

# What's Up with Water? Executive Summary 2025

May 2025

# What's Up with Water

6<sup>th</sup> Annual What's Up with Water Webinar: May 15, 2025

1

## Where do we get our water and how have things changed over time?

- Four distinct water sources
- Preferential use of sustainable surface water, when available
- Per capita water consumption has decreased over time
- Population has increased

2

## We are investing in infrastructure to bolster our supplies

- Nichols Dam Outlet Works Rehabilitation Project progress
- Other 2024 project highlights
- Planned capital projects
  - Proposed rate increases

3

## Ongoing planning efforts to prepare for many different potential futures

- Long-range water supply
- Catastrophic supply disruption
- Source water protection



# Looking back, looking forward, communicating with our customers

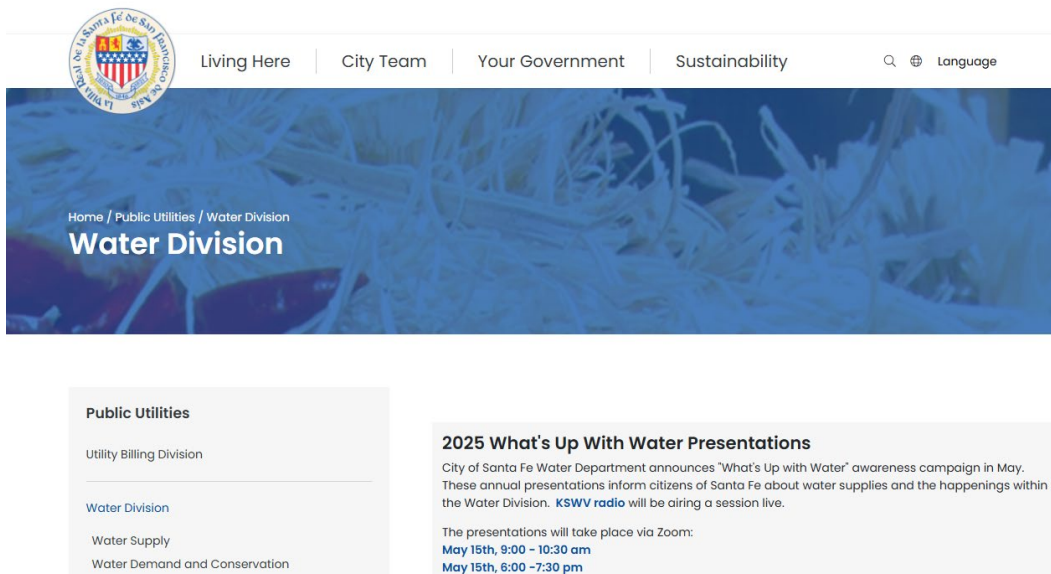
6<sup>th</sup> Annual What's Up with Water Webinar: May 15, 2025

## 2025 What's Up with Water

- Join us for our annual What's Up with Water presentations.

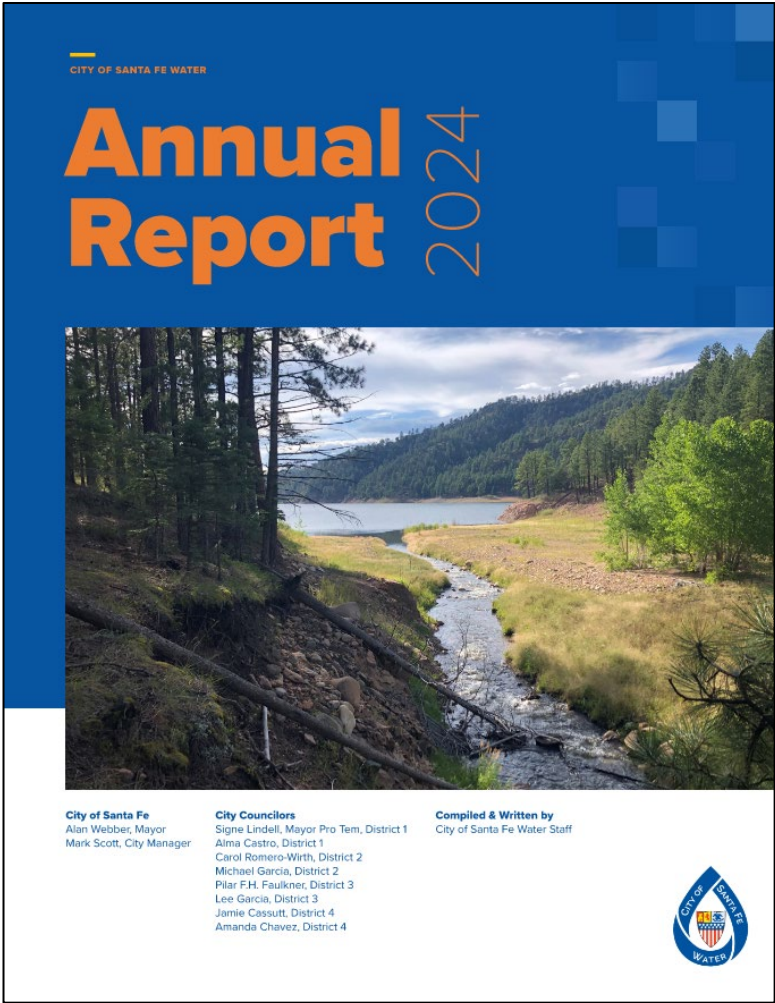
### Two virtual presentations will be held on May 15, 2025

- 9:00 AM and 6:00 PM
- The Zoom meeting links to join are available at <https://santafenm.gov/water>

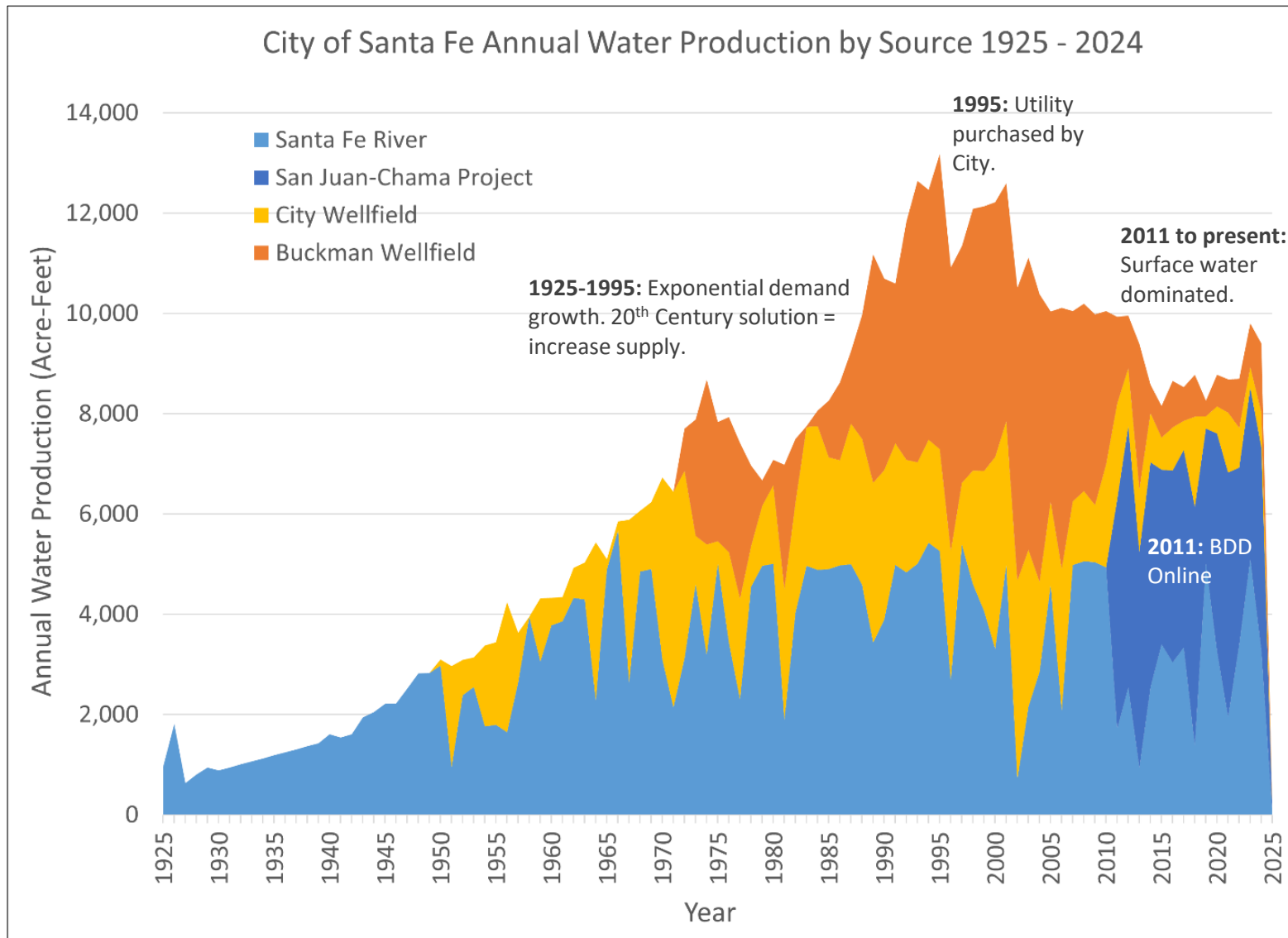


# 2024 City of Santa Fe Water Annual Report

- Key figures from the 2024 annual report are included in this presentation.
- Full report: <https://santafenm.gov/water>

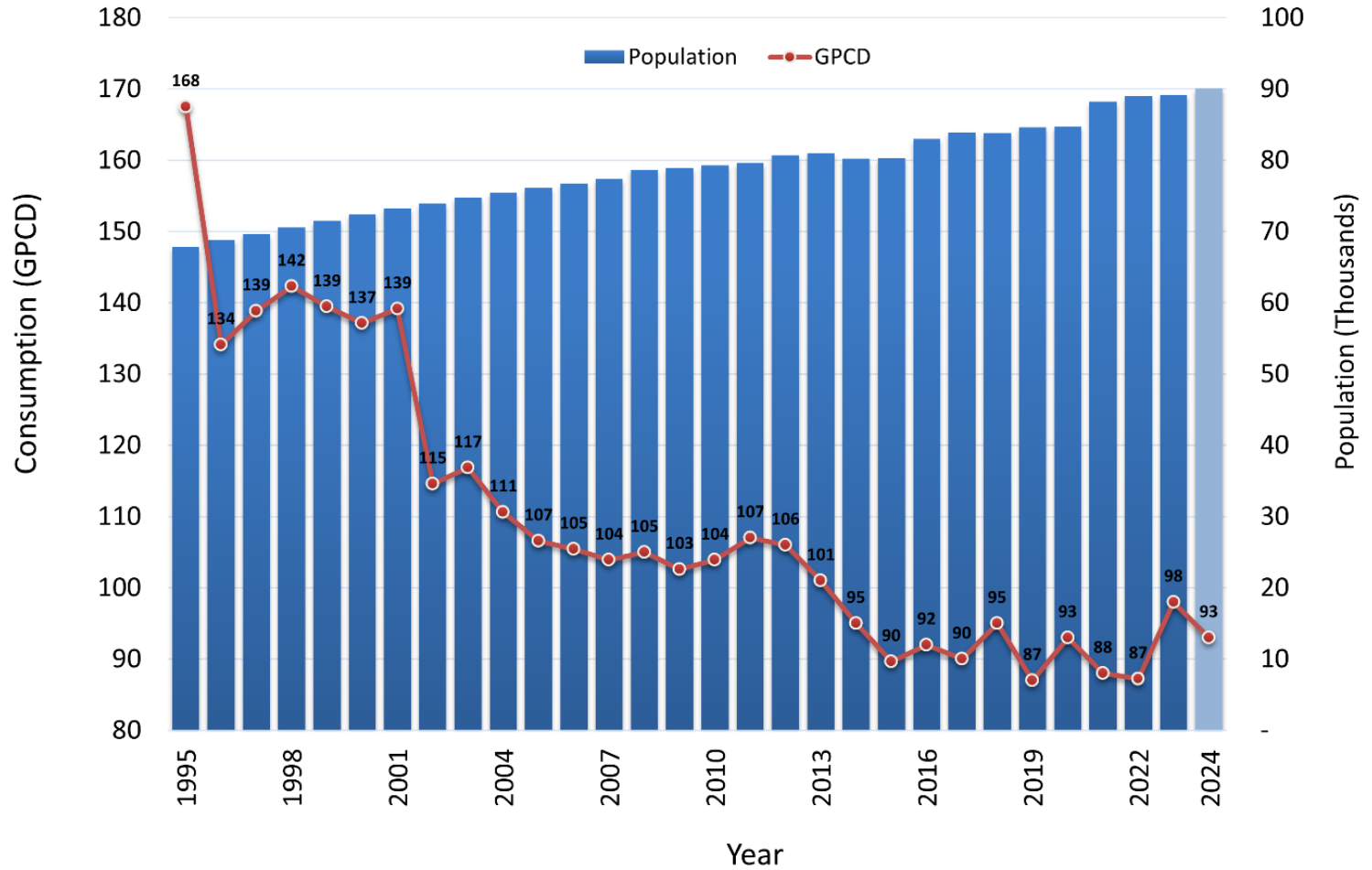


# CoSF Water Past: A Picture Is Worth...

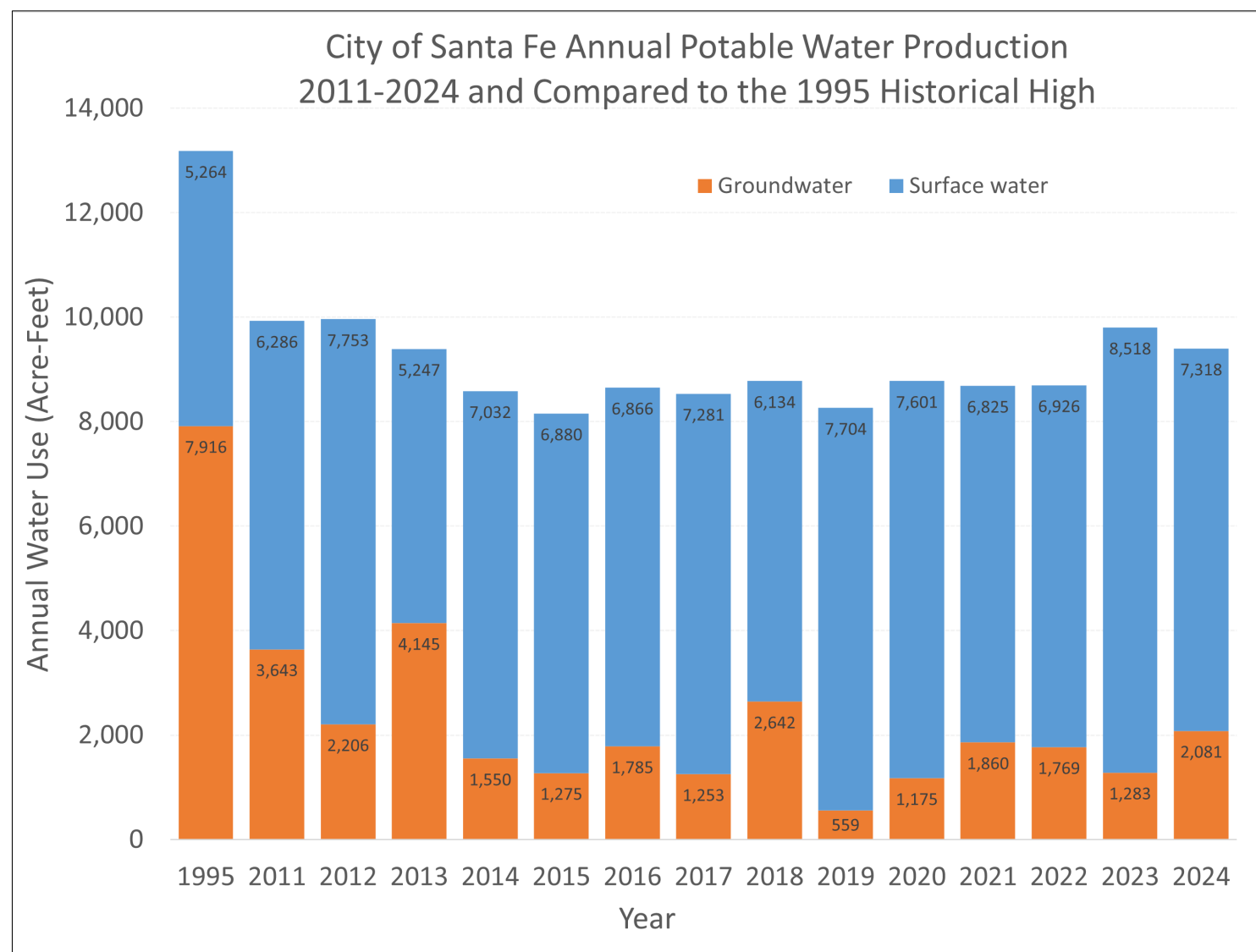


# Water Conservation Success

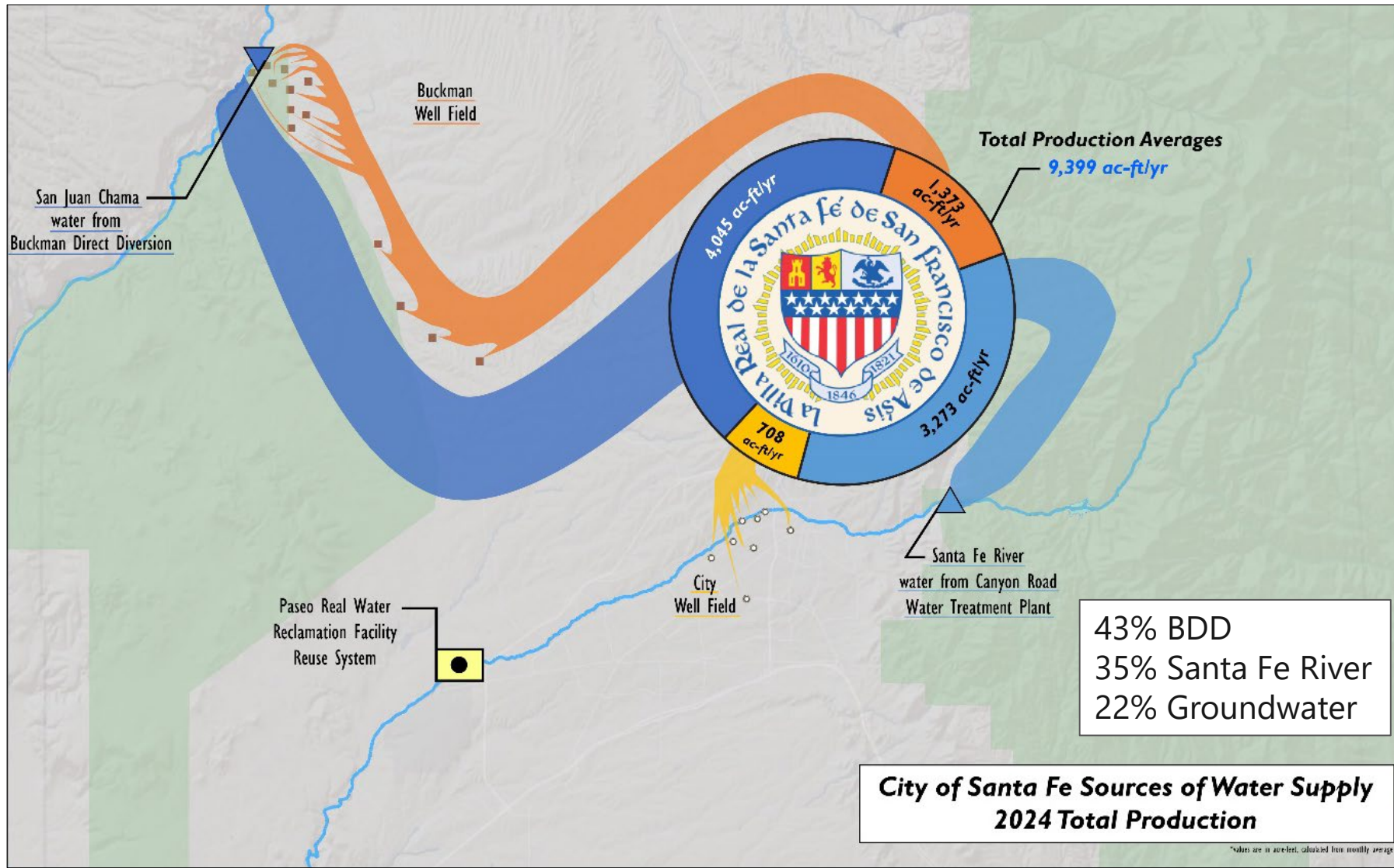
## Population and GPCD



**Shifting to surface water dominated source of supply**



# 2024 Sources of supply



# San Juan-Chama Return Flow Project

1

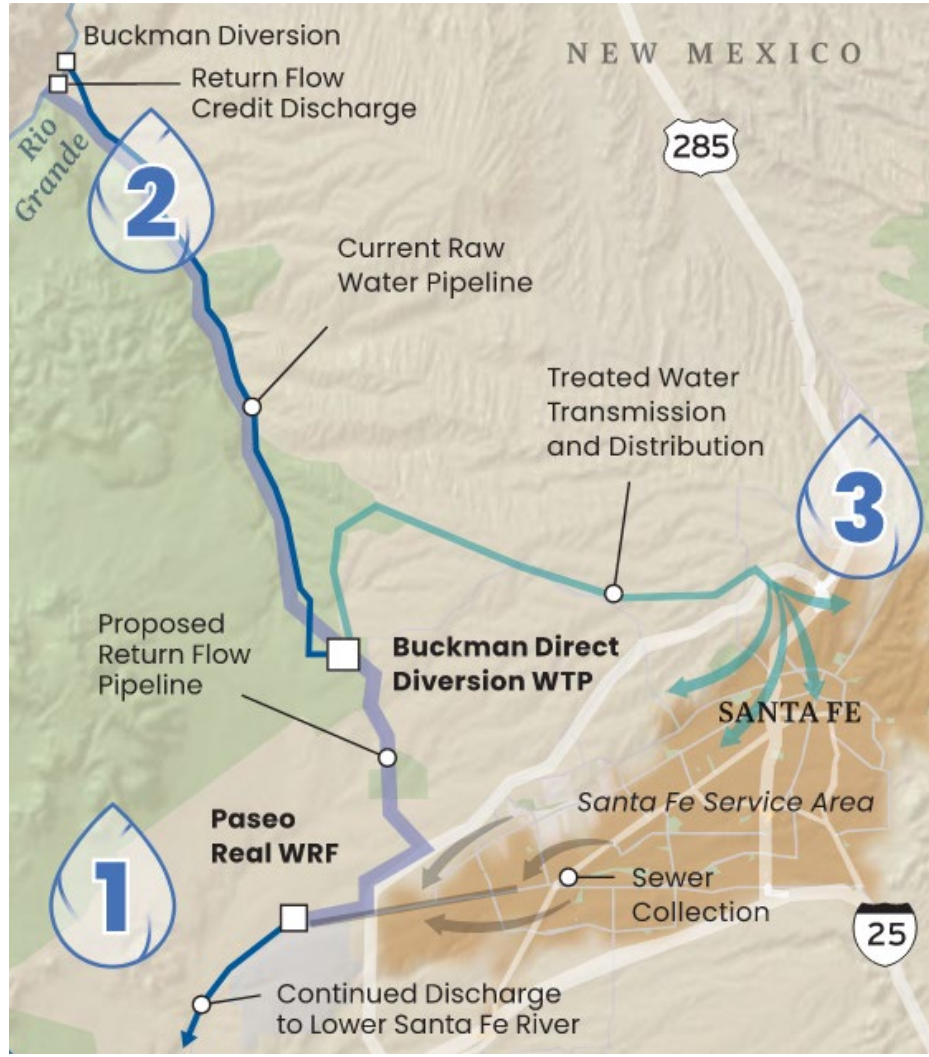
Build a new pipeline to take the SJC portion of the City's treated wastewater from the Paseo Real Water Reclamation Facility for discharge to the Rio Grande downstream of the existing BDD.

2

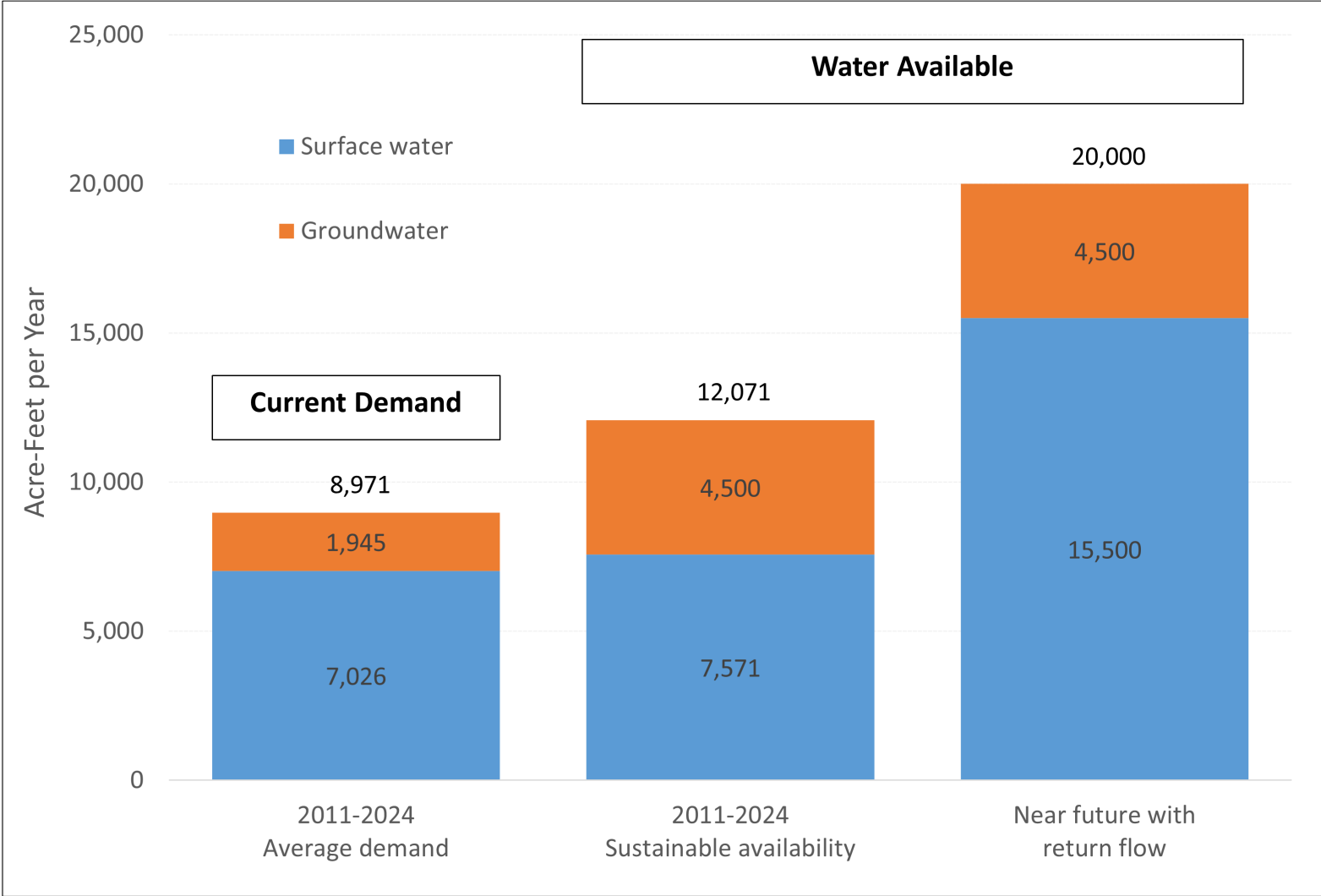
Receive return flow credit from the New Mexico Office of the State Engineer (OSE) for the unconsumed SJC water that is returned to the Rio Grande, allowing for diversion of additional supply from BDD.

3

The project will utilize existing water rights and BDD infrastructure. It will increase the City's water supply and our resilience to surface water shortages, drought, climate change, wildfire, and Rio Grande Compact constraints.



# Near term plan: San Juan- Chama Return Flow Project



# Capital Projects Status and Funding

- SJC Return Flow Project
  - CoSFW received a permit from the OSE in April 2024
  - The 60 percent design deliverable was completed in December 2024
  - Draft Environmental Assessment (NEPA) expected out September 2025
- CoSF has received a commitment for \$12 million in grant funding from Reclamation for the SJC Return Flow Project
- CoSF was recommended for a 2024 New Mexico Water Trust Board grant/loan award of \$15.25 million to support
  - Nichols Dam repair (\$5.5M)
  - CRWTP improvements (\$7.75M)
  - SJC Return Flow Project (\$2M)



# Nichols Dam Outlet Works Rehab Project

- The Nichols Dam Outlet Works Rehabilitation Project construction began in July 2024 and will be completed in Fall 2025.
- Progress on the Nichols Dam Outlet Works Rehabilitation project includes
  - A new 28-inch high-density polyethylene (HDPE) pipe connecting the reservoir to CRWTP
  - New valve vaults for control valves at the dam and CRWTP
  - A new filter drain system on the downstream side of the dam
  - An aeration system in the reservoir that will allow reduced chemical use in treatment
  - Potential to turn of CRWTP during the winter
  - Potential for hydroelectricity generation at CRWTP



# Two-Mile Pond Complex Riparian Area Monitoring

- 2024 monitoring activities:
  - Monthly moisture and vegetation index imagery
  - Monthly riparian area monitoring
  - Continuous streamflow monitoring at 5 locations
- 2024 monitoring findings:
  - The primary water source is shallow groundwater that discharges from the base of Old Stone Dam.
  - The average flow from the base of Old Stone Dam was 0.3 cfs (135 gpm), resulting in constant flow through the downstream standpipe throughout 2024
  - ~259 acre-feet of water flowed through the system in 2024.
  - Two-Mile Pond did not change size in 2024, although drought conditions caused a significant reduction in soil moisture in the riparian area starting in September.
  - A healthy diversity of flora and fauna were documented.

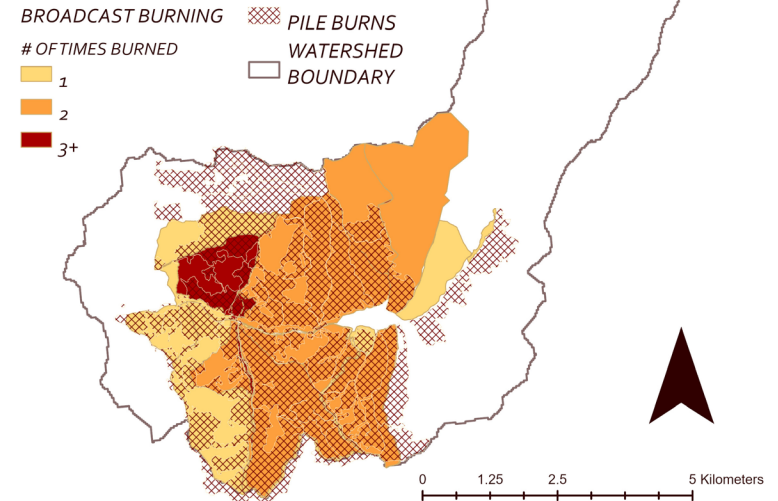


# Source Water Protection and Thinning Activities

- Approximately 250 acres were thinned and piled for burning in the upper watershed above McClure as part of ongoing fuels treatment to reduce the severity of wildfire
- CoSF Fire Department's Wildland Division and Forest Stewards Guild thinned and cleared vegetation on 5.9 acres around CoSFW utility infrastructure for wildfire mitigation.



## 20 YEARS OF HISTORICAL TREATMENTS IN THE SANTA FE MUNICIPAL WATERSHED

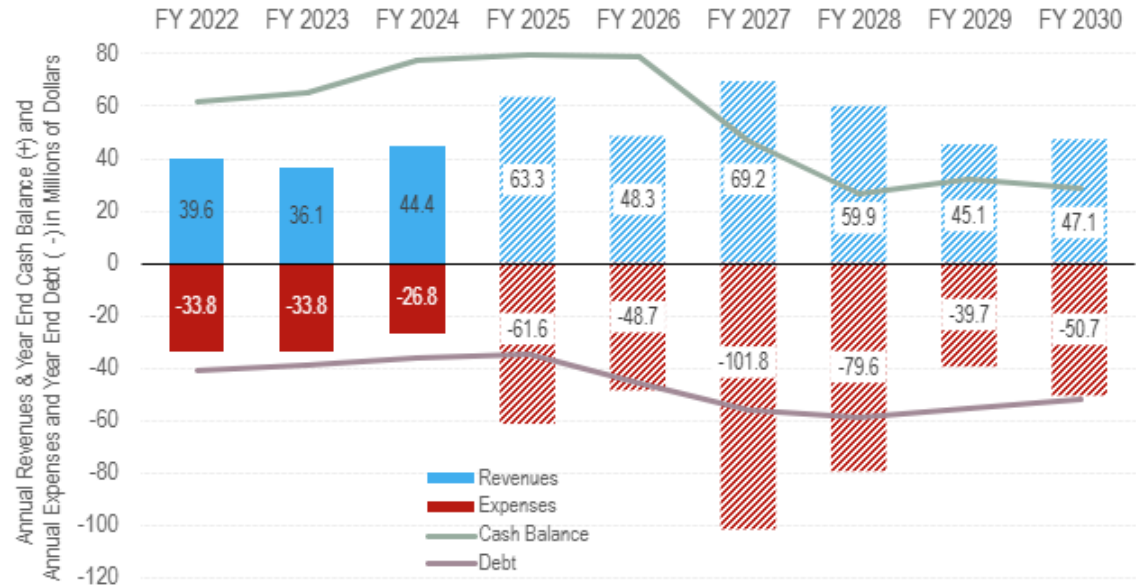


Ella Kasten | USGS New Mexico Landscapes Field Station | NAD 1983 UTM Zone 13N

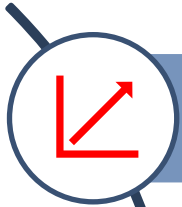
# Financials

- 6/30/2024 Cash balance: \$77.8 million (M)
- 6/30/2024 Outstanding debt: \$35.8 M
- Projected water revenues FY 2025 through 2030: \$45 to \$69 M/year
- Projected cash expenditures including CIP FY 2025 through 2030: \$40 to \$102 M/year
- Five planned capital projects total over \$120 M, which will drawdown cash reserves, increase debt and lead to proposed rate increases for the first time since 2013.
  - Nichols Dam Outlet Works Rehabilitation (~\$20 M)
  - CRWTP Flocculation Sedimentation Upgrades (~\$24 M)
  - CRWTP Chemical Feed Upgrades (~\$9 M)
  - McClure Dam Outlet Works Rehabilitation (~\$20 M)
  - San Juan-Chama Return Flow Project (~\$60 M)

City of Santa Fe Water: Revenues, Cash Expenses, Cash Balance and Debt  
Fiscal Years Ending June 2022 through June 2030



# Need for a water and wastewater rate increase



General cost inflation rose 41% between 2013 and 2024.



Large capital projects are necessary for both utilities to continue to provide reliable service.



Water rates unchanged since 2013.

Wastewater rates have increased once since 2010 (in 2019).



Proposed increase to the average residential bill of approximately \$3 per month for 5 years and \$1 per month for an additional 5 years to meet these needs.

# Questions?

