

AGENDA

Members

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

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 or 505-289-3100. Requests for login information and public comment must be submitted before 2:00 PM the date of the meeting.

Thursday, August 7, 2025

4:00 PM

1441 Mission Ave NE Conference Room 204

- 1. Call to Order
- 2. Approval of Agenda
- 3. Approval of June 5, 2025, Action Summary
- 4. Public Comment
- 5. Customer Conversations Review
- 6. Water 2120 Update
- 7. Water Report
- 8. Other Business
- 9. 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.

Customer Conversations 2025



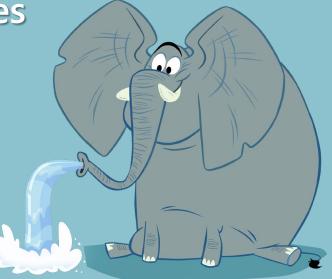
Community thoughts on

The long-term water supply

The Water by the Numbers program

Xeriscape rebates

Water 2120



Customer Conversations: New for 2025

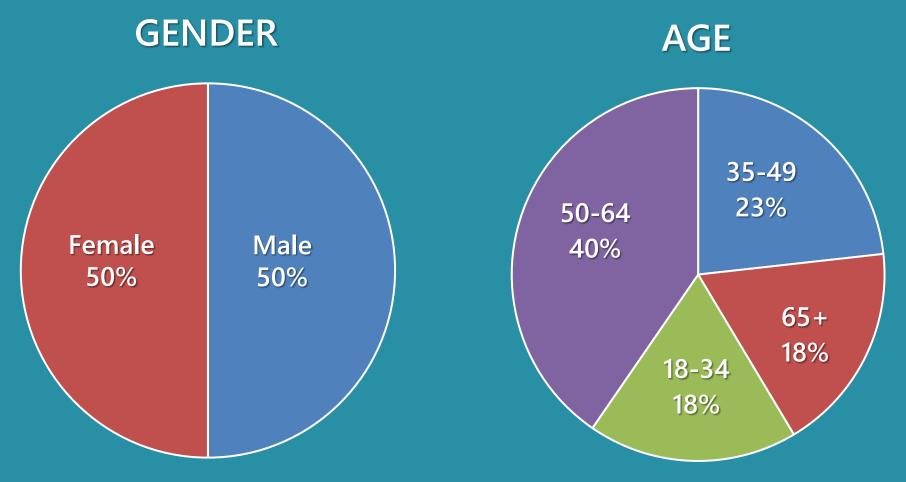
- Smaller, more manageable focus group format
- Recruitment via market research company outreach rather than mass advertising
- \$125 cash payment for participants
 - We have experimented in past with \$20 rebates and \$50 gift cards;
 cash payment is SOP for our market research company



Overview: Customer Conversations 2025

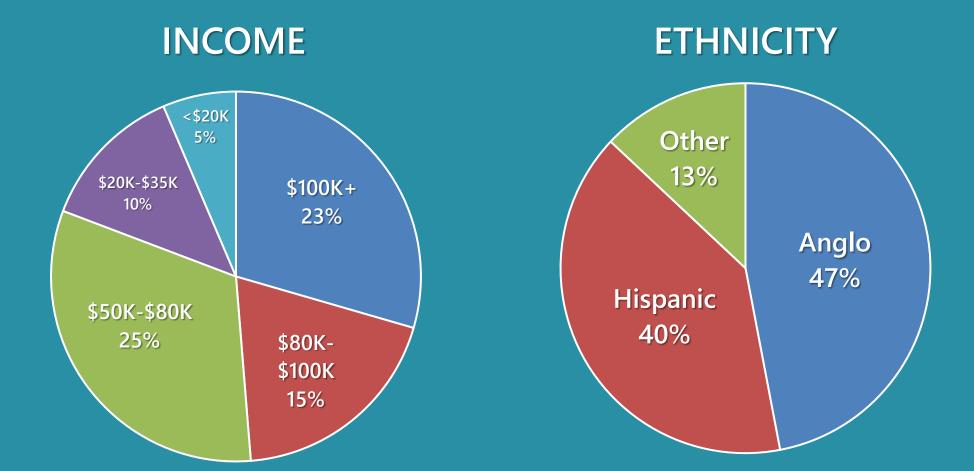
- Six focus groups of 10 participants each (recruited by Research & Polling Inc.)
- Groups convened via Zoom on June 10, 11 and 12 (5:30 pm-7:30 pm and 8:00 pm-10:00 pm)
- Discussion topics developed and approved internally; focus on conservation programs





Participant Demographics



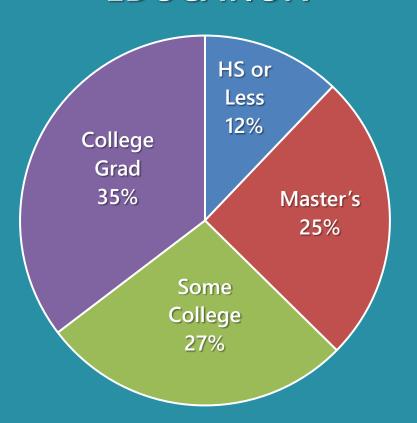


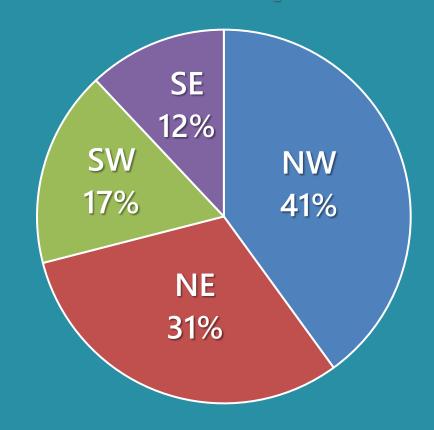
Participant Demographics



EDUCATION

GEOGRAPHIC QUADRANT





Participant Demographics



TOPICS DISCUSSED

- Concerns around viability of long-term water supply
- Awareness and usage of Water by the Numbers irrigation guidelines
- Awareness of and participation in the Xeriscape Rebate Program
- Awareness of Water 2120 long-term resource management strategy



Discussion Summary: Long-Term Water Supply

With a few exceptions, participants are generally concerned with the health of the long-term water supply in the area. So much so that most participants automatically assume the area is in a drought and, while not necessarily an accurate indicator of the health of the long-term water supply, many participants indicated the water level in the Rio Grande as their gauge of the health of the water supply. Participants cited many factors that contributed to their concern for the water supply, including:

- ☐ A growing population
- Large housing developments
- ☐ Individuals relocating from other states
- ☐ Corporate water use
- ☐ The arid desert climate and lack of rainfall
- □ Climate change



Discussion Summary: Long-Term Water Supply

- Those participants who are aware of progress that has been made in terms of water conservation and resource management in the utility's service area (e.g., reduction of per capita daily water use by half since the 1990s) have a much brighter outlook on the long-term water supply.
 - The vast majority of participants had at least some knowledge of where Albuquerque's water comes from, and a few specifically mentioned the San Juan–Chama Project.
- Several participants mentioned their awareness of the sources of Albuquerque's water supply came from literature provided by the Water Authority via bill inserts, pamphlets, or the Water Authority's website, while others mentioned either themselves or children having learned about this via the public education system.

"I think that the Water Authority does do a fairly good job of informing us and at different times that there seem to be campaigns to let us know where the water comes from, what we can do perhaps to not misuse water, overuse water."--Participant



Discussion Summary: "Water by the Numbers"

- Although many participants had a general idea of the program and its intent, almost none knew
 the months and days per week specified in the guidelines. Participants were, however, generally
 aware they are not supposed to water during the hottest parts of the day and that there are
 restrictions that can lead to fines for doing so.
- Knowledge of the program stems from television, billboard, and radio advertisements, as well as bill inserts. Most participants were aware the program is voluntary.
- Most participants were unaware of other types of irrigation advice available from the Water
 Authority, such as seasonal watering guidelines or the comprehensive irrigation guide. However,
 a couple of participants were aware and appreciative of the 505 Outside newsletter.





Discussion Summary: Xeriscape Rebates

- Among those aware of the xeriscape rebate program, they primarily learned of it via bill inserts or through their HOA requirements; however, there was some confusion about what qualifies as xeriscaping and how to apply for rebate.
- Many thought the rebate amount was generous; however, some mentioned personal finances as a barrier to participating in the program.
- Some participants were concerned that xeriscaping would result in increased maintenance due to weed growth and noted a significant increase in temperature, especially in back yards where grass keeps the area cooler and more comfortable.



Discussion Summary: Water 2120

Just one participant was aware of the Water 2120 plan. However, upon hearing a brief
description of the plan, participants felt generally positively towards it and said it makes them
more motivated to conserve water. Most participants were appreciative of the Water Authority's
proactive plan, and some noted that other cities lack such comprehensive water management
plans.

"This makes me feel very excited to know that there is this kind of thoughtful planning that has been put in place and that will help us as we move forward." -- Participant

"It's encouraging to hear there is a well-thought-out plan in place, and information about it, hopefully, will get out to the rest of (the community)." --Participant

 Many suggested the Water Authority should tout its accomplishments and goals better. They were encouraged to hear positive news such as the existence of the 100-year plan, and that per capita water usage has been halved in the past 30 years.



PARTICIPANT EVALUATIONS (Somewhat or Strongly Agree)

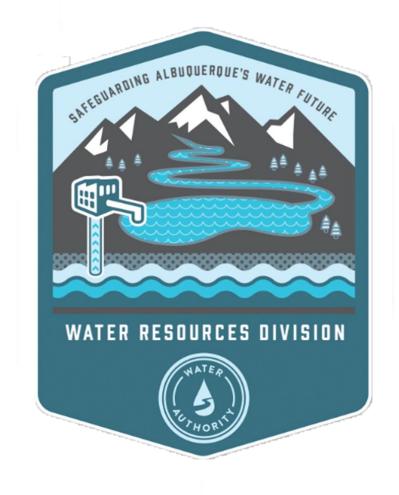
•	My time was well spent	8%
•	My input was valued	6%
•	I would participate again	98%





Full report available!





Water Resources Division

Water 2120 Update

Mark Kelly, PE Water Resources Manager

Water 2120: Securing our Water Future Update

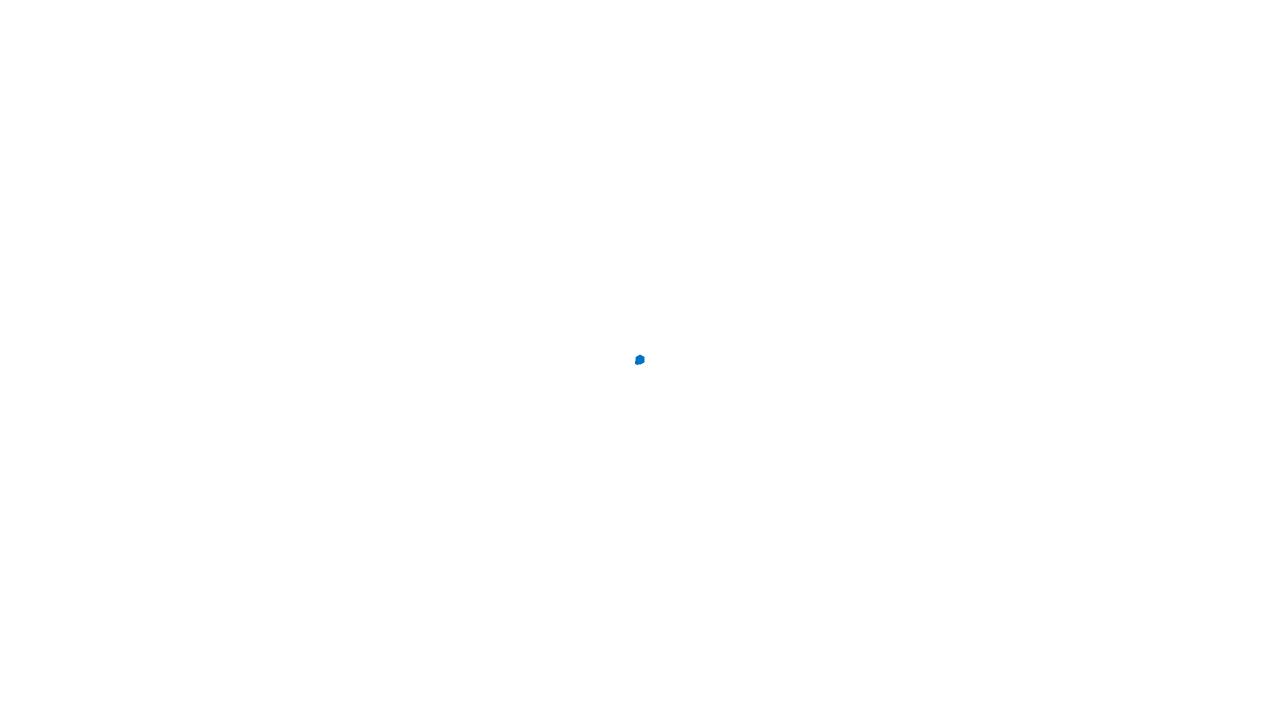
- Potential Name of Updated Document
 - Water 2120: 2026 Decadal Update
 - Water 2120: 2026 Update
 - Water 2120: 10 Year Update
 - Water 2120: Next Horizon
 - Water 2120: Together for Tomorrow
 - Water 2120: Water for the Next Generation



Potential Update Names







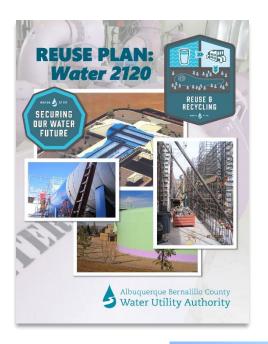
Task 1: Decade Update

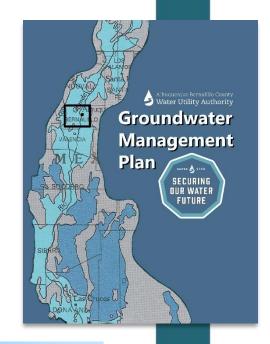
- What has happened since Water 2120 was passed in 2026?
- Progress over the last 10 years

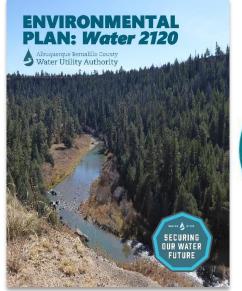


Implementation Plans

- Water Conservation Plan (2018)
- Rivers and Aquifers Protection Plan (2018)
- Environmental Plan (2021)
- Reuse Plan (2021)
- Groundwater Management Plan (2021)
- Drought Management Plan (2023)

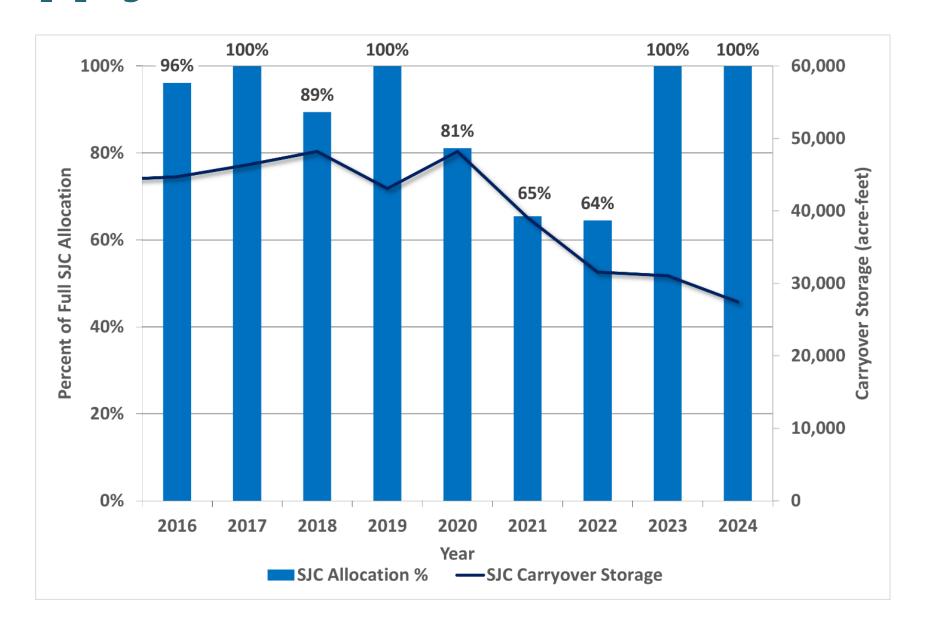






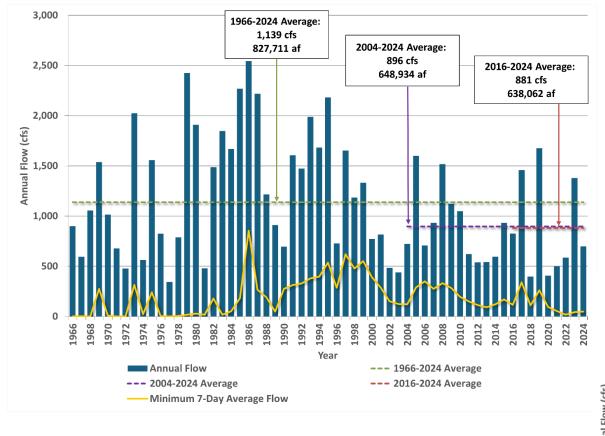


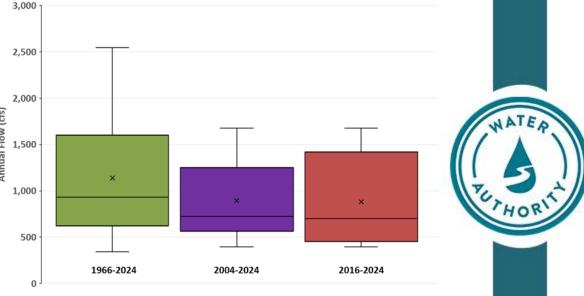
Supply- Surface Water



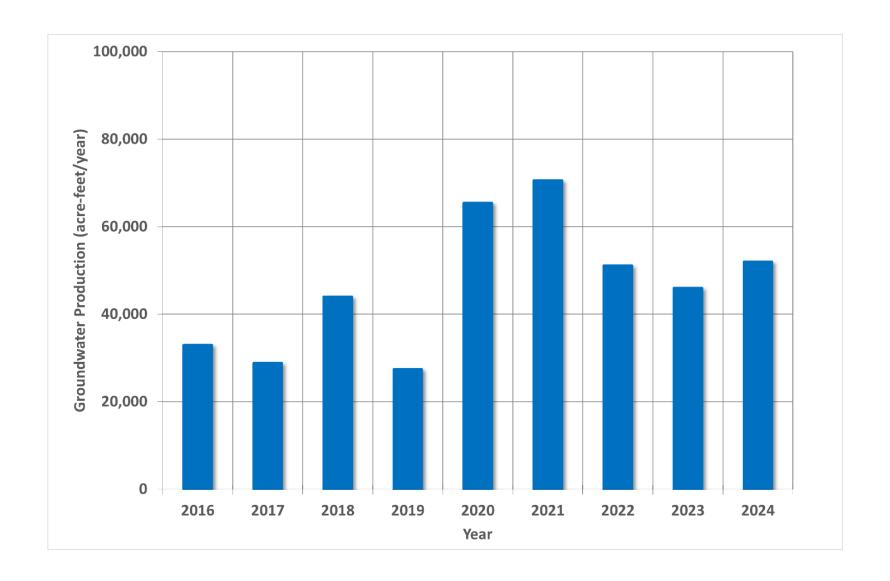


Supply-Surface Water



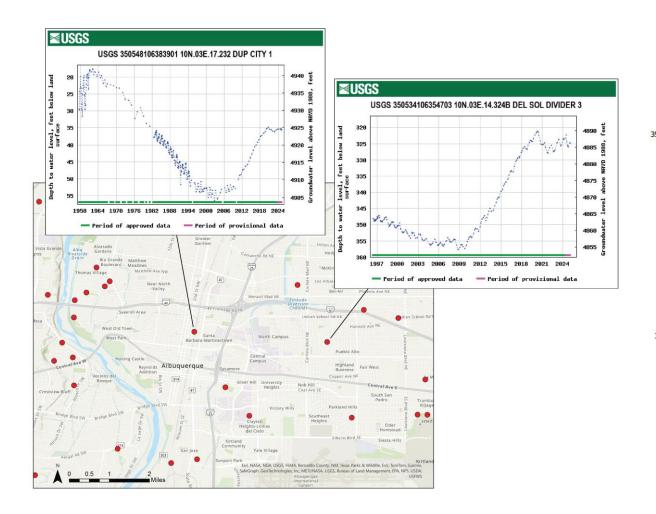


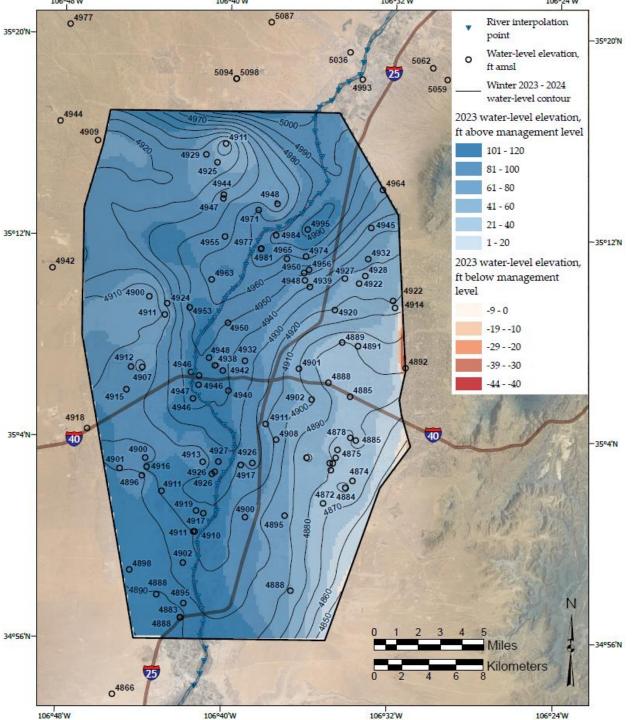
Supply- Groundwater



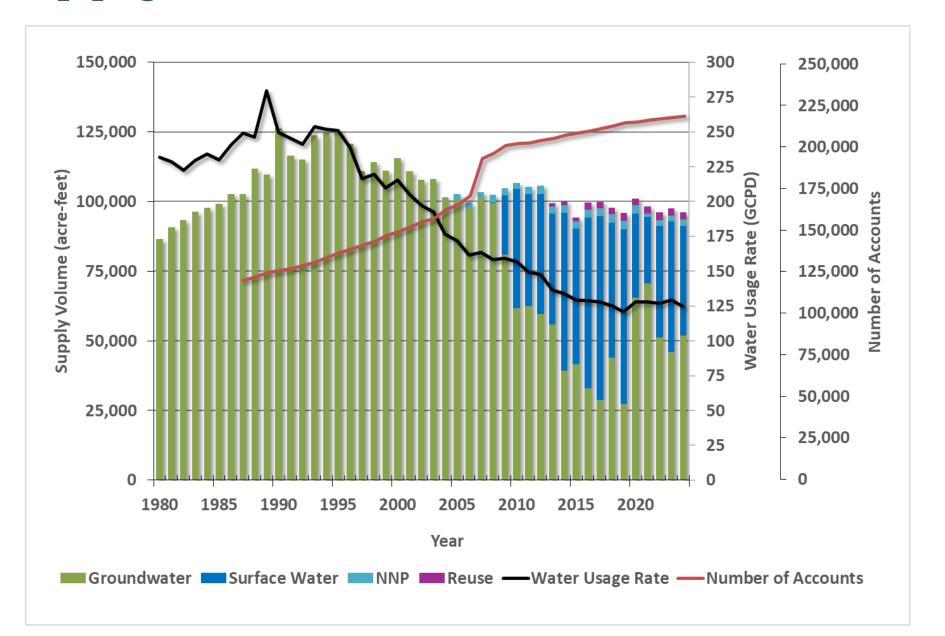


Supply- Groundwater



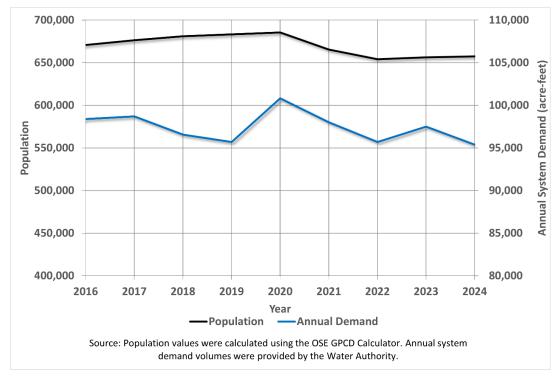


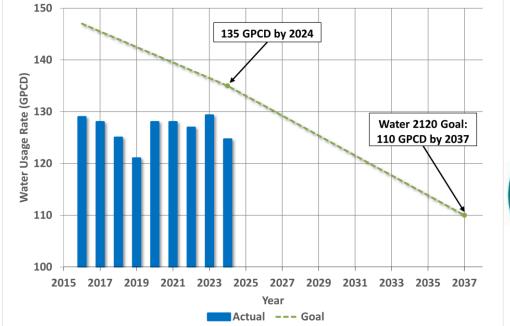
Supply





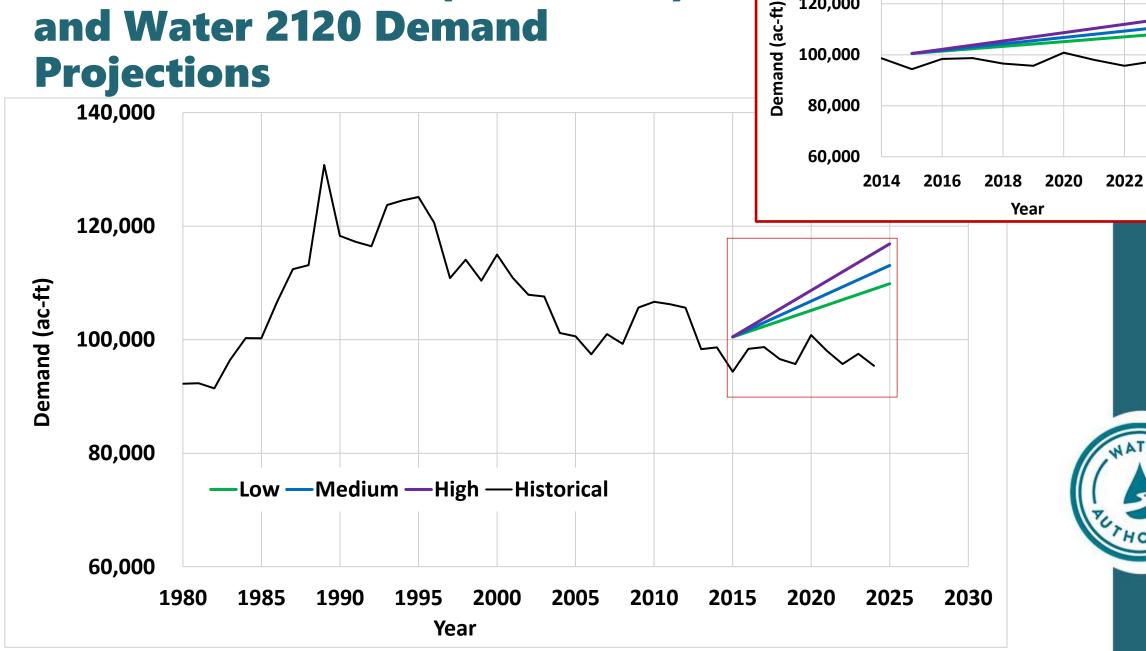
Demand







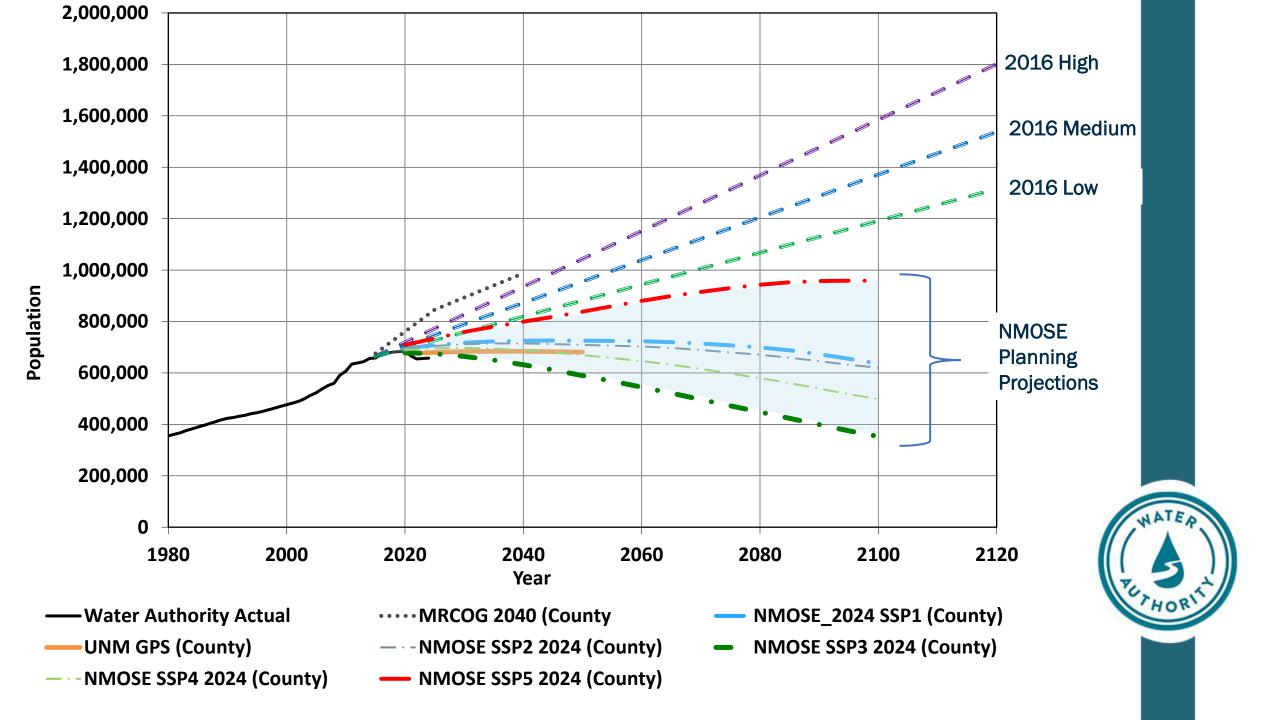
Historical Demand (2014-2024) and Water 2120 Demand



140,000

120,000

2024





Questions?

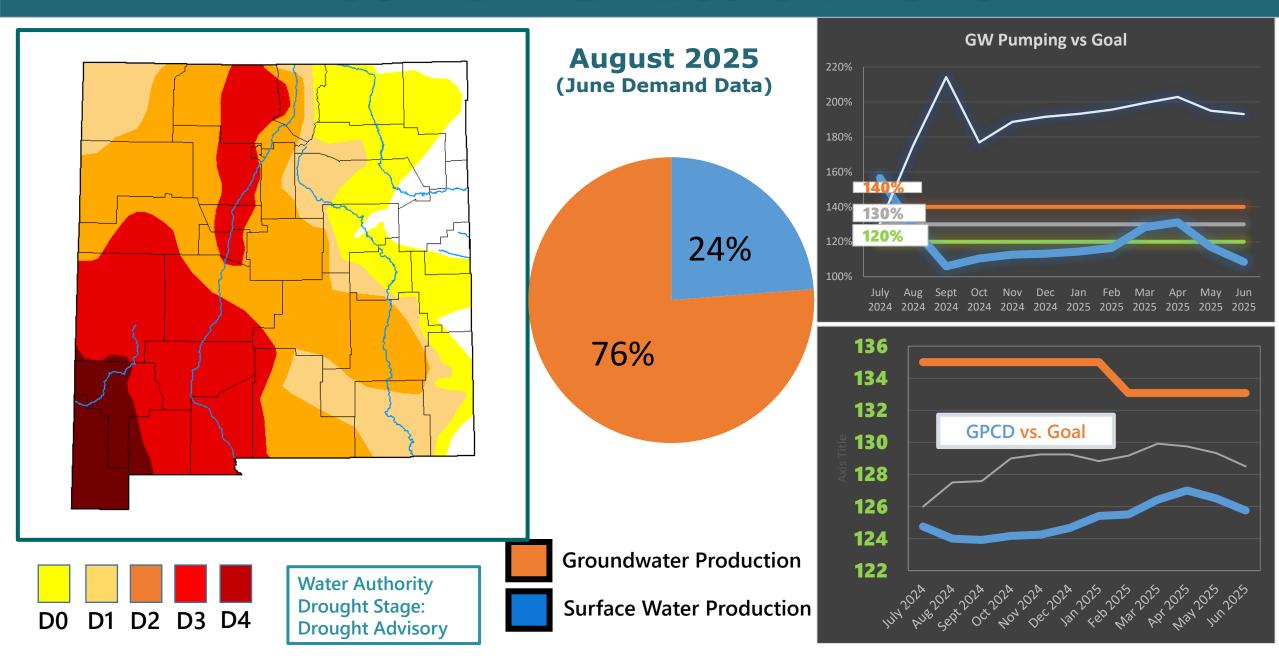


Water Resources Division

Water Report

Mark Kelly, PE Water Resources Manager

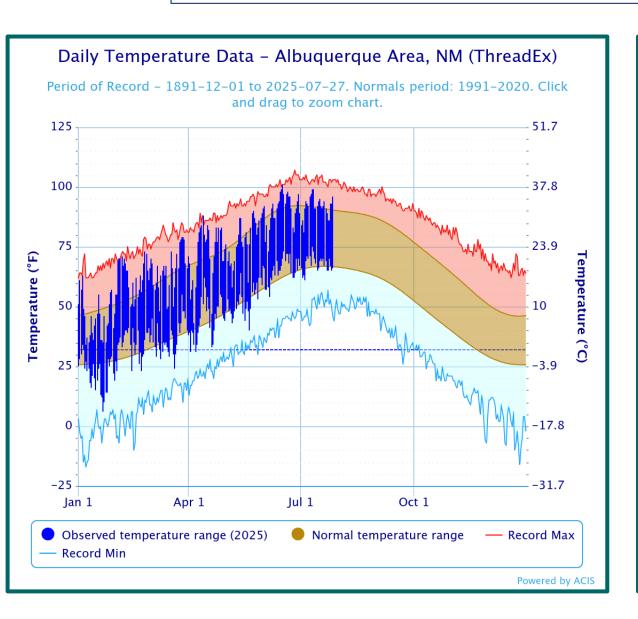
SUPPLY METRICS SNAPSHOT &

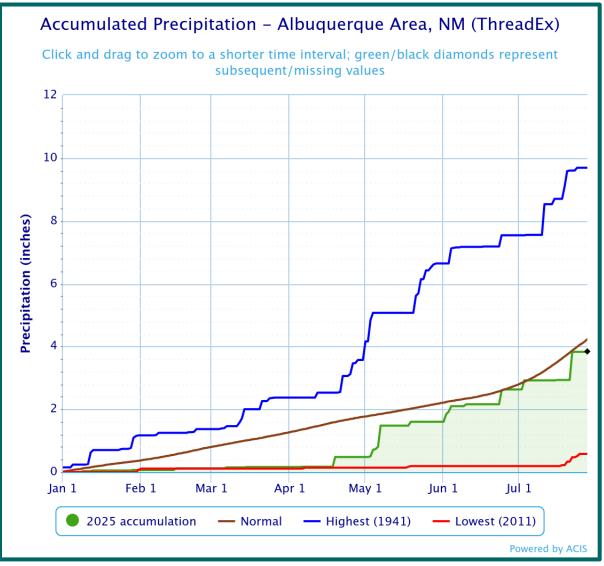


Drought Stages

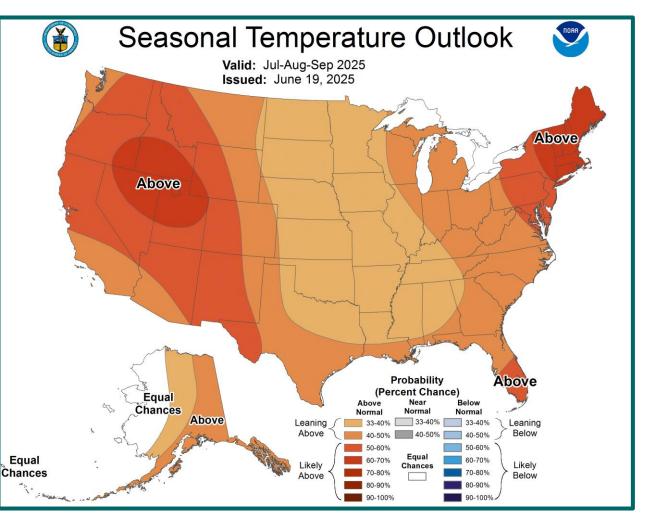
Groundwater Production / GPCD	DSCI≥300	Less than 120% of the Annual GW Production Goal	Between 120% and 130% of GW Production Goal	Between 130% and 140% of GW Production Goal	More than 140% of the GW Production Goal
0 to < 2 GPCD over the goal	Stage 0	Stage 0	Stage 0	Stage 0	Stage 1
2-4 GPCD over the goal	Stage 0	Stage 0	Stage 1	Stage 1	Stage 2
4-6 GPCD over the goal	Stage 0	Stage 0	Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3
> 6 GPCD over the goal	Stage 0	Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3	Stage 3

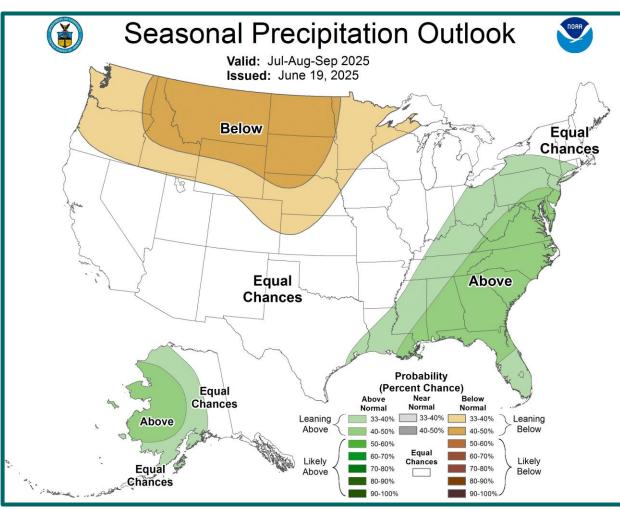
Temperature and Precipitation





Seasonal Outlook

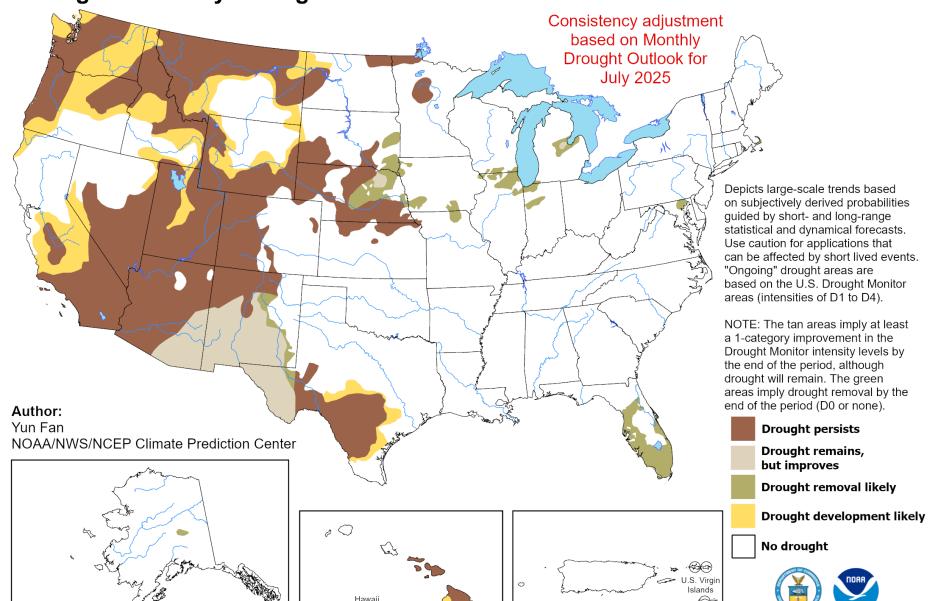




U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook Drought Tendency During the Valid Period

Valid for July 1 - September 30, 2025 Released June 30, 2025

https://go.usa.gov/3eZ73



Puerto Rico

Drought Outlook

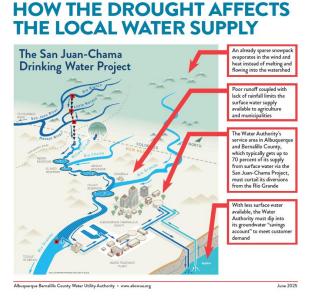
Governor's Executive Order on Drought 5/22/25



Additional Efforts Include:

- **Albuquerque Journal Drought Insert**
- Increasing number of letters sent per month to the highest residential water users
- **Targeted letters to commercial customers** exceeding Tier 3 usage for at least 3 seasons







Under a Drought Advisory, the utility works to increase public awareness regarding conservation. Drought Advisory measures are intended to remind customers of the importance of conservation as the drought persists and we must substitute groundwater from the aquifer for renewable surface water.

The aquifer is our savings account," said Klarissa Water Authority's governing board. "We want to guard those savings so we'll have enough to deal with future droughts affecting this community." LONG-TERM PATTERNS MEET LONG-TERM PLANNING
The current drought is part of a long-term trend

The Water Authority's long-term water resource management strategy, called WATER 2120, takes torage and recovery (ASR); increased use of

1) Avoid water waste! Do not allow water to

well as sprinkler bodies and nozzles) qualif

nerous Water Authority rehates!

- flow or overspray onto streets and sidew or onto adjoining property. Check sprinkler systems often to ensure that heads are information at www.abcwua.org or 5) Set up leak detection alerts and monitor you water usage in close to real time using our new HomeConnect Portal. Click on "My Account" 2) Follow the Water by the Numbers program
- at www.abcwua.org to get started. Water your grass three times per week in th June, July and August, and ramp down again the fall. Xeric plants need even less water summer. Register today at www.abowua.org at the Water Authority's landscaping website, 505Outside.com. Qualifying participants earn han this. Visit 505Outside.com for details Invest in a "smart" irrigation controller.
 These high-tech devices are adjustable by plant type and respond automatically to changing weather conditions. EPA
 WaterSense-certified smart controllers (a a \$20 rebate!
 - 7) Follow the 3 Steps to Landscape Success irrigation system regularly; adjust sprinkle settings according to season and weather conditions; and select landscape plants that



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Drought Related Agency Coordination

Prepared press release

Water Managers Brace for Dry Conditions Along Sections of the Rio Grande

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — Water managers across the middle Rio Grande Valley are coordinating efforts in anticipation of a dry season that will likely cause sections of the river to run dry. In Albuquerque, the Rio Grande remained consistently flowing until 2022, when it dried for the first time in 40 years.

Although agencies are working collectively to mitigate impacts, each faces unique challenges and responsibilities in managing the changing river conditions:









June Bill Insert



ersistent drought conditions mean drying could happen—just like it did in 2022! And while our groundwater reserves will see us through dry spells like this, a parched riverbed serves as a stark reminder that we must all keep working to conserve our water resources. One way to do your part: Take a WaterSmart Webinar and earn a \$20 rebate on your water bill if you qualify! Visit abcwue.org or 505Outside.com to register. Topics include:

- * XERISCAPE for a Desert-Friendly Yard
- ★ 3 Steps to LANDSCAPE SUCCESS
- ★ VEGETABLE GARDENS ON A WATER BUDGET
- TREE CARE IN TIMES OF DROUGHT









Questions?