



Headwaters of Blanco Basin (foreground) and Navajo Basin (background) taken June 2024



City of Santa Fe Water

February 2026 Overview and Update

Public Works and Utilities Committee
February 16, 2026

Agenda

- Background
- Current Conditions
 - Drought
 - Snow and Surface Water
 - Groundwater
- Annual Plan Process
 - Preliminary 2026 Plan

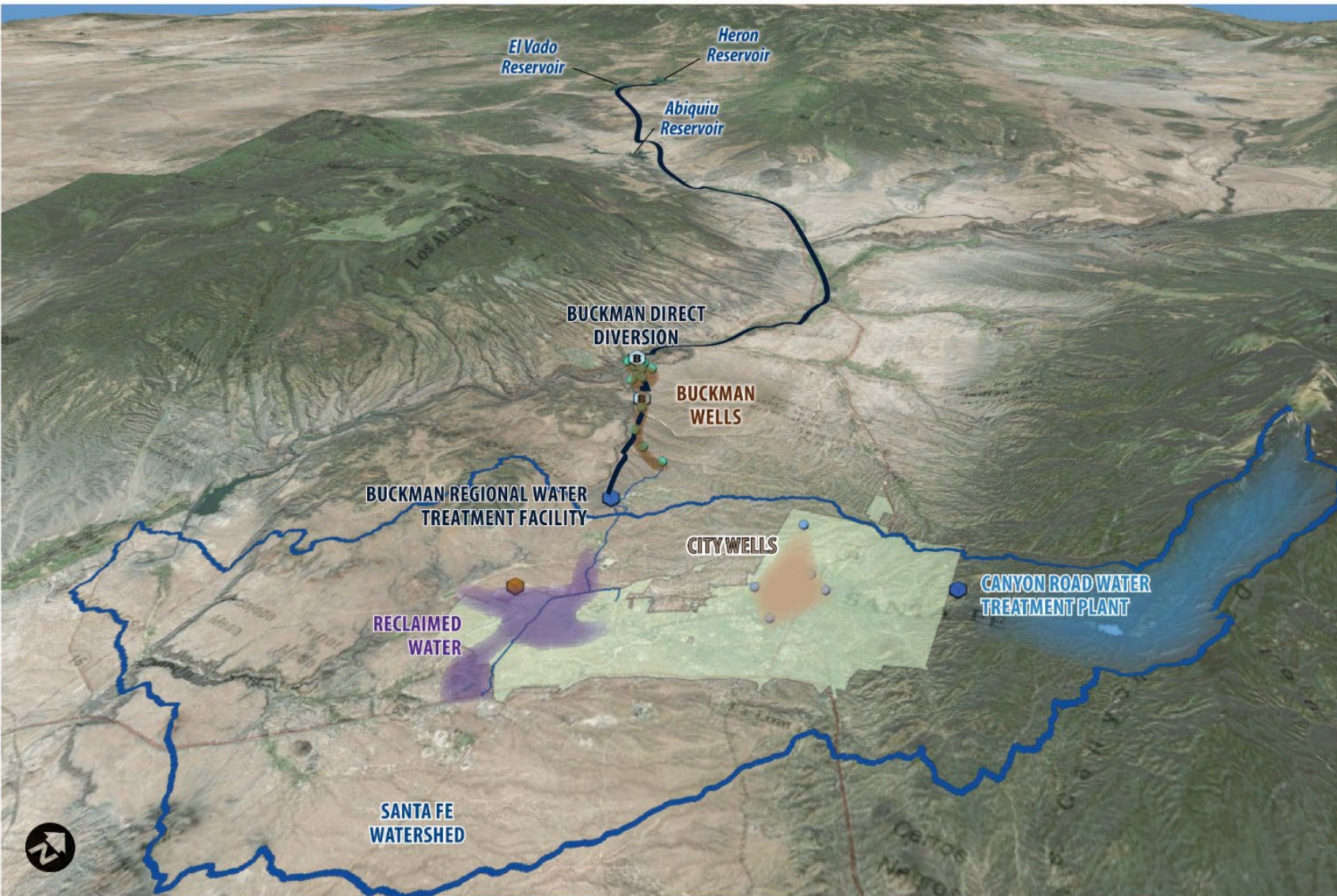
Background

The System

4 Drinking Supplies

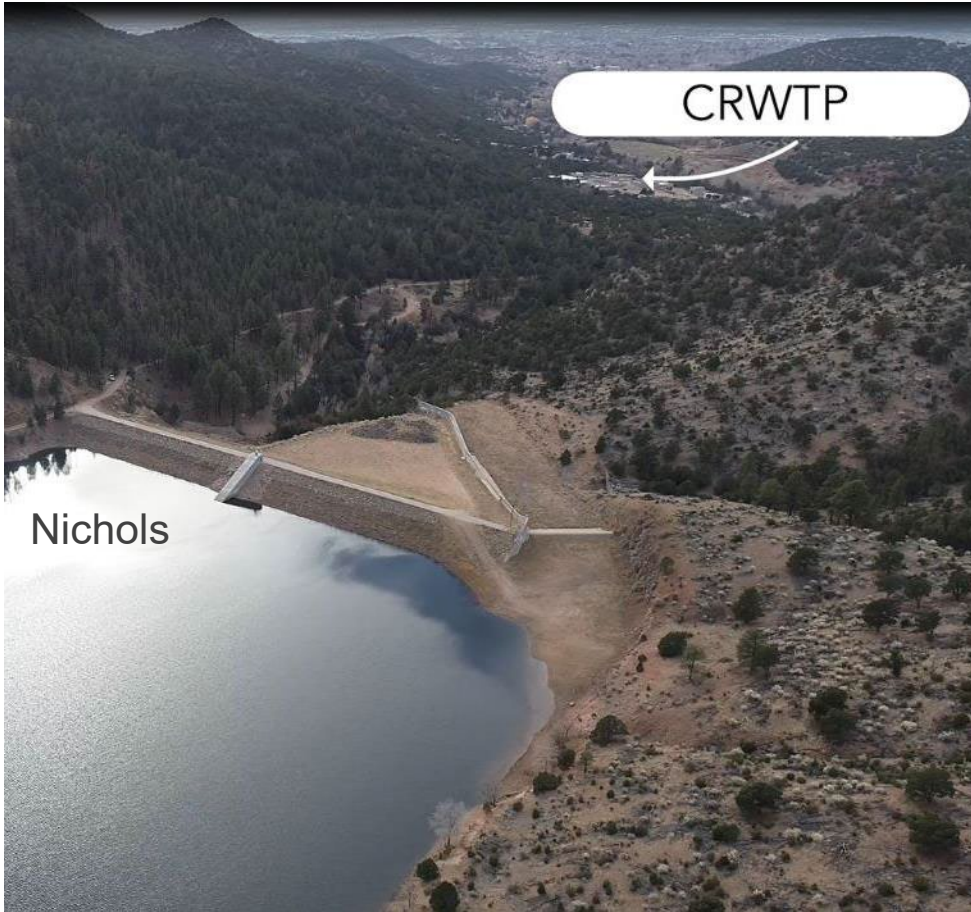
- Santa Fe River (CRWTP)
- City Wells
- Buckman Wells
- Rio Grande (BDD)

Reclaimed Water



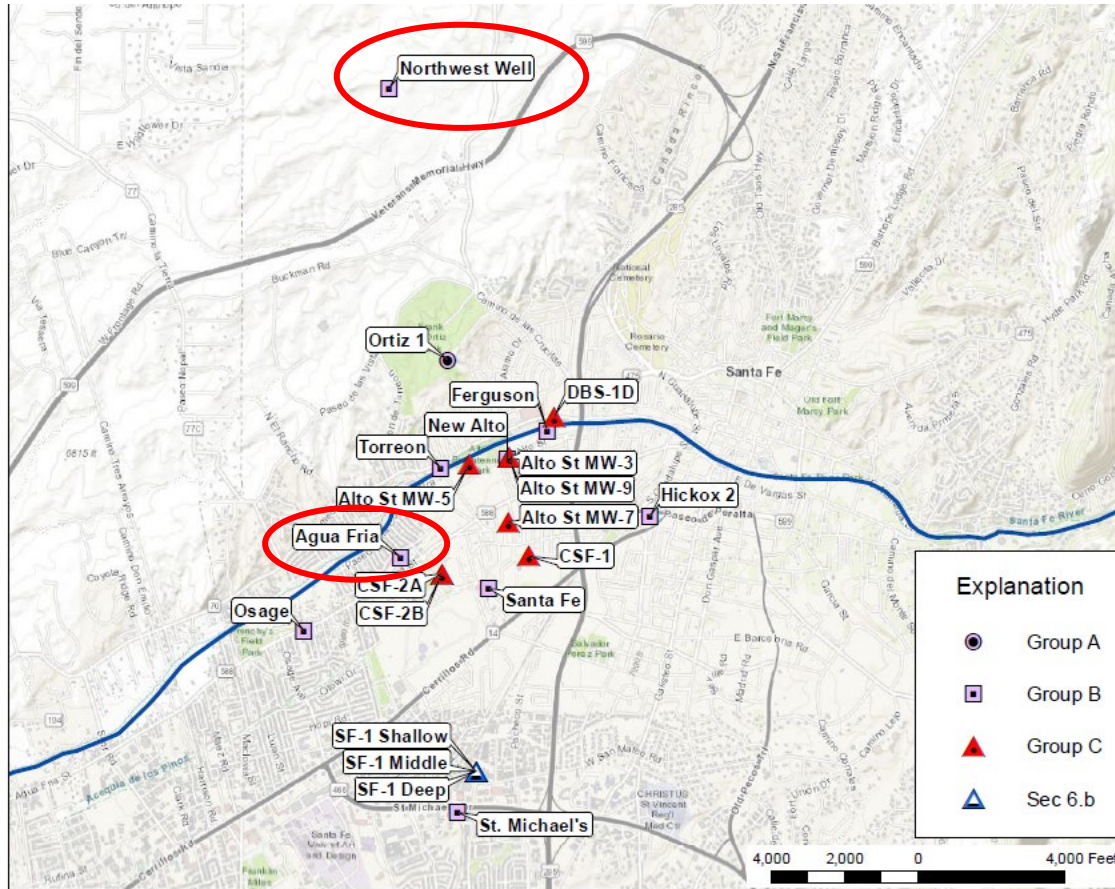
Santa Fe River

Stored in McClure and Nichols and treated at Canyon Road Water Treatment Plant



City Wells

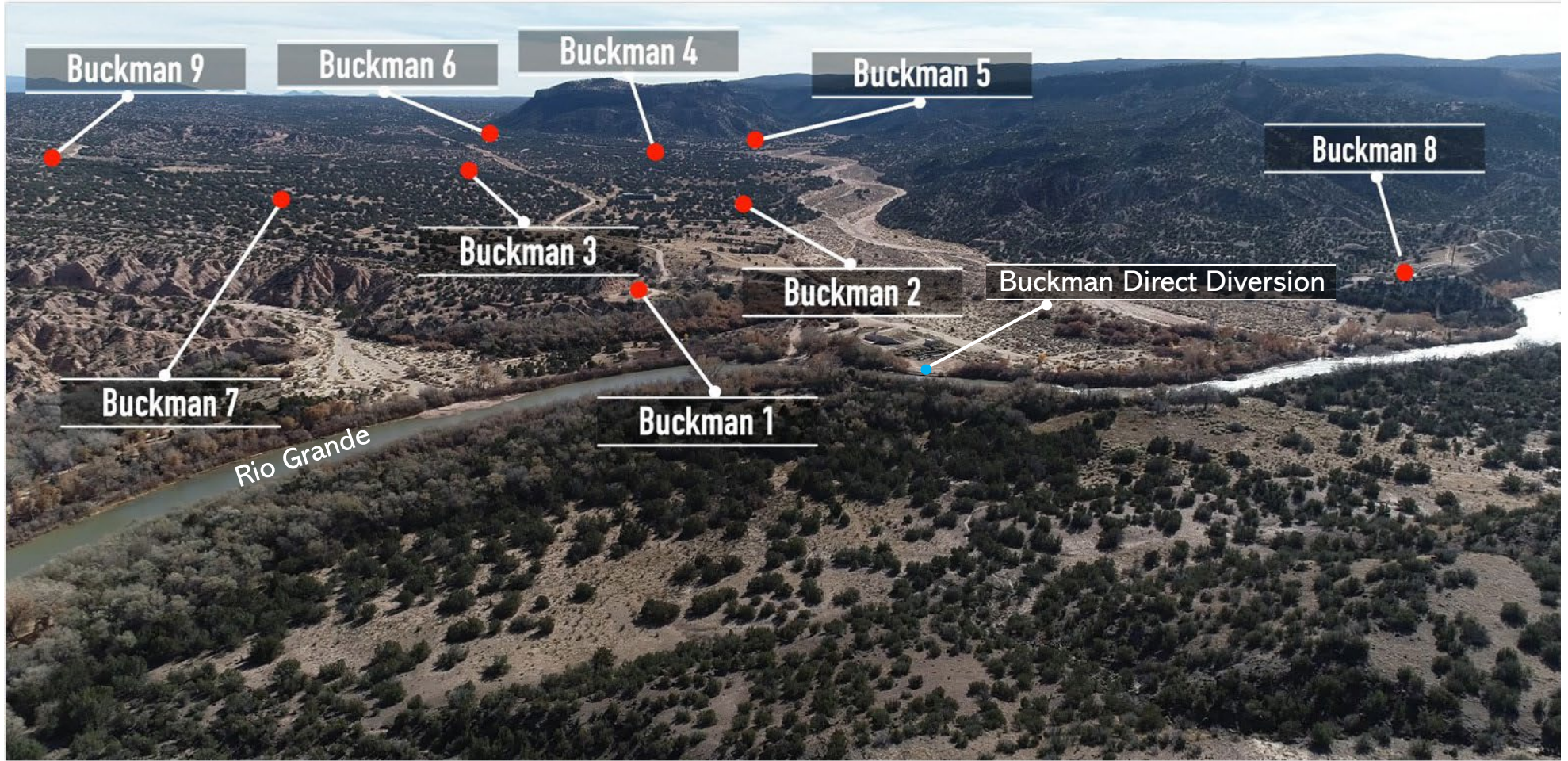
Currently 7 active production wells



- First wells drilled in 1950s
- Wells are mostly along Santa Fe River
- Northwest Well in La Tierra Trails and Agua Fria north of the Indian School are the workhorses

Buckman Wells 1-9 (of 13)

As seen from the Rio Grande looking towards Santa Fe



Buckman Direct Diversion

Online in 2011

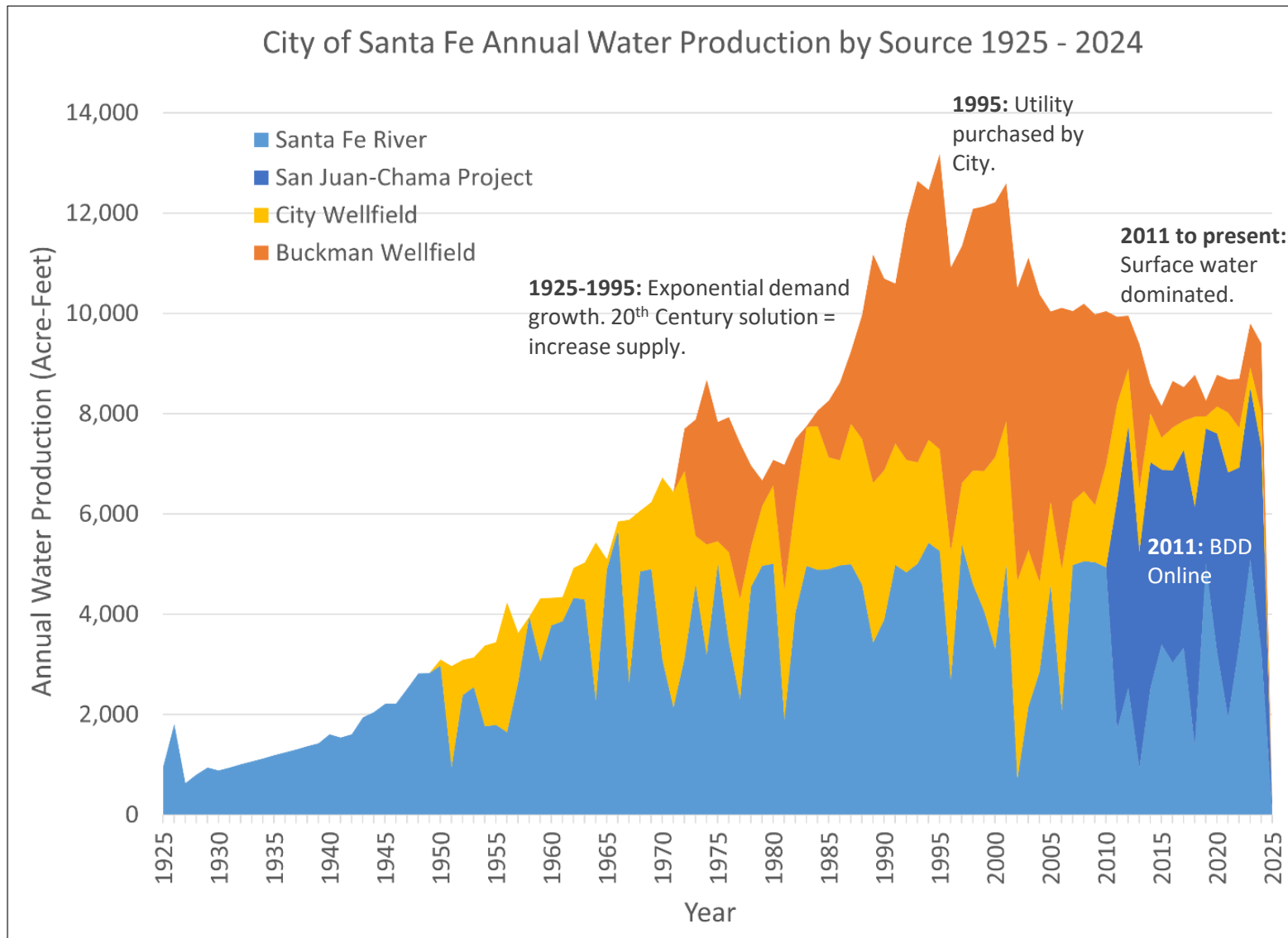
- City, County, and Las Campanas own diversion



- City & County own treatment plant

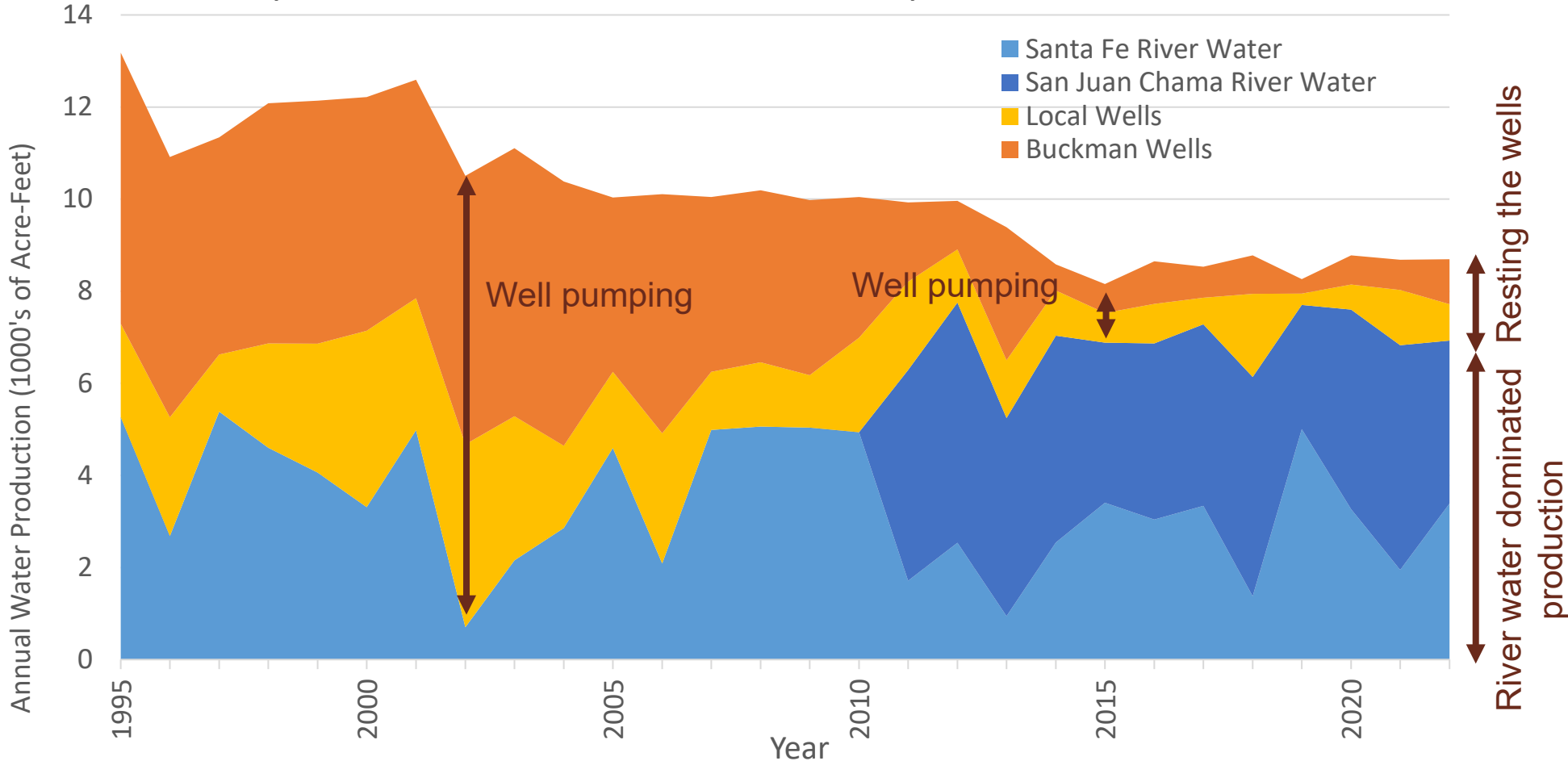


CoSF Water Past: A Picture Is Worth...



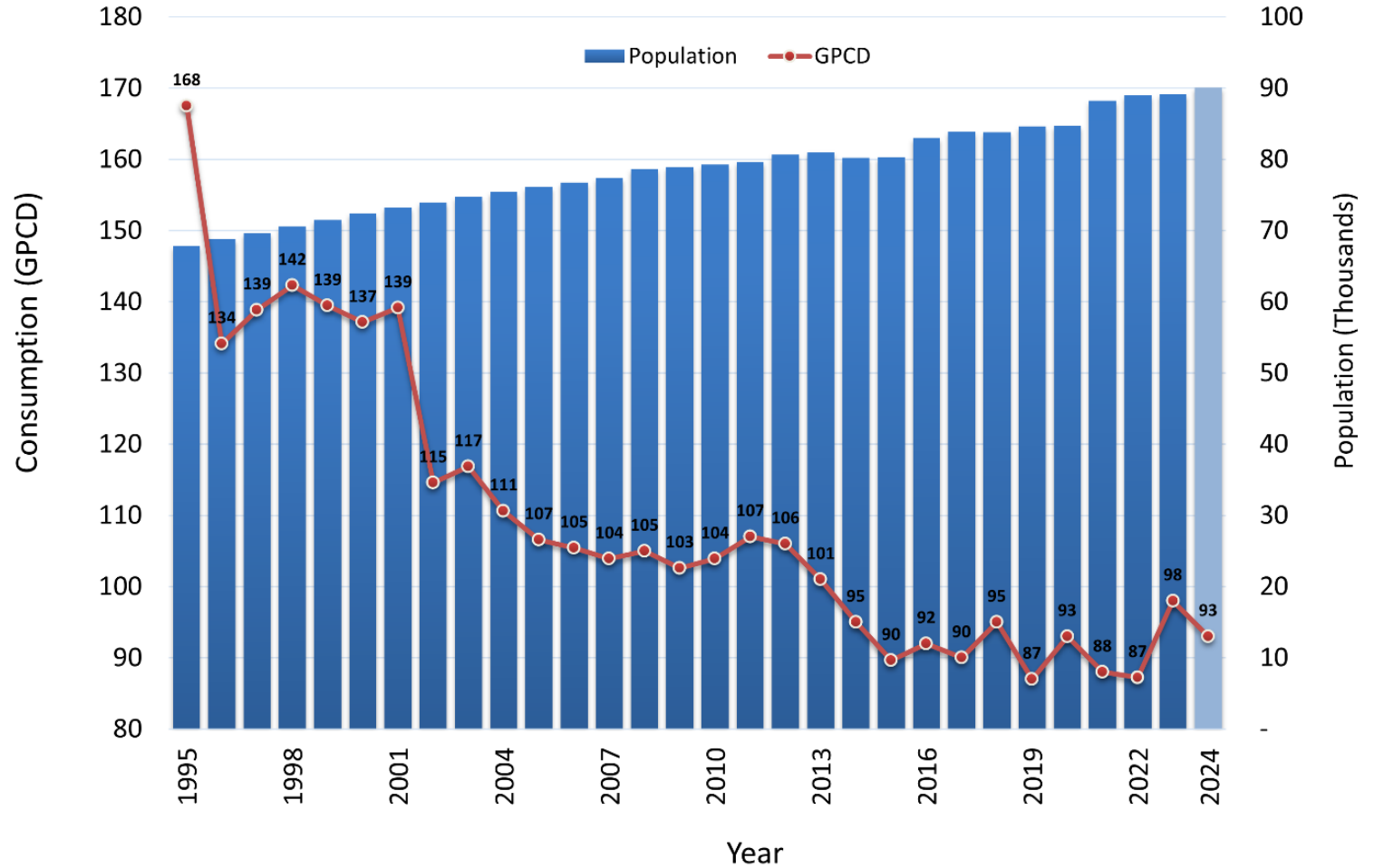
1996 – Present Transition to Surface Water Dominated Production

City of Santa Fe Annual Water Production by Source 1925 - 2021



Water Conservation Success

Population and GPCD



Drought 2026

Drought Monitor

Santa Fe County is entirely D0 or D1



Seasonal Forecast

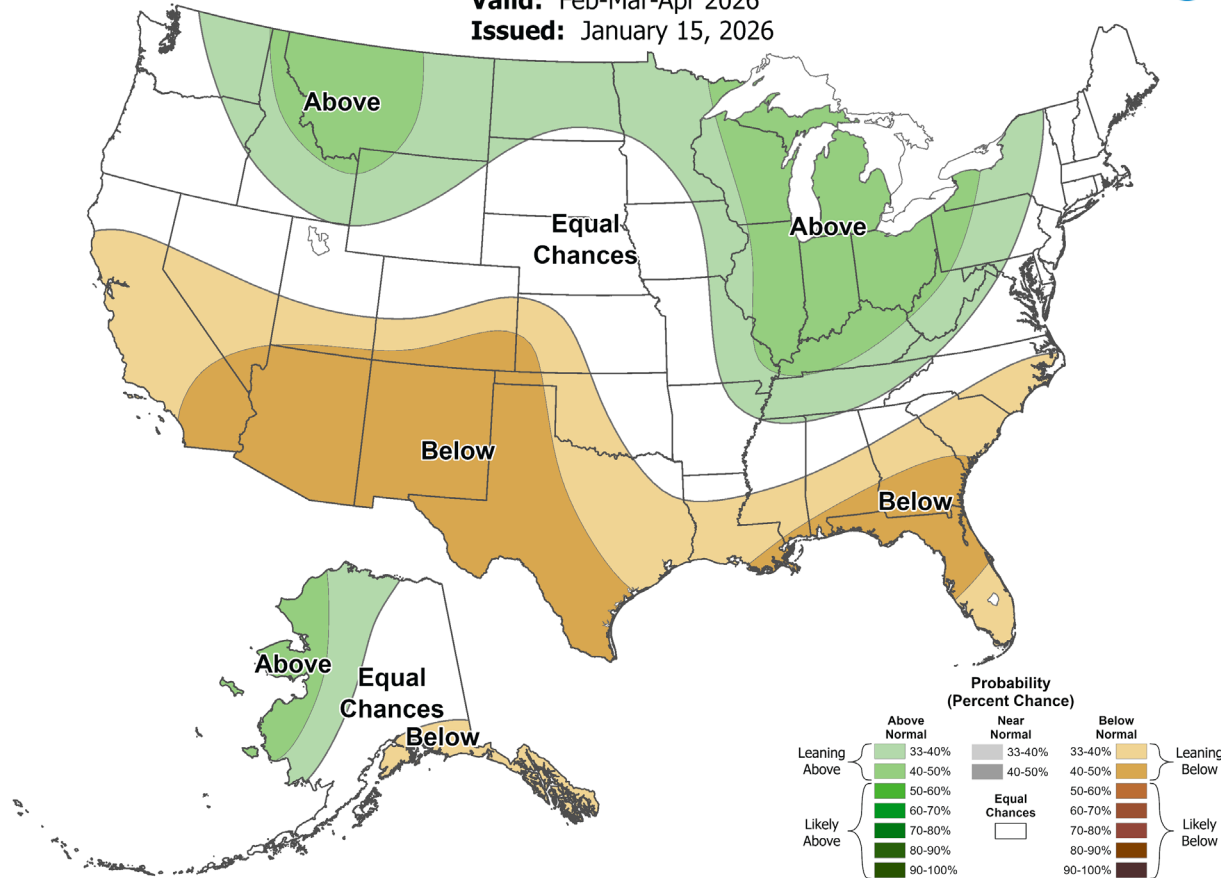


Seasonal Precipitation Outlook



Valid: Feb-Mar-Apr 2026

Issued: January 15, 2026



The 3-month outlook issued by the Climate Prediction Center has much of the southwest on track to continue to see below average precipitation



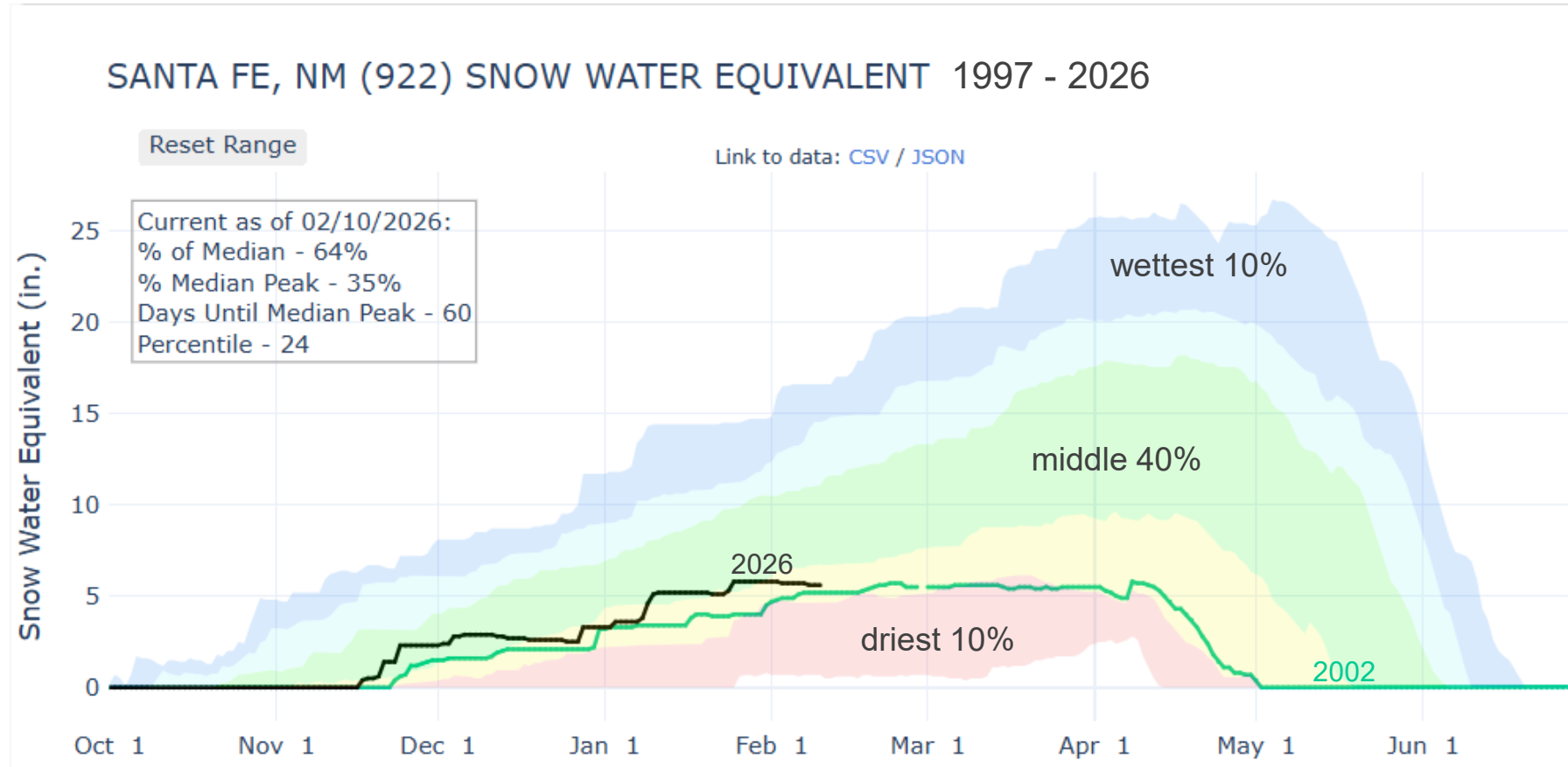
Snow and Surface Water 2026

Surface Water Key Points

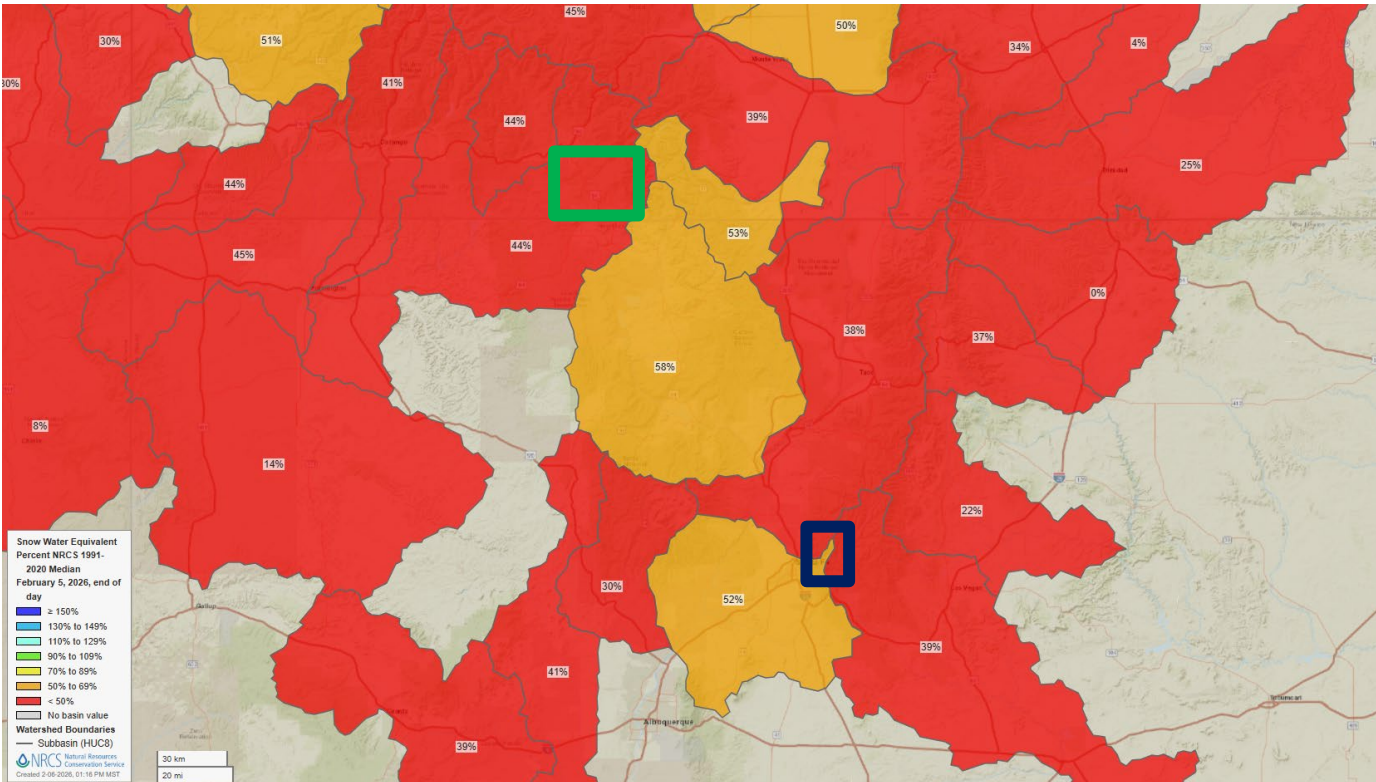
- At this time of year, there is great uncertainty around snowmelt runoff
- Snowmelt runoff forecasts improve through spring; we disseminate our plan to the public in April
- **Even with low snowpack and projected runoff, we will have enough water to meet demand**



Current State of the Snowpack at One Point



Current State of the Snowpack



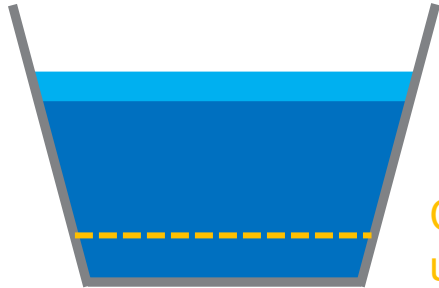
The snowpack in the headwaters of the San Juan Chama Project is currently at 44% of the median for this time of year

The Santa Fe watershed snowpack is currently at 52% of median for this time of year

This time last year, the SJC headwaters was at 59% and the SFR was at 40%, a very similar situation to now

Reservoir Storage

Abiquiu, El Vado, and Heron Reservoirs



Currently expect ~2,000 AF of inflow of SJC

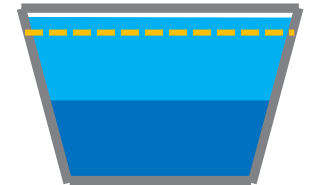
Currently expect to use ~3,500 AF of SJC

The City has ~10,000 AF stored SJC water

McClure and Nichols Reservoirs

Currently expect ~2,200 AF of inflow in the SF Watershed

Currently expect to use ~3,600 AF of SF River Water



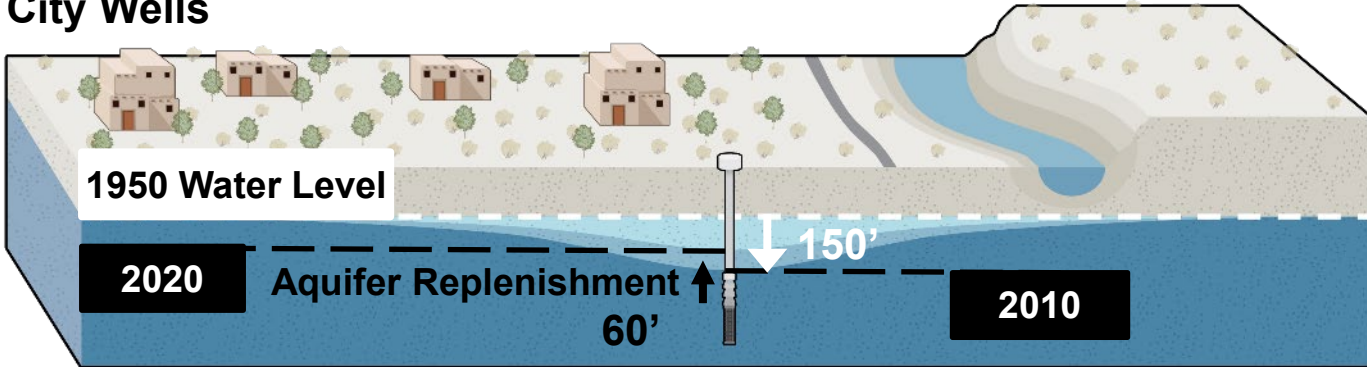
The City has ~1,900 AF stored in the Santa Fe Watershed

Groundwater 2026

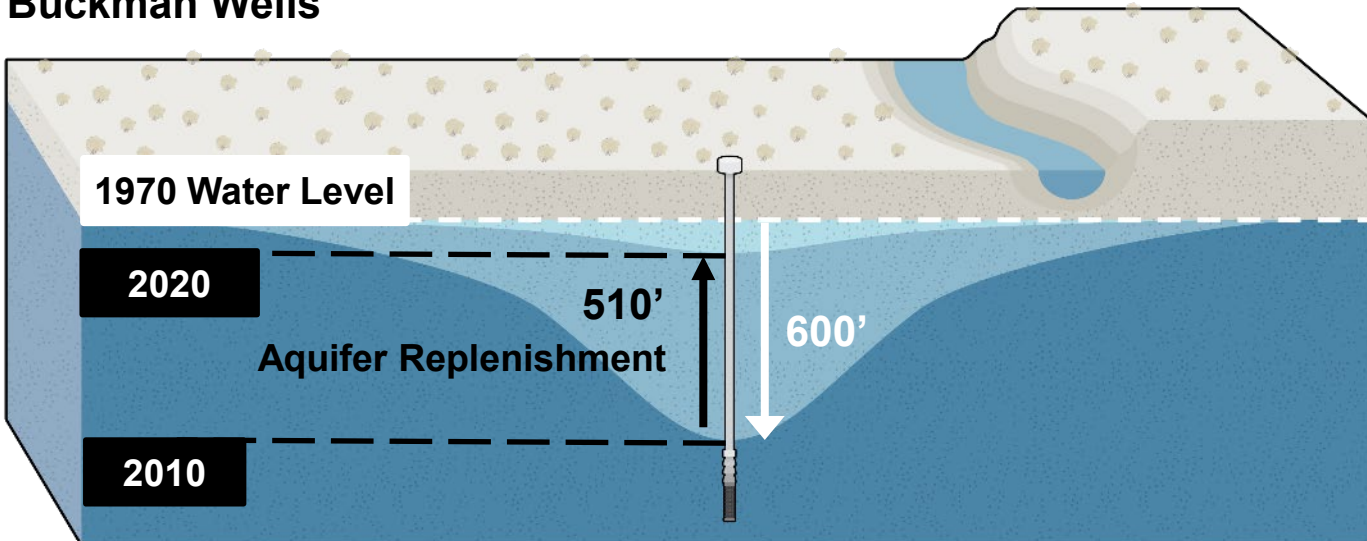
Groundwater Recovery

- Since shifting to surface water dominated production, water levels in our wells have been recovering
- We like to keep our wells in reserve as a “drought proof” backup

City Wells



Buckman Wells

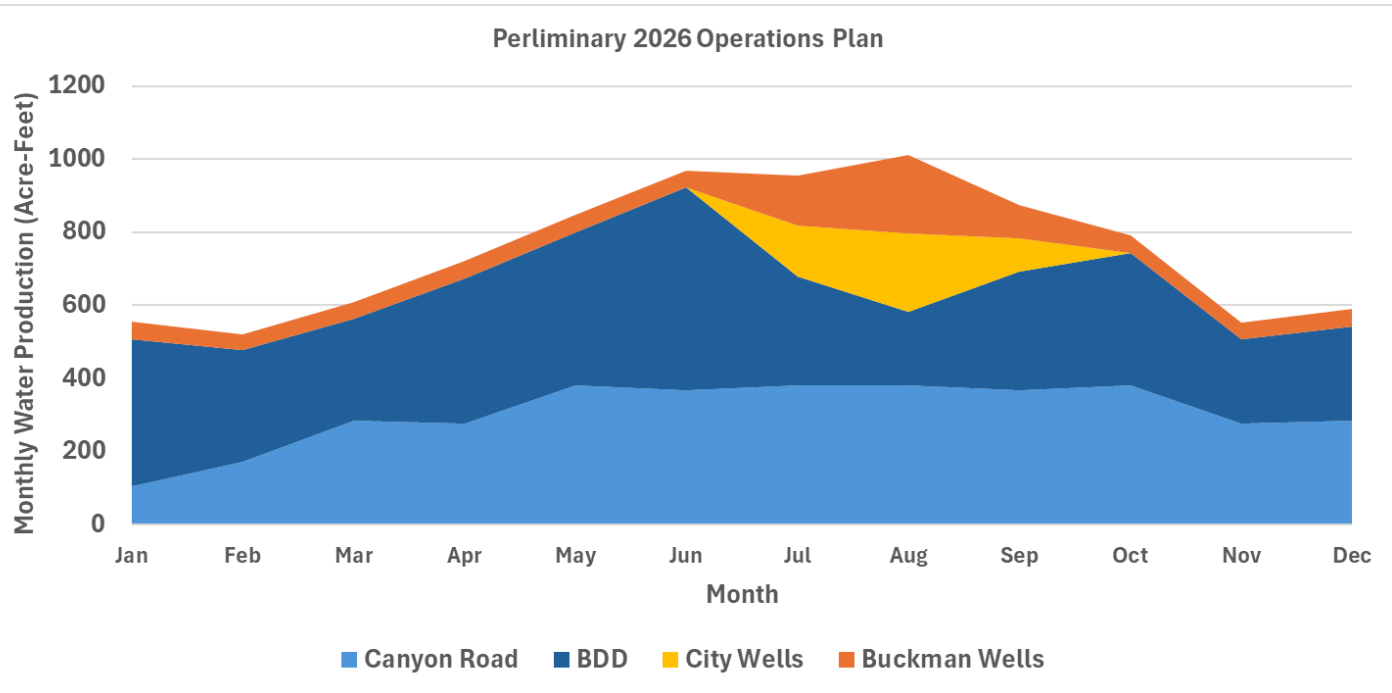


Annual Planning

Water Resources Annual Planning Process

- Early period (January to March): preliminary planning
 - In weekly operations meetings, use preliminary runoff forecasts to develop a preliminary plan
 - Revise as conditions warrant
- April: draft final planning
 - Develop draft final plan
 - Use USBR annual operating plan for SJC allocations and Rio Grande flows
 - Use NRCS April 1 runoff forecast for Santa Fe Watershed, paired with snowmelt runoff tool
 - April public dissemination of status, to governing body and public (“What’s Up with Water”)
- Spring/Summer/Fall: continuous planning
 - Weekly federal agencies river operations calls for coordination and keeping up to date on conditions
 - Monitor Rio Grande flows and manage water rights diversions accordingly
- Ongoing work to improve forecasts
 - Santa Fe River: Snowmelt runoff tool + new field snow surveying program
 - SJC Tributary LIDAR study

Preliminary Source Water Planning



In our preliminary look, in 2026 we plan on:

1. Using mostly surface water to meet City demand (over 80%)
2. Low flows and high turbidity driven by the monsoon cause less production from BDD and more use of groundwater in the summer

Questions?