

# Water 2120: Securing Our Water Future

An adequate water supply is the key to Albuquerque's future, and the Water Authority is developing a water resources management plan that shows how we can meet our needs for the next hundred years.

Entitled **WATER 2120: Securing Our Water Future**, the plan focuses on optimizing the use of locally available water. It takes climate variability into account while recommending a number of alternatives to ensure a long-term supply for the community.

## How the Plan Works

- WATER 2120 looks at the current water situation in Albuquerque and projects the community's needs based on various scenarios of climate variability and population growth.
- The plan builds on the community's past success in conservation and its addition of surface water to the drinking water supply, which have allowed substantial recovery of the groundwater aquifer beneath Albuquerque.
- By making prudent future investments in conservation, aquifer storage and recovery (ASR), stormwater capture, wastewater reuse, and other alternatives, the community can extend existing supplies for several decades under a variety of climate and growth scenarios.
- The plan provides for a reliable water supply while wisely managing and preserving our aquifer.

## Key Elements

- **Conservation.** Due to the success of the Water Authority conservation program since the mid-1990s, overall demand for water has dropped significantly even while population has increased. Building on this success is a foundational element of the Water 2120 plan.
- **A diverse supply portfolio.** The Water Authority currently enjoys six sources of supply: surface water, groundwater, aquifer storage and recovery (ASR), non-potable surface water for turf irrigation, and two reuse projects for turf irrigation.

The plan calls for continued use of these existing alternatives (with expansion of ASR and reuse) plus the addition of stormwater capture to the portfolio.

- **New storage capacity.** Expanded use of reuse water and the addition of stormwater resources requires the addition of new storage capacity (e.g., reservoirs and underground storage).
- **Groundwater management and preservation.** Groundwater levels in the aquifer are currently rising due to conservation and our use of surface water. WATER 2120 establishes benchmarks and policies for maintaining the aquifer as a resource for the community.