

Town of Windsor

# Water Master Plan Update

[www.TownofWindsor.com/MasterPlan](http://www.TownofWindsor.com/MasterPlan)

## Planned Water Demand Requires System Improvements

A reliable water supply is important to the health and well-being of all communities. In June 2009, the Town of Windsor completed a Draft Water Master Plan Update (WMP) to replace the 2000 Water Master Plan that was prepared nearly a decade earlier. The goal of the 2009 WMP Update is to establish a Capital Improvement Program (CIP) for the Town of Windsor to ensure the water distribution system continues to reliably deliver sufficient water for existing and future customers.

*Responsible planning requires the Town to ensure reliable water supplies during periods of peak demand.*

### Windsor's Water Supply Challenge

The 2000 Water Master Plan was based on the timing of growth and buildout as set forth in the 1994 General Plan. Demand estimates in the 2009 WMP Update are more consistent with actual growth patterns (compact development) and acknowledge slower growth and longer buildout than anticipated in the General Plan. Additionally, per capita water use has trended lower since completion of the 2000 WMP, reflecting increased conservation efforts and an expanded recycled water system, and has been incorporated into the WMP update.

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## Projects Under Consideration

Of the 13 CIP projects recommended in the 2000 Water Master Plan (WMP), five have been completed. In general, projects identified in the 2000 WMP that have not been completed, have been carried forward in the WMP Update.

The 2009 Draft WMP Update identifies additional facilities that will be needed to allow the system to deliver water to reliably meet demands. Specifically, the 2009 Draft WMP Update concludes that the following types of facilities will be needed to improve supply, storage and distribution of water:

- Off-river wells (replacement and new)
- New storage tanks
- Pipelines/water mains (new and/or improved)



*Drill rig equipment*

Some locations for new facilities have been preliminarily identified and a Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) will soon be underway to assess the various projects included in the 2009 Draft WMP Update. A PEIR fulfills the requirements of the California

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## How To Stay Informed

We encourage you to stay involved by attending the following public meetings:

### Public Outreach Informational Meeting

August 25, 5:30-7:30 PM

Huerta Gymnasium

9291 Old Redwood Highway, Windsor

### Project Scoping Meeting

September 21, 6:00 PM

Huerta Gymnasium

9291 Old Redwood Highway, Windsor

You are also invited to sign up to receive email project updates by sending an email to [MasterPlanUpdates@DataInstincts.com](mailto:MasterPlanUpdates@DataInstincts.com); please specify that you are interested in the Windsor 2009 Master Plan update.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **Q. What is a Water Master Plan and why do we need one?**

A. A Water Master Plan is a comprehensive planning document that evaluates the current status of the Town's water system and supply, and determines if the system capacity and supply are sufficient to meet demands under a variety of conditions through the Town's planned build-out. If the system is found to be insufficient, the Water Master Plan also provides recommendations for projects and actions to be implemented to meet projected future demands.

### **Q. If a pipeline or new facilities were being considered to be built near my home or business, will I be notified?**

A. Yes, if you or your business is located near potential infrastructure you will be mailed a postcard during the environmental review process. Once a determination is made to proceed with a project you will again be notified. You can also sign up to receive email notifications at [MasterPlanUpdates@DataInstincts.com](mailto:MasterPlanUpdates@DataInstincts.com) if that is more convenient.

### **Q. Will the Sustainable Groundwater Program affect my nearby well?**

A. We do not yet know the specific zone of impacts that may result from implementing the Sustainable Groundwater Program. This information will be developed as the project moves further into design. All impacts will be considered under the State's environmental review process prior to project installation and the public will be provided opportunity to comment on the assessment of any potential impacts as part of that environmental review process.

## Town of Windsor's Water Conservation Program

The Town of Windsor is dedicated to an informative and aggressive water conservation program and continues to be a leader in promoting water conservation through its Every Drop Counts and recycled water programs.

Through conservation efforts, the Town's water customers have successfully reduced their demand on the water supply. This reduction was factored into the 2009 Water Master Plan Update. The earlier plan (2000) relied on historical water demand data for its estimates of 130 gallons per day per person. The WMP

update accounts for water conservation efforts that have reduced per capita water demand to 110 gallons per day per person.

The Every Drop Counts programs include use of recycled water for irrigation, rebates for water-saving clothes washers, free water-saving plumbing fixtures, local school information outreach, a free Water Wise Gardening CD featuring low-water-use plants, free

home and commercial water use evaluations, and informational inserts in Utility bills. For more information on its Every Drop Counts programs and how you can participate in, and benefit from them, visit [www.ci.windsor.ca.us/wc](http://www.ci.windsor.ca.us/wc) or phone 707-838-5357.

The Town of Windsor is also a leader among communities nationwide in the use of recycled water for the irrigation of agricultural lands, recreational facilities, schools and residential front and back yards, which saves millions of gallons a year of precious fresh water for drinking and other human uses.

Besides using recycled water for irrigation purposes, the Town of Windsor is building a pipeline and pump station that will send an average of 0.5 million gallons per day (MGD) of its recycled water to the Geysers steamfields where it will be used to generate "green" electricity.

For more information, visit [WindsorWaterRecycling.com](http://WindsorWaterRecycling.com).

*Below: Low-water-use landscaping.*



# What is the Sustainable Groundwater Program?



The Town is considering pumping water from its existing Russian River Well Field during winter months when water levels are high and environmental impacts are low and storing that water in the ground.

The 2009 WMP Update recommends active use of available groundwater resources (both quantity and storage) through a managed groundwater recharge, storage and extraction program. In addition to pumping groundwater from its off river wells for irrigation and for emergency uses (such as during shortages), the Town is considering pumping water from its existing Russian River Well Field during winter months when water levels are high and environmental impacts are low and

storing that water in the ground. The water would be transported using existing infrastructure and stored in the groundwater basin via new and existing wells.

The high-quality water would remain in the ground until it is needed during high demand periods, which generally occur in the summer months when the river is a less reliable supply option due to low flows and regulatory limitations.

*”Planned Water Demand” continued from page 1...*

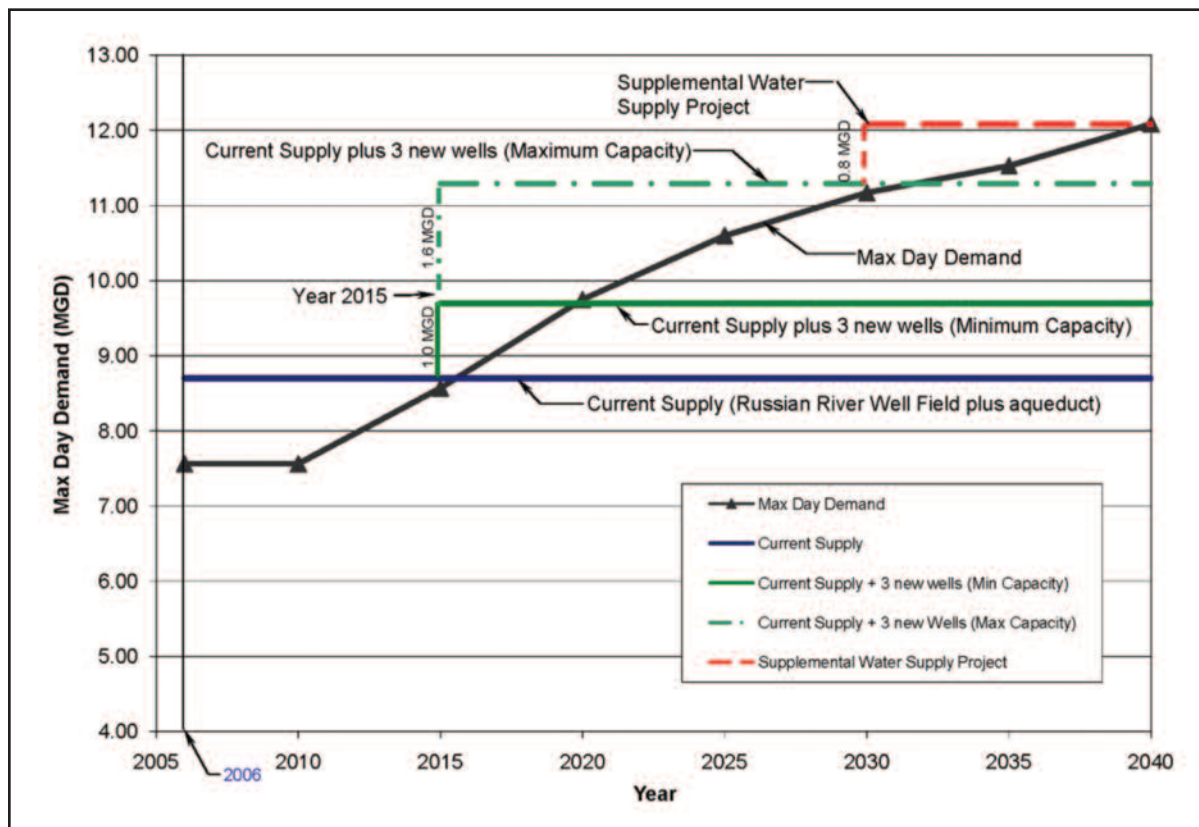
But even factoring in reduced demand, the Town must make system improvements to meet its projected future demands.

Currently, on an average day, the system distributes 4.0 million gallons of water per day (MGD) to its customers in the Town’s service area, which includes the airport business and industrial area.

Projections estimate a future average-day demand of 6.4 MGD at buildout. The system has an existing average-day water delivery capacity of 5.6 MGD, which enables it to meet projected average-day demand until approximately the year 2020.

In addition to meeting average-day demand, responsible planning requires

the Town to ensure reliable supplies during periods of peak demand, which currently tops out at 7.45 MGD and is projected to be 12 MGD at buildout. With its current maximum delivery capacity of 8.7 MGD, if system improvements are not made, demands would not be met during peak demand periods just beyond 2015.



The Town will need additional water supply starting around 2030. The supplemental supply could be one or more of the following: additional recycled water, off-river supply, more conservation, and/or the Sustainable Groundwater Program.

# Glossary of Terms

**CEQA** – California Environmental Quality Act

**Environmental Impact Report (EIR)** - A report required by the California Environmental Quality Act to describe the environmental impact of a proposed project.

**EIR Certification** - EIR adoption by a governing agency accepting the document as being complete and adequate according to the Calif. Environmental Quality Act.

**General Plan** - Required by State law, a General Plan is commonly referred to as a “blueprint” for where, how much and the type of growth planned for the future.

**Infrastructure** - Physical structures that form the foundation for development. Infrastructure includes: wastewater and water works, electric power, communications, transit and transportation facilities, and oil and gas pipelines and associated facilities.

**Master Plan** – Identifies one or a combination of disposal alternatives (a “Program”) that best meets the Town’s objectives and provides the basis for selecting a preferred Program by addressing engineering, environmental, and economic issues.

**Program EIR** - An Environmental Impact Report that is prepared on a series of actions that can be characterized as one large project.

*“Projects Under Consideration” continued from page 1...*

Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and provides a useful environmental planning tool that will support subsequent, site-specific analyses and identify appropriate measures to minimize adverse environmental effects.

The PEIR will evaluate the overall Water Supply Master Plan and will include project-level evaluation for projects that are proposed to be constructed within the next few years. Future elements of the approved Master Plan would be evaluated in supplemental project-level CEQA documentation before implementation.

## Costs and Timing

The total estimated cost for the recommended system upgrades is approximately \$34 million. The 2009 WMP Update recommends a phased approach that would begin with some improvements to the supply and distribution systems and continue with other project elements throughout the year 2035.



Town of Windsor  
8400 Windsor Road  
P.O. Box 100  
Windsor, CA 95492-0100

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### Contact Information

Project Hotline (707) 836-0300  
Mark Millan, Public Information  
millan@sonic.net  
(707) 836-0300

### Town Contact

Craig Scott  
Town of Windsor (address above)  
707-838-5978

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