



Proposed Wholesale Water Supply Contracts between the Cascade Water Alliance & Tacoma Water

City of Tacoma | Water

**Joint Council and Board Study Session
2/11/25**



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Presentation Type



- Informational Only

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Background



Alliance Members

Includes several Puget Sound Water Purveyors

Cascade & Tacoma Water Contract

Wholesale water contract created in 2005 and the agreement was restated in 2012

Cascade & Seattle Public Utilities Contract

Currently contracted with Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) for 33.3 MGD* through 2040 (Take-or-Pay). Allocation from SPU begins to decrease in 2040 by 1 or 2 MGD per year until it reaches 5.3 MGD.

Cascade Owned Water Supply

Cascade owns water rights to Lake Tapps and has future plans for Lake Tapps to be a municipal water supply.

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Overview



	Revenue Stream	Average Supply (MGD)	Peak Supply (MGD)	Term
Permanent Agreement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •System Development Charge •Volumetric Charge •Monthly Fixed Charge 	12.0	15.0	Perpetual*
Temporary Market Agreement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Capacity Reservation Fee •Volumetric Charge •Monthly Fixed Charge •2012 Restated Agreement 	12.0	17.5	2041-2062
Total		24.0	32.5	

Notes for Comparison Purposes:

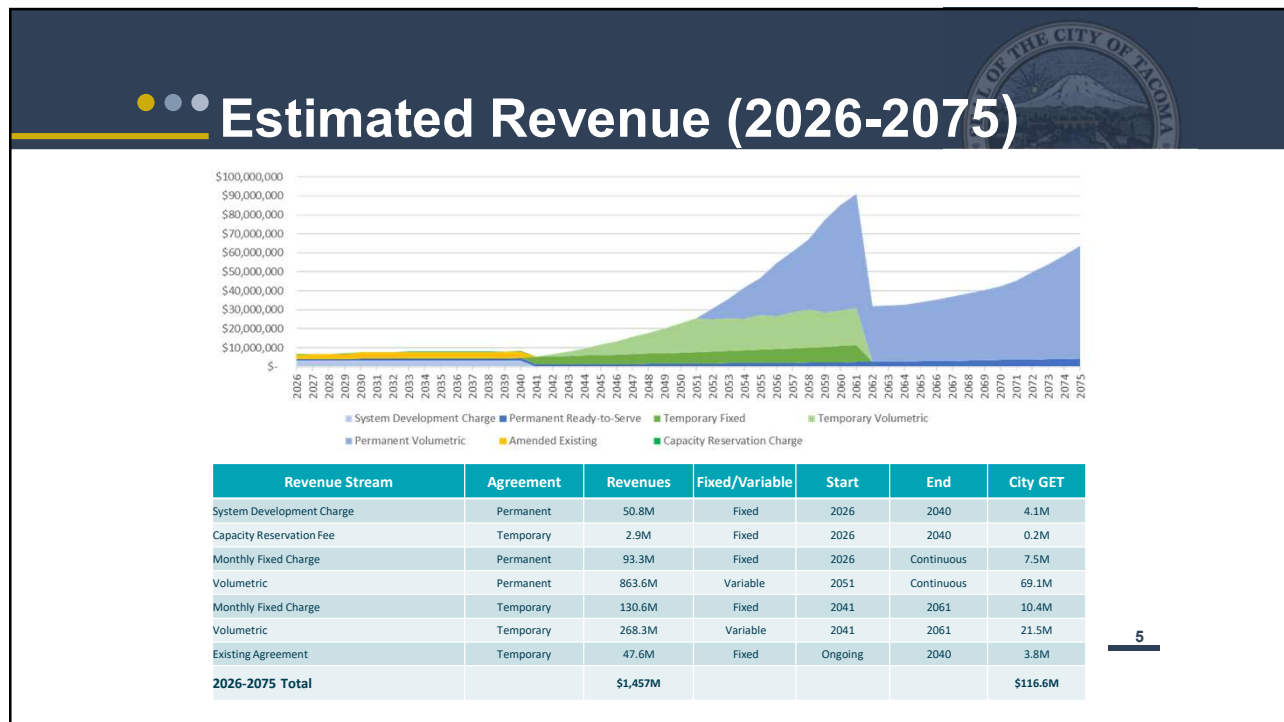
- WestRock Pulp and Paper Mill used roughly **16 MGD prior to closure**
- 2024 Tacoma System Peak Day Demand was **73 MGD on July 8th**

[Source: Tacoma Water Annual Consumption Dashboard](#)

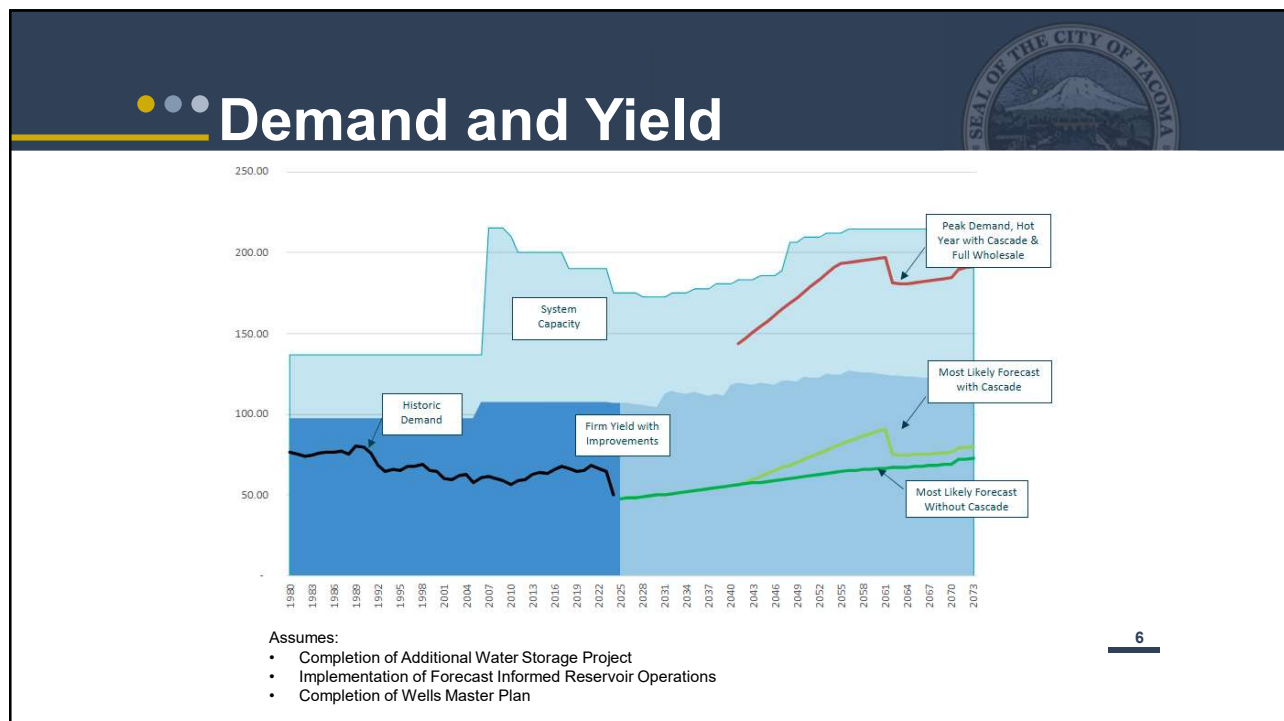
*Begins when signed

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Source Utilization & Operational Changes

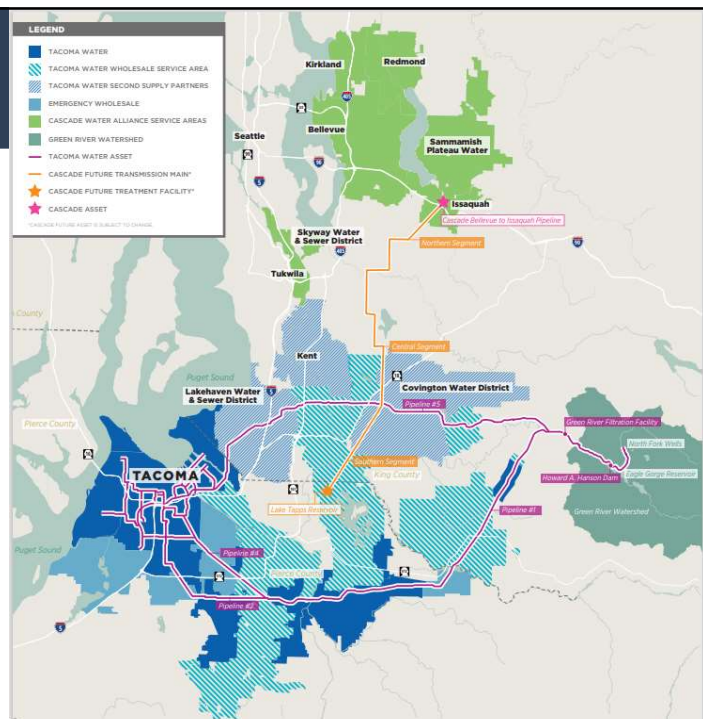
	Current Water % by Source	2061 Water % by Source
Surface Water	95%	64%
Ground Water	5%	36%

- These agreements will change how we operate the system
- Tacoma Water supply is comprised of a robust combination of groundwater and surface water sources and will continue to make investments to meet or exceed quality standards as always

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Map of Future Infrastructure



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Regional Coordination and Resiliency

- Contract Includes:
 - 5-year check-ins to review supplies, demands, projects, update pricing model
 - Coordination on Water System Plans, Integrated Resource Plan, and other planning efforts
 - Gradual phase-in of water deliveries starting 2041
 - Cascade sharing in ALL Tacoma Water supply, treatment, storage, pumping and other cost
 - Tacoma will retain ownership, operational control and rate setting authority
 - Cascade will build, operate and maintain a transmission main to enable delivery to their customers
- Positions Tacoma Water to take advantage of future revenue and resiliency opportunities

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Outreach

- Briefed internal staff
- Met with Muckleshoot Indian Tribe last year and are planning additional outreach
- [Webpage](#) published →
- Full community engagement plan has been developed
- Initiate outreach to neighborhood councils and community groups

Cascade Water Alliance

Proposed Tacoma Water partnership with the Cascade Water Alliance

The Agreement

Tacoma Water is negotiating a proposed wholesale water supply agreement with the Cascade Water Alliance. Under the proposed agreement, Tacoma Water would deliver water to the edge of our service territory. Cascade would then deliver the water to their customers.

If approved, Tacoma would stop delivering water to Cascade in 2041. Delivery amounts and time frames are still being negotiated. Cascade could earn with a small portion of water in 2041 and steadily increase to 20 million gallons per day on average by 2050. After 2050, delivery to Cascade would be required. Delivery prices are set by RCW and average rates.

Currently there is no infrastructure connecting the Tacoma and Cascade systems. Cascade would need to construct a water transmission main from Tacoma pipeline to Cascade customers.

CASCADE WATER ALLIANCE AGREEMENT BENEFITS

This contract would benefit Tacoma Water customers in many ways:

GENERATE REVENUE AND STABILIZE RATES

- Create a new, predictable, steady revenue stream for over 20 years
- Help to keep rates lower for residential, wholesale, and business customers over time

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Next Steps



Meeting	Date
Joint Study Session*	2/11/2025
Infrastructure, Planning, & Sustainability Committee Meeting* (Council Subcommittee)	2/12/2025
Board Study Session*	2/12/2025
Government Performance & Finance Committee Meeting* (Council Subcommittee)	2/18/2025
Board Meeting* (Board Approval)	2/26/2025
City Council Meeting (First Reading)	3/11/2025
City Council Meeting (Second Reading)	3/25/2025

*Meeting Has Been Scheduled.

Both Temporary and Permanent Agreements Must be Approved Together

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Recommendations



- This is an informational briefing only.

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