



Fact Sheet: Long-Range Water Supply Update September 2010

Over the past few years, the MMWD Board of Directors has investigated a number of options to ensure a reliable long-term water supply for district customers. Ultimately, the board decided that no single approach would provide the level of reliability the district needs, but that a combination of options would provide more reliability as well as flexibility. In 2009, the board adopted a long-range water supply plan that includes conservation, improvements to the existing reservoir system, more recycled water and desalination.

In April of 2010, the board put the desalination option on hold, due primarily to a drop in demand (15 percent in the past three years). Water usage figures for 2009-10 show that MMWD delivered to its customers 25,500 acre-feet¹ of water during the 2009-10 fiscal year, or 8.3 billion gallons. At this level of usage, MMWD is already exceeding its own target for conservation as outlined in the 2007 Water Conservation Master Plan and is also meeting the year 2020 water conservation targets specified in last year's Water Conservation Act (SB X7 7), which requires a statewide reduction in urban water use of 20 percent by 2020. This is the lowest amount of water used since the drought year of 1991, when MMWD last asked customers to ration supplies.

Also figuring into the board's decision to put desalination on hold is the district's estimate that existing water supplies would currently be adequate to meet customer needs, with 25-percent rationing, if a drought similar to that of 1976-77 were to occur.

MMWD is in the process of updating its Urban Water Management Plan, which will include projected trends in population, water use and water supply for the next 20 years. A draft of the plan will be released for review in spring 2011. That plan will help inform decisions related to all of the district's long-term water supply options.

MMWD's water comes from three main sources: local reservoirs, the Russian River and recycled water. We have made many improvements since the 1976-77 drought to address both the supply and the demand sides of the equation. These improvements include:

- Built Soulajule Reservoir
- Improved contracts for Russian River water
- Expanded Kent Reservoir

¹ One acre-foot is 325,851 gallons

- Reduced per capita water consumption from 175 gallons per day to 120 gallons per day
- Established a rationing policy for droughts

The long-range water supply plan adopted by MMWD in 2009 includes:

Conservation

MMWD adopted a Water Conservation Master Plan in 2007 to serve as our water conservation blueprint through the year 2025. Our ramped-up conservation program has met with great success. For details, see our Conservation Program Update Fact Sheet.

Reservoir Improvements

Improvements can be made to the management of water in MMWD's existing reservoirs, including reconfiguration of a water intake pump at Alpine Lake to allow us to tap currently inaccessible water, the construction of a pipeline to move water from Nicasio Reservoir to Kent Lake, and the installation of a larger pump station in Corte Madera to optimize the distribution of water. In late 2010, MMWD will be replacing the pumping facility at Alpine Lake to allow us to pump currently inaccessible reservoir water.

Recycled Water

MMWD's existing recycled water plant, operated in conjunction with the Las Gallinas Valley Sanitary District, is limited by a lack of appropriate customers along the plant's distribution system. The most promising potential new customer is the Peacock Gap Golf Course in San Rafael. Serving this customer would allow recycled water deliveries to be increased by 200 acre-feet per year, and other customers along the route could potentially be served, as well. Currently MMWD is pursuing state funding opportunities for this project.

Desalination

Desalination converts raw bay water into drinking water by removing the salt and other impurities. MMWD first investigated desalination as a potential water source for Marin in 1990. In 2001, the district initiated work on the current environmental impact report and established a temporary pilot desalination plant in 2005. The pilot plant demonstrated that bay water could be purified to levels that exceed state drinking water standards. This option was put on hold by the board in April 2010 due to reduced levels of water demand.

Comparison of Measures S and T

Issue	Measure S	Measure T
Requires voter approval before <u>building</u> a desalination facility	Yes	Yes
Requires voter approval before <u>financing</u> a desalination facility	Yes	Yes
Allows further STUDY of ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES AND COST OF desalination.	Yes	No
Allows for responsible water supply planning to be prepared for possible droughts.	Yes	No
Endorsed by the League of Women Voters, Marin Conservation League, Assemblyman Jared Huffman, Senator Mark Leno and other community leaders	Yes	No

Ballot language for measures S and T

Measure S

MMWD shall not approve construction, or financing for construction, of a desalination facility unless such construction is approved by a majority of voters of MMWD voting in an election held within MMWD's service area for that purpose.

Measure T

It shall be the policy of the Marin Municipal Water District (MMWD) not to approve, authorize, or undertake the construction of any facility for the desalination of water from the San Francisco Bay, or other body of water, nor to appropriate, authorize expenditures for, issue revenue, lease revenue or any other type of bonds or approve other funding mechanisms intended to pay for such construction, or take any steps towards approving any contract relating to the planning or construction of any such facility without prior approval of any such actions by a majority of the electorate of the Marin Municipal Water District, voting at an election scheduled by the Marin Municipal Water District to decide whether to give such prior approval for any such actions.

Partial list of endorsers:

Jared Huffman
Jack Gibson
David Behar
Larry Russell
Paul Helliker
Doug Linney
Cliff Waldeck
Steve Kinsey
Nona Dennis
Liza Crosse
Dietrich Stroeh
Shawn Marshall
Stephanie Moulton-Peters
Garry Lion
Alice Fredericks
Larry Chu
Kathy Hartzell
Barbara Thornton
Tom McInerney
Ken Wachtel
Al Boro
Emmett O'Donnell
Len Rifkind
Phyllis Faber
Sandy Guldman

Tom Guldman
David Keller
David Schonbrunn
Marty Griffin
Don McEnhill
Ann Thomas
Eddie Powell
Betsy Bikle
Joe Nation
Tim Rosenfeld