



Meeting Date: May 19, 2021
Staff Contact: Diane Agnew, Environmental Manager

TITLE: Environmental Plan

SUMMARY:

The Water Authority has developed an Environmental Plan, one of five implementation plans identified in *Water 2120*. The Environmental Plan serves as an overarching document that connects multiple *Water 2120* policies along with other implementation plans as they relate to the environment.

The plan is structured into five focus areas for discussion: (1) Water Resources Management and Planning; (2) Source Water Protection; (3) Endangered Species; (4) Environmental and Cultural Resources; and (5) Public Education and Outreach. Sub-policies were developed into Level(s) of Service (LOS), consistent with a natural asset management approach, along with Key Performance Indicators (KPI's) to provide a mechanism for the Water Authority to monitor and evaluate progress towards meeting the policies.

The plan is meant to be a "living" document with an emphasis on using updated information to identify projects and tasks for the Water Authority to proceed with, pending board approval. As projects are completed and new projects begin, the focus area LOS and KPIs will be updated. Other implementation plans (e.g., Water Conservation Plan) will contain more detailed looks at the focus areas presented in the Environmental Plan.

FISCAL IMPACT:

None.

Environmental Plan

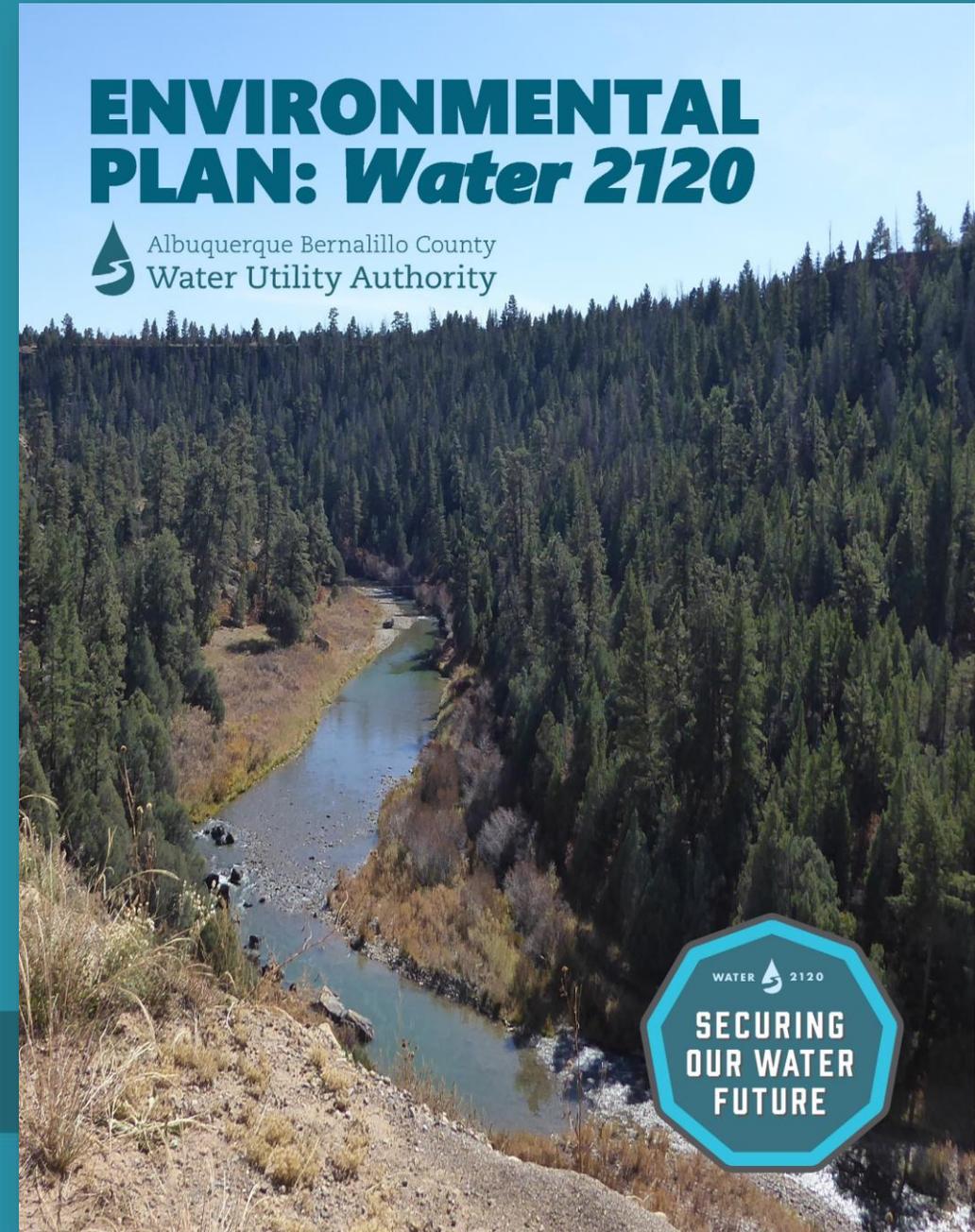
May 19, 2021

Diane Agnew
Environmental Manager



Environmental Stewardship

- Reflects relationship between the environment and Water Authority mission
- Encompasses five focus areas built from *Water 2120* policies
- Utilizes asset management concept of Levels of Service (LOS) and Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)
- “Living” document



Focus Areas and Policies



Water Resource Planning and Management

- Policy A: Water Budget Planning and Reporting
- Policy B: Fully Utilize and Protect Existing Water Rights and Water Resources
- Policy E: Support Regional Water Resources Planning and Management
- Policy F: Enhance the Resiliency and Sustainability of the Water Supply
- Policy I: Protect and Enhance Native, San Juan-Chama Water and Other Water Resources
- Policy K: Preserve and Enhance the Quality of Life in the Region



Source Water Protection

- Policy H: Implement the Water Quality Protection Policy and Action Plan
- Policy J: Protect Valued Environmental and Cultural Resources



Endangered Species

- Policy E: Support Regional Water Resources Planning and Management
- Policy J: Protect Valued Environmental and Cultural Resources



Environmental and Cultural Resources

- Policy D: Update and Maintain the Water Conservation Strategy
- Policy J: Protect Valued Environmental and Cultural Resources
- Policy K: Preserve and Enhance the Quality of Life in the Region



Public Involvement

- Policy M: Encourage and Facilitate Public Involvement





Water Source Management and Planning

Abiquiu Storage

- 170,900 acre-feet capacity (current)
- Application to increase storage submitted

Aquifer Storage and Recovery

- Currently two projects permitted and active
- SJC source water
- Surface recharge in arroyo
- Direct injection well

Reuse

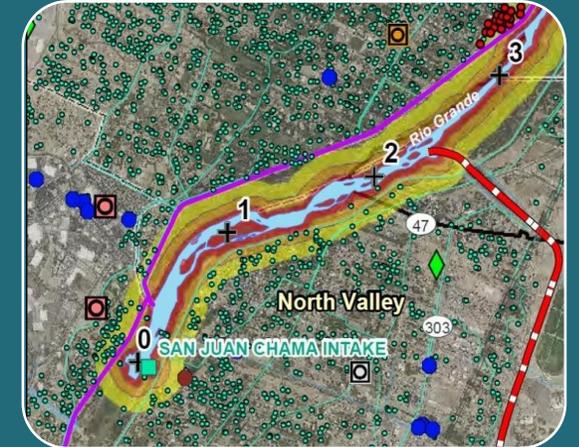
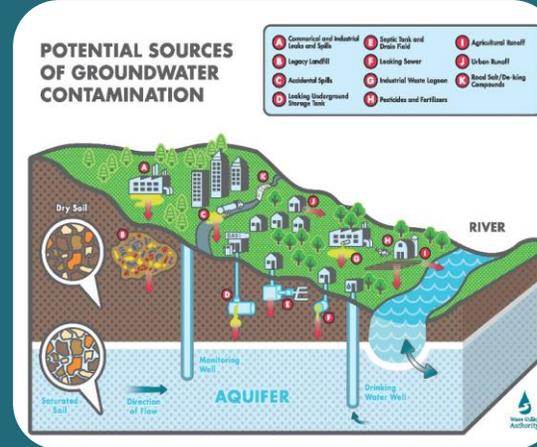
- Currently two non-potable projects for irrigation
- Total of 4,000 acre-feet of water provided
- Reuse Plan – to be presented in June 2021

USGS Technical Studies

- Groundwater level monitoring
- Surface water quality sampling
- Streamflow monitoring
- Microgravity
- Aquifer compaction



Source Water Protection



Watershed Protection and Restoration

- Continued Investment in Rio Grande Water Fund
- Forest restoration and treatment support
- Improved quality and quantity of water in watersheds

Groundwater Source Protection

- Ranked priority groundwater sites
- Increased voluntary monitoring
- Agency coordination plus public outreach

Surface Water Protection

- Protection area along river, upstream of diversion
- Agency coordination plus public outreach
- Updated PSOC inventory



Endangered Species



Water Authority Biological Opinion

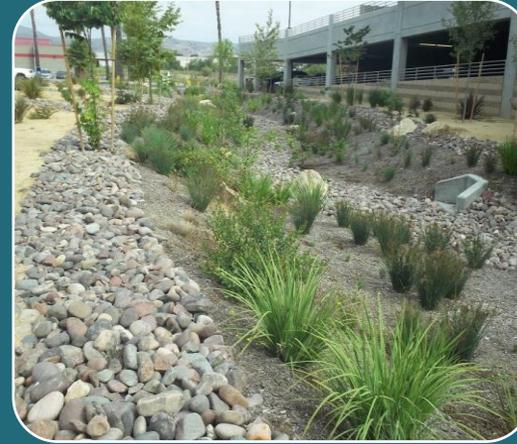
- Submitted for the San Juan-Chama Drinking Water Project
- Protection measures for four species
- Requires participation in the Middle Rio Grande Endangered Species Collaborative Program
- Amended in 2020

Middle Rio Grande Endangered Species Collaborative Program

- Formed in 2000
- Goal: protect and improve the status of listed species in the Middle Rio Grande
- Designs and supports scientific research and projects to address critical uncertainties



Environmental and Cultural Resources



Conservation Program

- Goal: 110 gallons per capita per day (GCPD)
- Outdoor rebates
- Promote resilient landscapes
- Water Conservation Plan updated in 2018
- Public outreach and education programs

Green Stormwater

- Bernalillo County and AMAFCA currently implementing green stormwater infrastructure
- MS4 stormwater permit with City of Albuquerque, Bernalillo County, and AMAFCA addresses stormwater quality

Green Energy

- Partnership with PNM to increase energy and water efficiency in multi-family buildings
- Goal: receive over 8% of Water Authority power from solar
- Methane capture at Southside Water Reclamation Plant



| WATER BY THE SEASONS SPRING WATERING RECOMMENDATIONS (MARCH THRU MAY) FOR GREATER ALBUQUERQUE | | |
|---|---------------------|------------|
| Plant Type | How Often? | How Deep? |
| TREES | 1-2 TIMES PER MONTH | 24" INCHES |
| SHRUBS | 2-3 TIMES PER MONTH | 18" INCHES |
| FLOWERING PLANTS | 1 TIME PER WEEK | 12" INCHES |
| DESERT ACCENTS | 1 TIME PER MONTH | 12" INCHES |
| GROUNDCOVER | 3 TIMES PER MONTH | 8" INCHES |
| GRASS: TURF (COOL SEASON) | 1-2 TIMES PER WEEK | 6" INCHES |
| GRASS: TURF (WARM SEASON) | 1-2 TIMES PER WEEK | 12" INCHES |

Water Resources Education Program

- Elementary and Secondary Classrooms
- River is Ours (RIO) Field Trip
- Hands-on water presentations
- Puppet shows
- Aligned with NM Common Core Standards
- Goal: Reach 20,000 students each year

Adult Education and Marketing

- Assist with managing and reducing water use
- Customer Conversations gather customer input
- WaterSmart classes for conservation

WaterSmart Academy

- Originally started in 2008
- Redesigned in 2019
- Partnerships with professional landscape and irrigation contractors
- Courses qualify for Continuing Education credits

Online Resources

- Virtual tours, worksheets, and booklets available through www.abcwua.org
- Information on desert-friendly landscapes are accessed through monthly newsletter and/or www.505outside.com
- Use of social media

Education and Public Outreach



Summary

- Levels of Service and KPIs are tied to policies and sub-policies
- Metrics-based approach for reporting progress
- Integration of multiple policies
- Link point for Groundwater Management Plan, Reuse Plan, Water Conservation Plan, and Source Water Protection Plan (RAPP)



Questions?

