



AGENDA

WATER CONSERVATION
COMMITTEE
JANUARY 11, 2022
3:00 PM
ATTEND VIRTUALLY

*****AMENDED*****

SPECIAL PROCEDURES FOR WATER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING

Attendance: In response to the State’s declaration of a Public Health Emergency, the Mayor’s Proclamation of Emergency, and the ban on public gatherings in excess of those permitted in the current Public Health Order, and the need to incorporate technology and practices to re-institute in-person meetings consistent with the limitations established by the Order, the Water Conservation Committee meeting will be conducted virtually.

Viewing: Members of the public may join the Zoom meeting by internet or phone, as follows:

Internet: To join the Zoom meeting on the internet using a computer, laptop, smartphone, or tablet, use the following link: <https://santafenm-gov.zoom.us/j/86349328771?pwd=WmhQRfUzZ25KbGN4K3VUeGNnZDdmUT09>.

Passcode: 889990

Attendees should use the “Raise Hand” function to be recognized by the Chair to speak at the appropriate time.

Phone: To join the Zoom meeting using a phone, use the following phone numbers and Webinar ID: **US: 1 (346) 248-7799 - Webinar ID: 863 4932 8771 - Passcode: 889990**

Phone attendees should press *9 to use the “Raise Hand” function to be recognized by the Chair to speak at the appropriate time.

The agenda and packet for the meeting will be posted at <https://santafe.primegov.com/public/portal>.

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
2. **ROLL CALL**
3. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**
4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**



AGENDA

**WATER CONSERVATION
COMMITTEE
JANUARY 11, 2022
3:00 PM
ATTEND VIRTUALLY**

- a. Meeting minutes from 12/14/21.

5. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

- a. 2021 Water Supply and Demand Update (Jesse Roach, Water Division Director, jdroach@santafenm.gov, 955-4309)
- b. Santa Fe Water Resources Indicator (Jesse Roach, Water Division Director, jdroach@santafenm.gov, 955-4309)
- c. Water Bank Update (William Schneider, Water Resources and Conservation Manager, whschneider@santafenm.gov, 955-4203 and Alan Hook, Water Resource Coordinator, aghook@santafenm.gov, 955.4205)

6. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS

- a. Discussion on Water Conservation “Lead by Example” Resolution for City of Santa Fe (Christine Chavez, Water Conservation Committee, cychavez@santafenm.gov, 955-4219)

7. MATTERS FROM THE PUBLIC

8. MATTERS FROM STAFF

9. MATTERS FROM THE COMMITTEE

10. MATTERS FROM THE CHAIR

11. NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, February 8, 2022

12. ADJOURN

Persons with disabilities in need of accommodations, contact the City Clerk’s office at 955-6521, five (5) working days prior to meeting date.



MINUTES

WATER CONSERVATION
COMMITTEE
DECEMBER 14, 2021
4:00 PM
VIRTUAL MEETING

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting started at 4:01pm.

2. **ROLL CALL**

Members Present:

Councilor Carol Romero-Wirth
Member Bob Coombe
Member Beth Kirby
Member DeAnda Hay
Member Jerry Jacobi
Member Ken Kirk
Member Matthew O'Reilly
Member Peggy Wright
Member Scott Bunton
Member Stephen Schmelling

Members Excused:

Member Reese Baker

Others Attending:

Christine Chavez, Water Conservation Manager
Robert Wood, Attendee
Bill Schneider, Attendee
Jesse Roach, Attendee
Ramon Coriz, Attendee

Mori Hensley
Bryan Romero
Shann Stringer
Anjali Bean
Glenn Schiffbauer

3. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

MOTION: Member Bunton moved, seconded by Member Schmelling, to approve the as presented.



MINUTES

WATER CONSERVATION
COMMITTEE
DECEMBER 14, 2021
4:00 PM
VIRTUAL MEETING

VOTE: The motion was approved on the following Roll Call vote:

For: Councilor Romero-Wirth, Member Coombe, Member Kirby, Member Hay, Member Jacobi, Member Kirk, Member O'Reilly, Member Wright, Member Bunton, Member Schmelling

Against: None

Abstain: None

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. Meeting minutes from October 12, 2021.

MOTION: Member O'Reilly moved, seconded by Member Coombe, to approve the as presented.

VOTE: The motion was approved on the following Roll Call vote:

For: Councilor Romero-Wirth, Member Coombe, Member Kirby, Member Hay, Member Jacobi, Member Kirk, Member O'Reilly, Member Wright, Member Bunton, Member Schmelling

Against: None

Abstain: None

5. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS

- a. Request for approval of a Sole Source Contract with the Santa Fe Watershed Associated to provide Watershed Education to the General Public and Santa Fe Youth for a term of 4 years in the amount of \$352,000. (Christine Chavez, Water Conservation Manager, cychavez@santafenm.gov, 955-4219.

Committee Review:

Public Works and Utilities Committee: 12/13/2021

Finance Committee: 01/03/2021

Water Conservation Committee: 12/14/2021



MINUTES

WATER CONSERVATION
COMMITTEE
DECEMBER 14, 2021
4:00 PM
VIRTUAL MEETING

Governing Body: 01/12/2021

MOTION: Member Coombe moved, seconded by Member Kirk, to approve the professional services agreement (PSA) as presented.

VOTE: The motion was approved on the following Roll Call vote:

For: Councilor Romero-Wirth, Member Coombe, Member Kirby, Member Hay, Member Jacobi, Member Kirk, Member O'Reilly, Member Wright, Member Bunton, Member Schmelling

Against: None

Abstain: None

6. SUBCOMMITTEE COMMUNICATIONS

- a. Outdoor subcommittee update (Christine Chavez, Water Conservation Manager, cychavez@santafenm.gov and Steve Schultz, Water Resource Coordinator, smshultz@santafenm.gov)
- b. Commercial subcommittee (Christine Chavez, Water Conservation Manager, cychavez@santafenm.gov and Glenn Schiffbauer, Santa Fe Green Chamber of Commerce)
- c. Joint City/County subcommittee (Christine Chavez, Water Conservation Manager, cychavez@santafenm.gov, 955-4219)

7. MATTERS FROM THE PUBLIC

8. MATTERS FROM STAFF

9. MATTERS FROM THE COMMITTEE

10. MATTERS FROM THE CHAIR

11. NEXT MEETING: January 11 2022

12. ADJOURN



MINUTES

**WATER CONSERVATION
COMMITTEE
DECEMBER 14, 2021
4:00 PM
VIRTUAL MEETING**

Adjourned at 5:19pm

Liaison

Chair



Providing a safe, reliable, and resilient water supply to meet Santa Fe's needs.

CoSF Water Supply & Demand Update: 2021

This report is available at <https://www.santafenm.gov/water>

Background and Jargon

- **City of Santa Fe Water has 4 water sources**
 - **2 utilize river water or “surface water”**
 - Canyon Road Water Treatment Plant treats Santa Fe River Water stored in two reservoirs in the Upper Santa Fe River Watershed.
 - Buckman Direct Diversion Water Treatment Plant treats water diverted from the Rio Grande, that (for accounting purposes) is Colorado River Water delivered into the Rio Grande system through the San Juan Chama Project. It is stored in 3 reservoirs in the Chama system.
 - Surface water is settled, filtered, and chlorinated at treatment plants
 - **2 utilize well water or “groundwater” from underground aquifers**
 - The City Wellfield consists of 7 wells, 5 of which are clustered near the Santa Fe River between St. Francis and Alire.
 - The Buckman Wellfield consists of 13 wells, 9 of which are clustered near the Rio Grande at the end of the Buckman Road
 - Groundwater is naturally filtered as it moves underground and is chlorinated before being delivered into the potable system.



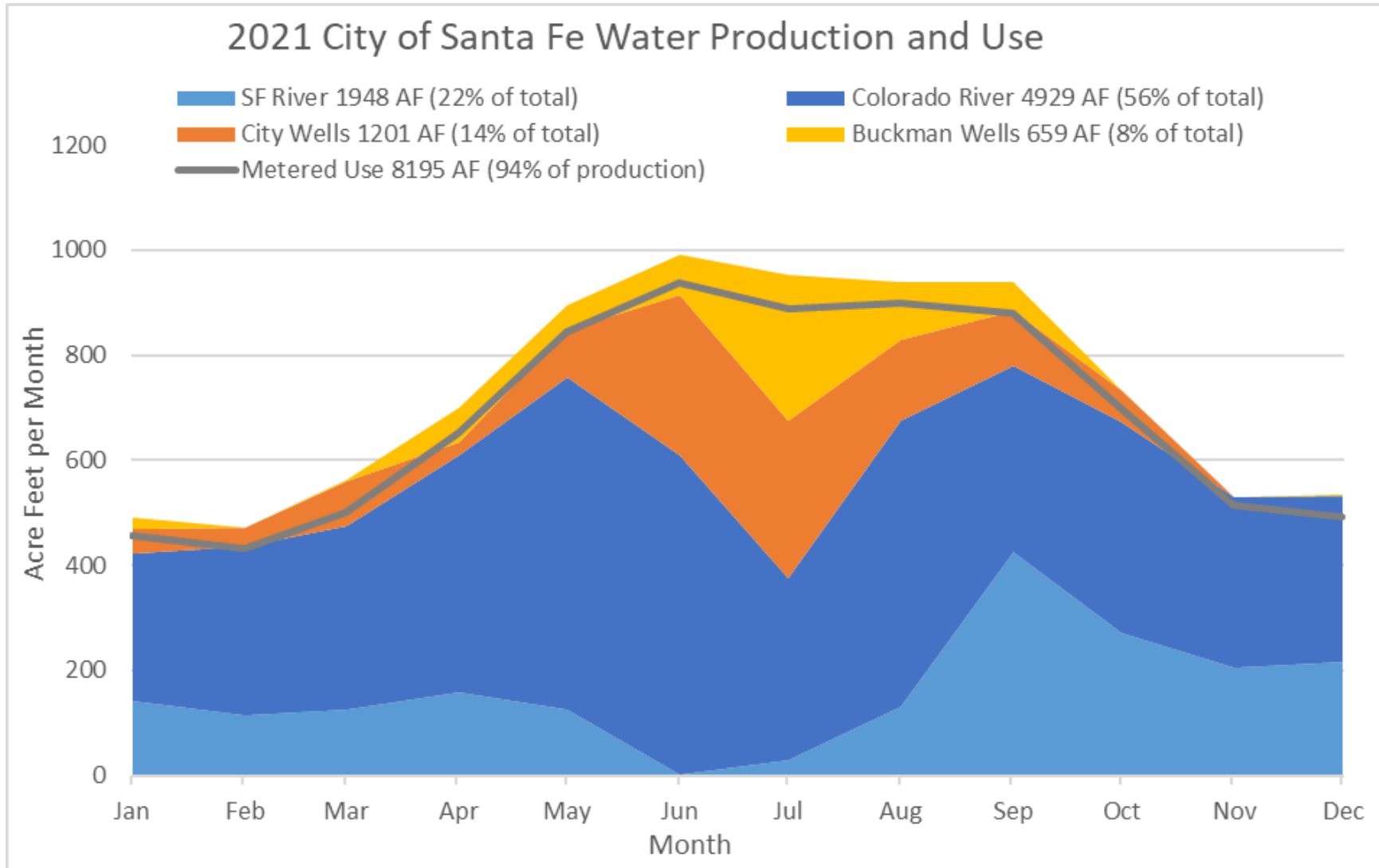
Providing a safe, reliable, and resilient water supply to meet Santa Fe's needs.

1. Monthly Supply and Demand Summary

- City of Santa Fe Water produced about 8700 Acre Feet (AF) of potable water in 2021.
- 79% (about 6840 AF) of production came from surface water sources (rivers).
- 21% (1860 AF) of production came from groundwater sources (wells).
- 94% of potable water produced was delivered to City customers (6% “unaccounted” water loss).
- Potable production and use by month is shown on Page 4.



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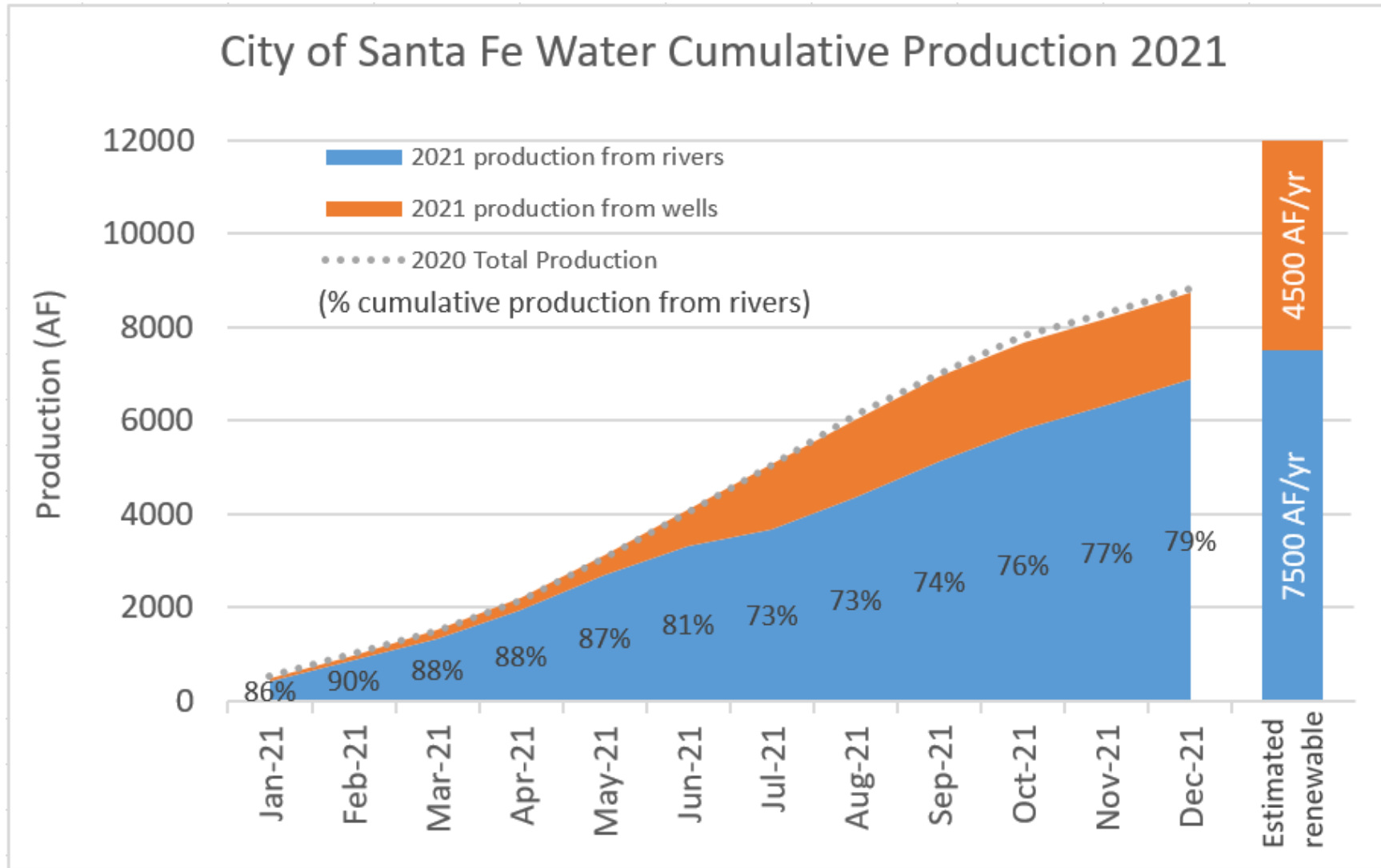
Providing a safe, reliable, and resilient water supply to meet Santa Fe's needs.

2. Cumulative Annual Surface Water and Groundwater Production

- Despite an approximately 1% increase in number of meters in 2021, 2021 City production was lower than 2020 production. This is likely a result of both continued conservation efforts and relatively good summer rains.
- City of Santa Fe Water used about 8700 AF of water in 2021, only 3/4 of our average estimated renewable water availability of **12,000 AF per year**.
 - For the 12 years from 2010 through 2021, average Colorado River water allocated to City of Santa Fe was 4841 AF per year. Accounting for evaporation and other losses, we assume availability of 4500 AF per year.
 - For the 23 years from 1999 through 2021, average treatable Santa Fe River water (accounting for Acequia and Living River uses) was ~3000 AF per year.
 - We estimate renewable groundwater availability from all of our wells of ~4500 AF per year (2000 AF from City Wells, 2500 AF from Buckman Wells).
 - Combined, City of Santa Fe water estimates a renewable water supply of approximately 12,000 AF per year (4500 AF/yr from the Colorado River, 3000 AF/yr from the Santa Fe River, and 4500 AF/yr from wells)
- Cumulative annual production from rivers and wells is shown on Page 6.



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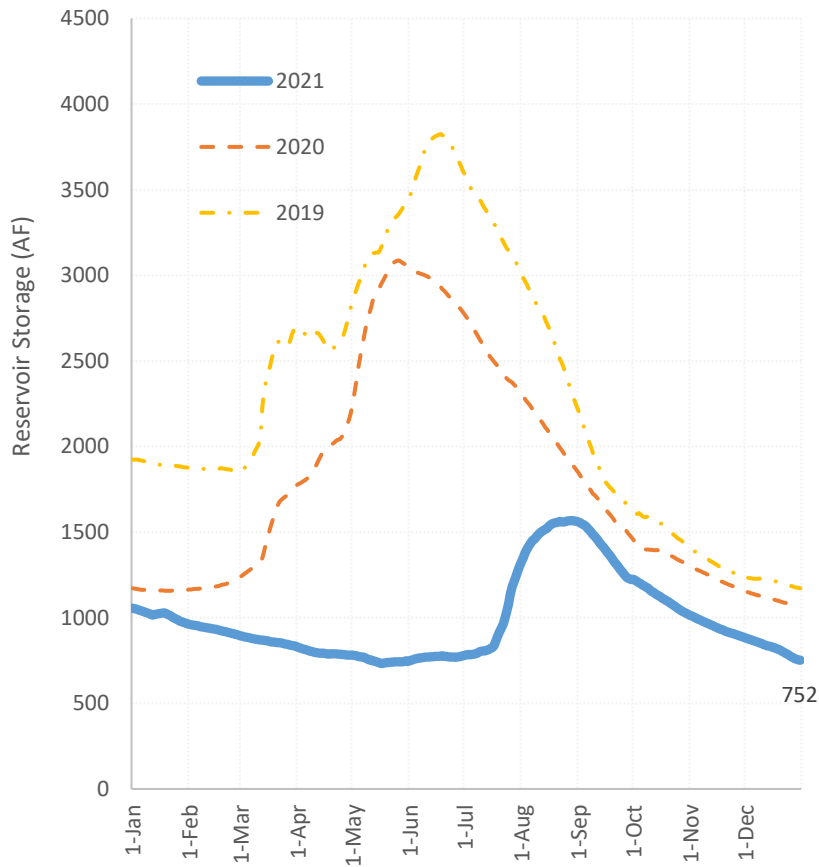
3. City of Santa Fe Water Reservoir Storage

- Santa Fe Reservoirs had 752 AF of water in storage at the end of 2021 (19% capacity).
- City of Santa Fe Water had 11,891 AF of Colorado River (San Juan – Chama Project) water in storage in Heron, El Vado, and Abiquiu reservoirs on December 29th 2021 (~1.4x City total annual potable demand).
- There is extra Colorado River water in storage because of the City-County Shared Pool Agreement under which the City used native County water instead of Colorado River water, effectively storing that water for potential future use by the County.
- Reservoir storage in 2021 compared to 2019 and 2020 is show on Page 8.

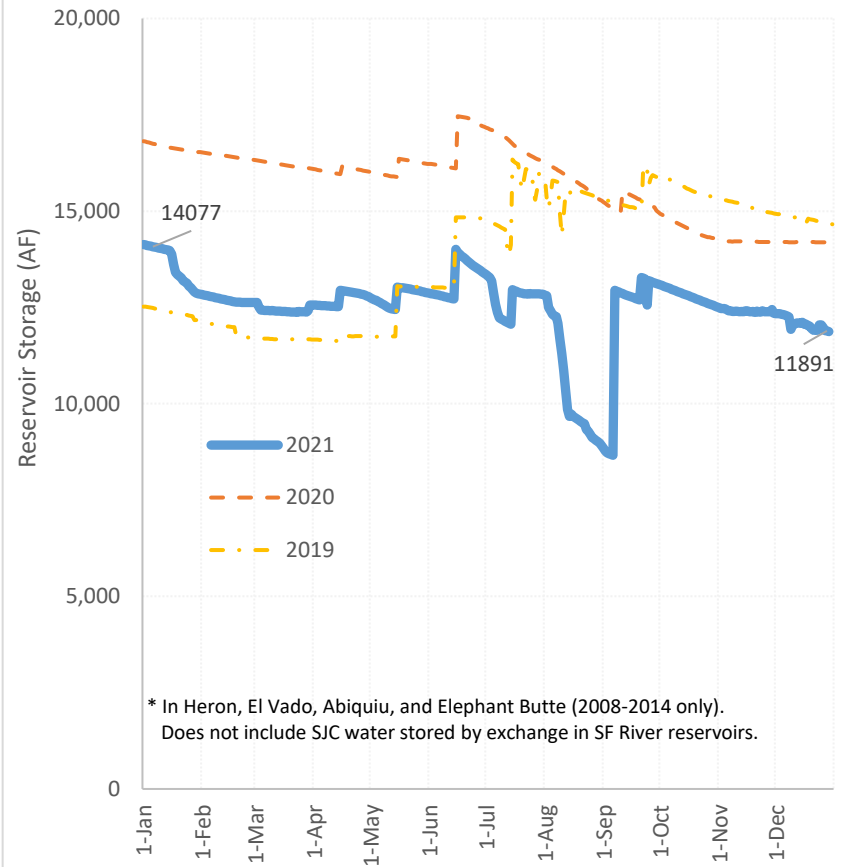


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Total Santa Fe River Reservoir Storage



Total San Juan Chama Storage

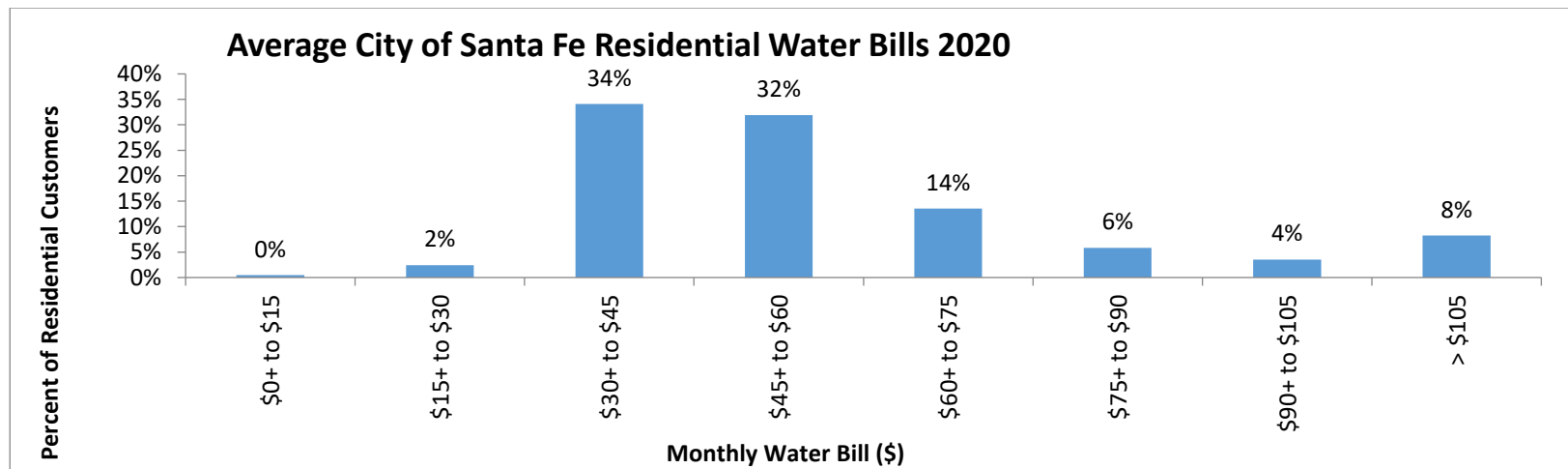


* In Heron, El Vado, Abiquiu, and Elephant Butte (2008-2014 only).
Does not include SJC water stored by exchange in SF River reservoirs.



4. Miscellaneous – The most expensive water in the Country?

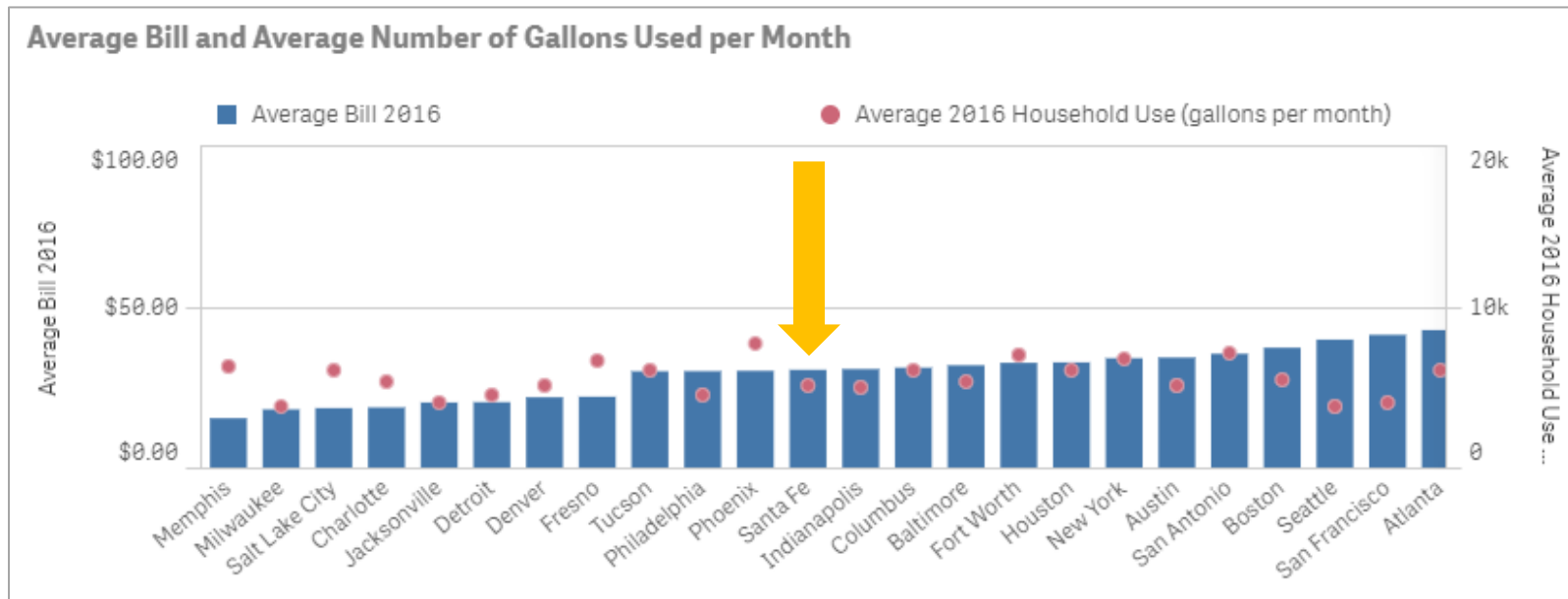
- There is a myth out there that Santa Fe has the most expensive water in the country. This is likely a result of a 2016 **RATE** study by Circle of Blue that included a 600 gallons per meter per day scenario (150 gallons per person and a 4 person household) that was applied to water rates across the country, and in our case would result in hefty monthly water bill of \$153.
- Because of our focus on conservation and a tiered rate structure designed to discourage high water use, our average residential use is way below 600 gallons per meter per day. Internal analysis of 2020 bills shows average use of less than 150 gallons per meter per day, and as a result, in 2020 92% of City of Santa Fe Water residential customers paid less than \$105 per month for water.





Providing a safe, reliable, and resilient water supply to meet Santa Fe's needs.

- The difference between potential and actual is supported by a **BILL** specific study also by Circle of Blue that shows our average bill lands in the middle of the other water utilities evaluated. The figure below is from that study which is found here: <https://www.circleofblue.org/2016/water-management/pricing/infographic-average-u-s-household-water-use-bills-2015-16/>

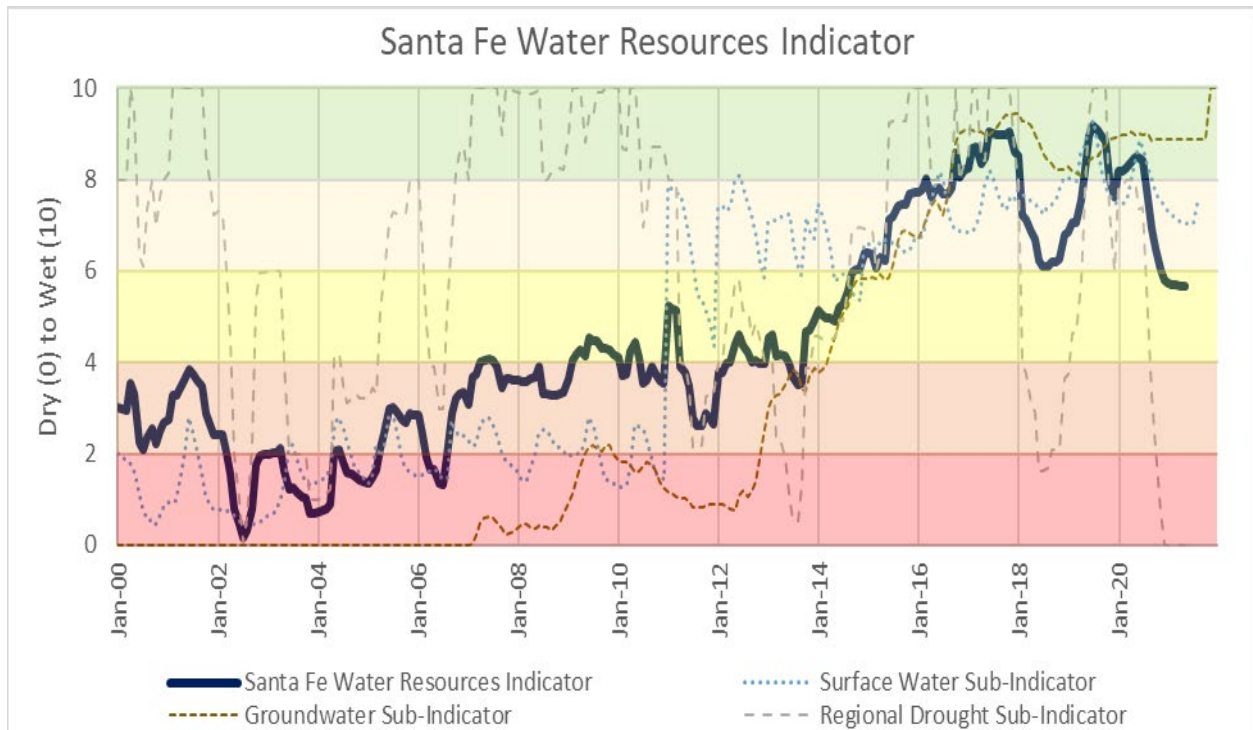


- So if someone tells you that our water is the most expensive in the country, you can explain that while our rates are designed to discourage high use, what people actually pay for water is very comparable to other water utilities across the country.

The Santa Fe Water Resources Indicator

A summary of water availability to inform seasonal conservation policy.

Version 2022-1: Last Updated January 7, 2022



Developed by City of Santa Fe Water and Santa Fe County Utilities Staff



Purpose:

The City of Santa Fe and Santa Fe County operate connected water utilities, share ownership of the Buckman Direct Diversion, are likely to share ownership of the San Juan Chama Return Flow Project, and operate under an agreement by which the City serves as a backup supply for the County and any water use restrictions put in place for City of Santa Fe Water customers also apply to County Water Utility customers. As a result, the City and County Water Utilities work closely together on water resources planning and demand management. The Santa Fe Water Resources Indicator (Indicator) is a quantitative tool used to summarize water availability to the City and County Water Utility systems in order to inform *seasonal* conservation policy. The Indicator can be used in the spring of each year to help define what water use restrictions City and County Utility customers can expect during the remainder of the year. The Indicator, as a transparent, quantitative definition of seasonal water resources availability in Santa Fe is helpful for explaining to Utility customers why they are or are not subject to water use restrictions in a given year.

“It hasn’t rained in months, and all I read about in the newspaper is drought. Why aren’t you asking me (and more importantly my water hogging neighbor) to use less water?”

- Tina Bitworried
A hypothetical, but not unusual Santa Fe Water Utility customer

It is important to note that the Santa Fe Water Resources Indicator is not a long range (decades out) planning tool. The Indicator is also not a tool to curb demand for a short period of time as a result of an unplanned supply disruption lasting days to weeks (e.g. a large main break or a water quality disruption). The City and the County have other shared technical tools for each of these other planning time frames, and publicly informed planning processes to inform them. Table 1 shows where the Santa Fe Water Resources Indicator fits into water demand planning done by the City and County.

Table 1: Association of U.S. Drought Monitor Classifications to the Regional Drought Sub-Indicator.

Types of Demand Planning Done by City and County of Santa Fe Water Utilities		
Time Scale	Technical Tools Used by Santa Fe Water Utilities	Conservation Response
Weeks to Months	Worst case scenarios evaluated with hydraulic (pipe network) model	Short term drastic reduction
1 Year	Santa Fe Water Resources Indicator	Seasonal policy
Decades	STEWaRDS long range water resources planning model	Long range conservation policy

Definition:

The Santa Fe Water Resources Indicator uses quantitative metrics to assign a local, Water Utility specific outlook somewhere between zero (0) at the driest to ten (10) at the wettest. A value of zero (0) means the Utilities cannot provide water in a sustainable way during the current year; supplies are inadequate and the Utilities need extreme demand management in the current year. A value of ten (10) means that water can be provided sustainably to Water Utility customers in excess of projected demand during the current year without any demand management. Any potential conservation policy (demand management) that may be put in place to be triggered by the Indicator will be designed through a publically informed conservation planning process.

Development Methods:

The Indicator was developed by City and County Water Utility staff, with input provided by 3rd party consultants and a technical representative of the Joint City-County Committee for Water Conservation. It is estimated that at least twenty people, either City or County staff, consultants, or committee representatives were updated regularly during the 2021 development of the Indicator. The Indicator will be revisited and updated as necessary every five years at the least during updates of the City's Drought Management Plan. Development of the indicator included defining metrics and their relative weights to the Indicator.

Indicator Metrics:

Five different metrics are used to define three different sub-Indicators, also on a scale from zero (0) to ten (10), which are combined to represent overall water availability in Santa Fe from a Utility perspective. The sub-Indicators are a Groundwater Sub-Indicator, a Surface Water Sub-Indicator, and a Regional Drought Sub-Indicator, and are weighted as 40%, 30%, and 30% of the total Indicator value respectively. The extra weight assigned to the Groundwater Sub-Indicator compared to the other sub-Indicators is based on the premise that groundwater is a savings account to be saved for times of drought, and that using groundwater sustainably is the single most important factor in overall Utility health from a water resources perspective. For more about these relative weights see the Historical Analysis to Evaluate Weights discussion below.

Groundwater Sub-Indicator (40% of Santa Fe Water Resources Indicator)

The availability of groundwater is defined based on how heavily the groundwater resources in the Buckman Wellfield and the City Wellfield have been used in the recent past compared to estimates of sustainable production levels from those wellfields. Current estimates by City Staff and consultants of potential sustainable production of these wellfields are 2000 acre-feet per year (AF/yr) for the City Wellfield, and 2500 AF/yr for Buckman Wellfield¹. Thus, of 4500 AF/yr of potential sustainable groundwater production, 44% is available from the City Wellfield and 56% from Buckman. These weights are assigned to the individual wellfields in developing the Groundwater Sub-Indicator.

Buckman Wellfield

In the Buckman Wellfield, a three (3) year average groundwater use is utilized based on relatively rapid recovery seen in the wellfield since production from this wellfield was reduced significantly starting in 2014. A minimum production of 800 AF/yr is assumed necessary to exercise the wells and manage water levels in the wells close to the Rio Grande, and a 2500 AF/yr production rate is assumed sustainable. Thus, Buckman Wellfield three (3) year average water production of 800 AF/yr or less is assigned a value of ten (10), and production of 2500 AF/yr or more is assigned a value of zero (0). This calculation can be seen visually in Figure 1 on the next page.

City Wellfield

In the City Wellfield, a ten year average groundwater use is utilized based on slower aquifer recovery as production from this wellfield has been reduced over the past decade. A minimum production of 500 AF/yr is assumed necessary to exercise the wells and create space for river recharge, and a 2000 AF/yr production rate is assumed sustainable as mentioned above. Thus, City Wellfield ten (10) year average

¹ Personal communication, Jesse Roach with Steve Finch of John Shomaker and Associates, December 2021.

water production of 500 AF/yr or less is assigned a value of ten (10), and ten (10) year average water use of 2000 AF/yr or more is assigned a value of zero (0). This calculation can be seen visually in Figure 1.

Once each wellfield indicator has been calculated, a weighted average of the two is taken to get the Groundwater Sub-Indicator. For reasons described above, 57% of the Groundwater Sub-Indicator comes from the Buckman Wellfield Indicator, and 43% from the City Wellfield Indicator.

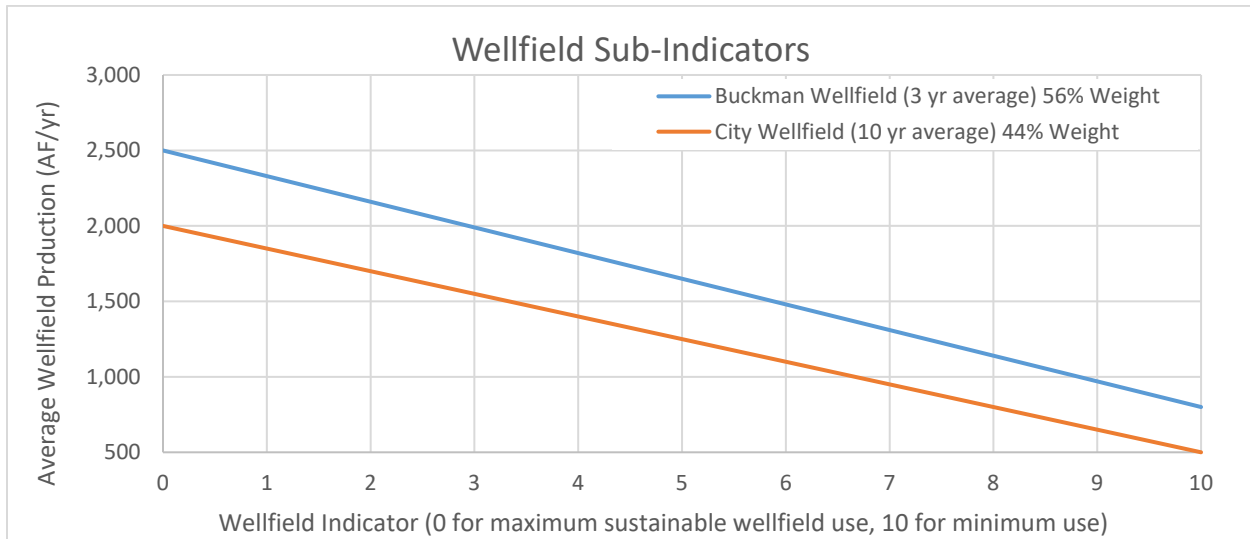


Figure 1: Visual representation of the relationship between average wellfield production at the Buckman and City Wellfields, and resulting wellfield indicators from 0 to 10.

Surface Water Sub-Indicator (30% of Santa Fe Water Resources Indicator)

Surface water availability is defined based on reservoir storage for each of the surface water sources (Santa Fe River and San Juan Chama) modified by how much of that water is physically and legally available for use in a given year. The physical limitation is determined by treatment plant infrastructure, and the legal limitation by water rights and water use permits. When full, the Santa Fe River reservoirs can store 3921 AF of water. There is potential to store more San Juan Chama water than has been used by the City and County for the past 5 years, therefore, in determining the relative weights of the two surface water supply indicators, a maximum equal to the peak City-County combined Utility demand is assigned to BDD water. Currently this is 10,084 AF. Thus 3921 AF of the total 14,005 (10,084 + 3921) AF of surface water resources potentially available to the Utilities in a given year, or 28% is from the Santa Fe River, and this is the weighting used for the Santa Fe River as compared to BDD which is given the remaining 72% of weight in determining the Surface Water Sub-Indicator.

Buckman Direct Diversion

The maximum annual legal diversion at the Buckman Direct Diversion (BDD) is currently estimated to be 9266 AF/yr. This is made up of 2400 AF of County rights to native flows and a combined San Juan Chama max diversion of 25% more than the 5605 AF/yr annual combined full allocation to the City and County (6866 AF/yr) based on New Mexico Office of the State Engineer (OSE) Permit SP-4842. If approved, a pending return flow credit application to the OSE submitted as part of the proposed San Juan Chama return flow project will result in an increase to the San Juan Chama portion of this diversion limit. In terms of a supply indicator for water available through the BDD, no availability would be assigned a

value of zero (0), and availability of a volume of water equal to the largest combined City and County Water Utility water consumption from the most recent 5 years would be assigned a ten (10). This calculation can be seen visually in Figure 2 on the next page. It is worth noting that currently the BDD specific indicator cannot reach ten (10) because the legal limit (9266 AF/yr) is smaller than the maximum five year combined City and County Utility annual demand (10,084 AF/yr).

Santa Fe River

In terms of water available from the Santa Fe River, storage in the reservoirs below 196 AF cannot be released and is called “dead storage”. Therefore storage or ability to treat 196 AF/yr or less would be assigned a value of zero (0), and completely full reservoirs (3921 AF) would be assigned a ten (10). This calculation can be seen visually in Figure 2.

Once each surface water supply indicator has been calculated, a weighted average of the two is taken to get the Surface Water Sub-Indicator. For reasons described above, 72% of the Surface Water Sub-Indicator comes from conditions at the BDD, and 28% from the Santa Fe River.

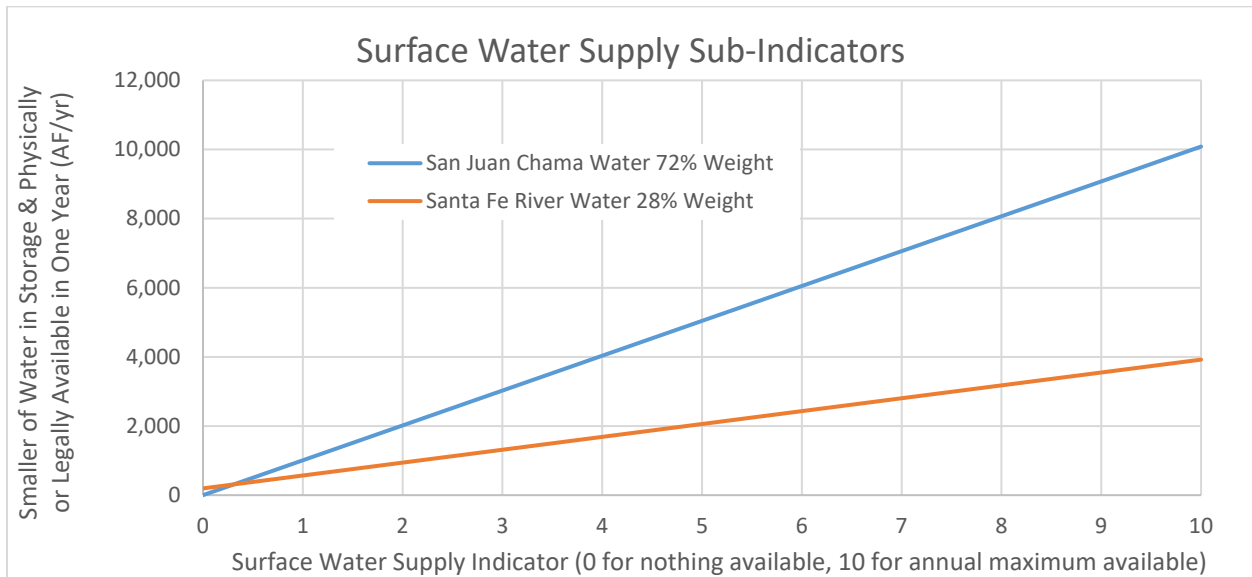


Figure 2: Visual representation of the relationship between average wellfield production at the Buckman and City Wellfields, and resulting wellfield indicators from 0 to 10.

Regional Drought Sub-Indicator (30% of Santa Fe Water Resources Indicator)

As Utility supply is directly accounted for with the Groundwater and Surface Water Sub-Indicators, the Regional Drought Sub-Indicator in the context of the overall Water Resources Indicator more related to demand, especially outdoor demand by Utility customers. The Regional Drought Sub-Indicator is intended to correlate to perceptions of drought which represent an opportunity to support messages of conservation during dry periods. The Regional Drought Sub-Indicator is inversely correlated to the value assigned to Santa Fe County in the U.S. Drought Monitor:

<https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/CurrentMap/StateDroughtMonitor.aspx?NM> . In the U.S. Drought

Monitor, there are six categories of drought ranging from “None” to Exceptional. These are assigned even values of 10 to 0 respectively in the Regional Drought Sub-Indicator as shown in Table 2.

Table 2: Association of U.S. Drought Monitor Classifications to the Regional Drought Sub-Indicator.

U.S. Drought Monitor Code	None	D0	D1	D2	D3	D4
U.S. Drought Monitor Description	None	Abnormally Dry	Moderate Drought	Severe Drought	Extreme Drought	Exceptional Drought
Regional Drought Sub-Indicator value	10	8	6	4	2	0

Analysis

Historical Analysis to Evaluate Weights

The relative weights assigned to wellfield (57% to Buckman Wellfield and 43% to City Wellfield) and surface water supply indicators (72% to BDD and 28% to the Santa Fe River) are based on relative capacities. The groundwater pumping values associated with wellfield indicator values of zero (0) (2000 AF/yr for the City Wellfield and 2600 AF/yr for the Buckman Wellfield), and the averaging period for the wellfields (10 years for the City Wellfield and 3 years for the Buckman Wellfield) are based on geohydrologic information. The surface water values associated with indicator values of ten (10) (3921 AF for the Santa Fe River and 10,084 AF for BDD) are based on capacity and demand. While any of these may change, they are chosen based on physical parameters. On the other hand, the relative weights of the Sub-Indicators of 40% for Groundwater and 30% for both Surface Water and Regional Drought are a bit more difficult to justify or defend. To finalize these values, the Sub-Indicators and the Santa Fe Water Resources Indicator were calculated with historical data back to 2000, and the results evaluated by local professionals who lived the water resources realities of those years.

Historical Groundwater Sub-Indicator

The Groundwater Sub-Indicator starts at zero and sees some recovery due to the City Wells being pumped less in starting in 2004, presumably due to the availability of Buckman Wells 10-13, and then rapid improvement due to reduced pumping at both wellfields starting in 2012 as a result of BDD coming online in 2011. In 2016 the Groundwater Sub-Indicator went above 8, and has stayed there since as the wellfields continue to rest.

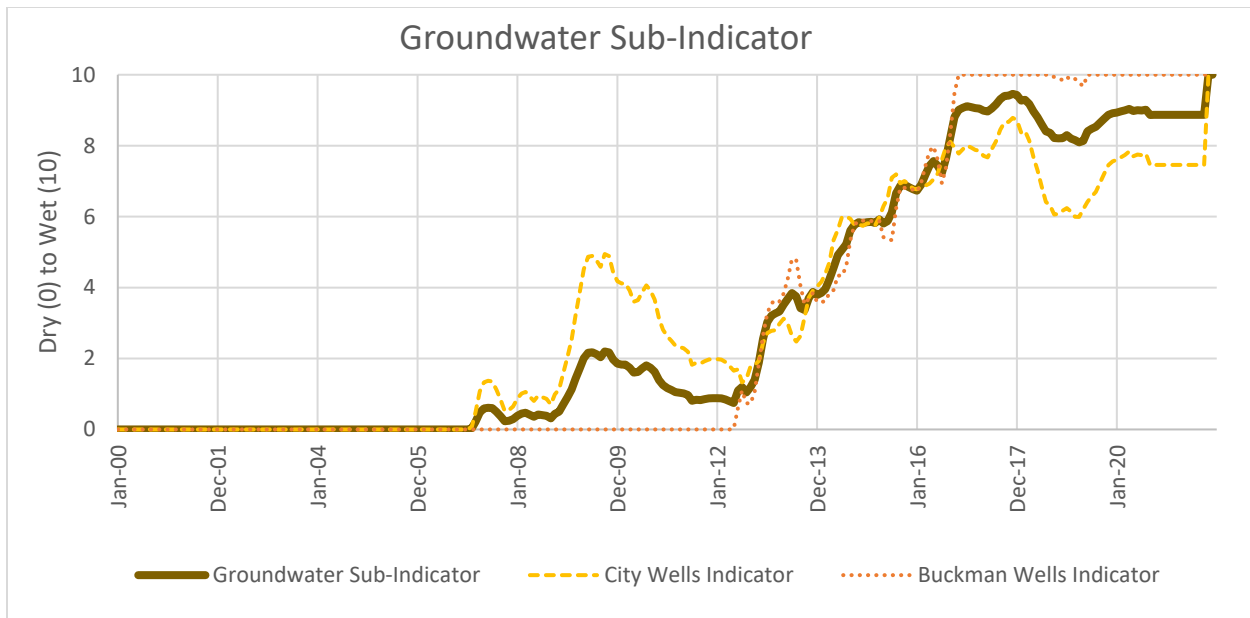


Figure 3: Historical values for the Groundwater Sub-Indicator using methodology described in this report.

Historical Surface Water Sub-Indicator

The Surface Water Sub-Indicator oscillates with seasonal reservoir storage, but generally is around 2 until the BDD comes online in 2011 when it jumps up to generally stay above 6 until the present.

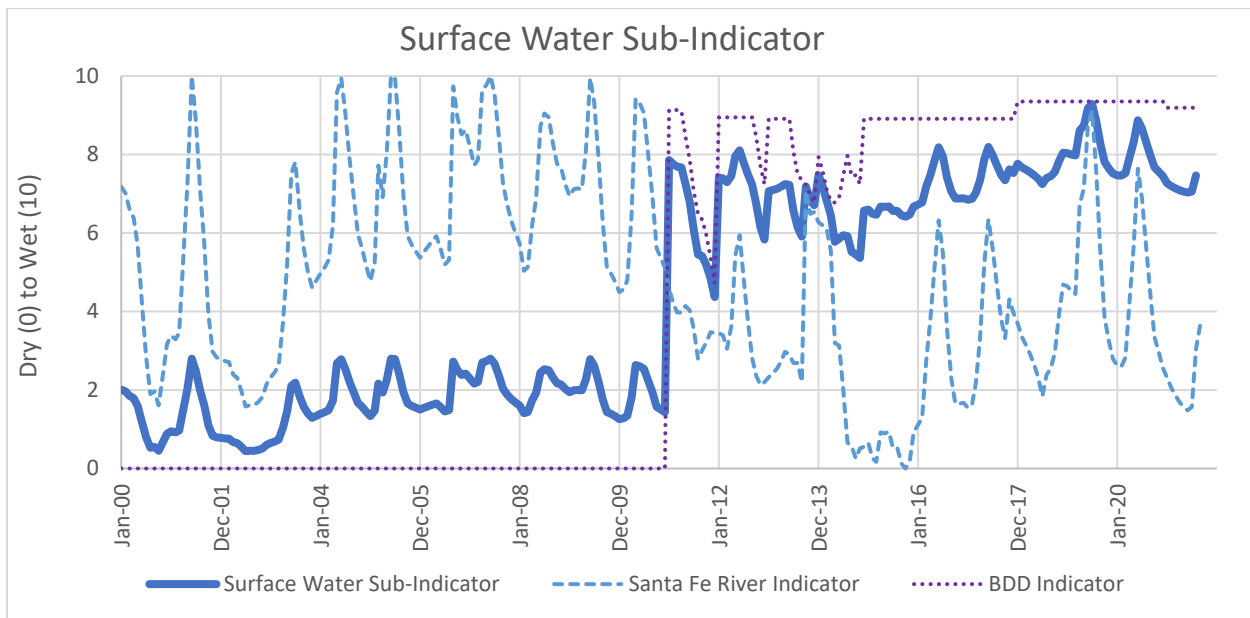


Figure 4: Historical values for the Surface Water Sub-Indicator as described in this report.

Historical Regional Drought Sub-Indicator

The Regional Drought Sub-Indicator shows wet periods in 2000, 2001, 2007-2009, and 2017, and particularly dry periods in 2001, 2013, and 2020-2021.

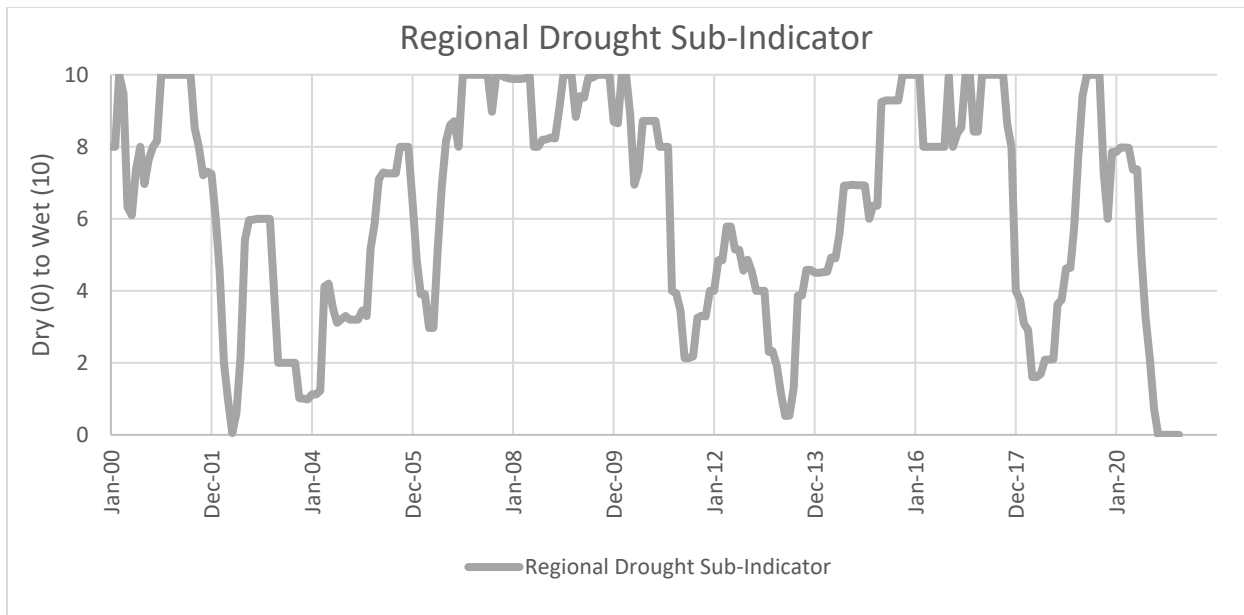


Figure 5: Historical values for the Regional Drought Sub-Indicator based on Santa Fe County in the U.S. Drought Monitor

Combining these, the historical Santa Fe Water Resources Indicator as described in this report is shown in Figure 6 below.

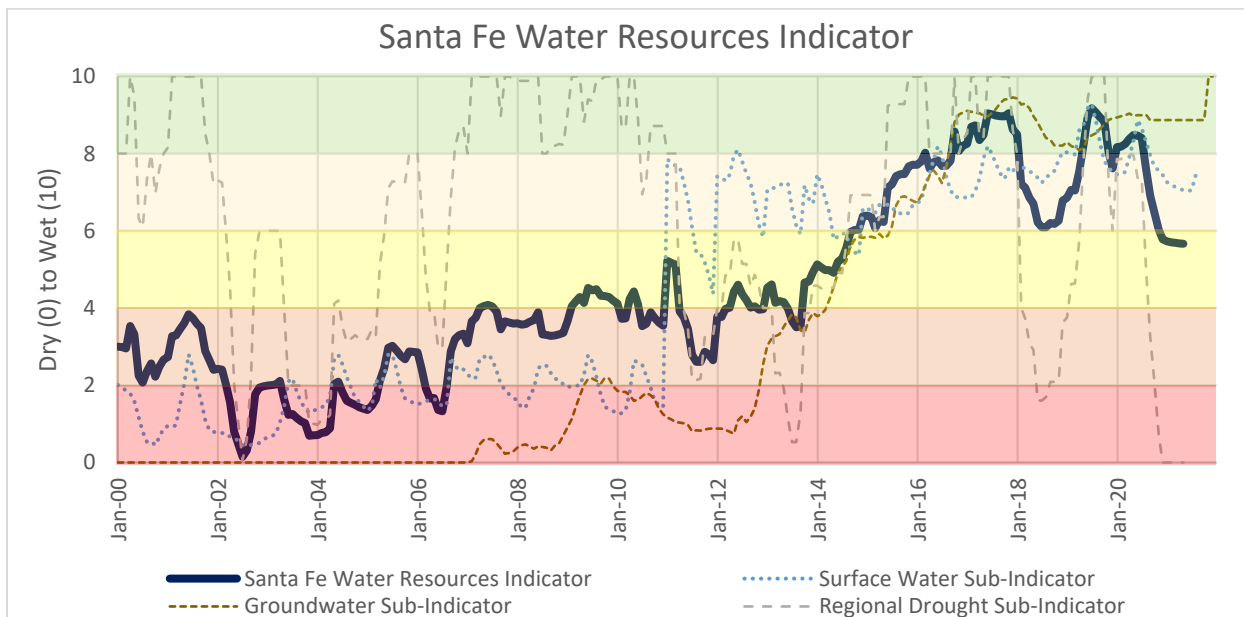


Figure 6: Historical values for the Santa Fe Water Resources Indicator since 2000

Figure 6 is color coded into five different sectors, and assuming that the policy response to this indicator would range from extreme conservation mandates for Indicator values between 0 and 2, moderate

conservation mandates for Indicator values between 2 and 4, volunteer conservation recommendations and conservation messaging for Indicator values between 4 and 6, conservation messaging for Indicator values between 6 and 8, and very little outward conservation activity for Indicator values between 8 and 10, the historical Santa Fe Water Resources Indicator values shown in Figure 6 seem appropriate to the water resources reality faced by the City and County Water Utilities since 2000. As a result, no changes to the weights and parameter values initially proposed were recommended for this first iteration of the Indicator. The weights and specific parameters that define the Indicator may change in the future as the Indicator is used to inform policy and water managers get a sense for how well the Indicator tracks qualitative expert opinions on what level of conservation policy is appropriate.

Planned Use:

City of Santa Fe Ordinance 25-5.7 requires that every spring the Director of City of Santa Fe Water provide an assessment of water supply availability based on the operational water supply compared to the operational water system demand. It is the intention of City of Santa Fe Water that the Santa Fe Water Resources Indicator become the predominant tool used to provide this assessment and determine conservation policy for the remainder of the year. In this way, by April, Utility customers will know if water use restrictions (and other conservation policy) will be in place for the current growing season. City of Santa Fe Water plans to include both the current water supply availability methodology and the Indicator methodology in the 2022 spring assessment, essentially “piloting” the Indicator methodology, and then if successful, proposing necessary changes to code in order to incorporate the Santa Fe Water Resources Indicator as the technical tool used to determine seasonal conservation policy for City and County Water Utility customers. The Indicator will be revisited each year to update data for use in determining seasonal conservation policy, and will be formally reviewed and updated if necessary every five years as part of the update of the City’s Conservation and Drought Management Plan.

Conclusion:

Having a transparent, quantitative, and predictable way to determine seasonal conservation policy is very important to Utility customers, especially when the conservation policy may include mandated water use reduction. The Santa Fe Water Resources Indicator is a technical tool developed by the City and County Water Utilities to meet this need by summarizing water availability to the City and County Water Utility systems in order to inform seasonal conservation policy.