

# *Demand Projections*

## *Frequently Asked Questions*



The following questions and answers were captured during the November 2022 public presentations of the Water 2100 Demand Projections.

### *Does the City's Water Division and Land Use Department coordinate to manage growth?*

Yes, the Water Division works closely with the City's Land Use Department to better understand the effects of land use zoning on water demand. Currently, we are working to figure out if and how that information can be incorporated into the Land Use general plan update. We expect changes to demand projections due to land use zoning to be incorporated into the adaptation strategies and planning efforts.

### *Are water demand projections for City service area only?*

Yes, the current demand projections are for City service area only.

### *Does the land area within City limits have the capacity to house 2100 population projections?*

Yes, City limits land area has the capacity to house more than the 2100 projected population (as per City Land Use department).

### *How does new demand from high density housing impact future demand?*

High density housing uses less water than single family residential housing. The addition of high density housing has been a contributing factor in a decrease in GPCD, which we project to continue into the future. The best available science suggests we have adequate water to support new demand and growth. The intent of this planning effort is to assess the limits in which Santa Fe can sustainably grow while maintaining a safe and reliable water supply for our customers.

### *How did the 2012 Annexation Agreement, which changes the city boundary, influence demand projections?*

Historical trends, including the 2012 annexation, were used to develop demand projections. In 2012, the City customers served decreased as a result of annexation and the creation of the Santa Fe County water utility to serve all demands outside of the City Limits.

### *How is water demand decreasing even as populations increase?*

Even though populations continue to rise, per-capita water use is decreasing. Water demand and population are "decoupled" due to a combination of active conservation programs and practices and passive conservation, such as improvements in water efficient appliances and plumbing fixtures.

### *Does consumptive use associated with irrigation demand include water flows required to meet demand under the City's Living River Ordinance?*

No, the Living River is accounted for separately. Our calculations related to demand start with water that is produced and treated to meet demand. For the Santa Fe Watershed, that is water diverted to our treatment plant only; it does not include other river releases, including water for the Living River, acequias, and reservoir spills. These other river releases will be accounted for in our long-range planning efforts.

### *Is water demand data disaggregated to differentiate between Single Family and Multifamily GPCD?*



City of Santa Fe Water has followed the NM OSE process which breaks water usage down into single-family and multi-family usage. City of Santa Fe Water is currently in the process of revising methodology associated with multi-family usage.

*Does projected GPCD differentiate between commercial/industrial uses from residential use?*

*No, commercial and industrial uses are not differentiated in the GPCD projections. However, conservation and land use planning are able to make this distinction and can be incorporated into the planning process.*

*Are there estimates for water loss due to aging pipe infrastructure and leaks/bursts? Is infrastructure repair included in conservation projections?*

Yes. Projections assume non-revenue water will remain at the same percent of production that it has been recently (between 6 and 10 percent).

*How will pricing be used to manage demand?*

Modifications to pricing may be evaluated as an adaptation strategy.

*Has the City looked into how Green Building Codes will impact water demand projections? Currently City seems to focus on residential usage. When will it transition to focus on commercial, industrial, and institutional buildings?*

Our conservation program is working to update their 10-year conservation plan, which will address commercial and residential water usage and the incorporation of Green Building Codes.

*How are EPA Water Sense certified products and audits encouraged?*

Our conservation program is working to update their 10-year conservation plan, which will address commercial and residential water usage. The conservation program is actively pursuing pilot projects for increased water efficiency through Water Sense products.

*What role does education play in conservation and demand management?*

Santa Fe has a nationally recognized conservation program. Education has been and continues to be a key component to this program. More information available at: [www.savewatersantafe.com](http://www.savewatersantafe.com)