Supplemental Water Supplies

To offset future potential water shortages due to drought or disaster, the City is considering the following supplemental water supplies.

Desalination

NACWA has commissioned a study on whether to construct a seawater desalination plant. The City is participating in the discussion and analysis to determine if desalination would be cost-effective for drought water shortage mitigation and/or as an emergency water supply. Preliminary analysis indicates that since desalination remains both expensive and energy intensive, it would probably be cost effective only if the City's other water supplies were greatly reduced or not available at all. Desalinated water would probably only be made available to meet health and safety needs (one would probably not use desalination to wash a car, for instance).

Challenges include that the current water distribution system is not designed for potable water to be input at ocean level, and therefore desalination water would have to be pumped up into the service area. There are a number of potential desalination plant sites, including the proposed tertiary treatment plant site adjacent to the RTP. In the event of a major disaster, electric service could be disrupted, so desalinated water might have to be produced and distributed using diesel power. Achieving all necessary permits, arranging funding and actual construction could be time consuming and would probably take years. Feasibility study results are expected by early 2001.

Water Transfers

See the Transfer or Exchange Opportunities section.

Long Term Additional Water Supply Options

To meet future long-term water demand beyond 2020, the City is participating in two water supply proposals. NACWA is negotiating for additional imported water, via a proposed additional imported water aqueduct or pipeline. Although very expensive, this will help "disaster proof" the imported water system, and may also increase water supply availability.

Drake Reservoir is being evaluated for two storage enhancement options: the first, to raise Drake Dam, could increase the storage capacity from 140,000 acre-feet to 170,000 acre-feet. The second, dredging Drake, is also being evaluated. Both appear to be very expensive.

The following table summarizes the actions the water agency will take during a water supply catastrophe.

Table 14 Preparation Actions for a Catastrophe	
Examples of Actions	**Check if Discussed**
Determine what constitutes a proclamation of a water shortage.	✓
Stretch existing water storage.	✓
Obtain additional water supplies.	✓
Develop alternative water supplies.	✓
Determine where the funding will come from.	✓
Contact and coordinate with other agencies.	✓
Create an Emergency Response Team/Coordinator.	✓
Create a catastrophe preparedness plan.	✓
Put employees/contractors on-call.	✓
Develop methods to communicate with the public.	✓
Develop methods to prepare for water quality interruptions.	✓

Water Shortage Contingency Ordinance/Resolution

Law

> 10632. The plan shall provide an urban water shortage contingency analysis which includes each of the following elements which are within the authority of the urban water supplier:
>
> 10632 (h) A draft water shortage contingency resolution or ordinance.

City of New Albion Water Shortage Response

As mentioned earlier, the City adopted a "No-Waste" Ordinance in 1983, and based on rationing experience, the City has developed a Resolution to Declare a Water Shortage Emergency. The City adopted a policy in 1991 to implement a Moratorium on New Connections during declared water shortages see Appendix C.

Stages of Action

Law

> 10632. The plan shall provide an urban water shortage contingency analysis which includes each of the following elements which are within the authority of the urban water supplier:
>
> 10632 (a) Stages of action to be undertaken by the urban water supplier in response to water supply shortages, including up to a 50 percent reduction in water supply and an outline of specific water supply conditions which are applicable to each stage.

Rationing Stages and Reduction Goals

The City has developed a four stage rationing plan (see Table 15) to invoke during declared water shortages. The rationing plan includes voluntary and mandatory rationing, depending on the causes, severity, and anticipated duration of the water supply shortage.

Table 15 Water Rationing Stages and Reduction Goals			
Shortage Condition	**Stage**	**Customer Reduction Goal**	**Type of Rationing Program**
Up to 15%	I	15%	Voluntary
15 – 25%	II	25%	Mandatory
25 - 35%	III	35%	Mandatory
35 - 50%	IV	50% or >	Mandatory

Priority by Use

Priorities for use of available potable water during shortages were based on input from the City Emergency Response Team, citizen groups, and legal requirements set forth in the California Water Code, Sections 350-358. Water allocations are established for all customers according to the following ranking system:

- Minimum health and safety allocations for interior residential needs (includes single family, multi-family, hospitals and convalescent facilities, retirement and mobile home communities, and student housing, and fire fighting and public safety)
- Commercial, industrial, institutional/governmental operations (where water is used for manufacturing and for minimum health and safety allocations for employees and visitors), to maintain jobs and economic base of the community (not for landscape uses)
- Permanent agriculture (orchards, vineyards, and other commercial agriculture which would require at least five years to return to production).
- Annual agriculture (floriculture, strawberries, other truck crops)
- Existing landscaping
- New customers, proposed projects without permits when shortage declared.

Note: It is not expected that any potable water supply reductions would result in recycled water shortages. However, this may change in the future, as more customers use recycled water and if the proposed groundwater recharge project is built.

Health and Safety Requirements

Based on commonly accepted estimates of interior residential water use in the United States, Table 16 indicates per capita health and safety water requirements. In Stage I shortages, customers may adjust either interior or outdoor water use (or both), in order to meet the voluntary water reduction goal.

However, under Stage II, Stage III and Stage IV mandatory rationing programs, the City has established a health and safety allotment of 68 gpcd (which translates to 33 HCF per person per year), because that amount of water is sufficient for essential interior water with no habit or plumbing fixture changes. If customers wish to change water use habits or plumbing fixtures, 68 gpcd is sufficient to provide for limited non-essential (i.e. outdoor) uses.

Stage IV mandatory rationing, which is likely to be declared only as the result of a prolonged water shortage or as a result of a disaster, would require that customers make changes in their interior water use habits (for instance, not flushing toilets unless "necessary" or taking less frequent showers).

Table 16
Per Capita Health and Safety Water Quantity Calculations

	Non-Conserving Fixtures		Habit Changes 1		Conserving Fixtures 2	
Toilets	5 flushes x 5.5 gpf	27.5	3 flushes x 5.5 gpf	16.5	5 flushes x 1.6 gpf	8.0
Shower	5 min x 4.0 gpm	20.0	4 min x 3.0 gpm	12.0	5 min x 2.0	10.0
Washer	12.5 gpcd	12.5	11.5 gpcd	11.5	11.5 gpcd	11.5
Kitchen	4 gpcd	4.0	4 gpcd	4.0	4 gpcd	4.0
other	4 gpcd	4.0	4 gpcd	4.0	4 gpcd	4.0
Total (gpcd)		68.0		48.0		37.5
HCF per capita per year		33.0		23.0		18.0

1 Reduced shower use results from shorter and reduced flow. Reduced washer use results from fuller loads.
2 Fixtures include ULF 1.6 gpf toilets, 2.0 gpm showerheads and efficient clothes washers.

Water Shortage Stages and Triggering Mechanisms

As the water purveyor, the City of New Albion must provide the minimum health and safety water needs of the community at all times. The water shortage response is designed to provide a minimum of 50% of normal supply during a severe or extended water shortage. The rationing program triggering levels shown below were established to ensure that this goal is met.

Rationing stages may be triggered by a shortage in one water source or a combination of sources. Although an actual shortage may occur at any time during the year, a shortage (if one occurs) is usually forecasted by the Water Department on or about April 1 each year. If it appears that it may be a dry year, the City contacts its agricultural customers in March, so that they can minimize potential financial impacts.

The City's potable water sources are groundwater, local surface, and imported. Rationing stages may be triggered by a supply shortage or by contamination in one source or a combination of sources. Because shortages overlap Stages, triggers automatically implement the more restrictive Stage. Specific criteria for triggering the City's rationing stages are shown in Table 17.

Table 17
Water Shortage Stages and Triggering Mechanisms

Percent Reduction of Supply	Stage I Up to 15%	Stage II 15 - 25%	Stage III 25 - 35%	Stage IV 35 - 50% >
Water Supply Condition				
Current Supply	Total supply is 85 – 90% of "normal." And Below "normal" year is declared. Or	Total supply is 75 – 85% of "normal." Or Below "normal" year is declared Or	Total supply is 65 – 75% of "normal." Or Fourth consecutive below "normal" year is declared. Or	Total supply is less than 65% of "normal." Or Fifth consecutive below "normal" year is declared. Or
Future Supply	Projected supply insufficient to provide 80% of "normal" deliveries for the next two years. Or	Projected supply insufficient to provide 75% of "normal" deliveries for the next two years. Or	Projected supply insufficient to provide 65% of "normal" deliveries for the next two years. Or	Projected supply insufficient to provide 50% of "normal" deliveries for the next two years. Or
Groundwater	No excess groundwater pumping undertaken. Or	First year of excess groundwater pumping taken, must be "replaced" within four years. Or	Second year of excess groundwater pumping taken, must be "replaced" within four years. Or	No excess groundwater pumping available. Or Reduced groundwater pumping due to replenishment of previously pumped groundwater. Or
Water Quality	Contamination of 10% of water supply (exceeds primary drinking water standards)	Contamination of 20% of water supply (exceeds primary drinking water standards)	Contamination of 30% of water supply (exceeds primary drinking water standards)	Or
Disaster Loss				Disaster Loss

Water Allotment Methods

The City has established the following allocation method for each customer type. See Appendix C for sample water shortage rationing allocation method.

Single Family	Hybrid of Per-capita and Percentage Reduction
Multifamily	Hybrid of Per-capita and Percentage Reduction
Commercial	Percentage Reduction
Industrial	Percentage Reduction
Gvt/Institutional	Percentage Reduction
Agricultural-Permanent	Percentage Reduction - vary by efficiency
Agricultural-Annual	Percentage Reduction - vary by efficiency
Recreational	Percentage Reduction - vary by efficiency
New Customers	Per-capita (no allocation for new landscaping during a declared water shortage.)

Based on current and projected customer demand, Appendix C indicates the water allocated to each customer type by priority and rationing stage during a declared water shortage.

Individual customer allotments are based on a five-year period. This gives the City a more accurate view of the usual water needs of each customer and provides additional flexibility in determining allotments and reviewing appeals. However, no allotment may be greater than the amount used in the most recent year of the five-year base period.

The Water Department Manager shall classify each customer and calculate each customer's allotment according to the Sample Water Rationing Allocation Method. The allotment shall reflect seasonal patterns. Each customer shall be notified of their classification and allotment by mail before the effective date of the Water Shortage Emergency. New customers will be notified at the time the application for service is made. In a disaster, prior notice of allotment may not be possible; notice will be provided by other means. Any customer may appeal the Water Department Manager's classification on the basis of use or the allotment on the basis of incorrect calculation.

Prohibitions, Consumption Reduction Methods and Penalties

Law

> 10632. The plan shall provide an urban water shortage contingency analysis which includes each of the following elements which are within the authority of the urban water supplier:
>
> 10632 (d) Additional, mandatory prohibitions against specific water use practices during water shortages, including, but not limited to, prohibiting the use of potable water for street cleaning.
> 10632 (e) Consumption reduction methods in the most restrictive stages. Each urban water supplier may use any type of consumption reduction methods in its water shortage contingency analysis that would reduce water use, are appropriate for its area, and have the ability to achieve a water use reduction consistent with up to a 50 percent reduction in water supply.
> 10632 (f) Penalties or charges for excessive use, where applicable.

Mandatory Prohibitions on Water Wasting

The New Albion "No Waste" Ordinance (see Appendix C) includes prohibitions on various wasteful water uses such as lawn watering during mid-day hours, washing sidewalks and driveways with potable water, and allowing plumbing leaks to go uncorrected more than 24 hours after customer notification.

Table 18 Consumption Reduction Methods	
Examples of Consumption Reduction Methods	**Stage When Method Takes Effect**
Demand reduction program	All stages
Reduce pressure in water lines	
Flow restriction	IV
Restrict building permits	II, III, IV
Restrict for only priority uses	
Use prohibitions	All stages
Water shortage pricing	All stages
Per capita allotment by customer type	IV
Plumbing fixture replacement	
Voluntary rationing	I
Mandatory rationing	II, III, IV
Incentives to reduce water consumption	
Education Program	All Stages
Percentage reduction by customer type	II, III, IV
Other	
Other	

See Appendix C, the "No Waste" Ordinance and Moratorium on New Connections - which details the reduction methods - regarding Table 18.

Excessive Use Penalties

Any customer violating the regulations and restrictions on water use set forth in the "No Waste" Ordinance shall receive a written warning for the first such violation. Upon a second violation, the customer shall receive a written warning and the district may cause a flow-restrictor to be installed in the service. If a flow-restrictor is placed, the violator shall pay the cost of the installation and removal. Any willful violation occurring subsequent to the issuance of the second written warning shall constitute a misdemeanor and may be referred to the Albion County District Attorney's office for prosecution pursuant. If water service is disconnected, it shall be restored only upon payment of the turn-on charge fixed by the Board of Directors.

Revenue and Expenditure Impacts and Measures to Overcome Impacts

Law

> 10632. The plan shall provide an urban water shortage contingency analysis which includes each of the following elements which are within the authority of the urban water supplier:
>
> 10632 (g) An analysis of the impacts of each of the actions and conditions described in subdivisions (a) to (f), inclusive, on the revenues and expenditures of the urban water supplier...
>
> 10632 (g) [An analysis of the impacts of each of the] proposed measures to overcome those [revenue and expenditure] impacts, such as the development of reserves and rate adjustments.

All surplus revenues that the City collects are currently used to fund the Rate Stabilization Fund, conservation, recycling, and other capital improvements. The City estimated projected ranges of water sales by shortage stage to best understand the impact each level of shortage will have on projected revenues and expenditures by each shortage stage.

This analysis is undertaken first with no additional water purchases and no rate increases and then with a 25% rate increase at Stage II; 50% at Stage III, and a 100% increase at Stage IV. To cover increased expenses and decreased sales, rate increases would need to be "severe".

See Appendix D for the City's efforts to establish an Emergency Fund and a Rate Stabilization Fund.

Reduction Measuring Mechanism

Law

> 10632. The plan shall provide an urban water shortage contingency analysis which includes each of the following elements which are within the authority of the urban water supplier:
>
> 10632 (i) A mechanism for determining actual reductions in water use pursuant to the
> urban water shortage contingency analysis.

Mechanism to Determine Reductions in Water Use

Under normal water supply conditions, potable water production figures are recorded daily. Totals are reported weekly to the Water Treatment Facility Supervisor. Totals are reported monthly to the Water Department Manager and incorporated into the water supply report.

During a Stage I or Stage II water shortage, daily production figures are reported to the Supervisor. The Supervisor compares the weekly production to the target weekly production to verify that the reduction goal is being met. Weekly reports are forwarded to the Water Department Manager and the Water Shortage Response Team. Monthly reports are sent to the City Council. If reduction goals are not met, the Manager will notify the City Council so that corrective action can be taken.

During a Stage III or Stage IV water shortage, the procedure listed above will be followed, with the addition of a daily production report to the Manager.

During emergency shortages, production figures are reported to the Supervisor hourly and to the Manager and the Water Shortage Response Team daily. Daily reports will also be provided to the City Council and the New Albion County Office of Emergency Services.

Water Recycling

Wastewater System Description

Law

> 10633. The plan shall provide, to the extent available, information on recycled water and its potential for use as a water source in the service area of the urban water supplier. To the extent practicable, the preparation of the plan shall be coordinated with local water, wastewater, groundwater, and planning agencies and shall include all of the following:
>
> 10633 (a) A description of the wastewater collection and treatment systems in the supplier's service area...

Participation in a Regional Recycled Water Planning

The City along with NACWA, NACRSD, and the Edisto Basin Watermaster are active participants in the Regional Recycled Water Planning. The committee meets monthly to discuss plans and reach agreements on the future development and marketing of recycled water. As mentioned in the WATER SOURCE section of this plan, the committee is also collaborating on a study that will evaluate the potential use of recycled water as part of a groundwater recharge program.

WateReuse Association Membership

The City is an active member of the California WateReuse Association, which helps implement water recycling in California.

Wastewater Collection and Treatment in New Albion

The New Albion County Regional Sanitation District (NACRSD) manages wastewater collection and treatment for New Albion County. All of the wastewater flows from the City (excluding storm water run-off), and is collected and treated at the NACRSD Regional Treatment Plant (RTP). Because the City sewer mains are not separately metered, an exact inflow calculation is not possible, but about 4 million gallons per day (mgd) is estimated from within the City.

When NACRSD and the City began to study water-recycling opportunities, the team followed the Water Recycling Planning Outline included in Appendix H. The County of New Albion established a dual plumbing ordinance in 1994, which requires that all new office buildings are dual plumbed, so recycled water can be used to flush toilets and urinals. The County also adopted a mandatory recycled water use ordinance, addressing Points to Include in a Recycled Water Use Ordinance (see Appendix E).

The City currently purchases 1000 AFY of disinfected Secondary 2.2 recycled water from NACRSD and distribute it for approved uses within the City. (Wastewater treated to "disinfected Secondary 2.2" means that the maximum coliform level is 2.2 organisms per 100 milliliters.) It is likely that a new wastewater treatment facility (adjacent to the RTP) will be built within the next five years -- it will produce recycled water at tertiary treatment levels. There appear to be more than enough potential uses and customers for all tertiary water that will be produced. The new plant is planned to expand incrementally to increase production as customer demand increases in the next twenty or so years.