



## Technical Customer Advisory Committee

### AGENDA

#### *Members*

|                 |                    |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| Elias Archuleta | Anjali Mulchandani |
| John Fleck      | Jill Peterson      |
| Brian Freeman   | Mario Nuño-Whelan  |
| Kerry J. Howe   | Andrew Robertson   |
| Donald T. Lopez |                    |

**Public participation for this meeting will be via WebEx video conference. To request login information for this meeting or to submit public comment, contact Jordan Salas at [jsalas@abcwua.org](mailto:jsalas@abcwua.org) or 505-289-3100. Requests for login information and public comments must be submitted before 2:00 PM on the date of the meeting.**

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**Thursday, February 5, 2026**

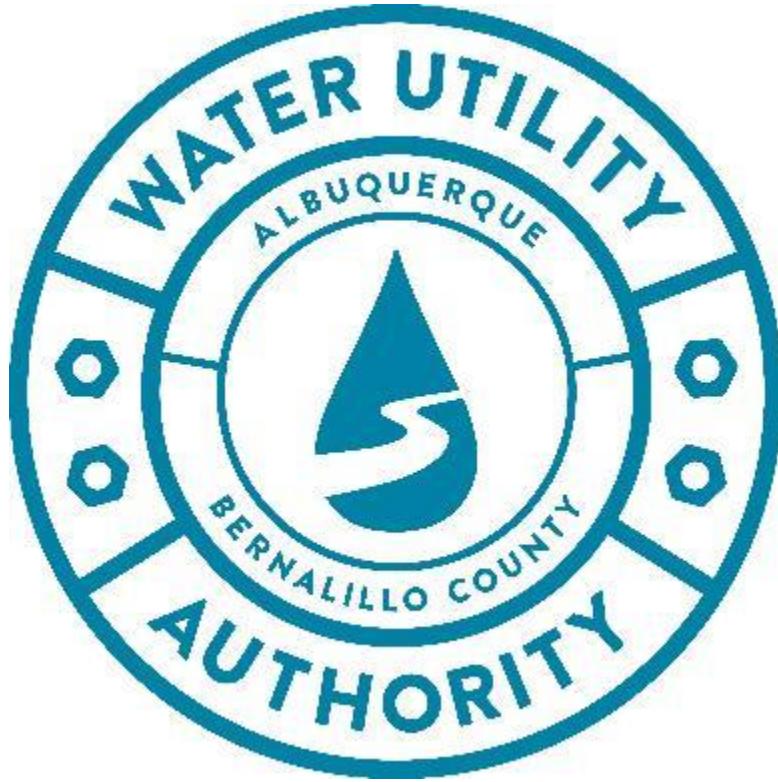
**4:00 PM**

**1441 Mission Ave NE  
Conference Room 204**

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1. Call to Order
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Approval of December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025, Action Summary
4. Approval of January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026, Action Summary
5. Public Comment
6. 2026 Conservation Marketing
7. Modeling Update
8. Backyard Refuge Collaboration
9. Water Report
10. Other Business
11. Adjournment

**NOTICE TO PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES:** If you have a disability and require special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the Water Utility Authority Office, Suite 5012, Albuquerque/Bernalillo County Government Center, phone 289-3100, as soon as possible prior to the meeting date.



# Conservation Program

## Watering Season Campaign Update for 2026



# Water by the Numbers

Water by the Numbers



# Time for a Refresh!

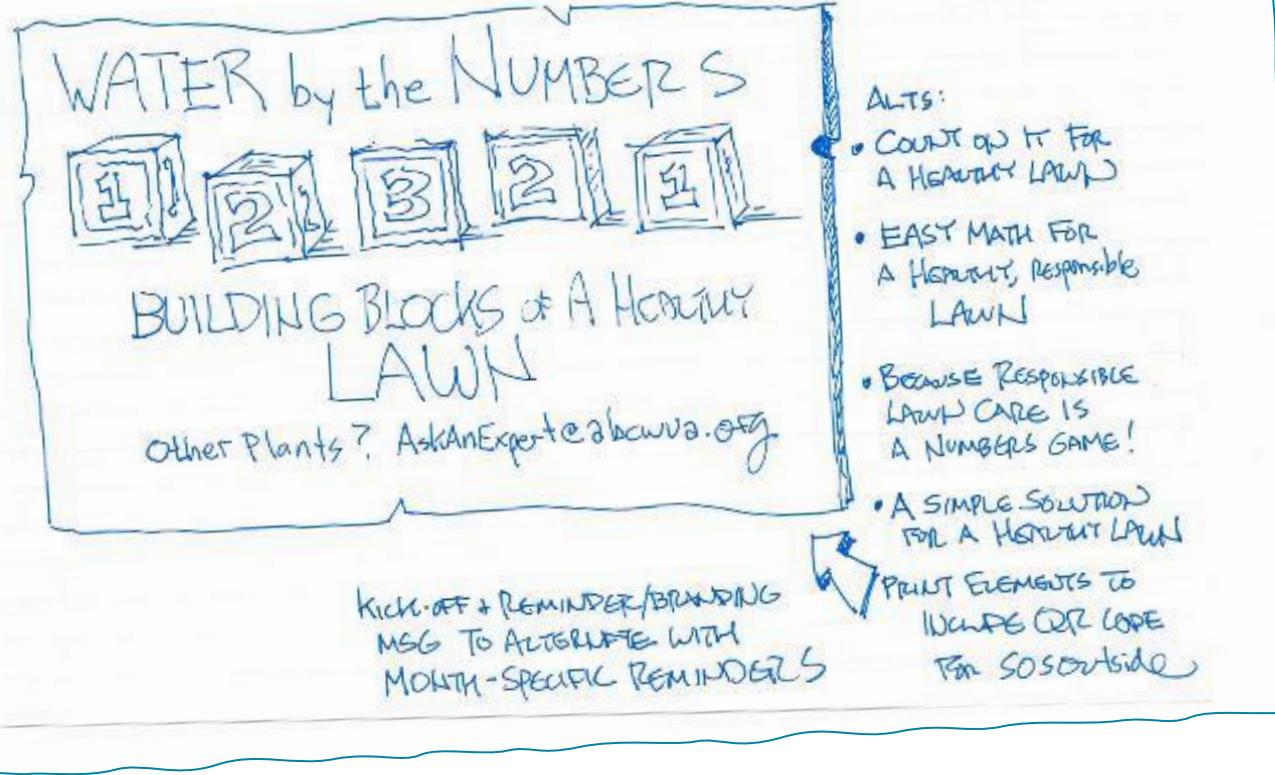


## Emphasizing

- Simplicity
- Fall/pre-fall **Ramp-Down**
- **LAWN FOCUS**, with resources offered for non-lawn care

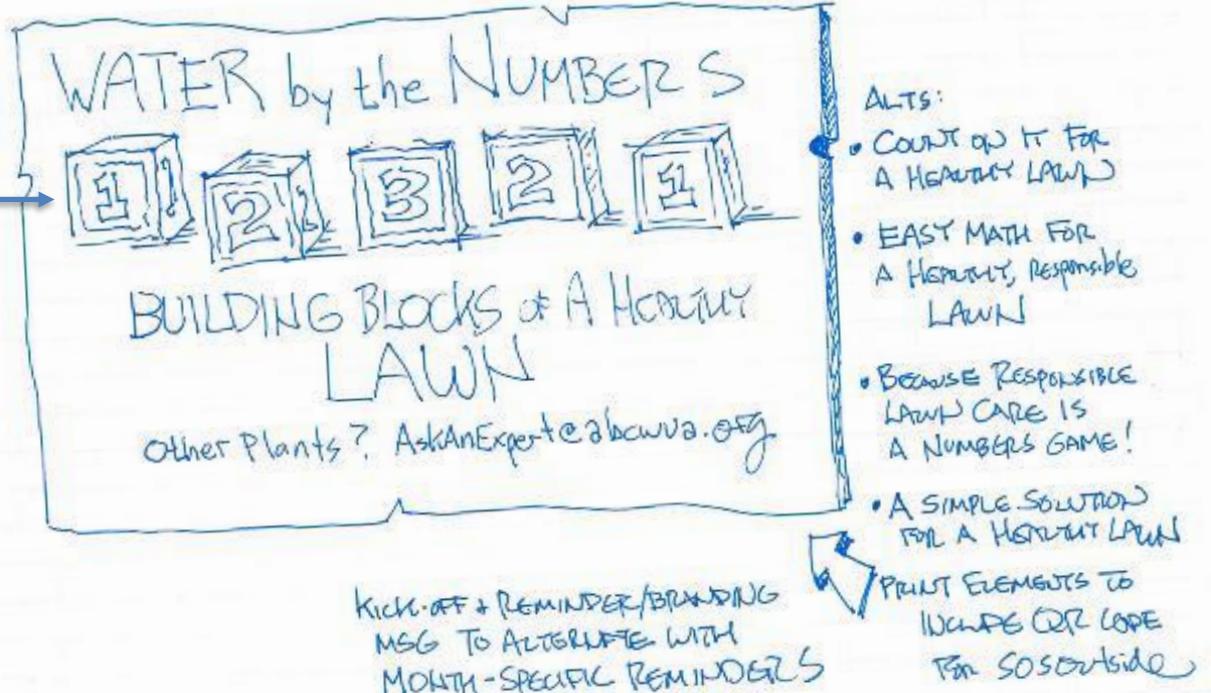
# CAMPAIGN ELEMENTS

Building block motif anchors campaign to reinforce simplicity; most elements contain secondary message about where to go for info on plants other than turf lawns



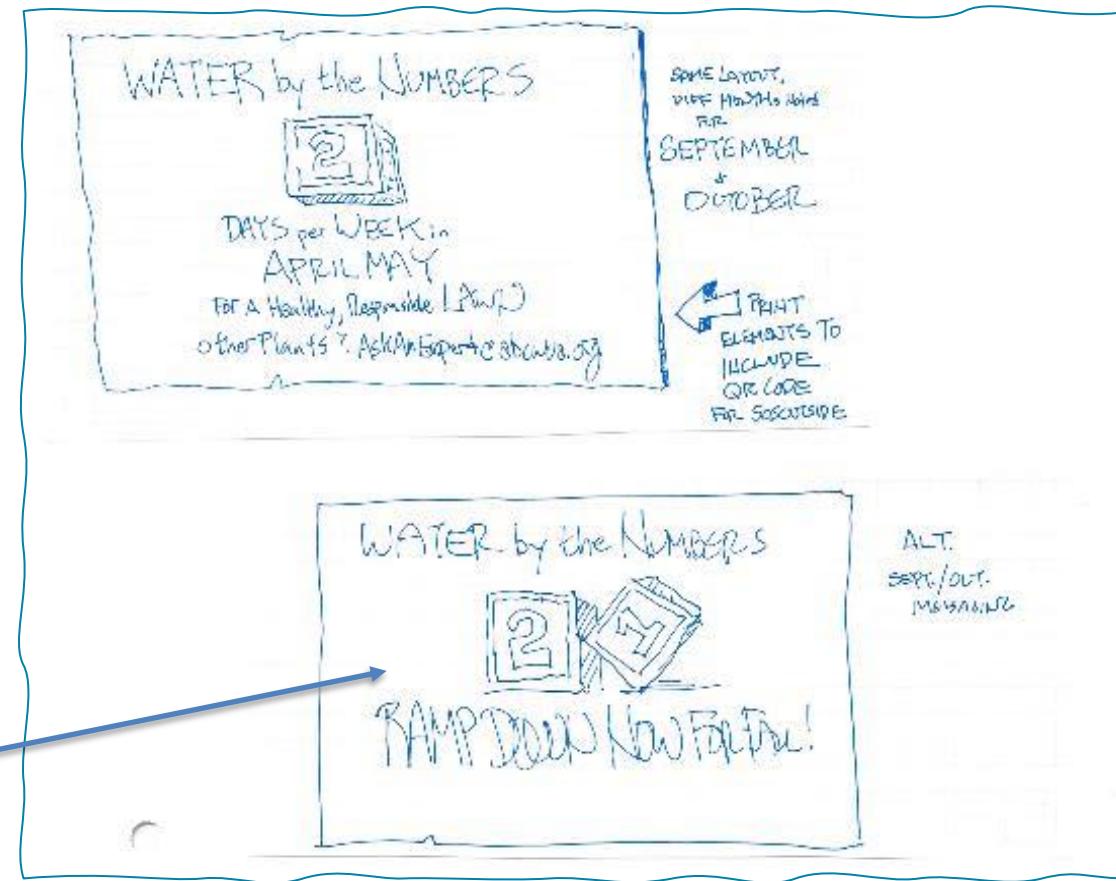
# CAMPAIGN ELEMENTS

Messages change seasonally, with the overall branding/umbrella art interspersed among month-specific reminders

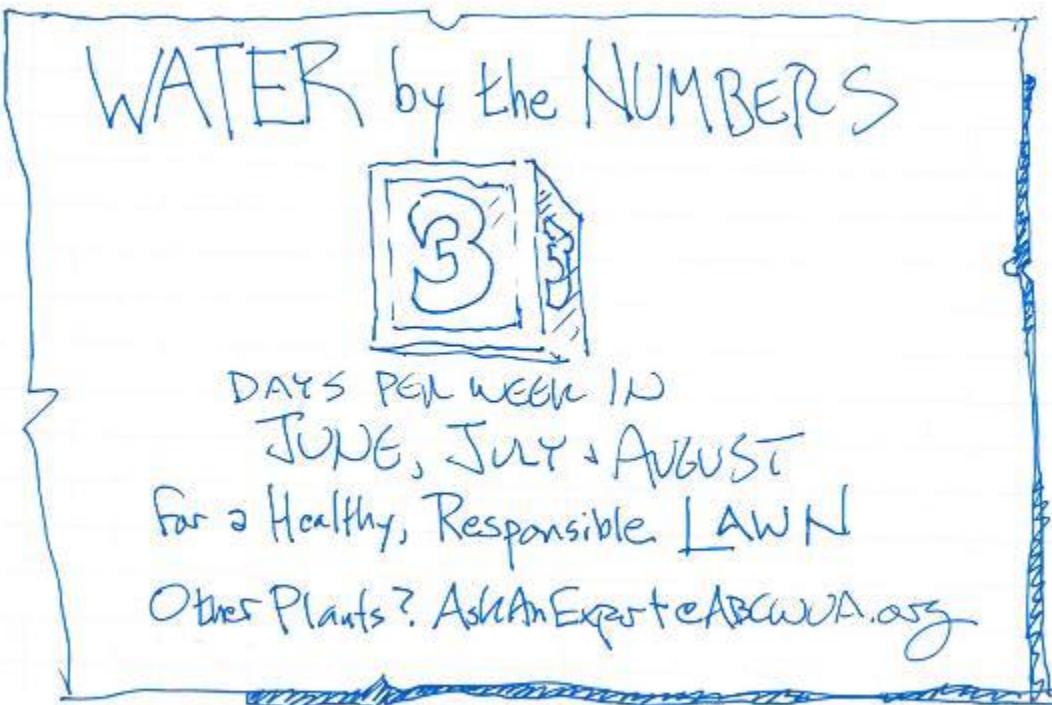


# Seasonal Reminders/Updates

Seasonal messages include number of days per week according to month, with special ramp-down message for inclusion in fall rotation.



# Summer (June/July/August)



Each element can be modified for use in outdoor, print, and digital applications. Print pieces can include QR code for 505Outside.



# Late Summer/Early Fall: Emphasis on RAMP DOWN

## WATER by the NUMBERS



More when it's HOTTER

GET READY TO RAMP DOWN  
FOR FALL!

Less when  
IT'S NOTTER!

EX. LATE AUGUST  
OUTDOOR +  
PRINT

## WATER by the Numbers

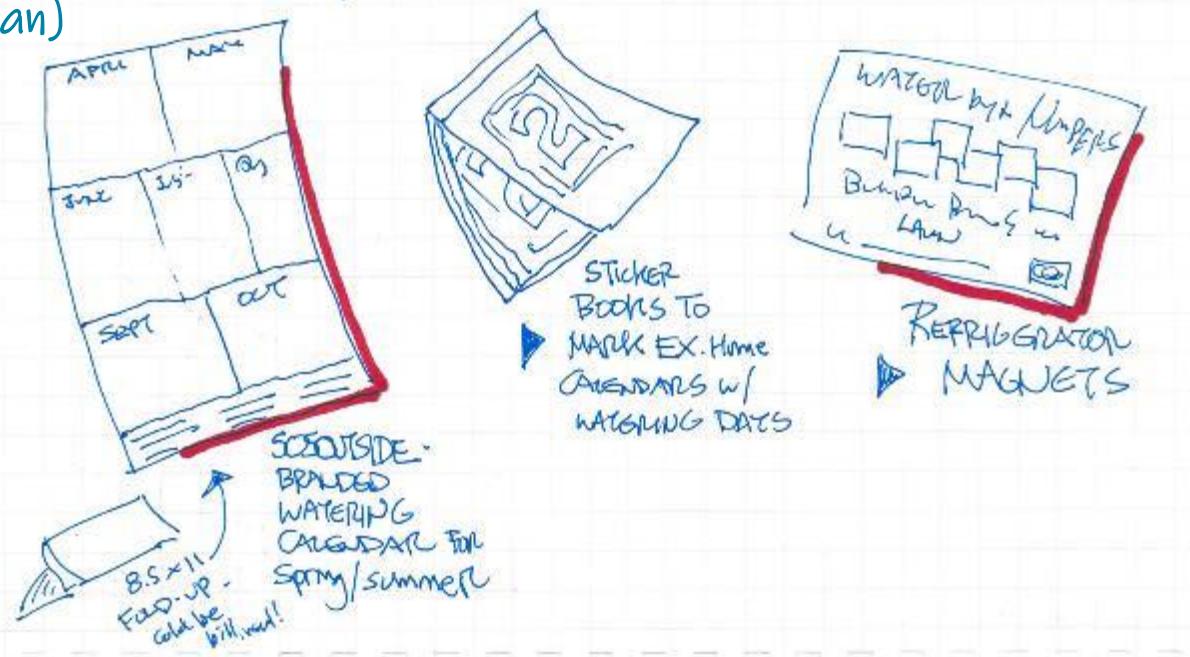


RAMP DOWN NOW FOR FALL!



# SUPPORTING ELEMENTS

- Early April Kickoff/News Conference at Elementary School (Jeff Tuttle?): Conservation so simple a child could do it!
- Morning show/radio show push emphasizing re-introduction of the program
- ID "Model Home" where irrigation consultants set up a 1-2-3-2-1 watering schedule to demonstrate that it can really work (assuming it can)
- Giveaways/premiums:



# Constraints/Reality Check

## BUDGET!

- Development of new creative will cost money, reducing \$ available for spring media buy.
- Additional \$\$ may be available in new fiscal year with Issue Paper; new TV rollout would need to wait until then
- Not enough \$\$ available in spring to put a big spotlight on all three presumed areas of emphasis (Water by the Numbers, xeriscape rebates, water waste—note that we spent about \$50k for media, or most of our spring ad budget, on water waste during the big 2024 push). Prioritization is imperative.
- One possible approach would be to do a soft rollout of updated Water by the Numbers campaign in spring, emphasizing earned media and digital marketing (Patti working on this plan), and then hit it really hard starting July 1, when new money is available

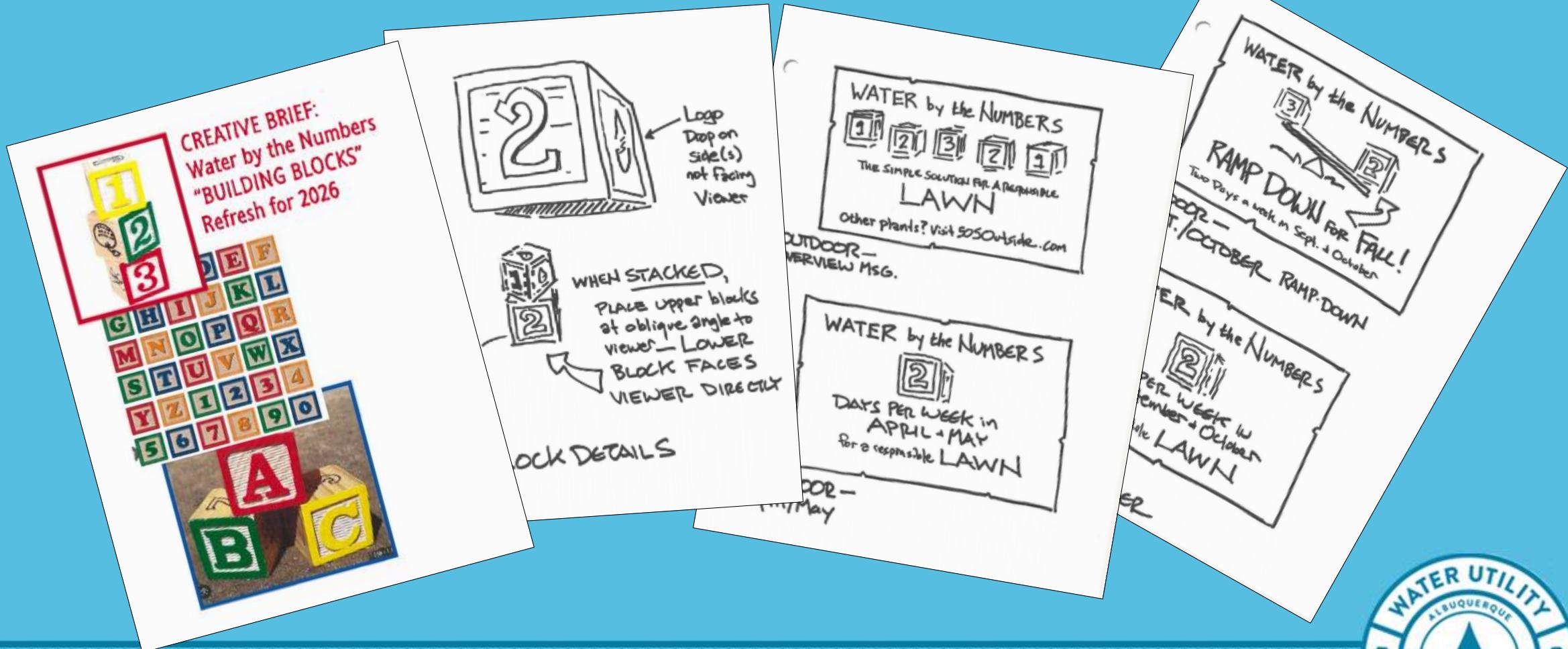


# Next Steps

- Upon concept approval, Public Affairs will move ahead with development of creative elements, prioritizing outdoor and bill inserts to ensure finished deliverables by mid-March
- Development of news release and media event plan will take place concurrently with development of creative
- Get Jeff started on lining up a school venue ASAP
- TV and radio scripts in development by late spring so new ads can launch in July
- Pricing/design of giveaways/handouts=late spring for production starting in July



# Insider Update!





# Water Model Program Reservoir Isolation Prep

Presented by ABCWUA Model Manager  
Kelli Berman

# Agenda

- Overview of Reservoir Isolation Goal and Objective
- Previous Projects
- What the Modeling Group Analyzes
  - Supply
  - Pump Station Impacts
  - Pressure and Fire Flow Impacts
- Lessons Learns
- Future Presentations



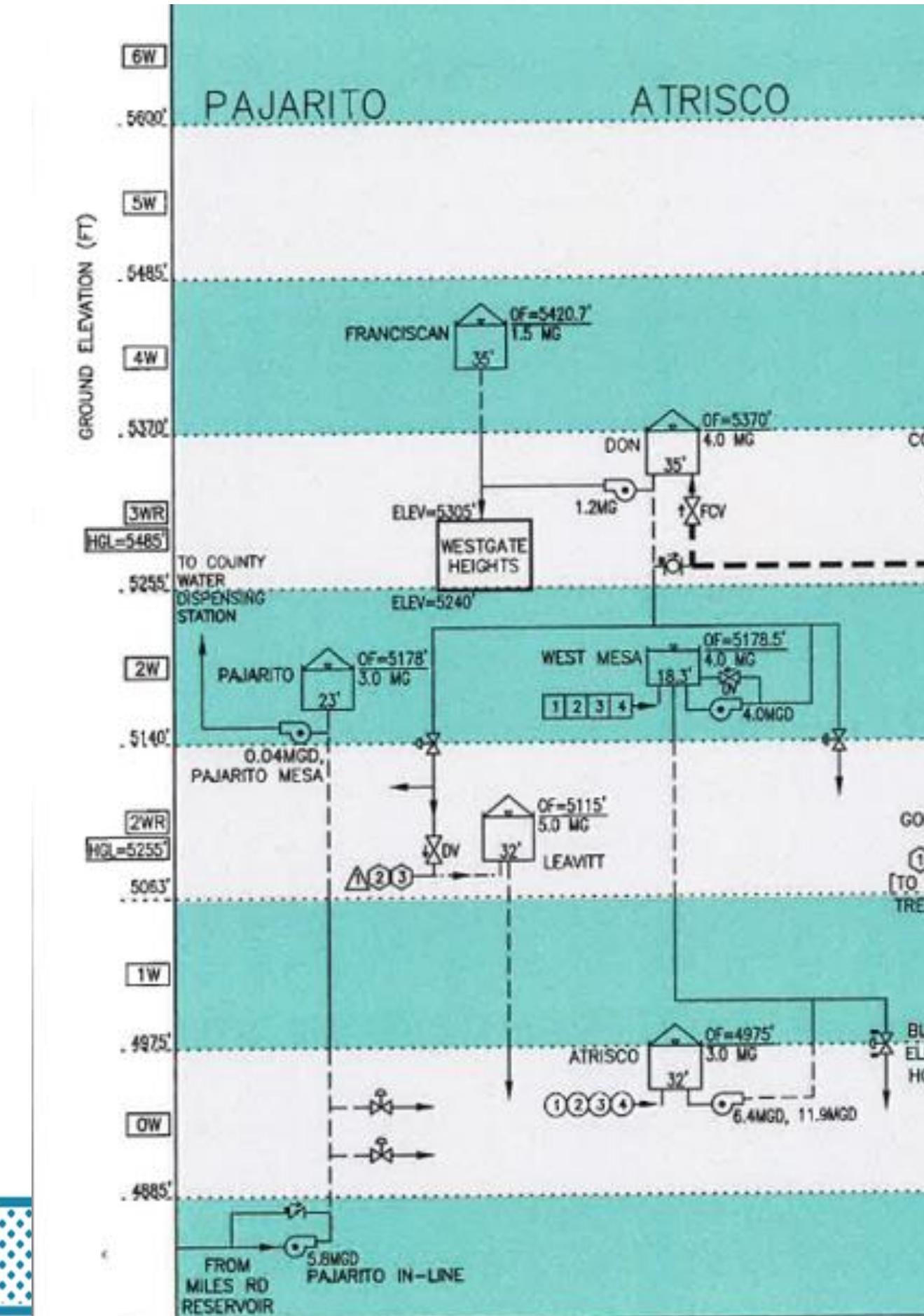
# Reservoir Rehabilitation Program

- ABCWUA is embarking on a reservoir rehabilitation program of 65 Reservoirs (estimating a 10 to 15 years)
  - Goal is to complete up to 5 reservoirs per year
  - Utilize the hydraulic model to identify system constraints and maximize operations.
  - Assist Operations in trial isolation, performing field investigations and analyze field vs. modeling data. Goal is to help identify closed valves and possible unknown constraints before the project begins.



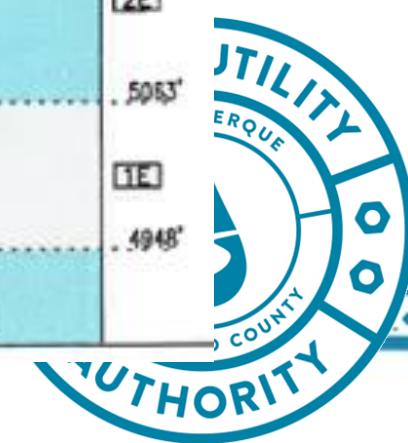
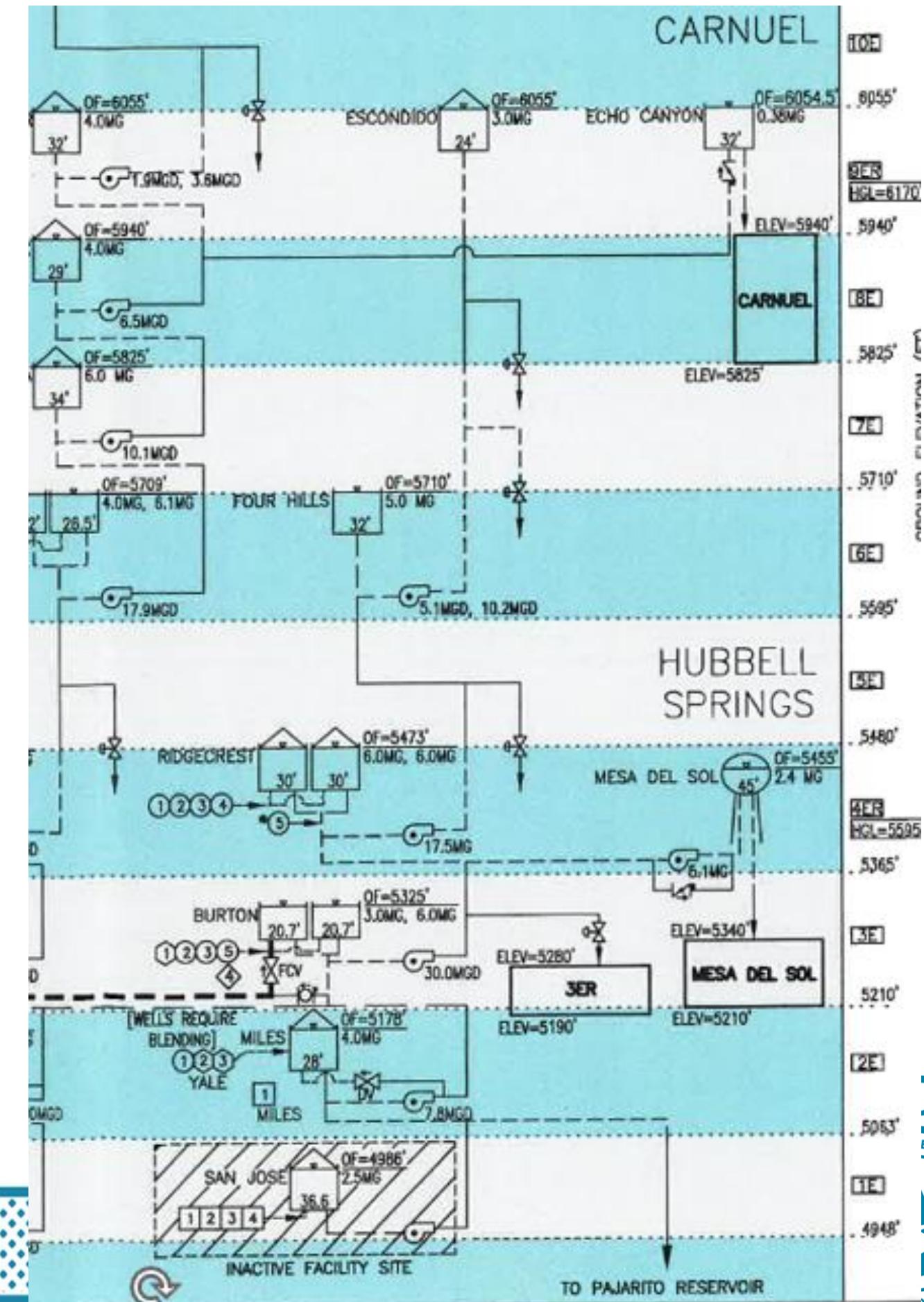
# FY26 Projects

- The hydraulic model has been used on three projects in FY26 related to reservoir isolation
  - West Mesa Reservoir (Trial completed, Project is ongoing)
  - Trumbull Line (Trial completed Project starts early Feb 2026)
  - Webster Reservoir (Trial to be completed in Feb 2026, Project starts in Oct 2026)
- Projects involve using the hydraulic model to analyze
  - Supply Impacts
  - Impacts to pump stations
  - Pressure and Fire Flow Analysis



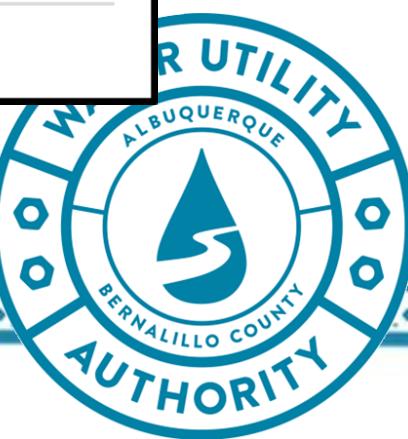
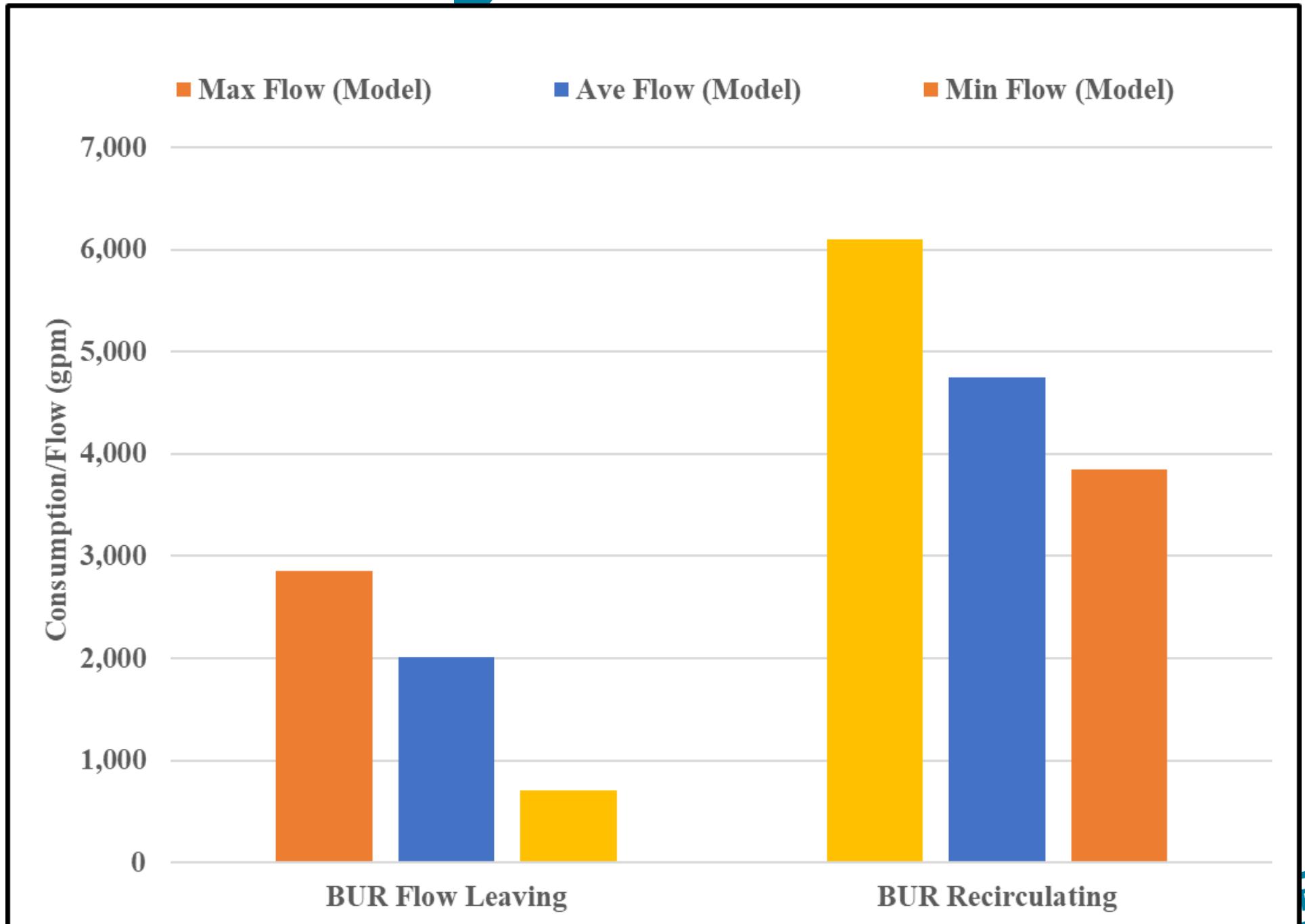
# Supply Analysis

- With Reservoirs being Isolated this can cause a supply restriction between reservoirs.
- Example: Trumbull Line Isolation
  - Ridgecrest reservoir isolated at the pressure zone boundary
  - Ridgecrest reservoir will not supply water to 3E and will not receive water from Burton Pumpstation (PS)
  - Ridgecrest PS still provides water to Four Hills and Escondido Reservoirs
  - For this project Burton Reservoir is the supplying source for 3E and Hubbell Springs
- Important to verify via SCADA vs. Model demands.



# Pump Station Analysis

- With Deadheading the pump station is running 24/7
- How much flow is recirculating?
  - How long of a recirculation path?
  - Is there a way to increase demand and reduce the amount of recirculation?
- What happens during a power outage?



# Pressure and Fire Flow Analysis

- Analyze Impacts to Pressure and predicted fire flows
- Gather Field data during trial shut down using data loggers
- Use a comparison of Field vs. Model Data to identify possible closed valves



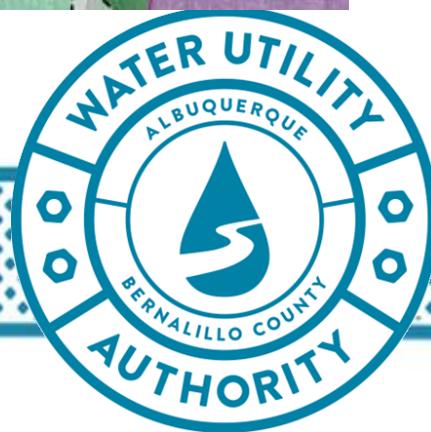
# Lessons Learned (So Far...)

- Keep the whole system in view, including all proposed projects that could be occurring simultaneously
- Communication - Multiple groups will be impacted due to these Field Changes
  - PNM should be notified
  - The Surface Water Plant Operations may be impacted due to limitations on storage
  - Operations (open line of communication between field staff, engineers, and modeling group)
- Use the model ahead of time to identify main water paths (perform a valve survey on those line before the trial)
- Power outages may have a large impact on pressures and should be a part of the trial deadhead
- The pump station will have a large amount of recirculation



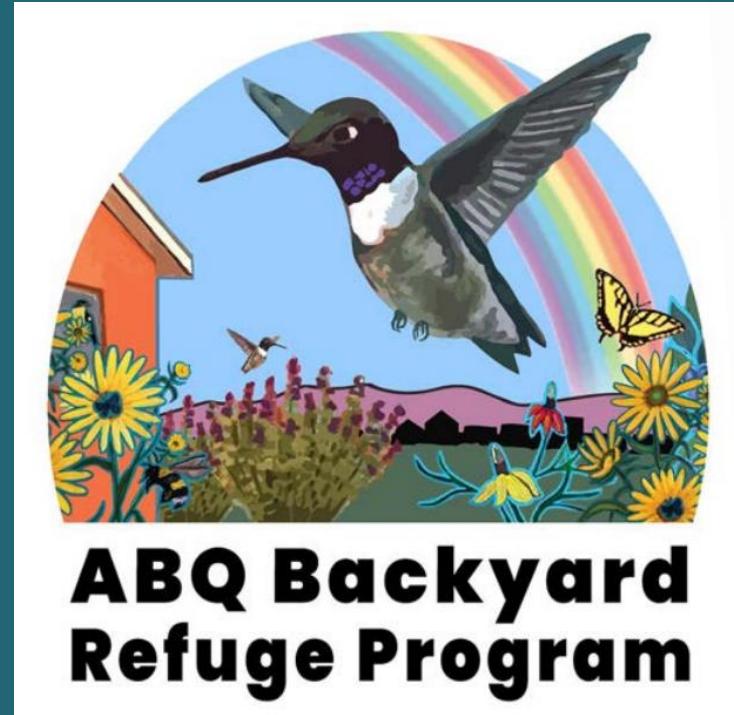
# Future Presentations

- West Mesa Reservoir Isolation – Field and Model group presentation
- Trumbull line Isolation – Field Testing and modeling has been completed. Project completion is anticipated by March 2026.
- Webster Reservoir Isolation – Field testing planned for this February, project to begin in October of 2026. Two separate field tests will need to be completed.
  - Interconnectivity between the Montgomery and Alameda trunks in 3E (Webster and Thomas)
  - Interconnectivity between the Montgomery and Alameda trunks in 5E (Walker and Ponderosa)



# Proposed Collaboration:

## NM Backyard Refuge Program and ABCWUA Water Conservation Program



Technical Customer Advisory Committee 2/5/26  
Amos Arber – Water Conservation Program Manager

# NM Backyard Refuge Program

We share our backyards with hundreds, even thousands of different plants and animals, but as cities grow, places for wildlife become fewer and farther between.

All species are in constant need of suitable habitat in which to dwell and give the next generation a chance to thrive. With wildlife gardening, we can enhance our own outdoor spaces while providing resources for our wild neighbors to make their homes.

Even in urban areas, we can make changes that allow other species to flourish with us. Wildlife gardening provides a means of cooperating with our wild neighbors by being aware of their needs and deliberately creating spaces that we can share with our wild neighbors.

From a large, one acre lot that can host numerous different trees, shrubs and flowers, to a deck or balcony large enough for just a small container garden, everyone can contribute by making an effort to garden for wildlife and landscape for conservation.

As of January 21, 2026, we've certified ~195 acres with 748 individual, community, and business



**start here**

**do you want to share your space with wildlife?**

**YES!**

do you have at least **two** native drought-resistant plants that provide food?(flowers, fruits, nuts, seeds)

**OR**  
**one** native plant that provides food and also maintain a supplemental feeder or water source like a simple bird bath?

**YES!**



## Best Practices

### Engagement

- Post wildlife or plant observations on citizen/community science website (Examples: iNaturalist, eBird, Nature's Notebook, etc.)
- Advocate for land conservation
- Volunteer at public lands or with environmental conservation organizations
- Attend an ABQ Backyard Refuge or program partner event
- Promote the ABQ Backyard Refuge Program at community gatherings or on social media
- Recruit neighbors, friends and/or family to seek ABQ Backyard Refuge Certification

**do you want to share your space with wildlife?**

no or not sure

download our introductory guide at [ABQbackyardRefuge.org](http://ABQbackyardRefuge.org) to find out how and why to share space with wildlife!

no or not sure

can you do **two or more** of these **Best Practices?**  
(from any section)

no or not sure

**YES!**

Check out our [plant list](#) at [ABQbackyardRefuge.org](http://ABQbackyardRefuge.org) or email us at [abqbackyardrefuge@friendsvalledeoro.org](mailto:abqbackyardrefuge@friendsvalledeoro.org) with questions!



### Soil and Water Conservation

- Capture rainwater from roof and move overflow water to landscaped areas using a swale, basin, or other method of diversion e.g., a hose attached to a rain barrel.
- Have xeriscape elements (water-wise landscaping)
- Use drip or soaker hose for irrigation
- Limit water use
- Reduce erosion with mulch or contouring
- Use mulch to keep soil cool and help maintain soil moisture
- Make and use compost where plants need it
- Scoop the poop in your yard and on walks!



**Congratulations!**  
Your space qualifies as a **backyard refuge!**

*apply at*  
**[ABQbackyardRefuge.org](http://ABQbackyardRefuge.org)**

### Wildlife Gardening Practices

- Keep pets indoors or in controlled areas
- Convert traditional lawn from one species to a diversity of native and drought-tolerant plants
- Add native and drought-tolerant plants to supplement or replace existing vegetation
- Prune after insect emergence in spring plants and before nesting season begins
- Trim trees and plants after wildlife nesting seasons, leaving some dead branches when possible for wildlife
- Leave leaf litter for over-wintering wildlife
- Eliminate chemical pesticides/herbicides/rodenticides and practice non-toxic methods of Integrated Pest Management
- Eliminate chemical fertilizers
- Allow plants to flower and go to seed, and leave seed heads over winter for food
- Leave some fruit on fruiting trees for wildlife
- Leave bare ground for ground-nesting native bees

# ABQ Backyard Refuge Program • abqBackyardRefuge.org

Plant List for the Middle Rio Grande Valley, Albuquerque Metro Area, and East Mountains

All plants are suitable for the Middle Rio Grande Valley and Albuquerque Metro Area.

Plants suitable for the **East Mountains** are marked with: ^

Plants best for **container gardening** are marked with: @

Trees from The Nature Conservancy's **Climate Ready Tree List** are marked with: \*

*Climate ready tree species are those that will thrive in our current and future climate here in Albuquerque, NM as determined by The Nature Conservancy and a coalition of partners.*

*To learn more about these species, and how to choose the right tree for the right location visit:*

<https://www.nature.org/content/dam/tnc/nature/en/documents/Climate-Ready-Trees-Location-Lists-Nov2020.pdf>

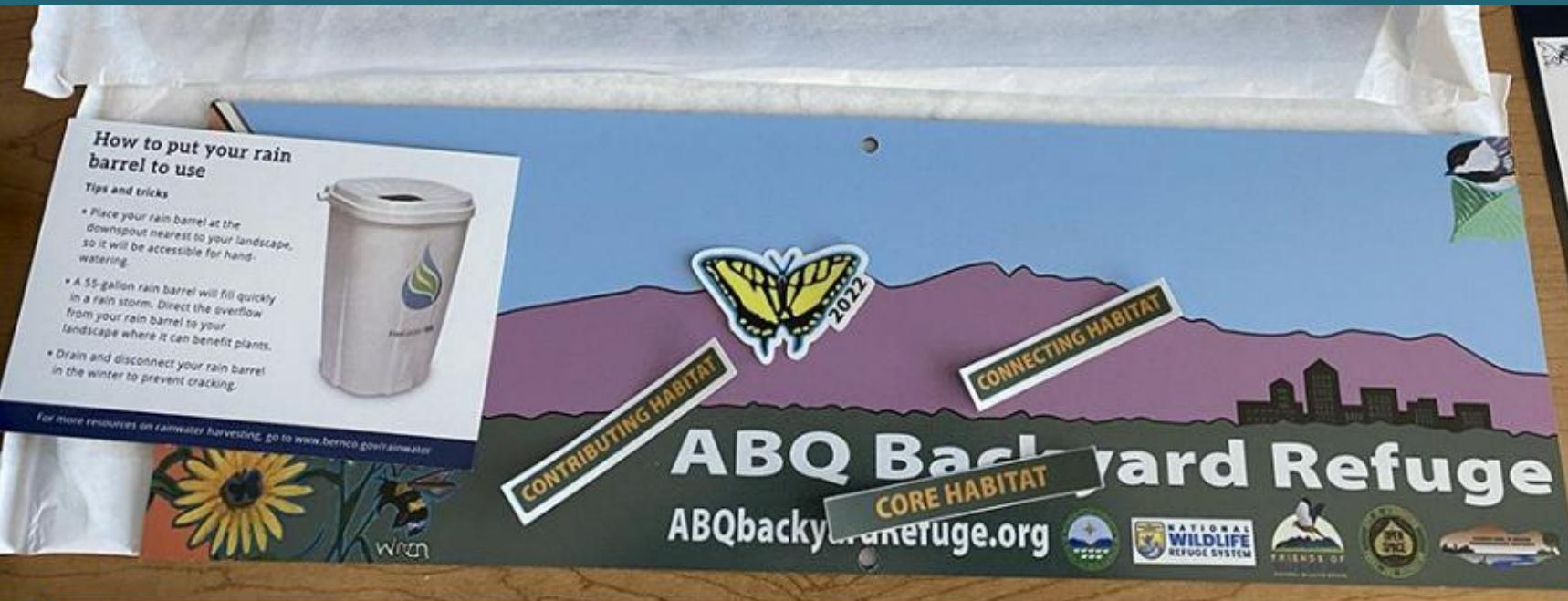
To learn more about each of the ABQ Backyard Refuge plants and where they are found around this area, go to our iNaturalist guide:

<https://www.inaturalist.org/guides/13425>



## ABQ Backyard Refuge Program

| Scientific Name                          | Common Name                               | Approx. Size Height x Width | Deciduous or Evergreen | Light Exposure | Water Use | Flowering and Fruiting Seasons | Habitat Value   |
|--|---|-----------------------------|------------------------|----------------|-----------|--------------------------------|---|
| <b>DESERT ACCENTS</b>                    |   |                             |                        |                |           |                                |   |
| <i>Agave havardiana</i> ^                | <b>Havard Agave</b>                       | 4' X 4'                     | Evergreen              | Full Sun       | Dry RW    | Spring-Summer                  | nectar hummingbirds, bats; larval host; seeds for birds   |
| <i>Agave palmeri</i> ^                   | <b>Palmer's Agave</b>                     | 3' X 4'                     | Evergreen              | Full Sun       | Dry RW    | Spring-Summer                  | nectar hummingbirds, bats; larval host; seeds for birds   |
| <i>Cylindropuntia imbricata</i> ^        | <b>Tree / Walkingstick Cholla</b>         | 8' X 6'                     | Evergreen              | Full Sun       | Dry RW    | Summer                         | pollen/nectar bees  |
| <i>Cylindropuntia leptocaulis</i> ^      | <b>Desert / Christmas / Pencil Cholla</b> | 4' X 6'                     | Evergreen              | Full Sun       | Dry RW    | Summer                         | pollen/nectar bees  |
| <i>Cylindropuntia spinosior</i> ^        | <b>Cane Cholla</b>                        | 8' X 6'                     | Evergreen              | Full Sun       | Dry RW    | Summer                         | pollen/nectar bees; bird nesting site; thrashers and roadrunners both use chollas for nesting sites |
| <i>Echinocereus coccineus</i> @          | <b>Scarlet Hedgehog Cactus</b>            | 10" X 15"                   | Evergreen              | Full Sun       | Dry RW    | Spring                         | pollen/nectar bees and hummingbirds   |
| <i>Echinocereus triglochidiatus</i>      | <b>Claret Cup</b>                         | 12"+ X 18"                  | Evergreen              | Full Sun       | Dry RW    | Spring                         | pollen/nectar bees and hummingbirds   |
| <i>Fouquieria splendens</i>              | <b>Ocotillo</b>                           | 15' X 10'                   | Deciduous              | Full Sun       | Dry RW    | Spring-Summer                  | nectar for hummingbirds, bats   |
| <i>Opuntia cacanapa</i><br>"ellisiana" @ | <b>Spineless Prickly Pear</b>             | 4' X 5'                     | Evergreen              | Full Sun       | Dry RW    | Spring                         | pollen/nectar bees and hummingbirds   |
| <i>Opuntia engelmannii</i> @             | <b>Desert / Engelmann Prickly Pear</b>    | 5' X 8'                     | Evergreen              | Full Sun       | Dry RW    | Spring                         | pollen/nectar bees and hummingbirds   |
| <i>Opuntia macrocentra</i> ^@            | <b>Purple Prickly Pear</b>                | 3' X 3'                     | Evergreen              | Full Sun       | Dry RW    | Spring                         | pollen/nectar bees and hummingbirds   |







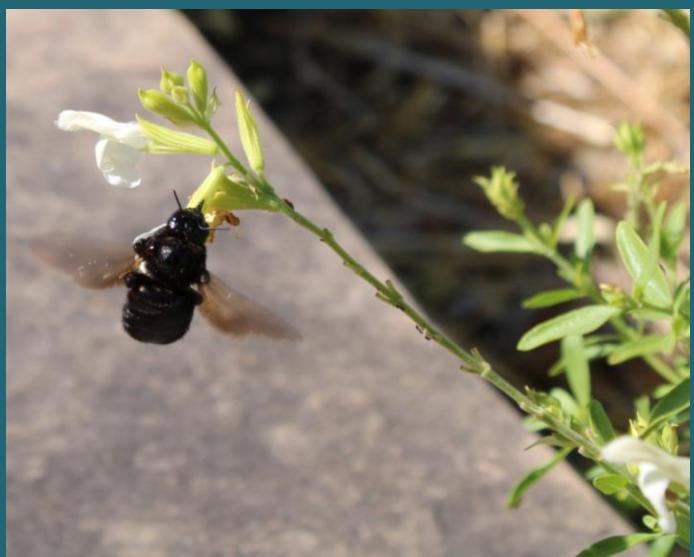


Photo: Wes Brittenham



Plant it, and They Will Come



Sharing space with our feathered friends

All species are in constant need of habitat in which to dwell that gives the next generation a chance to thrive. It is easy to share your space with wildlife and provide crucial habitat for birds. If you have a yard with non-native grass (or one full of gravel), you...



### Backyard Refuges for People and Wildlife

Building a refuge for wildlife in our yards is a way to nurture habitat on a personal scale and actively care for our wild neighbors. By intentionally creating spaces we can share with other urban species, Albuquerque can be a refuge for both people and wildlife....



### Albuquerque Backyard Refuge Certification Program

The ABQ Backyard Refuge Program is working with greater Albuquerque residents to create a mosaic of habitat across the city that will support a wide variety of both year-round and migrating wildlife. The program, which is managed by the Friends of Valle de Oro...

# Existing work with Laurel Ladwig, Program Director



## Creating a Drought-Tolerant Refuge for Yourself and Wildlife

**Laurel Ladwig, M.S.**

(She/Her/Ki)

*ABQ Backyard Refuge Program Director  
Friends of Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge  
Associate Director  
R.H. Mallory Center for Community Geography*

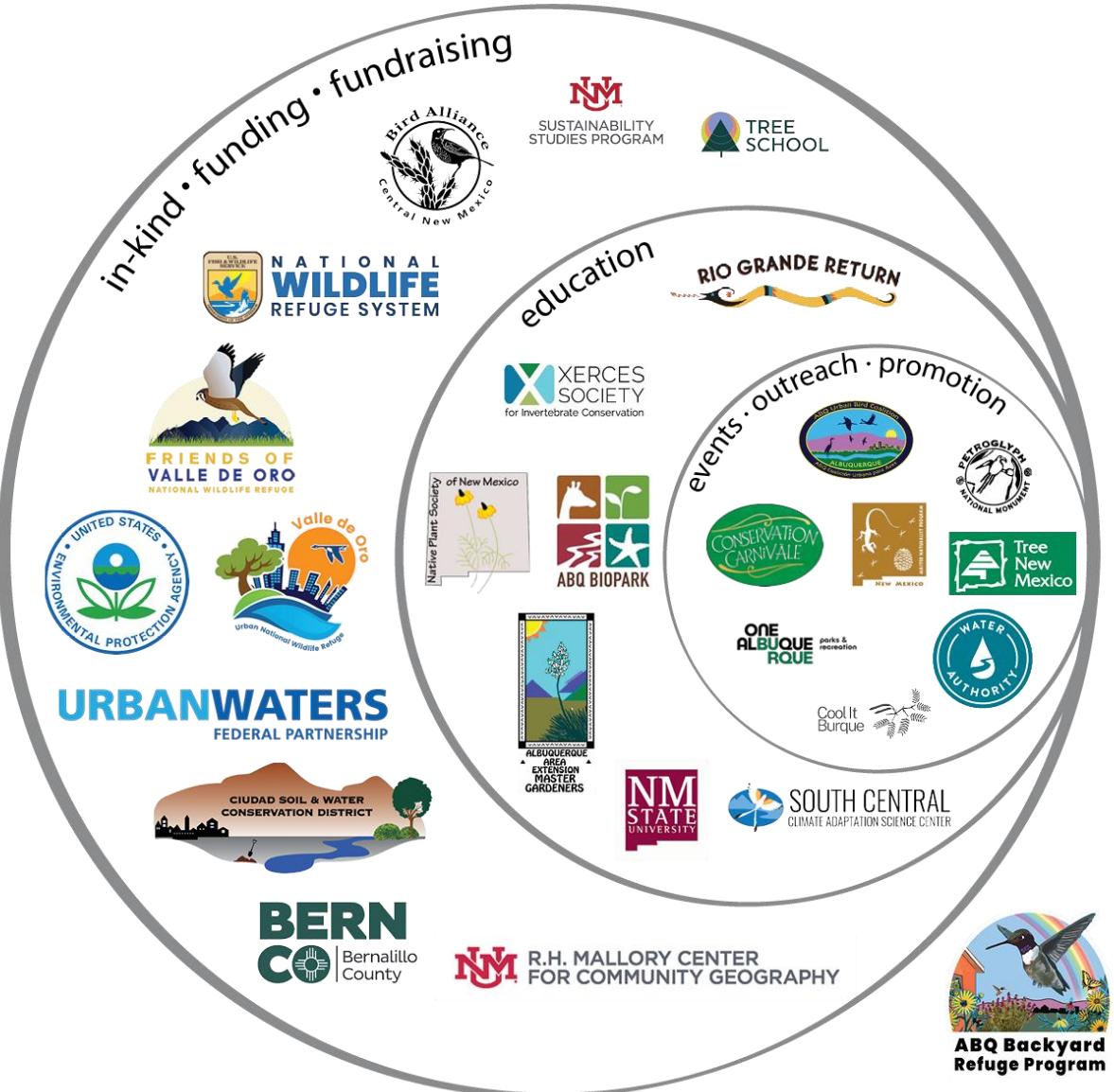
**FRIENDS OF  
VALLE DE ORO**  
NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE  
NURTURE YOUR NATURE



**NM** R.H. MALLORY CENTER  
FOR COMMUNITY GEOGRAPHY



## Primary ABQ Backyard Refuge Program Partners



## Program Cross Pollination to include:

- Sharing of printed resources
- Website information about collaboration
- 505Outside and BYR newsletter articles
- Social media announcements
- Press release promoting partnership
- In-person event participation and promotion
- Future plant lists to include habitat value and trees that qualify for rebate
- Pilot: Additional \$50 rebate for Xeriscape Transformation Participants that participate in the core habitat backyard refuge certification program

# Existing Additional Rebates for Xeriscape Rebate Participants



**Get 25% off the cost of renting equipment for removal of grass (e.g. sodcutter, backhoe or Bobcat) up to \$100.**

## Rental Equipment

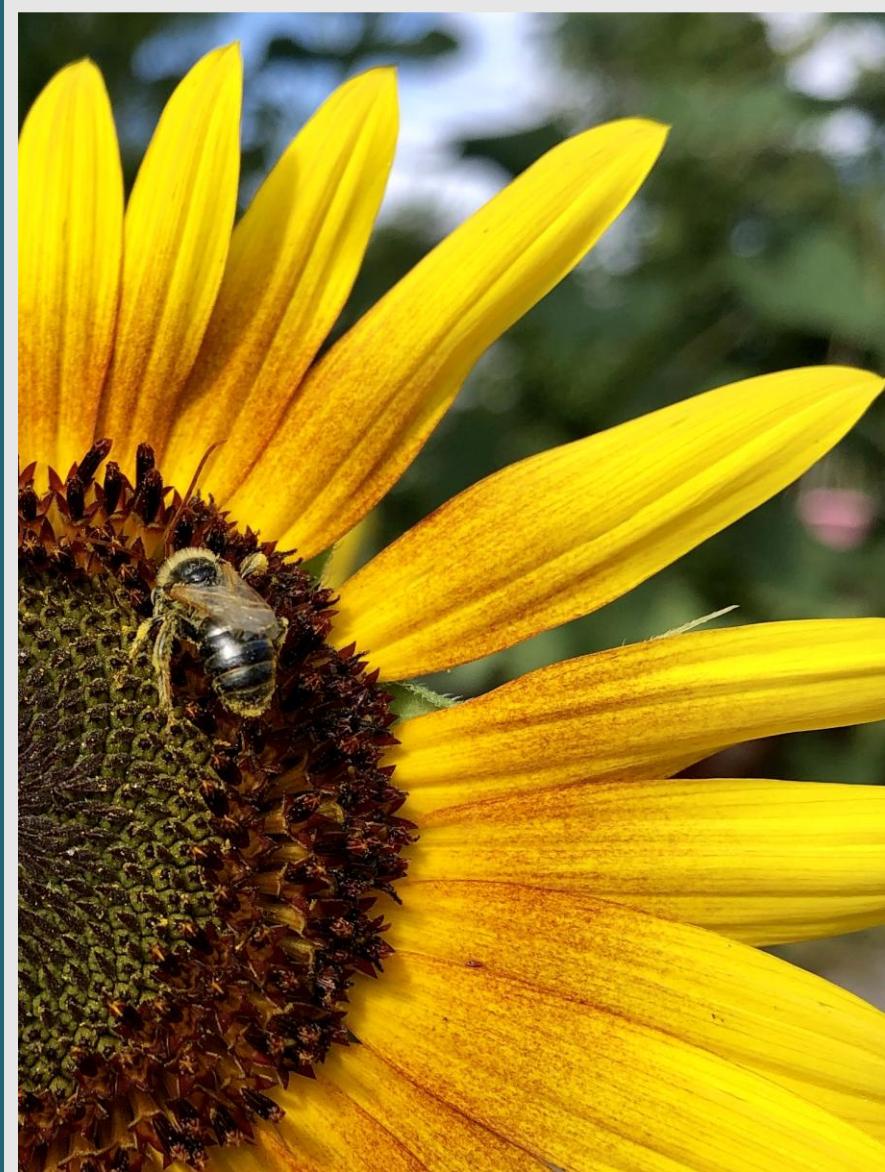
We understand turf conversions to desert friendly landscapes can require specific tools to get the job done, we'd like to help support you in your conversion by giving you a rebate for that equipment you may rent.



**Get 25% off the cost of installing bulk organic mulch up to \$100.**

## Bulk Organic Mulch

Not only is [organic mulch](#) aesthetically appealing, it helps to protect your trees and landscape by keeping moisture where it belongs in the root zone. Mulch promotes increased moisture retention in the soil, and encourages healthy root establishment, while reducing weeds.



# ABCWUA + New Mexico Backyard Refuge Program Policy Alignment (Policy J & Sub-policy J)

## Why This Partnership Advances Water 2120 Policy J

### Protect Environmental and Cultural Resources

- Direct alignment with environmental & cultural resource protection.
- Supports urban habitat & native landscaping initiatives.

### How Sub-policy J Supports This Collaboration

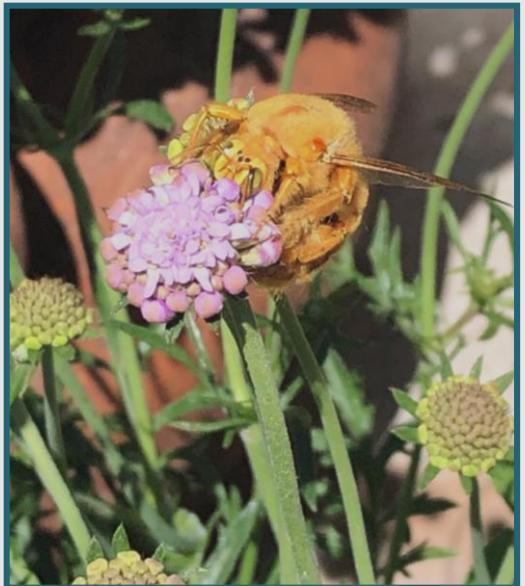
- Reinforces urban forest & tree preservation.
- Expands conservation education & habitat stewardship.

### Shared Goals

- Native, drought-tolerant landscaping reduces water use & supports wildlife habitat.
- Community education elevates public understanding of ecological stewardship.
- Urban ecological resilience enhances habitat networks citywide and aligns with BernCo partnerships.

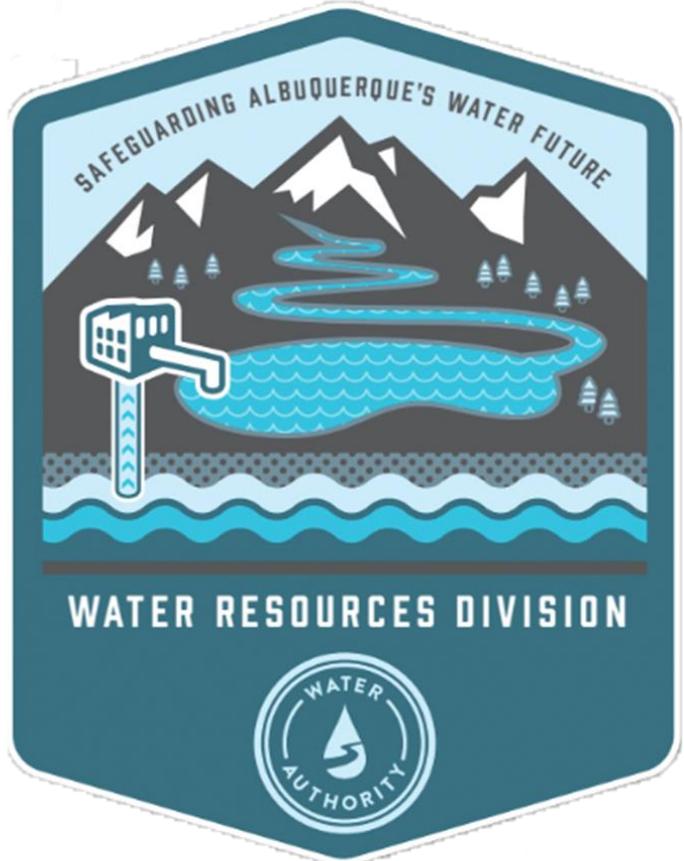
### Bottom Line

The partnership is a clear, mission-aligned extension of ABCWUA's Policy J obligation, strengthening the Authority's ability to protect environmental resources while advancing water efficiency.



Questions and Feedback



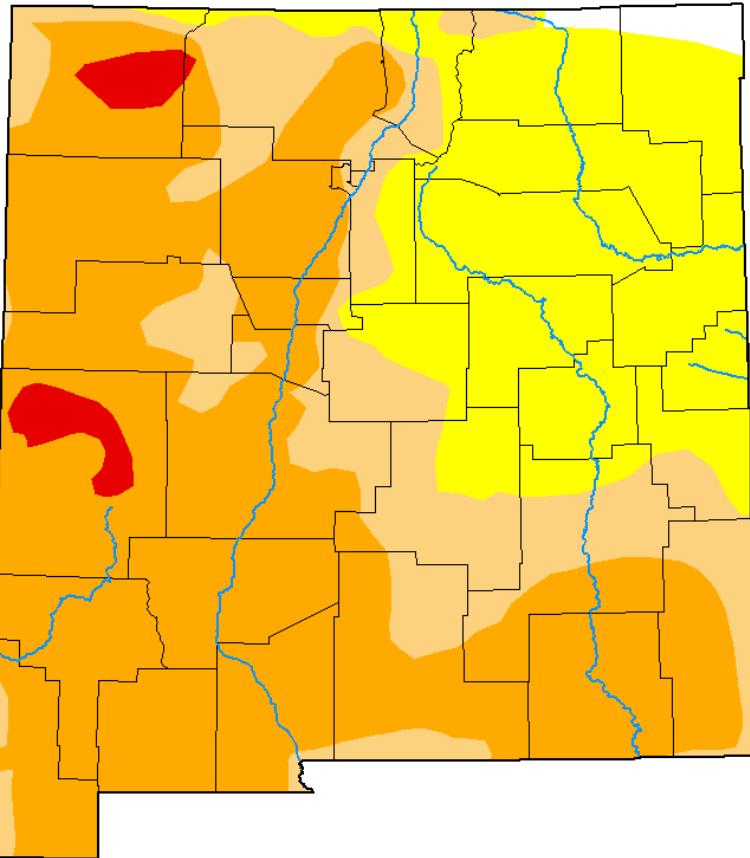


# Water Resources Division

**Water Report**

**Mark Kelly, PE  
Water Resources Manager**

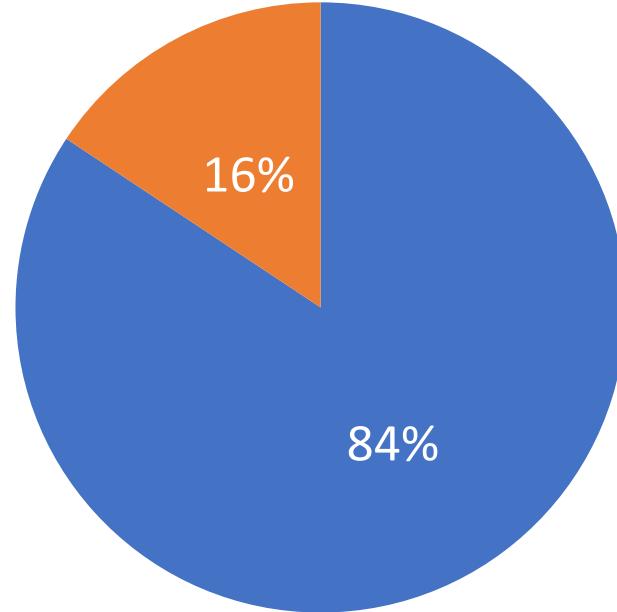
# SUPPLY METRICS SNAPSHOT



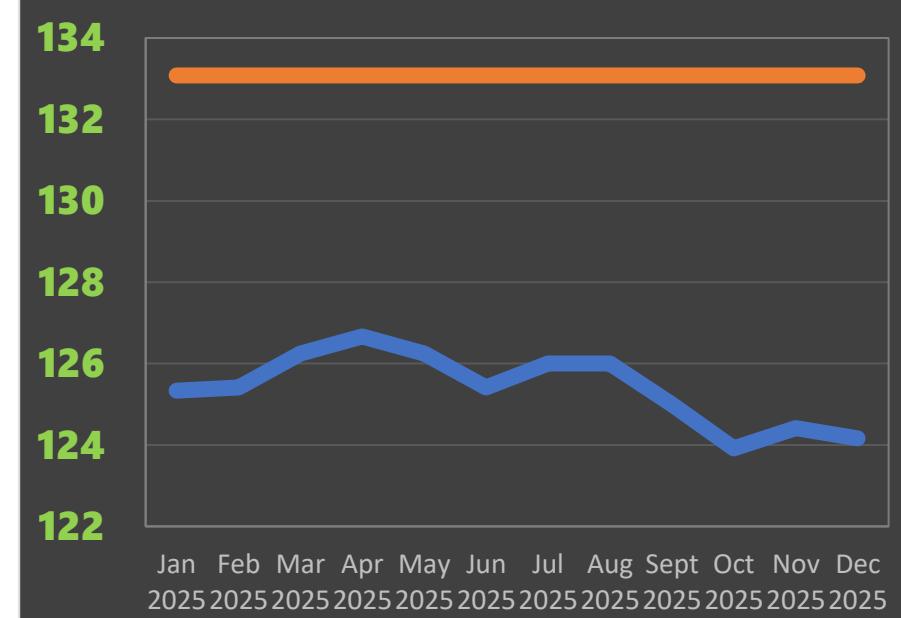
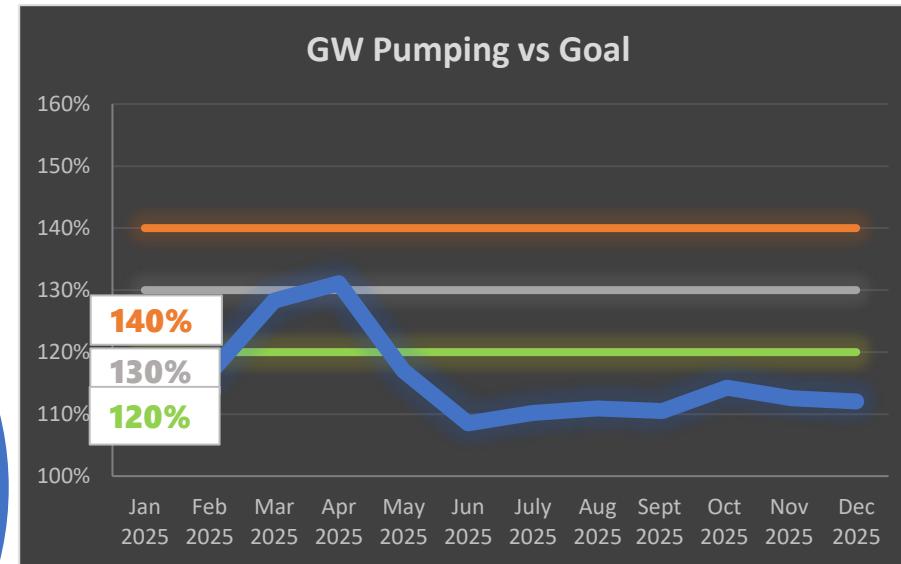
D0 D1 D2 D3 D4

Water Authority  
Drought Stage:  
None

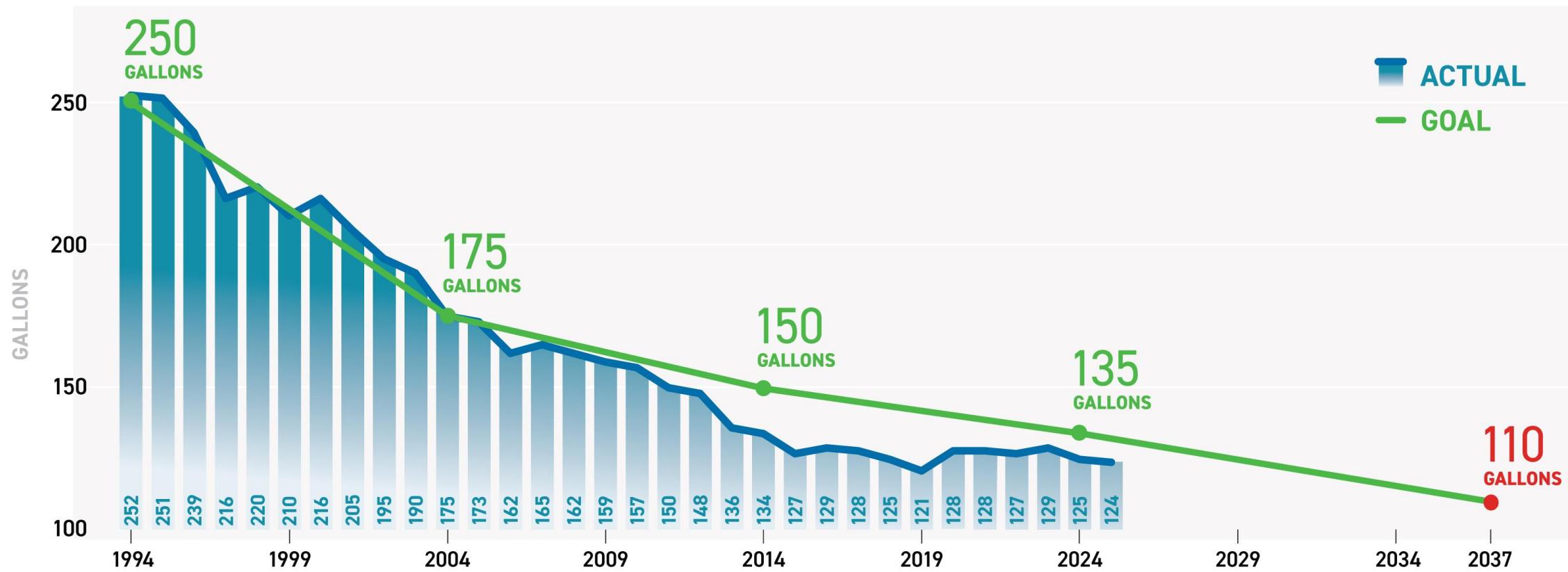
February 2026  
(December Supply Data)



Groundwater Production  
Surface Water Production

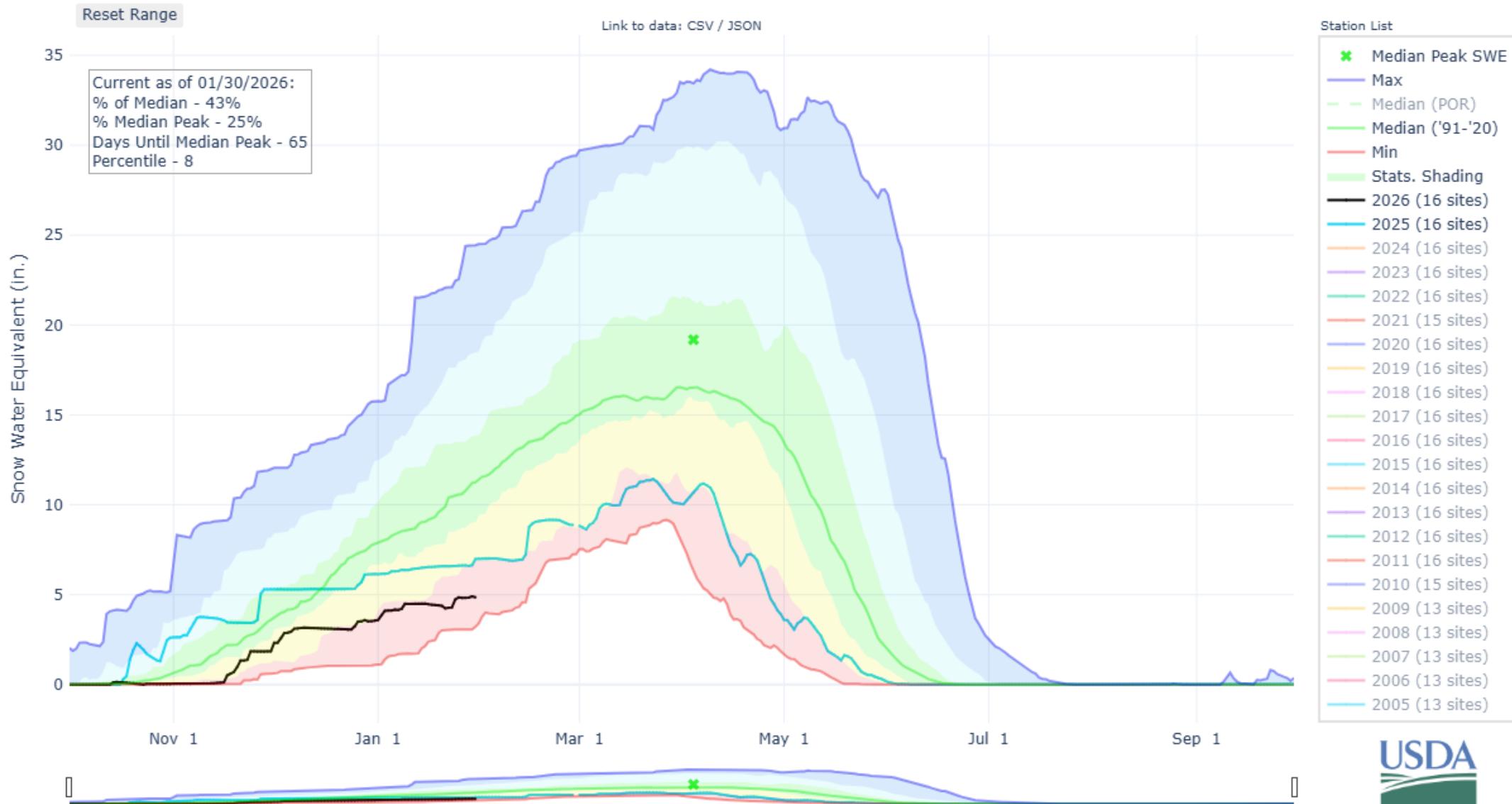


# Gallons Per Capita Per Day, 1994-2037



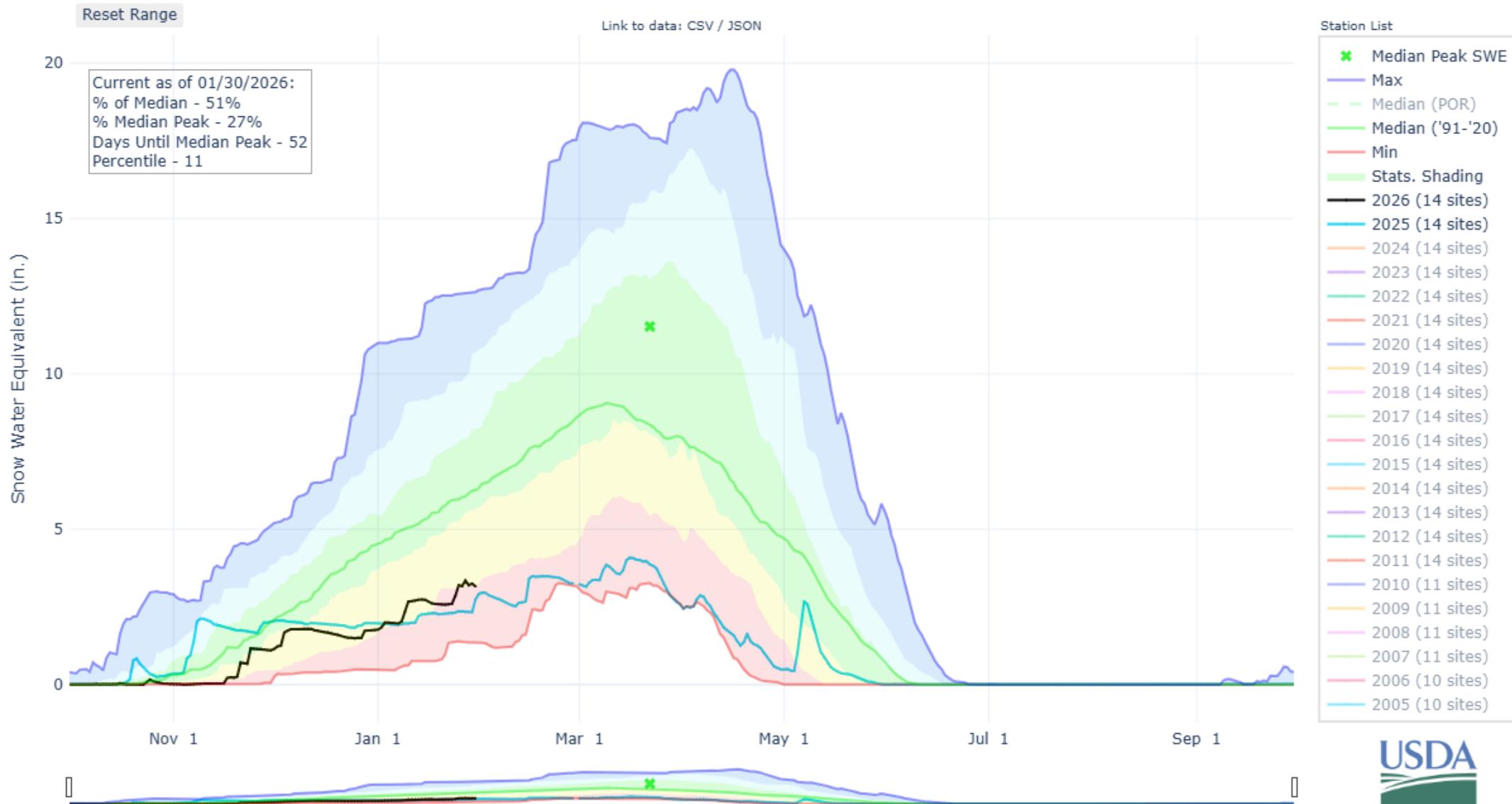
# Precipitation

## SNOW WATER EQUIVALENT IN UPPER SAN JUAN



# Precipitation

## SNOW WATER EQUIVALENT IN UPPER RIO GRANDE

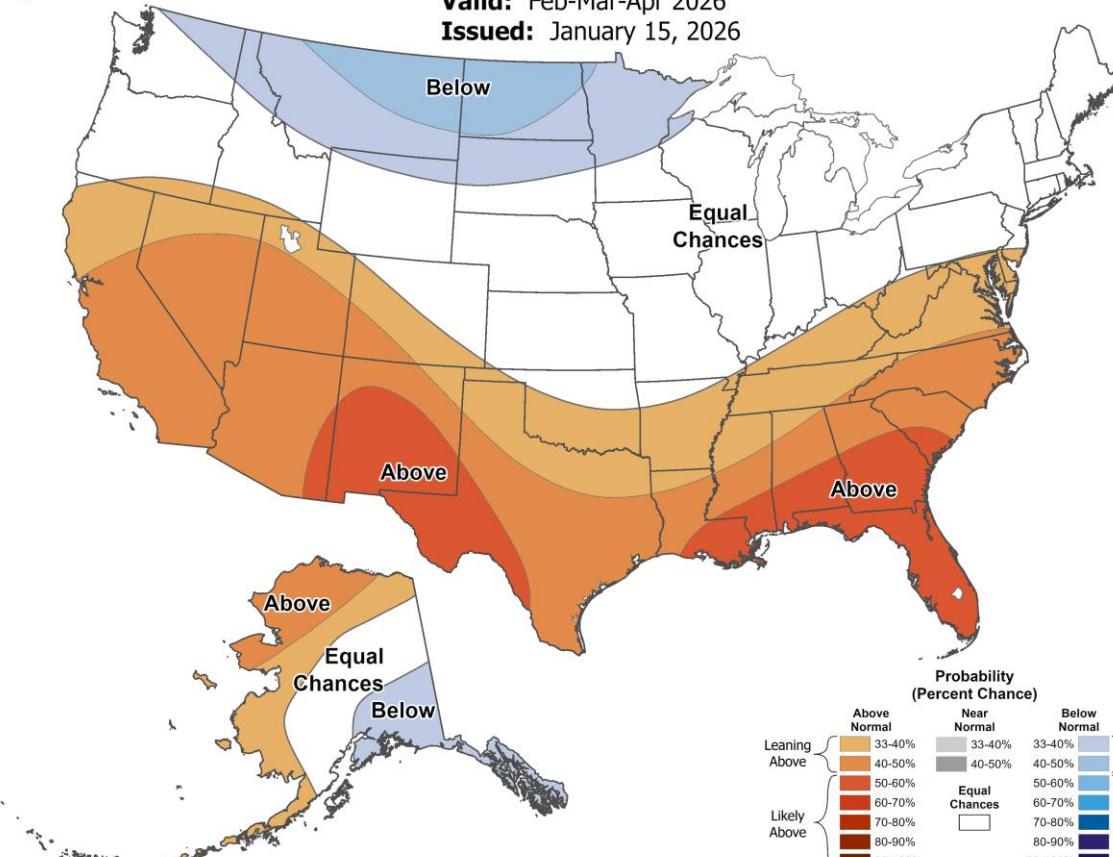


# Seasonal Outlook



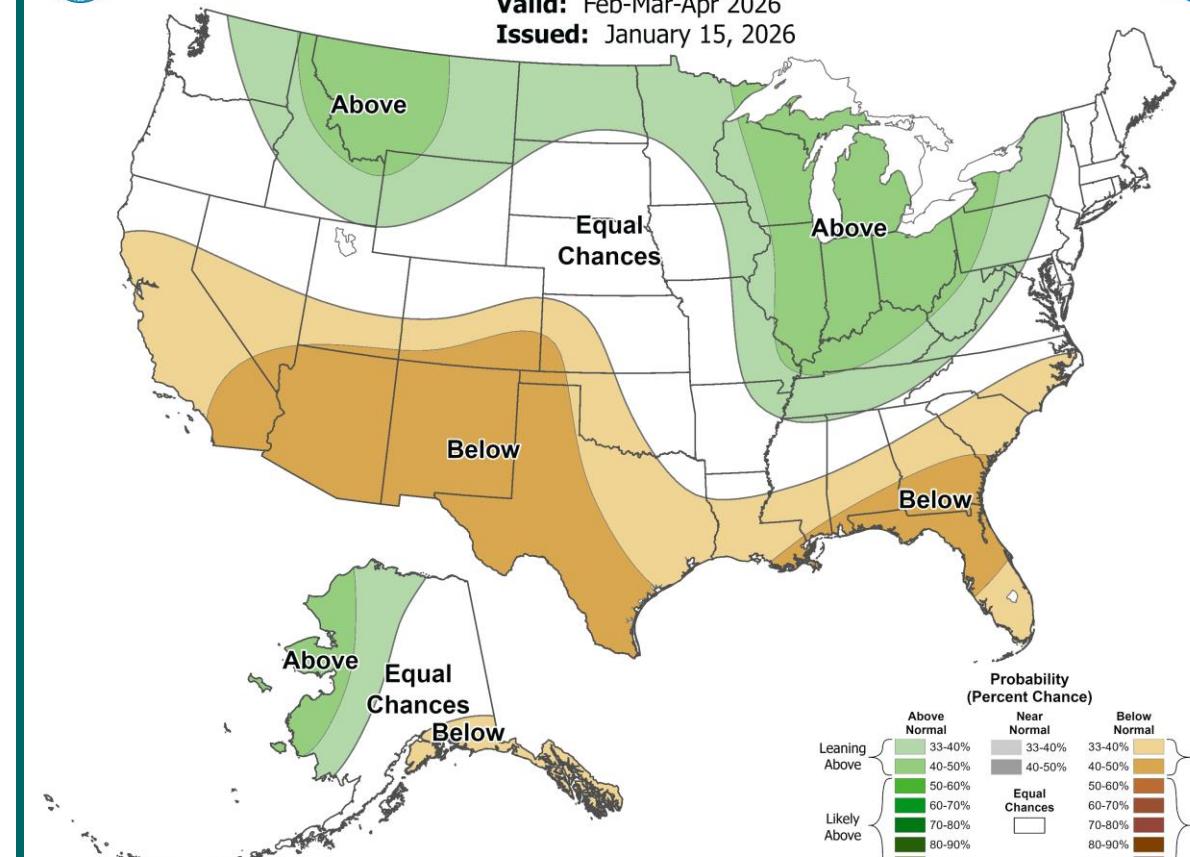
## Seasonal Temperature Outlook

Valid: Feb-Mar-Apr 2026  
Issued: January 15, 2026



## Seasonal Precipitation Outlook

Valid: Feb-Mar-Apr 2026  
Issued: January 15, 2026



# Water 2130

- Supply Projections:
  - Utilize CMIP6 climate dataset but perform a check with UMASS data when available

|                     | DOE 9505  | UMass   |
|---------------------|---|---|
| Regulation          | Unregulated flow estimates; natural conditions.   | Unregulated flow estimates; natural conditions.   |
| Calibration         | Hydrologic models (VIC and PRMS) are not calibrated                                       | The models are trained, validated, and tested using flow records.                                   |
| Runoff (Historical) | Based on downscaled climate model estimates   | Based on observed historical records  |
| Runoff (Projected)  | Based on downscaled climate model estimates   | Not explicitly modeled.   |
| Bias Correction     | Flows may be post-processed (external step to 9505 data)                                  | No bias correction  |
| Stationarity        | Data changes over the record up to 2100   | Data is stationary and represents a theoretical future state.                                       |
| Ensembles           | Multiple GCM traces and two modeling methods create an ensemble of future potential flows | Single trace yield per climate scenario (potential for perturbations and multiple yield estimates). |



Questions?