

May 2016

The Alameda County Water District's (ACWD) core mission is to provide a reliable source of high quality drinking water at a reasonable price to the communities of Fremont, Newark and Union City. Our water supply planning is aimed to meet our mission and serve our community.

DROUGHTS: A FACT OF LIFE IN CALIFORNIA

In the past century, California has experienced droughts as long as seven years. Additionally, scientists have confirmed that California has endured dry periods lasting between 50 and 200 years. It's important for Californians to recognize the arid, drought-prone climate that we live in and take reasonable and prudent steps to reduce both indoor and outdoor water use. ACWD's water conservation program offers our customers a variety of resources and rebates: Learn more at www.acwd.org.

ACWD's long-range water supply planning includes provisions for droughts to ensure that our water supply is reliable.

“Planning for periodic droughts is part of responsible water management in California. ACWD has multiple sources of water, including brackish groundwater water desalination, to ensure a high level of water supply reliability for our customers.”



Go to www.acwd.org to find out more about protecting our water supply for future generations

Responsible Planning: Today, Tomorrow and for Decades to Come

In planning for future water supplies, ACWD relies on the General and Specific Plans of the cities that we serve and forecasts water supply needs over multiple decades. We also consider conservation because the installation of water-saving fixtures, appliances, and toilets, as well as the adoption of drought-tolerant landscaping all save water in the long-term. Because California water supply is highly variable and periodic droughts are expected, asking our customers to conserve during the most severe droughts is also included as part of our overall water supply planning.

ACWD employs Integrated Resources Planning to proactively manage anticipated conditions 35 years or more into the future. It evaluates costs and benefits of many alternatives and provides a rational and transparent way to evaluate resource options to best meet water supply reliability goals. ACWD's Integrated Resources Plan (IRP) is reviewed and updated every five to 10 years.

The IRP and Urban Water Management Plan, a related planning document required by the State of California, are both available on our website.

ACWD plans for sufficient water supplies for existing as well as future customers.

Water Supply for New Development

In addition to our own long-term planning, ACWD is required by state law to conduct a special study called a Water Supply Assessment to independently confirm that water demands from proposed large developments (e.g., greater than 500 residential units) are included in ACWD's overall water supply planning. If water demands for any proposed development were not previously included in our planning, ACWD requires the developer to provide for supplemental water supplies or additional water conservation.



Annual growth of water demand resulting from development is typically less than 1 percent. By comparison, existing customers' annual water use typically varies by plus or minus 5 percent (excluding drought conditions).

New Development Must Pay for New Water Supplies

In the 1950s, ACWD's Board of Directors adopted a policy that requires developers to pay fees and charges to fund the cost of additional water supplies and infrastructure that is required due to growth. As a result, from a water supply perspective, new development in ACWD's service area "pays for itself."

Continuous Monitoring to Ensure Supply

ACWD staff continually monitors water supply and demand, especially during the current drought. To date, ACWD has not determined a need to temporarily suspend new water service connections. However, should water supply conditions significantly deteriorate ACWD will consider all available options to ensure a reliable water supply.

Water Efficiency of New Development

New Development is generally more efficient than existing development because new homes use 40 percent less water than the average home, and 60 percent less than homes built before 1992. A couple of reasons for increased efficiency include:

- Recent plumbing codes require more water efficient hardware and devices.
- Smaller lot sizes with native plants and drip irrigation.