



APPENDIX F: WATER SHORTAGE CONTINGENCY PLAN





2026 Water Shortage Contingency Plan



Valley Center Municipal
Water District

Hoch Consulting



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- Attachment 1 VCMWD Ordinance 2026-XX
- Attachment 2 WSCP 60-Day and Public Hearing Notices
- Attachment 3 WSCP Adoption Resolution

Acronyms & Abbreviations

AAC	All-American Canal
AF	Acre Feet
AFY	Acre Feet per Year
AWIA	America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018
AWWA	American Water Works Association
Board	VCMWD's Board of Directors
CC	Coachella Canal
CII	Commercial, Industrial, and Institutional
CIP	Capital Improvement Program
CPUC	California Public Utilities Commission
CWC	California Water Code
DRA	Drought Risk Assessment
DWR	California Department of Water Resources
ERP	Emergency Response Plan
ESP	Emergency Storage Project
FY	Fiscal Year
HCF	Hundred Cubic Feet
IID	Imperial Irrigation District
Metropolitan	Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
M&I	Municipal & Industrial
MWD	Municipal Water District
O&M	Operation & Management
PFA/PFC	Project Facility Availability/Commitment
PSAWR	Permanent Special Agricultural Water Rate
QSA	Quantification Settlement Agreement
RRA	Risk and Resilience Assessment
SCADA	Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition
UWMP	Urban Water Management Plan
VCMWD	Valley Center Municipal Water District
Water Authority	San Diego County Water Authority
WSCP	Water Shortage Contingency Plan
WUE	Water Use Efficiency
YMWD	Yuima Municipal Water District

Water Shortage Contingency Plan

This Water Shortage Contingency Plan (WSCP) is a detailed plan for how the Valley Center Municipal Water District (VCMWD or District) intends to predict and respond to foreseeable and unforeseeable water shortages. A water shortage occurs when the water supply is reduced to a level that cannot support the typical demand at any given time.

This WSCP provides guidance to the VCMWD's Board of Directors (Board), staff, and the public by identifying response actions that enable efficient, predictable, and accountable management of water shortages. This WSCP is not intended to provide absolute direction but rather is intended to provide options to manage water shortages.

Water shortages can be triggered by a hydrologic limitation in supply (i.e., a prolonged period of below normal precipitation and runoff), limitations or failure of supply, and/or treatment infrastructure. Hydrologic or drought limitations tend to develop and abate more slowly, whereas infrastructure failure tends to happen quickly and relatively unpredictably. Water supplies may be interrupted or reduced significantly in several ways, such as during a drought that limits supplies, an earthquake that damages water delivery or storage facilities, a regional power outage, or a toxic spill that affects water quality.

This WSCP describes the following:

Water Supply Reliability Analysis

Summarizes VCMWD's water supply analysis and reliability and identifies the key issues that may trigger a shortage condition.

Annual Water Supply and Demand Assessment Procedures

Describes the key data inputs, evaluation criteria, and methodology for assessing the system's reliability for the coming year and the steps to formally declare any water shortage levels and response actions.

Six Standard Shortage Stages

Establishes water shortage levels to clearly identify and prepare for shortages.

Shortage Response Actions

Describes the response actions that may be implemented or considered for each stage to reduce gaps between supply and demand to minimize social and economic impacts on the community.

Communication Protocols

Describes communication protocols under each stage to ensure that customers, the public, and Board are informed of shortage conditions and requirements.

Compliance and Enforcement

Defines compliance and enforcement actions available to administer demand reductions.

Legal Authority

Lists the legal documents that grant VCMWD the authority to declare a water shortage and to implement and enforce response actions.

Financial Consequences of WSCP Implementation

Describes the anticipated financial impact of implementing water shortage stages and identifies mitigation strategies to offset financial burdens.

Monitoring and Reporting

Summarizes the monitoring and reporting techniques to evaluate the effectiveness of shortage response actions and overall WSCP implementation. The results are used to determine if additional shortage response actions should be activated or if efforts are successful and response actions should be reduced.

WSCP Refinement Procedures

Describes the factors that may trigger updates to the WSCP and outlines how to complete an update.

Special Water Feature Distinctions

Identifies exemptions for ponds, lakes, fountains, pools, spas, etc.

Plan Adoption, Submittal, and Availability

Describes the process for the WSCP's adoption, submittal, and availability after each revision.

Prepared in conjunction with VCMWD's UWMP, this stand-alone WSCP complies with California Water Code (CWC) Section 10632 and incorporates guidance from the Department of Water Resources (DWR) Urban Water Management Plan Guidebook, and the American Water Works Association (AWWA) Drought Preparedness and Response Manual (M60). In addition, the San Diego County Water Authority WSCP was used to align with regional efforts.

1.1 Water Supply Reliability Analysis

1.1.1 Supply Characterization

VCMWD receives all its potable water from the San Diego County Water Authority (Water Authority). Consequently, the reliability of the VCMWD's supply reflects that of the Water Authority. The Water Authority's core water sources used to supply VCMWD are purchased water from the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (Metropolitan), the Carlsbad Desalination Plant, the Water Authority Imperial Irrigation District (IID) Water Conservation and Transfer Agreement, and the All-American Canal (AAC) and Coachella Canal (CC) Lining Projects, as detailed below.

Metropolitan

The Water Authority relies on water purchases from Metropolitan to meet its supplemental supply gap. Historically, the Water Authority relied solely on imported water from Metropolitan to meet the needs of its member agencies. However, after experiencing severe shortages from Metropolitan during the 1987–1992 drought, the Water Authority began pursuing actions to diversify the region's supply sources. Currently, Metropolitan's supplies come from two primary sources: the State Water Project and the Colorado River.

Carlsbad Desalination Plant

The Carlsbad Desalination Plant began operating in December 2015 and can produce up to 56,000 acre-feet per year (AFY). There is the potential to increase the annual average production capacity to 61,600 acre-feet (AF) (subject to future supply conditions and future Board action). This water source is considered highly reliable and resilient against droughts. However, this supply can be impacted by fluctuations in water quality in the Agua Hedionda Lagoon and unscheduled maintenance at the Carlsbad Desalination Plant.

Water Authority IID Water Conservation and Transfer Agreement

In 1998, the Water Authority entered into a Water Conservation and Transfer Agreement with IID, an

agricultural district in neighboring Imperial County. Through this Transfer Agreement, the Water Authority began receiving conserved water from IID after the execution of the Quantification Settlement Agreement (QSA) in 2003 with an initial transfer of 10,000 AF. Per the agreement terms, the volume delivered will increase year over year until it reaches 200,000 AFY in 2021 and then remain fixed for the duration of the Transfer Agreement. The Transfer Agreement's initial term is 45 years, with a provision that either agency may extend the agreement for an additional 30-year term. As part of the QSA, the Water Authority contracted for 77,700 AFY of conserved water from projects to line the AAC and CC. This conserved water will provide an additional 8.5 million AF over the 110-year life of the agreement. Deliveries of this conserved water from the CC reached the region in 2007, and deliveries from the AAC reached the region in 2010.

AAC and CC Lining Projects

In 2003, as part of the execution of the QSA on the Colorado River, the Water Authority contracted for 77,700 AFY of conserved water from projects to line portions of the AAC and CC. The lining projects reduced the loss of water that occurred through seepage. Deliveries of conserved water from the CC reached the region in 2007, and deliveries from the AAC reached the region in 2010. Supplies from the canal lining projects are considered verifiable Water Authority supplies.

As part of the UWMP, water suppliers perform a water service reliability assessment and Drought Risk Assessment (DRA) to evaluate short- and long-term water supply reliability. Both assessment results are summarized below and described in more detail in VCMWD's UWMP.

1.1.2 Water Service Reliability Assessment

Chapter 7 of VCMWD's 2025 UWMP describes the reliability of the District's water supply by comparing supply and demand projections through 2050 for normal, single-dry, and multiple-dry years. The chapter also assesses the drought risk over the next five years (2026–2030) assuming the driest five-year period is repeated over the next five years. Water supply reliability reflects the VCMWD's ability to meet the water needs of its customers with water supplies under varying conditions. The analysis considers plausible hydrological and regulatory variability, climate conditions, and other factors that impact the VCMWD's water supply and demand. This analysis indicates that the Water Authority water supplies are reliable and that no shortages are anticipated, even with conservative assumptions about the availability of dry-year supplies from the Metropolitan. The Water Authority and its member agencies have made significant strides and are planning to continue developing a diverse and resilient water portfolio. This section is a concise narrative of the assessment in accordance with CWC Section 10632(a)(1) and describes the key findings of the water supply reliability analysis conducted pursuant to CWC Section 10635, which is presented in **Chapter 7** of the VCMWD's 2025 UWMP (Hoch Consulting, 2025).

1.1.3 The 2026–2030 DRA

The 2025 UWMP includes a DRA as required by CWC Section 10635(b). The DRA provides a quick snapshot of the anticipated surplus or deficit if a drought were to occur in the next five years. The DRA evaluates each water supply's reliability and compares available water supplies and projected demands during a five-consecutive-dry-year scenario. This short-term analysis can help water suppliers foresee undesired risks, such as upcoming shortages, and provide time to evaluate and implement necessary response actions to mitigate shortages in a manner less impactful to the community and environment. Given that VCMWD receives all its supply from the Water Authority, the analysis summarized below refers to the Water Authority's DRA, located in the Water Authority's 2025 UWMP (San Diego County Water Authority, 2025).

VCMWD does not anticipate any supply shortages within the next five years, as shown in **Chapter 7** of the UWMP. The Water Authority's DRA concluded that the Water Authority has a surplus of supplies in all five years; therefore, actions under their WSCP are not required. It should be noted that any DRA conclusions or amendments by the Water Authority to their UWMP or WSCP will impact VCMWD's results.

Metropolitan is also expected to have a surplus of water during a five-year drought condition, as described in their 2025 UWMP and DRA. Metropolitan has in place a robust WSCP and comprehensive shortage response plan that includes demand-reduction measures and supply augmentation actions. Metropolitan's DRA evaluates storage drawdown and supply augmentation options to address potential shortfalls. Metropolitan will periodically revisit its representation of both individual supply sources and of the gross water use estimated for each year and will revise its DRA if needed. At this time, no water service reliability concern is anticipated for VCMWD.

1.1.4 Water Supply Reliability Risks

A range of issues could lead to supply shortages. Although the Water Authority water supplies are reliable, VCMWD is dependent on one water source. Failure of the Water Authority aqueduct system that conveys water to the region could be catastrophic.

To increase water reliability and redundancy throughout the County of San Diego, the Water Authority initiated the North County Emergency Storage Project (NCESP). The NCESP is composed of various projects, including the construction of new reservoirs, pump stations, and aqueduct upgrades to increase local storage and diversify the conveyance of water. Certain hydraulic limitations currently prevent NCESP water from reaching some of the Water Authority's northern turnouts, which includes the VCMWD's VC3 connection and the Y1 connection of the Yuima Municipal Water District (YMWD). The VC3 service area includes the San Gabriel Zone and the Couser Zone,

which covers about 20% of the service area. The NCESP will use VCMWD's existing VC1 connection to convey water to the VC3 service area and YMWD. The NCESP facilities will be completed in 2026.

1.2 Annual Water Supply and Demand Assessment

As established by CWC Section 10632.1, urban water suppliers must conduct annual water supply and demand assessments and submit an Annual Water Shortage Assessment Report to DWR. The Annual Assessment is an evaluation of the short-term outlook for supplies and demands to determine whether the potential for a supply shortage exists and whether there is a need to trigger a WSCP shortage level and response actions in the current fiscal year to maintain supply reliability. VCMWD prepares an annual water supply and demand assessment and submits an annual Water Shortage Assessment Report to the DWR by July 1 of each year. An extension may be allowed because VCMWD receives water from the State Water Project through the Water Authority.

Because of the reliance on the Water Authority's available supply, the annual report's preparation will be subject on the Water Authority's Annual Assessment process, which is discussed in their 2025 WSCP (San Diego County Water Authority, 2025). The Water Authority's Annual Assessment focuses on the demand and supply available to municipal and industrial (M&I) customers and covers the current year and one dry year. The Water Authority Annual Assessment is conducted in steps to determine if a regional customer demand reduction is needed and, if so, to identify the appropriate shortage response level and actions.

An overview of the basic steps that the Water Authority will perform to complete their Annual Assessment is presented below:

1. Evaluate the Water Authority's core water suppliers and member agency M&I demands to determine if there is a shortage.
2. If a shortage is identified, the Water Authority will evaluate the use of stored water reserves from the Water Authority's Carryover Storage (discussed in Section 11.3.2 of their UWMP) reserves or pursue additional supply augmentation measures, such as dry-year transfers, to reduce or eliminate the shortfall. If a shortage does not exist, consistent with the Carryover Storage Policy Guidelines, Water Authority staff will analyze how to most effectively manage storage supplies to avoid potential shortages in the future.
3. If a regional water supply shortfall still exists after consideration of augmented supplies, the Water Authority will calculate a regional shortage level at the customer level to identify the appropriate M&I shortage response actions.

After this evaluation, the Water Authority will inform the VCMWD if a shortage condition exists, and the corresponding percent reduction needed, and/or the water allocations that are established. VCMWD's will be solely based on supply conditions reported from the Water Authority while also reporting and taking into consideration the VCMWD's demand quantities.

For the purpose of the WSCP, agricultural users not participating in the Permanent Special Agricultural Water Rate (PSAWR) are treated the same as M&I users and are subject to the same water rates. Under the PSAWR program, agricultural users are exempt from paying the Water Authority's storage charge and in return will not receive supplies from the Carryover Storage Project during shortages and limited supplies from the ESP (San Diego County Water Authority, 2025).

1.2.1 Key Data Inputs and Evaluation Criteria

Key data inputs and their sources for the Annual Assessments are below.

Evaluation criteria that can be used to determine and declare the severity of supply shortages may include any, or combinations, of the following:

- Current-year unconstrained demand
- Available supply from the Water Authority in the current year and one dry year
- Existing infrastructure capabilities and plausible constraints; this reflects limited production and distribution capacity caused by a variety of factors potentially including, but not limited to, artificial or natural catastrophic events
- State mandates or mandatory compliance with water use efficiency standards
- Other locally applicable evaluation criteria as necessary

1.2.2 Annual Assessment Procedures

VCMWD will perform the Annual Assessment between March and June, based on the Water Authority's Annual Assessment.

The steps to conduct the Annual Assessment are as follows:

1. Compile and analyze historical water demand for trends and/or abnormalities by March.
2. Determine projected normal and dry year demands for upcoming Fiscal Year by March.
3. Confirm that the water demands will be met through available water supply from the Water Authority or identify the shortage stage if needed by April/May.
4. Analyze demand trends, water supply conditions, and available supply from the Water Authority by April/May.
5. Prepare the Annual Assessment Report between March and May.
6. Present findings and recommendations to the Board for adoption in June.
7. Submit the Annual Assessment to DWR by July 1.

The Annual Assessment Report is due to DWR by July 1 of every year.

1.3 Six Standard Water Shortage Levels

This section is in accordance with CWC Section 10632(a)(2) and describes VCMWD's water shortage levels. Water suppliers are required to adopt six standard water shortage levels. The shortage levels indicate the gap in supply compared to normal-year availability. The new six shortage stages correspond to 10%, 20%, 30%, 40%, 50%, and more than %50 shortage compared to the normal reliability condition. DWR standardized the shortage levels to provide a consistent regional and statewide approach to measure water supply shortage conditions. However, a water supplier may maintain its current shortage levels if a crosswalk relating its existing shortage levels to the six standard levels is included.

VCMWD's six shortage stages align with the Water Authority's shortage stages. The Water Authority will notify VCMWD when there is a reasonable probability of a supply shortage and consumer demand reduction is required to ensure sufficient supplies will be available to meet anticipated demands. VCMWD will independently adopt retail-level actions to manage potential water supply shortages. **Table 1** shows the Regional Water Shortage

Stages as prepared by the Water Authority. The restrictions become more stringent at each successive level to obtain necessary savings and delay economic impact until higher levels are reached.

Table 1. Water Shortage Contingency Plan Levels (Required DWR Table 8-1)

SHORTAGE LEVEL	PERCENT SHORTAGE RANGE	WATER SUPPLY CONDITION
Normal Conditions	0	Permanent Water Use Efficiency Measures: Normal supply condition in effect at all times and irrespective of the availability of water supplies or hydrologic conditions
1	<10%	Drought Response Level 1: Water Authority notifies VCMWD of an anticipated or actual supply reduction specific to VCMWD requiring a demand reduction up to 10% in order to balance demands with reduced supplies
2	<20%	Drought Response Level 2: Water Authority notifies VCMWD of an anticipated or actual supply reduction specific to VCMWD requiring a demand reduction greater than 10% up to 20% in order to balance demands with reduced supplies
3	<30%	Drought Response Level 3: Water Authority notifies VCMWD of an anticipated or actual supply reduction specific to VCMWD requiring a demand reduction greater than 20% up to 30% in order to balance demands with reduced supplies
4	<40%	Drought Response Level 4: Water Authority notifies VCMWD of an anticipated or actual supply reduction specific to VCMWD requiring a demand reduction greater than 30% up to 40% in order to balance demands with reduced supplies
5	<50%	Drought Response Level 5: Water Authority notifies VCMWD of an anticipated or actual supply reduction specific to VCMWD requiring a demand reduction greater than 40% up to 50% in order to balance demands with reduced supplies
6	>50%	Drought Response Level 6: Water Authority notifies VCMWD of an anticipated or actual supply reduction specific to VCMWD requiring a demand reduction greater than 50% in order to balance demands with reduced supplies

1.4 Shortage Response Actions

CWC Sections 10632(a)(4) and 10632.5(a) describe the shortage response actions that must be implemented or considered for each shortage level to minimize social and economic impacts on the community. This WSCP identifies response actions for Board consideration. In the event of a water shortage, VCMWD will evaluate the cause and implement one or more actions, as appropriate, to mitigate impacts and reduce the gap between supply and demand. It should be noted that all actions listed in the previous stage applies to the new stage. For example, stage 6 includes actions from stages 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5. Under extreme circumstances, VCMWD may adopt additional actions not listed in the WSCP as necessary. Article 230, Section 230.11 (**Attachment 1**) provides standing authorization for water use restrictions and prohibitions to become effective upon adoption of a water supply shortage stage at any regular or special meetings by the Board.

1.4.1 Demand Reduction

Whether under normal supply or water shortage conditions, VCMWD implements comprehensive voluntary water conservation measures, classified under the “normal-condition” water supply stage category. VCMWD has identified a variety of demand-reduction actions to offset supply shortages. Demand-reduction measures are strategies intended to decrease water demand to close the gap between supply and demand. VCMWD employs a variety of different techniques to encourage community members to be more involved and educated about water conservation. These techniques include actions planned to be taken at the consumer level, including, but not limited to, leak detection and repair, limitations on irrigation, and other voluntary actions to reduce customer demand. A full list of demand-reduction methods preformed at various supply shortage stages can be seen and is discussed in detail below in **Table 2**.

1.4.2 Supply Augmentation

VCMWD’s sole source of water is imported water from the Water Authority. Therefore, VCMWD does not plan to utilize additional supply sources during a water shortage but rather to mitigate supply impacts through demand-reduction actions and/or utilize additional imported water to meet demands.

Table 2. Demand Reduction Actions (Required DWR Table 8-2)

SHORTAGE LEVEL	DEMAND REDUCTION METHODS AND OTHER ACTIONS BY WATER SUPPLIER	HOW MUCH IS THIS GOING TO REDUCE THE SHORTAGE GAP? ¹	ADDITIONAL EXPLANATION OR REFERENCE	PENALTY, CHARGE, OR OTHER ENFORCEMENT ²
1	Landscape - Limit landscape irrigation to specific times	0-5%	Irrigate residential and commercial landscape before 10:00 a.m. and after 4:00 p.m. only. Watering is permitted at any time when a drip/micro-irrigation system/equipment is used. This section shall not apply to Agricultural Water Use.	Yes
1	Landscape - Other landscape restriction or prohibition	0-1%	Use a hand-held hose equipped with a positive shut-off nozzle or bucket to water landscaped areas, including trees and shrubs located on residential and commercial properties that are not irrigated by a landscape irrigation system.	Yes
1	Landscape - Limit landscape irrigation to specific times	0-1%	Irrigate nursery and commercial grower's products before 10:00 a.m. and after 4:00 p.m. only. Watering is permitted at any time with a hand-held hose equipped with a positive shut-off nozzle, a bucket, or when a drip/micro-irrigation system/equipment is used. Irrigation of nursery propagation beds is permitted at any time. Watering of livestock is permitted at any time.	Yes
1	CII - Restaurants may only serve water upon request	0-1%	Serve and refill water in restaurants, bars, and other food service establishments only upon request.	Yes
1	CII - Lodging establishment must offer opt out of linen service	0-1%	Hotels, motels, time shares and resort facilities and other commercial lodging establishments should offer guests the option of not laundering towels and linens daily.	Yes
1	Other - Customers must repair leaks, breaks, and malfunctions in a timely manner	0-1%	Repair all water leaks within five (5) days of notification by the District unless other arrangements are made with the General Manager. This applies to any person using any water provided by the District including the Agricultural Water Use.	Yes
2	Other - Customers must repair leaks, breaks, and malfunctions in a timely manner	0-1%	Repairing all leaks within three (3) days of notification by the District of a suspected or actual leak unless other arrangements are made with the General Manager. This applies to any person using any water provided by the District including Agricultural Water Use.	Yes

SHORTAGE LEVEL	DEMAND REDUCTION METHODS AND OTHER ACTIONS BY WATER SUPPLIER	HOW MUCH IS THIS GOING TO REDUCE THE SHORTAGE GAP?¹	ADDITIONAL EXPLANATION OR REFERENCE	PENALTY, CHARGE, OR OTHER ENFORCEMENT²
2	Other	0-1%	Using recycled or non-potable water for construction purposes when available and economically feasible	No
2	Landscape - Limit landscape irrigation to specific times	0-5%	Limiting residential and commercial landscape irrigation, outside ornamental landscape or turf grass, to three (3) or fewer assigned days per week as specified on a schedule established by the General Manager and posted by the District; provided however, that landscape irrigation systems using weather efficient devices, including but not limited to: weather based controllers, using a drip/micro-irrigation system/equipment and stream rotor sprinklers are not subject to the ten minute (10) restriction. This does not apply to Agricultural Water Use.	Yes
2	Landscape - Other landscape restriction or prohibition	0-1%	Water landscaped areas, including trees and shrubs located on residential and commercial properties, and not irrigated by a landscape irrigation system governed by Section 230.6 (b)(3), on the same schedule set forth in Section 230.6 (b)(3) by using a bucket, hand-held hose with positive shut-off nozzle, or low-volume non-spray irrigation.	Yes
2	Water Features - Restrict water use for decorative water features, such as fountains	0-1%	Stop operating ornamental fountains or similar decorative water features unless recycled water is used.	Yes
3	Landscape - Limit landscape irrigation to specific times	0-5%	Limiting residential and commercial landscape irrigation, outside ornamental landscape or turf grass, to before 10:00 a.m. or after 4:00 p.m. only and to no more than ten minutes (10) or fewer per watering station for three (3) or fewer assigned days per week as specified on a schedule established by the General Manager and posted by the District provided however, that landscape irrigation using a drip/micro-irrigation system/equipment is not subject to the ten-minute (10) restriction. This does not apply to Agricultural Water Use.	Yes
3	Landscape - Other landscape restriction or prohibition	0-5%	Watering landscaped areas, including trees and shrubs located on residential and commercial properties, and not irrigated by a landscape irrigation system governed by section 230.7(b)(1), on the same schedule set forth in section 230.7(b)(1) by using a bucket, or hand-held hose with a positive shut-off nozzle or low- volume non-spray irrigation.	Yes

SHORTAGE LEVEL	DEMAND REDUCTION METHODS AND OTHER ACTIONS BY WATER SUPPLIER	HOW MUCH IS THIS GOING TO REDUCE THE SHORTAGE GAP? ¹	ADDITIONAL EXPLANATION OR REFERENCE	PENALTY, CHARGE, OR OTHER ENFORCEMENT ²
3	Other - Prohibit vehicle washing except at facilities using recycled or recirculating water	0-1%	Not washing vehicles except at commercial carwashes that re-circulate water, or by high pressure/low volume wash systems.	Yes
3	Other - Customers must repair leaks, breaks, and malfunctions in a timely manner	0-1%	Repairing all leaks within two (2) days of notification by the District unless other arrangements are made with the General Manager. This applies to any person using any water provided by the District including Agricultural Water Use.	Yes
3	Other	0-1%	Using recycled or non-potable water for construction purposes as defined in Section 230.2 (a)(1).	Yes
3	Other	Varies	Unless the water supply shortage is associated with an Immediate Emergency as determined by the General Manager, upon declaration of Level 3, all non PSAWR meters without pre-existing allocations shall be provided an allocation of 10 Hundred Cubic Feet (HCF) per equivalent ¾ inch meter, per month for months in the base period for which there is no usage history or a usage history of less than 10 HCF. Such allocation shall be subject to future reductions as determined necessary by the Board of Directors as well as the appeal process provided for in Section 230.14 of Article 230. Water allocations for meters in the PSAWR program shall be based upon water supply reduction plans adopted by the Board for those specific programs.	Yes

SHORTAGE LEVEL	DEMAND REDUCTION METHODS AND OTHER ACTIONS BY WATER SUPPLIER	HOW MUCH IS THIS GOING TO REDUCE THE SHORTAGE GAP? ¹	ADDITIONAL EXPLANATION OR REFERENCE	PENALTY, CHARGE, OR OTHER ENFORCEMENT ²
3	Moratorium or Net Zero Demand Increase on New Connections	Varies	<p>The following shall apply if the District’s Board of Directors declares a Water Shortage Emergency in the manner and on the grounds provided in California Water Code Section 350, et seq., during a Level 3, unless the water supply shortage is associated with an Immediate Emergency as determined by the General Manager. Only existing and new annexation proposals which can provide to the District additional water resources offsetting the net water demand impact for the specific projects in the annexing area and providing 0.5-acre feet per year of additional supply per unit of development in the annexing area to meet firm Municipal and Industrial demands within the existing District service area will continue to be processed or have applications considered by the District. For the purposes of this subsection, “additional water resources” shall be defined as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water resources originating from outside the current service area of the District; • Water resources resulting from financial support from the annexing lands for local water resource development opportunities within the District determined to be available for annexing territories. Local resource development opportunities available for annexing lands shall be identified after first determining the level of local resource development opportunities which may be required to accommodate development on lands currently within the District boundaries. 	Yes
4	Landscape - Limit landscape irrigation to specific times	0-5%	Limiting residential and commercial landscape irrigation, outside ornamental landscape or turf grass, to before 10:00 a.m. or after 4:00 p.m. only and to no more than ten minutes (10) or fewer per watering station for two (2) or fewer assigned days per week as specified on a schedule established by the General Manager and posted by the District provided however, that landscape irrigation using a drip/micro-irrigation system/equipment is not subject to the ten-minute (10) restriction. This does not apply to Agricultural Water Use.	Yes
4	Landscape - Other landscape restriction or prohibition	0-1%	Watering landscaped areas, including trees and shrubs located on residential and commercial properties, and not irrigated by a landscape irrigation system governed by section 230.8 (b)(1), on the same schedule set forth in section 230.8 (b)(1) by using a bucket, or hand-held hose with a positive shut-off nozzle or low- volume non-spray irrigation.	Yes
4	Water Features - Restrict water use for decorative water features, such as fountains	0-1%	Stop filling or refilling ornamental lakes or ponds, except to the extent needed to sustain aquatic life, provided that such animals are of significant value and have been actively managed within the water feature prior to declaration of a drought response level under Ordinance 2021-07.	Yes

SHORTAGE LEVEL	DEMAND REDUCTION METHODS AND OTHER ACTIONS BY WATER SUPPLIER	HOW MUCH IS THIS GOING TO REDUCE THE SHORTAGE GAP? ¹	ADDITIONAL EXPLANATION OR REFERENCE	PENALTY, CHARGE, OR OTHER ENFORCEMENT ²
4	Moratorium or Net Zero Demand Increase on New Connections	Varies	<p>The following shall apply if the District's Board of Directors declares a Water Shortage Emergency in the manner and on the grounds provided in the California Water Code §350, et seq., during a Level 4, unless the water supply shortage is associated with an Immediate Emergency as determined by the General Manager:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All new development processing, consisting of the issuance of new statements of ability to serve (PFA/PFC letters, Concept Approvals, or Agency Clearance letters) shall be subject to limitations. Only projects with: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Existing meter capacity; or b. Those providing substantial evidence that net water demands for the project will be offset prior to the provision of a new water meter(s) to the satisfaction of the District through: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) the development of local water resources or (2) participation in a local or regional net demand offset program, will continue to be processed. 	Yes

SHORTAGE LEVEL	DEMAND REDUCTION METHODS AND OTHER ACTIONS BY WATER SUPPLIER	HOW MUCH IS THIS GOING TO REDUCE THE SHORTAGE GAP? ¹	ADDITIONAL EXPLANATION OR REFERENCE	PENALTY, CHARGE, OR OTHER ENFORCEMENT ²
5	Landscape - Prohibit all landscape irrigation	5-10%	<p>Stop all landscape irrigation, except crops and landscape products of commercial growers and nurseries. This restriction shall not apply to the following categories of use unless the District has determined that recycled water is available and may be lawfully applied to the use:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintenance of trees and shrubs that are watered on the same schedule set forth in section 203.8(b)(1) by using a bucket, hand-held hose with a positive shut-off nozzle, or low-volume non-spray irrigation; • Maintenance of existing landscaping necessary for fire protection as specified by the Fire Marshal of the local fire protection agency having jurisdiction over the property to be irrigated; • Maintenance of existing landscaping for erosion control; • Maintenance of plant materials identified to be rare or essential to the well-being of rare animals; • Maintenance of landscaping within active public parks and playing fields, day care centers, school grounds, cemeteries, and golf course greens, provided that such irrigation does not exceed two (2) days per week according to the schedule established under section 230.8(b)(1); • Watering of livestock; • Agricultural Water Use; and • Public works projects and actively irrigated environmental mitigation projects. 	Yes
5	Other - Customers must repair leaks, breaks, and malfunctions in a timely manner	0-1%	Repair all water leaks within one (1) day of notification by the District unless other arrangements are made with the General Manager. This applies to any person in the use of any water provided by the District including Agricultural Water Use.	Yes

SHORTAGE LEVEL	DEMAND REDUCTION METHODS AND OTHER ACTIONS BY WATER SUPPLIER	HOW MUCH IS THIS GOING TO REDUCE THE SHORTAGE GAP? ¹	ADDITIONAL EXPLANATION OR REFERENCE	PENALTY, CHARGE, OR OTHER ENFORCEMENT ²
5	Moratorium or Net Zero Demand Increase on New Connections	Varies	<p>The following shall apply if the District’s Board of Directors declares a Water Shortage Emergency in the manner and on the grounds provided in California Water Code section 350 et seq., during a Level 5, unless the water supply shortage is associated with an immediate Emergency as determined by the General Manager:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Any and all development and annexation processing with associated direct water usage shall be terminated and no new temporary or permanent potable water meters shall be provided, and no statement of immediate ability to serve or provide potable water service (such as, will serve letters, certificates or letters of availability) shall be issued, except under the following circumstances: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. A valid, unexpired building permit has been issued for the project; or b. The project is necessary to protect the public’s health, safety, and welfare; or c. The applicant provides substantial evidence of an enforceable commitment that water demands for the project will be offset prior to the provision of a new water meter(s) to the satisfaction of District. 	Yes
6	Landscape - Other landscape restriction or prohibition	0-5%	<p>Stop all landscape irrigation as in Section 230.8 (b)(1) except for the following categories of use:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintenance of existing landscaping necessary for fire protection as specified by the Fire Marshal of the local fire protection agency having jurisdiction over the property to be irrigated; • Maintenance of existing landscaping for erosion control; • Maintenance of plant materials identified to be rare or essential to the well-being of rare animals; • Watering of livestock; and • Public works projects and actively irrigated environmental mitigation projects. 	Yes
<p>Notes:</p> <p>1. Reduction in the shortage gap is estimated and can vary significantly.</p> <p>2. Refer to Section 1.6 for Penalties for Water Wastage.</p>				

1.4.3 Operational Changes

Table 3 shows VCMWD's water supply augmentation actions. Under shortage conditions, operations may be affected by demand-reduction responses. Operational changes to address a short-term water shortage may be implemented based on the severity of the reduction goal. VCMWD will consider their operational procedures at the time of a shortage to identify changes they can take to maximize supply and reduce demand during a water shortage stage.

These potential actions depending on shortage levels could include, but are not limited to:

- Expanding a public information campaign to educate and inform customers of the water shortage emergency and required water savings
- Decreasing line flushing to only on a compliant basis
- Offering water use surveys
- Implementing or modifying the drought rate structure or surcharge or water emergency tiered pricing, pursuant to the requirements of Proposition 218 and in accordance with California Law
- Providing information regarding rebates for plumbing fixtures and landscape irrigation
- Prohibiting any new permits for temporary construction meters
- Monitoring construction meters and fire hydrant meters for efficient water use
- Terminating any and all development and annexation processing with associated direct water usage, providing no new temporary or permanent potable-water meters, and issuing no statement of immediate ability to serve or provide potable-water service (such as will-serve letters, certificates, or letters of availability), except under one of the following circumstances:
 - A valid, unexpired building permit has been issued for the project
 - The project is necessary to protect the public's health, safety, and welfare
 - The applicant provides substantial evidence of an enforceable commitment that water demands for the project will be offset prior to the provision of a new water meter(s) to the satisfaction of the District.
- Reducing overhead in the short term and midterm by deferring noncritical Capital Improvement Program (CIP) and major maintenance expenditures, as well as in the long term by adjusting operational and staffing levels and retail water rate structures to incorporate the reality of lower retail water sales than were previously anticipated.
- Decreasing the level or, if need be, creating even a total interruption in the expenditures for the agency's facility replacement program. Noncritical replacement projects will have little or no impact on the agency or its customers and would only extend the master planned replacement schedule.
- Increasing penalties for repeated violations proportionate to shortage levels.

Table 3. Supply Augmentation and Other Actions (Required DWR Table 8-3)

SHORTAGE LEVEL	DEMAND REDUCTION ACTIONS	HOW MUCH IS THIS GOING TO REDUCE THE SHORTAGE GAP?	ADDITIONAL EXPLANATION OR REFERENCE
1	Other Purchases	0-100%	Purchase additional water from the Water Authority
2	Other Purchases	0-100%	Purchase additional water from the Water Authority
3	Other Purchases	0-100%	Purchase additional water from the Water Authority
4	Other Purchases	0-100%	Purchase additional water from the Water Authority
5	Other Purchases	0-100%	Purchase additional water from the Water Authority
6	Other Purchases	0-100%	Purchase additional water from the Water Authority
In addition, VCMWD may implement operation actions as documented in Chapter 1.4 of this WSCP.			

1.4.4 Additional Mandatory Restrictions

VCMWD has adopted permanent water use efficiency measures that prohibit wasteful water use and are in effect at all times and irrespective of the availability of water supplies or hydrologic conditions.

These practices are:

- Hosing off sidewalks, driveways, and other hardscapes, except when it is necessary to alleviate safety or sanitation hazards
- Watering lawns in a manner that causes runoff, or watering within 48 hours after measurable precipitation
- Using nonrecirculated water to operate ornamental fountains or other decorative water features
- Washing vehicles with hoses not equipped with a shut-off nozzle. Avoid washing during hot conditions when additional water is required because of evaporation
- Irrigating ornamental turf on public street medians

Additional details of these permanent water use restrictions can be found in VCMWD Article 230, Section 230.4, located in **Attachment 1**.

1.4.5 Emergency Response Plan

In addition to responding to drought conditions, VCMWD's WSCP can be used to respond to emergency or catastrophic conditions that impact the availability of the VCMWD's water supplies and/or the ability to deliver water within the service area. Besides drought, water supply may experience a catastrophic interruption as a result of natural disasters, such as an earthquake, wildfire, mudslide, or a regional power outage.

Planning and response measures in the event of an interruption to the water supply include the following:

- In advance of a known threat to the water and distribution system, such as a wildfire, distribution reservoirs will be filled to capacity, and any reservoir out of service will be put back into service.
- Portable generators will be deployed to critical facilities lacking emergency backup power.
- Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) will be used throughout the distribution system to monitor system problems, whether they be minor day-to-day problems or major disruptions.
- District distribution system crews are trained in pipe repair and replacement as a part of their normal duties and will be continually ready to perform such work on an emergency basis as needed.
- In the occurrence of a catastrophic event, District employees will be prepared to mobilize to respond to emergent issues.
- Distribution system repairs will be prioritized to best meet critical needs, including water for firefighting, and health and safety needs.
- A portion of the available potable supply will be reserved for drinking-water purposes in the event of prolonged interruption.
- In the event of distribution system failure, a clear message for timely information dissemination to the public will be developed that includes the nature of the catastrophic event, status of the distribution system, water use prohibitions, allowable water uses, potential need to boil drinking water prior to consumption, and location and availability of emergency drinking water.

In 2026, VCMWD will complete a Risk and Resilience Assessment (RRA) and Emergency Response Plan (ERP) update in accordance with America's Water Infrastructure Act (AWIA) of 2018. The purpose of the RRA and ERP is to meet the AWIA compliance requirements and plan for long-term resilience of VCMWD's infrastructure. The

RRA will assess VCMWD's water system to identify critical assets and processes that may be vulnerable to human and natural hazards and to identify measures that can be taken to reduce risk and enhance resilience from service disruption for the benefit of customers. The RRA identifies and characterizes both infrastructure-specific and system-wide vulnerabilities and threats and quantifies the consequences of disruption. The RRA also identifies various options (and constraints) in addressing and mitigating risk. The RRA, in conjunction with the ERP, charts a course for water system resilience. The RRA also provides various recommendations to increase the reliability of VCMWD's system. Since critical pieces of infrastructure and specific vulnerabilities are detailed in the RRA and ERP, the contents of the document are confidential and for use by VCMWD's staff only. However, VCMWD can confirm that these plans meet the requirements set forth by AWIA and evaluate seismic risks and mitigation actions to VCMWD's infrastructure.

1.4.6 Seismic Risk Assessment and Mitigation Plan

VCMWD last certified with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency that their RRA was compliant with all AWIA requirements on June 30, 2021, and will certify their ERP on December 31, 2021, meeting all federal deadlines. Prior to AWIA certification, the District also performed a Seismic Vulnerability Study. This separate analysis identified seismic hazard information, provided an assessment of the seismic resilience of the water system, and made mitigation recommendations necessary for the development of an ERP. The RRA, ERP, and Seismic Vulnerability Study all contain confidential information related to infrastructure risk and response measures and therefore are used as an internal document only and located at VCMWD. Last, San Diego County's 2023 Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan also addresses risk assessment and mitigation for multiple emergency types that create water supply interruptions; this can be found at: www.sandiegocounty.gov

1.4.7 Shortage Response Action Effectiveness

Measuring reductions in water use is part of regular procedures, whether under normal or water shortage conditions. Water is introduced into the distribution system in response to customer demand and is tracked monthly as an indicator of overall demand. VCMWD's billing system provides standardized reports on monthly-metered sales by bill code, as well as customized reports for specific areas of analysis.

Under water shortage conditions, savings are measured in comparison to what is considered to be a normal-year demand (i.e., current customer base with approximately average rainfall), or in reference to a specific base year, as may be dictated by statewide requirements.

Estimates of the effectiveness of these actions are included in **Table 2**. It is expected that response action effectiveness is also a result of successful communication and outreach efforts. In general, the effectiveness of each reduction action can vary significantly. It is also difficult to assess the effectiveness of each activity separately, as VCMWD implements several activities at once. For the purpose of WSCP implementation, it is assumed that the upper end of the gap reduction is based on the use of multiple demand-reduction actions in a stage. For example, if all shortage level stage 1 actions by VCMWD were implemented, a reduction of 5% or more in the shortage gap is estimated. However, this estimation could be higher based on local conditions and public outreach.

Reductions in the shortage gap for stages 2 to 6 assume that all measures in the previous stage(s) are implemented and those savings are counted toward the total reduction in the shortage gap. For example, in WSCP stage 4, VCMWD may limit irrigation to specific days, and this measure, along with all demand reduction measures in stages 1, 2, and 3, is estimated to reduce the shortage gap by up to 40%.

1.5 Communication Protocols

This section is in accordance with CWC Section 10632(a)(5) and describes the communication protocols and procedures to inform customers, the public, and state and local officials of any current or predicted water shortages. This WSCP includes a staged plan to communicate the declaration of a shortage stage, inform restrictions, and provide updates during a water shortage emergency.

The Water Authority and its 22-member agencies, including VCMWD, conduct communications and outreach about water supplies and water use efficiency as an ongoing activity under normal supply conditions. However, proactive and effective communication between water utilities, the public, government officials, and other key stakeholders becomes even more important if procurement conditions become abnormal and the Water Authority needs to enable the WSCP. **Section 9** of the Water Authority WSCP describes the basic communications plan needed to help the Water Authority successfully convey crucial information during all stages of the WSCP (San Diego County Water Authority, 2025).

VCMWD aims to strongly follow the lead of:

Coordination

During droughts or other times of limited supply that activate the WSCP, the Water Authority will establish more frequent schedules of updates, reports, or discussions at all levels to ensure that Water Authority outreach messages and tactics stay in sync with the changing needs of member agencies and their customers. VCMWD will strive for this same coordination between affected cities and counties surrounding its service area. The schedule and timing of these updates may adjust periodically to reflect evolving water shortage conditions or other factors.

Key Audiences

The Water Authority's Public Affairs staff will coordinate closely with member agencies, including VCMWD, and solicit feedback from stakeholders as needed to ensure that outreach efforts are reaching key audiences.

Communication Objectives

Messaging will be based on the communication objective, including:

- Motivating water users to increase conservation immediately in ways that are consistent with any permanent and/or mandated actions called for at the current level of the WSCP.

- Raising awareness and understanding of drought, regulatory, or other conditions affecting water supplies and the need for increased conservation.
- Lower supply shortage stage having demonstrated the effectiveness and value of conservation actions and water supply reliability investments in minimizing impacts on the region's economy and quality of life.

Flexibility and Adaptability

In general, this communication plan is flexible and adaptable because of the many variables that can impact the effectiveness of this plan, including shortage level, the specific supply or regulatory circumstances driving that activation, budget availability, seasonal conditions, and other factors. Because of these potential variations, this communication plan does not dictate every strategy and tactic or the scale of resources that needs to be applied regionally at each level of the WSCP. Rather, this plan includes recommended strategies and tactics that generally match the needs associated with the escalating levels. This is intended to give the Water Authority's Board and management the flexibility to apply tailored communication approaches that best fit the specific goals of the Water Authority and its member agencies at any given point, as well as the agility to react quickly to any changes in conditions.

This WSCP includes a staged plan to outline and provide guidance for efficient communication of declaration of a shortage stage, inform restrictions, and provide updates during a water shortage emergency, shown in **Table 3**.

Note that not all the mechanisms listed will be performed by VCMWD; some could be performed by the Water Authority as part of their communication protocols.

Table 4. Communication Protocol During Water Shortage Conditions

STAGE	ACTION
1	Coordinate with Water Authority for clear, consistent, and understandable messages
1	Information posted on the VCMWD’s website
1	Social media posts (Facebook, Twitter, and Nextdoor)
1	News conference or other event to announce/explain change in WSCP level or general water conservation tactics
1	Modify school assembly program content to include messages about need for increased voluntary conservation.
1	Information included in utility bill inserts on a regular basis
1	Promotion of rebates and water conservation services.
2	Letters, postcards, and fliers mailed to residents and businesses impacted by water use regulations.
2	Targeted outreach and technical assistance to highest water users in each classification.
3	Engage Board members and provide them with resources to share with constituents.
3	Increased paid advertising – print, online, radio, TV, streaming, social media, etc.
3	Messaging printed directly on utility bills.
3	Press releases to local media (online and print newspapers, TV, radio, etc.).
4	Increased paid advertising – print, online, radio, TV, streaming, social media, movie theatres, buses, etc.
4	Assemble and promote the speaker’s bureau for water shortage presentations for neighborhood groups, gardening clubs, HOAs, churches, senior centers, neighborhood associations, business associations, community groups, property management companies, etc.
5/6	Increased coordination with the local landscaping industry including water shortage information in their newsletters, publications, and facilities: local wholesale and retail nurseries, and irrigation supply stores.
5/6	Signage posted at nurseries and irrigation supply stores.
5/6	Outreach materials and drought notices mailed to the hospitality industry including restaurants and lodging.
Note:	
1. If a water shortage progresses through multiple stages all measures in the previous stage(s) are implemented in addition to current stage actions.	

1.6 Compliance and Enforcement

This section is in accordance with CWC Section 10632(a)(6) and describes the compliance and enforcement provisions. All of the restrictions and prohibitions on end uses are associated with enforcement measures as outlined below. This system is based on the progressive number of violations of the user. In all cases, the first violation is a warning that is not accompanied by a monetary penalty to allow the user to become aware of the prohibition and to allow VCMWD to document that the user is aware of the prohibition. As an alternative, VCMWD may install flow restrictors or discontinue water service at any time. The fines for each violation at varying supply shortage stages are noted below in **Table 4**. Penalties for water wastage are based on VCMWD [\[Ordinance Number\]](#), Article 230 (**Attachment 1**).

Table 5. Penalties for Water Wastage

VIOLATION	PERMANANT	PENALTY PER CURRENT SUPPLY SHORTAGE LEVEL ¹					
		1	2	3	4	5	6
First	Written Warning						
Second		\$25	\$50	\$100	\$200	\$400	
Third		\$50	\$100	\$200	\$400	\$800	
Fourth^{2 &3}		\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	
Fifth^{2,4&5}		\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	
Continuing⁶		\$50	\$100	\$200	\$400	\$800	
Notes:							
1. Penalty amount is placed on water bill							
2. Penalty is in addition to installation of a flow restriction of 5 gallons per minute for 120 hours (5 days) in which the customer will be charged for the installation and removal of the flow restrictor							
3. Penalty in addition to flow restriction imposed and sustained to 5 gallons per minute until disposition of complaint, and the customer will be charged for the installation and removal of the flow restrictor.							
4. Complaint filed with the County of San Diego District Attorney's office.							
Per day penalty							

1.7 Legal Authorities

VCMWD has the legal authority to implement and enforce its WSCP. California Constitution Article X, Section 2 and CWC Section 100 provide that water must be put to beneficial use; waste, unreasonable use, or unreasonable method of use of water shall be prevented; and the conservation of water is to be exercised with a view to the reasonable and beneficial use thereof in the interest of the people and the public welfare. In addition, CWC Section 375 provides the VCMWD with the statutory authority to adopt and enforce water conservation restrictions, and CWC Sections 350 et seq. authorize VCMWD to declare a water shortage emergency and impose water conservation measures when it is determined that the VCMWD may not be able to satisfy ordinary demands without depleting supplies to an insufficient level.

If necessary, the VCMWD shall declare a water shortage emergency in accordance with CWC Chapter 3 (commencing with Section 350) of Division 1. Once having declared a water shortage, the VCMWD is provided with broad powers to implement and enforce regulations and restrictions for managing a water shortage. For example, CWC section 375(a) provides the following:

“Notwithstanding any other provision of the law, any public entity which supplies water at retail or wholesale for the benefit of persons within the service area or area of jurisdiction of the public entity may, by ordinance or resolution adopted by a majority of the members of the governing body after holding a public hearing upon notice and making appropriate findings of necessity for the adoption of a water conservation program, adopt and enforce a water conservation program to reduce the quantity of water used by those persons for the purpose of conserving the water supplies of the public entity.”

Water Code Section 375(a). CWC Section 375(b) grants the District with the authority to set prices to encourage water conservation.

Under California law, including CWC Chapter 3.3 and Chapter 3.5 of Division 1, Parts 2.55 and 2.6 of Division 6, Division 13, and Article X, Section 2 of the California Constitution, VCMWD is authorized to implement the water shortage actions outlined in this WSCP and in VCMWD’s Article 230, *Water Use Efficiency and Drought Response Program*. In water shortage cases, shortage response actions to be implemented will be at the discretion of VCMWD and will be based on an assessment of the supply shortage, customer response, and need for demand reductions as outlined in this WSCP and VCMWD’s Article 230, *Water Use Efficiency and Drought Response Program*.

It is noted that upon proclamation by the Governor of a state of emergency under the California Emergency Services Act (Chapter 7 [commencing with Section 8550] of Division 1 of Title 2 of the Government Code) based on drought conditions, the State will defer to the implementation of locally adopted WSCPs to the extent it is practicable.

VCMWD has the legal authority to declare a water shortage and implement the actions outlined in this WSCP to restrict water use and prohibit water waste for all uses that are not necessary to sustain public health, sanitation, and fire protection under (**Attachment 1**). Article 230 was updated in conjunction with this WSCP to update to the six standard shortage levels to better align with the Water Authority WSCP. A complete copy of Article 230, *Water Use Efficiency and Drought Response Program*, adopted [Adoption Date], is posted on VCMWD’s website at www.vcmwd.org, located under “Our District,” “Documents,” and “Administrative Code.” A complete copy of Article 230 can also be obtained by calling the District directly at 760-735-4500. The implementation of [**Ordinance Number**], is in place and ongoing at all times.

VCMWD will coordinate with any city or county, including the following listed, within which it provides water supply services for the possible proclamation of a local emergency under California Government Code, California Emergency Services Act (Article 2, Section 8558):

- San Diego County
- City of Escondido
- San Diego County Water Authority

1.8 Financial Consequences of the WSCP

In accordance with CWC Section 10632(a)(6), this section describes the financial consequences of implementing the WSCP and potential mitigation strategies. The following is a discussion of the impacts of the various measures employed in the VCMWD’s WSCP on revenues and expenditures of the District.

In general, revenue impacts specified in the WSCP would be offset with a combination of the following:

- An increase in water commodity and service charges;
- A reduction in annual operating expenses;
- Reserves currently earmarked for long-range capital; and/or

- General tax fund revenues currently earmarked for future capital improvements.

It is anticipated that of the above-listed items, the diverting of general tax and water availability/standby revenues would be the least disruptive. The methods used to mitigate revenue/expenditure impacts are discussed below.

1.8.1 Drought Rate Structures and Surcharges

Prior to implementing drought rates, staff would analyze rate structure options to offset potential losses in revenue associated with reduced sales. To be effective, the rate structure must address the impact on water sales revenues.

Impact of Quantity of Water Sales on Revenue

Approximately 67% of the revenue collected by the District is utilized to purchase water from the Water Authority and for power for pumping from San Diego Gas & Electric. Consequently, a reduction in water deliveries should cause a direct and proportionate reduction in those expenses. A significant portion of revenue needed to fund local operation costs comes from noncommodity-based sources, such as taxes, monthly meter installation charges, investment, and other water operating revenues. Consequently, the associated reduction in commodity-based revenues generated to cover local O&M costs would be offset by a combination of budget reductions; expense deferrals, including some noncritical CIP projects; draws on operating reserves; and rate adjustments. [Update with current FY financial data prior to adoption.]

[Update with current fiscal year water sales revenue, volume sold, rate history, meter service charges, and active meter count prior to adoption.]

Impact on Customer Bill

Initially, the only impact on the customer's bill would come if the customer exceeded the allowed usage levels and incurred a violation. If the shortage extended beyond one to two full years, and all reasonable short-term spending adjustments had been exhausted and prudent draws on reserves had been made, rates would then have to be adjusted by the percentage necessary to offset short-term revenue deficits.

Impacts on Water Supplier of Higher Rates and Penalties

Given the very high percentage of costs being associated with variable wholesale water costs and power costs, the fact that nearly 57% of the revenue needed to supply local needs comes from noncommodity-based sources, and the ability of the agency to defer various CIP expenditures if need be, the short-term (1 to 2 years) impact on the agency would be very manageable. If the water supply reduction were to become a long-term condition (beyond 3 years), adjustments would be made in the operational and staffing levels as well as in the rate structure.

District Staff Time Required for Cost Recovery Reviews

In the short term, cost recovery would not be a significant issue, as budget adjustments and draws on reserves established specifically for such purposes would cover the short-term revenue reductions. If the conditions were long-term, more permanent adjustments in operational and staffing levels as well as the rate structure would have to be reviewed and evaluated.

Impact of Quantity of Water Sales on Expenditures

To be effective, the rate structure must address the impact of water sales on expenditures. Given the mix of costs associated with wholesale water and power purchases and fixed versus variable revenues for local costs, the actual short-term impact associated with the loss of sales is minimal. A significant portion of commodity-based water and power revenue is directed to cover wholesale purchase costs, so a reduction in total commodity-based revenues is not a dollar-for-dollar reduction in revenues needed for local, nonvariable expenses. Short-term impacts could be offset with budget adjustments, moderate

CIP deferrals, and draws on existing reserves, with rate adjustments implemented as needed to offset any revenue losses. [Update with current FY expenditure data prior to adoption.]

Impact of Increased Staff/Salaries/Overtime

Existing staff would be reassigned to perform the functions required to implement and enforce mandatory use provisions and rate features needed to reduce consumption.

Increased Costs of New Supplies, Transfers, or Exchanges

New supplies would be secured by wholesale suppliers, and the cost would be melded into the overall wholesale cost. It is anticipated that the wholesale costs could be increased by as much 25%

overall to secure additional supplies, which would be passed through to agency retail customers.

Changing the Rate Structure

Given the mix of wholesale and power costs and commodity- and noncommodity-based revenues for local nonvariable costs, the changes in rates to offset significant reductions in available water supplies would be minimal. Given the mix of wholesale water and power expenditures, noncommodity revenues needed to cover local fixed costs, the availability of reserves, and the flexibility to adjust CIP expenditures, the following impact would be anticipated: short-term (one- to two-year) impacts would be nonexistent to negligible, midterm (three-year) impacts would be moderate, and long-term impacts (beyond three years) would be moderate and incremental.

1.8.2 Cost of Compliance

To ensure that VCMWD customers comply with [\[Ordinance Number\]](#), and CWC Chapter 3.3 (Excessive Residential Water Use During Drought), VCMWD anticipates reduced revenue while implementing the WSCP because of decreased water use by its customers and additional costs associated with implementing water use restrictions and associated reduction actions. The incurred cost may vary depending on the shortage stage and duration of the water shortage emergency. The cost of compliance may be tracked when a shortage is declared. VCMWD may track the staff time and resources used to implement the WSCP, including reduced revenue, implementation and enforcement of shortage response actions, and communication and outreach efforts.

1.8.3 Use of Financial Reserves

There are operating and CIP reserves that are established, funded, and available for use as intended. In the short term, the use of these reserves would have no impact on the rate payers or the agency. In the long term, rates would be raised to replenish the reserves.

1.9 Monitoring and Reporting

This section is in accordance with CWC Section 10632(a)(9) and describes the reporting requirements and monitoring procedures used to implement the WSCP and track and evaluate the response action effectiveness. As described in Section 8.2, VCMWD intends to track its supplies and project demands on an annual basis, and if the supply conditions described in **Table 1** are projected, VCMWD will enact their WSCP. Monitoring demands is essential to ensure that the WSCP response actions are adequately meeting reductions and decreasing the supply/demand gap. This will help analyze the effectiveness of the WSCP or identify the need to activate additional response actions.

The water savings from implementation of the WSCP will be determined based on monthly production reports which will be compared to the supply from previous months, the same period of the previous year, and/or the allocation. At first, the cumulative consumption for the various sectors (e.g., residential and commercial) will be

evaluated for reaching the target demand-reduction level. Then, if needed, individual accounts will be monitored. Weather and other possible influences may be accounted for in the evaluation.

VCMWD is also required to submit the Urban Water Supplier Monthly Water Conservation Report, pursuant to the State Water Resources Control Board's monthly reporting requirements. In general, VCMWD reports the WSCP shortage stage, the total potable-water production, prior-year same-month production, demand for several water uses, enforcement actions, compliance issues, and response actions. VCMWD will continue to report this information and will integrate this process into their WSCP Annual Assessment process. In addition, to assist the Water Authority with its reporting, VCMWD will provide monthly total water use data and other information in a timely manner upon request of the General Manager.

1.10 WSCP Refinement Procedures

This section is consistent with CWC Section 10632(a)(10). The WSCP is best prepared and implemented as an adaptive management plan. VCMWD will use the results obtained from the monitoring and reporting program to evaluate any needs for revisions. VCMWD intends to use this WSCP as an adaptive management plan to respond to foreseeable and unforeseeable water shortages. The WSCP is used to provide guidance to the Board, staff, and public by identifying response actions to allow for efficient management of any water shortage with predictability and accountability. To maintain a useful and efficient standard of practice in water shortage conditions, the requirements, criteria, and response actions need to be continually evaluated and improved upon to ensure that its shortage risk tolerance is adequate and that the shortage response actions are effective and up to date based on lessons learned from implementing the WSCP. Potential changes to the WSCP that would warrant an update include, but are not limited to, any changes to shortage-level triggers, changes to the shortage stage structure, and/or changes to the response actions. Any prospective changes to the WSCP would need to be presented at a public hearing, and staff would obtain any comments and adopt the updated WSCP. The steps to formally amend the WSCP are discussed in **Section 1.12**.

Potential refinements will be documented and integrated into the next WSCP update. If new response actions are identified by the staff or public, these could be advertised as voluntary actions until they are formally adopted as mandatory.

1.11 Special Water Feature Distinction

CWC Section 10623(b) requires suppliers analyze and define water features that are artificially supplied with water, including ponds, lakes, waterfalls, and fountains, separately from swimming pools and spas, as defined in subdivision (a) of Section 115921 of the Health and Safety Code. Non-pool or non-spa water features may use or be able to use recycled water, whereas pools and spas must use potable water for health and safety considerations, so limitations to pools and spas may require different considerations from those of non-pool or non-spa water features. Under permanent water supply conditions, recirculated water must be used to operate ornamental fountains or other decorative water features. At level 4 conditions, filling or refilling of ornamental lakes or ponds is prohibited, except to the extent needed to sustain aquatic life, provided that such animals are of significant value and have been actively managed within the water feature prior to declaration of a level 4 condition.

1.12 Plan Adoption, Submittal, and Availability

This section is consistent with CWC Section 10632(a)(c). Because the WSCP is a stand-alone document that can be updated as needed, **Table 5** describes the general steps to adopt and submit an updated or amended WSCP.

This 2025 WSCP was presented for adoption to VCMWD's Board at the **[Board Meeting Date]**, public board meeting. Notifications were sent to the City of Escondido, County of San Diego, Rincon del Diablo Municipal Water District, San Pasqual Band of Mission Indians, Rainbow Municipal Water District, Vallecitos Municipal Water District, Yuima Municipal Water District and the Water Authority. To comply with the notice to the public, VCMWD published notices in the local newspaper two weeks in advance, with five days between publications. Copies of the 60-day notices and public hearing newspaper notices are provided in **Attachment 2**. The WSCP was also made available two weeks in advance of the public hearing.

The WSCP was formally adopted on **[Adoption Date]**, by VCMWD's Board by **[Resolution Number]**, included in **Attachment 3**. The WSCP was made available to all staff, customers, and any affected cities, counties, or other members of the public at the VCMWD office and online within 30 days of the adoption date.

The WSCP was submitted to DWR via the WUEdata portal at the same time as the 2025 UWMP, but no later than July 1, 2026. Hard copies of the 2025 UWMP and 2025 WSCP were submitted to the California State Library within 30 days of adoption. Electronic and/or hard copies were provided to all cities and counties within VCMWD's service area within 30 days of adoption.

Based on DWR's review of the WSCP, VCMWD will make any amendments in its adopted WSCP, as required and directed by DWR. If VCMWD revises its WSCP after the UWMP is approved by the DWR, an electronic copy of the revised WSCP will be submitted to DWR within 30 days of its adoption.

Table 6. Steps to Adopt, Submit and Implement the WSCP

STEP	TASK	DESCRIPTION	TIMEFRAME
1	Notice to cities and counties	<p>Notify cities and counties within the service area that the WSCP is being updated. It is recommended that the notice includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Time and place of public hearing. • Location of the draft Plan, latest revision schedule, and contact information of the Plan preparer. 	<p>At least 60 days before public hearing.</p> <p>* If desired, advance notices can be issued without providing time and place of public hearing.</p>
2	Publish Plan	<p>Publish the draft WSCP in advance of public hearing meeting (http://www.vcmwd.org/)</p>	<p>At least 2 weeks before public hearing.</p>
3	Notice to the public	<p>Publish two notifications of the public hearing in a local newspaper notice at least once a week for two consecutive weeks, with at least 5 days between publications. This notice must include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Time and place of hearing. • Location of the draft WSCP. 	<p>At least 2 weeks before public hearing.</p> <p>* Include a copy of public notices in plan.</p>
4	Public hearing and optional adoption	<p>Host at least one public hearing before adopting the WSCP to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allow for community input. • Consider the economic impacts for complying with the Plan. 	<p>Public hearing date</p> <p>* Adoption can be combined as long as public hearing is on the agenda before adoption</p>
5	Adoption	<p>Before submitting the WSCP to DWR, the WSCP must be formally adopted by the governing body. An adoption resolution must be included, as an attachment or as a web address indicating where the adoption resolution can be found online.</p>	<p>At public hearing or at a later meeting.</p> <p>*The WSCP can be adopted as prepared or as modified after the hearing.</p>
6	Plan submittal	<p>Submit the adopted or amended WSCP via the WUE Data Portal within 30 days of adoption or by July 1, if updated with the UWMP five-year cycle.</p>	<p>Within 30 days of adoption or by July 1st, whichever comes first.</p>
7	Plan availability	<p>Submit a CD or hardcopy of the adopted WSCP to the California State Library within 30 days of adoption. California State Library Government Publications Section Attention: Coordinator, Urban Water Management Plans P.O. Box 942837 Sacramento, CA 94237-0001</p> <p>Provide a copy (hardcopy or electronic) of the adopted WSCP to any cities and counties within the service area.</p> <p>Make the WSCP available to the public by posting the Plan on website or making a hardcopy available for public review during normal business hours.</p>	<p>Within 30 days after adoption</p>
9	Other - Notification to Public Utilities Commission	<p>For water suppliers regulated by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) submit UWMP and WSCP as part of the general rate case filing.</p>	

Resources and References

American Water Works Association. (2019). *Manual of Water Supply Practices, Drought Preparedness and Response*.

San Diego County Water Authority. (2025). *2025 Urban Water Management Plan*.

San Diego County Water Authority. (2025). *2025 Water Shortage Contingency Plan*.

State of California Department of Water Resources. (2026). *Urban Water Management Plan Guidebook 2025*.

Hoch Consulting. (2025). *VCMWD 2025 Urban Water Management Plan*.

Attachment 1: VCMWD Ordinance

[Ordinance 2026-XX] Article 230

Attachment 2: WSCP 60-Day and Public Hearing Notices

Attachment 3: WSCP Adoption Resolution
