



**2025 UWMP  
Water Supply  
Overview  
Workshop**

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency (SCV Water) convened Workshop 3: Water Supply Overview on October 22, 2025 (Workshop 3), as part of the ongoing development of the 2025 Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP). Held in person at the Old Town Newhall Library, this session followed two previous workshops: one focused on Board-visioning to guide the UWMP process and another introducing the UWMP process to the broader community and another meeting introducing the topic to WCV Water’s Water Academy. Building on those conversations, Workshop 3 shifted from broad engagement to a deep dive into one of the UWMP’s core technical topics: water supply planning and reliability.

The workshop’s purpose was to:

- Provide an overview of State of California UWMP requirements related to water supply analysis and reliability planning;
- Introduce the range of supply types that make up SCV Water’s portfolio, including groundwater, imported water, recycled water, water banking, and conservation;
- Explain the benefits, challenges, and trade-offs associated with each supply source; and
- Highlight the planning, investments, and regulatory drivers that have shaped SCV Water’s diversified water supply strategy to date.

The session was co-hosted by SCV Water staff, including Director of Water Resources Ali Elhassan and Senior Water Resources Planner Sarah Fleury, alongside the Woodard & Curran project team, led by Project Manager Melissa Matlock and Engagement Lead Katie Evans. Together, the team walked participants through key elements of the UWMP process, outlined the schedule of upcoming Community Network workshops, and facilitated an interactive exercise designed to simulate how water agencies evaluate and balance different water supply options.

To make the planning concepts tangible, participants took part in a hands-on “Water Supply Portfolio Builder” activity, where each person was given a \$100 “budget” to purchase a mix of beads representing various water sources. Through this exercise, attendees experienced firsthand the trade-offs among cost, reliability, infrastructure, and drought resilience, and discussed how changing conditions such as climate change, regulations, and treatment requirements affect supply availability and cost. The activity was followed by group discussion about which portfolios felt most sustainable for the Santa Clarita Valley and what factors should guide SCV Water’s long-term decisions.

Throughout the workshop, facilitators encouraged open conversation, discussing SCVWA’s experience with PFAS treatment and groundwater recovery, State Water Project allocations, and the role of recycled water and conservation in future planning. Discussion notes were captured in the workshop transcript.

The insights gathered during this session will help shape both the technical evaluation of supply reliability and the public communication approach within the 2025 UWMP. Participants consistently emphasized the importance of maintaining a diversified water portfolio, preparing for climate variability and extended drought, and continuing to invest in local, drought-resilient supplies. Equally, the workshop underscored that the UWMP is not only a regulatory document, it is a strategic roadmap that demonstrates SCV Water’s proactive approach to ensuring safe, reliable, and affordable water for the community’s future.

## 2. WORKSHOP ACTIVITIES

Workshop 3 included a combination of short presentations, group discussion, and a hands-on activity designed to deepen participants' understanding of SCV Water's supply portfolio and the trade-offs involved in long-term planning. The session moved from foundational background information into an interactive simulation that allowed attendees to experience, in simplified form, the choices water managers make when balancing cost, reliability, and resilience.

### Participants:

Participants included interested residents from across the Santa Clarita Valley. A SCV Water Board Director and a former Director also attended to observe and contribute to the dialogue.

### Key activities included:

#### 1. Presentation: Overview of Water Supply Planning

- Introduced the UWMP requirements for analyzing water supply reliability and diversification.
- Reviewed SCV Water's primary supply sources: groundwater, imported water, recycled water, water banking, and conservation; and described how each contributes to the region's overall reliability.
- Provided background on historical investments, regulatory drivers, and new challenges such as PFAS treatment, drought resilience, and infrastructure costs.

#### 2. Framing Discussion Questions

- Two open-ended questions were used to initiate conversation and prepare participants for the activity:
  - *What does a reliable water supply mean to you?*
  - *What happens when supply becomes unreliable?*

#### 3. Interactive Activity: Water Supply Portfolio Builder

The core of the workshop was an interactive exercise that translated planning concepts into a tangible simulation. Each participant received a worksheet representing ten units of community demand and \$100 in play money to purchase "beads," each symbolizing one unit of water supply. The initial supply options and costs were as follows:

**TABLE -1: INITIAL COSTS FOR THE “WATER SUPPLY PORTFOLIO BUILDER” ACTIVITY**

<b>Supply Type</b>	<b>Bead Color</b>	<b>Cost per Unit</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>Imported Water</b>	Dark Blue	\$3	State Water Project supplies; subject to hydrology and regulatory constraints.
<b>Groundwater</b>	Light Blue	\$1	Local supply; limited by basin management and treatment needs.
<b>Recycled Water</b>	Purple	\$8	Drought-resilient; infrastructure-intensive and limited to non-potable uses.
<b>Banking / Stored Water</b>	Orange	\$5	Stored/emergency reserves; used to buffer shortages.
<b>Conservation / Efficiency</b>	Green	\$2	“Virtual” supply via demand reduction.

After portfolios were complete, facilitators introduced a series of real-world “events” to mimic how conditions can change over time:

- Imported Water Cutback (50% Reduction): Participants with imported water had to replace lost units using remaining funds.
- Banked Water Reduced: After several years of drought and use of banked supplies, banked supplies were no longer available.
- Groundwater Constraint: New water-quality regulations reduced available groundwater supplies.
- Price Shifts: Costs increased for (alternative) sources, forcing trade-offs to maintain ten units of demand.

A discussion was held at the end of the activity to understand the final portfolios that the community had developed.

Together, these activities reinforced the workshop’s dual purpose: to help participants experience the real-world trade-offs of water supply planning and to gather community perspectives that will inform both the supply reliability analysis and the long-term investment strategies presented in the 2025 Urban Water Management Plan.

### 3. WORKSHOP ACTIVITY RESULTS

Workshop 3 focused on exploring how SCV Water plans for and maintains a reliable water supply under changing conditions. Through two discussion questions and a hands-on portfolio-building exercise, participants were introduced to the concepts of supply diversification, drought resilience, and the financial and operational trade-offs that water managers face when balancing cost and reliability. These activities served as the centerpiece of the session, allowing participants to share their own experiences with water use, react to real-world constraints such as drought and treatment needs, and see firsthand how different supply decisions influence long-term reliability. The following sections summarize the discussions and activity outcomes as recorded during the workshop.

#### 3.1 Discussion Question 1 – “What does a reliable water supply mean to you?”

Facilitators began by asking participants what “reliable water” means in their daily lives. The conversation opened with examples drawn from participants’ own households.

One homeowner described living in a single-family home with a small backyard and shared that irrigation plays a major role in total water use. They noted that their homeowners association maintains common areas and that they personally irrigate about fifty feet of Acacia along a hillside for brush-fire protection. They explained that irrigation water is “a big part of our water consumption” and that their household has tried to be conscientious about efficiency over the past several years.

That same participant recounted helping their neighborhood participate in a landscape-conversion program by organizing signatures to reduce ornamental turf and qualify for agency rebates, illustrating personal commitment to conservation.

The facilitator acknowledged this effort and summarized that for this participant, reliability also means having enough water for fire protection and landscape maintenance, not only indoor use .

Another participant, a current Board Director, remarked that reliability is the ability to meet local water needs even during drought conditions.

A member of the public then added that reliable water simply means turning on the faucet and having water flow without having to think about it. They also mentioned the importance of maintaining reliability “without impacting in a harmful way our ecosystem,” emphasizing that water should remain dependable while protecting the environment.

#### 3.2 Discussion Question 2 – “What happens when supply becomes unreliable?”

Facilitators asked participants to consider the reverse scenario - what would happen to them and to the wider community if the water supply were no longer reliable.

One participant immediately responded that people would leave the area if water reliability declined, describing it as “cut and dry.” Others nodded in agreement, acknowledging that water is foundational to keeping residents and businesses in the valley.

Another homeowner reflected on how most of their household’s water use goes to irrigation. They described tracking their usage closely and taking part in agency programs such as weather-based irrigation

controllers and water-efficient landscape classes. Even so, they noted that households already operating efficiently would have little flexibility left to cut back during shortages: “For those that are being really efficient, it’s not like we have any wiggle room.”

That participant explained that, in the event of reduced supply, their plants and landscaping would be the first to go, and that day-to-day routines, like showering, would need to change as well.

Facilitators summarized the conversation by observing that the community could experience a ripple effect from unreliable supply: declining landscapes leading to changes in property values, potential out-migration, and strain on the local ecosystem. The group agreed that ensuring a reliable, safe water supply is essential for maintaining both quality of life and community stability.

### **3.3 Water Supply Portfolio Builder**

Facilitators transitioned from the two discussion questions into the main interactive portion of the session, the Water Supply Portfolio Builder. This was introduced as the core activity of the workshop and used to illustrate, in a simplified way, how SCV Water manages its mix of supplies and prepares for future uncertainty.

#### Purpose and Framing

Before the exercise began, staff explained that the goal was to help participants experience how a water agency could build a “portfolio,” or mix of supplies, similar to how an individual balances an investment account. As one facilitator described, “Our water supply portfolio is a mix of different types of water that we use to diversify so that we aren’t out of water entirely in the event that something happens to one of those supplies.” Participants were reminded that diversification protects reliability just as diversification does in financial planning.

#### Overview of Supply Options

SCV Water and Woodard & Curran staff reviewed each supply source and its role in the region:

- Imported Water (Dark Blue – \$3): Delivered through the State Water Project, this supply was described as “very drought sensitive, very impacted by climate” and dependent on aging infrastructure that faces regulatory constraints.
- Groundwater (Light Blue – \$1): Explained as the community’s most critical local source, “If everything else breaks, we have water here in our community.” It provides year-round reliability but is limited by Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) regulations and the need for treatment of emerging contaminants such as PFAS .
- Banked Water (Orange – \$5): Described as a “savings account,” allowing storage of excess water in wet years for use in dry ones. Facilitators noted that during the last drought “40 percent of our supplies were coming from those resources.” However, storage volumes are regulated by agreements that limit how much can be stored and withdrawn each year.
- Recycled Water (Purple – \$8): Identified as “drought-resilient because it’s indoor water use year-round,” but requiring extensive infrastructure, new pipelines, storage, and pumping facilities, to deliver.

- Conservation (Green – \$2): Introduced as the least-cost “virtual supply.” Facilitators emphasized that by reducing demand, conservation strengthens all other supplies. “By reducing demand on all these different sources, it improves our reliability... It’s that virtual reservoir that makes every drop go even further.”

### Instructions and Materials

Each participant received:

- A worksheet showing 10 units of community demand,
- \$100 in play money, and
- A set of colored beads representing each water source at its corresponding cost.

Facilitators reminded attendees that the exercise mirrored real planning trade-offs. Each bead equaled one-tenth of total demand, and the task was to fill all 10 units while staying within budget.

### Round 1 – Building the Initial Portfolio

Participants began selecting beads and discussing choices around their tables. Facilitators circulated, answering questions about how SCV Water uses each supply type. During this round, the group experimented with combinations that balanced cost and reliability, some choosing mostly low-cost groundwater and imported water, others investing in the higher-cost recycled and banked options.

While participants worked, staff narrated what was happening in real time, relating the activity to actual SCV Water operations: “This is exactly what we do, deciding which mix gives us the reliability we need within the resources we have.”

### Round 2 – Simulating Shortages

Mid-activity, facilitators introduced new conditions. A severe statewide drought was announced, reducing imported water deliveries by 50 percent. Participants were told to adjust their portfolios while keeping total demand at 10 units.

Quick recalculations followed as attendees swapped beads and counted remaining money. As imported water portfolios tightened, many shifted toward groundwater to maintain reliability. Questions were asked if groundwater was still a good source to use.

### Round 3 – Expanding Constraints

A second scenario removed banked water as an option because all banked water had been utilized following several multi-dry year events. A third scenario introduced groundwater treatment limits to simulate PFAS-related shutdowns. Facilitators explained that “SCV Water lost half of our wells at one point because we wanted to make sure the water we were serving was safe.” Participants again re-balanced portfolios, some turning to conservation as their only affordable remaining option.

The exercise demonstrated how quickly costs escalate and options narrow as new constraints appear.

### Round 4 – Conservation

As the exercise wrapped up, conversation turned to the balance between conservation and recycled water and how far efficiency alone can go. Conservation was the most affordable bead and often the first choice for participants trying to stay within their \$100 budget. Several participants leaned heavily on the green conservation beads, with some portfolios showing six or more units of conservation, an amount that facilitators noted would be extremely difficult, if not impossible, to achieve in real life.

This prompted discussion about what realistic conservation potential looks like in the Santa Clarita Valley. Participants acknowledged that while residents have made significant progress over the past two decades, there is a practical ceiling to further reductions. Once households, businesses, and landscapes reach high levels of efficiency, additional savings become much smaller and harder to sustain. Facilitators explained that this is why conservation is treated as a “virtual reservoir,” a flexible tool that helps extend other supplies but cannot replace them entirely.

In contrast, recycled water was recognized as a drought-proof source but carried a much higher price tag. Participants observed that investing in recycled water infrastructure would require long-term financial commitment and that, just as in the game, higher-cost sources could only be developed if the community was willing to raise rates or secure new funding.

One facilitator summarized the trade-off clearly: “If you run out of money in this game, your only option left is to raise rates—because that’s what pays for reliability.” The group acknowledged the realism of that statement, recognizing that maintaining a reliable, diversified supply portfolio depends on both conservation by customers and the financial capacity to invest in projects that secure the valley’s future water reliability.

This moment underscored the core lesson of the exercise: achieving reliability requires both behavioral efficiency from customers and financial capacity to build and operate resilient supplies such as recycled water, storage, and treatment.

### Closing Reflection

At the end of the activity, facilitators compared the groups’ final portfolios to SCV Water’s real supply mix. They noted that participants’ instinctive diversification mirrored the agency’s actual strategy, maintaining a blend of local, imported, stored, and recycled water sources.

The facilitator concluded the segment by connecting the simulation directly to the Urban Water Management Plan:

“Hopefully what you saw is that the game we played is what SCV actually experienced. When something happens with water or groundwater, prices go up and you have to act early. If you don’t invest in a diversified portfolio now, you’ll end up paying more later.”

Participants acknowledged the realism of the exercise, with one staff member joking that early investment in all supplies can “outsmart the game,” highlighting how proactive planning can shift outcomes.

Together, this activity illustrated the complexity of balancing cost, reliability, and sustainability. It provided the data-driven foundation for the UWMP’s forthcoming Water Supply Reliability Analysis, ensuring that community understanding of these trade-offs will inform how the plan evaluates future supply scenarios and investment priorities.

## 4. FINDINGS AND KEY THEMES

Workshop 3 provided one of the most instructive conversations of the entire Community Network series. Through the discussion questions and the portfolio-building activity, participants developed a clear, shared understanding of what reliability means for the Santa Clarita Valley and the complex decisions SCV Water faces in balancing cost, infrastructure, and sustainability. The key findings and themes that emerged from the workshop are summarized below.

### 4.1 Reliability Means More Than Water at the Tap

Participants consistently defined reliability as more than simply having water available. For many, it also meant water quality, infrastructure investment, fire protection, and community stability. Participants associated reliability with planning ahead and protecting supplies against unforeseen events.

This understanding aligns with SCV Water's approach in the UWMP, which treats reliability as a combination of adequate supply, operational readiness, and financial preparedness. Participants' responses reinforced that residents value proactive planning and trust the agency to look decades ahead rather than respond reactively to shortages.

### 4.2 Unreliable Supply Impacts Quality of Life and Local Economy

When asked to consider what happens when reliability is lost, participants focused on visible and social consequences: declining landscapes, changing property values, business impacts, and reduced public confidence.

One of the members of the public, Beth said "People would leave. It's cut and dry."

They connected reduced reliability to neighborhood aesthetics, fire safety, and broader economic health, noting that unreliable supply can trigger ripple effects throughout the community. These perspectives highlight how public expectations and local livability depend on maintaining not only water availability but also stable and predictable service conditions, a consideration directly linked to the UWMP's long-term drought risk and supply reliability assessments.

### 4.3 Diversification Is the Foundation of Reliability

The portfolio-building activity vividly demonstrated that participants understood the value of diversification. After working through scenarios that reduced imported water and limited groundwater, every group concluded that no single supply could meet community needs. Participants recognized that combining multiple supplies, groundwater, imported, recycled, banked, and conservation, was essential to maintain flexibility during droughts or regulatory restrictions.

Facilitators connected this insight to SCV Water's existing portfolio approach, which intentionally maintains a blend of local and imported sources to spread risk and adapt to evolving conditions. Participants' reactions validated this strategy and showed clear support for investments that preserve balance across supply types.

#### **4.4 Conservation Has Limits**

The game helped participants see both the importance and the limitations of conservation. Because conservation beads were inexpensive, many players initially relied heavily on them, some building portfolios with six or more units of conservation. Facilitators used this moment to explain that while efficiency is critical, savings beyond a certain point are no longer realistic.

Participants discussed how households and businesses have already achieved major reductions through landscape conversions, smart irrigation controllers, and behavioral changes. Achieving additional conservation at that scale would require technological innovation or new statewide mandates, both of which have financial implications. It was also discussed that extreme levels of conservation could be political - that we had reached a place where people would no longer voluntarily conserve - we'd have to force them and they would not like that. With a large amount of increased indoor conservation, there could also be impacts to availability of recycled water.

This realization tied directly to the UWMP's role in quantifying "conservation potential." The discussion underscored that while conservation remains a foundational strategy, it cannot serve as the only long-term reliability measure. It must work in concert with infrastructure-based supplies such as recycled water and groundwater treatment improvements.

#### **4.5 Recycled Water Is Reliable but Expensive**

Participants expressed strong interest in recycled water's drought-proof characteristics but immediately recognized the cost barrier. In the exercise, the purple beads were the most expensive to purchase, and participants quickly used up their \$100 budgets when adding them to their portfolios.

This prompted reflection on the true cost of reliability, that maintaining a dependable water supply often requires upfront investment in treatment facilities, pipelines, and pumping systems. The discussion made clear that the public supports recycled water expansion when it is explained as a necessary long-term investment that complements conservation and groundwater management.

#### **4.6 Reliability Requires Financial Capacity**

As participants' budgets ran out during the final rounds of the exercise, facilitators pointed out that the only way to maintain or improve reliability under real-world conditions would be through increased funding or rate adjustments.

As a facilitator mentioned, "If you run out of money in this game, your only option left is to raise rates, because that's what pays for reliability."

This statement resonated with the group and linked the exercise to a central reality of the UWMP: ensuring reliability is as much about financial sustainability as physical water availability. Participants acknowledged that investments in treatment, storage, and recycled water infrastructure depend on ratepayer support and careful financial planning.

The exercise therefore served as a microcosm of SCV Water's budgeting and capital investment process, helping attendees understand why early investment is less costly than delayed response to crises, a principle reflected in the UWMP's supply planning horizon through 2050.

## 4.7 Implications for the 2025 Urban Water Management Plan

The workshop results have direct relevance for several UWMP elements:

<b>UWMP Component</b>	<b>Community Input from Workshop 3</b>
Water Supply Reliability Analysis	Reinforced the need for a diverse mix of local, imported, and recycled supplies to mitigate risk.
Demand Management and Conservation Planning	Highlighted public understanding of conservation limits and the importance of realistic efficiency targets.
Financial and Implementation Planning	Connected reliability to financial capacity and community support for long-term investment.
Public Engagement and Communication	Demonstrated that explaining trade-offs through visual and hands-on exercises builds understanding and trust.

Together, these findings confirm that the community's values align with SCV Water's planning approach: a diversified, proactive, and financially responsible path to long-term reliability. The insights gained from this workshop will inform the technical analyses, communication strategies, and investment priorities presented in the 2025 Urban Water Management Plan.

## 5. INCORPORATING WORKSHOP RESULTS

The outcomes from Workshop 3 will be directly incorporated into multiple required elements of the 2025 UWMP to ensure that the plan’s analyses and explanations reflect both the technical realities of SCV Water’s supply system and the community’s understanding of reliability, cost, and conservation.

In the Water Supply Characterization, SCV Water will integrate the workshop’s emphasis on maintaining a diversified portfolio of groundwater, imported water, recycled water, banking, and conservation. The chapter will include updated discussion describing how each supply type contributes differently to overall reliability, cost, and flexibility under variable hydrologic and regulatory conditions. Participant observations from the portfolio exercise, particularly that no single source could sustain the community through all scenarios, will be reflected in the plan’s narrative and supported by updated figures illustrating the value of diversification.

Input from the workshop will also strengthen the Water Supply Reliability Assessment. The UWMP will incorporate participants’ recognition that reliability extends beyond water quantity to include quality, preparedness, and resilience. The portfolio activity demonstrated public understanding of how supply limitations cascade through the system, such as imported water cutbacks driving increased reliance on groundwater and recycled water, and this understanding will inform how SCV Water describes its modeling results for normal, single-dry, and multiple-dry years. The plan will include explanatory text linking the community exercise to the concepts of drought risk assessment and multi-source reliability.

The Demand Management Measures section will incorporate participant feedback on the balance between conservation and new supply development. During the activity, many participants selected six or more conservation beads, leading to discussion that such levels of savings would be extremely difficult to achieve in reality. The UWMP will use this input to clarify the achievable range of long-term conservation in the Santa Clarita Valley and to explain why continued investment in conservation programs must be paired with physical supplies such as recycled water and groundwater treatment. The section will also reinforce conservation’s role as a “virtual reservoir” that extends existing supplies but cannot fully replace them.

Finally, the Plan Preparation and Public Involvement chapter will document this workshop as a key milestone in the UWMP engagement process. The plan will describe how the community’s participation in the Water Supply Portfolio Builder exercise informed the framing of supply reliability and demand management throughout the document. References to the workshop will be included in both the narrative and appendices to demonstrate how public input directly shaped the plan’s technical content and communication approach.

By incorporating these results, the 2025 UWMP will reflect what participants learned and expressed during the Water Supply Overview Workshop, that achieving long-term reliability requires balance: conserving where possible, investing where necessary, and maintaining a diverse mix of supplies to meet the community’s needs under any future condition.

## 6. TRANSCRIPT – 2025 UWMP WATER SUPPLY OVERVIEW WORKSHOP (OCTOBER 22, 2025)

This transcript was generated from the October 22, 2025, SCV Water “Water Supply Overview Workshop”. While it has been reviewed and cleaned for readability, it may still contain minor errors or omissions due to the transcription process.

For full accuracy and context, please refer to the official audio recording available here: **STILL NEED**

We're excited to start our second Community Network workshop for the 2025 Urban Water Management Plan.

We only have, like, an hour, so we want to respect your time. So we're going to do quick introductions. Talk about what's going on with our update. Talk about reliability a little bit. Do a water supply portfolio activity, and then we'll do closing and next steps. So welcome and introductions. My name is Sarah Fluery. I'm a senior water resource planner, and I am the project manager for the urban water management plan update. We also have Ali Elhassan here, who is our Director of Water Resources. We have Keith Abercrombie, Chief Operating Officer. There you go. And then we have Director Armitage here from our board of directors, and previous director, Beth Bronstein and Ken, whose our member of the public, and Beth is a member of the public as well. On top of that, we have our awesome team of consultants from Woodard and Curran, Katie Evans and Melissa Matlock, who are going to be helping me out today. So I'm going to pass it over to Melissa.

So Sarah introduced ourselves. But I am Melissa Matlock. I am the project manager from Woodard and Curran to help make sure that we've got a great experience here in terms of doing our urban water management plan, and it's meeting all the requirements from the state. So we figured we'll do kind of there was a quick introduction, but generally, we want to know, why are you interested in urban water management planning, so we can start around the room. You want to start?

50 Years, I've watched the community growth. I think the population was 1200 people in Valencia, and I've always taken an interest in the development of the city, and certainly waters being part of that. I also did some work in geology, but part of that, part of my studies what is water hydrology? Okay, so just for the recording, to make sure that it's caught. Just going to reiterate a little bit you have very long history here with your family, and you're just really interested in how it's going to develop, and you've seen where it's gone so far. And you want to look towards the future. That's why you're interested in urban planning. Yeah, perfect. Another 50 years. Love it.

I'm interested in urban water management planning because I think it's such a key and foundational part and process for our community, just in general, and this document that's been come out of this process I consider one of the most important pieces of information for people to refer to, and all things related to water in their community. So it's um, it's so comprehensive, and there's so much information in there that I could read it 10 times and still learning something new each and every time.

I'm Beth, and since I was part of it last time I came around, I was curious to see how it developed and where it's going to next. And as director Armitage said, this is one of the most important documents that the agency, I think, puts out there. So curious.

I think urban water management plan is a cornerstone tool for the agency, and it allows me and the rest of the staff with this water to actually meet the demands and plan for the demands that we have to meet as the community grows over time. That's my job. So perfect.

All right, so we'll get into a little bit about the urban water management plan, specifically around kind of the supply planning aspect of it here. So just generally, what you see on the screen is our timeline of where we are today and kind of where we see ourselves going. In July we did a workshop with the board. It was a board visioning workshop about how important this document is to them and what they want to see. Then on September 11, we did a virtual kind of what is an urban plan, and how do we engage with our community. This is technically our third workshop. This is in person, all about reliability. We have one more in person. That's January 15, and then our virtual April 1. Now the plan has to be adopted by July 1, 2026 it's a requirement from the Department of Water Resources, and there are certain kind of noticing and requirements that are involved in this. So we're going to do two rounds of review for the urban plan, making sure that, again, we are capturing the public's view and they can see our revisions and time to be able to go for a board adoption. So we have two public hearings scheduled, working kind of backwards. It's due July 1. We're hoping to get the board to adopt it on June 9, there will be a public hearing. There a first public hearing will be April 28 and between those two periods are going to be a 30 day public review period. So our first public review is March, 28 to April 28 and then we'll have about seven days to make those revisions and incorporate any changes and address those comments. And then we're going to post it again for a second review period, May 8 to June 9. Now, if any comments come in between those periods, we will accept them, but we just want to make sure we're being very transparent here that we have to be able to incorporate the comments, so we are closing the comment period, and anything that comes in after, we'll go to the second comment period to be addressed in the second version of the plan. So just making sure everyone knows ahead of time, just due to be able to address comments when those periods are.

You're also going to get notices. They're going to be published in the newspaper four times two for each public hearing. And then we're also going to reach out to local governments on February 27 with a 60 day notice of when these public hearings are going to be. So we're definitely going to try to make sure we're engaging the community and letting them know when and how to comment on our plan.

So just in terms of our engagement activities, we talked a little bit here, but this is the larger, larger activity since we started the project. You know, we hosted with SCV water and internal community gaps workshop to make sure that we can try to get as many people to attend our sessions as possible and meet them where they are. On September 2, we posted a blog, kind of for builders and at the Valley Industry Association about our kind of different efforts that we've had. We already sent a notice to cities and counties on our planning effort. That was September 9, with a list of all these sessions and how to sign up. And then on October 1, we also presented to SCVs Water Academy.

Then some of the technical work that's underway right now, working on the demand forecasting, understanding water supply reliability, and doing an assessment there, incorporating climate change into how that impacts demand, how climate change impacts all the different supplies, running kind of different some scenarios there, and then doing a seismic assessment. So some of these are currently underway, and we're going to talk a little bit today about water supply reliability. So in the urban plan, there's a specific definition there, and again, all of this is to make sure we meet the requirements of the urban planning require document. So this water supply reliability is a concept that evaluates the ability of water suppliers

to meet current and future demands under varying conditions. So kind of what does that mean? We're looking at a 20 year planning horizon. This is from the water code. We need to make sure that we have adequate supply during normal, single, dry and multi dry years. We want to make sure we're looking at vulnerabilities related to drought, climate change, any regulatory shifts and infrastructure limitations, as well as making sure that our plan looks at water supply contingency and demand management measures to make sure we're mitigating as many risks as possible so we see a really good understanding of the future. It's still a crystal ball, but we're trying to make sure we're doing all the analysis we can putting things together to show reliability for SCV water. The 2025 guidebook has not yet been released, but a lot of these things are going to be very similar. We had to quantify water supply and demands, look at groundwater sustainability, recycled water use, conservation impacts, do some climate change modeling and adaptive management strategies and demonstrate how the plans are going to align with different statewide goals or regulations, like making conservation a California way of life. The reliability assessments that are done. We're looking at source reliability. So all your water sources. We're looking at the the source document, the source climate change, different things about that's being published related to how they're reliable, how we incorporate climate change into those demand projections. They're forecasting future water needs based on population growth, land use conservation, etc. Water Shortage Contingency Planning is outlining actions for different levels of shortage. So there's typically six levels that the state wants you to look at, and each one's supposed to help you, you know, you implement it, it's supposed to help you get to that reduction level. And then scenario modeling, so looking at different portfolios that we put together, which is what we're going to do today, and how that looks under uncertainty. So again, kind of taking your supplies, taking your demands, comparing how they look against different risk triggers. And then what we want to make sure we're doing is integrating with land use and development. So any water supply assessments that were approved, or any future developments that we know might be coming down the way, making sure there's water for that. So in future board decisions, they're able to understand that that assessment has been done and coordinating between any land use authorities and the water suppliers.

I'm going to pass this to Katie for some interaction with you guys.

Thank you. We're going to really dig in on reliability today. That's really the focus of our activity. That's the focus of our meeting. So we're going to start from a very high level here, and I'm just going to go through the room, and I'm going to ask you this question, what does reliable water mean to you, thinking about your day to day, you live here, you work here, you you know maybe have had family here for more than 50 years. What does a reliable water supply mean to you? So we'll start over here again, you're in the hot seat today.

Single Family resident with a tiny backyard and our Homeowners Association maintains our property, certainly, you supplement that with strict irrigation, and we also, because brush fires, we Have 50 foot of trees that we also irrigate on the slopes behind us. So irrigation water is a big part of our water consumption, and I hope that through the years, we've been conscientious about that, to illustrate that when the water companies had incentives of taking landscape out of our association property, the woodlands, I got the number of signatures required so that we can put it to the vote. I proposed a plan of reducing our water consumption, getting those those credits, unfortunately, yeah, till we had the proper number of signatures, but people were not allowed to have that meeting. But, and I only shared that to illustrate my commitment to saving water.

We appreciate your commitment to it. Yeah. The application so great. Wanted to see what's what's going on sustainability. Great, great. Thank you. And again, thank you for your commitment to conservation and

to water use efficiency, but it sounds like for you, having a reliable supply also includes having the water that you need for fire protection and for irrigation of your property or maintenance, maybe even of your property. Yeah, okay, Director, what do you think?

On and your local amount of water, sometimes, if you're out just a little bit, but then you can generally still provide that.

Guess as a member of the public, reliable water means that you turn on your faucet and water comes out, and you don't forget to think about it really. That's what reliability, yeah. And you know, of course, obviously, without impacting in a harmful way, our ecosystem and things like that. But yeah needs to be reliable, yeah, or whatever it is, water needs to come out.

Well, I'm going to take this question just a little bit further, and I I'm going to ask you to be a little negative for a second and think about what would what would happen, not just to you but to your community, in the event that we did not have reliable water. So in the event that supply reliability was impacted in a in a negative way, and we didn't, we were not able to meet the definition that you just gave, what kind of impacts would you expect to see to your community? We'll go in reverse order this time. Do you want to start with us? Yeah. Mm, hmm, yeah, yeah,

That's pretty. I mean, cut and dry, people would leave. I think you're right, yeah, yeah,

The question is, if there wasn't a reliable supply. If we did not have reliable water, how would that impact you and your community?

Most of our water consumption is irrigation. We are always efficient. In the assessment that we get on our bills, and I would say 20% of the time were super efficient, I think, and stuff. So yeah, only when we had a leak in the occasion did have we ever exceeded the the amount and we took advantage of the program a long time ago, using over weather, weather based controller that that you folks provided for US and and the class on on programming? Yeah, I I think that it's frustrating to understand that. It's tough question, because for those that are being really efficient, it's not like we're. Be we have any wiggle room to accommodate. So literally, our plants would be the first thing to go, and it's just the two of us now, so I think we can take less showers.

Yeah, yeah. Thank you. Thanks for sharing that. But yeah, I do think you know the things that we would see impacted first rate would be outdoors, but you make a very good point that people would start to leave, right? Because once landscapes start to suffer. You start to see property values changing and things, I mean, there's all these ripple effects of unreliable supply, right, that we have to be thinking about. And so ecosystem is, is a very important part of maintaining the place that we live. Making sure people have water when they turn on the tap is a very important way to make people, you know, stay here and live here, and so there's a lot of responsibility associated with ensuring a reliable supply. And a reliable supply is not always easy to have, which we will spend the rest of today talking about.

So alright, so just talking through what is a water supply portfolio. That is a term we throw around a lot, especially in urban water management planning, but in all water planning, we say water supply portfolio all the time. What is it? It's a portfolio just like any other, right? So I compare it a lot to an investment portfolio, just the same way that your retirement account might have stocks and bonds and index funds and real estate. Our water supply portfolio is a mix of different types of water that we use to kind of bring together and diversify so that we aren't out of water entirely in the event that something happens to one of those

supplies, exactly the same way you would not take your entire retirement and put it on Apple, in case Apple files for bankruptcy, right? So it's the same thing. We're trying to diversify what we've got so that we have reliability, and we have to create a portfolio that's just right with a bunch of different supplies to make that happen. So some common parts of a water supply portfolio, and these are not all being used here, but these are some that we see around the country, around the state, around the world.

Groundwater - Water that we're pumping up from underground aquifers. Surface water, that's a term that we use to refer to rivers, streams, lakes, things like that. Imported water is a term that we use to talk about water that's coming from another place. So we are importing it to our service area. And there are several ways that can be done. The two big systems that do that in this area are the Colorado River and the state water project. So California tends to import, I should say California municipalities tend to import from state water and Colorado River water. Recycled water, which I think we've talked about a little bit, but that's wastewater that's treated, usually for irrigation or industrial purposes in some in some instances, treated all the way to Drinking water quality. Storm water capture - this is sort of similar to surface water, and that we're collecting storm water, so when it rains, we're finding ways to capture that water and utilize it instead of letting it flow away. And then we consider conservation a part of a portfolio. So I've heard this referred to as the invisible river of conservation. But programs that reduce demand can be part of our supply portfolio because they help us, of course, have more water.

So those are generally some of the things that we we talk about specifically for Santa Clarita Valley, there's really two kind of buckets. Sarah's going to get into more detail about this later, but we have imported water. So there's State Water Project water that we import to this region. And then there are dry year reserves, which is water that is banked here for use. And then for local supply. We have groundwater, which is water being pumped up from the aquifer. And then we have recycled water, so wastewater being treated for additional use.

Now we're going to play a game. Okay, so I think we need, we're going to need the lights on, but it's going to be hard to see this slide. So we're going to give you an activity mat that looks like this, and we are going to give you \$100 Dollars, which should be a lot, and you are going to come by water supplies from us. You have to fill up your 10 buckets here with enough water so, so you have to have 10. We will fill your mat to meet your demand. And you can utilize these supplies to do it. You can use imported water. You can use your reserved water, you can use groundwater, you can use recycled water, or you can implement conservation programs. So take a minute to think about it. If you need a pen to write it down, we've got some pens over here. If you you now have \$100 that's a lot. How would you build a water the water supply portfolio of your dreams? With that, those are the costs. So you must have 10 beads. So we're going to give you beads when you use them, when you come by them from up, and you must have 10, to meet your demand.

You have \$100 so anyway, and you don't want to spend all of it, you just have to meet the demands here. So pretend that you're, you know, here's a water manager. These are your choice for water supply. You've got \$100. So you need at least 10 beads. But you can get 10 imported water. You can get 10 ground water, recycled water conservation. So you can pick whatever, got it, whatever supplies you want. You can see we have actual beads. Give us your money, and we'll put these on.

Now this is like, ideally, well, you have tons of money. What would you do if you're the manager, you're the water management, and you have to meet 10 beads of demand. How are you going to do it? That's your community with all the other things that you have, right?

I'm gonna go ahead and keep moving, because we're gonna, we're gonna have some time here. So I do want to hear how everybody did it. I already know our director over here went two of each. Beth, what did you do? Okay, so nice, a nice, diversified supply there too.

Okay, so water supply characteristics. This is my favorite analogy. My job is to fill Santa Caritas water demand barrel every single year, no matter what circumstances are happening. And I like to use our water supply portfolio, which is the colored buckets to do. So the more colored buckets I have the more availability. I can be flexible, whether it's a drought or whether something breaks, or if there's a seasonal issue, or there's competition from other other agencies. Whatever we need. I need enough buckets to be able to meet the demand, so that Beth can have her faucet on and just not know anything about what's going on, right? So water supply characteristics are, you know, kind of that you have to have a lot of different supplies to utilize this flexibility that you need. So our imported water supply, which comes from the State Water Project, which is the big aqueduct that goes up the five meets about 50% of our demands in an average year. In the early years of Santa Clarita, it was the agricultural area, so it was only groundwater. But as the community was growing they need they knew they needed to bring in other water supply because they couldn't just keep pumping the groundwater to meet demands. That wasn't going to work. So one of the challenges with imported water is that it varies annually. So things like precipitation, how much snow did we get? How much rain did we get? Is there enough pumping capacity? Are there water quality issues? Are there environmental regulations? This varies from year to year. And so on average, we end up with about 51% of our water rights coming from the state water project every year. And then this is a map. I'm sorry it's hard to see, but you can see the variability from year to year. Basically, the top is 100% and the bottom is zero. And you can see from year to year how that the amount of water we get from imported supply changes, and so if you look at it just in compared to Santa Claritas demand, in 2022 we got 5% of our imported water. That's a less than a month of demand for Santa Clarita. But then the following year, we got 100% and that's more than a year and a half of demands for Santa Clarita. So that's a lot of water to manage, or not a lot of water to manage to make up for.

Now, I'm going to pass it to Katie.

Get all your imported water. Water supplies have been cut to 20% for imported water supply. So unless you can reduce what's on your paper by 20% please remove all imported water from your portfolio. Because unless you can reduce it by 20% you can you reduce it by 20% you're gonna have to reduce it by 100% because that's all we're able to do in our demand

The way water supplies are handled are dramatically simplified for this activity. So in addition to now not having the availability of getting imported water supply, other costs have gone up. So now you must fix your water demand. What supplies would you like to buy? So we will come back. You will use your remaining money, and we will try to get you back to 100%

So when having our imported water supply go from 100% and having too much to not enough year to year, we want to make sure we utilize all the water that we can. And so if we can't use it to meet demands that specific year, we want to have a place to put it. And so emergency reserve or banked supplies or banking programs are where we can do that. And so Santa Cruz Valley Water Agency participates in two water banking programs in the Central Valley. So we can take some of our imported State Water Project water deliver it to the banks that water goes into a recharge basin and goes into their aquifer, and then when we need it in a dry year, they can pump it up and send it to us at that time when we need it. So it's critical supply during shortages, it is used to maximize State Water Project supplies. We can store all that wet the

wet year water, recover it in dry years. But there is additional cost to those programs because there's other infrastructure that we have to utilize to be able to use those programs. And this is kind of an example of just very general how we operate from a dry year to a wet year. So in an average wet year, you can see we have quite a bit of imported water in our local supplies, our groundwater, and it's nearly half and half. But in a dry year, when our import supplies drop down to a very small amount, we still have our our local supplies, but we really have to lean on those, dry your groundwater reserves, or dry your reserve to meet demands so that nobody notices what's really happening.

Oh no, we have multiple dry years in a row. So now our reserves are no longer available. We cannot use them at all because we have used them too many years in a row, and we don't have any more water banked in our emergency reserves. So emergency water is now fully unavailable. In addition to that, because there's less water, costs went up, so please remove any emergency reserve water from your portfolio, and you can purchase new supplies.

So part of the reason that the costs are going up is not just that there's supply and demand, but also as more water supplies are utilized or become unavailable, you often are investing in additional infrastructure, and that has additional cost. So that's part of the reason that the water supply is going up. I just wanted to say that to the recording.

Costs for conservation is remaining the same.

So next we're going to talk about our local groundwater. This is probably the most important resource that we have in Santa Clarita. It's actually pretty amazing how much groundwater there is under the ground. And at this picture here, you can kind of see the 5 and the 14 freeway, and the dark area is our deep Saugus aquifer for groundwater, and then the lighter yellow area is our alluvial. The alluvial follows the river, and then the Saugus covers pretty much everything. Our groundwater meets about 50% of our demands, on average, but does require some treatment, and so we have been working really hard to make sure we have the necessary treatment facilities in place for perchlorate PFAs and PFO, which have really hit us hard the last few years. And so that takes time to build things like that, but groundwater is also limited by sustainability. So as I said, as the community grew from an agricultural community to more of a municipal community, they knew they didn't have enough groundwater. We can't just pump all the groundwater that we want. We have to make sure that that is a sustainable source for us to utilize year after year after year. And so that's kind of a gist of our local groundwater.

In the game, unfortunately, a new regulation has passed, and there is contamination in your groundwater, you're going to have to build treatment facilities. And in addition to that, while you're building treatment facilities, because that does, of course, take a lot of time, your groundwater access is now extremely limited. Please remove half of your groundwater from your portfolio, because you're no longer able to meet demands. You can remove two. Yes, yes, you're going to have to remove them, and now, as you may imagine, because at this point, now you have to treat that water. So we have to build new infrastructure, and all of our supplies require infrastructure investment. Everything is much more expensive, so please determine how you would like to now meet your portfolio under these conditions,

Okay, are we all good? We all have 10 we're all well meeting demand. Okay, so just a quick check in how much of your water is now conservation, and do you have enough water to meet real needs, right? Because we can only conserve as much as we can conserve. We can't conserve to zero. We also can't use the rest on recycle water because only 60% of water is used outdoors, 40% is used indoors. So realistically, if you're

more than six beads combined between conservation and recycled, you're probably not meeting indoor demand anymore. Now, we get into a little bit of a maybe political question, because at this point, are people willingly going to conserve at this level? I mean, that's a real question that that we would have to be asking ourselves at this point, would people be willing to cut back their water use at a level of six parts of what they normally do, or would we have to require them to do that? Would we have to create a regulation, an ordinance, something along those lines, to get people to do this and how? Yeah, we would, right? Absolutely. The answer is yes. And they are going to be very, very angry, right? And we've all lived this, right? We've all lived this. We've seen this when we've been in historic droughts, when we've had regulations related to conservation, we've seen this happen, and we get to a point where we can only conserve until, you know, we realistically are unable to meet the demands that people need to live. And we're also making people very, very angry. And we can't just ask them to do this. We can't just offer incentives to do this, we now have to force them to do this. So I don't need you to change your beads based on this slide. I just wanted to point that out. I think, I think it's an important consideration that at this point in our decision making, it's no longer just, do we have the money to invest in this infrastructure. It's now also a question of, is our public willing, and are the people we serve willing, and what do we have to do to make that happen? So it's no longer just do our rates support it, right? It's it's a whole lot more than that. So just to check in on that, but something to keep in mind going forward.

So then we get to another one of our local water supplies, recycled water. This is reclaimed wastewater. It's available year round because it's coming from your indoor water use, which stays pretty, you know, the same every day throughout the year. In Santa Clarita, it is used for irrigation. It meets about less than 1% of our demands. So it's a very, very small amount. It does have high salts, and there's a whole separate distribution system that is required for recycled water. Hence why it only meets 1% of our demands. Because when the valley was growing, we didn't think we needed to use recycled water. So we built an infrastructure for potable water, not knowing that we would need to rely on this other local water supply that we had. Now we do, but it needs a separate distribution system. It is impacted by indoor conservation. So when we're saying that the water that we utilize indoors goes to the wastewater and becomes recycled water. But then as we use less as we use less water indoors, through more efficient fixtures, more efficient toilets or shower heads, things like that, our indoor consumption goes down, which creates less recycled water in the end. So it's kind of a domino effect for that.

Alright, because demands of all of our supplies have increased so much, recycled water has gone up. There's a limited supply. You probably don't need this now, because at this point you should still all have 10 and so I won't be pulling any of your your beads off your boards, but at this point we have a limited supply of recycled water. It can only be used for outdoor irrigation, which gets us back to what I was just talking about with, how much can we conserve, and then we only have the infrastructure to support some distribution. So if we were now to go into the next water year, we would have to build, and it would take years to build. And so at this point, you see, we've got recycled water up here at \$30 a unit. So this is just sort of what happens over time. And I know we're being silly here. We're playing a fun game, and the intent here is to add some humor to the process, but I do think it shows some of the complexities associated with this decision making process, because as we are trying to secure different supplies to make sure we meet demands. We are up against changing circumstances. We're up against climate change. We're up against things like new regulations. We're up against precipitation changing in Northern California, and we have to be able to shift for all of those things. So as we build a supply portfolio, which is something that we'll be doing as part of this urban water management plan, and you'll hear more about in January. These are considerations that we have to have in mind, that you know, we can't conserve forever, and then if we want

to increase a certain supply, we may have to invest a lot of money in doing so. The reason I was asking if anyone was out of money was because I wanted to know if anyone was going to have to raise rates, right? Because we would have gotten to a place where you would have had to. You were almost there. You had \$1 left, right? But we, you know, you would have eventually gotten to a place where you had no choice but to raise rates. So, you know, we can only conserve as much as we can serve. We can only build as fast as we can build. We can only treat as fast as we can treat. And then we've also got rates associated with it as well. So there's a lot to it. I'm going to let Sarah talk through how it's working, specifically for Santa Clarita.

But thank you for humoring me with with that silly game as we went and notice how Keith, Keith broke the rules and invested ahead of time, and can meet demands. He can meet demands all the way into to build out.

So these are just some of the things that we learned in this exercise. You know, some of the key benefits and considerations for all of our different water supply types. So some things about the state water project or imported water, you know that is a regional backbone supply for our community. We cannot survive without the imported supply coming in. We need that not only to help recharge our groundwater systems and make sure that we're not overusing our groundwater, but it helps us in times of drought as well. It allows us to work on exchanges and regional coordination with other agencies. It's it's a critical supply for emergencies to utilize. You know, reserve programs. Some of the considerations with this supply, though, are that it's very drought sensitive. It's very impacted by climate. There is a it's a huge infrastructure that's aging and requires modernization as we move along, which costs a lot of money, and it's subject to new regulatory and environmental constraints. So as we get those constraints, we don't know what's coming in the future. It's subject to all of that. With regards to groundwater, one of our most important supplies, it's controlled locally. It's a year round source. If everything else breaks, we have water here in our community, so it's very critical that we protect this water resource. It is got lower operational costs once it's developed, because it's here, it doesn't have to travel 400 miles from from San Francisco area, but it's regulated by groundwater rights and SGMA limits, so that we can't just pump whatever we want as much as we want, because we want to make sure it's a sustainable resource for us, it does require recharge. So climate impacts that, you know, we go from having more than average rain less than average rain, that that impacts our groundwater resources, and we're learning more about these water quality and emerging contaminant problems. So you've seen a lot of our groundwater wells getting treatment facilities now, which are quite expensive as well banking and conjunctive use water. This gives us the ability to store that surplus water in wet years to use in dry years. That's a huge benefit. It saved us in the last drought quite a bit. I think 40% of our supplies were coming from those resources to meet demands, and so it enhances that drought and emergency reliability. Some of the considerations are that, you know, again, we can store all the water we can per year, but it's regulated by these agreements, so they give us limits. You can store it this much every year, and you could take this much every year. It requires infrastructure from the banking programs, which costs money and coordination with other agencies. So there's, it's, you know, it's competitive. When you want to get your water, you gotta, you gotta work through and kind of manage it through other agencies trying to do the same thing. So it's very beneficial, but there are some considerations with that. And then, with recycled water, it's drought resilient because it's indoor water use year round, right? Reduces that portable demand and wastewater discharge some of the considerations it requires a new distribution system, new storage, new pumping facilities. It is influenced by reduced indoor water wastewater flows from conservation. It's limited to outdoor use in Santa Clarita, and there are additional regulatory limitations for use of this supply..

By reducing demand on all these different sources, it improves our reliability. So we've got a partner in in our community, helping us conserve day to day, reducing waste, but also allowing us to be more reliable during a drought, being that virtual reservoir, and making every one of our drops of water from these different supplies go just even further. So extending the use of that, conservation is a lever that we can pull when we get into those real bad shortages. If there's an emergency, a giant earthquake that imported water supply. There's a plan in the urban water management thing called the water shortage contingency plans, and we can pull that leverage if we need to. And really what that the first thing we go to is irrigation, because our job is to really make sure that we have indoor water use to meet human health and safety needs for our community and irrigation uses 60% of our demand. So that's a really good, easy place to go to get a quick reduction.

Some of the key takeaways we want to explain that a diverse portfolio is really critical to be able to utilize all those different buckets to meet demands every year. It's very helpful to be proactive investor. The benefit of the urban plan is it forces us to look 20 years ahead. We look even further ahead because we want to be prepared. Some of the projects that we have to invest in are 20 years out. It'll take 20 years to build and get through all the environmental issues and and then permitting and things like that. So we really do have to look ahead and hope that we will, we will see the benefits in the future.

Conservation is a friend in times of shortage. And one of the things that we didn't do in this game is that we didn't change the demands. Your demand stayed in 10 boxes the entire time as we went through and that is one other thing that we're we have to do in the urban plan. We have to monitor demands, and demands will change year to year. If it rains a lot here, demands go down pretty good. Since we don't need to irrigate as much it gets really hot, demands come up. So we have to look out 20 years and look at what kind of developments coming. Are we going to have enough water supply to meet demands in those normal years and the dry years and the multiple dry years, and so that's changing all the time.

SCV Water had a really cool evolution of water resources. We have a timeline that we're gonna show you, but basically what it does, it goes through like key points, that key point in time of how the community grew. And so in 1900 you know, agricultural community, we only used the groundwater supplies. They actually decided to participate in the state water project. In 1959 when they were only using groundwater, because they knew that the community was going to grow so much so the the agency signed up to be part of the State Water Project contract in 1963. We did not get our first drop of water from that project, from the imported water supply project till 1980 that was over 20 years later. So they made a huge investment to be part of that project to get water delivered 20 years later. After that point is when they started regulating urban water management planning and requiring agencies to look ahead. From there, our agency purchased Devil's Den, which gave us a little bit more imported water supply. Started seeing some of that perchlorate regulation in 1988. Our first conservation programs started in 2000 so almost 25 years ago is when the community started utilizing conservation, moving from there in 2002 between 2002 and 2010 is when the agency started participating in water banking program.

So this is the timeline, there's two parts, because it's such a long time. So in 2000 then we started investing in water banking programs, because we had all that state water project. Our community is still growing. We needed a place to store that water for times of drought and things like that. And then, as we probably the last 15 years. So from 2010 on, is when things got really fun. Sarah started working for the agency in 2014

that's when all the fun started. So that's when, you know, the state said, Hey, we can't be pumping groundwater the way that we used to. We need to regulate that and make sure, though, Santa Clarita Valley was operating sustainably, some areas in the state were not, and so the groundwater, the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act came about in 2014 that's the same time that the agency developed its first Water Use Efficiency Strategic Plan. The state then started requiring conservation. You remember the SBX 7-7, 20 by 2020 had us conserve 20% by 2020 so that was a regulation that came about. SCV Water was formed in 2018 and in 2019 is when the PFAs regulation started, and they came on very fast. Basically a new new regulations for water quality. We tested our wells and lost half of our wells at that point in time because we wanted to make sure that the water we were serving the community was safe to use. And so we lost a lot of our groundwater wells at that point in time because treatment needed to be added. And so that's what process we're in right now. You can see in 2020 we did have some treatment come online. So that was one of the first wells that came online with treatment continued to expand the recycled water system at that time, and even more regulations for PFAs happen in 2023 we do have in you can see, in 2023 also we're starting to drill some new Saugus wells. So those are the dry year wells that we're looking to utilize. And 2024 those PFOAs MCLS have been finalized. So we have a rule. We're trying to meet that with our water quality, with the treatment, and we're moving forward on that. So some of the big challenges that we're facing that will be addressed in the urban water management plan are climate change, making sure that we comply with SGMA, which is the groundwater regulations, ecosystem pressures, aging infrastructure, water quality, legislation and policy shifts, and then affordability. And affordability is a fun one, because the quote in the top is very true that the time for cheap and easy solutions is gone. So unfortunately, all the supplies are extremely expensive because there's a high demand for water, and our agency has done a really great job at having a very diversified portfolio. And there are some agencies that are not as lucky, but we also need, we have a very growing population, and so we need to keep diversifying that portfolio to make sure that we can meet the needs into the future.

So hopefully what you guys saw, right is kind of what the game we played is what SCV actually experienced, right? Uh oh, something happened with water. Uh oh, groundwater, right? So overall, it's a very lived experience. And what we also see, especially as you know, things do get more pricey, so those increases. If you don't invest early, you don't invest in the diversified portfolio, it's still going to be something you're going to need to do later on, just because of what we're seeing and what we've actually experienced over the many years that SCV has been around. So again, just to bring this back, right, this was our kind of water supply overview, and kind of what is a portfolio and why it's so important, and what SCV has been doing this is kind of like the part one, part two is going to be January 15. So hopefully, again, those that were not able to attend, or those that watch this online, see that they missed out on the fun, and want to come back to this. And then we're going to go through the larger urban plan. What is actually going to be in the plan that we're proposing on our April 1, and that's going to be virtual. Again. There are opportunities to comment. Sarah is actively engaging with key community groups during this time period to host individual meetings, learn about what they want in the plan, get data, give data, etc, that's going to incorporate into our final plan. We're looking at kind of that March 28 being the first drop of that first plan for review. There's going to be a 30 day review period. We're going to take all that go to a public meeting on April 28 hear what the community is saying, incorporate feedback and come back with another public review period. May 8 to June 9, and then June 9, hopefully have our second public hearing and adopt with no kind of substantial changes to that plan, making sure again, that we're meeting our deadline of July 1, 2026 but also creating a plan that is really relevant to the experiences and the concerns that the community is bringing up. And if there's any questions, you can feel free to contact me, Melissa from Woodard and Curran or Sarah from SCV water. And we also have a website where this recording and all our previous recordings are hosted,

and you can contact and get information that's yourSCVwater.com/uwmp. Now we can have questions, but we are thankful for your time today.

Does anyone have a question you want to ask now? We're happy to hang out and chat. Anything else you'd like to cover? Thank you.



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& Curran**

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