Albuquerque relies on locally pumped groundwater as well as surface water imported from the Colorado River basin via the San Juan-Chama Project. The Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority is one of many agencies tasked with protecting the watersheds in which our local supply originates.

WHERE OUR WATER COMES FROM

Southern Colorado Diversions
Water from tributaries of the San Juan River (a tributary of the Colorado River) is re-directed southward via the San Juan-Chama project – a series of diversions, tunnels and reservoirs.

Azotea Tunnel
Water from Colorado (called “San Juan-Chama water”) empties into Willow Creek near Chama via this tunnel across the Continental Divide.

San Juan-Chama Project water conveyed through native streams/rivers.

RESERVOIRS
San Juan-Chama water and native water are stored in a series of man-made lakes before release downstream.

Diversion/Intake Facility
San Juan-Chama water is diverted from the Rio Grande at Albuquerque. The water is pumped to a treatment plant for purification before eventual distribution to utility customers.

Native Water
An equal amount of native water is diverted along with San Juan-Chama water. The native water is returned to the Rio Grande after use and following treatment at the Southside Water Reclamation Plant (not shown).

Groundwater Supply
Aquifer water supplements the San Juan-Chama surface water supply. ASR water is also available for use when needed.

Treated San Juan-Chama water, combined with supplemental groundwater when necessary, is carried throughout the local water distribution system.

Diversion Facility
For re-directing stream flows

Tunnel/Channel
Conveys water from one stream system to another

Water Treatment Plant
WATER TREATMENT PLANT

Albuquerque / Bernalillo County

Aquifer Storage & Recovery (ASR)
Surplus San Juan-Chama water is stored in aquifer for later use.

Legend
- **Colorado River Basin Water**
  - From tributaries of the Colorado River via the San Juan-Chama Project

- **Native New Mexico Water**
  - Naturally occurring stream flows in New Mexico

- **Combined Native/Colorado River Basin Water**
  - San Juan-Chama Project water conveyed through native streams/rivers

- **Groundwater**
  - Pumped to surface via wells

- **Stored Water**
  - Man-made reservoirs also used for recreation

For illustrative purposes only; not to scale
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