METROPOLITAN COUNCIL PLANNING OBJECTIVES FOR REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY

Adequate water supplies are essential for our region's growth, livability and prosperity.
Population growth and expanding development are increasing demands on our water supplies in the region. Coordinated planning by local communities, the Metropolitan Council, and state partners will help meet our future water supply needs.

The Role of the Metropolitan Council

The mission of the Metropolitan Council Environmental Services division is to provide wastewater services and integrated planning to ensure sustainable water quality and water supply for the region.

The role of the Metropolitan Council in water supply planning is to:

1. Work with regional partners to develop a regional plan
2. Maintain a database of technical information
3. Provide assistance to communities in developing their local water supply plans, and
4. Identify approaches for emerging issues.

The Metropolitan Council is not a water supplier. Our intent is not to take over local water supply systems. The regional planning process has been designed and applied to ensure local water suppliers have control of and responsibility for their water supply systems.

The Purpose of the Regional Water Supply Plan

The purpose of the region's Master Water Supply Plan is to provide communities in the region with planning assistance for water supply in a way that:

PARTNERSHIP

1. Recognizes local control and responsibility for owning, maintaining and operating water supply systems
2. Is developed in cooperation and consultation with municipal water suppliers, regional stakeholders and state agencies

STEWARDSHIP

3. Protects critical habitat and water resources over the long term
4. Meets regional needs for a reliable, secure water supply

SUSTAINABILITY

5. Highlights the benefits of integrated planning for stormwater, wastewater and water supply
6. Emphasizes and supports conservation and interjurisdictional cooperation, and
7. Provides clear guidance by identifying key challenges/issues/considerations in the region and suggests available approaches without prescribing solutions.

The region's Master Water Supply Plan provides guidance so that communities can take the most proactive, cost-effective approach to long-term planning and permitting to ensure plentiful, safe, and affordable water that supports the prosperity and livability of the region for future generations.

Planning Tools *(abbreviated list – see www.metrocouncil.org for a full list)*

- Metro Model 3 predicts potential regional impacts on groundwater resources across a range of future scenarios as a starting point for local planning.
- The Water Conservation Toolbox helps residents, communities and businesses identify and implement methods to reduce water consumption.
- The Stormwater Reuse guide provides step-by-step instructions that describe how to conceptualize, plan and implement a project to use stormwater in lieu of potable water.
- Feasibility studies conducted in partnership with local and sub-regional groups compare the suitability of various water supply approaches for local consideration.

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How to Navigate the Master Water Supply Plan

The Master Water Supply Plan provides a broad base of information about the region's water supplies.

The following are some frequently asked questions and where answers may be found in the plan:

Why does the Council do water supply planning? Why does this plan exist?	Chapter 1
Are there regional goals or targets for the region's water supply?	Chapter 2
What does sustainable water supply in the region look like? What is the vision?	Chapter 2
How is water used in the region? How will water use change in the future?	Chapter 3
What role does water conservation play?	Chapter 3
What are the main water sources in the region? What are their limitations?	Chapter 4
What are some key water supply quantity and quality issues in the region?	Chapter 5
How does the plan address climate and economic variability? Model uncertainty?	Chapter 5
How will progress toward sustainability be tracked, progress measured?	Chapter 6
How can I and my partners improve sustainability? How can the Council support this?	Chapter 7
What will the Council do to support sustainable water supply management?	Chapter 7
What water supply roles and responsibilities do agencies and communities have?	Chapter 8
How does DNR support this plan?	Chapter 8
What technical and policy information supports this master water supply plan?	Annotated Bibliography
How is water used in my community? In my county? In my watershed?	Appendix 1
What water supply issues should my community plan for?	Appendix 1
How was future water demand projected?	Appendix 2
How was the regional groundwater flow model, Metro Model 3, used in this plan?	Appendices 3 & 4

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