



City of Santa Fe Water Demand Projections

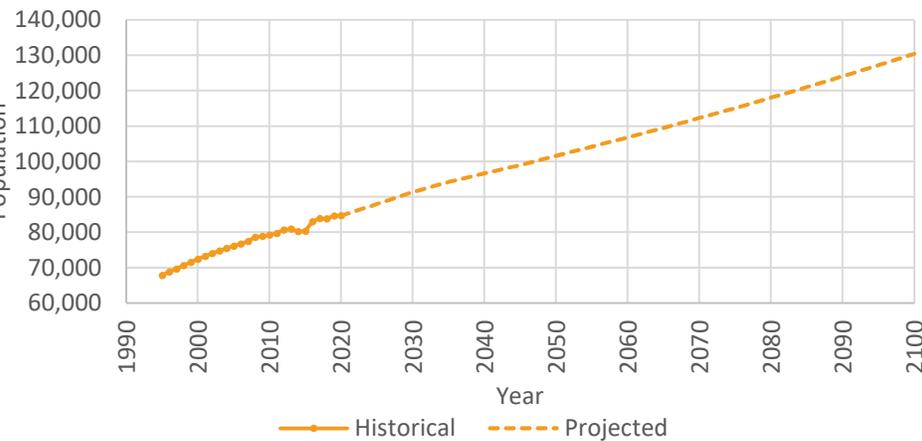
Introduction

As part of a collaborative five-year planning cycle with Santa Fe County Utilities, City of Santa Fe Water is developing a long-range water resource management plan that extends to 2100. The City’s plan will be informed by scientific data, historical trends, and community input.

The current planning cycle began in 2020 and is scheduled to be complete by the end of 2025; once complete the plan will be evaluated in future years, and the planning process refined and repeated as necessary. The planning cycle includes a planning review process, development of water supply and demand projections, evaluation of resulting shortages, development of adaptation strategies, and formalization of resulting long range water plans.

The following charts focus on demand scenario development based on data and projections for future population growth, and water needs.

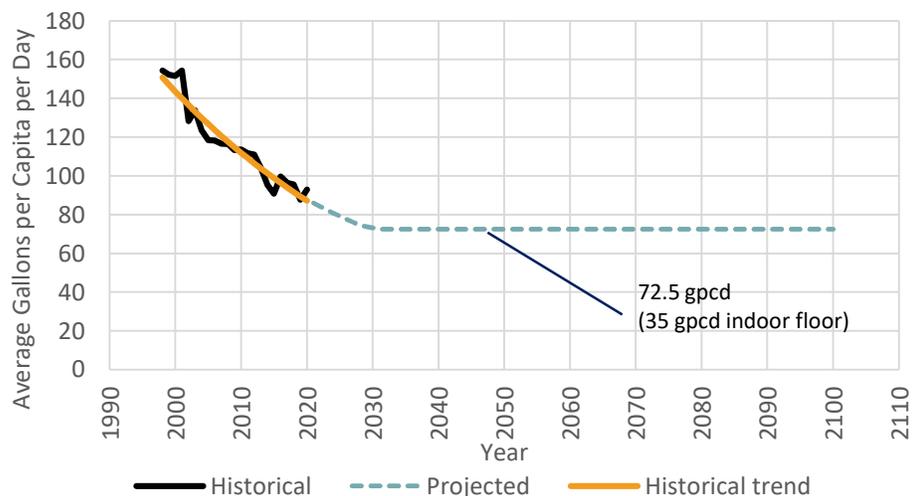
Projected City Population



The population in the City of Santa Fe has increased by approximately 25 percent in the past thirty years, and the City is currently home to just under 85,000 people. Projections show continued steady growth over the next eight decades with the number of Santa Fe residents reaching upwards of 130,000 by 2100.

While the population of the City continues to grow, per capita water use, or the total amount of water used in the City per person, has continued to trend downward. This change is due to the City’s conservation program and overall improvements in technology. In 1995 when the City acquired the previously private water company, total water use averaged over 170 gallons of water per person per day, and today that number is around 90. Projections for the coming decades are that water use per person will drop to 72.5 gallons per person per day, assuming current temperatures (see next section for effect of climate change).

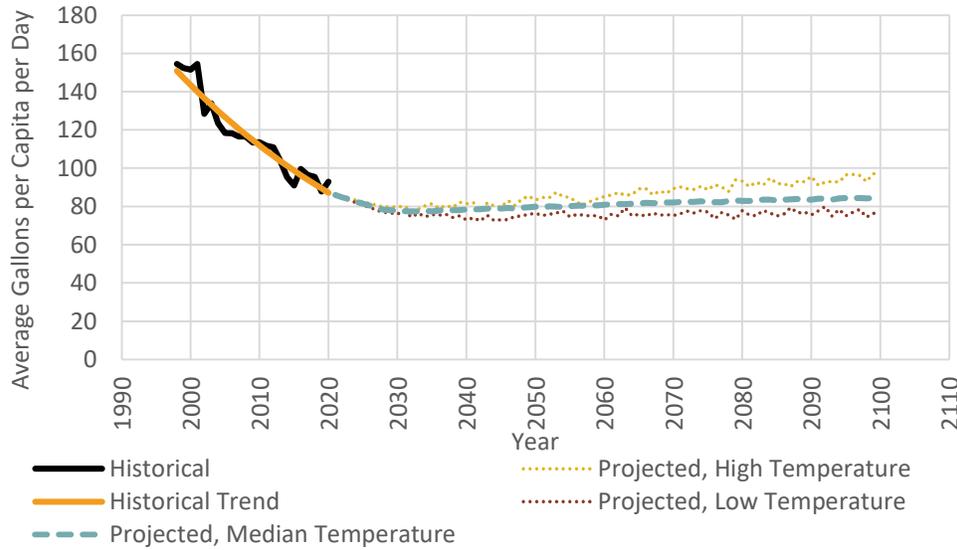
Projected Per-Capita Usage





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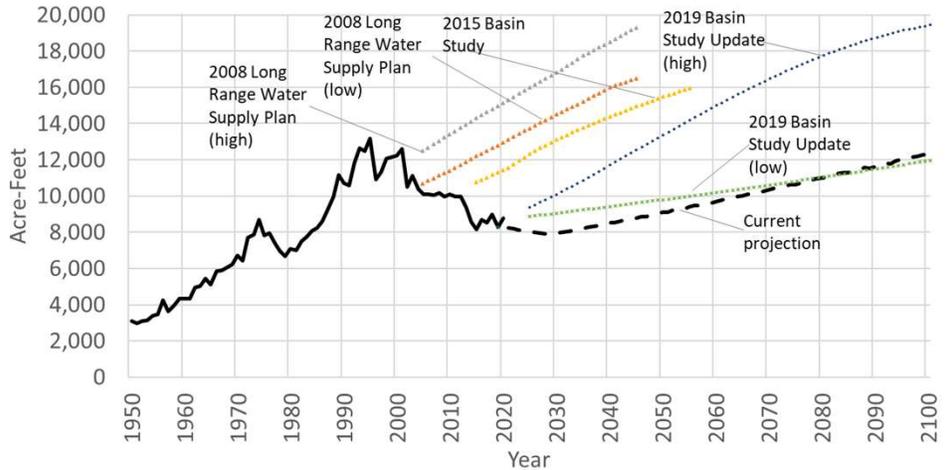
Projections with Climate Change



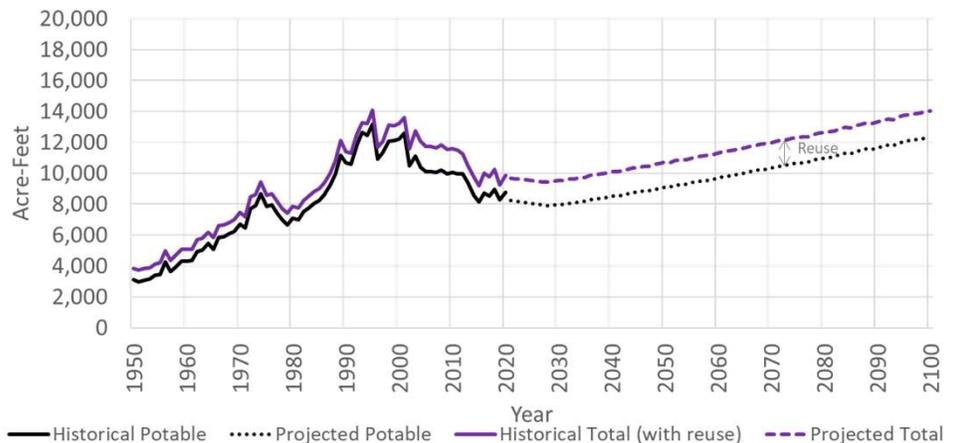
Climate change not only affects water supply but also water demand. Increasing temperature results in increasing demand from landscapes and increased evaporation for cooling. The plot on the right shows the potential range of climate change effects on per-capita demand.

The combination of projected population with projected water usage rate results in the total potable demand projection. Changes in technology and societal values have led to a decoupling of demand from population growth, with each subsequent projection smaller than the last. The latest projection results in water use in 2100 below or near previous projections.

Projected Potable Demand



Projected Total Demand



Santa Fe also has a reuse system that delivers water treated at the Paseo Real Water Reclamation Facility for irrigation of parks and golf courses. Reuse is another component of overall demand and is shown as a purple line above potable demand in the graph at right. Historical reuse is projected to remain at the current rate adjusted for climate change.