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.

**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.

**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.

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

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

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

**WATER TREATMENT PLANT**
Surplus San Juan-Chama water is stored in aquifer for later use.

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