Chapter 1
INTRODUCTION

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1.1 OVERVIEW

This volume presents the Urban Water Management Plan 2005 (Plan) for the Castaic Lake Water Agency (Agency, CLWA) service area, which includes four retail water purveyors. This chapter describes the general purpose of the Plan, discusses Plan implementation, and provides general information about CLWA, retail purveyors, and service area characteristics. A list of acronyms and abbreviations is also provided.

1.2 PURPOSE

An Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP) is a planning tool that generally guides the actions of water management agencies. It provides managers and the public with a broad perspective on a number of water supply issues. It is not a substitute for project-specific planning documents, nor was it intended to be when mandated by the State Legislature. For example, the Legislature mandated that a plan include a section which "describes the opportunities for exchanges or water transfers on a short-term or long-term basis." (California Urban Water Planning Act, Article 2, Section 10630(d).) The identification of such opportunities, and the inclusion of those opportunities in a general water service reliability analysis, neither commits a water management agency to pursue a particular water exchange/transfer opportunity, nor precludes a water management agency from exploring exchange/transfer opportunities not identified in the plan. When specific projects are chosen to be implemented, detailed project plans are developed, environmental analysis, if required, is prepared, and financial and operational plans are detailed.

In short, this Plan is a management tool, providing a framework for action, but not functioning as a detailed project development or action. It is important that this Plan be viewed as a long-term, general planning document, rather than as an exact blueprint for supply and demand management. Water management in California is not a matter of certainty, and planning projections may change in response to a number of factors. From this perspective, it is appropriate to look at the Plan as a general planning framework, not a specific action plan. It is an effort to generally answer a series of planning questions including:

- What are the potential sources of supply and what is the reasonable probable yield from them?
- What is the probable demand, given a reasonable set of assumptions about growth and implementation of good water management practices?
- How well do supply and demand figures match up, assuming that the various probable supplies will be pursued by the implementing agency?

Using these "framework" questions and resulting answers, the implementing agency will pursue feasible and cost-effective options and opportunities to meet demands. CLWA and the retail water purveyors will explore enhancing basic supplies from traditional sources such as the State Water Project (SWP) as well as other options. These include groundwater extraction, water

exchanges, recycling, desalination, and water banking/conjunctive use. Specific planning efforts will be undertaken in regard to each option, involving detailed evaluations of how each option would fit into the overall supply/demand framework, how each option would impact the environment, and how each option would affect customers. The objective of these more detailed evaluations would be to find the optimum mix of conservation and supply programs that ensure that the needs of the customers are met.

The California Urban Water Management Planning Act (Act) requires preparation of a plan that:

- Accomplishes water supply planning over a 20-year period in five year increments. (CLWA and the purveyors are going beyond the requirements of the Act by developing a plan which spans 25 years.)
- Identifies and quantifies adequate water supplies, including recycled water, for existing and future demands, in normal, single-dry, and multiple-dry years.
- Implements conservation and efficient use of urban water supplies.

A checklist to ensure compliance of this Plan with the Act requirements is provided in Appendix A.

In short, the Plan answers the question: *Will there be enough water for the Santa Clarita Valley community in future years, and what mix of programs should be explored for making this water available?*

It is the stated goal of CLWA and the retail water purveyors to deliver a reliable and high quality water supply for their customers, even during dry periods. Based on conservative water supply and demand assumptions over the next 25 years in combination with conservation of non-essential demand during certain dry years, the Plan successfully achieves this goal.

1.3 IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PLAN

The CLWA service area includes the service areas of four local retail water agencies. This Plan has been prepared for the CLWA and three of the purveyors: CLWA Santa Clarita Water Division (SCWD), Newhall County Water District (NCWD), and Valencia Water Company (VWC). The fourth purveyor, Los Angeles County Waterworks District No. 36 (LACWWD #36), is not required to prepare a Plan because the District does not provide water to more than 3,000 customers or supply more than 3,000 acre-feet (af) of water annually; however, LACWWD #36 participated in the development of the Plan on an “ad-hoc” basis. This subsection provides the cooperative framework within which the Plan will be implemented including agency coordination, public outreach, and resources maximization.

1.3.1 Joint Preparation of the Plan

Water agencies are permitted by the State to work together to develop a cooperative regional plan. This approach has been adopted by the water agencies in the Santa Clarita Valley (Valley), which are jointly sponsoring the current Plan. Water resource specialists with expertise in water resource management were retained to assist the local water agencies in preparing the details of the Plan. Agency coordination for this Plan is summarized in Table 1-1.

Table 1-1
Agency Coordination Summary

	Participated in UWMP Development	Received Copy of Draft	Commented on Draft	Attended Public Meetings	Contacted for Assistance	Sent Notice of Intent to Adopt	Not Involved
Antelope Valley-East Kern Water Agency					✓		
California Department of Water Resources	✓				✓		
Castaic Lake Water Agency	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Castaic Town Council		✓	✓	✓	✓		
City of Santa Clarita Department of Planning and Building Services		✓		✓	✓	✓	
CLWA Santa Clarita Water Division	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
LA County Department of Regional Planning		✓			✓	✓	
Los Angeles County Supervisor Mike Antonovich (representatives)				✓	✓		
LA County Waterworks District No. 36	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Metropolitan Water District of Southern California		✓			✓		
Newhall County Water District	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Valencia Water Company	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Ventura County Resource Management Agency		✓			✓	✓	
Westranch Town Council					✓		

1.3.2 Public Outreach

The water agencies have encouraged community participation in water planning. For the current Plan, public sessions were held for review and to solicit input on the Draft Plan before its adoption. Interested groups were informed about the development of the Plan along with the schedule of public activities. Notices of public meetings were published in the local press. Copies of the Draft Plan were made available at the water agencies' offices, local public libraries and sent to the City of Santa Clarita, the County of Los Angeles, and the County of Ventura, as well as interested parties. Water agencies also convened meetings with various interests to gather data concerning planned development and the probable implementation of approved development. Such informed data gathering on important issues is a means of checking the short-term "reality" of official projections and understanding the concerns of various groups.

CLWA contracted with a local public relations firm to coordinate preparation of the Plan with the local community. CLWA notified the cities and counties within its service area of the opportunity to provide input regarding the Plan. Table 1-2 presents a timeline for public participation during the development of the Plan. A copy of the public outreach materials,

including paid advertisements, newsletter covers, website postings, and invitation letters are attached in Appendix B.

Table 1-2
Public Participation Timeline

April 7, 2005	Kick-off Community Workshop	Describe UWMP requirements and process
June 27, 2005	Preliminary Draft UWMP	Preliminary Draft released to solicit input
June 29, 2005	Community Workshop	Review UWMP and solicit input
August 31, 2005	Follow-up Community Workshop	Release Draft UWMP and review contents
September 28, 2005	First CLWA Public Hearing	Review contents of Draft UWMP and take comments
October 26, 2005	Second CLWA Public Hearing	UWMP considered for approval by the CLWA Board and NCWD Board (at a joint meeting)

The components of public participation include:

Local Media

- Paid advertisements in local newspapers
- Meeting(s) with local editorial boards (Daily News and Signal)

Community-based Outreach

- Building Industry Association
- Castaic Town Council
- Chamber of Commerce
- Friends of the Santa Clara River
- Santa Clarita Valley Well Owners Association
- Santa Clarita Organization for Planning the Environment (SCOPE)
- Sierra Club
- Valencia Industrial Association
- Westranch Town Council

Water Agencies Public Participation

- Presentation(s) to NCWD Board – March, May, September, and October
- Presentation(s) to CLWA Board – March, May, July, September, and October

City/County Outreach

- Meeting with City Planning Division – March, May, and July

- Meeting with Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning – March, May, and July
- Meeting with Supervisor Antonovich representative(s) Millie Jones, Paul Novak – May and July

Public Availability of Documents

- Water Agencies' websites
- City Hall
- Local libraries

1.3.3 Resources Maximization

Several documents were developed to enable CLWA to maximize the use of available resources and minimize use of imported water, including the Groundwater Management Plan (GWMP), Santa Clara River Valley Memorandum of Understanding, Water Supply Reliability Plan Draft Report, and the 2004 Santa Clarita Valley Water Report. Chapter 3 of this Plan describes in detail the water resources available to CLWA and the retail purveyors for the 25-year period covered by the Plan. Additional discussion regarding documents developed to maximize resources is included in Section 3.3.2 and Chapter 6.

1.4 THE WATER AGENCIES OF THE SANTA CLARITA VALLEY

1.4.1 Castaic Lake Water Agency

CLWA was formed in 1962 for the purpose of contracting with the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) to provide a supplemental supply of imported water to the water purveyors in the Valley. CLWA serves an area of 195 square miles in Los Angeles and Ventura Counties.

CLWA is a SWP contractor with an annual contractual Table A Amount of 95,200 af. Table A Amount (formerly referred to as "entitlement") is named for the "Table A" in each SWP contractor's Water Supply Contract. It contains an annual buildup in Table A Amounts of SWP water, from the first year of the Water Supply Contract through a specific year, based on growth projections made before the Water Supply Contract was executed. For most contractors, the maximum annual Table A Amount was reached in 1990. The total of all SWP contractors' maximum Table A Amounts is currently about 4.17 million af.

CLWA's original SWP Water Supply Contract with DWR was amended in 1966 for a maximum annual Table A Amount of 41,500 af. In 1991, CLWA purchased 12,700 af of annual Table A Amount from a Kern County water district and in 1999 purchased 41,000 af of annual Table A Amount from another Kern County water district, for a current total annual Table A Amount of 95,200 af.[1] CLWA wholesales this imported water to each of the local retail water purveyors through an extensive transmission pipeline system.

Though the reliability of SWP water is variable due to weather-related issues and environmental factors, SWP water remains an important supplemental water supply source for the Valley in the long-term. An important element to enhancing the long-term water supply reliability of SWP supplies is the effective use of water banking/conjunctive-use programs, such as those described in this Plan.

1.4.2 Retail Water Purveyors

Four retail purveyors provide water service to most residents of the Valley.

SCWD's service area includes portions of the city of Santa Clarita and unincorporated portions of Los Angeles County in the communities of Canyon Country, Newhall, and Saugus. SCWD supplies water from local groundwater and CLWA imported water.

LACWWD #36's service area includes the Hasley Canyon area in the unincorporated community of Val Verde. During most years, the District obtains its water supply from CLWA.

NCWD's service area includes portions of the City of Santa Clarita and unincorporated portions of Los Angeles County in the communities of Newhall, Canyon Country, Saugus, and Castaic. The District supplies water from local groundwater and CLWA imported water.

VWC's service area includes a portion of the City of Santa Clarita and unincorporated portions of Los Angeles County in the communities of Castaic, Stevenson Ranch, and Valencia. VWC supplies water from local groundwater, CLWA imported water, and recycled water.

The service area for CLWA and the retail water purveyors is shown on Figure 1-1.

[1] CLWA's contract rights to SWP water total 95,200 acre feet per year ('afy"), including a water transfer of 41,000 afy approved in 1999 from Wheeler Ridge-Maricopa Water Storage District, a member unit of the Kern County Water Agency. CLWA's Environmental Impact Report ("EIR") prepared in connection with the 41,000 afy water transfer was challenged in *Friends of the Santa Clara River v. Castaic Lake Water Agency* (Los Angeles County Superior Court, Case Number BS056954) ("*Friends*"). That action was dismissed with prejudice (permanently) in February 2005. New challenges to CLWA's environmental review of the transfer were filed in January 2005 (*i.e., Planning and Conservation League v. Castaic Lake Water Agency*, Los Angeles County Superior Court Case Number BS098724). A more detailed discussion of these new challenges and the reasons the challenges will have no impact on the amount of water available to CLWA can be found at Section 3.2.2.

Castaic Lake Water Agency Service Area

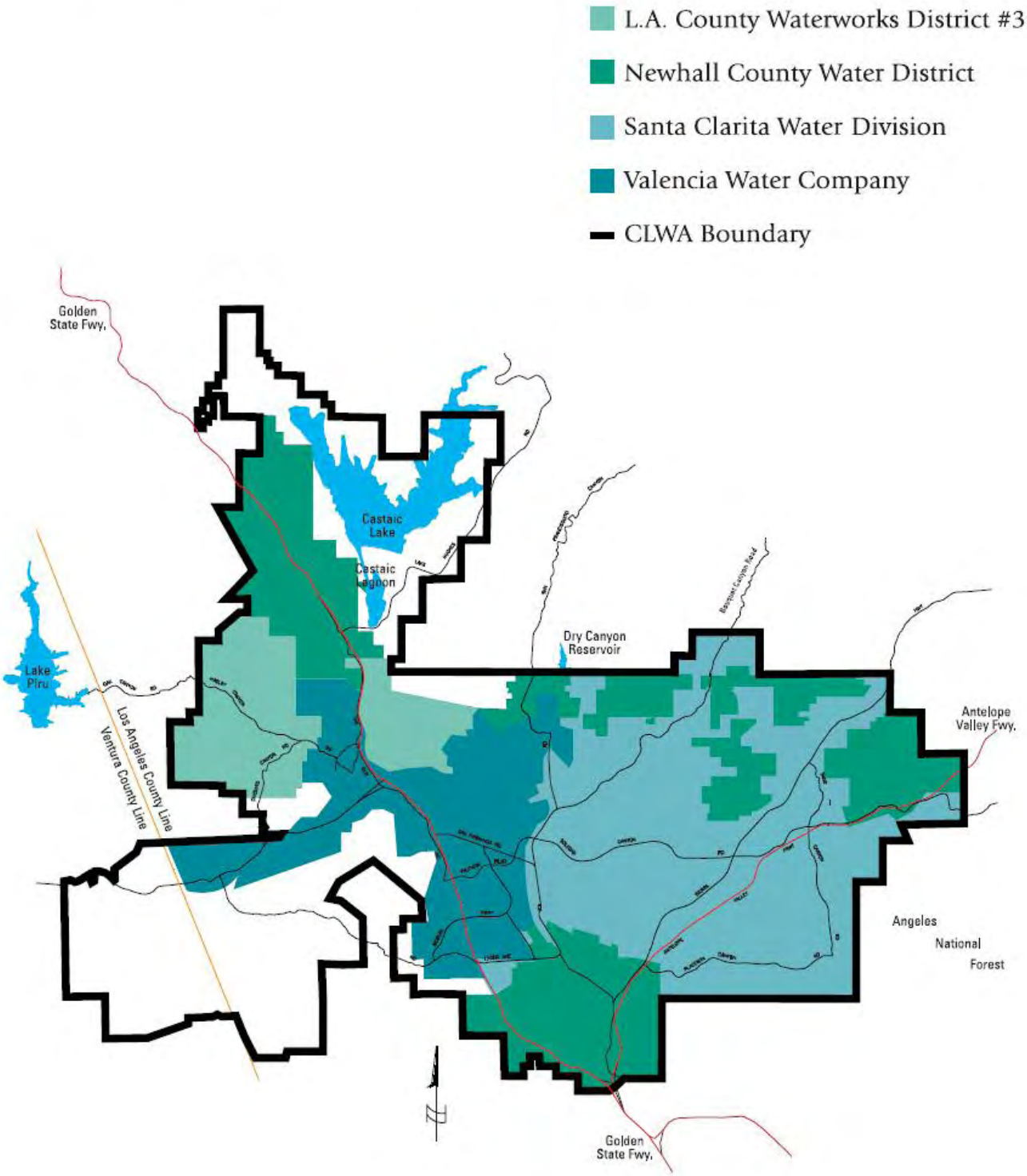

Figure 1-1
Castaic Lake Water Agency Service Area

As of mid-2005, the retail water purveyors served about 65,800 connections, as presented in Table 1-3.

Table 1-3
Retail Water Service Connections

Retail Water Purveyor	Connections
CLWA Santa Clarita Water Division (SCWD)	26,784
Los Angeles County Waterworks District No. 36 (LACWWD # 36)	1,311
Newhall County Water District (NCWD)	9,112
Valencia Water Company (VWC)	28,602
Total Connections	**65,809**

1.5 CLIMATE

The climate in CLWA's service area is generally semi-arid and warm. Summers are dry with temperatures as high as 110°F. Winters are somewhat cool with temperatures as low as 20°F. Average rainfall is about 17.64 inches per year in the flat areas and about 27 inches in the mountains. The region is subject to wide variations in annual precipitation and also experiences periodic wildfires. Table 1-4 presents the region's annual average climate data. Standard Monthly Average data was generated from 1996-2005 data. Average Monthly Rainfall data is provided for 1980-2004, and Average Maximum Temperature data is provided for 1971-2000.

Table 1-4
Climate Data for the Santa Clarita Valley

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
Standard Monthly Average ETo(1)	2.20	2.45	3.64	4.74	5.31	6.06
Average Rainfall (inches) (2)	3.52	4.88	3.13	0.88	0.28	0.06
Average Max. Temperature (Fahrenheit) (3)	64.2	66.0	68.7	73.1	79.9	88.0

	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual
Standard Monthly Average ETo(1)	6.75	6.66	5.01	3.95	2.73	2.31	51.81
Average Rainfall (inches)(2)	0.03	0.05	0.15	0.88	1.29	2.49	17.64
Average Max. Temperature (Fahrenheit) (3)	94.9	94.9	89.4	81.3	69.1	65.2	78.1

Notes:
(1) ETo (evapotranspiration) data provided for Glendale region, http://wwwcimis.water.ca.gov/cimis/welcome.jsp
(2) Average Monthly Rainfall data gathered from long-term average precipitation records from Newhall-Soledad 32c gage during period 1980-2004.
(3) Temperature data provided for Dry Canyon Reservoir region, http://www.wrcc.dri.edu/CLIMATEDATA.html

1.6 Potential Effects of Global Warming

A topic of growing concern for water planners and managers is global warming and the potential impacts it could have on California's future water supplies. DWR's Draft California Water Plan Update 2005 contains the first-ever assessment of such potential impacts in a California Water Plan.

Volume 1, Chapter 4 of the California Water Plan, "Preparing for an Uncertain Future," lists some potential impacts of global warming, based on more than a decade of scientific studies on the subject:

- Could produce hydrologic conditions, variability, and extremes that are different from what current water systems were designed to manage
- May occur too rapidly to allow sufficient time and information to permit managers to respond appropriately
- May require special efforts or plans to protect against surprises or uncertainties

Should global warming increase over time, it may cause a number of changes impacting future water supplies, including changes in Sierra snowpack patterns (the source of the SWP's water supply in Lake Oroville), hydrologic patterns, sea level, rainfall intensity, and statewide water demand. Computer models (such as CALVIN) have been developed to show water planners how California water management might adapt to climate change. DWR has committed to continue to update and refine these models based on ongoing scientific data collection and to incorporate this information into future California Water Plans. As DWR develops more specific assessments of the potential effects of climate change on SWP delivery reliability and water demands, CLWA and the purveyors can update their plans accordingly.

1.7 OTHER DEMOGRAPHIC FACTORS

Water service is provided to residential, commercial, industrial, institutional, recreational, and agricultural customers and for environmental and other uses, such as fire protection and pipeline cleaning.

Recently, the Valley area (along with most of California) has experienced significant increases in both single family and multi-family residential construction, as well as in commercial and industrial construction. As the local population has increased, the demand for water has also increased.

1.8 LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

The following abbreviations and acronyms are used in this report.

AB	Assembly Bill
ACOE	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Act	California Urban Water Management Planning Act
af	acre-feet
afy	acre-feet per year
Agency	Castaic Lake Water Agency
AWWARF	American Water Works Association Research Foundation
Basin	Santa Clara River Valley Groundwater Basin, East Subbasin
BMPs	Best Management Practices

CCF	One Hundred Cubic Feet
CCR	Consumer Confidence Report
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CERCLA	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act
CLWA	Castaic Lake Water Agency
CUWCC	California Urban Water Conservation Council
CVP	Central Valley Project
DBP	Disinfection by-products
Delta	Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta
DHS	California Department of Health Services
DMM	Demand Management Measures
DOF	Department of Finance
DTSC	Department of Toxic Substances Control
DWR	California Department of Water Resources
EC	Electrical conductivity
Edison	Southern California Edison
EIR	Environmental Impact Report
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
gpcd	gallons per capita per day
gpd	gallons per day
gpm	gallons per minute
GWMP	Groundwater Management Plan
KCWA	Kern County Water Agency
LACDRP	Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning
LACSD	Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County
LACWWD #36	Los Angeles County Waterworks District # 36
M&I	Municipal and Industrial
Metropolitan	Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
mgd	million gallons per day
mg/L	milligrams per liter
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NCWD	Newhall County Water District
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
OVOV	One Valley One Vision
Plan	Urban Water Management Plan 2005
PUC	California Public Utilities Commission
RAP	Remedial Action Plan
RO	Reverse Osmosis
RTP	Regional Transportation Plan
RWQCB	Regional Water Quality Control Board
SCAG	Southern California Association of Governments

SCLLC	Santa Clarita LLC
SCOPE	Santa Clarita Organization for Planning the Environment
SCWC	Santa Clarita Water Company
SCWD	Santa Clarita Water Division
Semitropic	Semitropic Water Storage District
SWP	State Water Project
TDS	Total Dissolved Solids
TOC	Total Organic Carbon
umhos/cm	Micromhos per centimeter
UWCD	United Water Conservation District
UWMP	Urban Water Management Plan
Valley	Santa Clarita Valley
VWC	Valencia Water Company
WRP	Waste Water Reclamation Plant