

**C POLICIES REGARDING WATER SERVICE FROM CITY OF SANTA
CRUZ 2030 GENERAL PLAN**

City of Santa Cruz General Plan 2030 Policies Regarding Water Service

Goal CC 3 A safe, reliable, and adequate water supply

CC3.1 *Implement the City's Integrated Water Plan.*

- CC3.1.1 Implement the City's Long-Term Water Conservation Plan to reduce average daily water demand and maximize the use of existing water resources.
- CC3.1.2 Periodically update the City's Water Shortage Contingency Plan to prepare for responding to future water shortages.
- CC3.1.3 Develop a desalination plant of 2.5 mgd for drought protection, with the potential for incremental expansion to 4.5 mgd, if it is environmentally acceptable and financially feasible.

CC3.2 *Meet or exceed all regulatory drinking water standards.*

- CC3.2.1 Regularly and comprehensively evaluate the water system relative to federal and State water quality regulations and standards, and develop recommendations and an action plan to address findings.
- CC3.2.2 Develop, maintain, and update sampling and analysis programs, and laboratory procedures for the treated water distribution system and storage facilities.
- CC3.2.3 Maintain required federal and State laboratory certification.
- CC3.2.4 Prepare and submit compliance reports to all regulatory agencies.
- CC3.2.5 Regularly sample and analyze finished water in accordance with approved methods and parameters identified by the State, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the City.
- CC3.2.6 Monitor the quality of water from all sources.
- CC3.2.7 Provide annual drinking water quality reports to all consumers of city water.

CC3.3 *Safeguard existing surface and groundwater sources.*

- CC3.3.1 Manage City watershed lands relative to protecting the sources of drinking water.

- CC3.3.2 Maintain compliance with all applicable drinking water source protection-related regulations.
- CC3.3.3 Secure and maintain all City water rights to existing and future water supplies to provide certainty and operational flexibility for the water system.
- CC3.3.4 Review and comment on new State Water Resources Control Board water rights applications and timber harvest plans on City drinking water source watersheds.
- CC3.3.5 Pursue appropriate regulatory enforcement of environmental violations committed by other watershed stakeholders.
- CC3.3.6 Conduct hydrologic and biotic monitoring throughout drinking water source watersheds to protect water supplies and habitat. Cf. CD4.3.3 and NRC2.1, 2.2, 2.4, and 6.3.
- CC3.3.7 Ensure that fisheries conservation strategies address and protect water storage, drinking water source quality, and water system flexibility, as well as protect the environmental resource.
- CC3.3.8 Monitor groundwater levels and quality.
- CC3.3.9 Participate with the Soquel-Aptos Groundwater Management Alliance in cooperative efforts to assure the quality and production of groundwater resources.
- CC3.3.10 Explore and implement, when feasible, replenishing existing aquifers in the County and entering into transfer agreements with other agencies.
- CC3.3.11 Provide adequate pumping, treatment, and distribution facilities for the reliable production of groundwater, consistent with pumping rates/volumes identified in the City's Urban Water Management Plan.

CC3.4 *Maintain and improve the integrity of the water system.*

- CC3.4.1 Maintain and improve water facilities to meet pressure and fire flow requirements and ensure customer delivery. Cf. HZ1.4.3.
- CC3.4.2 Modernize City water treatment plants.
- CC3.4.3 Optimize storage, transmission, and distribution capacities and efficiencies.

CC3.4.4 Evaluate and improve the water system so as to minimize water outages due to emergencies and disasters.

CC3.5 *Promote maximum water use efficiency.*

CC3.5.1 Implement 14 urban water conservation “best management practices” and meet reporting requirements in the *Memorandum of Understanding Regarding Urban Water Conservation in California*.

CC3.5.2 Promote public education and awareness about the City’s water resources and the importance of water conservation.

CC3.5.3 Offer water audit programs and technical assistance for homes, businesses, and large landscapes to help customers reduce their average daily water use and control their utility bills.

CC3.5.4 Provide financial incentives to City water customers for installing high efficiency plumbing fixtures, appliances, and equipment.

CC3.5.5 Provide public information regarding onsite water catchment systems.

CC3.5.6 Administer and enforce water waste regulations, plumbing fixture retrofit requirements, and water efficient landscape standards for new development.

CC3.5.7 Explore and consider promoting or requiring new opportunities and technologies for more efficient use of water and energy.

CC3.5.8 Evaluate water use by residential, commercial, industrial and other customer categories and trends per capita.

CC3.5.9 Regularly audit the water distribution system and implement programs to minimize system losses and underground leaks.

CC3.5.10 Participate in regional water conservation partnerships, events, and opportunities.

CC3.5.11 Play a leadership role in supporting research, policy development, standards, and legislation aimed at furthering water use efficiency across the state.

CC3.5.12 Implement additional water conservation programs that provide a reliable gain in supply and can be justified in terms of their cost.

- CC3.6 *Coordinate major land use planning decisions in all three jurisdictions served by the City water system based on water supply availability.*
- CC3.6.1 Implement the City's Urban Water Management Plan and update it periodically as required by State law.
 - CC3.6.2 Provide annual updates to the city council on the status of remaining water supply.
 - CC3.6.3 Confirm or adjust the estimate of remaining supply to avoid oversubscribing the water system.
 - CC3.6.4 Consider developing criteria for determining significance of environmental impacts of development projects on the City water system to streamline the environmental review process.
- CC3.7 *Allow extension of the Water Service Area only if an application is approved by city council and/or LAFCO*
- CC3.8 *Prohibit additional connections to the North Coast water system, in accordance with City Council Resolutions NS-17372 and NS-21056.*
- CC3.9 *Sustain long-term fiscal stability.*
- CC3.9.1 Maintain a rate schedule based on cost of service and designed to provide an economic incentive for conservation.
 - CC3.9.2 Collect sufficient revenues to assure adequate maintenance of the water system infrastructure.
 - CC3.9.3 Maintain a Water Rate Stabilization Fund to protect against unanticipated emergencies, and Operating Reserves as needed for cash flow.
 - CC3.9.4 Confine long-term borrowing to major capital improvements.
 - CC3.9.5 Develop and implement a long-term Capital Improvements Plan for prioritizing and financing major projects.
- CC3.10 *Investigate new supply options to meet planned growth.*
- CC3.10.1 Explore opportunities to use recycled water for future water supply.
- CC3.11 *Conserve water resources. Cf. NRC1.3.1 and 3.1.*
- CC3.11.1 Promote water conservation.

- CC3.11.2 Regularly update guidelines and standards for new landscaping that emphasizes xeriscaping, climate-appropriate landscape design, and other water-conserving practices.
- CC3.11.3 Conduct a landscape irrigation audit program and target large water consumers to reduce consumption. Examples of large consumers are large turf customers, large commercial and industrial customers, and property management firms.