

# DRAFT

## BAWSCA LONG-TERM RELIABLE WATER SUPPLY STRATEGY

### BAWSCA's Objective

The Bay Area Water Supply and Conservation Agency's (BAWSCA) water management objective is to ensure that a reliable, high quality supply of water is available where and when people within the BAWSCA service area need it. BAWSCA is developing a strategy to meet the projected future water needs of the BAWSCA member agencies through 2035 and to increase their water supply reliability.

### Water Demands in the BAWSCA Service Area are Projected to be Greater than Supplies

A reliable supply of water is required to support the health, safety, employment, and economic opportunities of the existing and expected future residents in the BAWSCA service area and to supply water to the agencies, businesses and organizations that serve the communities.

The number of people living and working within the BAWSCA service area is projected to increase by approximately 500,000 between now and 2035.

Even after accounting for savings associated with the existing and planned water conservation activities, water demands within the BAWSCA service area are projected to equal available supplies by 2018. Furthermore, it is projected that up to 30 million gallons per day (mgd) of additional water supply will be needed by 2035 to meet the needs of the current and future residents, businesses, and organizations in normal years. Even more water will be needed during a future drought.

### Existing Water Supplies are Subject to Severe Reductions

The San Francisco Regional Water System provides approximately 68% of the water supply to the BAWSCA service area. This source of supply can be impacted by drought, earthquakes, regulatory actions, policy decisions by others, and climate change. The extent and frequency of such impacts in the future are uncertain.

For example, as part of the Water System Improvement Plan (WSIP), plans are in place to rebuild Calaveras Dam and secure dry-year transfers to increase the reliability of the Regional Water System. However, even after implementation of the WSIP, multi-year, system-wide cutbacks of 10% to 20% are projected to occur. Furthermore, because, pursuant to the Water Supply Agreement, the BAWSCA service area is allocated a greater proportion of the drought cutbacks, a 20% system-wide cutback results in a 28% cutback within the BAWSCA service area. For some BAWSCA agencies, this will translate to cutbacks of over 40% during dry years.

### BAWSCA's Long-Term Reliable Water Supply Strategy

- Water Demands in the BAWSCA Service Area Are Projected to be Greater Than Supplies
- Existing Water Supplies are Subject to Severe Reductions
- The Consequences of Supply Shortfalls are Regional and Severe
- BAWSCA's Strategy to Address the Identified Regional Water Supply Issues
- Actions by BAWSCA and Member Agencies Required to Implement the Strategy

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**The Consequences of Supply Shortfalls are Regional and Severe**

Without sufficient water supplies to meet projected future needs on an average annual basis, future residential and economic development could be curtailed within the BAWSCA service area and relocated elsewhere. This could mean a loss of new housing, jobs, manufacturing, and community services.

Furthermore, if the water supplies that are available to the BAWSCA member agencies currently and in the future are unreliable and subject to cutbacks, existing and future customers will be increasingly impacted. Water supply cutbacks, when they occur, have significant economic and lifestyle impacts to residents and businesses. For example, drought shortages can last several years and require residents and businesses to limit landscape irrigation and other non-potable uses of water, or pay penalties. In addition, it is estimated that a 20% water supply reduction to the BAWSCA service area would have a \$7.7 billion impact to the manufacturing output in the BAWSCA service area in *each year that the shortage persists*.

The water supply challenges faced by the BAWSCA member agencies are regional and not limited to individual cities or water districts because the residents and voters in one community typically work or own businesses in another community within the BAWSCA service area. Therefore, a water supply shortfall in one BAWSCA agency that results in loss of jobs or other impacts can have a detrimental impact to the customers of another BAWSCA agency, even if that agency itself is not facing a supply shortfall.

**BAWSCA's Strategy to Address the Identified Regional Water Supply Issues**

BAWSCA has developed a Long-Term Reliable Water Supply Strategy (Strategy) to address the identified regional water supply issues.

The BAWSCA Strategy will quantify where, when, and how much additional supply reliability and new water supplies are needed throughout the BAWSCA service area through 2035 to meet the projected demand and increase the supply reliability.

The BAWSCA Strategy will then identify water supply management projects that can be cost-effectively implemented by a single member agency, by a collection of the member agencies, or by BAWSCA in an appropriate timeframe to meet the identified needs.

In all instances, and in accordance with a key BAWSCA principle, the water supply management projects that are developed as part of the Strategy will be paid for by those agencies that benefit from their development.

**Actions by BAWSCA and Member Agencies Required to Implement the Strategy**

Success of the Strategy will depend on timely and appropriate actions by the BAWSCA board and by the individual member agencies. Progress on the development of the Strategy and associated water supply management projects will be monitored closely to ensure that a reliable, high quality supply of water is available where and when people within the BAWSCA service area need it.