City of Santa Fe Water

301 W. San Mateo, Santa Fe, N.M. 87505
www.santafenm.gov/water

Jesse Roach PE PhD, Director

Bradley Prada, BDD Facility Manager
John Del Mar PE, Engineering Manager
Jonathan Montoya, Source of Supply Manager
Randy Lopez, Transmission and Distribution Manager
Bill Schneider PG, Water Resources Manager

MEMO

Date: **April 13, 2026**

To: **Brian Moya, Interim City Manager**

Public Works and Public Utilities Committee

Water Conservation Committee

Via: Jesse Roach, Interim Public Utilities Director JR

From: Jonathan Montoya, Interim Water Division Director JM

ITEM

Water Division Director 2026 annual report to the City Manager for determination of the appropriate water management plan for the year.

SUMMARY

City Ordinance 25-5.7 requires the Director of City of Santa Fe (CoSF) Water to provide to the City Manager, by April 15 of each year, an assessment of operational water system supply compared to operational water system demand. The comparison is used to determine an appropriate water management plan for the year, and specifically whether any water emergency implementation stages should be declared.

This memorandum quantifies 2026 CoSF Water system conditions based on current administrative procedures and the Santa Fe Water Resources Indicator (WRI), which has been piloted since 2022. The table below summarizes operational demand and operational supply that have been calculated based on current administrative procedures. Based on this and the WRI, **CoSF Water does not recommend a water emergency declaration in 2026.**

Method	Operational Demand	Operational Supply	Supply as % of Demand
Administrative procedures	13,400 acre-feet	17,225 acre-feet	147%

BACKGROUND

Operational supply and demand are currently calculated following the 2006 administrative procedures adopted by Governing Body Resolution No. 2006-106. Due to changes in policy and improved system understanding, the 2006 administrative procedures are due for an update. In response to this need for an update and desire from the CoSF Water's Water Conservation Office, City's Water Conservation Committee (WCC), and conservation-minded community members who would like to see water management policy incorporate regional drought conditions, staff developed the data-driven WRI (described in more detail below). The WRI was developed to serve as the foundation for a new methodology to guide seasonal drought management policy. Staff recommend that the WRI and associated policy responses to water availability and drought conditions which are under development by the WCC become the basis for an update to section 25-5.7 of City Code.

OPERATIONAL SUPPLY

The total 2026 operational supply was estimated to be 17,225 acre-feet (AF) based on the 2006 administrative procedures. This volume is the sum of

1. Canyon Road Water Treatment Plant: 2,086 AF volume, defined as the lesser of
    a. 5,040 AF of water rights on the Santa Fe River
    b. 2,086 AF, which is the sum of the estimated reservoir inflow of 310 AF for April through July and 1,197 AF of useable reservoir storage at the end of March (total storage of 1,981 AF less 784 AF (20 percent) target carryover) and a 579 AF capacity at St. Mike's well
    c. 5,060 AF, which is the sum of the 4,481 acre-foot per year (AFY) 2026 CRWTP plant capacity and St. Mike's well production capacity of 579 AF
2. City wells: 3,532 AF volume, following the adopted 2006 administrative procedures, which in the absence of an adopted groundwater sustainability program is 3,507 AF for the wells in the City Wellfield, plus 25 AF from the Osage Well.

3. Buckman wells: 5,200 AF volume, following the adopted 2006 administrative procedures, this is defined as 5,200 AF in the absence of an adopted groundwater sustainability program. The volume of water pumped from the Buckman wells has exceeded this volume in 8 years.

4. Buckman Direct Diversion (BDD): 6,407 AF volume, following the adopted 2006 administrative procedures as the lesser of

    a. 6,630 AF City diversion capacity under the current BDD environmental impact statement (EIS) annual limit of 8,730 AF, which assumes a 600 AF diversion by the Las Campanas entities in 2026 (2025 diversion was 527 AF) and 1,500 AF diversion by Santa Fe County in 2026 (2025 diversion was 1,447 AF)

    b. 6,407 AF City permitted BDD diversion right

    c. 12,666 AF City portion of the BDD water treatment plant capacity

OPERATIONAL DEMAND

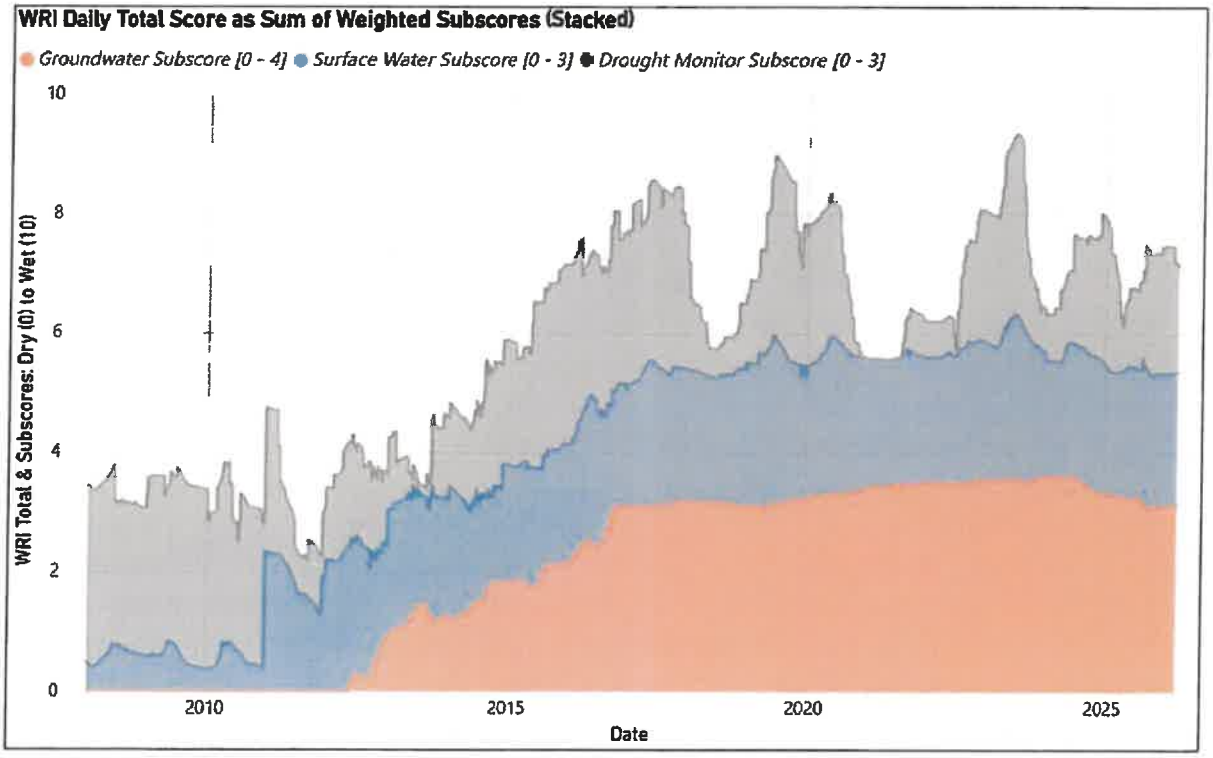
According to the 2006 administrative procedures, operational demand is equal to the population served multiplied by 130 gallons per capita per day (GPCD). Using an estimated population served of 92,000 people for 2026, the operational demand is 13,400 AF, which is approximately 47 percent greater than the City's actual 2025 total water production volume of 9,107 AF.

WATER RESOURCES INDICATOR

CoSF Water has developed a quantitative tool to be used to summarize water availability to the water system and inform seasonal drought management policy. The tool, known as the Santa Fe Water Resources Indicator, or WRI, was developed in 2021 and has been piloted since 2022. The WRI incorporates information on groundwater conditions, reservoir levels, and regional drought to generate a number between 0 and 10, where 0 represents an extreme water emergency and 10 represents ample supply conditions. The WRI score is recalculated each spring to define any water use restrictions customers should expect during the remainder of the year. The next step in fully utilizing this tool is the creation of drought management policy responses to different WRI values. This will be done as part of the 2026 water conservation plan update, with input being sought from the WCC and the public.

Historical WRI values are shown in the figure below and indicate that CoSF Water was in a precarious water situation at the start of the century, but that conditions have improved. This is due to the success of CoSF's water conservation programs and the addition of the BDD as a source of water supply. The April 1, 2026 WRI score was 7.1, indicating a continued ability for CoSF Water to sustainably meet water demand in 2026. Looking ahead to 2027, the WRI is expected to

decrease, potentially into a lower tier of the WRI (4-6 points), which may trigger more advanced water use restrictions in 2027.



ACTION

CoSF Water has a projected operational supply that is approximately 48 percent higher than the projected operational demand in 2026, according to the adopted administrative procedures. In addition, the April 1, 2026 WRI value of 7.1 out of 10 suggests that current conditions do not reflect a water emergency. As a result, CoSF Water does not recommend a water emergency plan be issued for 2026.