constituents of Emerging Concern
CEE	Consortium for Energy Efficiency
CII	Commercial/Industrial/Institutional
CPTP	Coastal Pumping Transfer Program
CRA	Colorado River Aqueduct
CUP	Conjunctive Use Program
CVP	Central Valley Project
CY	Calendar Year
DAC	Disadvantaged Communities
DCP	Delta Conveyance Project
DDW	California State Division of Drinking Water
Delta	Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta
DRA	Drought Risk Assessment
DMM	Demand Management Measure
DOF	Department of Finance
DVL	Diamond Valley Lake
DWR	Department of Water Resources
ESA	Endangered Species Act
FIRO	Forecast Informed Reservoir Operations
FY	Fiscal Year
GAP	Green Acres Project
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
GPCD	Gallons per Capita per Day
gpf	Gallons per Flush
GSA	Groundwater Sustainability Agency
GSP	Groundwater Sustainability Plan
GWRS	Groundwater Replenishment System

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GWRSFE	Groundwater Replenishment System Final Expansion
H ₂ O ₂	Hydrogen Peroxide
HECW	High Efficiency Clothes Washer
HEN	High Efficiency Nozzle
HET	High Efficiency Toilet
IPR	Indirect Potable Reuse
IRP	Integrated Water Resources Plan
kWh	Kilowatt-Hour
LRP	Local Resources Program
LTFP	Long-Term Facilities Plan
MAF	Million Acre-Feet
MCL	Maximum Contaminant Level
Mesa Water	Mesa Water District
MET	Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
MG	Million Gallon
MGD	Million Gallons per Day
MHI	Median Household Income
MNWD	Moulton Niguel Water District
MTBE	Methyl Tertiary Butyl Ether
MWDOC	Municipal Water District of Orange County
MWELo	Model Water Use Efficiency Landscape Ordinance
NDMA	N-nitrosodimethylamine
NRW	Non-Revenue Water
OC	Orange County
OC Basin	Orange County Groundwater Basin
OC San	Orange County Sanitation District
OCWD	Orange County Water District
ORP	On-Site Retrofit Program
PFAS	Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances
PFOA	perfluorooctanoic acid
PFOS	perfluorooctane sulfanate
Poseidon	Poseidon Resources LLC
PPH	Persons Per Household
PPT	Parts Per Trillion
PPCP	Pharmaceuticals and Personal Care Product
PSA	Public Service Announcement
QWEL	Qualified Water Efficient Landscaper
RA	Replenishment Assessment
RHNA	Regional Housing Needs Assessment
RO	Reverse Osmosis

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RUWMP	Regional Urban Water Management Plan
SBx7-7	Senate Bill 7 as part of the Seventh Extraordinary Session
SCAB	South Coast Air Basin
SCAG	Southern California Association of Governments
SCWD	South Coast Water District
SDP	Seawater Desalination Program
SMWD	Santa Margarita Water District
STEAM	Science Technology Engineering Arts and Mathematics
SWP	State Water Project
SWRCB	California State Water Resources Control Board
TAF	Thousand Acre-Feet
TAZ	Traffic Analysis Zones
TDS	Total Dissolved Solids
USBR	United States Bureau of Reclamation
UV	Ultraviolet
UWMP	Urban Water Management Plan
UWMP Act	Urban Water Management Planning Act of 1983
VOC	Volatile Organic Compound
Water Code	California Water Code
WBIC	Weather-Based Irrigation Controller
WF-21	Water Factory 21
WSAP	Water Supply Allocation Plan
WSCP	Water Shortage Contingency Plan
WSIP	Water Savings Incentive Program
WUO	Water Use Objective

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION AND UWMP OVERVIEW

Mesa Water District (Mesa Water) prepared this 2020 Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP or Plan) to submit to the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) to satisfy the UWMP Act of 1983 (Act or UWMP Act) and subsequent California Water Code (Water Code) requirements. Mesa Water is a retail water supplier that provides water to its residents and other customers using local groundwater from the Orange County Groundwater Basin (OC Basin), and recycled water from the Orange County Water District (OCWD) with the imported potable water supply obtained from its regional wholesaler, Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWDOC) as an emergency backup.

UWMPs are comprehensive documents that present an evaluation of a water supplier's reliability over a long-term horizon, typically 20-25 years. This 2020 UWMP provides an assessment of the present and future water supply sources and demands within Mesa Water's service area. It updates various 2015 UWMP items related to: water resource needs, water use efficiency, assessment of water reliability, and strategies to mitigate water shortage conditions. The 2020 UWMP adds a 2020 Water Shortage Contingency Plan (WSCP) to help Mesa Water effectively respond to potential water shortages. This 2020 UWMP contains all elements needed to comply with new requirements of the Act as amended since 2015.

UWMP PREPARATION

Mesa Water coordinated the preparation of this 2020 UWMP with other key entities, including MWDOC (regional wholesaler of imported water for Orange County), Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MET) (regional wholesaler for Southern California and the direct supplier of imported water to MWDOC), and OCWD (OC Basin manager and provider of recycled water in north Orange County). Mesa Water also coordinated with other entities, which provided valuable data for the analyses prepared in this UWMP, such as the Center for Demographic Research (CDR) at California State University Fullerton for population projections.

SYSTEM DESCRIPTION

Mesa Water is governed by a five-member Board of Directors and is located in a community that originated in about 1906. After the Costa Mesa District Merger Law was signed on June 30, 1959, Mesa Water (formerly known as the Costa Mesa County Water District) commenced operations on January 1, 1960 by acquiring the assets and obligations and assumed the responsibility of consolidating the City of Costa Mesa's Water Department, Fairview County Water District, Newport Mesa Irrigation District, and Newport Mesa County Water District.

Mesa Water's water service area covers 18 square miles, along the coast of Southern California within the County of Orange and includes most of the City of Costa Mesa, portions of the City of Newport Beach and a small portion of unincorporated Orange County. Mesa Water operates seven wells, which includes two future wells (in construction), a nanofiltration facility, two reservoirs with a total storage of 29 million gallons (MG), three metered imported water connections, 16 emergency interconnections. It also manages 328.4-mile water mains system with approximately 25,032 service connections.

Lying in the South Coast Air Basin (SCAB), its climate is characterized by Southern California's "Mediterranean" climate with mild winters, warm summers and moderate rainfall. In terms of land use, Mesa Water is almost built out with predominantly single and multi-family residential units. The City of Costa Mesa has some medium and high-density ongoing development projects. Most recently planned project is the One Metro West Project which will bring several hundreds of high-density housing units. The current population of 112,635 is projected to increase by 33.5% over the next 25 years.

WATER USE CHARACTERIZATION

Water use within Mesa Water's service area has been relatively stable in the past decade with an annual average of 18,129 AF. The potable and non-potable water use accounts for an average of 94% and 6% of total Mesa Water water use, respectively. In FY 2019-20, Mesa Water's water use was 16,118 AF of potable water (groundwater) and 959 AF of direct recycled water for landscape irrigation. In FY2019-20, Mesa Water's potable water use profile was comprised of 60.9% residential use, 24.1% commercial, industrial, and institutional (CII) use, and 9.6% large landscape/irrigation, with non-revenue water (NRW) and other uses comprising about 5.3%.

WATER USE PROJECTIONS: 5-YEAR AND 25-YEAR

While Mesa Water's service area is almost completely built-out there is a trending of high density development projects that are ongoing or in the planning phase. These projects will add small to moderate population increases. Potable water demand is likely to increase 1.5% over the next 5 years. In the longer term, potable water demand is projected to increase ~20.8% from 2025 through 2045. Overall water usage is expected to increase 22.1% by 2045 (as compared to 2020 actuals). The projected water use for 2045 is 19,751 AF for potable water and 1,100 AF for recycled water.

This demand projection considers such factors as current and future demographics, future water use efficiency measures, and long-term weather variability.

CONSERVATION TARGET COMPLIANCE

Retail water suppliers are required to comply with the requirements of Water Conservation Act of 2009, also known as SBx7-7 (Senate Bill 7 as part of the Seventh Extraordinary Session), which was signed into law in 2010 and requires the State of California to reduce urban water use by 20% by 2020 from a 2013 baseline.

The retail water suppliers can comply individually or as a region in collaboration with other retail water suppliers, in order to be eligible for water related state grants and loans. Mesa Water is part of the Orange County 20x2020 Regional Alliance created in collaboration with MWDOC, its retail member agencies as well as the Cities of Anaheim, Fullerton and Santa Ana. The Alliance was created to assist OC retail agencies in complying with SBx7-7.

Mesa Water met its 2020 water use target and is in compliance with SBx7-7; the actual 2020 consumption was 85 gallons per capita per day (GPCD), which is below its 2020 target of 143 GPCD.

WATER SUPPLY CHARACTERIZATION

Mesa Water meets its demands through a combination of local groundwater and recycled water. Mesa Water works together with two primary agencies, MWDOC and OCWD, to ensure a safe and reliable water supply that will continue to serve the community in periods of drought and shortage.

In FY 2019-20, Mesa Water's water supplies consisted of 94% groundwater and 6% recycled water.

It is projected that by 2045, the water supply portfolio will shift slightly to 95% groundwater and 5% recycled water. Note that these representations of supply match the projected demand. Mesa Water can purchase MET water through MWDOC, should the need arise.

Mesa Water does not own or operate wastewater treatment facilities or the wastewater collection system. The Costa Mesa Sanitary District provides wastewater collection within Mesa Water's service area and conveys it to Orange County Sanitation District (OC San) for treatment and disposal. Mesa Water benefits from direct and indirect uses of recycled water. OCWD's Green Acres Project (GAP) produces recycled water for direct non-potable reuses such as landscape irrigation. OCWD's Groundwater Replenishment System (GWRS) produces recycled water for indirect potable reuse (IPR) through the replenishment of the OC Basin.

WATER SERVICE RELIABILITY AND DROUGHT RISK ASSESSMENT

Every urban water supplier is required to assess the reliability of their water service to its customers under a normal year, a single dry year, and a drought period lasting five consecutive years. The water service reliability assessment compares projected supply to projected demand for the three hydrological conditions between 2025 and 2045. Factors affecting reliability, such as climate change and regulatory impacts, are accounted for as part of the assessment.

Mesa Water depends on local supplies to meet its water demands and has taken numerous steps to ensure it has adequate supplies. OCWD expects a basin production percentage (BPP) of 85% starting in 2025. This is a higher percentage than recent years due to increased regional groundwater replenishment and treatment capacity. MET and MWDOC's 2020 UWMPs conclude that they can meet full-service demands of their member agencies through 2045 during normal years, single-dry years, and multiple-dry years. Consequently, Mesa Water is projected to meet full-service demands through 2045 for the same scenarios, due to diversified supply and conservation measures.

The Drought Risk Assessment (DRA) evaluates Mesa Water's near-term ability to supply water assuming Mesa Water is experiencing a drought over the next five years. Even under the assumption of a drought over the next five years, MET's 2020 UWMP concludes a surplus of water supplies would be available to all of its Member Agencies, including MWDOC and in effect, Mesa Water, should the need for additional supplies arise to close any local supply gap. Additionally, Mesa Water has reduced its reliance on imported water supplies through increased use of local groundwater and recycled water.

WATER SHORTAGE CONTINGENCY PLANNING

Water shortage contingency planning is a strategic planning process that Mesa Water engages to prepare for and respond to water shortages. A water shortage, when water supply available is insufficient to meet the normally expected customer water use at a given point in time, may occur due to a number of reasons, such as water supply quality changes, climate change, drought, and catastrophic events (e.g., earthquake). Mesa Water's WSCP provides real-time water supply availability assessment and structured steps designed to respond to actual conditions. This level of detailed planning and preparation will help maintain reliable supplies and reduce the impacts of supply interruptions.

The WSCP serves as the operating manual that Mesa Water will use to prevent catastrophic service disruptions through proactive, rather than reactive, mitigation of water shortages. The WSCP contains the

processes and procedures that will be deployed when shortage conditions arise so that Mesa Water's governing body, its staff, and its retail agencies can easily identify and efficiently implement pre-determined steps to mitigate a water shortage to the level appropriate to the degree of water shortfall anticipated.

DEMAND MANAGEMENT MEASURES

Mesa Water along with other retail water agencies in Orange County, recognizes the need to use existing water supplies efficiently. This ethic of efficient use of water has evolved as a result of the development and implementation of water use efficiency programs that make good economic sense and reflect responsible stewardship of the region's water resources. Mesa Water participates in regional water savings programs and works closely with MWDOC to promote regional efficiency.

PLAN ADOPTION, SUBMITTAL, AND IMPLEMENTATION

The Water Code requires the UWMP to be adopted by the Supplier's governing body. Before the adoption of the UWMP, Mesa Water notified the public and the cities and counties within its service area per the Water Code and held a public hearing to receive input from the public on the UWMP. Post adoption, Mesa Water submitted the UWMP to DWR and other key agencies and made the document available for public review no later than 30 days after filing with DWR.

1 INTRODUCTION AND UWMP OVERVIEW

Mesa Water District (Mesa Water) prepared this 2020 Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP or Plan) to submit to the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) to satisfy the UWMP Act of 1983 (Act or UWMP Act) and subsequent California Water Code (Water Code) requirements. Mesa Water is a retail water supplier that provides water to its residents and other customers using local groundwater from the Orange County Groundwater Basin (OC Basin) and recycled water from the Orange County Water District (OCWD) with imported potable water supply obtained from its regional wholesaler, Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWDOC) as an emergency backup. Mesa Water, as one of MWDOC's 28 member agencies, prepared this 2020 UWMP in collaboration with MWDOC, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MET), OCWD, and other key agencies.

UWMPs are comprehensive documents that present an evaluation of a water supplier's reliability over a long-term (20-25 year) horizon. In response to the changing climatic conditions and regulatory updates since the 2015 UWMP, Mesa Water has been proactively managing its water supply and demand. The water loss audit program, water conservation measures and efforts for increased self-reliance in order to reduce dependency on imported water from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (the Delta) are some of the water management efforts that Mesa Water is a part of to maintain the reliability of water supply for its service area.

This 2020 UWMP provides an assessment of the present and future water supply sources and demands within Mesa Water's service area. It presents an update to the 2015 UWMP on Mesa Water's water resource needs, water use efficiency programs, water reliability assessment and strategies to mitigate water shortage conditions. It presents a new 2020 Water Shortage Contingency Plan (WSCP) designed to prepare for and respond to water shortages. This 2020 UWMP contains all elements to meet compliance of the new requirements of the Act as amended since 2015.

1.1 Overview of Urban Water Management Plan Requirements

The UWMP Act enacted by California legislature requires every urban water supplier (Supplier) providing water for municipal purposes to more than 3,000 customers or supplying more than 3,000 acre-feet (AF) of water annually to prepare, adopt, and file an UWMP with the DWR five years in the years ending in zero and five.

For this 2020 UWMP cycle, DWR placed emphasis on achieving improvements for long term reliability and resilience to drought and climate change in California. Legislation related to water supply planning in California has evolved to address these issues, namely Making Conservation a Way of Life [Assembly Bill (AB) 1668 and Senate Bill (SB) 606] and Water Loss Performance Standard SB555. New UWMP requirements in 2020 are a direct result of these new water regulations. Two complementary components were added to the 2020 UWMP. First is the WSCP to assess the Supplier's near term 5-year drought risk assessment (DRA) and provide a structured guide for the Supplier to deal with water shortages. Second is the Annual Water Supply Demand Assessment to assess the current year plus one dry year i.e., short-term demand/supply outlook. Analyses over near- and long-term horizons together will provide a more complete picture of Supplier's reliability and will serve to inform appropriate actions it needs to take to build up capacity over the long term.

The various key new additions in the 2020 UWMP included as a result of the most recent water regulations are:

- **Water Shortage Contingency Plan (WSCP)** – WSCP helps a Supplier to better prepare for drought conditions and provides the steps and water use efficiency measures to be taken in times of water shortage conditions. WSCP now has more prescriptive elements, including an analysis of water supply reliability; the water use efficiency measures for each of the six standard water shortage levels, that correspond to water shortage percentages ranging from 0-10% to greater than 50%; an estimate of potential to close supply gap for each measure; protocols and procedures to communicate identified actions for any current or predicted water shortage conditions; procedures for an annual water supply and demand assessment; monitoring and reporting requirements to determine customer compliance; reevaluation and improvement procedures for evaluating the WSCP.
- **Drought Risk Assessment** – The Suppliers are now required to compare their total water use and supply projections and conduct a reliability assessment of all their sources for a consecutive five-year drought period beginning 2021.
- **Five Consecutive Dry-Year Water Reliability Assessment** - The three-year multiple dry year reliability assessment in previous UWMPs has now been extended from three to five consecutive dry years to include a more comprehensive assessment of the reliability of the water sources to improve preparedness of Suppliers for extended drought conditions.
- **Seismic Risk** – The UWMP now includes a seismic risk assessment of the water supply infrastructure and a plan to mitigate any seismic risks on the water supply assets.
- **Groundwater Supplies Coordination** – The UWMP should be in accordance with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014 and consistent with the Groundwater Sustainability Plans, wherever applicable.
- **Lay Description** – To provide a better understanding of the UWMP to the general public, a lay description of the UWMP is included, especially summarizing the Supplier’s detailed water service reliability assessment and the planned management steps and actions to mitigate any possible shortage scenarios.

1.2 UWMP Organization

This UWMP is organized into 10 main sections aligned with the DWR Guidebook recommendations. The subsections are customized to tell Mesa Water’s story of water supply reliability and ways to overcome any water shortages over a planning horizon of the next 25 years.

Section 1 Introduction and UWMP Overview gives an overview of the UWMP fundamentals and briefly describes the new additional requirements passed by the Legislature for 2020 UWMP.

Section 2 UWMP Preparation identifies this UWMP as an individual planning effort of Mesa Water, lists the type of year and units of measure used and introduces the coordination and outreach activities conducted by Mesa Water to develop this UWMP.

Section 3 System Description gives a background on Mesa Water’s water system and its climate characteristics, population projection, demographics, socioeconomics, and predominant current and projected land uses of its service area.

Section 4 Water Use Characterization provides historical, current, and projected water use by customer category for the next 25 years within Mesa Water’s service area and the projection methodology used by MWDOC to develop the 25-year projections.

Section 5 Conservation Target Compliance reports the SB X7-7 water use conservation target compliance of Mesa Water (individually and as a member of the OC 20x2020 Regional Alliance).

Section 6 Water Supply Characterization describes the current water supply portfolio of Mesa Water as well as the planned and potential water supply projects and water exchange and transfer opportunities.

Section 7 Water Service Reliability and Drought Risk Assessment assesses the reliability of Mesa Water’s water supply service to its customers for a normal year, single dry year, and five consecutive dry years scenarios. This section also includes a DRA of all the supply sources for a consecutive five-year drought period beginning 2021.

Section 8 Water Shortage Contingency Planning is a brief summary of the standalone WSCP document (Appendix H) which provides a structured guide for Mesa Water to deal with water shortages, incorporating prescriptive information and standardized action levels, lists the appropriate actions and water use efficiency measures to be taken to ensure water supply reliability in times of water shortage conditions, along with implementation actions in the event of a catastrophic supply interruption.

Section 9 Demand Management Measures provides a comprehensive description of the water conservation programs that Mesa Water has implemented, is currently implementing, and plans to implement in order to meet its urban water use reduction targets.

Section 10 Plan Adoption, Submittal, and Implementation provides a record of the process Mesa Water followed to adopt and implement its UWMP.

2 UWMP PREPARATION

Mesa Water’s 2020 UWMP is an individual UWMP for Mesa Water to meet the Water Code compliance as a retail water supplier. While Mesa Water opted to prepare its own UWMP and meet Water Code compliance individually, the development of this UWMP involved close coordination with its whole supplier, MWDOC along with other key entities within the region.

2.1 Individual Planning and Compliance

Mesa Water opted to prepare its own UWMP (Table 2-1) and comply with the Water Code individually, while closely coordinating with MWDOC and various key entities as discussed in Section 2.2 to ensure regional integration. The UWMP Checklist was completed to confirm the compliance of this UWMP with the Water Code (Appendix A).

One consistency with MWDOC and the majority of its other retail member agencies is that Mesa Water selected to report demands and supplies using fiscal year basis (Table 2-2).

Table 2-1: Plan Identification

DWR Submittal Table 2-2: Plan Identification			
Select Only One	Type of Plan		Name of RUWMP or Regional Alliance
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Individual UWMP		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Water Supplier is also a member of a RUWMP	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Water Supplier is also a member of a Regional Alliance	Orange County 20x2020 Regional Alliance
<input type="checkbox"/>	Regional Urban Water Management Plan (RUWMP)		
NOTES:			

Table 2-2: Supplier Identification

DWR Submittal Table 2-3: Supplier Identification	
Type of Supplier	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Supplier is a wholesaler
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Supplier is a retailer
Fiscal or Calendar Year	
<input type="checkbox"/>	UWMP Tables are in calendar years
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	UWMP Tables are in fiscal years
If using fiscal years provide month and date that the fiscal year begins (mm/dd)	
7/1	
Units of measure used in UWMP (select from drop down)	
Unit	AF
NOTES:	

2.2 Coordination and Outreach

2.2.1 Integration with Other Planning Efforts

Mesa Water, as a retail water supplier, coordinated this UWMP preparation effort with other key entities, including MWDOC (regional wholesale supplier for Orange County), MET (regional wholesaler for Southern California and the direct supplier of imported water to MWDOC), and OCWD (OC Basin manager and provider of recycled water in north Orange County). Mesa Water also coordinated with other entities, which provided valuable data for the analyses prepared in this UWMP, such as the Center for Demographic Research (CDR) at California State University Fullerton for population projections.

Some of the key planning and reporting documents that were used to develop this UWMP are:

- **MWDOC's 2020 UWMP** provides the basis for the projections of the imported supply availability over the next 25 years for Mesa Water's service area.
- **MWDOC's 2020 WSCP** provides a water supply availability assessment and structured steps designed to respond to actual conditions that will help maintain reliable supplies and reduce the impacts of supply interruptions.

- **2021 OC Water Demand Forecast for MWDOC and OCWD Technical Memorandum (Demand Forecast TM)** provides the basis for water demand projections for MWDOC's member agencies as well as Anaheim, Fullerton, and Santa Ana.
- **MET's 2020 Draft Integrated Water Resources Plan (IRP)** is a long-term planning document to ensure water supply availability in Southern California and provides a basis for water supply reliability in Orange County.
- **MET's 2020 UWMP** was developed as a part of the 2020 IRP planning process and was used by MWDOC as another basis for the projections of supply capability of the imported water received from MET.
- **MET's 2020 WSCP** provides a water supply assessment and guide for MET's intended actions during water shortage conditions.
- **OCWD's Groundwater Reliability Plan** (to be finalized after July 2021) provides the latest information on groundwater management and supply projection for the OC Basin, the primary source of groundwater for 19 retail water suppliers in OC.
- **OCWD's 2019-20 Engineer's Report** provides information on the groundwater conditions and basin utilization of the OC Basin.
- **OCWD's 2017 Basin 8-1 Alternative** is an alternative to the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) for the OC Basin and provides significant information related to sustainable management of the basin in the past and hydrogeology of the basin, including groundwater quality and basin characteristics.
- **Local Hazard Mitigation Plan** provides the basis for the seismic risk analysis of the water system facilities.
- **Orange County Local Agency Formation Commission's 2020 Municipal Service Review for MWDOC Report** provides comprehensive review of the municipal services provided by MWDOC.
- **Water Master Plan** of Mesa Water provides information on water infrastructure planning projects and plans to address any required water system improvements.

Statewide Water Planning

In addition to regional coordination with various agencies described above, Mesa Water as a MWDOC member agency is currently a part of MET's statewide planning effort to reduce reliance on the water imported from the Delta.

It is the policy of the State of California to reduce reliance on the Delta in meeting California's future water supply needs through a statewide strategy of investing in improved regional supplies, conservation, and water use efficiency. This policy is codified through the Delta Stewardship Council's Delta Plan Policy WR P1 and is measured through Supplier reporting in each Urban Water Management Planning cycle. WR P1 is relevant to water suppliers that plan to participate in multi-year water transfers, conveyance facilities, or new diversions in the Delta.

Through significant local and regional investment in water use efficiency, water recycling, advanced water technologies, local and regional water supply projects, and improved regional coordination of local and

regional water supply efforts, Mesa Water has demonstrated a reduction in Delta reliance and a subsequent improvement in regional self-reliance. For a detailed description and documentation of Mesa Water’s consistency with Delta Plan Policy WR P1 see Section 7.4 and Appendix C.

2.2.2 Wholesale and Retail Coordination

Mesa Water developed its UWMP in conjunction with MWDOC’s 2020 UWMP. Mesa Water provided its historical water use and initial water use projections data to MWDOC (Table 2-3). MWDOC facilitated in refining the projections of Mesa Water’s water demand and the imported supply from MWDOC over the next 25 years.

Mesa Water also has been taking part in many regional programs administered by MWDOC to assist retail agencies meet various State compliance, such as the OC Regional Alliance for SB x7-7 compliance, regional water loss program for SB555 compliance, and regional water use efficiency programs. Sections 0 and 9 provide detailed information on these programs.

Table 2-3 Retail: Water Supplier Information Exchange

DWR Submittal Table 2-4 Retail: Water Supplier Information Exchange
The retail Supplier has informed the following wholesale supplier(s) of projected water use in accordance with Water Code Section 10631.
Wholesale Water Supplier Name
Municipal Water District of Orange County
NOTES:

2.2.3 Public Participation

For further coordination with other key agencies and to encourage public participation in the review and update of this Plan, Mesa Water held a public hearing and notified key entities and the public per the Water Code requirements. Sections 10.2 and 10.3 describe these efforts in detail.

3 SYSTEM DESCRIPTION

Mesa Water is governed by a five-member Board of Directors is located in a community that originated in about 1906. After the Costa Mesa District Merger Law was signed on June 30, 1959, Mesa Water (formerly known as the Costa Mesa County Water District) commenced operations on January 1, 1960 by acquiring the assets and obligations and assumed the responsibility of consolidating the City of Costa Mesa's Water Department, Fairview County Water District, Newport Mesa Irrigation District, and Newport Mesa County Water District.

Mesa Water's water service area covers 18 square miles, along the coast of Southern California within the County of Orange and includes most of the City of Costa Mesa, portions of the City of Newport Beach and a small portion of unincorporated Orange County. Mesa Water operates seven wells, which includes two future wells (in construction), two reservoirs with a total storage of 29 million gallons (MG), three metered imported water connections, 16 emergency interconnections and manages 328.4-mile water mains system with approximately 25,032 service connections.

Lying in the South Coast Air Basin (SCAB), its climate is characterized by Southern California's "Mediterranean" climate with mild winters, warm summers and moderate rainfall. In terms of land use, Mesa Water is almost built out with predominantly single and multi-family residential units. The City of Costa Mesa has some medium and high-density ongoing development projects. Most recently planned project is the One Metro West Project which will bring several 100's of high-density housing units. The current population of 112,635 is projected to increase by 33.5% over the next 25 years.

3.1 Agency Overview

This section provides information on the formation and history of Mesa Water, its organizational structure, and relationship to MWDOC.

3.1.1 Formation and Purpose

Mesa Water is located in a community that originated in about 1906. The La Habra Valley Land and Water Company, which drilled the first well in 1910, developed the first water system in the area. In 1913, the Fairview Farms Mutual Water Company constructed a system for agricultural purposes and in 1918; the Newport Heights Irrigation District was formed to serve domestic and irrigation water. These two agencies acquired the facilities of the La Habra Water Company.

With continued growth in the early 1900's the Newport Mesa Irrigation District and Santa Ana Heights Mutual Water Company were created. Fairview Farms Mutual Water Company later became the Fairview County Water District; Newport Mesa Irrigation District became the Newport Mesa County Water District. In 1953, the City of Costa Mesa became an incorporated city and in 1955 created a municipal water system to serve the areas beyond the four existing Mesa Water boundaries.

On June 30, 1959, the Governor of the State of California signed Senate Bill 1375 (Costa Mesa District Merger Law), as introduced by Senator Murdy. The general provisions of this law called for the consolidation of four predecessor agencies: the Newport Heights Irrigation District, the Fairview County Water District, the Newport Mesa County Water District, and the City of Costa Mesa Water Department.

On January 1, 1960, Mesa Water, formerly called the Costa Mesa County Water District, commenced operations pursuant to Sections 33200 et. seq. of the California Water Code. The Santa Ana Heights Water Company was originally involved in merger discussions but withdrew before consolidation. Mesa Water set a precedent with this merger because it was the first water agency in California to consolidate two or more water agencies and assume both their assets and debt obligations.

Mesa Water represents a specific geographic area and collects no tax revenues, is not subject to the State's Public Utility Commission, and is not part of any city or the government of the County of Orange. Mesa Water has maintained strong and cooperative relationships with cities and related public agencies that border or interact with it.

3.1.2 Board of Directors

A five-member Board of Directors governs Mesa Water, whose service area is divided into five geographic divisions of approximately equal population. One individual from each division is elected by the voting public to serve alternating four-year terms on the Board.

Mesa Water Board of Directors is responsible for establishing policies. The Board elects one of its members to serve as President and another to serve as First Vice President. The Board appoints a General Manager who serves at the discretion of the Board, as does the Mesa Water Secretary, and Treasurer/Auditor. The General Manager is responsible for the administration of policies and the day-to-day operations.

The current members of the Board of Directors include:

- Marice H. DePasquale – President (Division 3)
- Shawn Dewane – Vice President (Division 5)
- Jim Atkinson – Director (Division 4)
- Fred R. Bockmiller, Jr., P.E. – Director (Division 1)
- James R. Fisler – Director (Division 2)

3.1.3 Relationship to MWDOC

Mesa Water is one of MWDOC's 28 member agencies purchasing imported water from MWDOC, Orange County's wholesale water supplier and a member agency of MET. Mesa Water's location within MWDOC's service is shown on Figure 3-1.

Mesa Water District 2020 Urban Water Management Plan

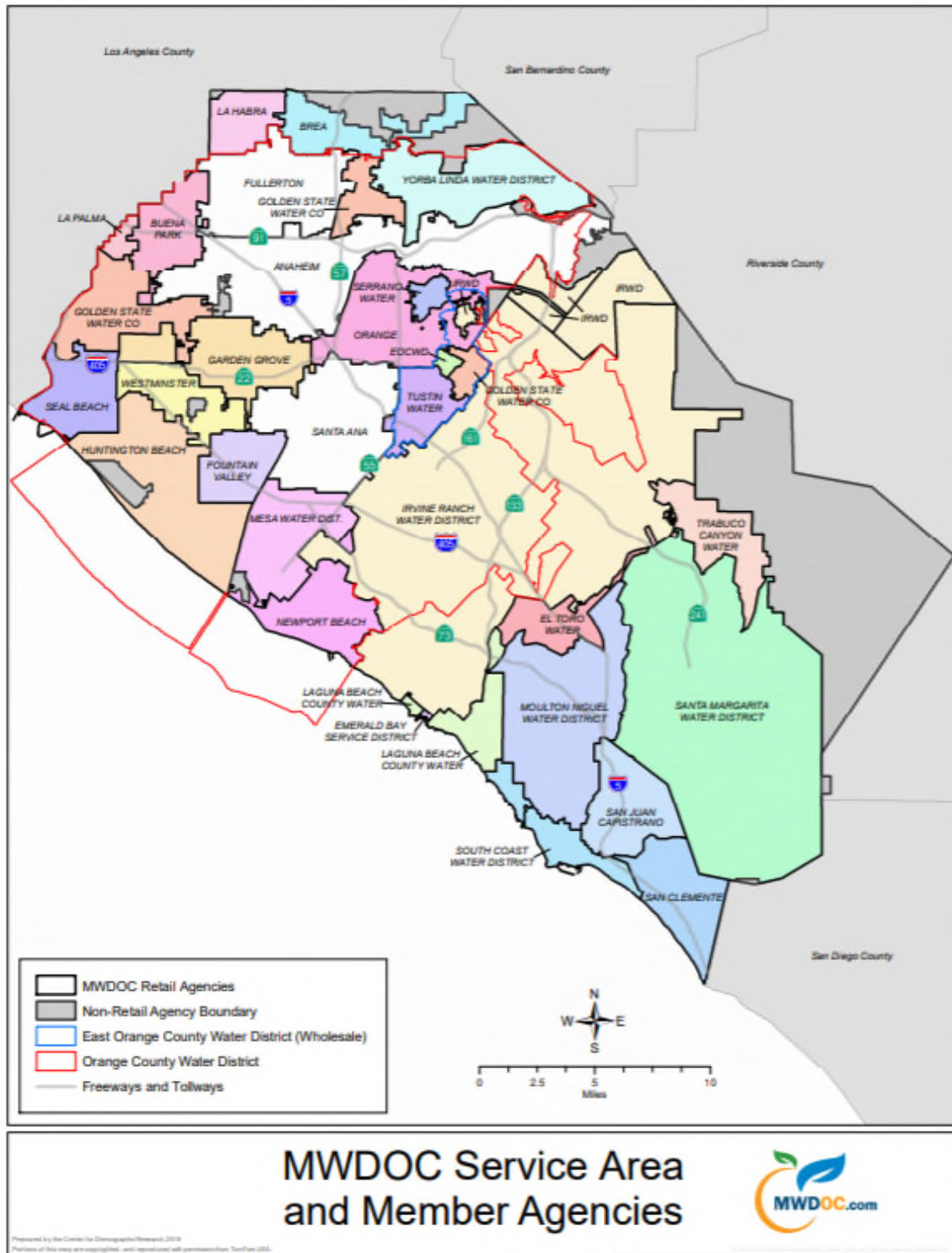


Figure 3-1: Regional Location of Mesa Water and Other MWDOC Member Agencies

3.2 Water Service Area and Facilities

3.2.1 Water Service Area

Mesa Water's water service area is located along the coast of Southern California within the County of Orange. Mesa Water is between one-eighth of a mile to almost six miles inland of the Pacific Ocean. It is also approximately 37 miles southeast of Los Angeles, 88 miles north of San Diego and 475 miles south of San Francisco. The service area is an 18 square mile area that includes most of the City of Costa Mesa, portions of the City of Newport Beach and a small portion of unincorporated Orange County. Mesa Water shares borders with the County of Orange, the Cities of Huntington Beach, Fountain Valley, Irvine, Santa Ana, and Newport Beach.

Mesa Water is located within the County of Orange, which has one of the most robust economies in California. The Mesa Water service area includes notable landmarks and major regional facilities such as: the John Wayne Orange County Airport, State of California's Fairview Development Center, Segerstrom Center for the Arts, Orange County Fairgrounds, Orange Coast College, and South Coast Plaza shopping complex.

Unlike most typical coastal areas, elevation ranges from 30 to 110 feet above sea level near the ocean and declines in elevation as it heads inland. Mesa Water's geographic location places it over a portion of the OC Basin, a large underground aquifer that lies beneath the northern service area, and much of the rest of northern Orange County. The OCWD has managed the groundwater basin since 1933.

A map of Mesa Water's water service area is shown as Figure 3-2.

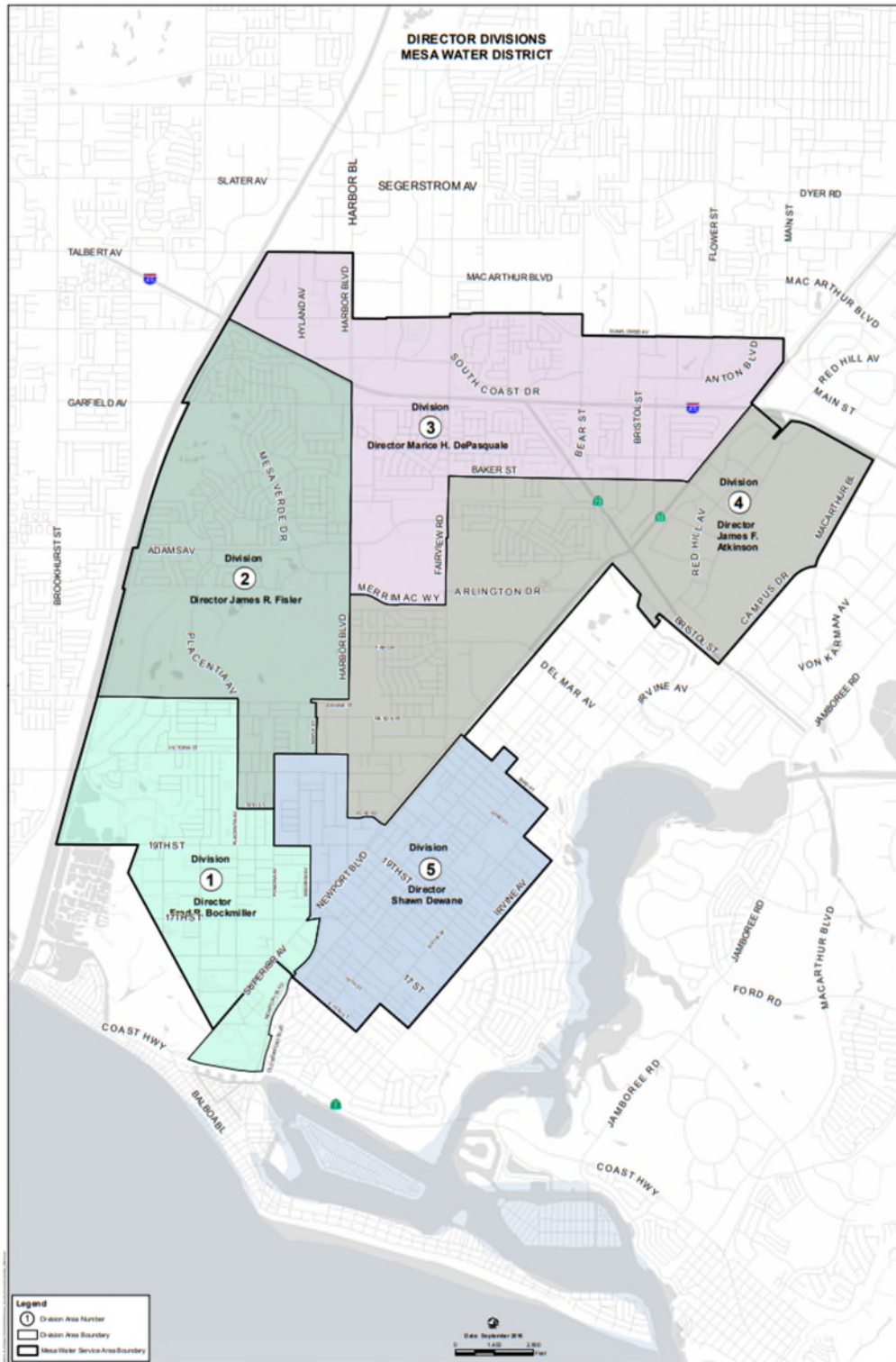


Figure 3-2: Mesa Water Water Service Area

3.2.2 Water Facilities

Mesa Water typically supplies 100% of its water demands from groundwater using imported water as an emergency backup supply and serves recycled water. The source of groundwater is five wells (plus 2 future wells currently in construction) that pump clear water from the main production aquifer of the OC Basin and two wells that pump amber-tinted water located below the main production aquifer. The amber-tinted water wells are treated at the Mesa Water Reliability Facility (MWRF), an advanced membrane treatment plant, before being pumped into the distribution system. Mesa Water has approximately 328.4 miles of water mains and two reservoirs with pump stations for operational and emergency storage. The reservoirs have a total storage of 28.2 MG. Mesa Water has three metered imported water connections. Additionally, Mesa Water has four emergency interconnections with the City of Santa Ana, and seven emergency interconnections with the City of Newport Beach, and five emergency interconnections with IRWD.

The system connections and water volume supplied are summarized in Table 3-1.

Table 3-1: Retail Only: Public Water Systems

DWR Submittal Table 2-1 Retail Only: Public Water Systems			
Public Water System Number	Public Water System Name	Number of Municipal Connections 2020	Volume of Water Supplied 2020
CA3010004	Mesa Water District	25,032	17,077
TOTAL		25,032	17,077
NOTES:			

3.3 Climate

Mesa Water is located within the SCAB that encompasses all of OC, and the urban areas of Los Angeles, San Bernardino, and Riverside counties. The SCAB climate is characterized by Southern California’s “Mediterranean” climate: a semi-arid environment with mild winters, warm summers, and moderate rainfall.

Local rainfall has limited impacts on reducing water demand in Mesa Water, except for landscape irrigation demand. Water that infiltrates into the soil may enter groundwater supplies depending on the local geography. However, due to the large extent of impervious cover in Southern California, rainfall runoff quickly flows to a system of concrete storm drains and channels that lead directly to the ocean. OCWD is one agency that has successfully captured stormwater along the Santa Ana River and in recharge basins for years and uses it as an additional source of supply for groundwater recharge. Based on the 2017 Basin 8-1 Alternative Plan, OCWD captured an average annual stormwater volume of approximately 44,000 AF over the period of ten years, from Water Year 2006-07 to 2015-16; however, this period’s rainfall was 17% below the long-term average using San Bernardino precipitation data.

Based on a longer period (1989-2015) of rainfall and captured stormwater records, the average year water budget of OCWD assumes a stormwater capture volume of 52,000 AF.

MET's water supplies come from the State Water Project (SWP) and the Colorado River Aqueduct (CRA), influenced by climate conditions in northern California and the Colorado River Basin, respectively. The years 2000-2018 have been the driest 19-year period in the history and both regions have been receiving record low precipitation which directly impact water supplies to Southern California. Due to the prolonged drought conditions since 2000, storage within the Colorado River system has declined to half of its reservoir capacity and has been fluctuating at that level (DWR, January 2020).

3.4 Population, Demographics, and Socioeconomics

3.4.1 Population

Mesa Water's population is projected to increase with a growth of 33.5% over the 25-year period from 2020 to 2045. Table 3-2 shows the population projections in five-year increments out to 2045. The population projections incorporate an increase in the number of households based on Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) allocations and an increase in population associated with additional households by assuming 2.68 persons per household (PPH) consistently through to 2045.

Table 3-2: Retail: Population - Current and Projected

DWR Submittal Table 3-1 Retail: Population - Current and Projected						
Population Served	2020	2025	2030	2035	2040	2045(opt)
	112,635	114,288	130,063	145,837	148,888	150,365
NOTES: Source: Center for Demographic Research at California State University, Fullerton, 2020						

3.4.2 Demographics and Socioeconomics

As shown in Table 3-3 below, the total number of dwelling units in Mesa Water is expected to increase by 33.5% in the next 25 years from 41,985 in 2020 to 56,049 in 2045. Table 3-3 also shows a breakdown of the total dwelling units by type for the 25-year period from 2020 to 2045.

Table 3-3: Mesa Water Service Area Dwelling Units by Type

Mesa Water Service Area Dwelling Units by Type						
Dwelling Units	2020	2025	2030	2035	2040	2045
Total	41,985	42,601	48,481	54,361	55,499	56,049
Single Family	15,395	15,364	17,485	19,605	20,016	20,214
All Other*	26,590	27,237	30,997	34,756	35,483	35,835

Source: Center for Demographic Research at California State University, Fullerton, 2020

*Includes duplex, triplex, apartment, condo, townhouse, mobile home, etc. Yachts, houseboats, recreational vehicles, vans, etc. are included if is primary place of residence. Does not include group quartered units, cars, railroad box cars, etc.

In addition to the types and proportions of dwelling units, various socio-economic factors such as age distribution, education levels, general health status, income and poverty levels affect Mesa Water’s water management and planning. Based on the U.S. Census Bureau's [QuickFacts](#), the City of Costa Mesa, which covers majority of the Mesa Water service area, has about 11.3% of population of 65 years and over, 20.3% under the age of 18 years and 5.8% under the age of 5 years. 85.2% of the OC’s population with an age of more than 25 years has a minimum of high school graduate and 40.3% of this age group has at least a bachelor’s degree.

3.4.3 Population Projection Methodology

Mesa Water obtains its services area population and dwelling unit data from CDR. CDR updates the historic population estimates for 2010 to the current year and provides an annual estimate of population served by each of its retail water suppliers within its service area. CDR uses GIS and data from the 2000 and 2010 U.S. Decennial Censuses, State Department of Finance (DOF) population estimates, and the CDR annual population estimates. These annual estimates incorporate annual revisions to the DOF annual population estimates, often for every year back to the most recent Decennial Census. As a result, all previous estimates were set aside and replaced with the most current set of annual estimates. Annexations and boundary changes for water suppliers are incorporated into these annual estimates.

In the summer of 2020, projections by water supplier for population and dwelling units by type were estimated using the 2018 Orange County Projections dataset. Growth for each of the five-year increments was allocated using GIS and a review of the traffic analysis zones (TAZ) with a 2019 aerial photo. The growth was added to the 2020 estimates by water supplier.

The dwelling unit projections developed by CDR were modified to include the RHNA allocation. RHNA assists jurisdictions in updating general plan's housing elements section. RHNA identifies additional housing needs and assesses households by income level for Mesa Water through 2010 decennial Census and 2005-2009 American Community Survey data. The Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) adopted the RHNA Allocation Plan for this cycle on March 4, 2021. The California Department of Housing and Community Development reviewed the housing elements data submitted by

jurisdictions in the SCAG region and concluded the data meets statutory requirements for the assessment of current housing needs.

The City of Costa Mesa was allocated 11,760 units in this sixth cycle RHNA allocation covering years 2021-2029. Mesa Water, as the Water Supplier of the City of Costa Mesa accounted for this household allocation into its water demand projections, by making following assumptions:

- 100% of the very-low and low income housing units were multi-family units
- 75% of the moderate income housing units were multi-family units and 25% were single family units
- 25% of the above-moderate income housing units were multi-family units and 75% were single family units

This resulted in 7,519 housing units assumed to be multi-family units (64% of the total sixth cycle allocation), and 4,241 housing units assumed to be single family units SF (36% of the total sixth cycle allocation).

Mesa Water used the original projections developed by CDR for 2025. For 2030 and 2035, Mesa Water assumed that the multi-family and single family households would be evenly distributed between the 2030 and 2035 for demand projection purposes. This resulted in 2,121 single family households and 3,759 multi-family households being assigned to 2030 and 2035.

After 2035, Mesa Water assumed the corresponding percent increase from the original CDR estimates i.e., a growth of 2.09% and 0.99% between 2035-2040 and 2040-2045 respectively and maintained the 36% single family/64% multi-family ratio for the additional housing units. Population was assumed to increase at the same ratio as total housing units; a PPH of 2.68 was maintained for all years.

3.5 Land Uses

3.5.1 Current Land Uses

The Mesa Water service area can best be described as a predominantly residential community located along the coast in central Orange County, close to scenic beaches and natural preserves. The influx of tourists during the summer months creates higher demands within the Mesa Water service area, especially at the beach facilities, hotels and restaurants.

Based on the zoning designation collected and aggregated by SCAG around 2018, the current land use within Mesa Water's service area can be categorized as follows:

- Single family residential – 1.8%
- Multi-family residential – 40.4%
- Commercial – 13.2%
- Industrial – 10.3%
- Institutional/Governmental – 19.5%
- Agriculture – 1.0%
- Open space and parks – 12.0%
- Other – 1.8% (e.g., Undevelopable or Protected Land, Water, and Vacant)

3.5.2 Projected Land Uses

The City of Costa Mesa has some medium and high-density ongoing development projects. Most recently planned project is the One Metro West Project which will bring several 100's of high-density housing units.

4 WATER USE CHARACTERIZATION

4.1 Water Use Overview

Water use within Mesa Water's service area has been relatively stable in the past decade with an annual average of 18,129 AF. The potable and non-potable water use accounts for an average of 94% and 6% of total Mesa Water water use, respectively. In FY2019-20, Mesa Water's water use was 16,118 AF of potable water (groundwater) and 959 AF of direct recycled water for landscape irrigation. In FY2019-20, Mesa Water's potable water use profile was comprised of 60.9% residential use, 24.1% commercial, industrial, and institutional (CII) use, and 9.6% large landscape/irrigation, with non-revenue water (NRW) and other uses comprising about 5.3%. As described in Section 3, while Mesa Water's service area is almost completely built-out there is a trending of high density development projects that are ongoing or in the planning phase. These projects will add small to moderate population increases. Potable water demand is likely to increase 1.5% over the next 5 years. In the longer term, potable water demand is projected to increase ~20.8% from 2025 through 2045. Overall water usage is expected to increase 22.1% by 2045 (as compared to 2020 actuals). The projected water use for 2045 is 19,751 AF for potable water and 1,100 AF for recycled water. The passive savings are anticipated to continue for the next 25 years and are considered in the water use projections. Permanent water conservation requirements and water conservation strategies are discussed in Section 8 and 9 of this document.

4.2 Past and Current Water Use

Water use within Mesa Water's service area has been relatively stable in the past decade with an annual average of 18,129 AF. Mesa Water's service area is almost completely built-out there is a trending of high density development projects that are ongoing or in the planning phase. These projects will add small to moderate population increases.

As a result of Governor Jerry Brown's mandatory water conservation order in 2014, Mesa Water's water use in the last five years decreased below the 10-year average. Between FY 2015-16 and FY 2019-20, water use within Mesa Water's service area ranged from 16,218 to 17,077 acre-feet per year (AFY) (potable and non-potable combined). In the past decade, between FY 2010-11 and FY 2019-20, potable and non-potable water use accounts for an average of 94% and 6% of total Mesa Water water use, respectively. Potable water uses include demands from residential, CII, and large landscape irrigation. Non-potable use includes the use of recycled water for large landscape and golf course irrigation.

As of FY 2019-20 there are 25,032 active service connections in Mesa Water's water distribution system. Of these, 43 are recycled water accounts. Table 4-1 summarizes Mesa Water's total water demand for potable and non-potable water for FY 2019-20. Mesa Water has a mix of commercial uses (markets, restaurants, etc.), public entities (schools, fire stations and government offices), industrial uses and office complexes. Single and multi-family residential water demand combined accounts for 60.9% of the total water demand. Commercial use, governmental/institutional, and industrial account for 16.9%, 5.6%, and 1.6% of total demand, respectively. Large landscape (irrigation) accounts for 9.6% of total demand.

Table 4-1 Retail: Demands for Potable and Non-Potable Water – Actual

DWR Submittal Table 4-1 Retail: Demands for Potable and Non-Potable Water - Actual			
Use Type	2020 Actual		
	Additional Description	Level of Treatment When Delivered	Volume
Single Family		Drinking Water	4,875
Multi-Family		Drinking Water	4,942
Commercial		Drinking Water	2,731
Industrial		Drinking Water	257
Institutional/Governmental		Drinking Water	904
Landscape		Drinking Water	1,549
Losses	Non-revenue water	Drinking Water	844
Other	Private Fire lines (flushing), Hydrant Meter (Construction)	Drinking Water	15
TOTAL			16,118
NOTES: Volumes reported in AF. This table only represents potable water; recycled water projections are shown in DWR Tables 4-3 and 6-4.			

4.3 Water Use Projections

A key component of this 2020 UWMP is to provide an insight into Mesa Water’s future water demand outlook. This section discusses the considerations and methodology used to estimate the 25-year water use projection. Overall, total water demand is projected to increase 22.1% between 2020 and 2045. The percentage of water used by each use-type category is projected to remain fairly consistent over time (as a percentage of total demand).

4.3.1 Water Use Projection Methodology

In 2021, MWDOC and OCWD, in collaboration with their member agencies, led the effort to update water demand projections originally done as part of the 2021 OC Water Demand Forecast for MWDOC and OCWD. The updated demand projections, prepared by CDM Smith, were for the Orange County region as a whole, and provided retail agency specific demands. The projections span the years of 2025-2050 and are based upon information surveyed from each Orange County water agency.

The forecast methodology began with a retail water agency survey that asked for FY 2017-18, FY 2018-19 and FY 2019-20 water use by major sector, including number of accounts. If a member agency provided recycled water to customers that information was also requested. Given that FY 2017-18 was a

slightly above-normal demand year (warmer/drier than average) and FY 2018-19 was a slightly below-normal demand year (cooler/wetter than average), water use from these two years were averaged to represent an average-year base water demand.

For the residential sectors (single-family and multifamily) the base year water demand was divided by households in order to get a total per unit water use (gallons per home per day). In order to split household water use into indoor and outdoor uses, three sources of information were used, along with CDM Smith's expertise. The sources of information included: (1) *the Residential End Uses of Water* (Water Research Foundation, 2016); (2) California's plumbing codes and landscape ordinances; and (3) CA DWR's Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance (MWELo) calculator.

Three different periods of residential end uses of water were analyzed as follows:

- **Pre-2010 efficiency levels** – Has an average indoor water use that is considered to be moderately efficient, also does not include the most recent requirements for MWELo.
- **High-efficiency levels** – Includes the most recent plumbing codes that are considered to be highly efficient, and also includes the most recent requirements for MWELo.
- **Current average efficiency levels** – Represents the weighted average between pre-2010 efficiency and high efficiency levels, based on average age of homes for each retail water agency.

For outdoor residential water use, the indoor per capita total was multiplied by each member agency-specific persons per household in order to get an indoor residential household water use (gallons per day per home), and then was subtracted from the base year total household water use for single-family and multifamily for each agency based on actual water use as reported by the agency surveys.

For existing residential homes, the current average indoor and outdoor water use for each member agency were used for the year 2020. It was assumed that indoor water uses would reach the high efficiency level by 2040. Based on current age of homes, replacement/remodeling rates, and water utility rebate programs it is believed this assumption is very achievable. It was also assumed that current outdoor water use would be reduced by 5% by 2050.

For new homes, the indoor high efficiency level was assumed for the years 2025 through 2050. Outdoor uses for new homes were assumed to be 25% and 30% lower than current household water use for single-family and multifamily homes, respectively. This methodology is illustrated in Figure 4-1 below.

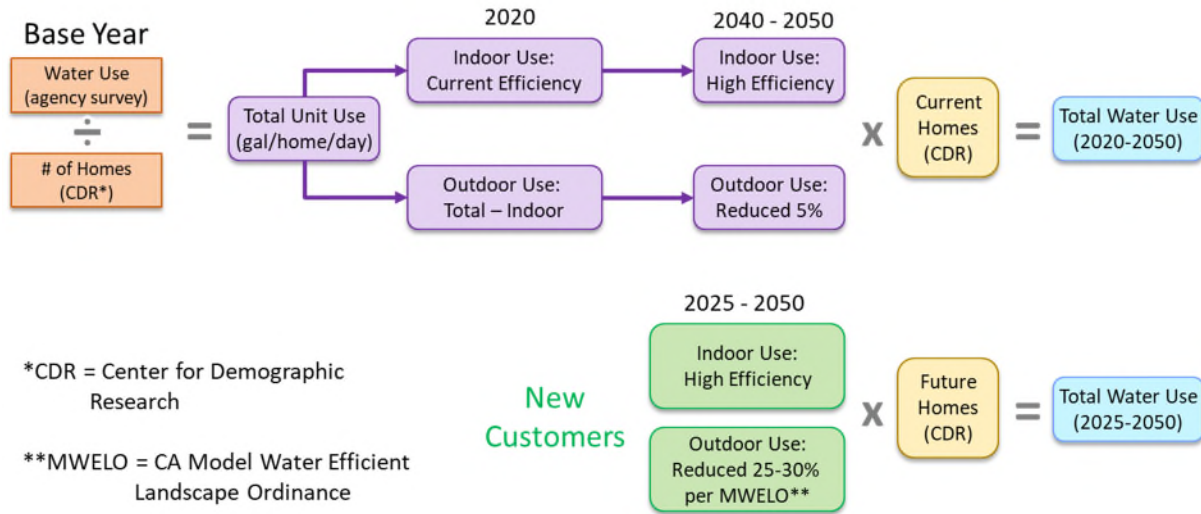


Figure 4-1: Water Use Projection Methodology Diagram

Existing and projected population, single-family and multifamily households for each retail water agency were provided by CDR under contract by MWDOC and OCWD. CDR provides historical and future demographics by census tracts for all of Orange County (Section 3.4). Census tract data is then clipped to retail water agency service boundaries in order to produce historical and projected demographic data by agency.

For the CII water demands, which have been fairly stable from a unit use perspective (gallons/account/day), it was assumed that the unit demand in FY 2019-20 would remain the same from 2020-2025 to represent COVID-19 impacts. Reviewing agency water use data from FY 2017-18 through FY2019-20 revealed that residential water use increased slightly in FY 2019-20 while CII demands decreased slightly as a result of COVID-19. From 2030 to 2050, the average CII unit use from FY 2017-18 and 2018-19 was used. These unit use factors were then multiplied by an assumed growth of CII accounts under three broad scenarios:

- Low Scenario – assuming no growth in CII accounts
- Mid Scenario – assuming 0.5% annual growth in CII accounts
- High Scenario – assuming 1.5% annual growth in CII accounts

For most retail agencies, the Mid Scenario of CII account growth was used, but for those retail agencies that have had faster historical growth the High Scenario was used. For those retail agencies that have had relatively stable CII water demand, the Low Scenario was used. For Mesa Water, the mid scenario was used.

For those agencies that supply recycled water for non-potable demands, MWDOC used agency-specified growth assumptions. Most agencies have already maximized their recycled water and thus are not expecting for this category of demand to grow. However, a few agencies in South Orange County do expect moderate growth in recycled water customers.

For large landscape customers served currently by potable water use, MWDOC assumed these demands to be constant through 2050, except for agencies that have growing recycled water demands. For the agencies that have growing recycled water demands, large landscape demands served by potable water reduced accordingly. For non-revenue water, which represents the difference in total water production less all water billed to customers, this percentage was held constant through 2050. Note that 2050 data was not presented in the UWMP.

A member agency's water use demand projection is the summation of their residential water demand, CII demands, large landscape and recycled water demands, and water losses all projected over the 25-year time horizon. These demands were provided to each of the Orange County water agencies for their review, feedback, and revision before being finalized.

The MWDOC regional water demand projection was collaboratively developed between MWDOC and its member agencies. MWDOC's projections were built upon the same model developed by CDM Smith, and took into consideration specific assumptions and projections provided to MWDOC by its member agencies.

4.3.1.1 Weather Variability and Long-Term Climate Change Impacts

In any given year water demands can vary substantially due to weather. In addition, long-term climate change can have an impact on water demands into the future. For the 2014 OC Water Reliability Study, CDM Smith developed a statistical model of total water monthly production from 1990 to 2014 from a sample of retail water agencies. This model removed impacts from population growth, the economy and drought restrictions in order to estimate the impact on water use from temperature and precipitation.

The results of this statistical analysis are:

- Hot/dry weather demands will be 5.5% greater than current average weather demands
- Cooler/wet weather demands will be 6% lower than current average weather demands
- Climate change impacts will increase current average weather demands by:
 - 2% in 2030
 - 4% in 2040
 - 6% in 2050

4.3.2 25-Year Water Use Projection

The projected demand values were provided by MWDOC and reviewed by Mesa Water as part of the UWMP effort. As the regional wholesale supplier for much of Orange County, MWDOC works in collaboration with each of its retail agencies as well as MET, its wholesaler, to develop demand projections for imported water. Mesa Water has eliminated its reliance on imported water by pursuing local water supply projects that provide 100% local reliability.

4.3.2.1 Water Use Projections for 2021-2025

The water use projection for normal year conditions without drought for 2021-2025 is presented in Table 4-2. This table will be adjusted to estimate the five-years' cumulative drought effects as described in the

five-year DRA in Section 7. A linear increase in total water demand is expected between 2021 and 2025. Total water demand is expected to be 17,454 AF in 2025 (a 2.2% increase from 2020 actual usage).

Table 4-2: Water Use Projections for 2021 to 2025

Retail: Total Water Demand					
Fiscal Year Ending	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Total Water Demand (AF)	17,152	17,228	17,303	17,379	17,454
NOTES:					

4.3.2.2 Water Use Projections for 2025-2045

Table 4-3 is a projection of Mesa Water’s water demand for the next 25 years. The percentage of potable water used by each use type category (Table 4-3) remains largely consistent between 2025 and 2045. CII projections for 2025 through 2045 were broken down into commercial, industrial, and institutional/governmental using proportions reported for each billing sector in FY 2019-20. The volume of demand for non-potable recycled water usage is projected to remain consistent at 1,100 AF between 2025 and 2045 (Table 4-4).

The demand data presented in this section accounts for passive savings in the future. Passive savings are water savings as a result of codes, standards, ordinances and public outreach on water conservation and higher efficiency fixtures. Passive savings are anticipated to continue for the next 25 years and will result in continued water saving and reduced consumption levels. Permanent water conservation requirements and water conservation strategies are discussed in Section 8 and 9 of this document.

Table 4-3: Retail: Use for Potable and Non-Potable Water - Projected

DWR Submittal Table 4-2 Retail: Use for Potable and Non-Potable Water - Projected						
Use Type	Additional Description	Projected Water Use				
		2025	2030	2035	2040	2045
Single Family		5,154	5,554	5,854	5,953	6,084
Multi-Family		5,139	5,648	6,061	6,301	6,645
Institutional/Governmental		871	1,027	1,074	1,084	1,064
Commercial		2,632	3,102	3,244	3,275	3,213
Industrial		248	292	305	308	303
Landscape		1,563	1,564	1,595	1,571	1,541
Losses		746	822	867	884	901
TOTAL		16,354	18,009	19,001	19,376	19,751
NOTES: Volumes reported in AF. This table only represents potable water; recycled water projections are shown in DWR Tables 4-3 and 6-4.						

Based on the information provided above, the total demand for potable water is listed below in Table 4-4. Mesa Water currently provides recycled water in its service area and is projected to grow its use.

Table 4-4 Retail: Total Water Use (Potable and Non-Potable)

DWR Submittal Table 4-3 Retail: Total Gross Water Use (Potable and Non-Potable)						
	2020	2025	2030	2035	2040	2045
Potable Water, Raw, Other Non-potable	16,118	16,354	18,009	19,001	19,376	19,751
Recycled Water Demand	959	1,100	1,100	1,100	1,100	1,100
TOTAL WATER USE	17,077	17,454	19,109	20,101	20,476	20,851
NOTES: Volumes in AF.						

Future water savings and low-income water use are included in these projected values (Table 4-5).

Table 4-5: Retail Only: Inclusion in Water Use Projections

DWR Submittal Table 4-5 Retail Only: Inclusion in Water Use Projections	
Are Future Water Savings Included in Projections? (Refer to Appendix K of UWMP Guidebook)	Yes
If "Yes" to above, state the section or page number, in the cell to the right, where citations of the codes, ordinances, or otherwise are utilized in demand projections are found.	Section 8 and 9
Are Lower Income Residential Demands Included in Projections?	Yes
NOTES:	

4.3.2.3 Water Use Projections for Lower Income Households

Since 2010, the UWMP Act has required retail water suppliers to include water use projections for single-family and multi-family residential housing for lower income and affordable households. This will assist Mesa Water in complying with the requirement under Government Code Section 65589.7 granting priority for providing water service to lower income households. A lower income household is defined as a household earning below 80% of the MHI.

DWR recommends retail suppliers rely on the housing elements of city or county general plans to quantify planned lower income housing within their service areas (DWR, 2020). RHNA assists jurisdictions in

updating general plan's housing elements section. The RHNA identifies additional housing needs and assesses households by income level for the District through 2010 decennial Census and 2005-2009 American Community Survey data. The sixth cycle of the RHNA covers the planning period of October 2021 to October 2029. The SCAG adopted the RHNA Allocation Plan for this cycle on March 4, 2021. The California Department of Housing and Community Development reviewed the housing elements data submitted by jurisdictions in the SCAG region and concluded the data meets statutory requirements for the assessment of current housing needs.

Under the assumption that the RHNA household allocations adequately represent ratios of the District's overall future income categories (not the exact ratio of all household by income but a conservative one for low-income household estimates), the RHNA low-income percentage can be used to estimate future low income demands. One objective of RHNA is to increase affordable housing, therefore RHNA has been allocating additional low-income households to various regions. Because relying on the RHNA distribution of households by income category is likely to produce an overestimate of low-income water demands, this approach represents a conservative projection of future low-income water use.

Table 4- presents the RHNA housing allocation for the City of Costa Mesa. RHNA classifies low income housing into two categories: very low income (<30% - 50% MHI), and low income (51% - 80% MHI). Altogether 40.1% of the Cosa Mesa's allocated housing need for the planning period of October 2021 to October 2029 are considered low-income housing (SCAG, 2021).

Table 4-6: SCAG 6th Cycle Household Allocation Based on Median Household Income

Household Category by Income	Number of Households	% of Total Allocated Households
Very Low Income	2,919	24.8%
Low Income	1,794	15.3%
Moderate Income	2,088	17.8%
Above Moderate Income	4,959	42.2%
<i>Total Future Allocated Households</i>	11,760	100.0%

By applying the percentage of low-income housing from the SCAG report to the total projected SF/MF residential demand calculated in Table 4-3 above, low-income demand can be conservatively estimated for both SF and MF through 2045. For example, the total low-income single family residential demand is projected to be 2,408 AF in 2025 and 2,843 AF in 2045 (Table 4-7).

Table 4-7: Projected Water Use for Low Income Households (AF)

Water Use Sector	FY Ending				
	2025	2030	2035	2040	2045
Total Residential Demand (AF)	10,293	11,202	11,916	12,254	12,729
Single-Family Residential Demand - Low Income Households (AF)	2,408	2,595	2,735	2,781	2,843
Multi-Family Residential Demand - Low Income Households (AF)	2401	2639	2832	2944	3105
Total Low Income Households Demand (AF)	4,809	5,234	5,567	5,725	5,948

4.4 Water Loss

Mesa Water has conducted annual water loss audit since 2015 per the American Water Works Association (AWWA) methodology per SB 555 to understand the relationship between water loss, operating costs, and revenue losses. NRW for FY 2015/16- FY 2019/20 (Figure 4-2) consists of three components: real losses (e.g., leakage in mains and service lines, and storage tank overflows), apparent losses (unauthorized consumption, customer metering inaccuracies and systematic data handling errors), and unbilled water (e.g., hydrant flushing, firefighting, and blow-off water from well start-ups). Mesa Water’s real losses ranged from 343 AFY (reported water supplied was 15,822 AF in FY 2018/19, real losses comprised 2.2% of production) to 961 AFY (reported water supplied was 15,297 AF in FY 2015-2016, real losses comprised 6.3% of production) and apparent losses ranged from 238 AFY to 383 AFY in the last five years. The unbilled water ranged from 54 AFY to 260 AFY in the same timeframe.

In the latest water loss audit (FY 2019/20), Mesa Water’s total water loss was 741 AFY (Table 4-8), compared to a reported total water supplied of 15,835 AF in FY2019/20. The total water loss consists of real loss of 358 AFY and apparent loss of 383 AFY in FY 2019/20. The NRW was 844 AFY. The active and inactive service connections were relatively consistent in the last five years with 25,013 connections in FY 2019/20. The real loss performance indicator in FY 2019/20 is 13 gal/connection/day. Figure 4-3 presents the performance indicators of gallons of real and apparent loss per connection per day. Understanding and controlling water loss from a distribution system is an effective way for Mesa Water to achieve regulatory standards and manage their existing resources. The California State Water Resources Control Board is still developing water loss performance standards; these standards have not yet been adopted.

Table 4-8: Retail: Last Five Years of Water Loss Audit Reporting

DWR Submittal Table 4-4 Retail: Last Five Years of Water Loss Audit Reporting	
Reporting Period Start Date (mm/yyyy)	Volume of Water Loss ^{1,2}
07/2015	1,278
07/2016	892
07/2017	803
07/2018	701
07/2019	741
NOTES: Water loss in AFY.	

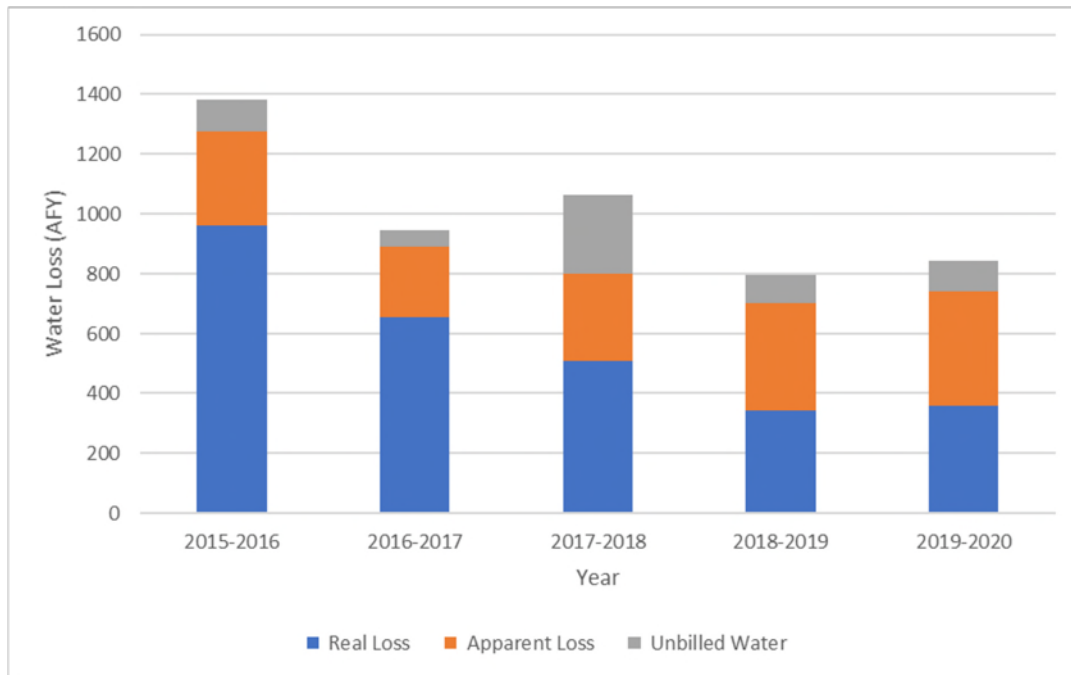


Figure 4-2: Water Loss Audit for FY 2015/16 through FY 2019/20

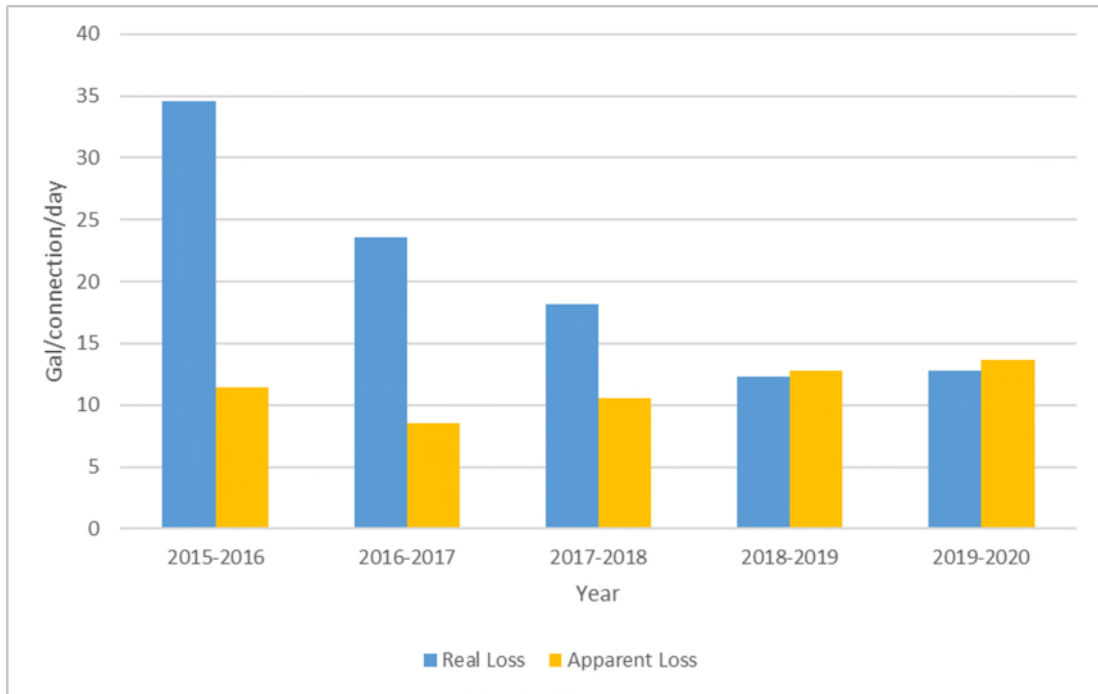


Figure 4-3: Water Loss Performance Indicators for FY 2015-16- FY 2019-20

5 CONSERVATION TARGET COMPLIANCE

The Water Conservation Act of 2009, also known as SBx7-7 (Senate Bill 7 as part of the Seventh Extraordinary Session), signed into law on February 3, 2010, requires the State of California to reduce urban water use by 20% by the year 2020 (20x2020). To achieve this each retail urban water supplier must determine baseline water use during their baseline period and target water use for the years 2015 and 2020 to meet the state's water reduction goal. Retail water suppliers are required to comply with SBx7-7 individually or as a region in collaboration with other retail water suppliers, or demonstrate they have a plan or have secured funding to be in compliance, in order to be eligible for water related state grants and loans on or after July 16, 2016.

The Mesa Water's actual 2020 water use is lower than its 2020 water use target, therefore, demonstrating compliance with SBx7-7. In its 2015 UWMP, the Mesa Water revised its baseline per capita water use calculations using 2010 U.S. Census data. Changes in the baseline calculations resulted in updated per capita water use targets.

The following sections describe the efforts by the Mesa Water to comply with the requirements of SBx7-7 and efforts by MWDOC to assist retail agencies, including the formation of a Regional Alliance to provide additional flexibility to all water suppliers in Orange County. A discussion of programs implemented to support retail agencies in achieving their per capita water reduction goals is covered in Section 9 – Demand Management Measures of this UWMP.

Complimentary to information presented in this section are SBx7-7 Verification and Compliance Forms, a set of standardized tables required by DWR to demonstrate compliance with the Water Conservation Act in this 2020 UWMP (Appendix D) including calculations of recycled water used for groundwater recharge (indirect reuse) to offset a portion of the agency's potable demand when meeting the regional as well as individual water use targets.

5.1 Baseline Water Use

The baseline water use is the Mesa Water's gross water use divided by its service area population, reported in GPCD. Gross water use is a measure of water that enters the distribution system of the supplier over a 12-month period with certain allowable exclusions. These exclusions are:

- Recycled water delivered within the service area
- Indirect recycled water
- Water placed in long term storage
- Water conveyed to another urban supplier
- Water delivered for agricultural use
- Process water

Water suppliers within the OCWD Groundwater Basin, including the Mesa Water, have the option of choosing to deduct recycled water used for indirect potable reuse (IPR) from their gross water use to account for the recharge of recycled water into the OC Basin by OCWD, historically through Water Factory 21 (WF-21), and now by the GWRS.

Water suppliers must report baseline water use for two baseline periods, the 10- to 15-year baseline (baseline GPCD) and the five-year baseline (target confirmation) as described below.

5.1.1 Ten to 15-Year Baseline Period (Baseline GPCD)

The first step to calculating Mesa Water's water use targets is to determine its base daily per capita water use (baseline water use). The baseline water use is calculated as a continuous (rolling) 10-year average during a period, which ends no earlier than December 31, 2004 and no later than December 31, 2010. Water suppliers whose recycled water made up 10% or more of their 2008 retail water delivery can use up to a 15-year average for the calculation. Recycled water use was less than 10% of Mesa Water retail delivery in 2008; therefore, a 10-year baseline period is used.

The Mesa Water's baseline water use is 179 GPCD, obtained from the 10-year period July 1, 1995 to June 30, 2005.

5.1.2 Five-Year Baseline Period (Target Confirmation)

Water suppliers are required to calculate water use, in GPCD, for a five-year baseline period. This number is used to confirm that the selected 2020 target meets the minimum water use reduction requirements. Regardless of the compliance option adopted by Mesa Water, it will need to meet a minimum water use target of 5% reduction from the five-year baseline water use. This five-year baseline water use is calculated as a continuous five-year average during a period, which ends no earlier than December 31, 2007 and no later than December 31, 2010. Mesa Water's five-year baseline water use is 174 GPCD, obtained from the five-year period July 1, 2003 to June 30, 2008.

5.1.3 Service Area Population

Mesa Water's service area boundaries correspond with the boundaries for a city or census designated place. This allows Mesa Water to use service area population estimates prepared by the DOF. CDR is the entity which compiles population data for Orange County based on DOF data. The calculation of Mesa Water's baseline water use and water use targets in the 2010 UWMP was based on the 2000 U.S. Census population numbers obtained from CDR. The baseline water use and water use targets in the 2015 UWMP were revised based on the 2010 U.S. Census population obtained from CDR in 2012. The population numbers and baseline water use (both 10- and 5-year baselines) were revised again in this 2020 UWMP per CDR's most recently adjusted population numbers for 2001 onward.

5.2 SBx7-7 Water Use Targets

In the 2020 UWMP, Mesa Water may update its 2020 water use target by selecting a different target method than what was used previously. The target methods and determination of the 2020 targets are described below. Based on the revised baseline water use in 2020, Mesa Water selected Option 1, consistent with 2015.

5.2.1 SBx7-7 Target Methods

DWR has established four target calculation methods for urban retail water suppliers to choose from. Mesa Water is required to adopt one of the four options to comply with SBx7-7 requirements.

The four options include:

- *Option 1* requires a simple 20% reduction from the baseline by 2020 and 10% by 2015.
- *Option 2* employs a budget-based approach by requiring an agency to achieve a performance standard based on three metrics
 - Residential indoor water use of 55 GPCD
 - Landscape water use commensurate with the Model Landscape Ordinance
 - 10% reduction in baseline CII water use
- *Option 3* is to achieve 95% of the applicable state hydrologic region target as set forth in the State’s 2020 Water Conservation Plan.
- *Option 4* requires the subtraction of Total Savings from the baseline GPCD:
 - Total savings includes indoor residential savings, meter savings, CII savings, and landscape and water loss savings.

With MWDOC’s assistance in the calculation of Mesa Water’s base daily per capita use and water use targets, Mesa Water selected to comply with Option 1.

5.2.2 2020 Targets and Compliance

Under Compliance Option 1, the simple 20% reduction, Mesa Water’s 2020 target is 143 GPCD as summarized in Table 5-1. In addition, the confirmed 2020 target needs to meet a minimum of 5% reduction from the five-year baseline water use.

Table 5-1: Baselines and Targets Summary

DWR Submittal Table 5-1 Baselines and Targets Summary From SB X7-7 Verification Form				
Baseline Period	Start Year *	End Year *	Average Baseline GPCD*	Confirmed 2020 Target*
10-15 year	1996	2005	179	143
5 Year	2004	2008	174	
*All cells in this table should be populated manually from the supplier's SBX7-7 Verification Form and reported in Gallons per Capita per Day (GPCD)				
NOTES:				

Mesa Water's actual 2020 consumption is 85 GPCD which is below its 2020 target of 143 GPCD (Table 5-2). Mesa Water met its 2020 water use target and is in compliance with SBx7-7.

Table 5-2: 2020 Compliance

DWR Submittal Table 5-2: 2020 Compliance From SB X7-7 2020 Compliance Form				
2020 GPCD			2020 Confirmed Target GPCD*	Did Supplier Achieve Targeted Reduction for 2020?
Actual 2020 GPCD*	2020 TOTAL Adjustments*	Adjusted 2020 GPCD*		
85	0	85	143	Y
<i>*All cells in this table should be populated manually from the supplier's SBX7-7 2020 Compliance Form and reported in Gallons per Capita per Day (GPCD)</i>				
NOTES:				

5.3 Orange County 20x2020 Regional Alliance

A retail supplier may choose to meet the SBx7-7 targets on its own or it may form a regional alliance with other retail suppliers to meet the water use target as a region. Within a Regional Alliance, each retail water supplier will have an additional opportunity to achieve compliance under both an individual target and a regional target.

- If the Regional Alliance meets its water use target on a regional basis, all agencies in the alliance are deemed compliant.
- If the Regional Alliance fails to meet its water use target, each individual supplier will have an opportunity to meet their water use targets individually.

Mesa Water is a member of the Orange County 20x2020 Regional Alliance formed by MWDOC, its wholesaler. This regional alliance consists of 29 retail agencies in Orange County as described in MWDOC's 2020 UWMP. MWDOC provides assistance in the calculation of each retail agency's baseline water use and water use targets.

In 2015, the regional baseline and targets were revised to account for any revisions made by the retail agencies to their individual 2015 and 2020 targets. The regional water use target is the weighted average of the individual retail agencies' targets (by population). The Orange County 20x2020 Regional Alliance weighted 2020 target is 159 GPCD. The actual 2020 water use in the region is 109 GPCD, i.e., the region met its 2020 GPCD goal.

6 WATER SUPPLY CHARACTERIZATION

As a counterpart to Section 4's Water Use Characterization, this section characterizes Mesa Water's water supply. This section includes identification and quantification of water supply sources through 2045, descriptions of each water supply source and their management, opportunities for exchanges and transfers, and discussion regarding any planned future water supply projects. This section also includes the energy intensity of the water service, a new UWMP requirement.

6.1 Water Supply Overview

Mesa Water meets all water demands through a combination of local groundwater, recycled water and, if needed, imported water. Mesa Water works together with two primary agencies, MWDOC and OCWD, to ensure a safe and reliable water supply that will continue to serve the community in periods of drought and shortage. The sources of imported water supplies include water from the Colorado River and the SWP provided by MET and delivered through MWDOC.

Mesa Water's main source of water supply is groundwater from the OC Basin. Recycled water makes up the rest of the Mesa Water's water supply portfolio. In FY 2019-20, Mesa Water used 100% local water supplies, relying on 94% groundwater and 6% recycled water (Table 6-1). Although available as supplemental supply, imported water has not been relied on by Mesa Water since FY 2017-18.

Looking ahead to 2045, Mesa Water will continue to be 100% reliable on local supplies, instead of imported water. The projected 2045 water supply portfolio is 95% groundwater and 5% recycled water (Table 6-2 and Figure 6-1). Note that these representations of supply match the projected demand. However, though not expected, Mesa Water can purchase MET water through MWDOC should the need arise. Additionally, GWRS supplies are included as part of groundwater pumping numbers.

The following subsections provide a detailed discussion of Mesa Water's water sources as well as the future water supply portfolio for the next 25 years.

Table 6-1: Retail: Water Supplies – Actual

DWR Submittal Table 6-8 Retail: Water Supplies — Actual			
Water Supply	Additional Detail on Water Supply	2020	
		Actual Volume (AF)	Water Quality
Groundwater (not desalinated)	Orange County Groundwater Basin	16,118	Drinking Water
Recycled Water	OCWD	959	Recycled Water
Total		17,077	
<p>NOTES: Source - Mesa Water, 2021 Groundwater volumes include groundwater pumped from both clear wells and MWRF amber wells.</p>			

Table 6-2: Retail: Water Supplies – Projected

DWR Submittal Table 6-9 Retail: Water Supplies — Projected						
Water Supply	Additional Detail on Water Supply	Projected Water Supply (AF)				
		2025	2030	2035	2040	2045
		Reasonably Available Volume	Reasonably Available Volume	Reasonably Available Volume	Reasonably Available Volume	Reasonably Available Volume
Groundwater (not desalinated)	Orange County Groundwater Basin	16,354	18,009	19,001	19,376	19,751
Recycled Water	OCWD	1,100	1,100	1,100	1,100	1,100
Total		17,454	19,109	20,101	20,476	20,851
<p>NOTES:</p> <p>Source - CDM Smith, 2021 and Mesa Water, 2021 (recycled water)</p> <p>Groundwater volumes include groundwater pumped from both clear wells and MWRf amber wells. Mesa Water is 100% reliable on local water supply and potable water from the OC Basin, but volumes of groundwater may vary depending on OCWD's actual BPP projections, which are established annually.</p>						

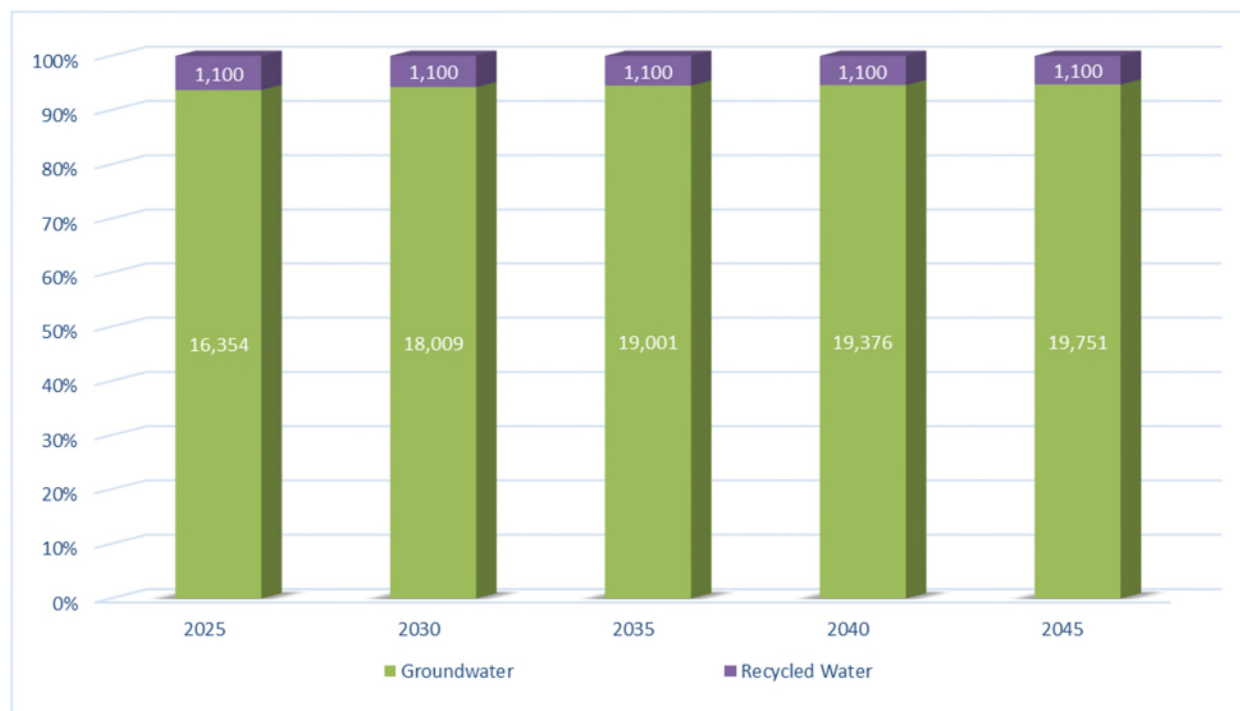


Figure 6-1: Mesa Water’s Projected Water Supply Sources (AF)

6.2 Imported Water

In FY 2019-20, Mesa Water distributed 100% local water supplies, and zero percent of its water supply portfolio was attributed to imported water from MET / MWDOC. In fact, Mesa Water has not imported water since FY 2017-18. Although Mesa Water has the ability to supplement its local groundwater and recycled water supplies with imported water, this is not expected to be necessary through the next 25 years. Instead, Mesa Water is projected to continue meeting its future demands using 100% local water supplies through 2045 due to its proactive investments towards local water sources.

MET’s principal sources of water are the Colorado River via the CRA and the Lake Oroville watershed in Northern California through the SWP. For Orange County, the water obtained from these sources is treated at the Robert B. Diemer Filtration Plant located in Yorba Linda. Typically, the Diemer Filtration Plant receives a blend of Colorado River water from Lake Mathews through the MET Lower Feeder and SWP water through the Yorba Linda Feeder.

6.2.1 Colorado River Supplies

Background

The Colorado River was MET’s original source of water after MET’s establishment in 1928. The CRA, which is owned and operated by MET, transports water from the Colorado River to its terminus Lake Mathews, in Riverside County. The actual amount of water per year that may be conveyed through the CRA to MET’s member agencies is subject to the availability of Colorado River water. Approximately

40 million people rely on the Colorado River and its tributaries for water with 5.5 million acres of land using Colorado River water for irrigation. The CRA includes supplies from the implementation of the Quantification Settlement Agreement and its related agreements to transfer water from agricultural agencies to urban uses. The 2003 Quantification Settlement Agreement enabled California to implement major Colorado River water conservation and transfer programs, in order to stabilize water supplies and reduce the state's demand on the river to its 4.4 million acre-feet (AF) entitlement. Colorado River transactions are potentially available to supply additional water up to the CRA capacity of 1.25 million AF on an as-needed basis. Water from the Colorado River or its tributaries is available to users in California, Arizona, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, Wyoming, and Mexico. California is apportioned the use of 4.4 million AF of water from the Colorado River each year plus one-half of any surplus that may be available for use collectively in Arizona, California, and Nevada. In addition, California has historically been allowed to use Colorado River water apportioned to, but not used by, Arizona or Nevada. MET has a basic entitlement of 550,000 AFY of Colorado River water, plus surplus water up to an additional 662,000 AFY when the following conditions exist (MET, 2021):

- Water is unused by the California holders of priorities 1 through 3
- Water is saved by the Palo Verde land management, crop rotation, and water supply program
- When the U.S. Secretary of the Interior makes available either one or both of the following:
 - Surplus water
 - Colorado River water that is apportioned to but unused by Arizona and/or Nevada.

Current Conditions and Supply

MET has not received surplus water for a number of years. The Colorado River supply faces current and future imbalances between water supply and demand in the Colorado River Basin due to long-term drought conditions. Analysis of historical records suggests a potential change in the relationship between precipitation and runoff in the Colorado River Basin. The past 21 years (1999-2020) have seen an overall drying trend, even though the period included several wet or average years. The river basin has substantial storage capacity, but the significant reduction in system reservoir storage in the last two decades is great enough to consider the period a drought (DWR, 2020a). At the close of 2020, system storage was at or near its lowest since 2000, so there is very little buffer to avoid a shortage from any future period of reduced precipitation and runoff (MET, 2021). Looking ahead, the long-term imbalance in the Colorado River Basin's future supply and demand is projected to be approximately 3.2 million AF by the year 2060 (USBR, 2012).

Over the years, MET has helped fund and implement various programs to improve Colorado River supply reliability and help resolve the imbalance between supply and demand. Implementation of such programs have contributed to achievements like achieving a record low diversion of the Colorado River in 2019, a level not seen since the 1950s. Colorado River water management programs include:

- **Imperial Irrigation District / MET Conservation Program** – Under agreements executed in 1988 and 1989, this program allows MET to fund water efficiency improvements within Imperial Irrigation District's service area in return for the right to divert the water conserved by those investments. An average of 105,000 AFY of water has been conserved since the program's implementation.

- **Palo Verde Land Management, Crop Rotation, and Water Supply Program** – Authorized in 2004, this 35-year program allows MET to pay participating farmers to reduce their water use, and for MET to receive the saved water. Over the life of the program, an average of 84,500 AFY has been saved and made available to MET.
- **Bard Seasonal Fallowing Program** – Authorized in 2019, this program allows MET to pay participating farmers in Bard to reduce their water use between the late spring and summer months of selected years, which provides up to 6,000 AF of water to be available to MET in certain years.
- **Management of MET-Owned Land in Palo Verde** – Since 2001, MET has acquired approximately 21,000 acres of irrigable farmland that are leased to growers, with incentives to grow low water-using crops and experiment with low water-consumption practices. If long-term water savings are realized, MET may explore ways to formally account them for Colorado River supplies.
- **Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA) and MET Storage and Interstate Release Agreement** – Entered in 2004, this agreement allows SNWA to store its unused, conserved water with MET, in exchange for MET to receive additional Colorado River water supply. MET has relied on the additional water during dry years, especially during the 2011-2016 California drought, and SNWA is not expected to call upon MET to return water until after 2026.
- **Lower Colorado Water Supply Projects** – Authorized in 1980s, this project provides up to 10,000 AFY of water to certain entities that do not have or have insufficient rights to use Colorado River water. A contract executed in 2007 allowed MET to receive project water left unused by the project contractors along the River – nearly 10,000 AF was received by MET in 2019 and is estimated for 2020.
- **Exchange Programs** – MET is involved in separate exchange programs with the United States Bureau of Reclamation, which takes place at the Colorado River Intake and with San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA), which exchanges conserved Colorado River water.
- **Lake Mead Storage Program** – Executed in 2006, this program allows MET to leave excessively conserved water in Lake Mead, for exclusive use by MET in later years.
- **Quagga Mussel Control Program** – Developed in 2007, this program introduced surveillance activities and control measures to combat quagga mussels, an invasive species that impact the Colorado River’s water quality.
- **Lower Basin Drought Contingency Plan** – Signed in 2019, this agreement incentivizes storage in Lake Mead through 2026 and overall, it increases MET’s flexibility to fill the CRA as needed (MET, 2021).

Future Programs / Plans

The Colorado River faces long-term challenges of water demands exceeding available supply with additional uncertainties due to climate change. Climate change impacts expected in the Colorado River Basin include the following:

- More frequent, more intense, and longer lasting droughts, which will result in water deficits.

- Continued dryness in the Colorado River Basin, which will increase the likelihood of triggering a first-ever shortage in the Lower Basin.
- Increased temperatures, which will affect the percentage of precipitation that falls as rain or snow, as well as the amount and timing of mountain snowpack (DWR, 2020b).
- Acknowledging the various uncertainties regarding reliability, MET plans to continue ongoing programs, such as those listed earlier in this section. Additionally, MET supports increasing water recycling in the Colorado River Basin and is in the process of developing additional transfer programs for the future (MET, 2021).

6.2.2 State Water Project Supplies

Background

The SWP consists of a series of pump stations, reservoirs, aqueducts, tunnels, and power plants operated by DWR and is an integral part of the effort to ensure that business and industry, urban and suburban residents, and farmers throughout much of California have sufficient water. Water from the SWP originates at Lake Oroville, which is located on the Feather River in Northern California. Much of the SWP water supply passes through the Delta. The SWP is the largest state-built, multipurpose, user-financed water project in the United States. Nearly two-thirds of residents in California receive at least part of their water from the SWP, with approximately 70% of SWP's contracted water supply going to urban users and 30% to agricultural users. The primary purpose of the SWP is to divert and store water during wet periods in Northern and Central California and distribute it to areas of need in Northern California, the San Francisco Bay area, the San Joaquin Valley, the Central Coast, and Southern California (MET, 2021).

The Delta is key to the SWP's ability to deliver water to its agricultural and urban contractors. All but five of the 29 SWP contractors receive water deliveries below the Delta (pumped via the Harvey O. Banks or Barker Slough pumping plants). However, the Delta faces many challenges concerning its long-term sustainability such as climate change posing a threat of increased variability in floods and droughts. Sea level rise complicates efforts in managing salinity levels and preserving water quality in the Delta to ensure a suitable water supply for urban and agricultural use. Furthermore, other challenges include continued subsidence of Delta islands, many of which are below sea level, and the related threat of a catastrophic levee failure as the water pressure increases, or as a result of a major seismic event.

Current Conditions and Supply

"Table A" water is the maximum entitlement of SWP water for each water contracting agency. Currently, the combined maximum Table A amount is 4.17 million acre-feet per year (AFY). Of this amount, 4.13 million AFY is the maximum Table A water available for delivery from the Delta. On average, deliveries are approximately 60% of the maximum Table A amount (DWR, 2020b).

SWP contractors may receive Article 21 water on a short-term basis in addition to Table A water if requested. Article 21 of SWP contracts allows contractors to receive additional water deliveries only under specific conditions, generally during wet months of the year (December through March). Because a SWP contractor must have an immediate use for Article 21 supply or a place to store it outside of the SWP, there are few contractors like MET that can access such supplies.

Carryover water is SWP water allocated to an SWP contractor and approved for delivery to the contractor in a given year, but not used by the end of the year. The unused water is stored in the SWP’s share of San Luis Reservoir, when space is available, for the contractor to use in the following year.

Turnback pool water is Table A water that has been allocated to SWP contractors that has exceeded their demands. This water can then be purchased by another contractor depending on its availability.

SWP Delta exports are the water supplies that are transferred directly to SWP contractors or to San Luis Reservoir storage south of the Delta via the Harvey O. Banks pumping plant. Estimated average annual Delta exports and SWP Table A water deliveries have generally decreased since 2005, when Delta export regulations affecting SWP pumping operations became more restrictive due to federal biological opinions (Biops). The Biops protect species listed as threatened or endangered under the federal and state Endangered Species Acts (ESAs) and affect the SWP’s water delivery capability because they restrict SWP exports in the Delta and include Delta outflow requirements during certain times of the year, thus reducing the available supply for export or storage.

Before being updated by the 2019 Long-Term Operations Plan, the prior 2008 and 2009 Biops resulted in an estimated reduction in SWP deliveries of 0.3 MAF during critically dry years to 1.3 MAF in above normal water years as compared to the previous baseline. However, the 2019 Long-Term Operations Plan and Biops are expected to increase SWP deliveries by an annual average of 20,000 AF as compared to the previous Biops (MET, 2021). Average Table A deliveries decreased in the 2019 SWP Final Delivery Capability Report compared to 2017, mainly due to the 2018 Coordinated Operation Agreement (COA) Addendum and the increase in the end of September storage target for Lake Oroville. Other factors that also affected deliveries included changes in regulations associated with the Incidental Take Permit (ITP) and the Reinitiation of Consultation for Long-Term Operations (RoC on LTO), a shift in Table A to Article 21 deliveries which occurred due to higher storage in SWP San Luis, and other operational updates to the SWP and federal Central Valley Project (CVP) (DWR, 2020b). Since 2005, there are similar decreasing trends for both the average annual Delta exports and the average annual Table A deliveries (Table 6-3).

Table 6-3: MET SWP Program Capabilities

Year	Average Annual Delta Exports (MAF)	Average Annual Table A Deliveries (MAF)
2005	2.96	2.82
2013	2.61	2.55
2019	2.52	2.41
Percent Change*	-14.8%	-14.3%

*Percent change is between the years 2019 and 2005.

Ongoing regulatory restrictions, such as those imposed by the Biops on the effects of SWP and the CVP operations on certain marine life, also contribute to the challenge of determining the SWP’s water delivery reliability. In dry, below-normal conditions, MET has increased the supplies delivered through the

California Aqueduct by developing flexible CVP/SWP storage and transfer programs. The goal of the storage/transfer programs is to develop additional dry-year supplies that can be conveyed through the available Harvey O. Banks pumping plant capacity to maximize deliveries through the California Aqueduct during dry hydrologic conditions and regulatory restrictions. In addition, California State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) has set water quality objectives that must be met by the SWP including minimum Delta outflows, limits on SWP and CVP Delta exports, and maximum allowable salinity level.

The following factors affect the ability to estimate existing and future water delivery reliability:

- **Water availability at the source:** Availability can be highly variable and depends on the amount and timing of rain and snow that fall in any given year. Generally, during a single-dry year or two, surface and groundwater storage can supply most water deliveries, but multiple-dry years can result in critically low water reserves. Fisheries issues can also restrict the operations of the export pumps even when water supplies are available.
- **Water rights with priority over the SWP:** Water users with prior water rights are assigned higher priority in DWR's modeling of the SWP's water delivery reliability, even ahead of SWP Table A water.
- **Climate change:** Mean temperatures are predicted to vary more significantly than previously expected. This change in climate is anticipated to bring warmer winter storms that result in less snowfall at lower elevations, reducing total snowpack. From historical data, DWR projects that by 2050, the Sierra snowpack will be reduced from its historical average by 25 to 40%. Increased precipitation as rain could result in a larger number of "rain-on-snow" events, causing snow to melt earlier in the year and over fewer days than historically, affecting the availability of water for pumping by the SWP during summer. Furthermore, water quality may be adversely affected due to the anticipated increase in wildfires. Rising sea levels may result in potential pumping cutbacks on the SWP and CVP.
- **Regulatory restrictions on SWP Delta exports:** The Biops protect special-status species such as delta smelt and spring- and winter-run Chinook salmon and imposed substantial constraints on Delta water supply operations through requirements for Delta inflow and outflow and export pumping restrictions. Restrictions on SWP operations imposed by state and federal agencies contribute substantially to the challenge of accurately determining the SWP's water delivery reliability in any given year (DWR, 2020b).
- **Ongoing environmental and policy planning efforts:** Governor Gavin Newsom ended California WaterFix in May 2019 and announced a new approach to modernize Delta Conveyance through a single tunnel alternative. The EcoRestore Program aims to restore at least 30,000 acres of Delta habitat, with the near-term goal of making significant strides toward that objective by 2020 (DWR, 2020b).
- **Delta levee failure:** The levees are vulnerable to failure because most original levees were simply built with soils dredged from nearby channels and were not engineered. A breach of one or more levees and island flooding could affect Delta water quality and SWP operations for several months. When islands are flooded, DWR may need to drastically decrease or even cease SWP Delta exports to evaluate damage caused by salinity in the Delta.

Operational constraints will likely continue until a long-term solution to the problems in the Bay-Delta is identified and implemented. New Biops for listed species under the Federal ESA or by the California Department of Fish and Game's issuance of incidental take authorizations under the Federal ESA and California ESA might further adversely affect SWP and CVP operations. Additionally, new litigation, listings of additional species or new regulatory requirements could further adversely affect SWP operations in the future by requiring additional export reductions, releases of additional water from storage or other operational changes impacting water supply operations.

Future Programs / Plans

MET's Board approved a Delta Action Plan in June 2007 that provides a framework for staff to pursue actions with other agencies and stakeholders to build a sustainable Delta and reduce conflicts between water supply conveyance and the environment. The Delta Action Plan aims to prioritize immediate short-term actions to stabilize the Delta while an ultimate solution is selected, and mid-term steps to maintain the Delta while a long-term solution is implemented. Currently, MET is working towards addressing four elements: Delta ecosystem restoration, water supply conveyance, flood control protection, and storage development.

In May 2019, Governor Newsom ended California WaterFix, announced a new approach to modernize Delta Conveyance through a single tunnel alternative, and released Executive Order 10-19 that directed state agencies to inventory and assess new planning for the project. DWR then withdrew all project approvals and permit applications for California WaterFix, effectively ending the project. The purpose of the Delta Conveyance Project (DCP) gives rise to several project objectives (MET, 2021). In proposing to make physical improvements to the SWP Delta conveyance system, the project objectives are:

- To address anticipated rising sea levels and other reasonably foreseeable consequences of climate change and extreme weather events.
- To minimize the potential for public health and safety impacts from reduced quantity and quality of SWP water deliveries, and potentially CVP water deliveries, south of the Delta resulting from a major earthquake that causes breaching of Delta levees and the inundation of brackish water into the areas in which existing pumping plants operate.
- To protect the ability of the SWP, and potentially the CVP, to deliver water when hydrologic conditions result in the availability of sufficient amounts, consistent with the requirements of state and federal law.
- To provide operational flexibility to improve aquatic conditions in the Delta and better manage risks of further regulatory constraints on project operations.

6.2.3 Storage

Storage is a major component of MET's dry year resource management strategy. MET's likelihood of having adequate supply capability to meet projected demands, without implementing its Water Supply Allocation Plan (WSAP), is dependent on its storage resources. Due to the pattern of generally drier hydrology, the groundwater basins and local reservoirs have dropped to low operating levels and remain below healthy storage levels. For example, the Colorado River Basin's system storage at the close of

2020, was at or near its lowest since 2000, so there is very little buffer to avoid a shortage from any future period of reduced precipitation and runoff (MET, 2021).

MET stores water in both DWR and MET surface water reservoirs. MET's surface water reservoirs are Lake Mathews, Lake Skinner, and Diamond Valley Lake (DVL), which have a combined storage capacity of over 1 MAF. Approximately 650,000 AF are stored for seasonal, regulatory, and drought use, while approximately 370,000 AF are stored for emergency use.

MET also has contractual rights to DWR surface Reservoirs, such as 65 thousand acre-feet (TAF) of flexible storage at Lake Perris (East Branch terminal reservoir) and 154 TAF of flexible storage at Castaic Lake (West Branch terminal reservoir) that provides MET with additional options for managing SWP deliveries to maximize the yield from the project. This storage can provide MET with up to 44 TAF of additional supply over multiple dry years, or up to 219 TAF to Southern California in a single dry year (MET, 2021).

MET endeavors to increase the reliability of water supplies through the development of flexible storage and transfer programs including groundwater storage (MET, 2021). These include:

- **Lake Mead Storage Program:** Executed in 2006, this program allows MET to leave excessively conserved water in Lake Mead, for exclusive use by MET in later years. MET created "Intentionally Created Surplus" (ICS) water in 2006-2007, 2009-2012, and 2016-2019, and withdrew ICS water in 2008 and 2013-2015. As of January 1, 2021, MET had a total of 1.3 million AF of Extraordinary Conservation ICS water.
- **Semitropic Storage Program:** The maximum storage capacity of the program is 350 TAF, and the minimum and maximum annual yields available to MET are 34.7 TAF and 236.2 TAF, respectively. The specific amount of water MET can expect to store in and subsequently receive from the program depends on hydrologic conditions, any regulatory requirements restricting MET's ability to export water for storage and demands placed by other program participants. During wet years, MET has the discretion to use the program to store portions of its SWP supplies which are in excess, and during dry years, the Semitropic Water Storage District returns MET's previously stored water to MET by direct groundwater pump-in or by exchange of surface water supplies.
- **Arvin-Edison Storage Program:** The storage program is estimated to deliver 75 TAF, and the specific amount of water MET can expect to store in and subsequently receive from the program depends on hydrologic conditions and any regulatory requirements restricting MET's ability to export water for storage. During wet years, MET has the discretion to use to program to store portions of its SWP supplies which are in excess, and during dry years, the Arvin-Edison Water Storage District returns MET's previously stored water to MET by direct groundwater pump-in or by exchange of surface water supplies.
- **Antelope Valley-East Kern (AVEK) Water Agency Exchange and Storage Program:** Under the exchange program, for every two AF MET receives, MET returns 1 AF back to AVEK, and MET will also be able to store up to 30 TAF in the AVEK's groundwater basin, with a dry-year return capability of 10 TAF.
- **High Desert Water Bank Program:** Under this program, MET will have the ability to store up to 280 TAF of its SWP Table A or other supplies in the Antelope Valley groundwater basin, and in exchange will provide funding for the construction of monitoring and production wells, turnouts

from the California Aqueduct, pipelines, recharge basins, water storage, and booster pump facilities. The project is anticipated to be in operation by 2025.

- **Kern-Delta Water District Storage Program:** This groundwater storage program has 250 TAF of storage capacity, and water for storage can either be directly recharged into the groundwater basin or delivered to Kern-Delta Water District farmers in lieu of pumping groundwater. During dry years, the Kern-Delta Water District returns MET's previously stored water to MET by direct groundwater pump-in return or by exchange of surface water supplies.
- **Mojave Storage Program:** MET entered into a groundwater banking and exchange transfer agreement with Mojave Water Agency that allows for the cumulative storage of up to 390 TAF. The agreement allows for MET to store water in an exchange account for later return.

6.2.4 Planned Future Sources

Beyond the programs highlighted in Sections 6.2.1 through 6.2.3, MET continues to invest in efforts to meet its goal of long-term regional water supply reliability, focusing on the following:

- Continuing water conservation
- Developing water supply management programs outside of the region
- Developing storage programs related to the Colorado River and the SWP
- Developing storage and groundwater management programs within the Southern California region
- Increasing water recycling, groundwater recovery, stormwater and seawater desalination Pursuing long-term solutions for the ecosystem, regulatory and water supply issues in the California Bay-Delta (MET, 2021)

6.3 Groundwater

In FY 2019-20, Mesa Water relied on 16,118 AFY – approximately 94% of Mesa Water's water supply portfolio for FY 2019-20 – from the OC Basin to meet its demands. Similar to the previous ten years, local groundwater is projected to continue being the primary water source for Mesa Water through 2045, This is due to the reliability and relatively low cost of local groundwater.

Mesa Water pumps groundwater through seven active groundwater wells. Five of these active wells pump "clear" groundwater directly into the distribution system, following disinfection with chloramines. Clear wells are subject to OCWD's BPP. Additionally, two wells that pump amber colored groundwater from a deeper aquifer are first treated at the Mesa Water Reliability Facility (MWRF). Treated groundwater is then pumped into the distribution system. This groundwater production is exempt from the BEA, extra fees for pumping beyond the BPP. As of early 2021, Mesa Water wells are not affected by PFAS.

This section describes the OC Basin and the management measures taken by OCWD, the basin manager to optimize local supply and minimize overdraft. This section also provides information on historical groundwater production as well as a 25-year projection of Mesa Water's groundwater supply.

The OCWD was formed in 1933 by a special legislative act of the California State Legislature to protect and manage the County's vast, natural, groundwater supply using the best available technology and

defend its water rights to the OC Basin. This legislation is found in the State of California Statutes, Water – Uncodified Acts, Act 5683, as amended. The OC Basin is managed by OCWD under the Act, which functions as a statutorily-imposed physical solution. The OCWD Management Area includes approximately 89% of the land area of the OC Basin, and 98% of all groundwater production occurs within the area. OCWD monitors the basin by collecting groundwater elevation and quality data from wells and manages an electronic database that stores water elevation, water quality, production, recharge, and other data on over 2,000 wells and facilities within and outside OCWD boundaries (City of La Habra et al., 2017).

Groundwater levels are managed within a safe basin operating range to protect the long-term sustainability of the OC Basin and to protect against land subsidence. OCWD regulates groundwater levels in the OC Basin by regulating the annual amount of pumping and setting the Basin Production Percentage (BPP) for the water year. As defined in the District Act, the BPP is the ratio of water produced from groundwater supplies within Mesa Water to all water produced within Mesa Water from both supplemental sources and groundwater within Mesa Water (OCWD, 2020).

6.3.1 Historical Groundwater Extraction

Besides a slight increase in FY 2017-18, Mesa Water has produced a relatively stable amount of groundwater for the past five years (Table 6-4).

Table 6-4: Retail: Groundwater Volume Pumped

DWR Submittal Table 6-1 Retail: Groundwater Volume Pumped						
<input type="checkbox"/>	Supplier does not pump groundwater. The supplier will not complete the table below.					
<input type="checkbox"/>	All or part of the groundwater described below is desalinated.					
Groundwater Type	Location or Basin Name	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Alluvial Basin	Orange County Groundwater Basin	14,854	16,483	17,202	16,065	16,118
TOTAL		14,854	16,483	17,202	16,065	16,118
<p>NOTES:</p> <p>Sources - Mesa Water, 2021 and OC Retail Water Usage FY 2015 to FY 2020 (MWDOC, 2020)</p> <p>These values include groundwater pumped from both clear wells and MWRF amber wells.</p>						

6.3.2 Basin Characteristics

The OC Basin underlies the northerly half of Orange County beneath broad lowlands. The OC Basin, managed by OCWD, covers an area of approximately 350 square miles, bordered by the Coyote and Chino Hills to the north, the Santa Ana Mountains to the northeast, and the Pacific Ocean to the southwest. The OC Basin boundary extends to the Orange County-Los Angeles Line to the northwest, where groundwater flows across the county line into the Central Groundwater Basin of Los Angeles County. A map of the OC Basin is shown on Figure 6-2. The total thickness of sedimentary rocks in the OC Basin is over 20,000 feet, with only the upper 2,000 to 4,000 feet containing fresh water. The OC Basin's full volume is approximately 66 MAF.

There are three major aquifer systems that have been subdivided by OCWD, the Shallow Aquifer System, the Principal Aquifer System, and the Deep Aquifer System. These three aquifer systems are hydraulically connected as groundwater is able to flow between each other through intervening aquitards or discontinuities in the aquitards. The Shallow Aquifer system occurs from the surface to approximately 250 feet below ground surface. Most of the groundwater from this aquifer system is pumped by small water systems for industrial and agricultural use. The Principal Aquifer system occurs at depths between 200 and 1,300 feet below ground surface. Over 90% of groundwater production is from wells that are screened within the Principal Aquifer system. Only a minor amount of groundwater is pumped from the Deep Aquifer system, which underlies the Principal Aquifer system and is up to 2,000 feet deep in the center of the OC Basin.

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a group of thousands of manmade chemicals that includes perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS). PFAS compounds were once commonly used in many products including, among many others, stain- and water-repellent fabrics, nonstick products (e.g., Teflon), polishes, waxes, paints, cleaning products, and fire-fighting foams. Beginning in the summer of 2019, the California State Division of Drinking Water (DDW) began requiring testing for PFAS compounds in some groundwater production wells in the OCWD area.

Groundwater production in FY 2019-20 was expected to be approximately 325,000 AF but declined to 286,550 AF primarily due to PFAS impacted wells being turned off around February 2020.

OCWD expects groundwater production to be in the area of 245,000 AF in FY 2020-21 due to the currently idled wells and additional wells being impacted by PFAS and turned off. As PFAS treatment systems are constructed, OCWD expects total annual groundwater production to slowly increase back to normal levels (310,000 to 330,000 AF) (OCWD, 2020).

6.3.3 Sustainable Groundwater Management Act

In 2014, the State of California adopted the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) to help manage its groundwater sustainably, and limit adverse effects such as significant groundwater-level declines, land subsidence, and water quality degradation. SGMA requires all high- and medium-priority basins, as designated by DWR, be sustainably managed. DWR designated the non-adjudicated Coastal Plain of OC Basin (“Basin 8-1” or “Basin”) as a medium-priority basin, primarily due to heavy reliance on the Basin’s groundwater as a source of water supply. Compliance with SGMA can be achieved in one of two ways:

- 1) A Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) is formed, and a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) is adopted, or
- 2) Special Act Districts created by statute, such as OCWD, and other agencies may prepare and submit an Alternative to a GSP (City of La Habra et al., 2017).

The agencies within Basin 8-1, led by OCWD collaborated to submit an Alternative to a GSP in 2017, titled the “Basin 8-1 Alternative” to meet SGMA compliance. This document will be updated every five years. The current (2017) version is included in Appendix G.

6.3.4 Basin Production Percentage

Background

The OC Basin is not adjudicated and as such, pumping from the OC Basin is managed through a process that uses financial incentives to encourage groundwater producers to pump a sustainable amount of water. The framework for the financial incentives is based on establishing the BPP, the percentage of each Producer’s total water supply that comes from groundwater pumped from the OC Basin.

Groundwater production at or below the BPP is assessed the Replenishment Assessment (RA).

While there is no legal limit as to how much an agency pumps from the OC Basin, there is a financial disincentive to pump above the BPP. The BPP is set uniformly for all Producers by OCWD on an annual basis. Agencies that pump above the BPP are charged the RA plus the Basin Equity Assessment (BEA). The BEA is presently calculated so that the cost of groundwater production is equivalent to the cost of importing potable water supplies. This approach serves to discourage, but not eliminate, production above the BPP, and the BEA can be increased to discourage production above the BPP if necessary.

The BPP is set based on groundwater conditions, availability of imported water supplies, and Basin management objectives. The supplies available for recharge must be estimated for a given year.

The supplies of recharge water that are estimated are: 1) Santa Ana River stormflow, 2) Natural incidental recharge, 3) Santa Ana River baseflow, 4) GWRS supplies, and 5) other supplies such as imported water and recycled water purchased for the Alamitos Barrier. The BPP is a major factor in determining the cost of groundwater production from the OC Basin for that year. The BPP set for Water Year 2021-22 is 77%.

BPP Adjustments for Basin Management

OCWD has established management guidelines that are used to establish future BPPs, as seen in Table 6-5. Raising or lowering the BPP allows OCWD to manage the amount of pumping from the basin. OCWD

has a policy to manage the groundwater basin within a sustainable range to avoid adverse impacts to the basin. OCWD seeks to maintain some available storage space in the basin to maximize surface water recharge when such supplies are available, especially in relatively wet years. By keeping the basin relatively full during wet years, and for as long as possible in years with near-normal recharge, the maximum amount of groundwater could be maintained in storage to support pumping in future drought conditions. During dry hydrologic years when less water would be available for recharge, the BPP could be lowered to maintain groundwater storage levels. A component of OCWD’s BPP policy is to manage the groundwater basin so that the BPP will not fluctuate more than 5% from year to year.

Based on most recent modeling of water supplies available for groundwater recharge and water demand forecasts, OCWD anticipates being able to sustain the BPP at 85% starting in 2025. The primary reasons for the higher BPP are the expected completion of the GWRS Final Expansion (GWRSFE) in 2023 and the relatively low water demands of approximately 400,000 AFY.

Modeling and forecasts generate estimates based on historical averages. Consequently, forecasts use average hydrologic conditions which smooth the dynamic and unpredictable local hydrology. Variations in local hydrology are the most significant impact to supplies of water available to recharge the groundwater basin. The BPP projection of 85% is provided based upon average annual rainfall weather patterns. If Mesa Water were to experience a relatively dry period, the BPP could be reduced to maintain water storage levels, by as much as 5%.

Table 6-5: Management Actions Based on Changes in Groundwater Storage

Available Storage Space (amount below full basin condition, AF)	Considered Basin Management Action
Less than 100,000	Raise BPP
100,000 to 300,000	Maintain and / or raise BPP towards 75% goal
300,000 to 350,000	Seek additional supplies to refill basin and / or lower the BPP
Greater than 350,000	Seek additional supplies to refill basin and lower the BPP

BPP Exemptions

In some cases, OCWD encourages pumping and treating groundwater that does not meet drinking water standards in order to protect water quality. This is achieved by using a financial incentive called the BEA Exemption. A BEA Exemption is used to promote beneficial uses of poor-quality groundwater and reduce or prevent the spread of poor-quality groundwater into non-degraded aquifer zones. OCWD uses a partial or total exemption of the BEA to compensate a qualified participating agency or Producer for the costs of treating poor quality groundwater, which typically include capital, interest and operations and maintenance costs for treatment facilities. When OCWD authorizes a BEA exemption for a project, it is

obligated to provide the replenishment water for the production above the BPP and forgo the BEA revenue that OCWD would otherwise receive from the producer (City of La Habra et al., 2017). Similarly, for proactive water quality management, OCWD exempts a portion of the BEA for their Coastal Pumping Transfer Program (CPTP). The CPTP encourages inland groundwater producers to increase pumping and coastal producers to decrease pumping in order to reduce the groundwater basin drawdown at the coast and protect against seawater intrusion. Inland pumpers can pump above the BPP without having to pay the BEA for the amount pumped above the BPP (OCWD, 2015). Coastal pumpers receive BEA revenue from OCWD to assist in offsetting their additional water supply cost from taking less groundwater.

6.3.4.1 2020 OCWD Groundwater Reliability Plan

In order to adapt to the substantial growth in water demands in OCWD's management area, it is paramount to anticipate and understand future water demands and develop projects to increase future water supplies proactively to match demands. The GRP is a continuation of these planning efforts that estimates the OC Basin's sustainable average annual production and extrapolates water needs of the OC Basin by combining recently completed water demand projections and modeling of Santa Ana River flows available for recharge. These data will be used to evaluate future water supply projects and guide management of the OC Basin. OCWD is currently developing the GRP, and the first public draft is expected to be available May 2021.

Current water demand projections show a relatively slow increase over the 25-year planning horizon, which is generally of similar magnitude as the additional production from the GWRSFE in early 2023. Once complete, the GWRSFE will increase capacity from 100,000 to 134,000 AFY of high-quality recycled water. This locally controlled, drought proof supply of water reduces the region's dependence on imported water.

Historically, the Santa Ana River has served as the primary source of water to recharge the OC Basin. To determine the availability of future Santa Ana River flows, OCWD utilized surface water flow modeling of the upper watershed. Modeling was developed to predict the impacts future stormwater capture and wastewater recycling projects in the upper watershed would have on future Santa Ana River flow rates at Prado Dam. Santa Ana River base flows are expected to decrease as more water recycling projects are built in the upper watershed. OCWD continues to work closely with the US Army Corps of Engineers to temporarily impound and slowly release up to approximately 20,000 AF of stormwater in the Prado Dam Conservation Pool. To some extent, the losses in baseflow are partially offset through the capture of additional stormwater held in the Prado Dam Conservation Pool. When available, OCWD will continue to augment groundwater recharge through the purchase of imported water through MET. OCWD will diligently monitor and evaluate future water supply projects to sustainably manage and protect the OC Basin for future generations.

6.3.4.2 OCWD Engineer's Report

The OCWD Engineer's Report reports on the groundwater conditions and investigates information related to water supply and groundwater basin usage within OCWD's service area.

The overall BPP achieved in the 2019 to 2020 water year within OCWD for non-irrigation use was 75.9%. The achieved pumping was less than the BPP established for the 2019 to 2020 water year primarily due to the water quality impacts of PFAS. As indicated in Section 6.3.4, a BPP of 77% was established for water year 2021-22. Analysis of the groundwater basin's projected accumulated overdraft, the available supplies to the OC Basin (assuming average hydrology) and the projected pumping demands indicate that this level of pumping can be sustained for 2021-22 without detriment to the OC Basin (OCWD, 2021).

In FY 2021-22 additional production of approximately 22,000 AF above the BPP will be undertaken by the City of Tustin, City of Garden Grove, City of Huntington Beach, Mesa Water District, and IRWD.

These agencies use the additional pumping allowance in order to accommodate groundwater quality improvement projects. As in prior years, production above the BPP from these projects would be partially or fully exempt from the BEA as a result of the benefit provided to the OC Basin by removing poor-quality groundwater and treating it for beneficial use (OCWD, 2021).

6.3.5 Recharge Management

Recharging water into the OC Basin through natural and artificial means is essential to support pumping from the OC Basin. Active recharge of groundwater began in 1949, in response to increasing drawdown of the OC Basin and, consequently, the threat of seawater intrusion. The OC Basin's primary source of recharge is flow from the Santa Ana River, which is diverted into recharge basins and its main Orange County tributary, Santiago Creek. Other sources of recharge water include natural infiltration, recycled water, and imported water. Natural recharge consists of subsurface inflow from local hills and mountains, infiltration of precipitation and irrigation water, recharge in small flood control channels, and groundwater underflow to and from Los Angeles County and the ocean.

Recycled water for the OC Basin recharge is from two sources. The main source of recycled water is from the GWRS, which is injected into the Talbert Seawater Barrier and recharged in the Kraemer, Miller, and Miraloma Basins (City of La Habra et al., 2017). The second source of recycled water is water purified at the Water Replenishment District's Leo J. Vander Lans Treatment Facility, which supplies water to the Alamitos Seawater Barrier (owned and operated by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works). OCWD's share of the Alamitos Barrier injection total for water year 2018-19 was less than half of the total injection, based on barrier wells located within Orange County. WRD also works closely with OCWD to ensure that the water demands at the Alamitos Barrier are fulfilled through the use of recycled water as opposed to imported water, however the recycled portion was less than 33% for the last six years due to operational issues and wastewater supply interruptions (OCWD, 2020a). Injection of recycled water into these barriers is an effort by OCWD to control seawater intrusion into the OC Basin. Operation of the injection wells forms a hydraulic barrier to seawater intrusion.

OCWD purchases imported water for recharge from MWDOC. Untreated imported water can be used to recharge the OC Basin through the surface water recharge system in multiple locations, such as Anaheim Lake, Santa Ana River, Irvine Lake, and San Antonio Creek. Treated imported water can be used for in-lieu recharge, as was performed extensively from 1977 to 2007 (City of La Habra et al., 2017). For detailed recharge management efforts from OCWD, refer to OCWD's 2017 "Basin 8-1 Alternative" (Appendix G).

6.3.6 MET Groundwater Replenishment Program

In the past, OCWD, MWDOC, and MET have coordinated water management to increase storage in the OC Basin when imported supplies are available for this purpose. MET's groundwater replenishment program was discontinued on January 1, 2013, and currently MET via MWDOC sells replenishment water to OCWD at the full service untreated MET rate.

MWDOC's imported water sales to OCWD since FY 1990-91 averages approximately 31,200 AF per year. Recently, due to low Santa Ana River flows as a result of low precipitation and increased use along the river, OCWD has needed to purchase more imported replenishment water per year than the average of 31,200 AFY over the last 25 years (this does not include water amounts from MET's Conjunctive Use Program (CUP) or its Cyclic Storage Account). However, with the emergence of PFAS affecting groundwater production, the need to purchase imported water has been temporary suspended. Until PFAS treatment is in place for most groundwater producers in the region, imported replenishment water will be significantly reduced.

6.3.7 MET Conjunctive Use Program / Cyclic Storage Program with OCWD

Since 2004, OCWD, MWDOC, and certain groundwater producers have participated in MET's CUP. This program allows for the storage of MET water in the OC Basin. The existing MET program provides storage up to 66,000 AF of water in the OC Basin to be pumped by participating producers in place of receiving imported supplies during water shortage events. In exchange, MET contributes to improvements in basin management facilities and an annual administrative fee. These improvements include eight new groundwater production wells, improvements to the seawater intrusion barrier, and construction of the Diemer Bypass Pipeline. The water is accounted for via the CUP program administered by the wholesale agencies and is controlled by MET such that it can be withdrawn over a three-year time period (OCWD, 2020). As of 2021, the CUP has not been in use since 2014. The CUP contract ends in 2028.

The Cyclic Storage account is an alternative storage account with MET. However, unlike the CUP program, OCWD controls when the water is used. The Cyclic Water Storage Program allows MET to store water in a local groundwater basin during surplus conditions, where MET has limited space in its regional storage locations. Once the water is stored via direct delivery or In-lieu the groundwater agency has the ability to purchase this water at a future date or over a 5-year period.

6.3.8 Overdraft Conditions

Annual groundwater basin overdraft, as defined in OCWD's Act, is the quantity by which production of groundwater supplies exceeds natural replenishment of groundwater supplies during a water year. This difference between extraction and replenishment can be estimated by determining the change in volume of groundwater in storage that would have occurred had supplemental water not been used for any groundwater recharge purpose, including seawater intrusion protection, advanced water reclamation, and the In-lieu Program.

The annual analysis of basin storage change and accumulated overdraft for water year 2019-20 has been completed. Based on the three-layer methodology, an accumulated overdraft of 200,000 AF was calculated for the water year ending June 30, 2020. The accumulated overdraft for the water year ending

June 30, 2019 was 236,000 AF, which was also calculated using the three-layer storage method. Therefore, an annual increase of 36,000 AF in stored groundwater was calculated as the difference between the June 2019 and June 2020 accumulated overdrafts (OCWD, 2021).

6.3.9 Planned Future Sources

Although not new sources, Mesa Water plans to rehabilitate two existing amber wells (Wells 8 and 11) to ensure reliable local groundwater and continued drinking water safety. These well rehabilitation projects are further described in Section 6.9.

On a regional scale, OCWD regularly evaluates potential projects and conducts studies to review the feasibility of new projects or sources. A few groundwater basin-related projects that are planned or in progress are described below.

- **GWRSFE** – The Final Expansion of the GWRS is currently underway and is the third and final phase of the project. When the Final Expansion is completed in early 2023, the plant’s treatment capacity will increase from 100 to 130 MGD. To produce 130 MGD, additional treated wastewater from Orange County Sanitation District (OC San)’s Treatment Plant 2 is required. This recycled water represents a high quality, drought-proof source of water to protect and enhance the OC Basin. The Final Expansion project will include expanding the existing GWRS treatment facilities, constructing new conveyance facilities at OC San Plant 2, and rehabilitating an existing pipeline between OC San Plant 2 and the GWRS. Once completed, the GWRS plant will recycle 100% of OC San’s reclaimable sources and produce enough water to meet the needs of over one million people.
- **Forecast Informed Reservoir Operations (FIRO) at Prado Dam** – Stormwater represents a significant source of water used by OCWD to recharge the OC Basin. Much of this recharge is made possible by the capture of Santa Ana River stormflows behind Prado Dam in the Conservation Pool. FIRO represents the next generation of operating water reservoirs using the best available technology. Advances in weather and stormwater runoff forecasting hold promise to allow USACE to safely impound more stormwater while maintaining equivalent flood risk management capability behind Prado Dam. Preliminary modeling show that by expanding the Conservation Pool from elevation 505 to 512 ft msl, annual recharge to the groundwater basin could increase by as much as 4,500 to 7,000 AFY.

6.4 Surface Water

6.4.1 Existing Sources

There are, currently, no direct surface water uses in Mesa Water’s service area.

6.4.2 Planned Future Sources

As of 2021, there are no planned direct uses of surface water in Mesa Water’s service area.

6.5 Stormwater

6.5.1 Existing Sources

There are, currently, no direct stormwater uses in Mesa Water's Service area.

6.5.2 Planned Future Sources

As of 2021, there are no planned stormwater uses in Mesa Water's service area.

6.6 Wastewater and Recycled Water

Mesa Water is not directly involved in wastewater services and does not own or operate the wastewater collection system or wastewater treatment facilities in its service area. The Costa Mesa Sanitary District (CMSD) provides wastewater collection within Mesa Water's service area to 25,000 parcels via 325-miles of sewer line. However, CMSD does not own a wastewater treatment plant and therefore the wastewater that is collected is conveyed to OC San facilities for treatment and disposal.

Recycled water is wastewater that is treated through primary, secondary and tertiary processes and is acceptable for most non-potable water purposes such as irrigation, and commercial and industrial process water per Title 22 requirements. Recycled water opportunities have continued to grow in Southern California as public acceptance and the need to expand local water resources continues to be a priority. Recycled water also provides a degree of flexibility and added reliability during drought conditions when imported water supplies are restricted. Mesa Water is indirectly involved in recycled water production, through its supply of wastewater for IPR. The following sections expand on the existing agency collaboration involved in these efforts as well as Mesa Water's projected recycled water use over the next 25 years.

6.6.1 Agency Coordination

As mentioned above, Mesa Water does not own or operate wastewater treatment facilities and sends all collected wastewater to OC San for treatment and disposal. Mesa Water relies on the OC Basin for most of its water supply. OC San provides treated water to OCWD, the manager of the OC Basin. OCWD strives to maintain and increase the reliability of the OC Basin through replenishment with imported water, stormwater, and advanced treated wastewater. A full description of the OC Basin is available in Section 6.3.2. OCWD and OC San have jointly constructed and expanded two water recycling projects to meet this goal including: 1) OCWD GAP, and 2) OCWD Groundwater Replenishment System (GWRS).

6.6.1.1 OCWD Green Acres Project

OCWD owns and operates the GAP, a water recycling system that provides up to 8,400 AFY of recycled water for irrigation and industrial uses. GAP provides an alternate source of water that is mainly delivered to parks, golf courses, greenbelts, cemeteries, and nurseries in the cities of Costa Mesa, Fountain Valley, Newport Beach, and Santa Ana. OCWD produces and distributes GAP water for purchase by Mesa Water, which sells and distributes the water to recycled water customers. Approximately 100 sites use GAP water, current recycled water users include Mile Square Park and Golf Courses in Fountain Valley, Costa Mesa Country Club, Chroma Systems carpet dyeing, Kaiser Permanente, and Caltrans.

6.6.1.2 OCWD Groundwater Replenishment System

OCWD's GWRS allows Southern California to decrease its dependency on imported water and creates a local and reliable source of water. OCWD's GWRS purifies secondary treated wastewater from OC San to levels that meet and exceed all state and federal drinking water standards. The GWRS Phase 1 plant has been operational since January 2008 and uses a three-step advanced treatment process consisting of microfiltration (MF), reverse osmosis (RO), and ultraviolet (UV) light with hydrogen peroxide (H₂O₂). A portion of the treated water is injected into the seawater barrier to prevent seawater intrusion into the groundwater basin. The other portion of the water is pumped to ponds where the water percolates into deep aquifers and becomes part of Orange County's water supply. The treatment process described on OCWD's website is provided below (OCWD, GWRS, 2020).

The GWRS first began operating in 2008 producing 70 MGD and in 2015, it underwent a 30 MGD expansion. Approximately 39,200 AFY of the highly purified water is pumped into the injection wells and 72,900 AFY is pumped to the percolation ponds in Mesa Water of Anaheim where the water is naturally filtered through sand and gravel to deep aquifers of the groundwater basin. The OC Basin provides approximately 72% of the potable water supply for north and central Orange County. The design and construction of the first phase (78,500 AFY) of the GWRS project was jointly funded by OCWD and OC San; Phase 2 expansion (33,600 AFY) was funded solely by OCWD.

The Final Expansion of the GWRS is currently underway and is the third and final phase of the project. When the Final Expansion is completed in 2023, the plant will produce 130 MGD. To produce 130 MGD, additional treated wastewater from OC San is required. This additional water will come from OC San's Treatment Plant 2, which is in the City of Huntington Beach approximately 3.5 miles south of the GWRS. The Final Expansion project will include expanding the existing GWRS treatment facilities, constructing new conveyance facilities at OC San Plant 2 and rehabilitating an existing pipeline between OC San Plant 2 and the GWRS. Once completed, the GWRS plant will recycle 100% of OC San's reclaimable sources and produce enough water to meet the needs of over one million people.

6.6.2 Wastewater Description and Disposal

Mesa Water does not own a wastewater collection system. The Costa Mesa Sanitary District (CMSD) formed in 1944 under the Sanitary District Act of 1923, provides wastewater collection within Mesa Water's service area. CMSD boundaries encompass all of the City of Costa Mesa and portions of Newport Beach and unincorporated Orange County. CMSD provides wastewater collection services to 25,000 parcels via 325-miles of sewer line. The wastewater collected is conveyed to OC San facilities for treatment and disposal.

OC San has an extensive system of gravity flow sewers, pump stations, and pressurized sewers. OC San's Plant No. 1 in Fountain Valley has a capacity of 320 MGD and Plant No. 2 in Huntington Beach has a capacity of 312 MGD. Both plants share a common ocean outfall, but Plant No. 1 currently provides all its secondary treated wastewater to OCWD's GWRS for beneficial reuse. The 120-inch diameter ocean outfall extends 4 miles off the coast of Huntington Beach. A 78-inch diameter emergency outfall also extends 1.3 miles off the coast. Table 6-6 summarizes the wastewater collected by CMSD and transported to OC San's system in 2020.

Table 6-6: Retail: Wastewater Collected Within Service Area in 2020

DWR Submittal Table 6-2 Retail: Wastewater Collected Within Service Area in 2020						
<input type="checkbox"/>	There is no wastewater collection system. The supplier will not complete the table below.					
	Percentage of 2020 service area covered by wastewater collection system					
	Percentage of 2020 service area population covered by wastewater collection system					
Wastewater Collection			Recipient of Collected Wastewater			
Name of Wastewater Collection Agency	Wastewater Volume Metered or Estimated?	Volume of Wastewater Collected from UWMP Service Area 2020	Name of Wastewater Treatment Agency Receiving Collected Wastewater	Treatment Plant Name	Is WWTP Located Within UWMP Area?	Is WWTP Operation Contracted to a Third Party?
Costa Mesa Sanitary District (CMSD)	Estimated	8,467	OC San	Plant No. 1 / Plant No. 2	No	No
Total Wastewater Collected from Service Area in 2020:		8,467				
NOTES: Assumed a return rate of 56% (based on 2013 return rate study)						

6.6.3 Current Recycled Water Uses

Mesa Water currently uses recycled water from OCWD's GAP for direct non-potable reuse such as landscape irrigation. Currently, Mesa Water has 43 recycled water service connections. Some of the recycled water customers include the City of Costa Mesa, the County of Orange, Cal Trans, Costa Mesa Country Club, Orange Coast Community College, and several shopping and business centers. In FY 2019-20, 959 AF of recycled water from OCWD's GAP was used in the Mesa Water service area for landscape irrigation. Recycled water use accounts for approximately 6% of annual demand.

For indirect use, Mesa Water also benefits from OCWD's GWRS system that provides IPR through replenishment of OC Basin with water that meets state and federal drinking water standards.

6.6.4 Projected Recycled Water Uses

Mesa Water will continue to receive recycled water from GAP and supply it to the various landscape irrigation sites mentioned in Section 6.6.4. Mesa Water will continue to supply wastewater to support the region's IPR via GWRS. Current and projected recycled water use through 2045 are shown in Table 6-7, and the 2015 projected 2020 recycled water use compared to the 2020 actual use is shown in Table 6-8. Although the 2015 UWMP acknowledged IPR of wastewater, it did not quantify projections. These projections will be prepared moving forward. Tertiary recycled water usage is limited to landscape irrigation.

Table 6-7: Retail: Recycled Water Direct Beneficial Uses Within Service Area

DWR Submittal Table 6-4 Retail: Recycled Water Direct Beneficial Uses Within Service Area										
Recycled water is not used and is not planned for use within the service area of the supplier. The supplier will not complete the table below.										
Name of Supplier Producing (Treating) the Recycled Water:		Mesa Water								
Name of Supplier Operating the Recycled Water Distribution System:		Mesa Water								
Supplemental Water Added in 2020 (volume)										
Source of 2020 Supplemental Water										
Beneficial Use Type	Potential Beneficial Uses of Recycled Water	Amount of Potential Uses of Recycled Water	General Description of 2020 Uses	Level of Treatment	2020	2025	2030	2035	2040	2045
Landscape irrigation (excludes golf courses)	Landscape	See projections	Landscape	Tertiary	493	500	500	500	500	500
Golf course irrigation	Golf course	See projections	Golf course	Tertiary	466	600	600	600	600	600
				Total:	959	1,100	1,100	1,100	1,100	1,100
<p>NOTES:</p> <p>Table does not include groundwater recharge (IPR) numbers as they are not separate from OCWD's supply</p>										

Table 6-8: Retail: 2015 UWMP Recycled Water Use Projection Compared to 2020 Actual

DWR Submittal Table 6-5 Retail: 2015 UWMP Recycled Water Use Projection Compared to 2020 Actual		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Recycled water was not used in 2015 nor projected for use in 2020. The Supplier will not complete the table below.	
Use Type	2015 Projection for 2020	2020 Actual Use
Landscape irrigation (excludes golf courses)	500	493
Golf course irrigation	600	466
Groundwater recharge (IPR)	N/A	5,371
Total	1,100	6,330
<p>NOTES: Groundwater recharge (IPR) estimated based on OCWD Groundwater Basin Production and Percent of Total Basin Production for FY2019-20 (33.3%)</p>		

6.6.5 Potential Recycled Water Uses

Mesa Water supports the continued development of recycled water through consumption of OCWD's GWRS produced water and recharge to the Basin. Currently, direct irrigation type recycled water use is expected to remain at 1,100 AFY through the 25-year period, with landscape irrigation as its sole use with no plans to expand this program as it is not overall beneficial to the Basin Pumpers like the GWRS IPR provides.

6.6.6 Optimization Plan

Studies of water recycling opportunities within Southern California provide a context for promoting the development of water recycling plans. It is recognized that broad public acceptance of recycled water requires continued education and public involvement. Currently, most of the recycled water available is being directed toward replenishment of the groundwater basin and improvements in groundwater quality. As a user of groundwater, Mesa Water supports the efforts of OCWD and OC San to use recycled water as a primary resource for groundwater recharge in Orange County.

Public Education

Mesa Water participates in the MWDOC public education and school education programs, which include extensive sections on water recycling. MWDOC's water use efficiency public information programs are a partnership with agencies throughout the county.

Through a variety of public information programs, MWDOC reaches the public, including those in Mesa Water, with information regarding present and future water supplies, the demands for a suitable quantity and quality of water, including recycled water, and the importance of implementing water efficiency

techniques and behaviors. Through MWDOC, water education programs have reached thousands of students in Mesa Water with grade-specific programs that include information on recycled water.

Financial Incentives

The implementation of recycled water projects involves a substantial upfront capital investment for planning studies, Environmental Impact Reports (EIRs), engineering design and construction before there recycled water is available to the market. In order to determine if additional projects are feasible, studies must be performed to determine if the project should be pursued. Feasibility studies should include evaluation of alternatives with a present worth analysis consisting of capital costs (design, environmental reviews, construction, etc.) and operations and maintenance costs (electrical costs for pumps and equipment and maintenance required for the system).

The establishment of new supplemental funding sources through federal, state and regional programs now provides significant financial incentives for water agencies to develop and make use of recycled water locally. Potential sources of funding include federal, state and local funding opportunities. These funding sources include the United States Bureau of Reclamation (USBR), California Proposition 13 Water Bond, Proposition 84 and MET Local Resources Program (LRP). These funding opportunities may be sought by Mesa Water or possibly more appropriately by regional agencies. Mesa Water will continue to support seeking funding for regional water recycling projects and programs.

Optimizing Recycled Water Use

Mesa Water and OCWD recognize that the public acceptance of recycled water requires education, public involvement, and prior planning. Mesa Water's efforts and preparations for gaining public acceptance of recycled water include the following:

- Maintaining strong working relationships with OCWD, the City of Costa Mesa and the SWRCB Division of Drinking Water.
- Incorporating information regarding the safety, reliability, and benefits of recycled water into Mesa Water's public information programs.
- Preparing and distributing printed materials regarding recycled water such as brochures and articles in the Mesa Water bimonthly newsletter.
- Discussing recycled water at various speaking engagements.
- Meetings with potential recycled water customers to discuss the benefits of recycled water.
- Groundbreaking ceremonies and press coverage for various events associated with bringing recycled water to Mesa Water.
- Providing on-site user training and assistance to recycled customers.

Mesa Water will continue to conduct cost/benefit analyses for recycled various water projects and seek creative solutions and a balance to recycled water use, in coordination with OCWD, MET, MWDOC and other cooperative agencies. These include solutions for funding, regulatory requirements, institutional arrangements, and public acceptance.

6.7 Desalination Opportunities

Desalination of ocean water provides a potentially large supply of drought-proof water that is restricted by coastal siting issues, system integration from the coastal areas inland and cost competitiveness.

In 2001, MET developed a Seawater Desalination Program (SDP) to provide incentives for developing new seawater desalination projects in MET's service area. In 2014, MET modified the provisions of their LRP to include incentives for locally produced seawater desalination projects that reduce the need for imported supplies. To qualify for the incentive, proposed projects must replace an existing demand or prevent new demand on MET's imported water supplies. In return, MET offers three incentive formulas under the program:

- Sliding scale incentive up to \$340 per AF for a 25-year agreement term, depending on the unit cost of seawater produced compared to the cost of MET supplies.
- Sliding scale incentive up to \$475 per AF for a 15-year agreement term, depending on the unit cost of seawater produced compared to the cost of MET supplies.
- Fixed incentive up to \$305 per AF for a 25-year agreement term.

Developing local supplies within MET's service area is part of their IRP goal of improving water supply reliability in the region. Creating new local supplies reduce pressure on imported supplies from the SWP and Colorado River.

On May 6th, 2015, the SWRCB approved an amendment to the state's Water Quality Control Plan for the Ocean Waters of California (California Ocean Plan) to address effects associated with the construction and operation of seawater desalination facilities (Desalination Amendment). The amendment supports the use of ocean water as a reliable supplement to traditional water supplies while protecting marine life and water quality. The California Ocean Plan now formally acknowledges seawater desalination as a beneficial use of the Pacific Ocean and the Desalination Amendment provides a uniform, consistent process for permitting seawater desalination facilities statewide.

If the following projects are developed, MET's imported water deliveries to Orange County could be reduced. These projects include the Huntington Beach Seawater Desalination Project and the Doheny Desalination Project.

As for District-specific initiatives, Mesa Water has not investigated seawater desalination as a result of economic and physical impediments.

Brackish groundwater is groundwater with a salinity higher than freshwater, but lower than seawater. Brackish groundwater typically requires treatment using desalters.

6.7.1 Ocean Water Desalination

Huntington Beach Seawater Desalination Project – Poseidon Resources LLC (Poseidon), a private company, is developing the Huntington Beach Seawater Desalination Project to be co-located at the AES Power Plant in the City of Huntington Beach along Pacific Coast Highway and Newland Street. The proposed project would produce up to 50 MGD (56,000 AFY) of drinking water to provide approximately 10% of Orange County's water supply needs.

Over the past several years, Poseidon has been working with OCWD on the general terms and conditions for selling the water to OCWD. OCWD and MWDOC have proposed a few distribution options to agencies in Orange County. The northern option proposes the water be distributed to the northern agencies closer to the plant within OCWD's service area with the possibility of recharging/injecting a portion of the product water into the OC Basin. The southern option builds on the northern option by delivering a portion of the product water through the existing OC-44 pipeline for conveyance to the south Orange County water agencies. A third option is also being explored, which includes all of the product water to be recharged into the OC Basin. Currently, a combination of these options could be pursued.

The Huntington Beach Seawater Desalination project plant capacity of 56,000 AFY would be the single largest source of new, local drinking water available to the region. In addition to offsetting imported demand, water from this project could provide OCWD with management flexibility in the OC Basin by augmenting supplies into the Talbert Seawater Barrier to prevent seawater intrusion.

In May 2015, OCWD and Poseidon entered into a non-binding Term Sheet that provided the overall partner structure in order to advance the project. Based on the initial Term Sheet, which was updated in 2018, Poseidon would be responsible for permitting, financing, design, construction, and operations of the treatment plant while OCWD would purchase the production volume, assuming the product water quality and quantity meet specific contract parameters and criteria. Furthermore, OCWD would then distribute the water in Orange County using one of the proposed distribution options described above.

In late April 2021, the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board approved a key permit for the Huntington Beach Seawater Desalination Project. The project is now in the regulatory permit approval process with the California Coastal Commission. Once all required permits are approved, Poseidon will then work with OCWD and interested member agencies in developing a plan to distribute the water. Subsequent to the regulatory permit approval process, and agreement with interested parties, Poseidon estimates that the project could be online as early as 2027.

Under guidance provided by DWR, the Huntington Beach Seawater Desalination Plant's projected water supplies are not included in the supply projections due to its current status within the criteria established by State guidelines (DWR, 2020c).

Doheny Desalination Project – South Coast Water District (SCWD) is proposing to develop an ocean water desalination facility in Dana Point. SCWD intends to construct a facility with an initial capacity of up to 5 million gallons per day (MGD). If the project is implemented, the initial up to 5 MGD capacity would be available for SCWD and potential partnering water agencies to provide a high quality, locally-controlled, drought-proof water supply. The desalination facility would also provide emergency backup water supplies, should an earthquake, system shutdown, or other event disrupt the delivery of imported water to the area. The proposed project would consist of a subsurface slant well intake system (constructed within Doheny Beach State Park), raw (sea) water conveyance to the desalination facility site (located on SCWD owned property), a seawater reverse osmosis (SWRO) desalination facility, brine disposal through an existing wastewater ocean outfall, solids handling facilities, storage, and potable water conveyance interties to adjacent local and regional distribution infrastructure.

SCWD is pursuing the project to ensure it meets the water use needs of its customers and the region by providing a drought-proof potable water supply, which diversifies SCWD's supply portfolio and protects against long-term imported water emergency outages and supply shortfalls that could have significant

impact to coastal communities, public health, and local economy. Phase I of the Project (aka, the “Local” Project) would provide SCWD and the region with up to 5 MGD of critical potable water supply that, together with recycled water, groundwater, and conservation, would provide the majority of SCWD’s water supply through local reliable sources. An up to 15 MGD capacity project has been identified as a potential future “regional” project that could be phased incrementally, depending on regional needs.

On June 27, 2019, SCWD certified the final EIR. The Final EIR included considerable additional information provided at the request of the Coastal Commission and the Regional Board, including an updated coastal hazard analysis, updated brine discharge modeling, updated groundwater modeling, and updated hydrology analysis. SCWD is currently in the permitting process and finalizing additional due diligence studies. If implemented, SCWD anticipates an online date of 2025.

Under guidance provided by DWR, the Doheny Seawater Desalination Project’s projected water supplies are not included in the supply projections due to its current status within the criteria established by State guidelines (DWR, 2020c).

6.7.2 Groundwater Desalination

There are currently no brackish groundwater desalination opportunities within Mesa Water’s service area, as the 8.6 MGD MWRf owned and operated by Mesa Water only removes color from groundwater from Mesa Water’s amber wells.

6.8 Water Exchanges and Transfers

Interconnections with other agencies result in the ability to share water supplies during short term emergency situations or planned shutdowns of major imported water systems. However, beyond short term outages, transfers can also be involved with longer term water exchanges to deal with droughts or water allocation situations. The following subsections describe Mesa Water’s existing and planned exchanges and transfers.

6.8.1 Existing Exchanges and Transfers

Mesa Water maintains two metered interconnections with the City of Huntington Beach and the IRWD and 16 emergency interconnections with the City of Santa Ana, City of Newport Beach, and IRWD.

6.8.2 Planned and Potential Exchanges and Transfers

Currently Mesa Water has no formal transfer or exchange plan. Opportunities are being explored that may develop into potential transfers or exchanges. This may include the selling of excess pumped water from the expansion of the MWRf.

However, MWDOC continues to help its retail agencies develop transfer and exchange opportunities that promote reliability within their systems. Therefore, MWDOC will look to help its retail agencies navigate the operational and administrative issues of transfers within the MET distribution system.

On a regional scale, the Santa Ana River Conservation and Conjunctive Use Project (SARCCUP) is a joint project established by five regional water agencies within the Santa Ana River Watershed

(Eastern Municipal Water District, Inland Empire Utilities Agency, Western Municipal Water District, OCWD, and San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District).

In 2016, SARCCUP was successful in receiving \$55 million in grant funds from Proposition 84 through DWR. The overall SARCCUP program awarded by Proposition 84, consists of three main program elements:

- Watershed-Scale Cooperative Water Banking Program
- Water Use Efficiency: Landscape Design and Irrigation Improvements and Water Budget Assistance for Agencies
- Habitat Creation and *Arundo Donax* Removal from the Santa Ana River

The Watershed-Scale Cooperative Water Banking Program is the largest component of SARCCUP and since 2016, Valley, MET, and the four SARCCUP-MWD Member Agencies, with MWDOC representing OCWD, have been discussing terms and conditions for the ability to purchase surplus water from Valley to be stored in the Santa Ana River watershed. With the Valley and MET surplus water purchase agreement due for renewal, it was the desire of Valley to establish a new agreement with MET that allows a portion of its surplus water to be stored within the Santa Ana River watershed.

An agreement between MET and four SARCCUP-MWD Member Agencies was approved earlier this year that gives the SARCCUP agencies the ability to purchase a portion (up to 50%) of the surplus water that San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District (Valley), a SWP Contractor, sells to MET. Such water will be stored in local groundwater basins throughout the Santa Ana River watershed and extract during dry years to reduce the impacts from multiyear droughts. In Orange County, 36,000 AF can be stored in the OC Basin for use during dry years. More importantly, this stored SARCCUP water can be categorized as “extraordinary supplies”, if used during a MET allocation, and can enhance a participating agencies’ reliability during a drought. Moreover, if excess water is available MWDOC can purchase additional water for its service area.

Further details remain to be developed between OCWD, retail agencies, and MWDOC in how the water will be distributed in Orange County and who participates.

6.9 Future Water Projects

Mesa Water continually reviews practices that will provide its customers with adequate and reliable supplies. Trained staff continue to ensure the water quality is safe and the water supply will meet present and future needs in an environmentally and economically responsible manner.

Although Mesa Water has various projects planned to maintain and improve the water system (Section 6.9.1), only projects that have both a concrete timeline and a quantifiable increase in supply are listed in Table 6-9.

Table 6-9: Retail: Expected Future Water Supply Projects or Programs

DWR Submittal Table 6-7 Retail: Expected Future Water Supply Projects or Programs					
<input type="checkbox"/>	No expected future water supply projects or programs that provide a quantifiable increase to the agency's water supply. Supplier will not complete the table below.				
<input type="checkbox"/>	Some or all of the supplier's future water supply projects or programs are not compatible with this table and are described in a narrative format.				
	Provide page location of narrative in the UWMP				
Name of Future Projects or Programs	Joint Project with other suppliers?	Description	Planned Implementation Year	Planned for Use in Year Type	Expected Increase in Water Supply to Supplier
Chandler and Croddy Wells	No	Two groundwater wells to pump from the OC Basin	2022	All Year Types	7,000 gpm
NOTES:					

6.9.1 Mesa Water Initiatives

Mesa Water anticipates water demand in its service area to moderately increase over the next 25 years. New water supply sources will be developed to achieve 115% local demand reliability and to better manage the Basin. Mesa Water is currently executing approximately \$70 million of Capital Improvements Program Renewal (CIPR) from FY 2021 through FY 2023. The CIPR projects include new wells, pipeline replacements, valve and service line replacements, reservoir rehabilitation, and Mesa Water facilities improvements. The CIPR projects are described below.

Chandler and Croddy Wells and Pipeline Project – Mesa Water is currently drilling and equipping two new wells. The new wells are expected to produce approximately 3,500 to 4,000 gpm each of new potable water supply that will be subject to OCWD’s BPP. These two new wells help Mesa Water achieve its goal of 115% reliability of its demands. The two new wells are anticipated to be online in 2022.

Reservoir Improvements Project – The Reservoir Improvements Project will provide needed improvements at Mesa Water’s two reservoirs. The improvements will include new chemical addition systems, replacement of end-of-life equipment, and reliability improvements. The project goal is to improve reliability and maintainability of Mesa Water’s reservoirs. The project is anticipated to be completed in 2022.

Distribution System Improvement Program – The Distribution System Improvements Program is comprised of four projects: Pipeline Replacement Project, Vault Rehabilitation Project, Mainline Valve Replacement Project, and Plastic Service Line Replacement Project. The goal of the Distribution System Program is to rehabilitate, abandon, and replace distribution infrastructure that has reached the end of its useful life. The program is anticipated to be complete in 2023.

Mesa Water Facilities Improvement Program – The Mesa Water Facilities Improvement Program consists of several project throughout Mesa Water. The goal of the program is to improve water supply reliability by construction of spare parts and material storage, improving site security, creating public awareness, and managing residuals. The program is anticipated to be complete in 2023.

6.9.2 Regional Initiatives

Beyond agency-specific projects, Mesa Water consistently coordinates its long-term water shortage planning with MWDOC and OCWD. MWDOC has identified the following future regional projects, some of which can indirectly benefit Mesa Water to further increase local supplies and offset imported supplies (CDM Smith, 2019):

Poseidon Huntington Beach Ocean Desalination Project – Poseidon proposes to construct and operate the Huntington Beach Ocean Desalination Plant on a 12-acre parcel adjacent to the AES Huntington Beach Generating Station. The facility would have a capacity of 50 MGD and 56,000 AFY, with its main components consisting of a water intake system, a desalination facility, a concentrate disposal system, and a product water storage tank. This project would provide both system and supply reliability benefits to the South Orange County (SOC), the OC Basin, and Huntington Beach.

Doheny Ocean Desalination Project – SCWD is proposing to construct an ocean water desalination facility in Dana Point at Doheny State Beach. The facility would have an initial up to 5 MGD capacity, with the potential for future expansions up to 15 MGD. The project’s main components are a subsurface water intake system, a raw ocean water conveyance pipeline, a desalination facility, a seawater reverse osmosis (SWRO) desalination facility, a brine disposal system, and a product water storage tank.

San Juan Watershed Project – Santa Margarita Water District (SMWD) and other project partners have proposed a multi-phased project within the San Juan Creek Watershed to capture local stormwater and develop, convey, and recharge recycled water into the San Juan Groundwater Basin and treat the water upon pumping it out of the basin. The first phase includes the installation of three rubber dams within San Juan Creek to promote in-stream recharge of the basin, with an anticipated production of 700 AFY on average. The second phase would develop additional surface water and groundwater management practices by using stormwater and introducing recycled water for infiltration into the basin and has an anticipated production of 2,660 to 4,920 AFY. The third phase will introduce recycled water directly into San Juan Creek through live stream recharge, with an anticipated production of up to 2,660 AFY (SMWD, 2021).

Cadiz Water Bank – SMWD and Cadiz, Inc. are developing this project to create a new water supply by conserving groundwater that is currently being lost to evaporation and recovering the conserved water by pumping it out of the Fenner Valley Groundwater Basin to convey to MET’s CRA. The project consists of a groundwater pumping component that includes an average of 50 TAFY of groundwater that can be pumped from the basin over a 50-year period, and a water storage component that allows participants to send surplus water supplies to be recharged in spreading basins and held in storage.

South Orange County Emergency Interconnection Expansion – MWDOC has been working with the South Orange County (SOC) agencies on improvements for system reliability primarily due to the risk of earthquakes causing outages of the MET imported water system as well as extended grid outages. Existing regional interconnection agreements between IRWD and SOC agencies provides for the delivery

of water through the IRWWD system to participating SOC agencies in times of emergency. MWDOC and IRWD are currently studying an expansion of the program, including the potential East Orange County Feeder No. 2 pipeline and an expanded and scalable emergency groundwater program.

SARCCUP – SARCCUP is a joint project established between MET, MWDOC, Eastern MWD, Western MWD, Inland Empire Utilities Agency, and OCWD that can provide significant benefits in the form of additional supplies during dry years for Orange County. Surplus SWP water from San Bernardino Valley Water District (SBVMWD) can be purchased and stored for use during dry years. This water can even be considered an extraordinary supply under MET allocation Plan, if qualified under MET’s extraordinary supply guidelines. OCWD has the ability to store 36,000 AF of SARCCUP water and if excess water is available MWDOC has the ability to purchase additional water. Further details remain to be developed between OCWD, retail agencies, and MWDOC in how the water will be distributed in Orange County and who participates.

Moulton Niguel Water District (MNWD) / OCWD Pilot Storage Program - OCWD entered into an agreement with MNWD to develop a pilot program to explore the opportunity to store water in the OC Basin. The purpose of such a storage account would provide MNWD water during emergencies and/or provide additional water during dry periods. As part of the agreement, OCWD hired consultants to evaluate where and how to extract groundwater from the OC Basin with several options to pump the water to MNWD via the East Orange County Feeder No. 2; as well as a review of existing banking/exchange programs in California to determine what compensation methodologies could OCWD assess for a storage/banking program.

6.10 Energy Intensity

A new requirement for this 2020 UWMP is an energy intensity analysis of the Supplier’s water, wastewater, and recycled water systems, where applicable for a 12-month period. Mesa Water owns and operates a water distribution system. This section reports the energy intensity for this system using data from FY 2019-20. The wastewater system within the Mesa Water service area is owned and operated by the Costa Mesa Sanitary District and the recycled water system within the service area is owned and operated by OCWD, therefore these are outside of Mesa Water’s operational control.

Water and energy resources are inextricably connected. Known as the "water-energy nexus", the California Energy Commission estimates the transport and treatment of water, treatment and disposal of wastewater, and the energy used to heat and consume water account for nearly 20% of the total electricity and 30% of non-power plant related natural gas consumed in California. In 2015, California issued new rules requiring 50% of its power to come from renewables, along with a reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to 40% below 1990 levels by 2030. Consistent with energy and water conservation, renewable energy production, and GHG mitigation initiatives, Mesa Water reports the energy intensity of its water and wastewater operations.

The methodology for calculating water energy intensity outlined in Appendix O of the UWMP Guidebook was adapted from the California Institute for Energy Efficiency exploratory research study titled “Methodology for Analysis of the Energy Intensity of California’s Water Systems” (Wilkinson 2000). The study defines water energy intensity as the total amount of energy, calculated on a whole-system basis, required for the use of a given amount of water in a specific location.

UWMP reporting is limited to available energy intensity information associated with water processes occurring within an urban water supplier's direct operational control. Operational control is defined as authority over normal business operations at the operational level. Any energy embedded in water supplies imparted by an upstream water supplier (e.g., water wholesaler) or consequently by a downstream water purveyor (e.g., retail water provider) is not included in the UWMP energy intensity tables. Mesa Water's calculations conform to methodologies outlined in the UWMP Guidebook and Wilkinson study.

6.10.1 Water Supply Energy Intensity

In FY 2019, Mesa Water consumed 1099.4 kilowatt-hours (KWh) per AF for water extraction, treatment, and distribution services (Table 6-10). It is important to note that many of the retail agencies in Orange County do not have water treatment and therefore, Mesa Water's energy intensity cannot be directly compared with these agencies. The basis for calculations is provided in more detail in the following subsections.

Mesa Water District 2020 Urban Water Management Plan

Table 6-10: Recommended Energy Intensity – Multiple Water Delivery Products

Urban Water Supplier: Mesa Water District

Water Delivery Product (If delivering more than one type of product use Table O-1C)

Retail Potable Deliveries

Table O-1A: Recommended Energy Reporting - Water Supply Process Approach									
Enter Start Date for Reporting Period	7/1/2018	Urban Water Supplier Operational Control							
End Date	6/30/2019	Water Management Process						Non-Consequential Hydropower (if applicable)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Is upstream embedded in the values reported?									
	Water Volume Units Used	Extract and Divert	Place into Storage	Conveyance	Treatment	Distribution	Total Utility	Hydropower	Net Utility
Volume of Water Entering Process	AF	13,354	0	0	2,686.30	15,120.75	15120.75	0	15120.75
Energy Consumed (kWh)	N/A	13,697,233	0	0	1,173,820	1,753,123	16624176	0	16624176
Energy Intensity (kWh/vol.)	N/A	1025.7	0.0	0.0	437.0	115.9	1099.4	0.0	1099.4
Quantity of Self-Generated Renewable Energy									
0 kWh									
Data Quality (Estimate, Metered Data, Combination of Estimates and Metered Data)									
Combination of Estimates and Metered Data									
Data Quality Narrative:									
Volume of Water Entering Process: Extraction data based Mesa WD water production meters, Treatment volume based on meters at the treatment facility, and Distribution data based on MWDOC Compiled Water Audits "Authorized Consumption." Non-Revenue Water is not considered in this calculation – the energy efficiency is based on water delivered to customers. Energy Consumed: Based on metered data.									
Narrative:									
Mesa Water District relies on imported water and local groundwater to meet their customers' water needs. Operational control includes groundwater wells, a treatment facility, and potable water booster stations. This table does not include upstream embedded energy consumed prior to Mesa Water taking control. Distribution is based on the authorized consumption for 2019.									

6.10.1.1 Operational Control and Reporting Period

As described throughout the report, Mesa Water is a retail agency that relies on groundwater and imported water. Water supply energy intensity was calculated for the 2019 financial year. Calendar Year data is used more frequently for energy intensity calculations to provide consistency in the time frame among various organizations, but financial year data was used given the completeness of what was available.

6.10.1.2 Volume of Water Entering Processes

According to Mesa WD water production meters, Mesa extracted 13,354 AF of groundwater from the OC Basin. According to Mesa Water's production meter, 2,686.3 AF of water was treated at the Mesa Water Reliability Facility. According to MWDOC water audits, Mesa distributed 15,120.75 AF of water to customers which included groundwater extracted by Mesa as well as imported water provided by MWDOC. Water volume is based on metered data and calculations from annual water audits.

6.10.1.3 Energy Consumption and Generation

According to Southern California Edison (SCE) Electricity Bills and SoCal Gas bills, groundwater wells consumed 13,697,233 kWh equivalent of electricity with one well running on gas, treatment facilities consumed 1,173,820 kWh of electricity, and pump stations along the distribution system consumed 1,753,123 kWh equivalent of electricity with two pump stations running on gas. Currently, Mesa Water does not generate renewable energy. Energy consumption is based on metered data.

6.10.2 Key Findings and Next Steps

Calculating and disclosing direct operationally-controlled energy intensities is another step towards understanding the water-energy nexus. However, much work is still needed to better understand upstream and downstream (indirect) water-energy impacts. When assessing water supply energy intensities or comparing intensities between providers, it is important to consider reporting boundaries as they do not convey the upstream embedded energy or impacts energy intensity has on downstream users. Engaging one's upstream and downstream supply chain can guide more informed decisions that holistically benefit the environment and are mutually beneficial to engaged parties. Suggestions for further study include:

- Supply-chain engagement – Mesa Water relies on a variety of water sources for their customers. While some studies have used life cycle assessment tools to estimate energy intensities, there is a need to confirm this data. The 2020 UWMP requirement for all agencies to calculate energy intensity will help Mesa Water and neighboring agencies make more informed decisions that would benefit the region as a whole regarding the energy and water nexus. A similar analysis could be performed with upstream supply chain energy, for example, with State Project Water.
- Internal benchmarking and goal setting – With a focus on energy conservation and a projected increase in water demand despite energy conservation efforts, Mesa Water's energy intensities will likely decrease with time. Conceivably, in a case where water demand decreases, energy

intensities may rise as the energy required to pump or treat is not always proportional to water delivered. In the course of exploring the water-energy nexus and pursuing renewable energy goals, there is a need to assess whether energy intensity is a meaningful indicator or if it makes sense to use a different indicator to reflect Mesa Water's commitment to energy and water conservation.

- Regional sustainability – Water and energy efficiency are two components of a sustainable future. Efforts to conserve water and energy, however, may impact the social, environmental, and economic livelihood of the region. In addition to the relationship between water and energy, over time, it may also be important to consider and assess the connection these resources have on other aspects of a sustainable future.

7 WATER SERVICE RELIABILITY AND DROUGHT RISK ASSESSMENT

Building upon the water supply identified and projected in Section 6, this key section of the UWMP examines Mesa Water’s projected water supplies, water demand, and the resulting water supply reliability. Water service reliability reflects Mesa Water’s ability to meet the water needs of its customers under varying conditions. For the UWMP, water supply reliability is evaluated in two assessments: 1) the Water Service Reliability Assessment and 2) the DRA. The Water Service reliability assessment compares projected supply to projected demand in 2025 through 2045 for three hydrological conditions: a normal year, a single dry year, and a drought period lasting five consecutive years. The DRA, a new UWMP requirement, assesses near-term water supply reliability. It compares projected water supply and demand assuming a drought period lasting for the next five consecutive years. Factors affecting reliability, such as climate change and regulatory impacts, are accounted for in the assessment.

7.1 Water Service Reliability Overview

Every urban water supplier is required to assess the reliability of their water service to their customers under normal, single-dry, and multiple-dry water years. Mesa Water depends on a combination of imported and local supplies to meet its water demands and has taken numerous steps to ensure it has adequate supplies. Development of local supplies augments the reliability of the water system. There are various factors that may impact reliability of supplies such as legal, environmental, water quality and climatic which are discussed below. MET’s and MWDOC’s 2020 UWMPs conclude they can meet full-service demands of their member agencies starting 2025 through 2045 during normal years, a single-dry year, and multiple-dry years. Consequently, Mesa Water is projected to meet full-service demands through 2045 for the same scenarios.

MET’s 2020 IRP update describes the core water resources that will be used to meet full-service demands at the retail level under all foreseeable hydrologic conditions from 2025 through 2045. The foundation of MET’s resource strategy for achieving regional water supply reliability has been to develop and implement water resources programs and activities through its IRP preferred resource mix. This preferred resource mix includes conservation, local resources such as water recycling and groundwater recovery, Colorado River supplies and transfers, SWP supplies and transfers, in-region surface reservoir storage, in-region groundwater storage, out-of-region banking, treatment, conveyance, and infrastructure improvements.

Table 7-1 shows the basis of water year data used to predict drought supply availability. The average (normal) hydrologic condition for the MWDOC service area, which Mesa Water is a part of, is represented by FY 2017-18 and FY 2018-19 and the single-dry year hydrologic condition by FY 2013-14. The five consecutive years of FY 2011-12 to FY 2015-16 represent the driest five-consecutive year historic sequence for MWDOC’s service area. Locally, Orange County rainfall for the five-year period totaled 36 inches, the driest on record.

Table 7-1 Retail: Basis of Water Year Data (Reliability Assessment)

DWR Submittal Table 7-1 Retail: Basis of Water Year Data (Reliability Assessment)			
Year Type	Base Year	Available Supplies if Year Type Repeats	
		<input type="checkbox"/>	Quantification of available supplies is not compatible with this table and is provided elsewhere in the UWMP. Location _____
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Quantification of available supplies is provided in this table as either volume only, percent only, or both.
		Volume Available	% of Average Supply
Average Year	2018-2019	-	100%
Single-Dry Year	2014	-	106%
Consecutive Dry Years 1st Year	2012	-	106%
Consecutive Dry Years 2nd Year	2013	-	106%
Consecutive Dry Years 3rd Year	2014	-	106%
Consecutive Dry Years 4th Year	2015	-	106%
Consecutive Dry Years 5th Year	2016	-	106%

NOTES:
 Assumes an increase of 6% above average year demands in dry and multiple dry years based on the Demand Forecast TM (CDM Smith, 2021). 106% represents the percent of average supply needed to meet demands of a single-dry and multiple-dry years. Since Mesa Water can purchase imported water from MWDOC/MET in addition to already meeting demands with local groundwater and recycled water, the percent of average supply value reported is equivalent to the percent of average demand under the corresponding hydrologic condition.

The following sections provide a detailed discussion of Mesa Water’s water source reliability. Additionally, the following sections compare Mesa Water’s projected supply and demand under various hydrological conditions, to determine Mesa Water’s supply reliability for the 25-year planning horizon.

7.2 Factors Affecting Reliability

In order to prepare realistic water supply reliability assessments, various factors affecting reliability were considered. These include climate change and environmental requirements, regulatory changes, water quality impacts, and locally applicable criteria.

7.2.1 Climate Change and the Environment

Changing climate patterns are expected to shift precipitation patterns and affect water supply availability. Unpredictable weather patterns will make water supply planning more challenging. Although climate change impacts are associated with exact timing, magnitude, and regional impacts of these temperature and precipitation changes, researchers have identified several areas of concern for California water planners (MET, 2021). These areas include:

- A reduction in Sierra Nevada Mountain snowpack.
- Increased intensity and frequency of extreme weather events.
- Prolonged drought periods.
- Water quality issues associated with increase in wildfires.
- Changes in runoff pattern and amount.
- Rising sea levels resulting in:
 - Impacts to coastal groundwater basins due to seawater intrusion.
 - Increased risk of damage from storms, high-tide events, and the erosion of levees.
 - Potential pumping cutbacks to the SWP and CVP.

Other important issues of concern due to global climate change include:

- Effects on local supplies such as groundwater.
- Changes in urban and agricultural demand levels and patterns.
- Increased evapotranspiration from higher temperatures.
- Impacts to human health from water-borne pathogens and water quality degradation.
- Declines in ecosystem health and function.
- Alterations to power generation and pumping regime.
- Increases in ocean algal blooms affected seawater desalination supplies.

The major impact in California is that without additional surface storage, the earlier and heavier runoff (rather than snowpack retaining water in storage in the mountains), will result in more water being lost to the oceans. A heavy emphasis on storage is needed in California.

In addition, the Colorado River Basin supplies have been inconsistent since about the year 2000, with precipitation near normal while runoff has been less than average in two out of every three years. Climate models are predicting a continuation of this pattern whereby hotter and drier weather conditions will result in continuing lower runoff, pushing the system toward a drying trend that is often characterized as long-term drought.

Dramatic swings in annual hydrologic conditions have impacted water supplies available from the SWP over the last decade. The declining ecosystem in the Delta has also led to a reduction in water supply deliveries, and operational constraints, which will likely continue until a long-term solution to these problems is identified and implemented (MET, 2021).

Legal, environmental, and water quality issues may have impacts on MET supplies. It is felt, however, that climatic factors would have more of an impact than legal, water quality, and environmental factors. Climatic conditions have been projected based on historical patterns, but severe pattern changes are still a possibility in the future (MET, 2021).

7.2.2 Regulatory and Legal

Ongoing regulatory restrictions, such as those imposed by the Biops on the effects of SWP and the federal CVP operations on certain marine life, also contributes to the challenge of determining water delivery reliability. Endangered species protection and conveyance needs in the Delta have resulted in operational constraints that are particularly important because pumping restrictions impact many water resources programs – SWP supplies and additional voluntary transfers, Central Valley storage and transfers, and in-region groundwater and surface water storage. Biops protect special-status species listed as threatened or endangered under the ESAs and imposed substantial constraints on Delta water supply operations through requirements for Delta inflow and outflow and export pumping restrictions.

In addition, the SWRCB has set water quality objectives that must be met by the SWP including minimum Delta outflows, limits on SWP and CVP Delta exports, and maximum allowable salinity level.

SWRCB plans to fully implement the new Lower San Joaquin River (LSJR) flow objectives from the Phase 1 Delta Plan amendments through adjudicatory (water rights) and regulatory (water quality) processes by 2022. These LSJR flow objectives are estimated to reduce water available for human consumptive use. New litigation, listings of additional species under the ESAs, or regulatory requirements imposed by the SWRCB could further adversely affect SWP operations in the future by requiring additional export reductions, releases of additional water from storage, or other operational changes impacting water supply operations.

The difficulty and implications of environmental review, documentation, and permitting pose challenges for multi-year transfer agreements, recycled water projects, and seawater desalination plants. The timeline and roadmap for getting a permit for recycled water projects are challenging and inconsistently implemented in different regions of the state. Indirect potable reuse projects face regulatory restraints such as treatment, blend water, retention time, and Basin Plan Objectives, which may limit how much recycled water can feasibly be recharged into the groundwater basins. New regulations and permitting uncertainty are also barriers to seawater desalination supplies, including updated Ocean Plan Regulations, Marine Life Protected Areas, and Once-Through Cooling Regulations (MET, 2021).

7.2.3 Water Quality

The following sub-sections include narratives on water quality issues experienced in various water supplies, if any, and the measures being taken to improve the water quality of these sources.

7.2.3.1 Imported Water

MET is responsible for providing high quality potable water throughout its service area.

Over 300,000 water quality tests are performed per year on MET's water to test for regulated contaminants and additional contaminants of concern to ensure the safety of its waters. MET's supplies originate primarily from the CRA and from the SWP. A blend of these two sources, proportional to each year's availability of the source, is then delivered throughout MET's service area.

MET's primary water sources face individual water quality issues of concern. The CRA water source contains higher total dissolved solids (TDS) and the SWP contains higher levels of organic matter, lending to the formation of disinfection byproducts. To remediate the CRA's high level of salinity and the SWP's high level of organic matter, MET blends CRA and SWP supplies and has upgraded all of its

treatment facilities to include ozone treatment processes. In addition, MET has been engaged in efforts to protect its Colorado River supplies from threats of uranium, perchlorate, and chromium VI while also investigating the potential water quality impact of the following emerging contaminants: N-nitrosodimethylamine (NDMA), pharmaceuticals and personal care products (PPCP), microplastics, per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), and 1,4-dioxane (MET, 2021). While unforeseeable water quality issues could alter reliability, MET's current strategies ensure the delivery of high-quality water.

The presence of quagga mussels in water sources is a water quality concern. Quagga mussels are an invasive species that was first discovered in 2007 at Lake Mead, on the Colorado River. This species of mussels forms massive colonies in short periods of time, disrupting ecosystems and blocking water intakes. They can cause significant disruption and damage to water distribution systems. MET has had success in controlling the spread and impacts of the quagga mussels within the CRA, however the future could require more extensive maintenance and reduced operational flexibility than current operations allow. It also resulted in MET eliminating deliveries of CRA water into DVL to keep the reservoir free from quagga mussels (MET, 2021).

7.2.3.2 Groundwater

OCWD is responsible for managing the OC Basin. To maintain groundwater quality, OCWD conducts an extensive monitoring program that serves to manage the OC Basin's groundwater production, control groundwater contamination, and comply with all required laws and regulations. A network of nearly 700 wells provides OCWD a source for samples, which are tested for a variety of purposes.

OCWD collects samples each month to monitor Basin water quality. The total number of water samples analyzed varies year-to-year due to regulatory requirements, conditions in the basin and applied research and/or special study demands. These samples are collected and tested according to approved federal and state procedures as well as industry-recognized quality assurance and control protocols (City of La Habra et al., 2017).

Although PFAS have not been detected in Mesa Water's wells, PFAS are of particular concern for groundwater quality, and since the summer of 2019, DDW requires testing for PFAS compounds in some groundwater production wells in the OCWD area. In February 2020, the DDW lowered its Response Levels (RL) for PFOA and PFOS to 10 and 40 parts per trillion (ppt), respectively. The DDW recommends Producers not serve any water exceeding the RL – effectively making the RL an interim Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) while DDW undertakes administrative action to set a MCL. In response to DDW's issuance of the revised RL, as of December 2020, approximately 45 wells in the OCWD service area have been temporarily turned off until treatment systems can be constructed. As additional wells are tested, OCWD expects this figure may increase to at least 70 to 80 wells. The state has begun the process of establishing MCLs for PFOA and PFOS and anticipates these MCLs to be in effect by the Fall of 2023. OCWD anticipates the MCLs will be set at or below the RLs.

In April 2020, OCWD as the groundwater basin manager, executed an agreement with the impacted Producers to fund and construct the necessary treatment systems for production wells impacted by PFAS compounds. The PFAS treatment projects includes the design, permitting, construction, and operation of PFAS removal systems for impacted Producer production wells. Each well treatment system will be evaluated for use with either granular activated carbon (GAC) or ion exchange (IX) for the removal of PFAS compounds. These treatment systems utilize vessels in a lead-lag configuration to remove

PFOA and PFOS to less than 2 ppt (the current non-detect limit). Use of these PFAS treatment systems are designed to ensure the groundwater supplied by Producer wells can be served in compliance with current and future PFAS regulations. With financial assistance from OCWD, the Producers will operate and maintain the new treatment systems once they are constructed.

To minimize expenses and provide maximum protection to the public water supply, OCWD initiated design, permitting, and construction of the PFAS treatment projects on a schedule that allows rapid deployment of treatment systems. Construction contracts were awarded for treatment systems for production wells in the City of Fullerton and Serrano Water District in Year 2020. Additional construction contracts will likely be awarded in the first and second quarters of 2021. OCWD expects the treatment systems to be constructed for most of the initial 45 wells above the RL within the next 2 to 3 years.

As additional data are collected and new wells experience PFAS detections at or near the current RL, and/or above a future MCL, and are turned off, OCWD will continue to partner with the affected Producers and take action to design and construct necessary treatment systems to bring the impacted wells back online as quickly as possible.

Groundwater production in FY19-20 was expected to be approximately 325,000 AF but declined to 286,550 AF primarily due to PFAS impacted wells being turned off around February 2020. OCWD expects groundwater production to be in the area of 245,000 AF in FY20-21 due to the currently idled wells and additional wells being impacted by PFAS and turned off. As PFAS treatment systems are constructed, OCWD expects total annual groundwater production to slowly increase back to normal levels (310,000 to 330,000 AF) (OCWD, 2020).

Salinity is a significant water quality problem in many parts of Southern California, including Orange County. Salinity is a measure of the dissolved minerals in water including both TDS and nitrates.

OCWD continuously monitors the levels of TDS in wells throughout the OC Basin. TDS currently has a California Secondary MCL of 500 mg/L. The portions of the OC Basin with the highest levels are generally located in the cities of Irvine, Tustin, Yorba Linda, Anaheim, and Fullerton. There is also a broad area in the central portion of the OC Basin where TDS ranges from 500 to 700 mg/L. Sources of TDS include the water supplies used to recharge the OC Basin and from onsite wastewater treatment systems, also known as septic systems. The TDS concentration in the OC Basin is expected to decrease over time as the TDS concentration of GWRS water used to recharge the OC Basin is approximately 50 mg/L (City of La Habra et al., 2017).

Nitrates are one of the most common and widespread contaminants in groundwater supplies, originating from fertilizer use, animal feedlots, wastewater disposal systems, and other sources. The MCL for nitrate in drinking water is set at 10 mg/L. OCWD regularly monitors nitrate levels in groundwater and works with producers to treat wells that have exceeded safe levels of nitrate concentrations. OCWD manages the nitrate concentration of water recharged by its facilities to reduce nitrate concentrations in groundwater. This includes the operation of the Prado Wetlands, which was designed to remove nitrogen and other pollutants from the Santa Ana River before the water is diverted to be percolated into OCWD's surface water recharge system.

Although water from the Deep Aquifer System is of very high quality, it is amber-colored and contains a sulfuric odor due to buried natural organic material. These negative aesthetic qualities require treatment

before use as a source of drinking water. The total volume of the amber-colored groundwater is estimated to be approximately 1 MAF.

There are other potential contaminants that are of concern to and are monitored by OCWD.

These include:

- **Methyl Tertiary Butyl Ether (MTBE)** – MTBE is an additive to gasoline that increases octane ratings but became a widespread contaminant in groundwater supplies. The greatest source of MTBE contamination comes from underground fuel tank releases. The primary MCL for MTBE in drinking water is 13 µg/L.
- **Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC)** – VOCs come from a variety of sources including industrial degreasers, paint thinners, and dry-cleaning solvents. Locations of VOC contamination within the OC Basin include the former El Toro marine Corps Air Station, the Shallow Aquifer System, and portions of the Principal Aquifer System in the Cities of Fullerton and Anaheim.
- **NDMA** – NDMA is a compound that can occur in wastewater that contains its precursors and is disinfected via chlorination and/or chloramination. It is also found in food products such as cured meat, fish, beer, milk, and tobacco smoke. The California Notification Level for NDMA is 10 ng/L and the Response Level is 300 ng/L. In the past, NDMA has been found in groundwater near the Talbert Barrier, which was traced to industrial wastewater dischargers.
- **1,4-Dioxane** – 1,4-Dioxane is a suspected human carcinogen. It is used as a solvent in various industrial processes such as the manufacture of adhesive products and membranes.
- **Constituents of Emerging Concern (CEC)** – CECs are either synthetic or naturally occurring substances that are not currently regulated in water supplies or wastewater discharged but can be detected using very sensitive analytical techniques. The newest group of CECs include pharmaceuticals, personal care products, and endocrine disruptors. OCWD's laboratory is one of a few in the state of California that continuously develops capabilities to analyze for new compounds (City of La Habra et al., 2017).

7.2.4 Locally Applicable Criteria

Within Orange County, there are no significant local applicable criteria that directly affect reliability. Through the years, the water agencies in Orange County have made tremendous efforts to integrate their systems to provide flexibility to interchange with different sources of supplies. There are emergency agreements in place to ensure all parts of the County have an adequate supply of water. In the northern part of the County, agencies are able to meet a majority of their demands through groundwater with very little limitation, except for the OCWD BPP. For the agencies in southern Orange County, most of their demands are met with imported water where their limitation is based on the capacity of their system, which is very robust.

However, if a major earthquake on the San Andreas Fault occurs, it will be damaging to all three key regional water aqueducts and disrupt imported supplies for up to six months. The region would likely impose a water use reduction ranging from 10-25% until the system is repaired. However, MET has taken proactive steps to handle such disruption, such as constructing DVL, which mitigates potential impacts.

DVL, along with other local reservoirs, can store a six to twelve-month supply of emergency water (MET, 2021).

7.3 Water Service Reliability Assessment

This Section assesses Mesa Water's reliability to provide water services to its customers under various hydrological conditions. This is completed by comparing the projected long-term water demand (Section 4), to the projected water supply sources available to Mesa Water (Section 6), in five-year increments, for a normal water year, a single dry water year, and a drought lasting five consecutive water years.

7.3.1 Normal Year Reliability

The water demand forecasting model developed for the Demand Forecast TM (described in Section 4.3), to project the 25-year demand for Orange County water agencies, also isolated the impacts that weather and future climate can have on water demand through the use of a statistical model. The explanatory variables of population, temperature, precipitation, unemployment rate, drought restrictions, and conservation measures were used to create the statistical model. The impacts of hot/dry weather condition are reflected as a percentage increase in water demands from the average condition. The average (normal) demand is represented by the average water demand of FY 2017-18 and FY 2018-19 (CDM Smith, 2021).

Mesa Water is 100% reliable for normal year demands from 2025 through 2045 (Table 7-2) due to diversified supply and conservation measures. For simplicity, the table shows supply to balance demand in the table. However, Mesa Water can purchase MET water through MWDOC, should the need arise. Mesa Water has entitlements to receive imported water from MET through MWDOC via connections to MET's regional distribution system. All imported water supplies are assumed available to Mesa Water from existing water transmission facilities, as per MET and MWDOC's 2020 UWMPs. The demand and supplies listed in Table 7-2 also include local groundwater supplies that are available to Mesa Water through OCWD by an assumed BPP of 85%, per Section 6.3.4.

Table 7-2: Retail: Normal Year Supply and Demand Comparison

DWR Submittal Table 7-2 Retail: Normal Year Supply and Demand Comparison					
	2025	2030	2035	2040	2045
Supply totals (AF)	17,454	19,109	20,101	21,476	20,851
Demand totals (AF)	17,454	19,109	20,101	21,476	20,851
Difference (AF)	0	0	0	0	0
NOTES: This table compares the projected demand and supply volumes determined in Sections 4.3.2 and 6.1, respectively.					

7.3.2 Single Dry Year Reliability

A single dry year is defined as a single year of minimal to no rainfall within a period where average precipitation is expected to occur. The water demand forecasting model developed for the Demand Forecast TM (described in Section 4.3) isolated the impacts that weather and future climate can have on water demand through the use of a statistical model. The impacts of hot/dry weather condition are reflected as a percentage increase in water demands from the normal year condition (average of FY 2017-18 and FY 2018-19). For a single dry year condition (FY 2013-14), the model projects a 6% increase in demand for the OC Basin area where Mesa Water’s service area is located (CDM Smith, 2021). Detailed information of the model is included in Appendix E.

Mesa Water has documented that it is 100% reliable for single dry year demands from 2025 through 2045 with a demand increase of 6% from normal demand with significant reserves held by MET, local groundwater supplies, and conservation. A comparison between the supply and the demand in a single dry year is shown in (Table 7-3). For simplicity, the table shows supply to balance demand in the table. However, Mesa Water can purchase MET water through MWDOC, should the need arise.

Table 7-3: Retail: Single Dry Year Supply and Demand Comparison

DWR Submittal Table 7-3 Retail: Single Dry Year Supply and Demand Comparison					
	2025	2030	2035	2040	2045
Supply totals (AF)	18,501	20,256	21,307	21,705	22,102
Demand totals (AF)	18,501	20,256	21,307	21,705	22,102
Difference (AF)	0	0	0	0	0
<p>NOTES:</p> <p>It is conservatively assumed that a single dry year demand is 6% greater than each respective year's normally projected total water demand. Groundwater is sustainably managed through the BPP and robust management measures (Section 6.3.4 and Appendix G); recycled water provides additional local supply (Section 6.6); and based on MET's and MWDOC's 2020 UWMPs, imported water is available to close any water supply gap, should the need arise (Section 7.5.1).</p>					

7.3.3 Multiple Dry Year Reliability

Assessing the reliability to meet demand for five consecutive dry years is a new requirement for the 2020 UWMP, as compared to the previous requirement of assessing three or more consecutive dry years. Multiple dry years are defined as five or more consecutive dry years with minimal rainfall within a period of average precipitation. The water demand forecasting model developed for the Demand Forecast TM (described in Section 4.3) isolated the impacts that weather and future climate can have on water demand through the use of a statistical model. The impacts of hot/dry weather condition are reflected as a percentage increase in water demands from the normal year condition (average of FY 2017-18 and FY 2018-19). For a single dry year condition (FY 2013-14), the model projects a 6% increase in demand for the OC Basin area where Mesa Water's service area is located (CDM Smith, 2021). It is conservatively assumed that a five consecutive dry year scenario is a repeat of the single dry year over five consecutive years.

Even with a conservative demand increase of 6% each year for five consecutive years, Mesa Water is capable of meeting all customers' demands from 2025 through 2045 (Table 7-4), with significant reserves held by MET and conservation. For simplicity, the table shows supply to balance demand in the table. However, Mesa Water can purchase MET water through MWDOC, should the need arise.

Table 7-4: Retail: Multiple Dry Years Supply and Demand Comparison

DWR Submittal Table 7-4 Retail: Multiple Dry Years Supply and Demand Comparison (AF)						
		2025	2030	2035	2040	2045
First year	Supply totals	18,182	18,852	20,466	21,387	21,784
	Demand totals	18,182	18,852	20,466	21,387	21,784
	Difference	0	0	0	0	0
Second year	Supply totals	18,261	19,203	20,676	21,466	21,864
	Demand totals	18,261	19,203	20,676	21,466	21,864
	Difference	0	0	0	0	0
Third year	Supply totals	18,341	19,554	20,886	21,546	21,943
	Demand totals	18,341	19,554	20,886	21,546	21,943
	Difference	0	0	0	0	0
Fourth year	Supply totals	18,421	19,905	21,097	21,625	22,023
	Demand totals	18,421	19,905	21,097	21,625	22,023
	Difference	0	0	0	0	0
Fifth year	Supply totals	18,501	20,256	21,307	21,705	22,102
	Demand totals	18,501	20,256	21,307	21,705	22,102
	Difference	0	0	0	0	0
<p>NOTES:</p> <p>It is conservatively assumed that a five consecutive dry year scenario is a repeat of the single dry year (106% of projected normal year values) over five consecutive years. The 2025 column assesses supply and demand for FY 2020-21 through FY 2024-25; the 2030 column assesses FY 2025-26 through FY 2029-30 and so forth, in order to end the water service reliability assessment in FY 2044-45.</p> <p>Groundwater is sustainably managed through the BPP and robust management measures (Section 6.3.4 and Appendix G); recycled water provides additional local supply (Section 6.6); and based on MET's and MWDOC's 2020 UWMPs, imported water is available to close any water supply gap, should the need arise (Section 7.5.1).</p>						

7.4 Management Tools and Options

Existing and planned water management tools and options for Mesa Water and MWDOC's service area that seek to maximize local resources and result in minimizing the need to import water are described below.

- **Reduced Delta Reliance:** MET has demonstrated consistency with Reduced Reliance on the Delta Through Improved Regional Water Self-Reliance (Delta Plan policy WR P1) by reporting the expected outcomes for measurable reductions in supplies from the Delta. MET has improved its self-reliance through methods including water use efficiency, water recycling, stormwater capture and reuse, advanced water technologies, conjunctive use projects, local and regional water supply and storage programs, and other programs and projects. In 2020, MET had a 602,000 AF change in supplies contributing to regional-self-reliance, corresponding to a 15.3% change, and this amount is projected to increase through 2045 (MET, 2021). For detailed information on the Delta Plan Policy WR P1, refer to Appendix C.
- **The continued and planned use of groundwater:** The water supply resources within MWDOC's service area are enhanced by the existence of groundwater basins that account for the majority of local supplies available and are used as reservoirs to store water during wet years and draw from storage during dry years, subsequently minimizing MWDOC's reliance on imported water. Groundwater basins are managed within a safe basin operating range so that groundwater wells are only pumped as needed to meet water use. Although MWDOC does not produce or manage recycled water, MWDOC supports and partners in recycled water efforts, including groundwater recharge.
- **Groundwater storage and transfer programs:** MWDOC and OCWD's involvement in SARCCUP includes participation in a CUP that improves water supply resiliency and increases available dry-year yield from local groundwater basins. The groundwater bank has 137,000 AF of storage (OCWD, 2020b). Additionally, MET has numerous groundwater storage and transfer programs in which MET endeavors to increase the reliability of water supplies, including the AVEK Waster Agency Exchange and Storage Program and the High Desert Water Bank Program. The IRWD Strand Ranch Water Banking Program has approximately 23,000 AF stored for IRWD's benefit, and by agreement, the water is defined to be an "Extraordinary Supply" by MET and counts essentially 1:1 during a drought/water shortage condition under MET's Water Supply Allocation Plan. In addition, MET has encouraged storage through its cyclic and conjunctive use programs that allow MET to deliver water into a groundwater basin in advance of agency demands, such as the Cyclic Storage Agreements under the Main San Gabriel Basin Judgement.
- **Water Loss Program:** The water loss audit program reduces MWDOC's dependency on imported water from the Delta by implementing water loss control technologies after assessing audit data and leak detection.
- **Increased use of recycled water:** MWDOC partners with local agencies in recycled water efforts, including OCWD to identify opportunities for the use of recycled water for irrigation

purposes, groundwater recharge and some non-irrigation applications. OCWD's GWRS and GAP allow Southern California to decrease its dependency on imported water and create a local and reliable source of water that meet or exceed all federal and state drinking level standards. Expansion of the GWRS is currently underway to increase the plant's production to 130 MGD, and further reduce reliance on imported water.

- **Implementation of demand management measures during dry periods:** During dry periods, water reduction methods to be applied to the public through the retail agencies, will in turn reduce MWDOC's overall demands on MET and reliance on imported water. MWDOC is assisting its retail agencies by leading the coordination of Orange County Regional Alliance for all of the retail agencies in Orange County. MWDOC assists each retail water supplier in Orange County in analyzing the requirements of and establishing their baseline and target water use, as guided by DWR. Mesa Water's specific demand management measures (DMMs) are further discussed in Section 9.

7.5 Drought Risk Assessment

Water Code Section 10635(b) requires every urban water supplier include, as part of its UWMP, a DRA for its water service as part of information considered in developing its DMMs and water supply projects and programs. The DRA is a specific planning action that assumes Mesa Water is experiencing a drought over the next five years and addresses Mesa Water's water supply reliability in the context of presumed drought conditions. Together, the water service reliability assessment (Sections 7.1 through 7.3), DRA, and WSCP (Section 8 and Appendix H) allow Mesa Water to have a comprehensive picture of its short-term and long-term water service reliability and to identify the tools to address any perceived or actual shortage conditions.

Water Code Section 10612 requires the DRA to be based on the driest five-year historic sequence of Mesa Water's water supply. However, Water Code Section 10635 also requires that the analysis consider plausible changes on projected supplies and demands due to climate change, anticipated regulatory changes, and other locally applicable criteria.

The following sections describe Mesa Water's methodology and results of its DRA.

7.5.1 DRA Methodology

The water demand forecasting model developed for the Demand Forecast TM (described in Section 4.3) isolated the impacts that weather and future climate can have on water demand through the use of a statistical model. The impacts of hot/dry weather condition are reflected as a percentage increase in water demands from the average condition (average of FY 2017-18 and FY 2018-19). For a single dry year condition (FY 2013-14), the model projects a 6% increase in demand for the region encompassing Mesa Water's service area (CDM Smith, 2021).

Locally, the five-consecutive years of FY 2011-12 through FY 2015-16 represent the driest five consecutive year historic sequence for Mesa Water's water supply. This period that spanned water years 2012 through 2016 included the driest four-year statewide precipitation on record (2012-2015) and the smallest Sierra-Cascades snowpack on record (2015, with 5% of average). It was marked by

extraordinary heat: 2014, 2015 and 2016 were California's first, second and third warmest year in terms of statewide average temperatures. Locally, Orange County rainfall for the five-year period totaled 36 inches, the driest on record.

As explained in Section 6, Mesa Water currently relies on, and will continue to rely on, two main water sources: local groundwater and local recycled water. There are instances when Mesa Water purchases water from MET / MWDOC; however, Mesa Water maximizes local water supply use first. The difference between total forecasted potable demands and local groundwater supply projections is the demand on MWDOC's imported water supplies, which are supplied by MET. Local groundwater supply for Mesa Water comes from the OC Basin and is dictated by the BPP set annually by OCWD. Therefore, Mesa Water's DRA focuses on the assessment of imported water from MWDOC / MET, which will be used to close any local water supply gap. This assessment aligns with the DRA presented in MWDOC's 2020 UWMP.

Water Demand Characterization

All of MWDOC's water supplies are purchased from MET, regardless of hydrologic conditions. As described in Section 6.2, MET's supplies are from the Colorado River, SWP, and in-region storage. In its 2020 UWMP, MET's DRA concluded that even without activating WSCP actions, MET can reliably provide water to all of their member agencies, including MWDOC, and in effect Mesa Water, assuming a five-year drought from FY 2020-21 through FY 2024-25. Beyond this, MET's DRA indicated a surplus of supplies that would be available to all of its member agencies, including MWDOC, should the need arise. Therefore, any increase in demand that is experienced in MWDOC's service area, which includes Mesa Water, will be met by MET's water supplies.

Based on the Demand Forecast TM, in a single dry year, demand is expected to increase by 6% above a normal year. Both MWDOC and Mesa Water's DRA conservatively assumes a drought from FY 2020-21 through FY 2024-25 is a repeat of the single dry year over five consecutive years.

Mesa Water's demand projections were developed as part of the Demand Forecast TM, led by MWDOC. As part of the study, MWDOC first estimated total retail demands for its service area. This was based on estimated future demands using historical water use trends, future expected water use efficiency measures, additional projected land-use development, and changes in population. Mesa Water's projected water use, linearly interpolated per the demand forecast, is presented annually for the next five years in in Table 4-2. Next, MWDOC estimated the projections of local supplies derived from current and expected local supply programs from their member agencies. Finally, the demand model calculated the difference between total forecasted demands and local supply projections. The resulting difference between total demands net of savings from conservation and local supplies is the expected regional demands on MWDOC from their member agencies, such as Mesa Water.

Water Supply Characterization

MWDOC's assumptions for its supply capabilities are discussed and presented in 5-year increments under its 2020 UWMP water reliability assessment. For MWDOC's DRA, these supply capabilities are further refined and presented annually for the years 2021 to 2025 by assuming a repeat of historic conditions from FY 2011-12 to FY 2015-16. For its DRA, MWDOC assessed the reliability of supplies available to MWDOC through MET using historical supply availability under dry-year conditions.

MET's supply sources under the Colorado River, SWP, and in-region supply categories are individually

listed and discussed in detail in MET’s UWMP. Future supply capabilities for each of these supply sources are also individually tabulated in Appendix 3 of MET’s UWMP, with consideration for plausible changes on projected supplies under climate change conditions, anticipated regulatory changes, and other factors. MWDOC’s supplies are used to meet consumptive use, surface water and groundwater recharge needs that are in excess of locally available supplies. In addition, MWDOC has access to supply augmentation actions through MET. MET may exercise these actions based on regional need, and in accordance with their WSCP, and may include the use of supplies and storage programs within the Colorado River, SWP, and in-region storage.

7.5.2 Total Water Supply and Use Comparison

Mesa Water’s DRA reveals that its supply capabilities are expected to balance anticipated total water use and supply, assuming a five-year consecutive drought from FY 2020-21 through FY 2024-25 (Table 7-5). For simplicity, the table shows supply to balance the modeled demand in the table. However, Mesa Water can purchase MET water from MWDOC, should the need arise.

Table 7-5: Five-Year Drought Risk Assessment Tables to Address Water Code Section 10635(b)

2021		Total (AF)
Total Water Use		18,182
Total Supplies		18,182
Surplus/Shortfall w/o WSCP Action		0
Planned WSCP Actions (use reduction and supply augmentation)		
WSCP - supply augmentation benefit		0
WSCP - use reduction savings benefit		0
Revised Surplus/(shortfall)		0
Resulting % Use Reduction from WSCP action		0%

2022		Total (AF)
Total Water Use		18,261
Total Supplies		18,261
Surplus/Shortfall w/o WSCP Action		0
Planned WSCP Actions (use reduction and supply augmentation)		
WSCP - supply augmentation benefit		0
WSCP - use reduction savings benefit		0
Revised Surplus/(shortfall)		0
Resulting % Use Reduction from WSCP action		0%

Submittal Table 7-5: Five-Year Drought Risk Assessment Tables to address Water Code Section 10635(b)

2023	Total (AF)
Total Water Use	18,341
Total Supplies	18,341
Surplus/Shortfall w/o WSCP Action	0
Planned WSCP Actions (use reduction and supply augmentation)	
WSCP - supply augmentation benefit	0
WSCP - use reduction savings benefit	0
Revised Surplus/(shortfall)	0
Resulting % Use Reduction from WSCP action	0%

2024	Total (AF)
Total Water Use	18,421
Total Supplies	18,421
Surplus/Shortfall w/o WSCP Action	0
Planned WSCP Actions (use reduction and supply augmentation)	
WSCP - supply augmentation benefit	0
WSCP - use reduction savings benefit	0
Revised Surplus/(shortfall)	0
Resulting % Use Reduction from WSCP action	0%

2025	Total (AF)
Total Water Use	18,501
Total Supplies	18,501
Surplus/Shortfall w/o WSCP Action	0
Planned WSCP Actions (use reduction and supply augmentation)	
WSCP - supply augmentation benefit	0
WSCP - use reduction savings benefit	0
Revised Surplus/(shortfall)	0
Resulting % Use Reduction from WSCP action	0%

Note: Groundwater is sustainably managed through the BPP and robust management measures (Section 6.3.4 and Appendix G); recycled water provides additional local supply (Section 6.6); and based on MET's and MWDOC's 2020 UWMPs, imported water is available to close any water supply gap, should the need arise (Section 7.5.1).

7.5.3 Water Source Reliability

Locally, approximately 77% (BPP for Water Year 2021-22) of Mesa Water's total water supply can rely on OC Basin groundwater through FY 2024-25. The BPP is projected to increase to 85% starting in FY 2024-25. Beyond this, Mesa Water's MWRf allows for additional local groundwater sources.

Based on various storage thresholds and hydrologic conditions, OCWD, who manages the OC Basin, has numerous management measures that can be taken, such as adjusting the BPP or seeking additional supplies to refill the basin, to ensure the reliability of the Basin. For more information on the OC Basin's management efforts, refer to Section 6.3.

Additionally, Mesa Water's use of direct (OCWD GAP) and indirect recycled water (OCWD GWRS) should also be considered. The ability to continue producing water locally greatly improves Mesa Water's water reliability. More detail on these programs is available in Sections 6.6.3 and 6.6.4.

Moreover, although they would not normally be considered part of Mesa Water's water portfolio, the interconnections Mesa Water has with the IRWD and the Cities of Huntington Beach, Santa Ana, and Newport Beach could help mitigate any water supply shortages, though shortages are not expected.

Mesa Water's DRA concludes that its water supplies meet total water demand, assuming a five-year consecutive drought from FY 2020-21 through FY 2024-25 (Table 7-5). For simplicity, the table shows supply to balance the modeled demand in the table. However, Mesa Water can purchase more MET water from MWDOC, should the need arise.

As detailed in Section 8, Mesa Water has in place a robust WSCP and comprehensive shortage response planning efforts that include demand reduction measures and supply augmentation actions. However, since Mesa Water's DRA shows a balance between water supply and demand, no water service reliability concern is anticipated, and no shortfall mitigation measures are expected to be exercised over the next five years. Mesa Water and its wholesale supplier, MWDOC, will periodically revisit its representation of the supply sources and of the gross water use estimated for each year, and will revise its DRA if needed.

8 WATER SHORTAGE CONTINGENCY PLANNING

8.1 Layperson Description

Water shortage contingency planning is a strategic planning process that Mesa Water engages to prepare for and respond to water shortages. A water shortage, when water supply available is insufficient to meet the normally expected customer water use at a given point in time, may occur due to a number of reasons, such as water supply quality changes, climate change, drought, and catastrophic events (e.g., earthquake). Mesa Water's WSCP provides real-time water supply availability assessment and structured steps designed to respond to actual conditions. This level of detailed planning and preparation will help maintain reliable supplies and reduce the impacts of supply interruptions.

Water Code Section 10632 requires that every urban water supplier that serves more than 3,000 AF per year or have more than 3,000 connections prepared and adopt a standalone Water Shortage Contingency Plan (WSCP) as part of its urban water management plan (UWMP). The WSCP is required to plan for a greater than 50% supply shortage. This WSCP due to be updated based on new requirements every five years and will be adopted as a current update for submission to the California DWR by July 1, 2021.

8.2 Overview of the WSCP

The WSCP serves as the operating manual that Mesa Water will use to prevent catastrophic service disruptions through proactive, rather than reactive, mitigation of water shortages. The WSCP contains processes and procedures documented in the WSCP, which are given legal authority through the Water Shortage Contingency Response Ordinance. This way, when shortage conditions arise, Mesa Water's governing body, its staff, and the public can easily identify and efficiently implement pre-determined steps to mitigate a water shortage to the level appropriate to the degree of water shortfall anticipated. Figure 8-1 illustrates the interdependent relationship between the three procedural documents related to planning for and responding to water shortages.



Figure 8-1: UWMP Overview

A copy of Mesa Water’s WSCP is provided in Appendix H and includes the steps to assess if a water shortage is occurring, and what level of shortage drought actions to trigger the best response as appropriate to the water shortage conditions. WSCP has prescriptive elements, including an analysis of water supply reliability; the drought shortage actions for each of the six standard water shortage levels, that correspond to water shortage percentages ranging from 10% to greater than 50%; an estimate of potential to close supply gap for each measure; protocols and procedures to communicate identified actions for any current or predicted water shortage conditions; procedures for an annual water supply and demand assessment; monitoring and reporting requirements to determine customer compliance; and reevaluation and improvement procedures for evaluating the WSCP.

8.3 Summary of Water Shortage Response Strategy and Required DWR Tables

This WSCP is organized into three main sections, with Section 3 aligned with the Water Code Section 16032 requirements.

Section 1 Introduction and WSCP Overview gives an overview of the WSCP fundamentals.

Section 2 Background provides a background on Mesa Water’s water service area.

Section 3.1 Water Supply Reliability Analysis provides a summary of the water supply analysis and water reliability findings from the 2020 UWMP.

Section 3.2 Annual Water Supply and Demand Assessment Procedures provide a description of procedures to conduct and approve the Annual Assessment.

Section 3.3 Six Standard Water Shortage Stages explains the WSCP’s six standard water shortage levels corresponding to progressive ranges of up to 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, and more than 50% shortages.

Section 3.4 Shortage Response Actions describes the WSCP's shortage response actions that align with the defined shortage levels.

Section 3.5 Communication Protocols addresses communication protocols and procedures to inform customers, the public, interested parties, and local, regional, and state governments, regarding any current or predicted shortages and any resulting shortage response actions.

Section 3.6 Compliance and Enforcement describes customer compliance, enforcement, appeal, and exemption procedures for triggered shortage response actions.

Section 3.7 Legal Authorities is a description of the legal authorities that enable Mesa Water to implement and enforce its shortage response actions.

Section 3.8 Financial Consequences of the WSCP provides a description of the financial consequences of and responses for drought conditions.

Section 3.9 Monitoring and Reporting describes monitoring and reporting requirements and procedures that ensure appropriate data is collected, tracked, and analyzed for purposes of monitoring customer compliance and to meet state reporting requirements.

Section 3.10 WSCP Refinement Procedures addresses reevaluation and improvement procedures for monitoring and evaluating the functionality of the WSCP.

Section 3.11 Special Water Feature Distinction is a required definition for inclusion in a WSCP per the Water Code.

Section 3.12 Plan Adoption, Submittal, and Implementation provides a record of the process Mesa Water followed to adopt and implement its WSCP.

The WSCP is based on adequate details of demand reduction and supply augmentation measures that are structured to match varying degrees of shortage will ensure the relevant stakeholders understand what to expect during a water shortage situation. Mesa Water has adopted water shortage levels consistent with the requirements identified in Water Code Section 10632 (a)(3)(A) (Table 8-1).

The supply augmentation actions that align with each shortage level are described in DWR Table 8-3 (Appendix B). These augmentations represent short-term management objectives triggered by the WSCP and do not overlap with the long-term new water supply development or supply reliability enhancement projects.

The demand reduction measures that align with each shortage level are described in DWR Table 8-2 (Appendix B). This table also estimates the extent to which that action will reduce the gap between supplies and demands to demonstrate to the that choose suite of shortage response actions can be expected to deliver the expected outcomes necessary to meet the requirements of a given shortage level.

Table 8-1: Water Shortage Contingency Plan Levels

Submittal Table 8-1 Water Shortage Contingency Plan Levels		
Shortage Level	Percent Shortage Range	Shortage Response Actions
0	0% (Normal)	A Level 0 Water Supply Shortage – Mesa Water proceeds with planned water efficiency best practices to support consumer demand reduction in line with state mandated requirements and Mesa Water goals for water supply reliability. Permanent water waste prohibitions are in place as stipulated in the Mesa Water’s Water Shortage Response Ordinance.
1	Up to 10%	A Level 1 Water Supply Shortage – Condition exists when Mesa Water notifies its water users that due to drought or other supply reductions, a consumer demand reduction of up to 10% is necessary to make more efficient use of water and respond to existing water conditions. Upon the declaration of a Water Aware condition, Mesa Water shall implement the mandatory Level 1 conservation measures identified in this ordinance.
2	11% to 20%	A Level 2 Water Supply Shortage – Condition exists when Mesa Water notifies its water users that due to drought or other supply reductions, a consumer demand reduction of up to 20% is necessary to make more efficient use of water and respond to existing water conditions. Upon declaration of a Level 2 Water Supply Shortage condition, Mesa Water shall implement the mandatory Level 2 conservation measures identified in this ordinance.
3	21% to 30%	A Level 3 Water Supply Shortage – Condition exists when Mesa Water declares a water shortage emergency condition pursuant to California Water Code section 350 and notifies its residents and businesses that up to 30% consumer demand reduction is required to ensure sufficient supplies for human consumption, sanitation and fire protection. Mesa Water must declare a Water Supply Shortage Emergency in the manner and on the grounds provided in California Water Code section 350.
4	31% to 40%	A Level 4 Water Supply Shortage – Condition exists when Mesa Water declares a water shortage emergency condition pursuant to California Water Code section 350 and notifies its residents and businesses that up to 40% consumer demand reduction is required to ensure sufficient supplies for human consumption, sanitation and fire protection. Mesa Water must declare a Water Supply Shortage Emergency in the manner and on the grounds provided in California Water Code section 350.

**Submittal Table 8-1
Water Shortage Contingency Plan Levels**

Shortage Level	Percent Shortage Range	Shortage Response Actions
5	41% to 50%	A Level 5 Water Supply Shortage - Condition exists when Mesa Water declares a water shortage emergency condition pursuant to California Water Code section 350 and notifies its residents and businesses that up to 50% or more consumer demand reduction is required to ensure sufficient supplies for human consumption, sanitation and fire protection. Mesa Water must declare a Water Supply Shortage Emergency in the manner and on the grounds provided in California Water Code section 350.
6	>50%	A Level 6 Water Supply Shortage – Condition exists when Mesa Water declares a water shortage emergency condition pursuant to California Water Code section 350 and notifies its residents and businesses that greater than 50% or more consumer demand reduction is required to ensure sufficient supplies for human consumption, sanitation and fire protection. Mesa Water must declare a Water Supply Shortage Emergency in the manner and on the grounds provided in California Water Code section 350.
NOTES:		

Water shortage contingency planning is a strategic planning process to prepare for and respond to water shortages. Detailed planning and preparation can help maintain reliable supplies and reduce the impacts of supply interruptions. This chapter provides a structured plan for dealing with water shortages, incorporating prescriptive information and standardized action levels, along with implementation actions in the event of a catastrophic supply interruption.

A well-structured WSCP allows real-time water supply availability assessment and structured steps designed to respond to actual conditions, to allow for efficient management of any shortage with predictability and accountability. A water shortage, when water supply available is insufficient to meet the normally expected customer water use at a given point in time, may occur due to a number of reasons, such as population growth, climate change, drought, and catastrophic events. The WSCP is Mesa Water’s operating manual that is used to prevent catastrophic service disruptions through proactive, rather than reactive, management. This way, if and when shortage conditions arise, Mesa Water’s governing body, its staff, and the public can easily identify and efficiently implement pre-determined steps to manage a water shortage.

9 DEMAND MANAGEMENT MEASURES

Mesa Water, along with other Retail water agencies throughout Orange County, recognizes the need to use existing water supplies efficiently. This ethic of efficient use of water has evolved as a result of the development and implementation of water use efficiency programs that make good economic sense and reflect responsible stewardship of the region's water resources. Mesa Water works closely with MWDOC to promote regional efficiency by participating in the regional water savings programs, leveraging MWDOC local program assistance, and applying the findings of MWDOCs research and evaluation efforts. This chapter communicates Mesa Water's efforts to promote conservation and to reduce demand on water supplies. A detailed description of demand management measures is available in Appendix J.

9.1 Demand Management Measures for Retail Suppliers

The goal of the DMM section is to provide a comprehensive description of the water conservation programs that a supplier has implemented, is currently implementing, and plans to implement in order to meet its urban water use reduction targets. The reporting requirements for DMM has been significantly modified and streamlined in 2014 by Assembly Bill 2067. Additionally, this section of the UWMP will report on the role of MWDOC's programs in meeting new state regulations for complying with the SWRCB's new Conservation Framework. These categories of demand management measures are as follows:

- Public education and outreach;
- Programs to assess and manage distribution system real loss;
- Water conservation program coordination and staffing support;
- Water waste prevention ordinances;
- Metering;
- Conservation pricing;
- Other DMMs that have a significant impact on water use as measured in GPCD, including innovative measures, if implemented;
- Programs to assist retailers with Conservation Framework Compliance.

9.1.1 Water Waste Prevention Ordinances

The Mesa Water Board of Directors adopted the Water Conservation and Water Supply Emergency Program, Ordinance No. 26 on May 14, 2015. The Conservation Program established an updated and consolidated water supply and water conservation emergency program to conform to additional State Water Resources Control Board Regulations. The ordinance established provision for prohibitions against waste as follows:

- Limits on watering hours
- No excessive water flow or runoff
- No washing down hard or paved surfaces
- Obligations to fix leaks, breaks, and malfunctions
- Re-circulating water required for water fountains and decorative water features

- Limits on washing vehicles
- Drinking water served upon requests only
- Commercial lodging establishments must provide guests option to decline daily linen service
- No installation of single pass cooling systems
- No installation of non-re-circulating in commercial car wash and laundry systems
- Restaurants required to use water conserving dish wash spray valves
- Commercial car wash systems must use recirculating system
- Recycled water use required if available
- Use recycled water at new service where available, cost effective, and safe
- Prohibition to irrigate turf with potable water on medians – replaced with California friendly plants.

The Conservation Program has a permanent water conservation clause i.e., the Mesa Water Conservation Program is effective at all times and is not dependent upon a water shortage for implementation. In an event of a water supply shortage, the Conservation Program established provisions for three levels of water supply shortage response actions associated with increasingly restrictive prohibitions to be implemented during a declared shortage. Level 1 corresponds to a water supply shortage alert; Level 2 corresponds to a water supply shortage warning; and Level 3 corresponds to a water supply shortage emergency.

The provisions and water conservation measures to be implemented in response to each shortage level are described in the WSCP located in Appendix H of this 2020 UWMP. The Mesa Water Conservation and Water Supply Emergency Program Ordinance is included in Appendix B. As of publication of this UWMP, this Ordinance is scheduled to be replaced with an updated Ordinance in 2021.

9.1.2 Metering

All water service connections supplied by Mesa Water are fully metered and customers are billed by volume of water used. Mesa Water requires individual metering for all new connections. Mesa Water has a program to replace meters every 15 year as well as replacement of any meters that fail due to malfunctions and under-registration. Calibration testing is performed along with the water loss audit every year. All three inch and larger meters are tested every year to AWWA calibration standards. Mesa Water evaluates the property's water usage versus the meter's efficiency to determine whether meters should be rebuilt and/or replaced. Mesa Water does not have statutory authority to mandate submeters but requires dedicated irrigation meters that are read and billed by Mesa Water for all CII and Multi-Family developments with irrigated landscape over 1,000 square feet.

Mesa Water has implemented an Automatic Meter Reading (AMR) pilot project and is currently reviewing its progress and effectiveness and plans to implement a permanent program in a cost-effective manner.

9.1.3 Conservation Pricing

Mesa Water's water rate schedule is based on a uniform rate structure for commodity charges. Table 9-1 shows Mesa Water's water rates effective as of January 1, 2016.

Table 9-1: Mesa Water District Residential Water Usage Rates

Type of Water	Water Rate (per 100 cubic feet)
Potable Water	\$4.49
Recycled Water	\$2.93
Construction Water	\$4.96
Fireline Water	\$4.96

9.1.4 Public Education and Outreach

Mesa Water’s public education and outreach program is administered by MWDOC, its wholesale supplier. MWDOC develops, coordinates, and delivers a substantial number of public information, education, and outreach programs aimed at elevating water agency and consumer awareness and understanding of current water issues as well as efficient water use and water-saving practices, sound policy, and water reliability investments that are in the best interest of the region. These efforts encourage good water stewardship that benefit all Mesa Water residents, businesses, and industries across all demographics. Several examples are included below:

Print and Electronic Materials

MWDOC offers a variety of print and electronic materials that are designed to assist Mesa Water water users of all ages in discovering where their water comes from, what the MWDOC and other water industry professionals are doing to address water challenges, how to use water most efficiently, and more. Through the MWDOC’s robust social media presence, award-winning website, eCurrents newsletter, media tool kits, public service announcements (PSAs), flyers, brochures, and other outreach materials, MWDOC ensures that stakeholders are equipped with sufficient information and subject knowledge to assist them in making good behavioral and civic choices that ultimately affect the quality and quantity of the region’s water supply.

Public Events

Each year, MWDOC hosts an array of public events intended to engage a diverse range of water users in targeted discussions and actions that homes in on their specific interests or needs. Some of these public events include:

- **MWDOC Water Policy Forums and Orange County Water Summit** are innovative and interactive symposiums that bring together hundreds of business professionals, elected officials, water industry stakeholders, and community leaders from throughout the state for a discussion on new and ongoing water supply challenges, water policy issues, and other important topics that impact our water supply, economy, and public health.

- **Inspection Trips** of the state's water supply systems are sponsored each year by MWDOC and MET. Orange County elected officials, residents, business owners, and community leaders are invited to tour key water facilities throughout the state and learn more about the critical planning, procurement, and management of Southern California's water supply, as well as the issues surrounding delivery and management of our most precious natural resource – water.
- **Community Events and Events Featuring MWDOC Mascot Ricky the Rambunctious Raindrop** provide opportunities to interact with Orange County water users in a fun and friendly way, offer useful water-related information or education, and engage them in important discussions about the value of water and how their decisions at home, at work, and as tax- or ratepayers may impact Orange County's quality and quantity of water for generations to come.

Education Programs and Initiatives

Over the past several years, MWDOC has amplified its efforts in water education programs and activities for Orange County's youngest water users. This is accomplished by continuing to grow professional networks and partnerships that consist of leading education groups, advisors, and teachers, and by leading the way for the MWDOC and its 28 member agencies to be key contributors of both Southern California and Orange County water-centric learning. Several key water education programs and initiatives include:

- **Environmental Literacy** is an individual's awareness of the interconnectedness and interdependency between people and natural systems, being able to identify patterns and systems within their communities, while also gathering evidence to argue points and solve problems. By using the environment as the context for learning, K-12 students gain real-world knowledge by asking questions and solving problems that directly affect them, their families, and their communities. This approach to K-12 education builds critical thinking skills and promotes inquiry, and is the foundation for all MWDOC education programs, initiatives, and activities.
- **MWDOC Choice School Programs** have provided Orange County K-12 students water-focused learning experiences for nearly five (5) decades. Interactive, grade-specific lessons invite students to connect with, and learn from, their local ecosystems, guiding them to identify and solve local water-related environmental challenges affecting their communities. Choice School Programs are aligned with state standards, and participation includes a dynamic in-class or virtual presentation, and pre- and post-activities that encourage and support Science Technology Engineering Arts and Mathematics (STEAM)-based learning and good water stewardship.
- **Water Energy Education Alliance (WEEA)** is a coalition of education and water and energy industry professionals led by MWDOC that works together to build and bolster Career Technical Education programs (CTE) for Southern California high school students. These CTEs focus on workforce pathways in the Energy, Environment, and Utility Sectors, and connections established through this powerful Southern California alliance assist stakeholders as they thoughtfully step up their investment in the education and career success of California's future workforce.
- **MWDOC Water Awareness Poster Contest** is an annual activity developed to encourage Orange County's K-12 students to investigate and explore their relationship to water, connect the importance of good water stewardship to their daily lives, and express their conclusions creatively through art. Each year, MWDOC receives hundreds of entries, and 40 winners from across

Orange County are invited to attend a special awards ceremony with their parents and teachers, and Ricky the Rambunctious Raindrop.

- **Boy Scouts Soil and Water Conservation Merit Badge and Girl Scouts Water Resources and Conservation Patch Programs** guide Orange County Scouts on a learning adventure of where their water comes from, the importance of Orange County water resources, and how to be water efficient. These STEAM-based clinics are hosted by MWDOC and include interactive learning stations, hands-on activities, and a guided tour of an Orange County water source, water treatment facility, or ecological reserve.
- **Partnerships** are an integral part of achieving water-related goals that impact all Orange County water users. MWDOC's partner list is extensive, and acts as a collective catalyst for all those involved to grow and prosper. Some of the MWDOC's most recognized partners include local, regional, state, and federal legislators, educators, water and energy industry leaders, environmental groups, media, and business associations all focused on the common goals of water education, water use efficiency, and advocacy on behalf of the region.

9.1.5 Programs to Assess and Manage Distribution System Real Loss

Mesa Water consistently monitors water production with SCADA and performs a formal water audit each year. Additionally, when a leak is discovered, Mesa Water staff typically responds immediately to make repairs. The Mesa Water prescreening audit has determined that over 95% of total supply into the system (pumped groundwater) is typically captured in sales.

Mesa Water performs the AWWA Water Audit each year and routine maintenance is tracked in a Computerized Maintenance Management System (CMMS). The CMMS plans, schedules, and values all mainline, hydrant, meter, valve, and other infrastructure replacement and maintenance. Mesa Water also allocates a budget and systematic workplan for the replacement and maintenance of the infrastructure, and by following this workplan has spent over \$1 million each year replacing routine capital infrastructure including hydrants, valves, and service lines. Mesa Water is currently completing a pipeline integrity program to determine the strength, quality, and remaining useful service life of the distribution system. This will also direct Mesa Water where leak detection should be increased.

Senate Bill 1420 signed into law in September 2014 requires urban water suppliers that submit UWMPs to calculate annual system water losses using the water audit methodology developed by AWWA. AB 1420 requires the water loss audit be submitted to DWR every five years as part of the urban water supplier's UWMP. Water auditing is the basis for effective water loss control. DWR's UWMP Guidebook include a water audit manual intended to help water utilities complete the AWWA Water Audit on an annual basis. A Water Loss Audit was completed for Mesa Water which identified areas for improvement and quantified total loss. Based on the data presented, the three priority areas identified were volume from own sources, unauthorized consumption, and systematic data handling errors. Multiple criteria are a part of each validity score and a system wide approach will need to be implemented for Mesa Water's improvement. Expressing water loss audit results in terms of Real Losses per Service Connection per Day allows for standardized comparison across MWDOC retailer agencies and is a metric consistent with the Water Board's forthcoming economic model. The Real Losses per Service Connection per Day for CY2019 was 12.78 gal/connection/day. Mesa Water has been actively

exploring ways to not only reduce the water loss volume but increase their validity score, which was 79 in 2019.

9.1.6 Water Conservation Program Coordination and Staffing Support

Mesa Water has maintained a full-time Conservation Coordinator position since 2001 and continues to provide support staff as necessary. The Conservation Coordinator is responsible for coordinating all conservation program activities and acts as the liaison between Mesa Water and MWDOC, MET, CalWEP, DWR, CA Water Board and others. The following list highlights areas of responsibility of the Conservation Coordinator.

- Plans, prioritizes, assigns, supervises, and reviews the work of staff responsible for providing services related to Mesa Water's water conservation programs and office and field customer service activities; coordinates the operations of the section.
- Participates in the selection of assigned water conservation and office and field customer service staff; provides or coordinates staff training.
- Participates in the preparation and administration of the conservation/customer service program budget; submits budget recommendations; monitors expenditures.
- Analyzes, develops, and implements cost-effective water conservation programs consistent with the best management practices (BMPs), including the identification, evaluation, and implementation of measures essential to the efficient use of Mesa Water's water supplies; tracks customer contact and program progress; reports on progress.
- Represents Mesa Water on water conservation issues to committees, meetings, community groups, and the general public; attends various regional meetings; speaks to various groups; conducts interviews with the media as needed.
- Plans, develops, implements, evaluates, and promotes landscape water conservation programs consistent with current state/federal laws, develops printed materials and conducts customer workshops on water efficient landscape and irrigation system design; coordinates with City of Costa Mesa and other public agencies.
- Oversees a variety of conservation and water use efficiency functions including water surveys, investigations, and evaluations of residential and CII customers; assesses the efficiency of water use, particularly for landscape irrigation; provides recommendations on water usage and conservation techniques, equipment improvements, and other methods of achieving more efficient water use.
- Serves as liaison between Mesa Water and other government agencies at the local, state, and federal levels; works with MET and MWDOC in the implementation of water efficiency policies and programs; coordinates various rebate programs with MWDOC and various vendors.
- Prepares the Mesa Water UWMP and BMP Report through data collection and analysis in the areas of demand forecasting, historical trends in water use and hydrology, water conditions and quality, water savings, rate structures, and water supply economics; enters data results from all

efficiency programs; query data for selected reporting ranges; analyzes and screens data for reporting accuracy.

- Monitors and provides guidance for landscape maintenance to the Facilities Maintenance section regarding landscape projects at all Mesa Water sites including the water demonstration garden; adjusts all Mesa Water irrigation clocks at various sites based on climate data; conducts soil analysis and observes landscape conditions and makes recommendations based on observations; provides customers detailed information about the Mesa Water demonstration garden.

Regional programs are funded by MET and MWDOC and receive supplemental funding from Mesa Water.

9.1.7 Other Demand Management Measures

9.1.7.1 Residential Program

MWDOC assists Mesa Water with the implementation of residential DMMs by making available the following programs aimed at increasing landscape and indoor water use efficiency for residential customers.

High Efficiency Clothes Washer Rebate Program

The High Efficiency Clothes Washer (HECW) Rebate Program provides residential customers with rebates for purchasing and installing HECWs that. Approximately 15% of home water use goes towards laundry, and HECWs use 35-50% less water than standard washer models, with savings of approximately 10,500 gallons per year, per device. Devices must meet or exceed the Consortium for Energy Efficiency (CEE) Tier 1 Standard, and a listing of qualified products can be found at ocwatersmart.com. There is a maximum of one rebate per home.

Premium High Efficiency Toilet Rebate Program

The largest amount of water used inside a home, 30%, goes toward flushing the toilet. The Premium High Efficiency Toilet (HET) Rebate Program offers incentives to residential customers for replacing their toilets using 1.6 gallons per flush (gpf) or more. Premium HETs use just 1.1 gallons of water or less per flush, which is 20% less water than WaterSense standard toilets. In addition, Premium HETS save an average of 9 gallons of water per day while maintaining high performance standards.

9.1.7.2 CII Programs

MWDOC provides a variety of financial incentives to help Mesa Water businesses, restaurants, institutions, hotels, hospitals, industrial facilities, and public sector sites achieve their efficiency goals. Water users in these sectors have options to choose from a standardized list of water efficient equipment/devices or may complete customized projects through a pay-for-performance where the incentive is proportional to the amount of water saved. Such projects include high efficiency commercial equipment installation and manufacturing process improvements.

Water Savings Incentive Program

The Water Savings Incentive Program (WSIP) is designed for non-residential customers to improve their water efficiency through upgraded equipment or services that do not qualify for standard rebates. WSIP is unique because it provides an incentive based on the amount of water customers actually save.

This “pay-for-performance” design lets customers implement custom projects for their sites.

Projects must save at least 10 MG of water to qualify for the Program and are offered from \$195 to \$390 per acre foot of water saved. Examples of successfully projects include but are not limited to changing industrial process system water, capturing condensation and using it to supplement cooling tower supply, and replacing water-using equipment with more efficient products.

On-site Retrofit Program

The On-site Retrofit Program (ORP) provides another pay-for-performance financial incentive to commercial, industrial, and institutional property owners, including Homeowner Associations (HOAs), who convert potable water irrigation or industrial water systems to recycled water use.

Projects commonly include the conversion of mixed or dedicated irrigation meters using potable water to irrigate with reclaimed water, or convert industrial processes use to recycled water, such as a cooling towers. Financial incentives of up to \$1,300 per AF of potable water saved are available for customer-side on the meter retrofits. Funding is provided by MET, USBR, and DWR.

Multi-Family Premium High Efficiency Toilet Incentive Program

MWDOC makes an effort to reach all water-users in Orange County. For the Multi-Family Premium HET Rebate Program, MWDOC targets multi-family buildings in both disadvantaged communities (DAC) and non-DAC communities, in addition to targeting all commercial buildings, and SF residential homes through Premium HET device rebates.

MWDOC offers the DAC Multi-Family HET Program, a special version of the HET Program, to ensure regardless of economic status all water-users in Orange County can benefit from the rebate.

This Program targets 3.5 gpf or greater toilets to replace them with WaterSense Labeled 1.1 gpf or less. For this purpose, DAC are referenced as communities facing economic hardship. This is defined using criteria established by DWR and the County of Orange, which includes communities where the MHI is less than 85% of the Orange County MHI.

The DAC Multi-Family Program is contractor-driven, where a contractor works with building owners to replace all of the toilets in the building(s). To avoid any cost to tenants, the rebate is \$200 per toilet paid to the contractor, essentially covering the contractor’s cost; therefore, there is little to no charge to the building owners that may be passed through to tenants. This process was formed after consulting contractors and multi-family building owners in Orange County. To serve those in multi-family buildings outside of designated DAC locations, MWDOC offers \$75 per toilet through the same contractor-driven format. An additional option is available through SoCalWater\$mart, which offers up to \$250 per toilet to multi-family buildings that were built before 1994, therefore targeting buildings built before legislation required low-flow plumbing fixtures in new construction.

Device Retrofits

MWDOC offers additional financial incentives under the Social WaterSmart Rebate Program which offers rebates for various water efficient devices to CII customers. Core funding is provided by MET and supplemental funding is sourced from MWDOC via grant funds and/or retail water agencies.

9.1.7.3 Landscape Programs

One of the most active water use efficiency sectors MWDOC provides services for are those programs that target the reduction of outdoor water use. With close to 60% of water consumed outdoors, this sector has been and will continue to be a focus for MWDOC and Mesa Water.

Turf Removal Program

The Orange County Turf Removal Program offers incentives to remove turf grass from residential, commercial, and public properties throughout the County. This program is a partnership between MWDOC, MET, and local retail water agencies. The goals of this program are to increase water use efficiency through sustainable landscaping practices that result in multi-benefit projects across Orange County. Participants replace their turf grass with drought-tolerant, CA Friendly, or CA Native landscaping, and retrofit their irrigation systems to high efficiency equipment, such as drip, or remove it entirely, and are encouraged to utilize smart irrigation timers. Furthermore, projects are required to include a stormwater capture feature, such as a rain garden or dry stream bed, and have a minimum of three plants per 100 square feet to increase plant density and promote healthy soils. These projects save water and also reduce dry and wet weather runoff, increase urban biomass, and sequester more carbon than turf landscapes.

Landscape Design and Maintenance Plan Assistance Programs

To maximize the water efficiency and quality of Orange County's Turf Removal Program Projects, MWDOC offers free landscape designs and free landscape maintenance plans to participating residential customers. The Landscape Design Assistance Program is offered at the beginning stages of their turf removal project so that customers may receive a customized, professionally designed landscape to replace their turf. Landscape designs include plant selection, layout, irrigation plans, and a stormwater capture feature. These designs help ensure climate appropriate plants are chosen and planted by hydrozone, that appropriate high efficiency irrigation is properly utilized, that water savings are maximized as a result of the transformation. Landscape maintenance plans are offered after a project is complete to ensure that the new landscape is cared for properly and water savings are maximized.

Smart Timer Rebate Program

Smart Timers are irrigation clocks that are either weather-based irrigation controllers (WBICs) or soil moisture sensor systems. WBICs adjust automatically to reflect changes in local weather and site-specific landscape needs, such as soil type, slopes, and plant material. When WBICs are programmed properly, turf and plants receive the proper amount of water throughout the year. During the fall months, when property owners and landscape professionals often overwater, Smart Timers can save significant amounts of water.

Rotating Nozzles Rebate Program

The Rotating Nozzle Rebate Program provides incentives to residential and commercial properties for the replacement of high-precipitation rate spray nozzles with low-precipitation rate multi-stream, multi-trajectory rotating nozzles. The rebate offered through this Program aims to offset the cost of the device and installation.

Spray-to-Drip Rebate Program

The Spray to Drip Rebate Program offers residential, commercial, and public agency customers rebates for converting areas irrigated by traditional high-precipitation rate spray heads to low-precipitation rate drip irrigation. Drip irrigation systems are extremely water-efficient. Rather than spraying wide areas subject to wind drift, overspray and runoff, drip systems use point emitters to deliver water to specific locations at or near plant root zones. Water drips slowly from the emitters either onto the soil surface or below ground. As a result, less water is lost to wind, evaporation, and overspray, saving water, and reducing irrigation runoff and non-point source pollution.

SoCal WaterSmart Rebate Program for Landscape

Mesa Water through MWDOC also offers financial incentives under the SoCal WaterSmart Rebate Program for a variety of water efficient landscape devices, such as Central Computer Irrigation Controllers, large rotary nozzles, and in-stem flow regulators.

Landscape Training Classes

The California Friendly and Native Landscape Training and the Turf Removal and Garden Transformation Workshops provide education to residential homeowners, property managers, and professional landscape contractors on a variety of landscape water efficiency practices that they can employ and use to help design a beautiful garden using California Friendly and native plant landscaping principles. The California Friendly and Native Landscape Class demonstrates how to: implement storm water capture features in the landscape; create a living soil sponge that holds water; treat rainwater by a resource; select and arrange plants to maximize biodiversity and minimize water use; and control irrigation to minimize water waste, runoff and non-point source pollution.

The Turf Removal and Garden Transformation Workshop teaches participants how to transform thirsty turfgrass into a beautiful, climate-appropriate water efficient garden. This class teaches how to: evaluate the landscape's potential; plan for garden transformation; identify the type of turfgrass in the yard; remove grass without chemicals; build healthy, living soils; select climate-appropriate plants that minimize water use and maximize beauty and biodiversity; and implement a maintenance schedule to maintain the garden.

Qualified Water Efficient Landscape Certification (Commercial)

Since 2018, MWDOC along with Mesa Water, has offered free Qualified Water Efficient Landscaper (QWEL) certification classes designed for landscape professionals. Classes are open to any city staff, professional landscaper, water district employee, or maintenance personnel that would like to become a Qualified Water Efficient Landscaper. The QWEL certification program provides 20 hours of instruction on water efficient areas of expertise such as local water supply, sustainable landscaping, soil types, irrigation systems and maintenance, as well as irrigation controller scheduling and programming. QWEL has received recognition from EPA WaterSense for continued promotion of water use efficiency. To earn the

QWEL certification, class participants must demonstrate their ability to perform an irrigation audit as well as pass the QWEL exam. Successful graduates will be listed as a Certified Professional on the WaterSense website as well as on MWDOC’s landscape resources page, to encourage Turf Removal participants or those making any landscape improvements to hire a QWEL certified professional.

Started in December 2020, a hybrid version of QWEL is available in conjunction with the California Landscape Contractors Association’s Water Management Certification Program. This joint effort allows landscape industry an opportunity to obtain two nationally recognized EPA WaterSense Professional Certifications with one course and one written test. This option is offered through MET.

OC Water Smart Gardens Resource Page

MWDOC’s OC Water Smart Gardens webpage provides a surplus of helpful guides and fact sheets, as well as an interactive photo gallery of water-saving landscape ideas. The purpose of this resource is to help Orange County residents find a broad variety of solutions for their water efficient landscaping needs. This includes a detailed plant database with advanced to search features; photo and/or video-based garden tours; garden gallery with images organized into helpful landscape categories such as back yards, hillsides, full sun, and/or shade with detailed plant information; and the ability to select and store plants in a list that the user can print for use when shopping.

Additional technical resources are available such as a watering calculator calibrated for local evapotranspiration rates, and a garden resources section with fact sheets on sustainable landscape fundamentals, water and soil management, composting, solving run-off, and other appropriate topics. Web page is accessible through mwdoc.com and directly at www.ocwatersmartgardens.com.

9.2 Implementation over the Past Five Years

During the past five years, FY 2015-16 to 2020-21, Mesa Water, with the assistance of MWDOC, has continued water use efficiency programs for its residential, CII, and landscape customers as described below. Implementation data is provided in Appendix I. Mesa Water will continue to implement all applicable programs in the next five years.

Table 9-2: Mesa Water District Water Conservation Efficiency Program Participation

Measure	Unit	FY 2015-16	FY 2016-17	FY 2017-18	FY 2018-19	FY 2019-20
CCIC	Central Computer Irrigation Controllers	-	-	-	-	-
Flow Restrictor	Flow Restrictor	-	-	-	-	-

Mesa Water District 2020 Urban Water Management Plan

Measure	Unit	FY 2015-16	FY 2016-17	FY 2017-18	FY 2018-19	FY 2019-20
HECW	He Efficiency Clothes Washers	124	82	53	43	40
HET	High Efficiency Toilets	215	4	1	3	3
Rain Barrel	Rain Barrels	263	35	11	6	11
RES Cistern	Cisterns	-	-	-	-	-
RES Premium HET	Premium High Efficiency Toilets	671	778	7	110	12
Rotating Nozzle	Rotating Nozzles	3,069	113	36	-	50
WBIC (CII)	CII Weather Based Irrigation Controllers	13	41	-	-	3
WBIC (Res)	Residential Weather Based Irrigation Controllers	45	147	56	37	34
ZWU	Zero Water Urinals	-	-	-	-	-

Measure	Unit	FY 2015-16	FY 2016-17	FY 2017-18	FY 2018-19	FY 2019-20
Plumbing Flow Control	Plumbing Flow Control	-	-	-	-	-
Moisture Sensor	Soil Moisture Sensor	1	2	-	-	-
Ice-Making Machine	Ice-Making Machine	-	-	-	-	-
Turf	Turf Removal	25,344	81,206	95,158	3,023	63,264
Drip	Spray-to-Drip			2,163	10,149	6,640
LDAP	Landscape Design Assistance	-	-	-	-	16
WSIP	Water Savings Incentive Program	-	-	-	-	-
On-Site Retrofit	Recycled Water	-	-	1	-	-

9.3 Water Use Objectives (Future Requirements)

To support Orange County retailers with SB 606 and AB 1668 compliance (Conservation Framework), MWDOC is providing multi-level support to members agencies to ensure they meet the primary goals of the legislation including to Use Water More Wisely and to Eliminate Water Waste. Beginning in 2023, Urban water suppliers are required to calculate and report their annual urban water use objective (WUO), submit validated water audits annually, and to implement and report BMP CII performance measures.

Urban Water Use Objective

An Urban Water Supplier’s urban WUO is based on efficient water use of the following:

- Aggregate estimated efficient **indoor residential** water use;
- Aggregate estimated efficient **outdoor residential** water use;
- Aggregate estimated efficient **outdoor** irrigation landscape areas with dedicated irrigation meters or equivalent technology in connection with **CII** water use;
- Aggregate estimated efficient **water losses**;
- Aggregate estimated water use for variances approved the State Water Board;
- Allowable **potable reuse water** bonus incentive adjustments.

MWDOC offers a large suite of programs, described in detail throughout section 1.3.6, that will assist Orange County retailers in meeting and calculating their WUO.

Table 9-3 describes MWDOC’s programs that will assist agencies in meeting their WUO through both direct measures: programs/activities that result in directly quantifiable water savings; and indirectly: programs that provide resources promoting water efficiencies to the public that are impactful but not directly measurable.

Table 9-3: MWDOC Programs to Assist in Meeting WUO

WUO Component	Calculation	Program	Impact
Indoor Residential	Population and GPCD standard	<p><u>Direct Impact</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HECW • HET • Multi-Family HET (DAC/ non-DAC) 	<p><u>Direct Impact</u></p> <p>Increase of indoor residential efficiencies and reductions of GPCD use</p>
Outdoor Residential	Irrigated/irrigable area measurement and a percent factor of local ETo	<p><u>Direct Impact</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Turf Removal • Spray-to-Dip • Smart Timer • High Efficiency Nozzle (HEN) • Rain Barrels/Cisterns <p><u>Indirect Impact</u></p>	<p><u>Direct Impact</u></p> <p>Increase outdoor residential efficiencies and reductions of gallons per ft² of irrigated/ irrigable area used</p> <p><u>Indirect Impact</u></p> <p>Provide information, resources, and education to promote</p>

WUO Component	Calculation	Program	Impact
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landscape Design and Maintenance Assistance • Orange County Friendly Gardens Webpage • CA Friendly/Turf Removal Classes • QWEL 	<p>efficiencies in the landscape</p>
Outdoor Dedicated Irrigation Meters	<p>Irrigated/irrigable area measurement and a percent factor of local ETo</p>	<p><u>Direct Impact</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Turf Removal • Spray-to-Dip • Smart Timer • HEN • Central Computer Irrigation Controllers • Large Rotary Nozzles • In-Stem Flow Regulators <p><u>Indirect Impact</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Orange County Friendly Gardens Webpage • CA Friendly/Turf Removal Classes • QWEL 	<p><u>Direct Impact</u></p> <p>Increase outdoor residential efficiencies and reductions of gallons per ft² of irrigated/ irrigable area used</p> <p><u>Indirect Impact</u></p> <p>Provide information, resources, and education to promote efficiencies in the landscape</p>
Water Loss	<p>Following the AWWA M36 Water Audits and Water Loss Control Program, Fourth Edition and AWWA Water Audit Software V5</p>	<p><u>Direct Impact</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water Balance Validation 	<p><u>Direct Impact</u></p> <p>Identify areas of the distribution system that need repair,</p>

WUO Component	Calculation	Program	Impact
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Customer Meter Accuracy Testing • Distribution System Pressure Surveys • Distribution System Leak Detection • No-Discharge Distribution System Flushing • Water Audit Compilation • Component Analysis 	replacement or other action
Bonus Incentives	<p>One of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volume of potable reuse water from existing facilities, not to exceed 15% of WUO • Volume of potable reuse water from new facilities, not to exceed 10% of WUO 	<p><u>Direct Impact</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GWRS 	<p><u>Direct Impact</u></p> <p>The GWRS (run by OCWD) significantly increases the availability of potable reuse water</p>

In addition, MWDOC is providing support to agencies to assist with the calculation of WUOs. DWR will provide residential outdoor landscape measurements; however, Urban Water Suppliers are responsible for measuring landscape that is irrigated/irrigable by dedicated irrigation meters. MWDOC is contracting for consultant services to assist agencies in obtaining these measurements. Services may include but are not limited to:

- Accounting/database clean up (e.g., data mining billing software to determine dedicated irrigation customers);
- Geolocation of dedicated irrigation meters;
- In-field measurements;

- GIS/Aerial imagery measurements;
- Transformation of static/paper maps to digital/GIS maps.

These services will help agencies organize and/or update their databases to determine which accounts are dedicated irrigation meters and provide landscape area measurements for those accounts. These data points are integral when calculating the WUO. MWDOC is also exploring funding options to help reduce retail agencies' costs of obtaining landscape area measurements for dedicated irrigation meters.

CII Performance Measures

Urban water supplies are expected to report BMPs and more for CII customers. MWDOC offers a broad variety of programs and incentives to help CII customers implement BMPs and increase their water efficiencies.

Table 9-4: CII Performance Measures and Programs

Component	Program Offered	Impact
CII Performance Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WSIP • ORP • HETs • HE Urinals • Plumbing Flow Control Valves • Connectionless Food Steamers • Air-cooled Ice Machines • Cooling Tower Conductivity controllers • Cooling Tower pH Controllers • Dry Vacuum Pumps • Laminar Flow Restrictors 	<p>WSIP incentivizes customized CII water efficiency projects that utilize BMPs.</p> <p>ORP incentivizes the conversion of potable to recycled water and is applicable to CII dedicated irrigation meters or CII mixed-use meters that may be split to utilize recycled water for irrigation.</p> <p>Additional CII rebates based on BMPs increase the economic feasibility of increasing water efficiencies.</p>

These efforts to assist Orange County retail agencies are only just beginning. Our plan is to ensure that all agencies are fully ready to begin complying with the new water use efficiency standards framework called for in SB 606 and SB 1668 by the start date of 2023.

10 PLAN ADOPTION, SUBMITTAL, AND IMPLEMENTATION

The Water Code requires the UWMP to be adopted by the Supplier’s governing body. Before the adoption of the UWMP, the Supplier has to notify the public and the cities and counties within its service area per the Water Code and hold a public hearing to receive input from the public on the UWMP. Post adoption, the Supplier submits the UWMP to DWR and the other key agencies and makes it available for public review.

This section provides a record of the process Mesa Water followed to adopt and implement its UWMP.

10.1 Overview

Recognizing that close coordination among other relevant public agencies is key to the success of its UWMP, Mesa Water worked closely with many other entities, including representation from diverse social, cultural, and economic elements of the population within Mesa Water’s service area, to develop and update this planning document. Mesa Water also encouraged public involvement through its public hearing process, which provided residents with an opportunity to learn and ask questions about their water supply management and reliability. Through the public hearing, the public has an opportunity to comment and put forward any suggestions for revisions of the Plan.

Table 10-1 summarizes external coordination and outreach activities carried out by Mesa Water and their corresponding dates. The UWMP checklist to confirm compliance with the Water Code is provided in Appendix A.

Table 10-1: External Coordination and Outreach

External Coordination and Outreach	Date	Reference
Notified the cities and counties within the Supplier’s service area that Supplier is preparing an updated UWMP (at least 60 days prior to public hearing)	4/7/2021	Appendix K
Public Hearing Notice	5/27/2021 & 6/3/2021	Appendix K
Held Public Hearing	6/10/2021	Appendix K
Adopted UWMP	6/10/2021	Appendix L
Submitted UWMP to DWR (no later than 30 days after adoption)	7/1/2021	-

External Coordination and Outreach	Date	Reference
Submitted UWMP to the California State Library (no later than 30 days after adoption)	7/1/2021	-
Submitted UWMP to the cities and counties within the Supplier’s service area (no later than 30 days after adoption)	7/1/2021	-
Made UWMP available for public review (no later than 30 days after filing with DWR)	7/31/2021	-

This UWMP was adopted by the Board of Directors on June 10, 2021. A copy of the adopted resolution is provided in Appendix L.

10.2 Agency Coordination

The Water Code requires the Suppliers preparing UWMPs to notify any city or county within their service area at least 60 days prior to the public hearing. As shown in Table 10-2, Mesa Water sent a Letter of Notification to the County of Orange and the cities within its service area on April 7, 2021 to state that it was in the process of preparing an updated UWMP (Appendix K).

Table 10-2: Retail: Notification to Cities and Counties

DWR Submittal Table 10-1 Retail: Notification to Cities and Counties		
City Name	60 Day Notice	Notice of Public Hearing
Costa Mesa	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Newport Beach	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
County Name	60 Day Notice	Notice of Public Hearing
Orange County	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Mesa Water's water supply planning relates to the policies, rules, and regulations of its regional and local water providers. Mesa Water is dependent on imported water from MET through MWDOC, its regional wholesaler. Mesa Water is also dependent on groundwater from OCWD, the agency that manages the OC Basin and provides recycled water in partnership with the OC San. As such, Mesa Water involved the relevant agencies in this 2020 UWMP at various levels of contribution as described below.

MWDOC provided assistance to Mesa Water's 2020 UWMP development by providing much of the data and analysis such as the information quantifying water availability to meet Mesa Water's projected demands for the next 25 years, in five-year increments. Additionally, MWDOC led the effort to develop a Model Water Shortage Ordinance that its retail suppliers can adopt as is or customize and adopt as part of developing their WSCPs. This 2020 UWMP was developed in collaboration with MWDOC's 2020 UWMP to ensure consistency between the two documents.

As a groundwater producer who relies on supplies from the OCWD-managed OC Basin, Mesa Water coordinated the preparation of this 2020 UWMP with OCWD. Several OCWD documents, such as the Groundwater Reliability Plan, Engineer's Report, and 2017 Basin 8-1 Alternative were used to retrieve the required relevant information, including the projections of the amount of groundwater Mesa Water is allowed to extract in the 25-year planning horizon.

The various planning documents of the key agencies that were used to develop this UWMP are listed in Section 2.2.1.

10.3 Public Participation

Mesa Water encouraged community and public interest involvement in the plan update through a public hearing and inspection of the draft document on June 10, 2021. As part of the public hearing, Mesa Water discussed adoption of the UWMP, SBx7-7 baseline values, compliance with the water use targets (Section 5), implementation, and economic impacts of the water use targets (Section 9).

Copies of the draft plan were made available for public inspection at the Mesa Water office.

Public hearing notifications were published in local newspapers. A copy of the published Notice of Public Hearing is included in Appendix K.

The hearing was conducted during a regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Directors.

10.4 UWMP Submittal

The Board of Directors reviewed and approved the 2020 UWMP at its June 10, 2021 meeting after the public hearing. See Appendix L for the resolution approving the Plan.

By July 1, 2021, Mesa Water's adopted 2020 UWMP was filed with DWR, California State Library, the County of Orange and the cities within its service area. The submission to DWR was done electronically through the online submittal tool – WUE Data Portal. Mesa Water will make the Plan available for public review on its website no later than 30 days after filing with DWR.

10.5 Amending the Adopted UWMP or WSCP

Based on DWR's review of the UWMP, the Mesa Water will make any amendments in its adopted UWMP, as required and directed by DWR and will follow each of the steps for notification, public hearing, adoption, and submittal for the amending the adopted UWMP.

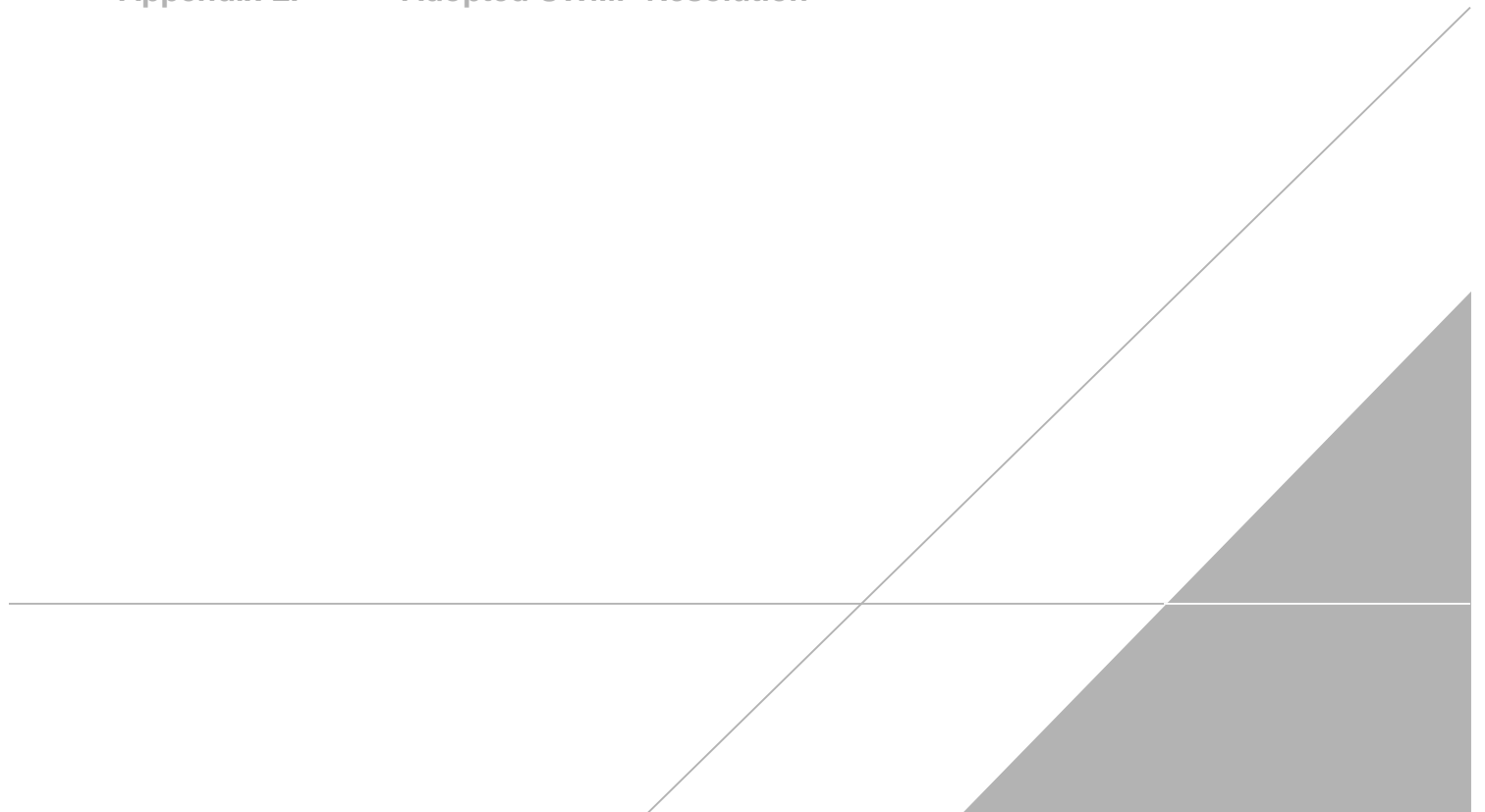
If Mesa Water revises its WSCP after UWMP is approved by DWR, then an electronic copy of the revised WSCP will be submitted to DWR within 30 days of its adoption.

11 REFERENCES

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APPENDICES

Appendix A.	UWMP Water Code Checklist
Appendix B.	DWR Standardized Tables
Appendix C.	Reduced Delta Reliance
Appendix D.	SBx7-7 Verification and Compliance Forms
Appendix E.	2021 OC Water Demand Forecast for MWDOC and OCWD Technical Memorandum
Appendix F.	AWWA Water Loss Audits
Appendix G.	2017 Basin 8-1 Alternative
Appendix H.	Water Shortage Contingency Plan
Appendix I.	Water Use Efficiency Implementation Report
Appendix J.	Demand Management Measures
Appendix K.	Notice of Public Hearing
Appendix L.	Adopted UWMP Resolution



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