

Proposed General Plan Update Goals, Policies, and Implementation Actions



Water Supply, Water Conservation, Water Recycling and Water Quality

The City of San Jose in its 2040 General Plan is committed to providing sustainable water supply to meet its goals of healthy habitat, healthy population and healthy economy. To accomplish these goals, San Jose will lead through example and as an advocate for the continued development of effective local, regional and statewide partnerships and governance structures that enable sustainable water management.

Responsible Management of Water Supply

Goal WS-1 San Jose responsibly manages water to maintain our environment, and quality of life and to enable adequate supply for the needs of our community now and in the future.

Water Supply Policies

Policy WS-1.1 Manage the limited water supply in an environmentally and economically sustainable manner, by working with local, regional and statewide agencies to increase water use efficiency and expand the use of recycled water within San Jose and within neighboring jurisdictions.

Policy WS-1.2 Ensure that new development within San Jose is planned and built in a manner consistent with sustainable use of current and future water supplies by encouraging sustainable development practices, such as Low-Impact Development, Water-Efficient development, Green Building techniques, by locating new development within the vicinity of the recycled water system, and by expanding the system to new areas.

Policy WS-1.3 Be a leader in educating the community about the challenges to the water supply system and the need for responsible water management.

Policy WS-1.4 Create partnerships and governance structures that allow for a consistent approach to the management of the local and imported water supply for all of San José.

Policy WS-1.5 Create partnerships and governance structures to improve the reliability of imported water.

Water Supply Implementation Actions

Action WS-1.6 Engage the public in an education program about the importance of adequate water supplies to San Jose's quality of life and how they can help meet future water supply challenges and minimize the need for imported

water by using water efficiently, including conserving water and using recycled water where appropriate.

Action WS-1.7 Partner with other Bay Area cities to ensure that local, regional and statewide plans provide adequate water supplies to serve our community and protect the environment.

Water Conservation

Goal WS-2 Continuously improve water conservation efforts in order to achieve half of the Countywide Water Savings Goal.

Water Conservation Policies

Policy WS-2.1 Demonstrate environmental leadership by adopting citywide policies that encourage or require new development to incorporate measures to reduce potable water demand and/or increase water efficiency in order to reduce the City's need for imported water.

Policy WS-2.2 Demonstrate environmental leadership by encouraging the creation and use of new technologies that reduce potable water demand and/or increase the efficiency of water use.

Water Conservation Implementation Actions

Action WS-2.3 Encourage state legislation to improve water use efficiency through statewide mandates for water efficient development (for example, plumbing code, graywater code, green building policy)

Action WS-2.4 Partner with other agencies to incentivize water conservation by developing cost-sharing agreements on rebates and other incentive programs.

Action WS-2.5 Partner with other agencies on education and outreach to engage the community in an ethic of efficient water use and the use of water-efficient practices and technologies.

Action WS-2.6 Adopt guidelines or ordinances that encourage or require Bay-friendly, water-efficient design, landscape and irrigation within San Jose.

Action WS-2.7 Encourage on-site rainwater catchment for new and existing development when cost-effective and feasible.

Action WS-2.8 Encourage graywater use when appropriate and in areas that do not impact groundwater quality.

Water Recycling

Goal WS-3 Recycle or beneficially reuse 100% of the City’s wastewater supply.

Water Recycling Policies

Policy WS-3.1 New development should contribute to the cost-effective expansion of the non-potable water system in proportion to the extent that it receives benefit from the development of a sustainable local water supply.

Policy WS-3.2 Support local, regional and statewide efforts to educate the community about the benefits, reliability and quality of recycled water and the critical role it plays in our water supply.

Policy WS-3.3 Expand the use of recycled water to benefit the community and protect the ecosystem of the South Bay.

Water Recycling Implementation Actions

Action WS-3.4 Develop ordinance(s) to require new development to contribute to the improvement and expansion of the non-potable water system.

Action WS-3.5 Promote increased acceptance and use of recycled water by establishing an adaptive outreach program to educate the community about the value of recycled water as an important part of a sustainable urban water use portfolio.

Action WS-3.6 Initiate and support statewide laws and policies that increase the percentage of recycled water included in the State’s water portfolio, facilitate safe water recycling, and provide funding for regional and local recycled water projects.

Action WS-3.7 Work with public and private water wholesalers and retailers to cost-effectively develop the South Bay Water Recycling distribution system to serve new non-potable water demand with emphasis placed upon areas experiencing or planned for significant amounts of new development.

Action WS-3.8 Develop incentives to encourage the use of recycled water and enact ordinances that ensure that new buildings in the vicinity of the SBWR pipeline are constructed in a manner suitable for connection to the recycled water system and that they use recycled water where appropriate.

Action WS-3.9. Provide technical assistance to community businesses to facilitate the use of recycled water.

Water Quality

Goal WS-4 Ensure that all water in San Jose is of the highest quality appropriate for its intended use.

Water Quality Policies

Policy WS-4.1 Be an advocate with local, regional and state agencies to ensure the protection and enhancement of the quality of San José's water sources.

Water Quality Implementation Actions

Action WS-4.2 Work with local, regional and state agencies to protect and enhance the watershed, including the protection of surface water and ground water supplies from pollution and degradation.