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Project No.: 941-80-24-32

SENT VIA: EMAIL

TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM

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SUBJECT: Design of Projection Scenarios to Support the 2025 Safe Yield Reevaluation (#3)

This technical memorandum (TM) is the third of three TMs that document the development of an ensemble of projection scenarios (Projection Ensemble) for the 2025 Safe Yield Reevaluation (2025 SYR).

The objective of the Projection Ensemble is to characterize the range in future uncertainties in climate and the water demands and supply plans (Water Plans) of the water purveyors in the Chino Basin, pursuant to Steps 3 through 5 of the 2022 Safe Yield Reset Methodology:¹

- *3. Describe current and projected future cultural conditions, including but not limited to land use and water-management practices, such as: pumping, managed recharge, managed groundwater storage, impervious land cover, water recycling, and water conservation practices. Identify a possible range of projected future cultural conditions.*
- *4. Using the most current research on future climate and hydrology, identify a possible range of projected future climatic conditions in the Santa Ana River watershed.*
- *5. Using the results of [3.] and [4.] above, prepare an ensemble of multiple projection scenarios of combinations of future climate/hydrology and cultural conditions (herein called the "Projection Ensemble"). Assign likelihoods to each scenario in the Projection Ensemble.*

The Projection Ensemble will be simulated with the Chino Valley Model (CVM) to characterize the future uncertainties of the hydrology, net recharge, and Safe Yield of the Chino Basin.

¹ See Attachment C of the 2022 Update of the Chino Basin Safe Yield Reset Methodology

The objectives of this TM are to (i) document the feedback received from prior TMs and workshops, including Scenario Design TM #2 (Scenario TM #2),² the first draft of Scenario TM #3,³ the March 7, 2024 stakeholder workshop (Workshop #2),⁴ and the June 25, 2024 stakeholder workshop (Workshop #3),⁵ (ii) quantitatively describe various proposed projections of Water Plans that will be included in the Projection Ensemble, and (iii) describe the proposed approach to developing climate projections. The Watermaster parties and other stakeholders will be presented with the information documented in this TM at a workshop on August 27, 2024 and asked to provide feedback.

FEEDBACK FROM PRIOR TECHNICAL MEMORANDA AND WORKSHOPS

This TM documents feedback from Workshops #2 and #3, Scenario TM #2, and the first draft of Scenario TM #3. Written stakeholder feedback and responses are included in Attachment A. The main themes of the verbal stakeholder feedback are discussed below.

Feedback from Workshop #2 and Scenario TM #2

Scenario TM #2 and Workshop #2 qualitatively described the proposed projections of the Water Plans to include in the Projection Ensemble, described the available and recommended climate datasets that may be included in the Projection Ensemble, and outlined the proposed Projection Ensemble to use in the 2025 SYR. Stakeholders were asked to provide written feedback on Scenario TM #2 and Workshop #2 to further refine the Projection Ensemble.

Characterization of Groundwater and Imported Water Conditions

Scenario TM #2 defined water demands, groundwater availability, and imported water availability as the three primary elements of Water Plans that will characterize the range in future uncertainties in Water Plans in the Projection Ensemble. Groundwater and imported water availability were defined as the ability of the parties to access, purchase, convey, and use these waters to meet their demands. During Workshop #2, several parties recommended that the definitions be expanded to include the "use" of groundwater or imported water more explicitly, because "availability" does not necessarily lead to the use of a supply. One party suggested characterizing these elements as groundwater/imported water utilization rather than availability. This suggestion will be reflected in discussions of these elements of the Projection Ensemble going forward. The definitions of expected high, and low conditions for groundwater and imported water utilization remain unchanged from those described in TM #2.

Feedback from Workshop #3 and First Draft of Scenario TM #3

Workshop #3 and the June 25, 2024 draft of this TM introduced the first draft of the quantitative projection scenarios characterizing the nine scenarios of the Projection Ensemble, including defining the final Projection Ensemble; describing the proposed method to quantify the parties' responses to the Conservation Regulations, precipitation changes, and temperature fluctuations; and describing the then-proposed method to quantify the climate scenarios. Written feedback from Workshop #3 and the June 25, 2024 draft Scenario TM #3 is included in Attachment B along with responses. The main themes of the verbal feedback at Workshop #3 and subsequent related discussions at Watermaster stakeholder meetings are described below.

² Scenario Design TM #2

³ June 25, 2024 draft Scenario Design TM #3

⁴ Slides from Workshop #2

⁵ Slides from Workshop #3

Consideration of Conservation Regulations in Projection Ensemble

Two parties suggested that the 2018 Urban Water Use Objectives legislation (Assembly Bill 1668 and Senate Bill 606) and the related "Making Conservation a California Way of Life" (Conservation Regulation)⁶ should not be considered in the Water Plan Scenarios that are developed for the 2025 SYR due to the uncertainty of the projected responses and impacts. While we acknowledge the uncertainty in the parties' and their retail customers' responses to the Conservation Regulations are uncertain, we will quantify the impact of the Conservation Regulation in the Water Plan Scenarios for the following reasons:

- 1. The July 2020 Court Order⁷ adopting the Safe Yield of 131,000 acre-feet per year (afy) for the period of 2021 through 2030 also required that the Safe Yield be reevaluated "[i]f the California State Water Resources Control Board develops water conservation measures prior to June 30, 2030, that result in a reduction in urban irrigation […] that is reasonably likely to materially reduce recharge to the Basin…" Based on the current understanding of the adopted Conservation Regulation and the supporting evidence outlined in the *FY 2022/23 Data Collection and Evaluation Report*, we believe that the Conservation Regulation is reasonably likely to materially reduce recharge to the Basin.
- 2. The Conservation Regulation is a foreseeable future cultural condition and is therefore required to be considered pursuant to the 2022 Safe Yield Reset Methodology.
- 3. The Water Plans provided by the parties, many of which were derived from the 2020 Urban Water Management Plans, appear to be consistent with the historical trends of overestimating future demands.⁸ Therefore, the Water Plan Scenarios should reflect demands that are less than the party-provided Water Plans.
- 4. Applying the Conservation Regulation's water budget method to adjust each party's Water Plan (see sections on the Conservation Regulation below) is a defensible method to develop Water Plan Scenarios that adjust the party-provided Water Plans. By engaging with parties to gauge their anticipated responses to the Conservation Regulation, we have developed alternative Water Plans that reflect plausible future scenarios, regardless of their direct alignment with the Conservation Regulation.

For these reasons, the Conservation Regulation should be considered in the Water Plan Scenarios. However, we acknowledge the uncertainty in the parties' and their retail customers' responses to the Conservation Regulations. To account for this uncertainty, we consider a range of possible impacts from the Conservation Regulation in the Water Plan Scenarios. We engaged with the parties to understand the range of possible responses to the Conservation Regulation. Based on that information, we applied the Conservation Regulation's water budget method to adjust each party's Water Plan to reflect a range of plausible future scenarios that consider different degrees of response to the Conservation Regulation. We continue to invite your input on the specific Water Plan Scenarios described in this TM.

⁶ Making Conservation a California Way of Life Fact Sheet

⁷ 20200716 Notice of Lodging of [Proposed] Order re CBWM Motion re 2020 Safe Yield Reset

⁸ See Figure 1 in **Scenario TM #1**

FINAL PROJECTION ENSEMBLE

This section describes the final Projection Ensemble and the proposed quantification of each of its scenarios. Based on the feedback from Scenario TMs #1 and #2 and Workshops #1 and #2, we propose the final Projection Ensemble shown in Table 1. These nine Projection Scenarios, comprising a combination of three Water Plan Scenarios and three Climate Scenarios, synthesize the "possible range of projected future cultural conditions" and "possible range of projected future climatic conditions" required in the 2022 Safe Yield Reset Methodology.9

Scenario 1 is the "baseline" scenario that will simulate expected conditions for all Water Plans and average future climate/hydrology.

Scenarios 2 and 3 are modifications to Scenario 1 that will simulate the effects of a hotter/drier climate (2) and cooler/wetter climate (3). Together, these scenarios will characterize the effects of future climatic uncertainty on net recharge and groundwater levels.

Scenarios 4 and 7 are designed to characterize the effects of future uncertainty in Water Plans on net recharge and groundwater levels—particularly the effects of pumping on the Basin. Both scenarios include the average Climate Scenario. Scenario 4 assumes high demands and high groundwater utilization (and low imported water utilization). Scenario 7 assumes low demands and low groundwater utilization (and high imported water utilization).

Scenarios 5 and 9 are designed to simulate the plausible range in groundwater levels. Scenario 5 assumes high demands, high groundwater utilization, low imported water utilization, and a hot/dry climate, which will likely result in the lowest groundwater levels of any combination. Conversely, Scenario 9 assumes low demands, low groundwater utilization, high imported water utilization, and a cool/wet climate, which will likely result in the highest groundwater levels of any combination.

Scenarios 6 and 8 are designed to simulate the plausible range in net recharge. Scenario 6 assumes high demands, high groundwater utilization, low imported water utilization, and a cool/wet climate, which will likely result in the highest net recharge of any combination. Conversely, Scenario 8 assumes low demands,

⁹ See Attachment C of the 2022 Update of the Chino Basin Safe Yield Reset Methodology

low groundwater utilization, high imported water utilization, and a hot/dry climate, which will likely result in the lowest net recharge of any combination.

Other possible combinations of Water Plan Scenarios and Climate Scenarios are unlikely to result in conditions (e.g., net recharge, groundwater levels) that are outside of the range of the scenarios described in Table 1.

PROCESS TO TRANSLATE THE WATER PLAN SCENARIOS INTO 2025 CVM INPUTS

The process to translate the Water Plan Scenarios into inputs for the 2025 Chino Valley Model (CVM) involves first developing the Water Plan Scenarios for average hydrologic conditions and then adjusting the annual Water Plans based on interannual variability in climate (precipitation and temperature). This process will be guided by the following questions:

- 1. Which model inputs will vary for each Water Plan Scenario?
- 2. What are the current plans, projections, and assumptions for future cultural conditionsin the Chino Basin?
- 3. How should the current plans and projections be modified to develop Water Plan Scenarios that will represent the uncertainty in future cultural conditions?
- 4. How should the Water Plan Scenarios be adjusted to account for climatic variability?

Each of these questions is addressed in the following sections.

CVM Inputs that Will Vary in Each Water Plan Scenario

This section answers question 1 above: *Which model inputs will vary for each Water Plan Scenario?*

Understanding how the cultural conditions translate into model inputs is important to guide the level of detail required for the development of each projection scenario. The scenarios in the Projection Ensemble will be translated to CVM inputs as demonstrated in the flowchart in Figure 1. The Water Plan Scenarios influence three CVM inputs:

- **Deep infiltration of precipitation and applied water (DIPAW).** DIPAW is calculated by the R4 model, which is part of the CVM, and is translated into groundwater recharge via the recharge (RCH) package of MODFLOW, the groundwater-flow model of the CVM. Changes in land use, population, water demands, and climate drive changes in DIPAW.
- **Groundwater pumping.** Groundwater pumping is based on the Water Plan Scenarios and fluctuate from year to year based on demands. Groundwater pumping is implemented in the well (WEL) and multi-node well (MNW2) packages of MODFLOW.
- **Managed aquifer recharge.** Managed aquifer recharge includes the recharge of stormwater, recycled water, and imported water. Stormwater recharge varies based on precipitation conditions and the extent and operation of facilities to capture and recharge stormwater. Recycled water recharge varies based on water supply conditions, indoor water use patterns, and the operations, economics, and other constraints governing the ability to recharge recycled water. Imported water recharge is based on the assumed use of managed storage in the Chino Basin, which responds to groundwater pumping, net recharge, and the parties' choices of how to meet replenishment obligations. In addition, imported water can be recharged via Storage and Recovery Programs. Imported water recharge is implemented in the flow and head boundary (FHB) package of MODFLOW.

Figure 1. Process to translate Water Plan Scenarios into groundwater model inputs for the 2025 SYR.

Current Plans, Projections, and Assumptions for Future Cultural Conditions

This section answers question 2 above: *What are the current plans, projections, and assumptions for future cultural conditions in the Chino Basin?*

The current plans, projections, and assumptions for future cultural conditions will form the basis for the Water Plan Scenarios. Most of the data and information described in this section were collected from the Chino Basin parties. The following subsections discuss the datasets and assumptions that inform the Water Plan Scenarios, including historical water uses, Water Plans, buildout timeline, timeline for implementing water conservation regulations, and the use of managed storage and supplemental water recharge.

Historical Water Uses

Figure 2 depicts the historical water-supply data compiled from Water Year (WY) 2015 through 2023 for the Chino Basin parties. Over this period, total water demand ranged from 272,000 af (in WY 2023) to 307,000 af (in WY 2020) and averaged about 292,000 afy.

Historical water supplies vary depending on hydrologic conditions. The nine-year period experienced three years that were wetter than average (wet years; WYs 2017, 2019, and 2023), with the other six years experiencing below-average precipitation (dry years). Chino Basin groundwater comprises about 47 percent of supplies in wet years, and about 51 percent of supplies in dry years, averaging 49 percent. Imported water comprises about 22 percent of supplies in wet years, and about 20 percent of supplies in dry years, averaging 21 percent.

Compiled Water Plans

As part of the annual data collection and evaluation process, Watermaster requests updated Water Plans from the major Appropriative Pool retailers (AP retailers) and the larger Overlying Non-Agricultural Pool parties. For many of the Appropriative Pool retailers, the Water Plans are based on their respective 2020 Urban Water Management Plans (UWMPs). Watermaster worked with the AP retailers to develop monthly Water Plans and determine the priority of supplies that will be used to meet demands when projected water supplies exceed demands. The AP retailers included:

- City of Chino (Chino)
- City of Chino Hills (Chino Hills)
- City of Norco (Norco)
- City of Ontario (Ontario)
- City of Pomona (Pomona)
- City of Upland (Upland)
- Cucamonga Valley Water District (CVWD)
- Fontana Water Company (FWC)
- Golden State Water Company (GSWC)
- Jurupa Community Services District (JCSD)
- Marygold Mutual Water Company (MMWC)
- Monte Vista Water District (MVWD)
- Santa Ana River Water Company (SARWC)
- San Antonio Water Company (SAWCo)
- West Valley Water District (WVWD)

The projected pumping for the Overlying Non-Ag Pool parties (excluding those also in the Appropriative Pool, such as Ontario and MVWD) was developed based on historical trends or the party's response to the annual data request. Excluding pumping from General Electric Company, which injects approximately the same volume of water that it pumps, the total projected pumping by the Overlying Non-Agricultural Pool is about 1,430 afy. For simplicity and due to the generally stable nature of the demands of the Overlying Non-Agricultural Pool, we do not assume any variation in these projections.

Agricultural Pool demands are expected to reflect the trend of buildout across the Basin, declining as the Appropriative Pool agencies' service areas build out aligning with the potential buildout timelines discussed below. Watermaster has estimated the production of the Agricultural Pool at buildout based on historical data and projection of wells that are expected to pump in the future. In addition to the wells that are expected to pump at buildout, there are several agricultural areas that are irrigated by recycled water. Several of these areas are expected to remain in the future. Figure 3 shows the Agricultural Pool wells that are expected to produce in the future beyond buildout of the Basin and the projected pumping at these wells. The Agricultural Pool's total water use at buildout is expected to be about 4,070 afy. Uncertainty of the timing of decline in Agricultural Pool pumping is reflected in the timing of buildout discussed below.

Table 2 shows the aggregate Water Plan for the Watermaster parties and the Chino Desalter Authority for 2020¹⁰ (actual data in year with highest historical demands) and projected Water Plans for planning years 2025 through 2045. The projected demands increase from 307,000 af in 2020 to 374,000 af in 2045. The projected utilization of Chino Basin groundwater (44 to 48 percent of total supply) is less than the historical utilization over the past nine years (49 percent). Conversely, the projected utilization of imported water (25 to 27 percent of total supply) is greater than the historical utilization over the past nine years (21 percent of total supply).

¹⁰ Compiled for Water Year 2020 for the Water Year 2020 Annual Report that Watermaster submitted to the State pursuant to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act.

Buildout Timeline

Future population growth and land use are typically defined by buildout conditions, where a region approaches stable population and land uses. Most of the 2020 UWMPs for the Appropriative Pool parties indicate that respective service areas will be built out by 2040 or 2045. The parties incorporate these assumptions in their Water Plans, projecting increasing demands through at least 2040. Parties have also indicated that demands and land use conditions could change in the future in response to legislation incentivizing urban densification (i.e., changing land uses to increase population density). Future population growth rates, economic conditions, and other factors can also drive the buildout timeline. The best available data for buildout land use conditions are the cities' General Plans, which were used to develop projected future land use.

Conservation Regulation

Since 2018, the State Water Resources Control Board (State Board) and the Department of Water Resources (DWR) have been developing new water use efficiency standards for urban retail water suppliers to implement the 2018 Urban Water Use Objectives legislation (Assembly Bill 1668 and Senate Bill 606) and the related "Making Conservation a California Way of Life" (Conservation Regulation)¹¹. In October 2023, the State Board released the first draft of the proposed Conservation Regulation. Following comments from the public, the State Board released multiple revised drafts in early 2024 before adopting the Conservation Regulation on July 3, 2024.¹² The Conservation Regulation will take effect in January 2025, with compliance expected to be assessed beginning in 2027.

¹¹ Making Conservation a California Way of Life Fact Sheet

¹² Proposed text of Conservation Regulation that was adopted on July 3, 2024. As of this report, the Conservation Regulation text is being circulated for a sixth review period ending on August 12, 2024. The review period is expected to result in minor corrections and will not require the State Board to re-approve the Conservation Regulation.

The proposed Conservation Regulation requires the calculation of a budget for residential outdoor water use, incorporating a landscape efficiency factor linked to irrigable area, with future reductions slated for 2035 and 2040 to promote water-efficient landscaping practices. The State Board has compiled available data into a statewide database to estimate water use objectives for each water agency subject to the Conservation Regulation. The Chino Basin parties that would be subject to the Conservation Regulation have indicated significant uncertainty in their customers' responses to the Conservation Regulation and have voiced concerns with the State Board database. The State Board database calculates total water use objectives for each agency based on four components: (1) residential water use, including indoor, outdoor, and residential agriculture, (2) water losses, (3) outdoor irrigation for commercial, industrial, and institutional uses with dedicated irrigation meters (CII w/ DIMs), and (4) bonus incentives for recycled water use.¹³ Changes in outdoor irrigation for (1) and (3) have the greatest impact on the groundwater basin and are therefore the focus for this study.

Following Watermaster's March 7, 2024 workshop, Watermaster solicited feedback from the parties regarding how to quantify the proposed projection scenarios, including projecting responses to the Conservation Regulation. No Appropriative Pool parties provided specific input on how to quantify responses to the Conservation Regulation. Our approach to quantify projected responses to the Conservation Regulation began with using the State Board database to develop initial estimates of the water use objectives for the parties that are subject to the Conservation Regulation. We met with four Appropriative Pool parties that are subject to the Conservation Regulation: Ontario, Upland, CVWD, and JCSD. The parties indicated that:

- The data upon which the water use objectives are based are generally accurate.
- The State Board database did not calculate a water use objective for CII w/ DIMs because the landscape area used in the calculation has not been generated yet; instead, the water use objective for CII w/ DIMsin the database reflects historical use. Parties indicated that once the water use objectives for CII w/ DIMs is calculated, it will likely be less than their current use, necessitating future reductions in water use from CII w/ DIMs. This would increase the total targeted reductions needed to meet the Conservation Regulation compared to the State Board database. CII water use is a small portion of most parties' water demands.
- The water use objectives for CII w/ DIMs will be easier to meet than residential water use objectives due to the higher proportion of non-functional turf in these areas.
- Many agencies hired an outside consultant to develop refined water use objectives compared to what the State has calculated, including calculating the budget for CII w/ DIMs. These data are unpublished, provisional, and will be updated as the Conservation Regulation continues to be refined.
- Areas that have been recently developed (e.g., Eastvale) or are in development (e.g., Ontario Ranch) are likely to have lower residential water use compared to existing areas.
- Agencies that will be required to reduce water use by greater than about 10-15 percent from current water uses will have trouble meeting these targets without external funding or assistance. However, if such funding or assistance were available, some agencies indicated that such reductions in water use could be possible.

 13 Indoor water use standards, codified at Water Code section 10609.4(a), were originally set by the State Legislature as a part of the Conservation Legislation and amended in 2022 following joint input from the State Board and DWR. The State Board initiated a separate rulemaking process for water loss performance standards, adopting the final regulation on August 19, 2022. Water Loss Performance Standards Regulatory Text

> The compiled Water Plans generally do not reflect the projected impact of the Conservation Regulation. Agencies with access to imported water generally expect to reduce their usage of imported water to meet the Conservation Regulation. Upland indicated that they would reduce pumping from the Chino Basin rather than reduce use of imported water.

Estimated Implementation of Conservation Regulation for AP Retailers

Based on the current understanding of the Conservation Regulation, input from the parties suggests that the State Board database is appropriate for determining the future water use objectives for residential outdoor use, but its use for determining the future water use objectives for CII w/ DIMs is limited. For each of the nine major AP retailers,¹⁴ we calculated the nominal water use objectives for residential water use based on either the State Board database or the data that the party provided, prioritizing the latter. The parties and the State Board database calculate water use objectives relative to historical uses, not accounting for population growth. These objectives can be converted to gallons per capita per day (gpcd) and multiplied by the projected service area population to calculate the total changes in water demands. All projections shown in this TM have been adjusted for projected population growth based on the population projections in the parties' 2020 UWMPs.

We also calculated the nominal objectives for CII w/ DIMs based on assuming a reduction of 20 percent in 2030, 35 percent in 2035, and 45 percent in 2040 and 2045 compared to historical uses. This timeline is based on the provisional data provided by several parties for their respective CII w/DIMs, which is consistent with the reduced landscape efficiency factors (LEFs) for CII w/DIMs. 15

Use of Managed Storage and Supplemental Water Recharge

Pursuant to the Judgment, Watermaster levies and collects assessments each year in amounts sufficient to purchase replenishment water to replace pumping by a Pool during the preceding year in excess of that Pool's allocated share of Safe Yield (Overlying Agricultural and Overlying Non-Agricultural Pools) or Operating Safe Yield (Appropriative Pool). Each party's obligation is determined after accounting for any transfers or recovery of stored water. Parties within the Overlying Non-Agricultural Pool can transfer stored water and/or unused Safe Yield rights among themselves with Watermaster approval to minimize their replenishment obligations. Appropriative Pool Parties can do the same within their Pool. After the completion of a fiscal year, Watermaster collects pumping and transfer records from all parties to determine replenishment obligations created in the prior year.

Projected future replenishment obligations are based on current and projected Safe Yield, groundwater augmentation as described above, and the transfer activity among the parties. Prior projections (e.g., the 2020 SYR) have estimated replenishment obligations by comparing aggregate groundwater pumping to aggregate production rights. Aggregate production rights are based on the Safe Yield, Reoperation credits used to offset the Desalter Replenishment Obligation, and projected recycled water recharge credits allocated to the parties. The 2020 SYR used the following assumptions:

¹⁴ These include Chino, Chino Hills, Ontario, Pomona, Upland, CVWD, FWC, JCSD, and MVWD.

¹⁵ The LEF is "a factor used to calculate the aggregate amount of water a supplier may need to deliver to customers so that they can maintain healthy and efficient landscapes across the supplier's service area." (See footnote 6). The Conservation Regulation sets this factor for CII w/ DIMs at 0.80 from adoption to 2035; 0.63 from 2035 to 2040; and 0.45 from 2040 onward, implying reductions of 20 percent, 37 percent, and 55 percent from historical uses, respectively. Suppliers can obtain credits for irrigation with recycled water that reduce these apparent reductions. Therefore, reductions of 20 percent in 2030, 35 percent in 2040, and 45 percent in 2045 are realistic.

- If aggregate pumping rights are greater than the projected aggregate pumping, then the difference is credited to storage accounts and there is no wet-water recharge for replenishment.
- If the aggregate pumping rights are less than the projected aggregate pumping, then 80 percent of the replenishment obligation is debited to storage accounts with the remainder being satisfied through wet-water recharge. This assumption was based on historical assessment packages.

During Watermaster's annual data collection and evaluation process, Watermaster collects updated information regarding the parties' anticipated use of storage. The current information suggests that 90 percent of replenishment obligations are expected to be met through stored water in the future.

In 2024, Watermaster began developing a tool to project managed storage account balances for individual parties based on pumping projections, transfers, and other assumptions. As of this writing, the assumptions for transfers are not refined to a degree necessary to use the tool. Therefore, we will calculate managed storage and replenishment obligations on an aggregate basis for the 2025 SYR.

Water Plan Scenarios that Represent Uncertainty in Future Cultural Conditions

This section answers question 3 above: *How should the current plans and projections be modified to develop Water Plan Scenarios that will represent the uncertainty in future cultural conditions?*

The following subsections describe the assumptions for each of Water Plan Scenario considering the future uncertainties in: land use buildout, Conservation Regulation, groundwater utilization, and imported water utilization. The three Water Plan Scenarios are shown in Table 1 and include:

- Expected Demands, Expected Groundwater Utilization, Expected Imported Water Utilization (Scenarios 1, 2, and 3)
- High Demands, High Groundwater Utilization, Low Imported Water Utilization (Scenarios 4, 5, and 6)
- Low Demands, Low Groundwater Utilization, High Imported Water Utilization (Scenarios 7, 8, and 9)

Buildout

Buildout assumptions impact future land use conditions and Water Plans. An accelerated buildout would mean that demands increase at a faster rate in the near-term, and vice versa for a slower-than-expected buildout. Based on the information described above, the **expected demand** condition assumes land use buildout as reflected in the compiled Water Plans (around 2040). The **high demand** condition assumes that buildout will occur three years earlier than reflected in the compiled Water Plans (around 2037). The **low demand** condition assumes that buildout will occur five years later than what is reflected in the compiled Water Plans (around 2045). The Water Plans for the high demand and low demand scenarios will be adjusted relative to the expected buildout.

Conservation Regulation

Based on the input from the parties, we have developed three plausible demand scenarios to simulate the degree that the parties' demands will decline due to the Conservation Regulation. In some cases, parties' water use in their Water Plans is less than the water use objective. In these instances, the demands shown in the compiled Water Plans were not adjusted. The three demand conditions assume the following regarding the Conservation Regulation:

- The **expected demand** condition assumes that major AP retailers will meet a minimum of 60 percent of the reductions required to meet nominal objectives in residential water uses and 80 percent of the reductions required to meet nominal objectives in CII w/DIMs.
- The **high demand** condition assumes that major AP retailers will meet a minimum of 35 percent of the reductions required to meet nominal objectives in residential water uses and 50 percent of the reductions required to meet nominal objectives in CII w/DIMs.
- The **low demand** condition assumes that major AP retailers will meet a minimum of 80 percent of the reductions required to meet nominal objectives in residential water uses and 90 percent of the reductions required to meet nominal objectives in CII w/DIMs.

The range in percentages are based on the assumptions that (1) parties will not be able to fully meet the nominal water use objectives and (2) proportional reductions in CII w/ DIMs will exceed that of residential uses.

Groundwater and Imported Water Utilization

The groundwater and imported water utilization conditions are as follows:

- The **expected groundwater and imported water utilization** condition reflects the compiled Water Plans adjusted for the assumed implementation of the Conservation Regulation. Parties are assumed to meet 90 percent of any replenishment obligations through debits from Managed Storage, with the remaining replenishment obligations being met via wet-water recharge.
- The **high groundwater utilization/low imported water utilization** condition assumes that the proportion of total demands met by Chino Basin groundwater increase by eight percent relative to the expected condition, and the proportion of total demands met by imported water declines by an equivalent volume. Parties are assumed to meet 100 percent of any replenishment obligations through debits from Managed Storage.
- The **low groundwater utilization/high imported water utilization** condition assumes that the proportion of total demands met by Chino Basin groundwater decline by eight percent relative to the expected condition, and the proportion of total demands met by imported water increases by an equivalent volume. Parties are assumed to meet 70 percent of any replenishment obligations through debits from Managed Storage, with the remaining replenishment obligations being met via wet-water recharge.

In all scenarios, we assume that water supplies other than Chino Basin groundwater and imported water remain unchanged from the expected condition. Chino Basin groundwater and imported water comprise about 77 to 79 percent of total potable supplies in the Chino Basin. This assumption leads to a more conservative estimate, resulting in larger variations in the potential range of Chino Basin groundwater pumping. Other water sources are not included in the groundwater-flow model, except for groundwater pumping in adjacent basins such as Spadra Basin, Six Basins, Cucamonga Basin, and Temescal Basin, which have a minor impact on the Chino Basin.

Water Plans

Tables 3a, 3b, and 3c show the aggregate Water Plans for the three Water Plan Scenarios for an average hydrologic year. The notable differences between the scenarios include:

- By 2045, total demands range from 330,000 af (low demand) to 364,000 af (high demand), with expected demands at 346,000 af. Figure 4 shows the projected total demand for the three Water Plan Scenarios for an average hydrologic year.
- The percentage of Chino Basin groundwater utilization ranges from 42 percent (low groundwater utilization – 2025) to 51 percent (high groundwater utilization – 2045) of total demands, with expected groundwater utilization between 44 and 49 percent. Figure 5 shows the projected Chino Basin groundwater pumping for the three Water Plan Scenarios for an average hydrologic year.
- The percentage of imported water utilization ranges from 21 percent (low imported water utilization – 2045) to 28 percent (high imported water utilization – 2025) of total demands, with expected imported utilization between 23 and 27 percent. Figure 6 shows the projected Chino Basin imported water demands for the three Water Plan Scenarios for an average hydrologic year.

Historical and projected future pumping for each party and scenario for an average hydrologic year is shown in Table 4. Individual Water Plans for each of the nine major AP retailers (not adjusted for proposed buildout years) are included in Attachment B. For parties other than the nine major AP retailers, groundwater pumping was projected to increase and decrease by five percent from expected for the high and low demand conditions, respectively.

Variability due to Climate Scenarios

This section answers question 4 above: *How should the Water Plan Scenarios be adjusted to account for climatic variability?*

We define climatic variability for the modeling as interannual or multi-year variability in precipitation and temperature. Demands respond to changes in precipitation and temperature (as reflected in changes in evapotranspiration). We consider the impacts of precipitation and temperature on demands to be independent. Demands for individual supplies (e.g., Chino Basin groundwater) are expected to increase or decrease proportionally to the other supplies.

Variability of Demands due to Precipitation

Demands typically decrease during wet years and increase during dry years, mainly because of the influence of precipitation on outdoor irrigation demands. These patterns are reflected in the historical data (Figure 2), where total demands in wet years are up to seven percent less than average, and the total demands in dry years are up to five percent greater than average.

During dry years/periods, increased demands for outdoor irrigation are expected to outweigh any reductions in demands due to water conservation measures. IEUA has estimated in its 2020 UWMP that longer dry periods (three or more years) could result in an increased demand by about nine percent by 2040.¹⁶ These projections are consistent with other regional studies¹⁷ and 2020 UWMPs.

The following methodology adjusts demand based on interannual variations in precipitation, with particular attention to the duration of dry or wet periods. This approach ensures that demand projections account for the impacts of prolonged wet or dry conditions. A dry year is characterized by annual precipitation below the $33rd$ percentile of historical annual precipitation while a wet year is defined by annual precipitation above the 66th percentile of historical annual precipitation. Using these thresholds, dry and wet periods are identified within the projected precipitation time series, and corresponding demand multipliers are applied according to the length of these periods.

The demand multipliers for a single dry or wet year are 1.03 and 0.97, respectively, representing a 3 percent change in demand. The demand multipliers for a second consecutive dry or wet year are 1.06 and 0.94, respectively, representing a 6 percent change in demand. The demand multipliers for a third consecutive dry or wet year are 1.09 and 0.91, respectively, representing a ±9 percent change in demand.

Figure 7 illustrates the application of the methodology to the projected demands under the Average Climate Scenario described in the section below. The greatest demand multiplier occurs in 2033, where demands are projected to be about 30,000 af (9 percent) greater than the projected demand in an average hydrologic year. The lowest demand multiplier occurs in 2039 and 2050, where demands are projected to be about 21,000 af (9 percent) less than the projected demand in an average hydrologic year.

Variability of Demands due to Temperature

Changes in temperature and evapotranspiration drive changes in demands, primarily outdoor irrigation. IEUA has estimated that a 3.6-degree Fahrenheit (°F) increase in temperature may result in a 4.3 percent increase in demand (about 1.2 percent per $\mathrm{^{o}F}$).¹⁸ The parties that have developed 2020 UWMPs incorporate assumptions for impacts of future climate change in demands pursuant to the California Water Code.¹⁹ Therefore, we assume that the compiled Water Plans, most of which are based on the 2020 UWMPs, reflect the anticipated impacts of temperature on demands for the **average Climate Scenario**. In the **hot/dry** and **cool/wet Climate Scenarios**, it is assumed that demands will increase and decrease, respectively, by 1.2 percent per °F of difference from the average Climate Scenario, calculated on an average annual basis. As discussed below, reference evapotranspiration (ET_0) is the only temperature-related climate variable that will be used to develop the Climate Scenarios. A regression between temperature and ET_0 will be used to derive the temperature change factors. Based on the climate datasets described below, demands will be adjusted by about ±1.5 percent by 2050, and up to ±2.8 percent by 2080.

¹⁶ Section 2.6 of IEUA's 2020 UWMP

¹⁷ Miro, Michelle E., David G. Groves, David Catt, and Benjamin M. Miller, Estimating Future Water Demand for San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District. Santa Monica, CA: RAND Corporation, 2018. https://www.rand.org/pubs/working_papers/WR1288.html.

¹⁸ Table 2-3 of IEUA's 2015 IRP

¹⁹ Appendix I. Considering Climate Change Impacts (ca.gov)

CLIMATE DATASETS AND SCENARIOS

The 2025 SYR is reevaluating the Safe Yield for the period from FY 2021 through 2030. Historical climate and cultural conditions will be simulated through FY 2023, with projected cultural conditions and climate beginning in FY 2024 through the model simulation period (FY 2080). This section provides an update on the processing of the climate projection datasets and describes the proposed Climate Scenarios.

Datasets for Projected Climate Conditions

Scenario TM #2 documented the proposed downscaled Global Climate Model (GCM) datasets from Phase 6 of the Coupled Model Intercomparison Project (CMIP6) that we proposed to use for the projection scenarios. Since Scenario TM #2, we have processed the precipitation and temperature datasets for the three climate models identified in TM #2 for all scenarios (i.e., historical, SSP2-4.5, SSP3-7.0, and SSP5-8.5) in the Chino Basin. Our data processing identified systematic discrepancies between the GCM and PRISM datasets for the historical period that Cal-Adapt is working to address as of this writing; however, their effort is not expected to be complete in time to use the GCM datasets in this effort. Therefore, we have revised our approach to defining Climate Scenarios to represent the full range in potential climate futures.

Our proposed method for developing climate projections uses approaches that DWR recommended for incorporating climate change into groundwater sustainability planning (e.g., DWR, 2018).²⁰ The DWRrecommended approach employs change factors(CFs) derived from spatially downscaled climate data from CMIP Phase 5 (CMIP5). The DWR-recommended approach and CMIP5 change factors were used for the 2020 Safe Yield Recalculation.²¹ While it has been demonstrated that many of the CMIP6 models outperform the CMIP5 models in simulating California's climate, 22 our assessment is that CMIP5 remains the best-available climate data that is appropriate for use in the Chino Basin.

Proposed Climate Scenarios

This section describes the proposed method for generating projected precipitation and reference evapotranspiration (ET₀) time series for the proposed Climate Scenarios used in the 2025 SYR.

²⁰ California Department of Water Resources. 2018. Guidance for Climate Change Data Use During Groundwater Sustainability Plan Development. Accessed on 15 Aug 2024 at https://water.ca.gov/-/media/DWR-Website/Web-Pages/Programs/Groundwater-Management/Sustainable-Groundwater-Management/Best-Management-Practices-and-Guidance-Documents/Files/Climate-Change-Guidance_Final_ay_19.pdf.

²¹ See Section 7.2 of the 2020 SYR Report.

²² Memo on Evaluating Global Climate Models for Studying Regional Climate Change in California

Generating Projected Climate Time Series

Our proposed approach to generate time series data for climate projections is as follows:

- 1. Collect PRISM²³ precipitation data and historical ET₀ data²⁴ for the historical period (FY 1951 through 2023).
- 2. Acquire precipitation and ET change factors (CFs) from DWR for the Chino Basin for the four available climatic conditions:
	- 2030 Central Tendency (2030CT)
	- 2070 Central Tendency (2070CT)
	- 2070 Wet with Moderate Warming (2070WMW)
	- 2070 Dry with Extreme Warming (2070DEW)
- 3. Select relatively wet, average, and dry 7-year periods from the historical period to repeat during the period from FY 2024 to 2030.
- 4. Select a continuous 50-year period from the historical record that is representative of the historical average.
- 5. Multiply the selected 50-year period to generate climate inputs for the period from FY 2031 to 2080.

Choosing Precipitation for FY 2024 through 2030

Annually, net recharge is more sensitive to year-to-year precipitation variability than to longer-term trends in average precipitation. Further, differences in climatic conditions resulting from different emission pathways can be expected to result in only a minor amount of uncertainty over the very near-term compared to natural interannual variation; the Safe Yield that is calculated over FY 2021 through 2030 will be sensitive to the simulated precipitation over the projection period of FY 2024 through 2030.

The projected precipitation datasets generated using DWR CFs reflect future climate trends, but interannual variability over the period of FY 2024 through 2030 may not adequately capture the possible range of precipitation over this period. Therefore, we propose a hybrid approach to projecting precipitation and ET, where the precipitation for FY 2024 through 2030 uses a continuous seven-year period taken from historical data with the 2030 CFs applied, and the precipitation for FY 2031 and beyond uses precipitation modified by DWR CFs. Precipitation data for FY 2024 through 2030 will be derived from the historical (PRISM) record of FY 1950 through 2011, which covers the range of historical data that was used in the 2020 SYR and for which CFs are available. Applying the 2030 CFs to the historical seven-year periods will ensure that the variability and trends comport with the expected trends occurring by the end of the decade. The exception to applying the 2030CT CFs is the seven-year period selected for the hot/dry scenario, which is chosen from FY 2012-2018. This is the driest period in the historical record, and 2030CT CFs are not available for this period.

²³ Parameter-elevation Relationships on Independent Slopes Model (PRISM) data are developed by the Northwest Alliance for Computational Science and Engineering at Oregon State University (PRISM Climate Group at Oregon State University).

²⁴ Historical ET₀ data are collected from the nearby California Irrigation Management Information System (CIMIS) stations located in Pomona and Riverside (https://cimis.water.ca.gov/). For the period prior to these CIMIS stations becoming active, ET₀ was estimated by regression relationships developed at these stations with evaporation at Puddingstone reservoir.

Applying CFs to Precipitation and ET Time Series

Although they are provided as time series, DWR CFs are designed to represent a snapshot of climate conditions. For example, the 2030 CFs can be multiplied by historical data to develop a time series of climate data representative of 2030 climatic conditions. To develop dynamic precipitation and ET_0 time series covering the period from 2031 to 2080, we will interpolate linearly between the 2030 and 2070 CFs. Monthly precipitation will be calculated as follows:

From 2031 to 2069:
$$
CF_t = \frac{t - 2030}{40} CF_{2070} + \frac{2070 - t}{40} CF_{2030}
$$

From 2070 to 2080: $CF_t = CF_{2070}$

$$
P_t = C F_t P_{h,t}
$$

where:

- *CF^t* is the change factor applied for time *t*
- *CF²⁰⁷⁰* is the 2070 CF (CT, DEW, or WMW)
- *CF²⁰³⁰* is the 2030 CF (CT)
- *P^t* is monthly precipitation for time *t*
- *Ph,t* is monthly precipitation from the historical time series for time equivalent to *t*

Figure 8 shows the precipitation time series for each Climate Scenario built with this method for FY 2024 through 2080. From FY 2024 through 2030, the three Climate Scenarios use different portions of the historical record with the 2030CT CFs applied. From FY 2031 through 2080, the three Climate Scenarios use projected data modified (using CFs) from the historical record. During the early part of the 2031-2080 period, there is little difference between scenarios because each is most strongly influenced by the value of *CF2030*, which is identical for each scenario. Figure 9 shows the ET₀ time series for each Climate Scenario, including the historical data through FY 2023.

Climate Scenarios

Table 5 summarizesthe proposed Climate Scenarios and datasets to be used for portions of the projection period.

ASSIGNING LIKELIHOODS TO THE PROJECTION ENSEMBLE SCENARIOS

Step 5 of the 2022 Safe Yield Reset Methodology directs Watermaster to "[a]ssign likelihoods to each scenario in the Projection Ensemble." This element of the Methodology stems from the acknowledgement that all projection scenarios may not have the same probability of occurrence, and the simulated basin responses to these projection scenarios should be evaluated in this context. For example, if a single projection scenario with a low likelihood of occurrence is projected to cause Material Physical Injury (MPI), those results would be less of a concern than a scenario with a higher likelihood of occurrence that is projected to cause MPI. We use scalar weighting factors to weight each scenario. If each projection scenario is assumed to be equally likely, then the implicit weight of each scenario is 1. If a scenario is expected to be twice as likely to occur than another scenario with a weight of 1, then the weight of that scenario would be 2.

Given that the expected condition suggests a higher likelihood, we propose assigning a likelihood weight of 2 to the expected demand and groundwater/imported water utilization scenarios (Scenarios 1, 2, and 3), while assigning a weight of 1 to the remaining projection scenarios (Scenarios 4 through 9). This means that the probability of one of the expected scenarios occurring (50 percent) is equal to the likelihood of either of the other two Water Plan Scenarios occurring (50 percent). We propose to assign a likelihood weight of the Average Climate Scenario of 2, while assigning a weight of 1 to the Hot/Dry and Cool/Wet Climate Scenarios. The total weight of each scenario will be the product of the weight of the Water Plan Scenario and the Climate Scenario. For example, the total weight of Scenario 1 (Expected demand, expected groundwater/imported water utilization, and Expected Climate Scenario) would be 4. Table 6 below shows the Projection Ensemble with the proposed likelihood weights. Following the publication of the August 2024 draft Scenario TM #3, we are requesting input from the parties to guide the assignment of likelihoods to the scenarios in the Projection Ensemble.

SCHEDULE AND NEXT STEPS

The August 27, 2024 workshop is the fourth stakeholder workshop that will aid the development of the scenarios that will be simulated during the 2025 SYR. The remaining schedule to complete the 2025 SYR scenario development is described below.

- **August 27, 2024 through September 27, 2024:**
	- Parties and stakeholders provide written comments on draft Scenario TM #3 and the Projection Ensemble, including recommendations of likelihoods for each of the projection scenarios.
	- West Yost begins preparing projection realizations (Projection Ensemble and calibrated model realizations) for simulation with the 2025 CVM.
- **September/October 2024:**
	- West Yost and Watermaster respond to written feedback on Projection Ensemble and Scenario TM #3. West Yost and Watermaster finalize Scenario TM #3 and distribute the TM to the parties.
	- West Yost continues preparing projection realizations (Projection Ensemble and calibrated model realizations) for simulation with the 2025 CVM.

Next Steps

Following the August 27, 2024 workshop, Watermaster invites additional written input from the parties or other stakeholders that may assist the development of the Projection Ensemble. Please submit written input to Garrett Rapp at grapp@westyost.com by September 27, 2024.

Date: 6/26/2024

Chino Basin Watermaster 2025 Safe Yield Reevaluation

Projected Active Agricultural Wells at Buildout

Projected Annual Pumping (afy)

Geology

Water-Bearing Sediments

Quaternary Alluvium

Consolidated Bedrock

Undifferentiated Pre-Tertiary to Early Pleistocene Igneous, Metamorphic, and Sedimentary Rocks

Hydrology

ANA - Streams & Flood Control Channels

Flood Control & Conservation Basins

OBMP Management Zones

Figure 3

Chino Basin Watermaster Safe Yield Recalculation Last Revised: 8/26/2024

k-c-941-80-24-32-PE8PE9-ENGR-2025SYR

WEST YOST

Chino Basin Watermaster Safe Yield Recalculation Last Revised: 8/26/2024

WEST YOST

Chino Basin Watermaster 2025 Safe Yield Reevaluation Last Revised: 8/28/2024

Attachment A

Responses to Party Comments on Scenario TM #2 and Draft Scenario TM #3

COMMENTS AND RESPONSES FROM SCENARIO TM #2

State of California (Richard Rees, PG, CHG)

Comment 1 – General Comment

The TM#2 describes the scenario designs in general and we have no comments on the elements of the water plan scenarios. The proposed projection scenarios are limited and appear to be balanced around the expected condition. We agree with that approach. We look forward to seeing the analysis and recommendations for the climate data sets in Scenario TM #3.

Response:

Thank you for your input. We look forward to your future comments on the detailed projection scenarios.

Comment 2 – Specific Comment

Page 7, first paragraph, "Scripps Institute of Oceanography" should be "Scripps Institution of Oceanography."

Response:

This will be corrected if referenced in future documents.

COMMENTS AND RESPONSES FROM JUNE 25, 2024 DRAFT SCENARIO TM #3

Thomas Harder and Company (Jim Van de Water, PG, CHG; Thomas Harder, PG, CHG)

Comment 1 – Introduction

This letter summarizes Thomas Harder & Company's (TH&Co's) understanding of how West-Yost (WY) plans to conduct the Chino Basin safe yield uncertainty analysis using PEST++-IES (IES). Based on this understanding, we have provided an alternative recommended approach that we believe is more streamlined, places less burden on the stakeholders, and remains adherent to the Court Order.

Response:

Thank you for your input and for providing an alternative recommended approach. We appreciate your efforts to ensure efficiency and reduce stakeholder burden. For reasons described in detail below, we demonstrate that our current scope, which was developed with your valuable input, is already streamlined and optimally structured to meet the requirements of the 2022 Safe Yield Reset

WEST YOST

A-1 Chino Basin Watermaster 2025 Safe Yield Reevaluation August 2024

Methodology. We strive to balance efficiency with compliance and stakeholder needs, and we remain open to adjustments if necessary.

Comment 2 – Our Understanding of the WY Approach

During an April 15th teleconference between TH&Co and WY and subsequent workshops, we gained a better understanding of how WY plans to conduct the uncertainty analysis. Our understanding is as follows:

- 1. WY will generate 100 calibrated realizations for the historical ("calibration") period.
- 2. From these 100 realizations, WY will select five or so calibrated realizations spanning the range of safe yield values (e.g., the 10th, 30th, 50th, 70th, and 90th percentile safe yield values.
- 3. WY will then append as many as 9 alternative futures (the forecasts) to these five realizations.

Response:

The understanding of this approach is generally accurate. The approach, as clarified in the August $6th$, 2024 Calibration workshop 1 is as follows:

1. We have generated 316 calibrated realizations for the historical period (FY 1992 through 2022)

2. From these realizations, we have selected five calibrated realizations: One with the mean historical net recharge closest to the ensemble mean net recharge, and four realizations that are closest to the ensemble mean net recharge plus or minus one and two standard deviations from the mean, respectively.

3. We will simulate nine projection scenarios using all five of the chosen realizations, for a total of 45 projection realizations.

Comment 3 – Overview of Our Recommended Approach

We are of the opinion there is no guarantee the WY approach will result in a reasonable spread of safe yield values. For example, the 10th percentile safe yield value based on the calibration period may not necessarily result in the 10th percentile safe yield for the forecast and so on for the other percentile realizations. As such, we believe one runs the risk that the forecast safe yield values using the 10th, 30th, 50th, 70th, and 90th percentile realizations may be lumped within an unreasonably narrow range. To avoid this possibility, our recommended approach involves running all realizations retained from the calibration process in the ensemble for the uncertainty analysis. Doing so requires that: 1) more temporal parameters be added to the IES setup and 2) the forecast period be appended to the calibration period of the model. Our approach relies on proxy years based on precipitation; however, the proxy years can be based on metrics other than, or in addition to precipitation. The point is that proxy years must be developed to implement our approach.

¹ [Slides from the August 6, 2024 workshop](https://www.cbwm.org/docs/othermeetings/2024%2008%2006%20-%202025%20Safe%20Yield%20Reevaluation%20-%20Calibration%20No%202/downloads/20240806_2025_SYR_workshop_Calib2.pdf)

Response:

We acknowledge the possibility that our approach may not capture the entire range of net recharge. However, this approach simplifies the analysis and ensures that the results are easier to interpret and understand.

During the development of the initial scope to implement the 2022 Safe Yield Reset methodology in the 2025 SYR, all peer reviewers who commented suggested using a small (i.e., fewer than 40) number of realizations to append projection scenarios for the analysis of Safe Yield.² If, after a review of the results, we determine that the range of results does not capture sufficient uncertainty (including the predictive uncertainty introduced by the projection scenarios), then we will consider simulating additional realizations. We are building workflows that automate the development of projection realizations (i.e., calibrated realizations and projection scenarios), so this will be straightforward to implement.

Comment 4 – Detailed Recommended Approach (Part 1)

Our recommended approach below assumes that the calibration period runs from October 1990 through September 2022 and the model is based on monthly stress periods. That is, the calibration period consists of 384 monthly stress periods (SP1 through SP384). It is further assumed the forecast period runs from October 2022 through September 2032 (SP385 through SP504).

The stepwise procedure that follows is our recommended approach. Steps 1 through 6 involve classifying water years in the calibration and forecast periods. As will be apparent, there's quite a bit of flexibility here so the percentages and ratios should only be used as guidelines to demonstrate our recommended approach. Step 7 and onward speak directly to the IES setup.

- 1. Select a relatively recent historical time-period as a "representative hydrology" with respect to precipitation. For this example, it is assumed here that the time-period spanning water years 1998-2022 is representative. Some may find this time-period to be a bit on the dry side but it will be assumed for this example.
- 2. Using the average precipitation, classify the historical water years as "very wet", "wet", "average", "dry", and "very dry" by calculating the ratio of measured precipitation for each water year to the average precipitation over 1998-2022. For example, if the precipitation for a given water is twice the average (i.e., has a ratio > 2.0), it may be classified as "very wet" whereas if it is half the average (i.e., has a ratio $<$ 0.5), it may be classified as "very dry". An average year may be classified as those years with a ratio between 0.8 and 1.2. Adjust as necessary so that there is a reasonable distribution across these five categories. For example, adjust the "ratio cutoff limits" for each category until, roughly:
	- a. 8% of the water years are classified as "very wet",
	- b. 12% of the water years are classified as "wet",
	- c. 60% of the water years are classified as "average",
	- d. 12% of the water years are classified as "dry", and

² See Attachment B of the [2022 SYRMU TM.](https://www.cbwm.org/docs/engdocs/Safe%20Yield%20Recalculation/20221006_SYRMU_TM_FINAL.pdf) Relevant comments include Richard Rees' Comment No. 7 (B-3); Thomas Harder's Comment No. 5 (B-13); Dave Crosley/Eric Fordham's Comment in Paragraph 4 (B-16 and B-17).

- e. 8% of the years are classified as "very dry".
- 3. Using the 1999-2022 representative time-period, develop a future monthly precipitation forecast using DWR (or court-approved) climate change methodology and group them into their corresponding water years.
- 4. Using the ratios from Step 2, classify the forecast water years as "very wet", "wet", "average", "dry", and "very dry".
- 5. Select five historical water years as proxy "very wet", "wet", "average", "dry", and "very dry" water years. Assume that the selection process results in the following proxies:
	- a. Water Year 1998 (SP85 through SP96) is "very wet",
	- b. Water Year 2019 (SP337 through SP348) is "wet",
	- c. Water Year 2015 (SP289 through SP300) is "average",
	- d. Water Year 2018 (SP325 through SP336) is "dry", and
	- e. Water Year 2002 (SP133 through SP144) is "very dry".
- 6. Calculate the ratio of forecast precipitation to measured precipitation. Using the calculated ratios, assign proxy years to the forecast water years. Assume this comparison results in the following:
	- a. Water Year 2023 (SP385 through SP396) is "very wet",
	- b. Water Year 2024 (SP397 through SP408) is "wet",
	- c. Water Year 2025 (SP409 through SP420) is "average",
	- d. Water Year 2026 (SP421 through SP432) is "very dry",
	- e. Water Year 2027 (SP433 through SP444) is "average",
	- f. Water Year 2028 (SP445 through SP456) is "average",
	- g. Water Year 2029 (SP457 through SP468) is "average",
	- h. Water Year 2030 (SP469 through SP480) is "dry",
	- i. Water Year 2031 (SP481 through SP492) is "average", and
	- j. Water Year 2032 (SP493 through SP504) is "average".
- 7. Include as many temporal parameters in the IES setup as possible. Temporal parameters are harbored in boundary condition packages. Common ones include recharge rates in the Recharge (RCH) package, flows and/or heads in the Flow and Head Boundary (FHB) package, roughness coefficients and up- and down-stream widths in the Streamflow Routing (SFR) Package, and unmetered pumping in the multi-node well (MNW2) package. For the sake of example, we will limit the discussion to RCH parameters.
- 8. Recharge rates can be zoned or assigned via pilot points in an IES setup but, for the sake of simplicity, this example only considers stress period-specific model-wide recharge array multipliers.
- 9. Include recharge array multipliers as parameters in the IES control file and RCH package template file. For this example, they are named "R_1" through "R_384". R_1 will be featured in the template file as the array multiplier for SP 1 whereas the subsequent parameters (i.e., R 2, R 3, …, R 384) will be featured in the template file as the array multipliers for the remaining SPs in the calibration period.
- 10. For the forecast period (i.e., SP_385 onward), construct the IES template files such that the recharge parameters are assigned to their associated forecast stress periods. For example, given that Water Year 2023 (SPs 385 through 396) in this example is "very wet" and the "very wet" proxy year (1998) consists of SP 85 through SP 96, R_85 will appear in the RCH template file in SP85 and again further down in SP385 for this "very wet" water year.

- 11. Repeat the previous step until all forecast SPs are accounted for in the template files with their associated water year type (i.e., "very wet", "wet", "average", "dry", and "very dry").
- 12. This approach can be repeated for the other stress packages (i.e., FHB, SFR, EVT, etc.) to fully map the calibration period into the forecast period although pumping (assigned via the MNW2 package) would be handled differently because none of the wells in the forecast period have an associated calibrated counterpart from the calibration period. In short, all pumping in the forecast period is assumed to be assigned to wells that have been and will continue to be metered.
- 13. Assuming a template file is developed for the MNW2 package to calibrate historical unmetered wells (e.g., historical agricultural wells), the template file would be modified to include appropriate pumping rates (e.g., those provided by the stakeholders) for the forecast period.
- 14. Expand the DIS package to accommodate the forecast SPs.
- 15. Rerun IES to generate at least 100 calibrated realizations. These realizations will be "complete" in that they include both the historical and forecast periods.
- 16. Assuming the initial ensemble is set to 100 and no realizations are eliminated (e.g., due to time-outs or unstable parameter fields), you will have 100 realizations with which to conduct the uncertainty analysis.
- 17. The parameters for each of these 100 realizations can then be extracted into 100 unique 'PAR' files that can be used to generate 100 IES control files. These control files can then be used to conduct 100 individual model runs to generate the files needed to calculate 100 unique water budgets and therefore, 100 unique estimates of the safe yield. It is important to note that these runs are not run in parallel; therefore, they can be run on as many separate computers as you can muster. The more computers, the shorter the runtime. If the runs are to be conducted on a single multicore computer that can process 20 runs at time, each processor will have to conduct 5 runs to complete the uncertainty analysis. If the runtime is, say, 3 hours, the 100 uncertainty runs will be finished in 15 hours.

Response:

Thank you for the detailed suggestion. We will consider using the proposed process to choose proxy years for generating multipliers for boundary inflows, the EVT package, and other applicable inputs for the projection scenarios.

Comment 5 – Detailed Recommended Approach (Part 2)

Given the increased number of parameters that would be part of this approach, we believe consideration of multiple futures may not be necessary. That said - and by way of example - if a drier future must be considered, one could:

- downgrade some or all forecast stress periods from, say, "very wet" to "wet", "wet" to "average", and so on by re-assigning the appropriate associated proxy stress periods in the forecast; or
- adjust the ratio cutoff limits in Step 2 such that a greater percentage of "very dry" and "dry" years are assigned to the forecast SPs; or

• create tied forecast parameters that are identical to selected calibration parameters and set the scaling parameters for the former to values less than $1.0³$

Admittedly, we have not used any of these bulleted approaches to create alternative futures but, "on paper", we see no reason why they would not work. That said, if either of the first two bulleted approaches are taken, the template files must be modified from the "base case" template files developed using the numbered approach outlined above for each alterative future. This means IES would need to be run again to generate the appropriate files to conduct the safe yield uncertainty analysis.

The third option may prove to be logistically simpler because the template file would function for all alternative futures. That is, the alternative futures would be controlled entirely via the control file. As an example using pumping, rather than specific future pumping rates, the stakeholders would only have to provide a percentage change in pumping for the various proxy years. For example, using Items 5 and 6 above in the detailed approach, rather than having to tell the modelers "We'll pump 10,000 acre-ft in 2030", the stakeholder will have to tell the modelers for this forecast dry year "We'll pump 7% more than we did in 2018 (the proxy dry year)". The scaling factor assigned in the control file for the stakeholder's wells would therefore be 1.07. That said, for the third option, we strongly recommend that a short test run be conducted to ensure the parameters are being scaled properly by close inspection of the input files written by IES before launching into a full IES run.

Response:

The 2022 Safe Yield Reset Methodology requires the development and simulation of scenarios that span the possible range of future cultural conditions and future climate conditions, and that these conditions be identified and described. Therefore, implementing the proposed approach for developing projection scenarios would not be compliant with the 2022 Safe Yield Reset Methodology.

Comment 6 – Closing

As always, we appreciate the opportunity to provide our services to you and the Chino Basin Appropriative Pool. As the information presented herein is rather detailed, we would be willing to meet with WY remotely or in-person to discuss further at Watermaster's request. If you have any questions, please contact me or Tom.

Response:

No response required.

 3 For example, for the array multipliers in the RCH package and/or flows in the FHB package.

City of Chino (Dave Crosley, PE)

Comment 1

Review of calibration results of the updated CVM using PESTPP-IES compared to the 2020 CVM reveals a similar trend in declining net recharge over the calibration period from 1992 to 2022, though the 2020 CVM results are mostly outside of the min-max range identified for the 4 iterations. As the 2020 CVM was "well calibrated," how have model parameters changed or what has changed structurally in the updated model that resulted in observed differences in net recharge between the two models? Can the difference in net recharge be quantified and equated to specific change(s) in model structure or parameters? Are the differences directly related to recharge factors that would contribute to DIPAW and, if so, how do these factors that have changed relate to those considered for the projection scenarios? Are the factors observable and measurable in nature?

Response:

The primary updates to the groundwater-flow model during the development of the 2025 Chino Valley Model (2025 CVM) were summarized in the August 30, 2023 workshop.⁴ In addition to the primary updates, we made several minor updates to refine the characterization of wells, recharge, and other inputs. The cumulative adjustments in the model structure, parameterization, calibration period, and the employment of the PESTPP-IES tool collectively influence the range in model outcomes. The differences in net recharge are not attributable to any single factor but are instead the result of refined processes that more accurately capture the range of possible outcomes in the updated model.

Comment 2

Review of groundwater levels in MZ1 through MZ5 reveal that over the calibration period of 1992 to 2022, changes in groundwater levels can be attributed to variation in rainfall recharge, managed recharge, changes in pumping patterns and volumes, desalter pumping, and changes in land use along with other contributing factors, though overall, there does not appear to be a substantial decline in groundwater level over this period and particularly from 2010 to 2022 that would indicate a decline in the basin's safe yield due to depletion of groundwater in storage. Safe yield however, has been equated with net recharge such that the court order instructs that groundwater production at the net recharge rate should not cause or threaten to cause undesirable results or material physical injury. There appears to be a disconnect between groundwater levels and net recharge, considering the updated CVM net recharge ranges from a high of about 165,000 AF to a low of about 110,000 AF with an overall decline for the calibration period, and reported groundwater levels have not changed in a similar manner. As measured groundwater levels are the dominant target used for CVM calibration, what other factors are changing that would result in

⁴ [Slides from August 30, 2023 workshop](https://www.cbwm.org/docs/othermeetings/2023%2008%2030%20-%202025%20Safe%20Yield%20Reevaluation%20-%20Workshop%20No%201/downloads/20230830_2025_SYR_workshop_HCM.pdf)

the decline in net recharge calculated by the CVM? Would a declining net recharge really result in a lower safe yield where MPI may occur?

Response:

Net recharge is estimated as the average net inflow to the basin, excluding the direct recharge of supplemental water. Net recharge, together with artificial recharge and groundwater pumping, causes changes in groundwater levels but is not dependent on groundwater levels. Decline in net recharge may be attributed to the decline in the inflows and/or an increase in the outflows. MPI may occur locally or basin-wide when groundwater level declines impair pumping sustainability or cause increased risk of land subsidence. A declining net recharge would result in a lower Safe Yield, but groundwater production at the Safe Yield should not result in MPI that cannot be mitigated.

Comment 3

While climate change, change in cultural conditions, and regulatory requirements will influence DIPAW and should be considered in predictive scenarios, we also suggest the predictive scenarios utilize the relationship between groundwater in storage in the basin as indicated by groundwater levels and the factors that influence net recharge, to plan and optimize groundwater pumping. The intent would be to meet planned pumping demands, enhance net recharge and reduce potential for MPI.

Response:

Your comment suggests the design of projection scenarios that go beyond the requirements of the 2022 Safe Yield Reset methodology, which only requires that the projection scenarios cover the range in possible future climate and cultural conditions. The range of simulated basin behaviors that will result from the 2025 SYR will provide the information to improve the collective understanding of the Chino Basin response to pumping and other stressors and will yield valuable information that can frame future work to explore optimizing pumping operations in the Chino Basin to enhance Safe Yield and mitigate MPI.

State of California (Richard Rees, PG, CHG)

Comment 1

Page 2, first full paragraph under the header Feedback from Scenario Design TM #2 and March 7, 2024 Workshop, last sentence, "The written stakeholder feedback and responses are included in Attachment A." Attachment A does not include a response.

Response:

Attachment A has been updated to incorporate all comments and responses.

Comment 2

Page 13, last full paragraph under the header Data Sets for Projected Climate Conditions, last sentence, "Based on our analysis of the datasets for projected climate conditions to date, we may consider revising

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the definition of the climate scenarios to align with the precipitation and temperature patterns of the projected conditions while ensuring that the full range in potential climate futures are simulated." This sentence appears to indicate that all of the information that follows regarding the proposed climate scenarios may be modified. Alternatively, this sentence could be interpreted as an introduction to the hybrid approach described under the header Proposed Climate Scenarios and that these could be refined later. We suggest adding additional information to clarify the meaning of the sentence.

Response:

This section has been clarified as we have refined the definitions of the proposed climate scenarios that will be used in the 2025 SYR.

Comment 3

We understand the approach to using historical data for the expected, dry, and wet conditions for the near-term future (seven-year period from 2024 to 2030). The period selected for the average (1968 through 1974) may not reflect the current impacts of climate change. We request that you share the two other seven-year periods of the historic record that represent the dry and wet scenarios.

Response:

The revised draft Scenario TM #3 describes the three proposed seven-year periods in more detail. These periods have also been adjusted with the DWR-developed change factors for 2030 to reflect the expected future precipitation patterns more accurately.

Comment 4

During the Workshop, Mr. Rapp mentioned that historically, the Appropriative Pool agencies have overestimated future water use. Please clarify how the expected demand scenarios will attempt to avoid similar overestimates.

Response:

The revised draft Scenario TM #3 includes more detail about how this is addressed. For each of the nine major Appropriative Pool retailers, we calculated the potential impact of the Conservation Regulation on each retailer's Water Plan based on per capita residential use and commercial, industrial, and institutional uses, incorporating each retailer's population projections. The resulting demands that are reflected in the expected, high, and low demand conditions are all less than the total demands outlined in the compiled Water Plans. The compiled Water Plans summarized in Table 2 indicate demands totaling 374,000 afy (179,000 afy of Chino Basin groundwater) by 2045; the high demand condition reflects a demand of 361,000 afy (185,000 afy of Chino Basin groundwater). The low demand condition reflects a demand of 329,000 afy in 2045 (150,000 afy of Chino Basin groundwater). The range in projected Water Plans incorporates the assumption that the compiled Water Plans indicate demands that are greater than what would reasonably occur.

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Attachment B

Major Retailer Water Plans for Water Plan Scenarios

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