CITY OF ALAMOGORDO

40-Year
Water Development Plan
2015 - 2055

August 2014

Prepared by

Livingston Associates, P.C.

Consulting Engineers

Alamogordo, NM

in association with

John Shomaker and Associates, Inc.

Albuquerque, NM

CITY OF ALAMOGORDO

40-Year
Water Development Plan
2015 - 2055

August 2014

Prepared by

Livingston Associates, P.C.
Consulting Engineers
500 Tenth Street, Ste. 300
Alamogordo, NM 88310
575-439-8588
www.livingston-associates.com

in association with

JSAI
JOHN SHOMAKER & ASSOCIATES, INC.
WATER-RESOURCE AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS

John Shomaker and Associates, Inc.

Table of Contents

TABLES

FIGURES

Executive Summary

Pursuant to New Mexico Office of the State Engineer (NMOSE) permit T-3825 et al., the City of Alamogordo is required to submit progress report on their 40-year water development plan every five years. This updated water plan reflects the 2015 to 2055 planning period.

Although this Plan is a 40-year planning document, its main focus is to discuss the implementation of the desalination (ARWSP) project.

The City of Alamogordo has been active in water resource planning and development for more than twenty-five years. The City's water planning efforts have been in response to a number of factors, including:

1) Historically, the majority of the City's water supply has been obtained from surface water originating from spring flows in the Sacramento Mountains and Bonito Lake.
2) A significant reduction in surface water supply due to drought conditions has placed critical limitations on the long-term reliance on surface water. Drought conditions also make the watersheds more susceptible to fire, further limiting their reliability as a firm water supply. For example, the Bonito Lake water supply was lost in 2012 due to the Little Bear Fire.
3) There are significant hydrological, geological and NMOSE administrative limits on local water supplies which inhibit further development of the resource.

4) The quality of most of the City's ground water supply does not meet the total dissolved solids (TDS) guidelines adopted by the City (800 mg/L) and would require treatment or blending with better quality water.
5) The City has determined that desalination of brackish ground water, under the Alamogordo Regional Water Supply Project (ARWSP), represents a viable and economic source of supply that will be used to reduce the City's dependence on drought-sensitive surface waters.
6) The ARWSP water supply will be used conjunctively with the City's existing water supplies to optimize the use of its water resources, and so there is a redundant supply of groundwater for existing surface water rights.
7) No other alternative water supplies have been identified that compare with the ARWSP in expected reliability and ability to deliver the City's total additional water needs through 2055.

This City of Alamogordo 40-Year Water Development Plan, 2015-2055, is the second update to the original Plan for the period 2000 - 2040, prepared in March 2003 (Livingston Associates, John Shomaker & Associates, Inc.). Implementation of the original Plan helped justify the need for the ARWSP permits, and began the process of conjunctive management of separate sources of surface and ground water.

The original Plan contained numerous water development alternatives for the City of Alamogordo. The original Plan identified the ARWSP as the recommended alternative to meet the City's long-term water supply needs. The City aggressively pursued state and federal approvals for the ARWSP, but those approvals did not come as quickly as the City had hoped. In the interim, the City had to pursue short term, stop-gap measures to supply water during drought condition years. To provide an incremental increase in ground water supply, the City began a well replacement program. To-date, the following wells have been replaced:

1) La Luz Well Nos. 2, 3 and 5 in the La Luz Well Field,
2) Well Nos. 1 and 2 in the Prather Well Field (T-33 and T-33-S),
3) Golf Course Well (T-814),

This program has successfully provided an additional ground water supply of about 1,500 acre-feet per year (AFY) from these three sources combined.

To further the ARWSP, the City has accomplished the following:

1) Completed the Desalination Feasibility Study and Pilot Project;
2) Completed the water rights hearing process and was granted 4,000 AFY of brackish ground water for the ARWSP with an increase of up to 5,000 AF in any calendar year provided that the sum of annual diversions for any consecutive five-year period does not exceed 20,000 AF;
3) Prepared the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and finalized the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process for the ARWSP;
4) Began developing the Desalination (Snake Tank) Well Field for the ARWSP, which included the drilling and testing of five test wells, with two of the wells (Nos. 4 and 5) considered production-scale wells. Results of the testing verify that the well field will be suitable for the desalination facility;
5) Obtained right-of-way permitting from the BLM and NMSLO for the Snake Tank Well Field;
6) Completed construction of Phase I and Phase II, with Phase III – Priority 1 under construction, of the Snake Tank Well Transmission Line as part of the well water delivery piping;
7) Developed construction documents for Phase III - Priority 1A and La Luz Gate Road connections for the Snake Tank Well Transmission Line piping;
8) Began planning for the design and construction of an Interim 1-MGD Reverse Osmosis plant to replace the lost Bonito Lake water supply;
9) Began the process for planning and design of the ultimate 6-MGD ARWSP;
10) Prepared a priority phasing plan for the Snake Tank Well Field and associated infrastructure development.

While the City is in process of implementing the ARWSP, it continues to examine other avenues for conserving water and increasing the water supply. Since the original Plan, the City has:

1) Evaluated the potential for using reclaimed water for non-potable applications (car washes, industry, etc.) and trading farmers some of the City's reclaimed water for their potable irrigation water;
2) Performed a preliminary evaluation of the potential for utilizing re-purified water for aquifer recharge and/or surface water blending in indirect potable reuse (IPR) applications;
3) Completed covering and lining of the 180 million-gallon raw water storage reservoirs to eliminate water loss due to evaporation;
4) Covered and lined the reclaimed water storage reservoirs to eliminate evaporation losses and preserve the quality of this valuable non-potable water resource used for irrigation (which helps to conserve the fresh water supply);
5) Continued the waterline repair program, water meter replacements and other water system projects under the City's Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan, to reduce water losses from leakage;
6) Continued to review proposals from the private industry for bulk water supply and potential City purchase.

A summary of the City of Alamogordo's surface water sources, water rights and firm yield are shown below in **Table ES.1**.

Table ES.1 City of Alamogordo Surface Water Sources, Water Rights and Firm Yield

Surface Water	Water Right, AFY	Firm Yield,** AFY
Bonito Lake	1,449	271[a]
La Luz- Fresnal	891 AFY + 16 CFS*	1,653
Alamo Canyon	3,078	601
Total surface water	**5,418 AFY + 16 CFS***	**2,525**

* - 16 CFS (cubic feet per second) is time-of-day limited
** a reliable surface water supply of 3,513 AFY was used by the NMOSE for permit T-3825 et al settlement
a- Currently, Bonito Lake supply is zero due to Little Bear fire in 2012

With the addition of permit T-3825 et al for the ARWSP, the firm ground water supply quantity is now almost equal to the ground water right amount. A summary of the City of Alamogordo's ground water sources, water rights and firm supply are shown below in **Table ES.2**.

Table ES.2 City of Alamogordo Ground Water, Water Rights and Firm Supply

Ground Water	Water Right AFY	Firm Supply * AFY
La Luz Wells (T-32-S-2 through T-32-S-9)	3,000	2,979[a]
Prather Wells (T-33 and T-33-S)	500	500
Golf Course Well (T-814)	269.9	270
Mountain View Well (T-3489-repl)	161	160
Snake Tank Well Field (T-3825 et al.; ARWSP)	4,000[c]	3,360[b]
Total ground water	**7,930.9**	**7,269**

[a] based on increase in firm supply associated with replacing Wells 3 (T-32-S-4) and 5 (T-32-S-6), and planned replacement of additional wells under T-32 et al. to maintain optimum well efficiency
[b] based on 4000 AFY diversion and an approximate overall 84 percent treatment recovery for ARWSP
[c] permit conditions allow diversion up to 4,000 AFY, but can be increased up to 5,000 AFY, provided that the sum of annual diversions for any consecutive 5-yr period does not exceed 20,000 AFY
* The NMOSE used 7,131 AFY for settlement purposes

The total combined *water rights* for the City of Alamogordo (surface water and ground water) are 13,349 AFY (plus 16 cubic feet per second), which is almost 40 percent more than the total combined firm *water supply* of 9,794 AFY. It is important to note that the firm surface water supply does not consider catastrophic events such as total loss of the Bonito Lake water supply due to forest fire.

Using the projected population number of 38,874 for year 2015, and the per capita water use planning figure of 165 gallons per capita day (gpcd), the 2015 annual water supply requirement is 7,185 AFY. This results in a water supply deficit when firm (reliable) water supply is considered, *without the ARWSP*. Additionally, the City's available water supply has recently further decreased with Bonito Lake now out of service. The ARWSP will provide the additional ground water source capable of making up the near-term fresh water supply deficit. Without the ARWSP, the City has a firm ground water supply of only 3,909 AFY, which is a quantity not suitable for meeting current water supply requirements in the event all surface water sources become unavailable.

Future (2055) water demand is projected to be around 11,584 AFY when considering a modest population growth rate of about 1.2 percent. The projected year 2020 water demand (7,626 AF) exceeds the firm ground water supply of 7,269 AF (including the

ARWSP), resulting in a ground water supply not capable of meeting demands in the catastrophic event that not any of the surface water supplies are available. This scenario underscores the need to develop the full capacity of the ARWSP, including additional brackish ground water sources.

Historically, more than seventy percent of the City of Alamogordo's water supply has been derived from surface water that is affected by drought and watershed conditions. While there can be a hydraulic connection between surface water and ground water, typically ground water is considered a separate water supply source that is more drought-resistant than surface water. Further expansion of the City's La Luz Well Field is not possible due to hydrogeologic and NMOSE administrative constraints. Additionally, the quality of the ground water does not meet City criteria for a maximum total dissolved solids (TDS) level of 800 mg/L, and would require either blending with surface water or additional treatment.

The majority of fresh water (TDS less than 1,000 mg/L) in the region is the surface water that originates in the Sacramento Mountains and from a small pocket of ground water south of Alamogordo. An adequate amount of additional surface water is not available to satisfy the City of Alamogordo's future water demands. The pumping of fresh ground water in this area is limited by NMOSE special administrative rules, available quantity, and land ownership (more than half of the fresh ground water south of Alamogordo lies beneath military lands). Holloman Air Force Base (HAFB) wells pump from this resource. The City cannot obtain additional water rights for this limited supply of fresh ground water.

The City has implemented water conservation measures, and has utilized reclaimed water for green-space irrigation to reduce potable water demands. These measures have resulted in the City of Alamogordo having one of the lowest per capita water use figures in the Southwest. Since 2005, the City has evaluated several other potential water-supply alternatives for meeting future water demands. All of these were determined to be not feasible, and not considered further. These alternatives included:

1) Purchasing water rights and associated irrigation wells (T-3327 and T-3327-S) located west of Alamogordo;
2) Pursuing non-potable (saline) ground water deeper than 2,500 ft. in depth, that may be located in a separate aquifer (72-12-25 applications);
3) Increasing the surface water supply by diverting surface water from the bottom of the La Luz Watershed and abandoning the current diversions; and
4) Using water supply wells and water rights associated with Mesa Verde Ranch.

The Snake Tank Well Field (ARWSP) will provide a separate reliable ground water supply for meeting future water needs. Desalination of brackish water will help meet the City of Alamogordo's future water demands, reduce the reliance on drought-sensitive surface water and develop a long-term, redundant supply. Because the City uses both surface and ground water, the City will develop the ARWSP ground water supply to provide for future water requirements as a drought contingency and for water supply redundancy.

The City of Alamogordo should fully implement the ARWSP in 2015

The implementation of the ARWSP is detailed as follows:

1) Immediately implement the Alamogordo Regional Water Supply Project (ARWSP) desalination facility and infrastructure. This project consists of developing the Snake Tank Well Field, monitoring wells, brackish water desalination facility and concentrate disposal system, treated water storage and pumping, and piping infrastructure to the City of Alamogordo.

2) Develop the capacity of the ARWSP project and the Snake Tank Well Field based on a worst-case, extreme drought (which considers that only ground water supply is available). Develop the additional brackish ground water sources needed. A proposed 20-year project implementation schedule (from 2015 to 2035), along with capacity in million gallons per day (MGD), is shown in the following **Table ES.3**:

Table ES.3 ARWSP, Snake Tank Well Field and Brackish Water Development Schedule for the City of Alamogordo, 2015 to 2035

Year	Demand MGD	Ground Water MGD	ARWSP MGD[a]	Snake Tank MGD	Brackish Water MGD[b]
2015	6.4	3.5	2.9	3.5	0.0
2020	6.8	3.5	3.3	3.6	0.4
2025	7.2	3.5	3.7	3.6	0.9
2030	7.7	3.5	4.2	3.6	1.4
2035	8.1	3.5	4.7	3.6	2.0

a – includes the additional brackish ground water beginning in 2020 at an 84% recovery
b – assumes diversion of additional brackish ground water to the ARWSP

In addition to, and while developing the ARWSP, the city will continue to pursue conjunctive use management and other additional water supply alternatives, by:

Optimizing Conjunctive Use Management

1) Prepare an integrated water resource management plan (IWRMP) that will optimize the conjunctive operation of the various water supply sources, including the phased augmentation of the ARWSP. This IWRMP would also include the development of a water management tool that the City could use for optimizing conjunctive use while meeting demands.

2) Complete development the aquifer storage and recovery (ASR) program. Extend the pilot and demonstration program at Well No. 9; complete the Well No. 9 ASR permitting; implement the ASR program by conjunctive use of ARWSP water and surface water, and consider the potential for injection of re-purified water.

3) Prepare an up-dated Master Plan for the reclaimed water system. Expand the reclaimed water system to provide a water supply for additional non-potable uses (development of additional green spaces, etc.); evaluate the opportunity for winter water storage and reuse; evaluate the potential for industrial and/or commercial use; and evaluate innovative uses for this valuable resource.

Evaluation of Other Water Supply Alternatives

1) Continue the process of evaluating water supply needs and water development alternatives for the longer-term. As part of the planning process, prepare detailed studies for the water supply alternatives discussed herein.

2) Continue to evaluate proposals for outside bulk water purchases, provided they meet the City's water quality criteria, delivery requirements, blending potentials and the delivered water costs are comparable with the ARWSP.

3) Prepare feasibility studies and evaluate opportunities for up to 1,000 AFY of indirect potable reuse (IPR) of re-purified reclaimed water to augment the potable water supply through aquifer storage (ASR) at the Prather wells, La Luz wells, Golf Course well and surface water blending at the La Luz Water Treatment Plant raw water storage reservoirs.

4) Prepare feasibility studies and evaluate opportunities for trading up to 1,000 AFY of the City's winter reclaimed water, to local farmers for irrigation, in exchange for leasing 1,000 AFY of their irrigation water, which would be treated and used in the City water supply under the Multiple Use Water Conservation™ scenario previously outlined.

This updated *City of Alamogordo 40-Year Water Development Plan 2015–2055* is submitted pursuant to NMSA Section 72-1-9 (B) (1985).

1.0 Introduction

Background

The City of Alamogordo differs from most municipalities in the State of New Mexico in that historically the majority of its water supply (approximately 70%) has come from surface water. These surface water sources in the Sacramento Mountains north and east of the City, as well as Bonito Lake, are highly variable and very susceptible to drought conditions that reduce supply. During drought conditions, available water supply from these sources may be less than half of average supply. In addition to drought, fire in a watershed can eliminate a water supply as it did with Bonito Lake. The City must plan its availability of municipal water supply upon these possibilities by assuming groundwater supply will be needed to meet the 40-year demand.

The problem facing the City at this time is lack of water, even though the City owns an abundance of water rights. For example, the City has surface water rights of 5,418 AFY plus 16 CFS, however, between 2000 and 2010 an average of only 4,275 acre-feet of surface water was available for diversion and use.

The City faces a similar problem with its ground water rights in that the City has ground water rights exceeding 3,900 AFY (not including the Snake Tank Well Field) in wells that only produced about 1,860 AFY in 2006, when the surface water supply was the lowest in the period of record 1967 to 2010.

The City has been proactive in its efforts to provide a safe, reliable municipal water supply. Water salvage through the use of reclaimed water is the prime example. After more than 10 years and millions of dollars, the reclaimed water system can

supply over 3 million gallons per day (3,000 AFY) of reclaimed water for green-space irrigation.

Conservation through the lining and covering of the raw water storage reservoirs and reclaimed water storage reservoirs, saves almost one million gallons per day previously lost to seepage and evaporation during the summer months. The increasing block water-rate structure, along with efforts identified in the water conservation plan, have been very successful in reducing residential consumption of water.

However, water conservation alone cannot supply the future water needs of the City. Therefore, it is critical for Alamogordo to further develop water resources under its existing water rights to meet current shortfalls, establish a drought resilience and to provide for planned future growth and development.

A concept of "firm supply" from the various sources is used to calculate a minimum guaranteed water supply for the City. The "firm supply" is based on the worst years in the period of record for water supply, and includes hydrologic and system limitations, and ultimately reflects the reliability of the water supply. The short-fall between the firm water supply and the current and future water demand reflects the additional amount of water resources that the City needs to develop.

This 40-year Water Development Plan update was prepared for the City of Alamogordo by Livingston Associates, P.C. (consulting engineers), and John Shomaker & Associates, Inc. (JSAI). The contents of the Plan include implementation of the ARWSP, analysis of available water resources, water rights, existing water supplies, projected demand for water, and other water supply alternatives.

Purpose

This Plan will: 1) quantify current water supplies; 2) quantify current water requirements; 3) identify future water needs; 4) identify future sources of water supply; 5) plan for the next 40 years by developing the City's water supplies to meet

future water needs; and 6) provide drought resilience within the water supply and consider other alternative water supplies.

Water-Planning Region

The water-planning Region for the City of Alamogordo (**Figure 1.1**) primarily encompasses the eastern part of the Tularosa Underground Water Basin. The water-planning Region will be referred to as "the Region", "the water-planning Region" or the "planning Region", throughout this report. Between 2006 and 2010, the City of Alamogordo derived about 80 percent of its water supply from surface water that originates from the Sacramento Mountains and Bonito Lake, and the remaining 20 percent from the La Luz and Prather Well Fields, and the Golf Course well, all of which are completed in the basin-fill aquifer. The Tularosa Underground Water Basin was declared by an order of the NMOSE on July 7, 1982, and includes about 6,000 square miles and the major part of the planning Region. Availability of fresh ground water in the Tularosa Basin is limited by State Engineer administrative controls, geology, and supply. In addition, all of the surface water has been either fully or over appropriated.

The water-planning Region's eastern boundary is along the crest of the Sacramento Mountains from Three Rivers to the Oro Grande area approximately 40 miles south of Alamogordo. Military boundaries make up the water-planning Region's western boundary. The water-planning Region is approximately 80 miles long and 20 miles wide and is located only within Otero County. The Region primarily encompasses the NMOSE Alamogordo-Tularosa Administrative Area (refer to **Figure 1.2**).

Temperature and precipitation vary within the Region because of the differences in land surface altitude. The lower elevation portion of the Region reflects an arid climate and the Sacramento Mountain portion along the eastern boundary of the Region reflects a semi-arid climate. Most of the precipitation falls during mid-summer as intense thunderstorms and as winter precipitation (rain on the basin floor and snow at higher elevations). Summer precipitation occurs during July through

September. The average annual precipitation ranges from 9 inches at the lower elevations of the Region near White Sands National Monument, to 12 inches near Alamogordo, to about 28 inches at the highest elevations of the Region near Cloudcroft. The major recharge to the Region is through snow pack in the higher elevations. Highly variable and lower-than-average snowfall and higher-than-average winter temperatures since the late 1990s in the watersheds feeding the spring systems has caused drought conditions.

The Tularosa Basin is a hydrologic closed basin composed of basin-fill deposits in the center portion and bedrock in the surrounding mountain watersheds. Almost all of the water for the Region is surface water originating from the watersheds along the west side of the Sacramento Mountains, and ground water from basin-fill deposits. Some domestic water supplies are obtained from the bedrock aquifer in the Sacramento Mountains. Ground water flow in the Region is from east to west, originating in the recharge areas along the crest of the Sacramento Mountains, and discharging to the playa lakes in the basin center.

The higher-elevation and forested Sacramento Mountain escarpment receives more precipitation and gives rise to several small streams that discharge into the desert. Most of the streams are perennial in their upper reaches and derive their base flow from runoff, primarily as snowmelt, on the western slopes of the Sacramento Mountains. All streams carry flood-flow from infrequent high-magnitude thunderstorms. Only the large drainage areas on the western slope of the Sacramento Mountains contain streams with any appreciable base flow, which is derived largely from snowmelt. These streams include Three Rivers, Rio Tularosa, La Luz Creek, and Alamo Canyon. Part of the total runoff recharges the basin-fill aquifer. Most of the available surface water in the planning Region has been appropriated for use with the exception of surface water in Rinconada Canyon (Temporal Creek). Surface water from Three Rivers, Rio Tularosa, La Luz-Fresnal Canyon, Alamo Canyon, and Sacramento River is diverted for irrigation, domestic, and municipal use.

The water-planning Region is located entirely within the Tularosa Underground Water Basin. In May of 1997, the NMOSE published criteria for water rights administration of the Alamogordo-Tularosa Administrative Area, a sub-area within the Basin centered on Tularosa and Alamogordo. The location of the Alamogordo-Tularosa Administrative Area is shown on **Figure 1.3**. (Each administrative block is 0.5-square mile. The red blocks shown on **Figure 1.3** are deemed critical,). The La Luz and Fresnal Canyons were designated a Critical Management Area by the State Engineer. The purpose of the designation was to limit the effects of new appropriations from domestic wells on senior surface water rights.

New appropriations for fresh ground water are limited or nil under the current administrative criteria (where model cells are critical or near critical). This places a legal constraint on any further fresh ground water development within the Region.

The majority of the Region is rural, and agriculture and military-related enterprises are dominant. The majority of irrigated agriculture in the Tularosa Basin is concentrated in the vicinity of Alamogordo, La Luz, Tularosa, and Boles Acres.

The 2010 U.S. Census indicates a population of 63,797 for Otero County, with 40,933 in the Alamogordo county subdivision, which includes City of Alamogordo, La Luz, Boles Acres, and Holloman Air Force Base. The 2010 U.S. Census incorrectly indicates a population of 30,403 for City of Alamogordo, and the City has challenged the validity of this number. Based upon actual data collected by the City, the 2010 population used for this Plan is 36,622.

Water Supply System

The majority of the City of Alamogordo's water supply is derived from spring flows originating from the La Luz and Fresnal Canyon system, which flow via collection structures and pipelines to the La Luz Water Treatment Plant (WTP), located at the north end of Alamogordo. Bonito Lake water also flows via a 90- mile pipeline to the La Luz WTP. Additional spring flows from the Alamo Canyon and Caballero Canyon

systems flow via pipeline to the Alamo Canyon Water Treatment Plant, located at the southeastern end of Alamogordo.

Ground water is used primarily during the summer months to augment the surface water supply. It is derived from seven wells within the La Luz Well Field (T-32-S-3 through –S-9) located at the northern end of the City, two wells in the Prather Well Field (T-33 and T-33-S) located south of the City, and the Golf Course Well (T-814), located on the south side of the City. The Golf Course Well was permitted as supplemental to the La Luz Wells in 2008. The Mountain View Well (T-3489-repl) is not yet operational. It has been necessary to rely on ground water more due to the drought causing reduced surface water supplies.

Three raw water storage reservoirs, totaling 180 million gallons in capacity, are used to store water at the La Luz WTP prior to treatment. All three of the reservoirs have been covered and lined to eliminate evaporation loss and leakage.

At the Alamogordo Water Reclamation Plant, more than 3 MGD of effluent is reclaimed using tertiary filtration and used for turf and green-space irrigation as well as construction and other non-potable water needs of the City.

2.0 Surface Water Resources

Regional Setting

The spring flows from the Sacramento Mountains (**Figure 1.1**) vary seasonally, and are generally greater during the months of March through May. Spring (and stream) flows generally occur after all of the demands for water in the watershed are satisfied (i.e.; vegetation use, evaporation, upstream diversions, domestic wells, etc.). In wet years, rainfall and snowmelt runoff can be a substantial contributor to the amount of stream flow available for diversion. Storm water runoff from summer thunderstorms occurs rapidly and is difficult to capture and clean to potable water standards.

The U. S. Geological Survey (USGS) has limited daily base flow and peak flow measurements for Tularosa Creek at Bent and near Tularosa, and for Alamo Creek, La Luz Creek and the Sacramento River. Only peak flow for Three Rivers was measured by the USGS from 1955 to 1977. A summary of available surface water data is presented as **Table 2.1**, and shows the period of record and annual mean stream flow in acre-feet per year.

Table 2.1 Summary of Available Surface Water Data in the Region

Station Name	Period of Record	Annual Mean Stream Flow, AFY
Tularosa Creek near Bent, NM	1949-2010	9,797
Rio Tularosa near Tularosa, NM	1939-46	11,091
Rio La Luz near La Luz, NM	1911-12	8,536
Rio Fresnal near Mountain Park, NM	1911-12	1,050
Rio La Luz at La Luz, NM	1910-13; 1982-89	8,694
Alamo Creek near Alamogordo, NM	1933-50	1,283
Sacramento River near Sunspot, NM	1984-89	2,173

Watershed Budget

The estimated watershed yield provides some estimate of runoff plus storage in the soil horizon and ground water recharge to mountain block for a particular watershed. Not all of the watershed yield can be captured. Furthermore, not all of the stream flow can be captured; particularly storm flow events. Of particular importance are the water budgets for La Luz Canyon and Alamo Canyon watersheds and the availability of surface water. **Table 2.2** summarizes the surface water components of each of these watersheds. The water rights in La Luz Canyon are greater than the estimate yield, and can only be fully exercised in times of above-average precipitation and streamflow. Upon reviewing **Table 2.2**, it is apparent that the availability of streamflow is limited, and surface water is over-appropriated.

Table 2.2 Surface Water Components of Alamo Canyon and La Luz Canyon

Component	Alamo Canyon	La Luz Canyon
Watershed yield (AFY)	3,460	10,900
Mean annual flow (AFY)	1,280	8,600
Percent of streamflow resulting from storm flow events	10 to 20[a]	
Total surface water rights	3,078	6,700 +
Estimated range in annual streamflow (AFY)	700 to 2,000[b]	4,800 to 13,300[b]

a based on analysis of daily streamflow for Rio Tularosa, Tularosa Creek, and La Luz Creek

[b] based on analysis of annual streamflow for Rio Tularosa, Tularosa Creek, and La Luz Creek

City's Surface Water Supplies

Historically, more than seventy percent of the City of Alamogordo's water supply has been derived from surface water that is affected by drought. **Figure 2.1** presents total surface-water diversions between 2006 and 2010. **Figures 2.2**, **2.3** and **2.4** present historical surface-water diversions from La Luz-Fresnal Canyon, Alamo Canyon, and Bonito Lake, respectively, from 1967 to 2010. Historical meter records document water diversions from La Luz-Fresnal Canyon, Alamo Canyon, and Bonito Lake to the City of Alamogordo. Meter records from a Parshall flume, referred to as the La Luz-Fresnal Flume, document diversions from springs in La Luz-Fresnal Canyons. Meter records for Alamo Canyon document diversions from the springs in Alamo

Canyon. Meter records for the Bonito Lake Receival document diversions from Bonito Lake when they reach the La Luz WTP, where water is apportioned between Alamogordo and Holloman Air Force Base.

Table 2.3 summarizes the annual surface water diversions, shows the average diversion for the period of record, and shows the annual diversion rate that statistically will occur 95 percent of the time (the fifth percentile of the historical data-set).

Definition of Firm Yield

A water-supply definition for *firm yield* can be found in Linsley et al. (1982), and is "*Firm yield is the minimum yield during the life of the reservoir* [supply]." Therefore, the firm yield is based on the worst years in the record for water supply, which includes hydrologic and system limitations, and ultimately reflects reliability of supply. A case study in Linsley et al. (1982) demonstrates that simply using the average or median tends to overestimate supply. To base the availability of water supply on the assumption of stationarity of streamflows in semi-arid and arid regions is described by Evans (1985) as unrealistic, and other statistical analyses, such as the use of confidence intervals, provides a more realistic approach to determining firm yield (supply).

Firm Yield Method for Surface Water Sources

The firm yield analysis is based on diversion records, and it is assumed that the amount of water diverted is the maximum amount that could be diverted. This assumption is based upon knowledge of the City's operations and communications with City staff. Any amount of water that was not diverted, for any reason, is not measured and therefore cannot be counted upon. Because the datasets are not normally distributed, non-parametric statistical analysis of the fifth percentile of the historical surface water diversion dataset, and the tolerance interval associated with the fifth percentile, was determined to be the most sound and appropriate method for determining the firm yield of Alamogordo's surface water supplies. These methods rely on historical surface-flow data as opposed to assumptions about future flows (Helsel and Hirsch, 1992). Calculating a percentile of the historical dataset is essentially using observations from the past to make inferences about what can be expected for

the future. The fifth percentile was chosen as a conservative flow value that is available upon demand, since 95 percent of historical flows exceeded the fifth percentile.

The tolerance interval is essentially a confidence interval centered around a percentile, and is "the most commonly reported statistic for analyses of low flows (Helsel and Hirsch, 1992)." A confidence level of 90 to 99 percent is commonly used for hydrologic applications (Yevjevich, 1982). A confidence limit of 95 percent was used in calculating the tolerance interval for the fifth percentile. Because the annual surface-water diversion datasets for La Luz-Fresnal Canyon, Alamo Canyon, and Bonito Lake do not have normal distributions, non-parametric methods were used to determine the fifth percentiles and the tolerance intervals presented in **Table 2.3**.

Alamo Canyon

Alamo Canyon, which has a drainage area of 25 square miles, drains from the Sacramento Mountains into the lowlands of the Tularosa Basin about 3 miles southeast of Alamogordo. When the City was founded in 1898 its original water supply was brought by pipeline from Alamo Creek. Stream flow measurements from Alamo Creek from 1933 to 1950 indicated an average of 1,283 AFY (**Table 2.1**).

The chemical quality of the water is generally good; it commonly contains about 500 mg/L total dissolved solids and about 130 mg/L sulfate. The water rights of Alamo Creek (3,078 AFY) are owned by the City of Alamogordo. The City has extended its pipeline upstream to utilize springs in Alamo Canyon and its tributaries. A graph showing the diversions from Alamo Canyon is provided as **Figure 2.2**. Diversions from Alamo Canyon have averaged 1,257 AFY over the last 44 years (see **Table 2.3**). The minimum diversion of 579 AFY occurred in 2006.

La Luz Creek

La Luz Creek is a perennial stream fed by springs along La Luz and Fresnal Canyons and their tributaries. The drainage area of La Luz Creek above the community of La Luz is about 65 square miles. La Luz, located 6 miles north of Alamogordo,

was established in 1864, and later the communities of Mountain Park and High Rolls were established upstream along Fresnal Canyon. The City of Alamogordo owns approximately 12,500 AFY of water rights associated with La Luz Creek. The USGS gauged daily base flow in La Luz Creek from 1982 to 1989, which showed an average daily base flow of 12 CFS or 8,694 AFY (**Table 2.1**). The La Luz Irrigation District has rights to the first 400 GPM diverted from the La Luz-Fresnal system, which can significantly limit the City's diversion during drought conditions.

The total dissolved solids content of La Luz Creek water varies from 672 mg/L at a spring in Fresnal Canyon to 1,700 mg/L near the La Luz railway station.

A graph showing the diversions from La Luz Creek is provided as **Figure 2.3**. Diversions from La Luz Creek have averaged 3,318 AFY over the last 44 years (see **Table 2.3**), but a significant decline in water diverted from La Luz Creek has occurred over the last decade (**Figure 2.3**). In the last decade, since the diversion system has been modified for optimum capture, the minimum diversion of 1,489 AFY occurred in 2006.

Table 2.3 Historical Diversions Measured at La Luz-Fresnal Flume, Alamo Canyon, and Bonito Lake Receival

Year	La Luz-Fresnal Diversion, AF	Alamo Canyon Diversion, AF	Bonito Lake* Diversion, AF
1967	1,961	784	1,608
1968	2,028	838	2,431
1969	2,046	1,034	2,204
1970	2,229	1,169	2,019
1971	2,412	(b)	524
1972	2,070	(b)	2,050
1973	2,232	(b)	2,196
1974	3,466	(b)	1,146
1975	3,891	(b)	2,196
1976	4,279	(b)	1,759
1977	4,209	(b)	2,027
1978	3,670	1,046	1,818
1979	1,951	1,823	1,383
1980	2,437	1,570	2,129
1981	2,189	1,390	1,290
1982	1,610	1,495	2,279
1983	3,299	1,475	1,853
1984	4,255	1,467	1,791
1985	(a)	(a)	(a)
1986	3,047	1,872	1,757

Table 2.3 Continued

Year	La Luz-Fresnal Diversion, AF	Alamo Canyon Diversion, AF	Bonito Lake* Diversion, AF
1987	4,326	1,920	(a)
1988	5,137	1,340	1,715
1989	4,237	1,471	(a)
1990	5,032	1,414	1,359
1991	3,869	1,491	1,637
1992	5,782	2,081	786
1993	5,099	1,760	748
1994	5,529	1,490	(a)
1995	5,330	1,368	(a)
1996	5,382	1,260	(a)
1997	5,739	1,111	1,236
1998	4,425	1,106	1,282
1999	3,542	1,108	788
2000	3,334	1,121	542
2001	2,765	888	1,484
2002	2,523	684	766
2003	2,232	683	1,200
2004	2,309	634	1,468
2005	2,080	605	2,535
2006	1,489	579	1,014
2007	1,866	1,131	1,817
2008	2,674	1,260	1,506
2009	2,784	1,522	864
2010	1,826	1,143	1,277
average diversion, AF	**3,318**	**1,257**	**1,539**
diversion exceeded 95% of the time, AF[c]	**1,653**	**601**	**542**
95% tolerance interval	**1,489 to 1,961**	**579 to 784**	**524 to 788**

* total diversions for City of Alamogordo and Holloman Air Force Base
(a) no data available; (b) diversion system under repair during this period and surface-flow diversion data-set incomplete; [c] based on the 5th percentile of the historical dataset

The recent decline in diversions from La Luz Creek is largely due to drought conditions, but domestic water demands (from more than 480 wells) in the La Luz Creek watershed have increased over the last 15 years. These wells contribute to reducing stream flow by diverting (pumping) ground water before it reaches the stream and becomes surface flow.

Bonito Lake

Bonito Lake is located approximately 15 miles northwest of the Village of Ruidoso, within the Lower Pecos River Drainage Basin. The Lake is owned and operated by the City of Alamogordo as a municipal water supply for Alamogordo, Holloman AFB, Carrizozo, Nogal and Ft. Stanton. Although the Lake is not physically within the Tularosa Basin, a 90-mile long pipeline carries Bonito Lake water to Alamogordo

and Holloman AFB. The City of Alamogordo and Holloman each own 1,449 AFY of water rights (2,898 AFY combined). Annual amounts of water diverted from Bonito Lake, which have been less than the combined right, are divided evenly between Alamogordo and Holloman. Other entities owning Bonito Lake water rights, which total approximately 190 AFY, are Carrizozo, Nogal and Ft. Stanton.

Water from Bonito Lake, superior in chemical quality at 300 mg/L TDS, is mixed with the spring and ground water at the La Luz WTP to increase the overall supply and improve the quality.

Bonito Lake had a surface area of approximately 100 acres (US Bureau of Reclamation, 1989) with a maximum depth of about 75 feet. The Lake was constructed in 1931 and drains a watershed of more than 21,000 acres (33 square miles).

A graph showing the diversions from Bonito Lake is provided as **Figure 2.4**. The average annual diversion from Bonito Lake to the City of Alamogordo is only about 760 AFY. The total firm supply of Bonito Lake is calculated as 542 AFY. The City of Alamogordo's portion is one half of the firm supply based on the total diversion shared with Holloman AFB (**Table 2.3**). It should be noted that the diversions from Bonito Lake over the period of record account for only about 5 to 19 percent of the overall water supply to Alamogordo.

Prior to the Little Bear fire, the Bonito Lake supply had been highly unreliable due to low storage during periods of drought, pipeline conditions, periods of poor water quality due to fall and spring turn over of the lake, and minimum lake-level requirements for fish, wildlife, and recreation. In addition, the reservoir is over 75 years old and has lost significant storage capacity due to sedimentation. The 2012 Little Bear fire severely burned the majority of the Bonito Lake watershed, and rain storms following the fire silted-in the reservoir to where it was inoperable. Efforts to reclaim Bonito Lake are in progress, but it may be over a decade before Bonito Lake will be able to supply water to Alamogordo.

For planning purposes, it is assumed that the City of Alamogordo's portion of the Bonito Lake supply is approximately 271 AFY (half of firm yield). However, due to the Little Bear fire of 2012, the Bonito Lake supply may be unavailable for the next 5 years or longer.

Firm Yield Analysis

Based on the available period of record (1967-2010), the diversions that are met or exceeded 95 percent of the time, calculated for La Luz-Fresnal (1,653 AFY), Alamo Canyon (601 AFY), and Bonito Lake (271 AFY) water delivered to the City of Alamogordo, is an estimate of the firm yield from each of these sources. Including data from the 1980s and early 1990s leads to a higher estimate of firm yield, because above-normal precipitation during this period caused an increase in stream flow during this time. **Table 2.4** summarizes the City of Alamogordo's Surface Water Sources, Water Rights and Firm Yield

Table 2.4 City of Alamogordo's Surface Water Sources, Water Rights and Firm Yield

Surface Water	Water Right, AFY	Firm Yield, AFY
Bonito Lake**	1,449	271
La Luz- Fresnal	891 AFY + 16 CFS*	1,653
Alamo Canyon	3,078	601
Total surface water	**5,418 AFY + 16 CFS***	**2,525**

* - 16 CFS (cubic feet per second) is time-of-day limited
** currently firm yield is zero due to the destruction from the Little Bear Fire

Therefore, the firm yield of Alamogordo's surface water sources indicates a potential minimum available supply of about 2,525 AFY, based on recorded diversion data from the previous 44 years. *However, it is possible that the City may experience extended severe drought conditions or other circumstances in the future where there is little or no surface water supply, and water demands must be offset entirely by ground water resources.*

There are three options for determining the availability of surface water for this Plan, and the most conservative figures (nos. 2 and 3 below) have been used:

1. NMOSE settlement agreement total of 3,513 AFY
2. Firm yield calculated total of 2,525 AFY
3. Conjunctive use management assumption of zero surface water

For planning purposes, the City of Alamogordo will rely on a future firm surface water supply of only 2,525 AFY. During extreme drought conditions, the City will not rely <u>on any</u> surface water supply.

3.0 Ground Water Resources

Regional Supply

Ground water in the Region can be divided into two generalized geologic settings: 1) the basin fill aquifer, and 2) the bedrock aquifer. The extent and total dissolved solids content of water in the basin fill aquifer is shown on **Figure 1.2**. The majority of the wells in the planning Region produce from the basin fill aquifer. The basin fill aquifer is known to have the highest well yields in the planning Region, suitable for irrigation and municipal supply. The bedrock aquifer is not suitable for municipal supply wells. All of the City's groundwater supply wells are constructed in the basin fill aquifer.

City Ground Water Supply

The City has ground water supply wells associated with the La Luz Well Field (T-32-S through T-32-S9), the Prather Well Field (T-33 and T-33-S), the Golf Course Well (T-814) and the Mountain View Well (T-3489-repl). Well locations are shown on **Figure 3.1**. Historical meter records document water diversions from the La Luz and Prather Well Fields, and the Golf Course Well. The Mountain View Well is not yet in production.

La Luz Well Field (T-32-S through T-32-S-9)

Some of the most productive wells in the Region are completed in basin fill as well as bedrock. One example of production from the basin fill and bedrock aquifers is the City of Alamogordo's La Luz Well Field, where well yields range from 250 GPM to 900 GPM. Alamogordo's La Luz Well Field is located a few miles north of Alamogordo. La Luz Well Field data are summarized in **Table 3.1.**

Table 3.1 List of Well Data for the City of Alamogordo's La Luz Well Field, Otero County, New Mexico

Well	Well No. 2 repl	Well No. 3 repl.	Well No. 4	Well No. 5 repl.	Well No. 6 repl.	Well No. 7	Well No. 8
Date drilled	2012	2008	1964	2008	1992	1971	1999
Total depth, feet	990	880	780	935.7	844	750	991
Water level, feet bgl	424	400	440	438	359	336	408
Water column, feet	566	480	340	497.7	485	414	583
Pumping level, feet bgl	500	590	516	615	500	481	625
Instantaneous production rate, GPM	600	500	320	600	900	850	250

feet bglfeet below ground level
GPMgallons per minute
n/anot available

The La Luz Well Field consists of seven wells, and is used to meet summer water demands when surface-water diversions are typically low. Historically, the well field is pumped approximately six months out of the year from April to September. Annual diversions from the La Luz Well Field have ranged from 147 AFY to 2,750 AFY, with an average of 524 AFY over the last 5 years. The fluctuation in diversions from the well field has varied as a result of changes in surrounding demand from other ground water users, encroachment of junior water rights, variable recharge and aquifer storage capacity, and ability to use surface water and reclaimed water to meet part of the City's total water demand (see **Figure 3.2**).

Water level declines have accumulated in the La Luz Well Field area over the last 50 years, and the average water level decline is approximately 0.5 feet per year, but varies from well to well. The observed water level declines in the La Luz Well Field area are a result of local and regional ground water pumping, reduced recharge from captured stream flow, and numerous domestic wells. Additionally, the water quality diminishes throughout the pumping season. During the last decade, water level declines have accelerated (up to 5 feet per year) although production has decreased

(see **Figure 3.2**). The most plausible explanation is increased demand on the aquifer from surrounding users and decreased recharge from La Luz Canyon; both conditions resulting from the recent drought.

Reliable supply from the La Luz Well Field is difficult to estimate because it would depend on successful NMOSE applications to replace wells, and management decisions such as acceptable levels of long-term drawdown and pumping rates of individual wells, as well as recharge and aquifer management.

An analysis of the potential yield from the La Luz Well Field was performed using the JSAI ground water flow model (JSAI, 2006). The long-term predicted yield from the La Luz Well Field, assuming a successful well replacement program and optimum well efficiency, is 2,979 AFY as shown in the following **Table 3.2**.

Table 3.2. Summary of Predicted Yield from the La Luz Well Field Assuming Optimum Well Efficiency and the Ability to Replace Wells and Maintain Efficiency

Well	Predicted yield, AF
2	314
3 repl.	538[a]
4	340
5 repl.	646[b]
6 repl.	387
7	580
8	174
total	2,979

[a] based on operation at 500 gpm, 8 months out of each year (JSAI, 2009, Well report: City of Alamogordo La Luz Well No. 3-R, T-32-S-4: consultant's report prepared by John Shomaker & Associates, Inc., for City of Alamogordo, 13 p. plus figures and appendices)
[b] based on operation at 600 gpm, 8 months out of each year (JSAI, 2009, Well report: City of Alamogordo La Luz Well No. 5-R, T-32-S-6: consultant's report prepared by John Shomaker & Associates, Inc., for City of Alamogordo, 13 p. plus figures and appendices)

Another factor limiting yield from the La Luz wells is water quality. The average TDS concentration is approximately 1,500 mg/L to 1,800 mg/L in water produced from the well field. Without blending with surface water, the water produced from the wells would need to be treated using desalination to meet the desired water

quality requirement of 800 mg/L TDS. Therefore, the production from the La Luz wells is limited by the available surface water needed for blending or would be further reduced to reflect losses due to treatment (recovery).

Prather Well Field (T-33 and T-33-S)

Prather Wells No. 1 (T-33 repl.) and No. 2 (T-33-S repl.) were replaced in January 2010. Currently, based on evaluation of pumping test data, the two Prather wells can produce a combined 500 AFY, and the permitted water right for the Prather Well Field is now 500 AFY.

Golf Course Well (T-814)

The Golf Course Well (T-814) was in poor condition and replaced in 2005. The replacement well was drilled deeper and produced better quality water than the old well. The replacement well is capable of producing 423 AFY, which is 153 AFY more than the permitted right of 269.9 AFY. An application to make a portion of the Golf Course Well diversions supplemental to T-32-S-2 through T-32-S-9 (La Luz wells) for 160 AFY was approved by the NMOSE in 2008. Under the approved permit, a total of 429.9 AFY can be diverted from the Golf Course Well.

Only in years when the diversion from the Golf Course Well exceeds 269.9 AFY will the additional water be counted toward beneficial use of the water right under T-32 et al.

Mountain View Well (T-3489-repl)

The Mountain View Well was replaced during the summer of 2006. The City filed an application to replace T-3489 (True Value Well) at a location 500 feet to the west and in the same administrative block. The application was published and protested, although the NMOSE granted the City emergency authorization to replace T-3489. The Mountain View Well was completed to 500 feet and is capable of producing the allocated water right of 160 AFY. Water produced from the

Mountain View Well is slightly saline and will require treatment prior to use for drinking water supply.

Snake Tank Well Field (T-3825 et al.)

The City has begun to develop the Snake Tank Well Field for the ARWSP, including the drilling and testing of five test wells, with two of the wells considered production-scale wells. Results of the testing verify that the well field will be suitable for the desalination facility. The City completed the water rights hearing process and was granted 4,000 AFY of brackish water under T-3825 et al., which can be increased up to 5,000 AFY, provided that the sum of annual diversions for any consecutive five-year period does not exceed 20,000 AF. However, for firm yield calculations, an average diversion of 4,000 AFY has been assumed.

Firm Ground Water Supply

As a way to quantify the City's current and future water needs, and to be consistent with the approach used for surface water, it is necessary to estimate firm ground water supply of existing ground water rights using the potential long-term yield of existing wells in their current condition.

Since the development of the previous 40-Year Water Development Plan for the City (Livingston Associates, and JSAI, 2006), La Luz Wells 3 and 5, the Prather Wells, and the Golf Course Well have been replaced and brought into production, and the Mountain View Well has been replaced but is not yet in production. **Table 3.3** presents an estimate of the firm ground water supply currently available to the City of Alamogordo.

Table 3.3. Summary of City of Alamogordo's Ground Water Rights and Firm Supply

Supply Name	NMOSE File Number	Water Right, AFY	Firm Supply AFY	NMOSE settlement AFY
La Luz Wells	T-32-S-2 to T-32-S-9	3,000	2,979[a]	3,000
Prather Wells	T-32, T-32-S	500	500	500

Golf Course	T-814	269.9	270	270
Mountain View	T-3456	161	160	161
Snake Tank Well Field	T-3825 et al.	4,000[c]	3,360[b]	3,200
Total		**7,930.9**	**7,269**	**7,131**

[a] based on increase in firm supply associated with replacing Wells 3 (T-32-S-4) and 5 (T-32-S-6), and planned replacement of additional wells under T-32 et al. to maintain optimum well efficiency
[b] based on 4,000 AFY and an 84 percent treatment recovery
[c] permit conditions allow diversion up to 4,000 AFY, but can be increased up to 5,000 AFY, provided that the sum of annual diversions for any consecutive 5-yr period does not exceed 20,000 AFY

For planning purposes, the City of Alamogordo will rely on a firm ground water supply of 7,269 AFY, which includes the ARWSP. This will be considered the sole water supply for severe drought condition planning. Without ARWSP, the City of Alamogordo has a firm ground water supply of only 3,909 AFY

4.0 Water Demand

Present Water Demand

The City of Alamogordo's average annual water diversions were about 1.5 billion gallons per year (4,502 AFY) between 2006 and 2010. Average metered water deliveries totaled 3,982 AFY between 2006 and 2010. Of these metered deliveries, residential use is approximately 80%; and commercial use is around 20%. **Table 4.1** presents a summary of water diversions and deliveries between 2006 and 2010.

Table 4.1 Summary of Water Diversions and Deliveries Between 2006 and 2010

Year	Surface Water Diversions, AF	Ground Water Diversions, AF	Total Diversions, AF	Billed/Metered Deliveries, AF
2006	2,382	1,859	4,241	3,889
2007	3,765	631	4,396	3,930
2008	4,160	451	4,611	3,970
2009	5,050	504	5,050	4,097
2010	4,213	448	4,213	4,022
average	3,723	779	4,502	3,982

Average daily diversions totaled about 4.0 MGD between 2006 and 2010. Average diversions for the month of June, typically the month with highest water use, totaled about 5.1 MGD between 2006 and 2010.

Water losses, as a percentage of total diversions, averaged about 11 percent between 2006 and 2010 (which is typical for a municipality). **Table 4.2** presents a summary of total diversions, authorized consumption, and water losses.

Table 4.2 Summary of Total Diversions, Authorized Consumption, and Water Losses

Year	Total Diversions, AF	Authorized Consumption		Water Losses, AF	Water Losses as Percentage of Total Diversions
		Billed/Metered Deliveries, AF	Unbilled/Metered Deliveries, AF		
2006	4,241	3,889	6	346	8
2007	4,396	3,930	10	455	10
2008	4,611	3,970	4	637	14
2009	5,050	4,097	14	940[a]	19
2010	4,213	4,022	15	176	4
average	4,502	3,982	10	511	11

a - includes waterline flushing for multiple waterline replacement contracts

Projected Populations

The City developed a Comprehensive Plan (2000), which projected population growth to the year 2020. For the Plan, the University of New Mexico Bureau of Business and Economic Research (BBER) developed population projections for low, medium and high growth scenarios. BBER also developed medium-growth projections for 2020 through 2040. After public comment, the medium-growth scenario was adopted for planning purposes. For this Plan, annual growth rates of 1.2 percent were assumed from 2010 to 2055. These rates are consistent with the recent wastewater treatment plant expansion Preliminary Engineering Report (Bohannan Huston, 2010) estimated growth rates, which were adopted by the City.

U.S. Census 2010 incorrectly indicated a population of 30,403 for City of Alamogordo. The City submitted a challenge to U.S. Census Bureau in June 2013, demonstrating the actual population in 2010 was somewhere between 36,000 and 37,000. This Plan utilizes the 2010 population of 36,622 estimated for the aforementioned wastewater treatment plant expansion report.

The following **Table 4.3** shows the projected populations for the City of Alamogordo for the period year 2010 to 2055:

Table 4.3 Projected Populations for City of Alamogordo for 2010 to 2055

Year	Future Projected Population	Difference from Yr 2010 Population	Average Annual Growth Rate
2010	36,622	-	1.2 %
2015	38,874	2,252	1.2 %
2020	41,263	4,641	1.2 %
2025	43,797	7,175	1.2 %
2030	46,500	9,878	1.2 %
2035	49,3558	12,733	1.2 %
2040	52,400	15,778	1.2 %
2045	55,617	18,995	1.2 %
2050	59,050	22,428	1.2 %
2055	62,676	26,054	1.2 %

In comparison to the previous 40 year plan, the project populations have slightly decreased. For example the previous projected population for year 2045 was 58,663 instead of the current projection of 55,617 in **Table 4.3**.

Per Capita Water Use

As the result of a highly successful conservation program, the City of Alamogordo has reduced its total gallons per capita day (gpcd) water consumption from over 260 gpcd in 1992 to an average of 132 gpcd between 2006 and 2010. Total City-wide per-capita water use is defined as the total water diversions divided by the population served. The City Commission adopted a total City-wide per-capita goal of 165 gpcd as the City standard for water use, based on: 1) the average total gpcd between 1999 and 2001, 2) the existing water supply, 3) water conservation programs, and 4) reasonable standard of living in the arid climate of southern New Mexico. Reclaimed water use is not considered a part of the 165 gpcd City-wide water use goal.

Beginning in 2002, water supplies available to the City, and particularly surface water supplies, decreased dramatically. In response, the City passed ordinances that provided for strict water restrictions and surcharges. The restrictions were necessary to ensure that the City had an adequate water supply to meet essential services.

While the City's average annual per capita use has been below 165 gpcd since 2002, these figures are supply-driven and the result of water use restrictions and surcharges.

Average total per-capita use of 165 gpcd is reasonable and was previously adopted for current and future water use planning purposes by the City (Plan, 2003). Additionally, the NMOSE accepted the City's proposed 165 gpcd water use figure and utilized it in forecasting future water requirements for the City of Alamogordo during the 2003 water rights hearing on Permit No. T-3829 et al. This per-capita water use figure is included in the settlement with the NMOSE, adopted by District Court and upheld on appeal; all associated with Permit No. T-3825 et al.

Future Demand for Water

Future water demands for the City of Alamogordo are computed using the established City-wide total water use goal of 165 gpcd (refer to previous section). This assumes that the current proportion of single-family and multi-family residential, commercial, industrial and other water uses remain relatively constant for the planning period. This assumption also provides for the continued commercial and industrial economic development within the City (at approximately 20 percent of total water use). Additionally, water conservation measures and increased reclaimed water use (for commercial or industrial non-potable purposes) provide economic development opportunities within the 165 gpcd use goal.

The following **Table 4.4** summarizes the projected future water demands for the City of Alamogordo to 2055, in Acre-Feet per Year (AFY), Million Gallons per Year (MGY), Average Daily use in Million Gallons per Day (MGD) and Peak Daily use in MGD, based on 165 gpcd and future population shown in **Table 4.3**:

Table 4.4 Projected Water Demands for the City of Alamogordo, 2015 to 2055

Year	Projected Future Water Demand in AFY, MGY, Average MGD and Peak MGD			
	AFY	**MGY**	**MGD**	**Peak MGD[a]**
2015	7,185	2,341	6.4	14.1
2020	7,626	2,485	6.8	15.0
2025	8,095	2,637	7.2	15.9
2030	8,594	2,800	7.7	16.9
2035	9,122	2,972	8.1	17.9
2040	9,685	3,155	8.6	19.0
2045	10,279	3,349	9.2	20.2
2050	10,914	3,556	9.7	21.4
2055	11,584	3,774	10.3	22.7

a - Peak Day use estimated at 2.2 times Average Day use.

As shown above, future demand for water by the City of Alamogordo will reach approximately 11,584 AFY by 2055. This figure is greater than the current firm ground water supply and water rights available to the City.

5.0 Water Conservation Overview

The City of Alamogordo has an aggressive water conservation program. A report prepared by the City of Alamogordo entitled *City of Alamogordo Water Conservation Overview* describes the water conservation program in detail. Water conservation measures implemented by the City are summarized below:

- Water Conservation Ordinance No. 948 (1995 and updates) established days and times when outdoor watering is permitted; requires covers on swimming pools when not in use; prohibits outdoor decorative fountains; and places restrictions on vehicle washing; new construction landscaping; and other activities.
- Water Rationing Ordinance No. 1008 (1997, amended 2003) mandates reduction in water usage during diminished water supplies; established automatic water rate surcharges; and set trigger points for a 3-stage rationing plan. Note: water rationing is not considered a conservation measure except during emergency situations when the City does not has enough supply to meet demand.
- Water Rate Ordinance No. 1106 (2000, amended 2002) established increasing block water rates system; provided for surcharges in addition to block rates.
- Established a low-flow toilet rebate program (2001) and will be considering other potential rebate programs (evaporative coolers, etc.).
- Mandated use of reclaimed water for irrigation of City green spaces and for use in construction activities by contractors and City departments, which saves up to 3 million gallons of potable water each day. The City's reclaimed water system includes 16.2 miles of pipeline, two booster stations, and a 1,000,000-gallon storage tank completed in 2006.

- Established a per capita residential-only water use goal of 124.73 gpcd.
- Replacing all of the water meters in the City with "water smart" meters.
- On-going water and wastewater distribution system repairs and upgrades under the City's Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan, to minimize loss through leakage.
- Lining and covering of three raw water storage reservoirs and two reclaimed water reservoirs to reduce evaporation and leakage losses by approximately 600 AFY.
- Replacement of water meters over 12 years old.
- Public education programs through the *City Profile* publication and xeriscaping workshops through the Keep Alamogordo Beautiful program.
- Department of Public Safety / Fire Services implemented innovative water conserving methods to conduct required equipment testing, resulting in a savings of tens of thousands of gallons per year (2004).

The results of the various water conservation measures taken by the City over the last few years have been to reduce overall per capita water demand from about 261 gpcd in 1992 to meeting or exceeding the current goal of 165 gpcd. Previously achieved further reductions were supply driven, and not a result of conservation practices. In February 2006, the City was awarded the U.S. Conference of Mayors Municipal Water Conservation Achievement Award.

The *Overview* concludes with:

> The City of Alamogordo will continue to emphasize and encourage water conservation. This is our duty as a responsible community in the arid Southwest, and it will continue to be necessary due to characteristic long periods of drought. However, Alamogordo has done much already to achieve significant results in responsible water conservation and may in fact be reaching a plateau, where further water restrictions are no longer possible while maintaining a reasonable quality of life. Currently, we are the only municipality in the State that has covered and lined our reservoirs and have instituted 100% use of reclaimed water during the bulk of the year.

6.0 Water Budget

Supply and Demand

Municipalities have a special obligation to guarantee an adequate water supply at all times for their residents. In the City of Alamogordo's case, more than 40,000 people (including Holloman Air Force Base), rely on the City to provide water for their health, safety, and welfare. Because of this significant responsibility to provide water at all times and under all circumstances, each municipality must analyze its specific circumstances to assess current and future water needs.

Alamogordo's need for completing the development of its existing water rights is urgent. There are a number of physical and legal constraints limiting development of new ground water supplies. Some of these constraints are summarized below.

Constraints on Existing Water Supply

1. Lack of supply due to drought and watershed conditions

A municipality's first priority is to guarantee a water supply for the public. The American Water Works Association (AWWA) *Manual of Water Supply Practice* (AWWA, M50) states:

> A primary function of water resources planning is to provide water for periods of drought. Most municipal water supply plans consider the drought of record when estimating the firm or safe yield of a water source…. Therefore, according to the plan, *there should be adequate water supply and system capacity to meet increased demand under drought conditions*. (p.87, emphasis added).

The Manual of Water Supply Practice also discusses how firm yield (or safe yield) must be considered in determining a municipality's need for additional water supplies:

> To establish the need for additional sources of supply, reliable diversion rates must be established from water supply sources (safe yield) contributing to the water supply system. Most simply, safe yield [firm yield] is defined as the reliable withdrawal rate of acceptable quality water that can be supplied by available flows and/or storage releases from reservoirs and/or ground water reserves throughout a critical drought period…..The yield [firm yield] of a water system combined with demand forecasts identifying a reasonable range of future needs provides the basis for evaluating actions that will need to be considered over the planning period. (p.121).

There has been recognition at a national level that the decade-long drought in the West is causing surface water supplies to dry up and forcing municipalities to consider new sources. The abundant supply of brackish ground water is allowing some cities in the Southwest to consider desalination as their new supply, as reported in the publication *New Scientist*:

> Desalination is also being considered for landlocked states such as New Mexico, Nevada and Utah, where a decade of drought has caused surface water to run dry, while saltwater lies untouched in underground reserves. (New Scientist Tech, June 30, 2006).

As discussed earlier in this Plan, the City of Alamogordo relies to a great extent on surface water, which is susceptible to drought. This has been a significant factor in the City's lack of an adequate water supply since 2002.

2. Lack of supply due to infrastructure (supply) limitations

The La Luz well field has limited ground water supply availability due to hydrologic conditions in the aquifer, NMOSE administrative limitations, local domestic wells

affecting recharge, and well conditions. The wells have been cleaned numerous times, but continued growth of iron-bacteria on the well casing and screen causes encrustation and plugging of the screen openings, severely restricting flow into the well pump and causing pump cavitation. This *infrastructure-limitation* contributes to overall supply delivery and availability. Over time, the bacterial growth causes complete well failure due to aquifer plugging. Replacement well drilling permits may be applied for, but are subject to protest and possible denial, and are time consuming. Even if replacement wells are authorized, there is a limit to total water production from the well field due to aquifer (and other) limitations.

3. Lack of supply due to NMOSE administrative (legal) limitations

NMOSE administrative rules limit the amount of water withdrawn in certain areas, and are beyond the control of the City. This water is *administratively-limited*, and effectively constrains the City as to where it can (and more importantly, cannot) look for new water. This *administratively-imposed* constraint forced the City to look beyond its municipal boundaries for additional water supply, and the areas adjacent to the City are not feasible for additional ground water development because: 1) The adjacent mountain areas to the east are now also administered by the NMOSE; 2) the area south of the City is not a feasible option because of military land ownership; and 3) the area west of Alamogordo is not a feasible option because of military land ownership, hydrologic and water quality issues (too high a TDS to be treated economically and low well yields). Therefore, these administrative restrictions imposed on the City resulted in establishing an area south of Three Rivers for ground water development for the ARWSP. This location is distant, more costly, and requires desalination treatment.

Farther yet are the Salt Basin and Hueco-Bolson south of the City. These two areas have water rights issues. Further, developing these areas as water supply sources would be costly and require treatment and up-hill pumping of the water. The areas have not been substantially studied to make long-term decisions on feasibility, environmental concerns, or political (public) acceptability. The Regional Water Plan

for the Lower Rio Grande water users includes both basins as a potential future water supply so there may be competition among regions of the State for these resources.

Additionally, there are no more available surface water sources. The surface water rights the City does hold are limited by maximum flow rates, so the City cannot divert the occasional large amount of storm generated stream flows. Additionally, the La Luz Irrigation District has the "first call" on the water in the La Luz-Fresnal diversion, which often leaves the City with minimal remaining water supply. Also, due to the adjudication of the surface waters, there are water rights holders along the stream with priority dates senior to the City's. This means that the City cannot divert its flows with the later priority dates until the others' earlier priority rights have been satisfied. This effectively stops any further development of surface water in the area.

4. Lack of supply due to water-quality constraints

According to the *Desalination and Water Purification Technology Roadmap* (USBOR, SNL, 2004):

> Water availability includes issues of both water quantity and quality. After all, just as drought conditions can reduce the *amount* of water available, reductions in water quality can diminish the *available* water supply for its intended use (emphasis added).

The City's water quality goal is established at 800 mg/L total-dissolved-solids (TDS). The limit recommended by the New Mexico Environment Department (for aesthetic purposes) is 500 mg/L. The actual quality of the current blended water supply varies from about 800 mg/L to over 1,000 mg/L when the existing City wells are used extensively. Other cities in New Mexico provide a water supply with a quality better than the recommended 500 mg/L TDS, i.e., with lower TDS. Other communities, such as the White Cliffs Mutual Domestic Water Users Association, use reverse osmosis to treat their water supply. If the City adopted the 500 mg/L TDS goal

system wide, the actual available water supply would be even less because the surface water would also require treatment to reduce TDS levels to 500 mg/L.

Many residents of Alamogordo use water softeners to reduce hardness and minimize its corrosive effect on appliances (dish washer, washing machine, evaporative coolers, etc.), and many use reverse osmosis systems to create better tasting water for drinking and cooking. The cost of treating down to 500 mg/L TDS would be high. The ARWSP allows the City flexibility in supplying less than 800 mg/L TDS water through blending, when other supplies allow, if desired.

5. Vulnerability to contamination by accidental (fire, flood), emergency (chemical spill) or deliberate (terrorist) causes

Watersheds are vulnerable to forest fires, mudslides, and other "acts of nature" that may impair the water quality to the point that it cannot be treated. In some cases in the past, the City has had to decline to divert stream flows that are highly turbid (muddy) because the treatment plant could not treat the water. Ash created by forest fires can plug treatment works. Forest fires also leave the affected watershed areas void of ground cover vegetation, which allows topsoil runoff (containing high levels of organic material) that is highly turbid and creates treatment challenges. Floods can also have the same effect. In addition, watersheds can become unsuitable as sources of surface water because of high levels of pathogens from livestock or native wildlife. Redundant supplies are needed for this reason.

Accidental contamination from environmental spills (fuels, fertilizer, etc.) are a concern along transportation routes, and can render an entire surface water supply unusable for extended periods of time, if not forever. Deliberate contamination from human activity is also possible as an act of terrorism. Surface water supplies are most vulnerable. Precautions against this threat are important at this time. Because water supplies are vulnerable to contamination, redundant supplies are necessary.

6. The need to guarantee a water supply for the public health, safety and welfare

An essential responsibility of a city is to guarantee the water supply for the public. Water supply has to be available 100 percent of the time, in all conditions. The way to ensure guaranteed water supply availability is to rely only on the "firm yield" of existing supplies, and develop additional water supplies.

The *AWWA Manual of Water Supply Practice (M50)* states:

> Safe yield [firm yield] is the *maximum* quantity of water that can be guaranteed to be available …during a critical dry period [drought]. (p.163, emphasis and wording supplied).

Certainly amounts of storage are important for maintaining daily, weekly or monthly peaking delivery capacity, but annual (or multiple year) storage is not practical or generally practiced. Therefore, the City's actual water supplies must be able to meet all of the public's water needs each and every day and year, even (and especially) during times of limited availability. Unfortunately drought is unpredictable, so the City is faced with making sure that its water facilities (both supply and distribution) are capable of providing all of the water needed, 100 percent of the time, under "worst case" conditions of drought. This fundamental level of water supply planning, as well as emergency supply planning, is necessary to provide a safe and reliable water supply and protect public health and welfare.

7. Availability and Reliability

The City is developing increasingly expensive water supplies. Surface water is the least expensive alternative, followed by the La Luz wells, the Golf Course and Prather wells, and then the ARWSP. Conjunctive management of separate sources of water is also defined as a "need" because it allows the City to most efficiently and

economically administer water supplies for maintaining quality and providing redundancy.

Reliability defines the level of a "guaranteed supply". Reliability in meeting long-term water demands is a recommended criterion for water development alternative evaluation. Again, *AWWA Manual M50* states:

> Reliability to meet long-term demands. In this case, goals should be set to balance supply and demand during below-normal [drought] water supply years. (p. 279, wording supplied).

City of Alamogordo 40-Year Water Supply Need

For planning future water needs for the City of Alamogordo, the available firm water supply must satisfy the projected demands. **Table 6.1** below summarizes the water rights and firm supply for each current water supply source, and the 2015 water supply requirement.

Table 6.1 Water Supply Source, Water Right, Firm Supply and 2015 Water Supply Requirement for City of Alamogordo

Water Supply Source	Water Rights AFY	Firm Supply AFY
Total surface water	5,418 AFY + 16 CFS	2,525
Total ground water	8,930.9 AFY	7,269
Total Combined Firm Supply		**9,794**
2015 water requirement		**7,185**

The basis of conjunctive use management is to have a redundant water right and supply of ground water to surface water. As indicated in **Table 6.1** above, the surface water rights and firm supply of surface water cannot meet the 2015 water demand. The ground water rights and ground water firm supply are adequate to meet 2015 water demands, but the ARWSP needs to be fully implemented in order to do so.

As previously stated, the firm supply is based on the worst years in the record, which includes drought, hydrologic and system limitations, and ultimately reflects the actual reliability of the water supply source. This table also emphasizes the significant differences in *water rights* (on paper) and actual firm (available, wet) *water supply*.

For planning purposes, the City of Alamogordo will rely on a firm ground water supply of 7,269 AFY. The Snake Tank Well Field and ARWSP will contribute almost 50% of this firm supply.

Need for Developing the City's Existing Water Rights

Projected future required water availability for the City of Alamogordo are indicated in **Table 4.4**, and increase from 7,185 AFY in 2015 to 11,585 AFY by 2055. The City will primarily use its surface water supply to the extent that it is available, and develop and maintain a firm ground water supply of 7,269 AFY (including the Snake Tank Well Field), under its existing water rights.

Table 6.2 below summarizes the projected water demands, firm water supply and conjunctive use of water for the City of Alamogordo, for the period 2015 to 2055. This is shown graphically on **Figure 6.1**. As soon as possible, the ARWSP must be implemented to complete the firm ground water supply. Ground water will account for 78% of the total water supply by 2055. Surface water will only be 22% of the water supply by 2055. The percentage of surface water supply should be considered the percentage vulnerability the City has in meeting demands. Without additional groundwater supply, the City would be forced to meet demand by water rationing. As the ARWSP (and other ground water) is developed, the risk is reduced from 35 percent to 22 percent.

Table 6.2 Projected Water Demands, Firm Water Supply, AWSRP Supply, Additional Water Supply and Percent Demands for the City of Alamogordo, 2015 to 2055

Year	Total Demand AFY	GW Supply AFY	ARWSP Supply[a] AFY	Additional Supply[b] AFY	GW % Demand	SW Supply AFY	SW % Demand
2015	7,185	3,909	751	0	65%	2,525	35%

Table 6.2 Continued

Year	Total Demand AFY	GW Supply AFY	ARWSP Supply[a] AFY	Additional Supply[b] AFY	GW % Demand	SW Supply AFY	SW % Demand
2020	7,626	3,909	1,192	0	67%	2,525	33%
2025	8,095	3,909	1,661	0	69%	2,525	31%
2030	8,594	3,909	2,160	0	71%	2,525	29%
2035	9,122	3,909	2,688	0	72%	2,525	28%
2040	9,685	3,909	3,251	0	74%	2,525	26%
2045	10,279	3,909	3,360	485	75%	2,525	25%
2050	10,914	3,909	3,360	1,120	77%	2,525	23%
2055	11,584	3,909	3,360	1,790	78%	2,525	22%

a - Includes Snake Tank Wells and 84% recovery for the ARWSP
b – Assumes ground water supply

Table 6.3 indicates a projected severe drought or other emergency condition, when only the firm ground water supply is used. In this scenario, the firm ground water supply is completely utilized, and (as previously indicated by **Table 6.1**) the ARWSP is required immediately (refer to **Figure 6.2**). Additional ground water supply is also needed before the year 2020 when considering the extreme condition of no surface water supply availability.

Table 6.3 Projected Severe Drought Conditions, Ground Water Supply, AWSRP Supply and Additional Supply for the City of Alamogordo, 2015 to 2055

Year	Total Demand AFY	GW Supply AFY	ARWSP Supply[a] AFY	Additional Supply[b] AFY	Snake Tank Diversion AFY	SW Supply AFY	SW % Demand
2015	7,185	3,909	3,276	0	3,900	0	0%
2020	7,626	3,909	3,360	357	4,000	0	0%
2025	8,095	3,909	3,360	826	4,000	0	0%
2030	8,594	3,909	3,360	1,325	4,000	0	0%
2035	9,122	3,909	3,360	1,853	4,000	0	0%
2040	9,685	3,909	3,360	2,416	4,000	0	0%
2045	10,279	3,909	3,360	3,010	4,000	0	0%
2050	10,914	3,909	3,360	3,645	4,000	0	0%
2055	11,584	3,909	3,360	4,315	4,000	0	0%

a – Assumes an 84% recovery for the ARWSP
b – Assumes the additional supply is treated brackish ground water sources at 84% recovery

7.0 Water Supply Development

Required Minimum Water Supply Development

As discussed in **Section 6.0** and indicated in **Table 6.2** and **Table 6.3**, the City will develop its existing water rights to meet future demands and allow conjunctive management of separate water supplies and flexibility in system operations and optimization.

This Plan outlines the full development of the City's ground water supplies to 7,269 AFY under its existing water rights, for conjunctive management, extreme drought, emergencies, and future needs.

Phase 1: Ongoing Water Supply Development Projects

Of the water supply development projects considered over the past decade or more, development of the Snake Tank Well Field and the ARWSP was the only technically feasible, cost effective project that met the City's requirements in terms of water quality, quantity and schedule. This project is now beginning implementation.

Phase 1 of this water development plan involves fully implementing the ARWSP and developing other projects that readily have a significant impact on securing water supply for meeting demands and increasing the availability of existing sources by performing upgrades and conjunctive use management. The following four projects are required to complete Phase 1 of this water development plan.

1 - Alamogordo Regional Water Supply Project (ARWSP)

Desalination of brackish ground water as a municipal supply in the Tularosa Basin has been studied since the 1950s (1958, Armor Foundation; 1970, OSW; 1986, BOR;

2002, Regional Water Plan; 2003, COA Desalination Study; others). The Alamogordo Regional Water Supply Project (ARWSP) is the result of the City of Alamogordo's effort towards the development of a desalination water supply alternative. The ARWSP will assist in producing the water supply needed to satisfy current and future demands, while meeting the City's water quality goal of 800 mg/L TDS. A feasibility study for desalination of brackish ground water south of Three Rivers (Snake Tank Well Field) was conducted in 2003 (Livingston, 2003, Shomaker, 2006). The City obtained a water rights permit from the NM State Engineer (permit T-3825 et al) and was granted a diversion of 4,000 AFY, which can be increased up to 5,000 AFY provided that the sum of annual diversions for any consecutive five-year period does not exceed 20,000 AF. The City has started developing the Snake Tank Well Field for the ARWSP, including the drilling and testing of five test wells, with two of the wells considered production-size wells. Well transmission line infrastructure construction and planning for design of the desalination facility and Snake Tank Wells are underway. Plan to begin producing ARWSP water in 2015.

Completion of the ARWSP will result in the production of up to 3,360 AFY of new (treated) water supply for the City of Alamogordo. Expansion of the Snake Tank Well Field may be possible in the future, or other additional sources of brackish ground water should be considered for future expansion of the ARWSP. The permit conditions under T-3825 et al. require progress reports on the 40-Year Water Development Plan every 5 years, and these updates will continue to include revised water supply and demand projections based on the most up-to-date information. It is uncertain if other entities, such as the Village of Tularosa or Holloman Air Force Base, will desire to participate in the project at some future date. Holloman AFB may be the most likely to participate, because of the loss of supply from Bonito Lake.

2 - Supplemental Wells and Replacement Wells

The City will continue its well replacement program in the La Luz Well Field to maintain firm ground-water supply. This will not increase supply, but rather maintain

the firm supply of 3,000 AFY from the La Luz Well Field. La Luz Wells 2, 3, and 5 have been replaced, and 4 and 7 are scheduled to be replaced in the near future.

3 - Water Conservation

As previously discussed, the City adopted an aggressive water conservation program, described in the Water Conservation Ordinance. This program will be continued. Educational programs, rebates for replacing existing plumbing fixtures, landscaping restrictions, change in water rate structure and other strategies will assist in maintaining the City's per capita water use goals.

4 - Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR)

Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) may allow the City to store unused surface water in the La Luz Well Field aquifer during the winter months, for pumping out during the peak summer months. A preliminary study (Livingston Associates and JSAI, 1997) showed that an average of 2,000 AFY of surface water might be stored and re-pumped (if the extra surface water is available). All diverted and stored winter flows would be retained under the City's current water rights.

This project will work conjunctively with the ARWSP, and allow the City to bank surface water for use during drought years while increasing the sustainability of the La Luz Well Field. An ASR program provides more flexible conjunctive use water resource management. In this case, more ARWSP water is produced to meet demands, and the available surface water is stored within the aquifer. A hybrid injection (recharge) and recovery well was drilled in the La Luz Well Field for the purpose of ASR (2001), but the project has not been permitted. This project will be beneficial for maximizing existing sources under conjunctive use management.

Phase 2: Optional Water Supply Alternatives

Phase 2 of the water plan includes optional water supply alternatives that require additional development to determine their feasibility as a water supply alternative.

These alternatives may be considered for some of the additional brackish water source requirements discussed later in this Plan.

Re-Purified Water Use

The reclaimed water system is a valuable resource. This reclaimed water is used for turf irrigation at City parks, golf courses and recreational fields, construction, and other City needs. Utilizing reclaimed water for these uses offsets the demand for potable water. As part of the reclaimed water system, the City has invested over $4 million constructing 16 miles of pipelines, two booster stations, and a 1-million gallon water storage reservoir. Currently the City uses up to 3 MGD of reclaimed water during the spring through fall months, and has plans to expand the system in the future (Boyle, 2002). However, during the winter months, approximately 1,000 acre-feet of reclaimed water is not needed for irrigation and is diverted to the center pivots located near the Water Reclamation Plant or to land disposal (within Township 16 South, Range 10 East, Section 16).

Planned indirect potable reuse (IPR) is the addition of highly-treated wastewater (re-purified water) into the potable water system through aquifer recharge or surface water augmentation. Many communities throughout the United States are practicing indirect potable reuse. Communities in New Mexico are also implementing indirect potable reuse projects, including Cloudcroft and Rio Rancho, while others are considering it (Ruidoso, Gallup and La Vegas). For Alamogordo, some of the reclaimed water produced during the winter months could be re-purified and used for aquifer recharge at the Prather wells or La Luz wells, or for surface water blending at the La Luz reservoirs. New Mexico Environment Department permitting and feasibility studies would need to take place prior to the City's final decision for implementation. Indirect potable reuse would provide the additional benefit of reducing the City-wide gpcd, because the use of re-purified water is not considered a water right diversion.

Agricultural Water Exchange

A new concept in water supply creation called Multiple Use Water Conservation™ (MUWC™) uses agricultural water for municipal water supply, and then municipal reclaimed water is used for farm irrigation. The agricultural water right is utilized, and a portion of the municipal water is used to keep the diverted water amount and irrigation water amounts equal. A study was conducted in partnership with the City (Livingston, 2006) on the MUWC™ concept, and an example water supply project was evaluated for Alamogordo. Considering desalination of the agricultural ground water, the City would realize about 850 acre-feet of additional (new) water supply from a contribution of only 365 acre-feet of City water, for a total 1,215 acre-foot water supply. The project would require about 300 acres of farm land for irrigation and 1,000 AFY of leased agricultural water rights.

A meeting with the NMOSE (March, 2006) indicated that this concept would likely be permitted. New Mexico Environment Department permitting would be needed prior to implementation.

Outside Bulk Water Purchases

As the market for water expands in the Region, some outside bulk-water purchase scenarios may be feasible. Any new water purchases to be considered should meet the City's adopted water quality goal of 800 mg/L TDS or less. Additionally, the facilities to convey the water into the City's distribution system should be provided. The cost of purchased water should be equal to or less than the cost to produce the same quality and quantity of water under the ARWSP. Water that may be used for blending in the ARWSP should also be considered. This alternative may also become more attractive for longer-term water needs, such as the Salt Basin water.

Alternatives Not Recommended at This Time

There exist other water resources within the Region which are not recommended for water supply alternative evaluations at this time. Economic or other considerations may necessitate re-evaluation of these alternatives in the future.

Salt Basin Water Supply

Although a substantial quantity of good-quality ground water is in storage in the Salt Basin aquifer, the capital and operational costs associated with the City independently developing a system to convey this water to Alamogordo are greater than the ARWSP (Regional Water Plan, 2002). Also, this water would require treatment to meet the City's goal of 800 mg/L for TDS. Other entities have already filed for water rights from the Salt Basin, and it is not likely that the City of Alamogordo could obtain separate water rights there. However, the City should consider participating in a regional water supply project from the Salt Basin, for longer-term City needs.

Agricultural Water Purchased and Converted to Municipal Use

There may be agricultural water rights that could be purchased and transferred to municipal use. However, the water right would first need to be converted from agricultural use to municipal use. Because only the consumptive portion of the water right is convertible for municipal use, about forty-percent of the water right is lost (non-convertible). In addition, the City has a policy prohibiting the purchase and conversion of agricultural water rights, because of the potential loss of production and economy from the agricultural community. Also, because of the distances between farms and the need for water treatment, this alternative is considered not feasible (information derived from Regional Water Plan, 2002).

Flood Control Aquifer Recharge

The US Army Corps of Engineers flood control project has potential to store flood waters and recharge the shallow aquifer. However, because flood waters are highly variable and drought-sensitive, they are not considered a reliable supply.

Sacramento River Pipeline

The Sacramento River flows are drought-sensitive and unreliable. The cost of facilities to convey water to Alamogordo (via the Alamo Canyon Water Treatment Plant) are not justified by the potential resource (BOR, 1986).

8.0 Water Development Plan

Water Development Recommendations

Historically, the La Luz Well Field, Bonito Lake, and surface water from La Luz Canyon were alternative sources developed in the 1950s to supplement Alamogordo's primary water supply from Alamo Canyon during the 1950s drought. Over fifty years and more than 30,000 people later, the City of Alamogordo is developing additional ground water supply by implementing the Alamogordo Regional Water Supply Project (ARWSP) and the Snake Tank Well Field located south of Three Rivers.

The solutions for developing the additional ground water supply required for growth, drought protection, emergency and conjunctive water resource management by the City of Alamogordo, for the 40-year period of 2015 to 2055, include the following:

Implementation of brackish water desalination through the ARWSP

1) Complete implementation of the Alamogordo Regional Water Supply Project (ARWSP) desalination facility and infrastructure. This project consists of developing the Snake Tank Well Field under the existing T-3825 et al. permit, brackish water desalination (reverse osmosis) facility and concentrate disposal system, treated water storage, pumping and distribution, and Snake Tank Well transmission piping to the City of Alamogordo. Currently, Phase I and Phase II of the Snake Tank Well transmission pipeline has been constructed. Phase III is currently under construction. Immediately develop a minimum 3 MGD water production capacity and expand to a minimum 5 MGD before 2035.

2) Complete the Snake Tank Well Field and monitoring wells, and develop existing water rights under permit T-3825 et al. The overall ground water diversion requirements for desalination are greater than the delivered potable water supply amounts due to the recovery rate of the desalination process (projected at 84%). Develop the Snake Tank Well Field capacity and water rights up to 4,000 AFY with the capability to divert up to 5,000 AFY. Analyze the well field pumping data annually and evaluate the potential for increasing the well field capacity and water rights.

3) Develop the ARWSP project and the Snake Tank Well Field for the extreme drought (ground water only) scenario. The installed desalination capacity and well production will be adequate to meet demands if surface water supplies are not available. Beginning in 2020, an additional source of brackish ground water is required, which currently has not been identified. It is assumed that this additional brackish water supply will be diverted into the desalination facility, with an 84% recovery rate. The development schedule is shown in the following **Table 8.1**:

Table 8.1 ARWSP, Snake Tank Well Field and Brackish Water Development Schedule for the City of Alamogordo, 2015 to 2055, Ground Water Only Scenario

Year	Total Demand AFY	ARWSP Supply[a] AFY	ARWSP MGD[a]	Snake Tank Diversion AFY	Snake Tank MGD	Add'l BW Diversion[b] AFY	Add'l BW MGD[b]
2015	7,185	3,276	2.9	3,900	3.5	0	0.0
2020	7,626	3,717	3.3	4,000	3.6	425	0.4
2025	8,095	4,186	3.7	4,000	3.6	983	0.9
2030	8,594	4,685	4.2	4,000	3.6	1,577	1.4
2035	9,122	5,213	4.7	4,000	3.6	2,206	2.0
2040	9,685	5,776	5.2	4,000	3.6	2,876	2.6
2045	10,279	6,370	5.7	4,000	3.6	3,583	3.2
2050	10,914	7,005	6.3	4,000	3.6	4,339	3.9
2055	11,584	7,675	6.9	4,000	3.6	5,137	4.6

a – includes the additional brackish ground water beginning in 2020 at an 84% recovery
b – assumes diversion of additional brackish ground water to the ARWSP

As shown above, approximately 2.9 MGD desalination capacity is required in 2015, with a Snake Tank Well Field production of 3.5 MGD. By 2035 at least 4.7 MGD in desalination capacity and the developed water right production of 3.6 MGD in the Snake Tank Well Field is required. Additional brackish water production of 2.0 MGD will also be needed. Before 2055, these will increase to 6.9 MGD desalination; 3.6 MGD Snake Tank Well Field and 4.6 MGD in additional brackish water production capacity. Under typical, non-drought conditions when surface water is available, the installed desalination and brackish water production capacity will be used as 'peaking' supply, where the water rights are produced over a shorter (6-month) time period. This will allow conjunctive management of surface water, where ARWSP supply may be used in lieu of surface water, and surface water will be diverted into aquifer storage (water banking). Conjunctive management is viewed as conservation and preservation of fresh water supplies. In this typical scenario, an additional brackish water source would not be necessary until 2045. The typical, ground and surface water operational schedule is shown in the following **Table 8.2**:

Table 8.2 ARWSP, Snake Tank Well Field and Brackish Water Typical Schedule for the City of Alamogordo, 2015 to 2055, Ground and Surface Water Scenario

Year	Total Demand AFY	ARWSP Supply AFY	ARWSP MGD	ARWSP Peaking[a]	Snake Tank Diversion AFY	BW Diversion[b] AFY	BW MGD[b]
2015	7,185	751	0.7	1.3	894	0	0.0
2020	7,626	1,192	1.1	2.1	1,419	0	0.0
2025	8,095	1,661	1.5	3.0	1,977	0	0.0
2030	8,594	2,160	1.9	3.9	2,571	0	0.0
2035	9,122	2,688	2.4	4.8	3,200	0	0.0
2040	9,685	3,251	2.9	5.8	3,870	0	0.0
2045	10,279	3,845	3.4	6.9	4,000	577	0.5
2050	10,914	4,480	4.0	8.0	4,000	1,333	1.2
2055	11,584	5,150	4.6	9.2	4,000	2,131	1.9

a – assumes use of water rights over a 6-month period instead of throughout the year
b – assumes diversion of additional brackish ground water to the ARWSP

As shown above in the typical scenario, only 1.3 MGD desalination capacity (peaking) is required in 2015 with an annual production of just 751 AF. This increases before 2035 to 4.8 MGD peaking, and 2,688 AFY supply. It is not until 2055 that the annual ARWSP production reaches 5,150 AF and peaking capacity is 9.2 MGD. In the drought scenario (**Table 8.1**), AWRSP produces about the same supply (5,213 AFY), but 20-years earlier. Therefore, as shown by the previous tables, the required *production capacity* for both the ARWSP desalination and Snake Tank Well Field is dictated by the ground water only (extreme drought) condition, even though the typical operating scenario and supply from the ARWSP will be less (on a AFY basis), while also considering conjunctive management. *However, this is required to ensure a guaranteed water supply for the residents of Alamogordo, in all cases and at all times, during extreme drought and/or complete loss of all available surface water supply.* Therefore, the ARWSP will be implemented considering the extreme drought scenario. A project development schedule for the next 20-years (2015 to 2035) is shown in the following **Table 8.3**:

Table 8.3 ARWSP, Snake Tank Well Field and Brackish Water Development Schedule for the City of Alamogordo, 2015 to 2035

Year	Demand MGD	Ground Water MGD	ARWSP MGD[a]	Snake Tank MGD	Brackish Water MGD[b]
2015	6.4	3.5	2.9	3.5	0.0
2020	6.8	3.5	3.3	3.6	0.4
2025	7.2	3.5	3.7	3.6	0.9
2030	7.7	3.5	4.2	3.6	1.4
2035	8.1	3.5	4.7	3.6	2.0

a – includes the additional brackish ground water beginning in 2020 at an 84% recovery
b – assumes diversion of additional brackish ground water to the ARWSP

4) Continue exploration and evaluation of additional brackish ground water sources, to be used in the ARWSP. As discussed above, this will be needed beginning in 2020 for the extreme drought scenario.

5) Continue participating with the Brackish Ground Water Desalination Research Facility (BGWDRF) in research activities that support the ARWSP project, and others as may benefit the residents of Alamogordo and the furtherance of desalination technologies.

Maintaining Existing Supply Sources

1) Continue the well replacement program within the La Luz Well Field, with routine well maintenance and water level monitoring, in order to maintain the firm ground-water supply discussed in this Plan.

2) Maintain the water conservation program and reclaimed water use to continue to meet the single-family residential gpcd use goal of 125 gpcd and the total City-wide gpcd use goal of 165 gpcd.

3) Continue to maintain the special use permits from the US Forest Service, for spring diversions along the La Luz-Fresnal water supply system.

4) Continue replacement and upgrade of water system infrastructure to reduce leakage and water losses.

5) Evaluate the spring diversions for optimal delivery, and continue routine maintenance on the spring infrastructure as required.

Optimizing Conjunctive Use Management

1) Prepare an integrated water resource management plan (IWRMP) that will optimize the conjunctive operation of the various water supply sources, including the phased augmentation of the ARWSP. This IWRMP would also include the development of a water management tool that the City could use for optimizing conjunctive use while meeting demands.

2) Complete development the aquifer storage and recovery (ASR) program. Extend the pilot and demonstration program at Well No. 9; complete the Well No. 9 ASR permitting; implement the ASR program by conjunctive use of

ARWSP water and surface water, and consider the potential for injection of re-purified water.

3) Prepare an up-dated Master Plan for the reclaimed water system. Expand the reclaimed water system to provide a water supply for additional non-potable uses (development of additional green spaces, etc.); evaluate the opportunity for winter water storage and reuse; evaluate the potential for industrial and/or commercial use; and evaluate innovative uses for this valuable resource.

Evaluation of Other Water Supply Alternatives

1) Continue the process of evaluating water supply needs and water development alternatives for the longer-term. As part of the planning process, prepare detailed studies for the water supply alternatives discussed herein.

2) Continue to evaluate proposals for outside bulk water purchases, provided they meet the City's water quality criteria, delivery requirements, blending potentials and the delivered water costs are comparable with the ARWSP.

3) Prepare feasibility studies and evaluate opportunities for up to 1,000 AFY of indirect potable reuse (IPR) of re-purified reclaimed water to augment the potable water supply through aquifer storage (ASR) at the Prather wells, La Luz wells, Golf Course well and surface water blending at the La Luz Water Treatment Plant raw water storage reservoirs.

4) Prepare feasibility studies and evaluate opportunities for trading up to 1,000 AFY of the City's winter reclaimed water, to local farmers for irrigation, in exchange for leasing 1,000 AFY of their irrigation water, which would be treated and used in the City water supply under the Multiple Use Water Conservation^{TM} scenario previously outlined.

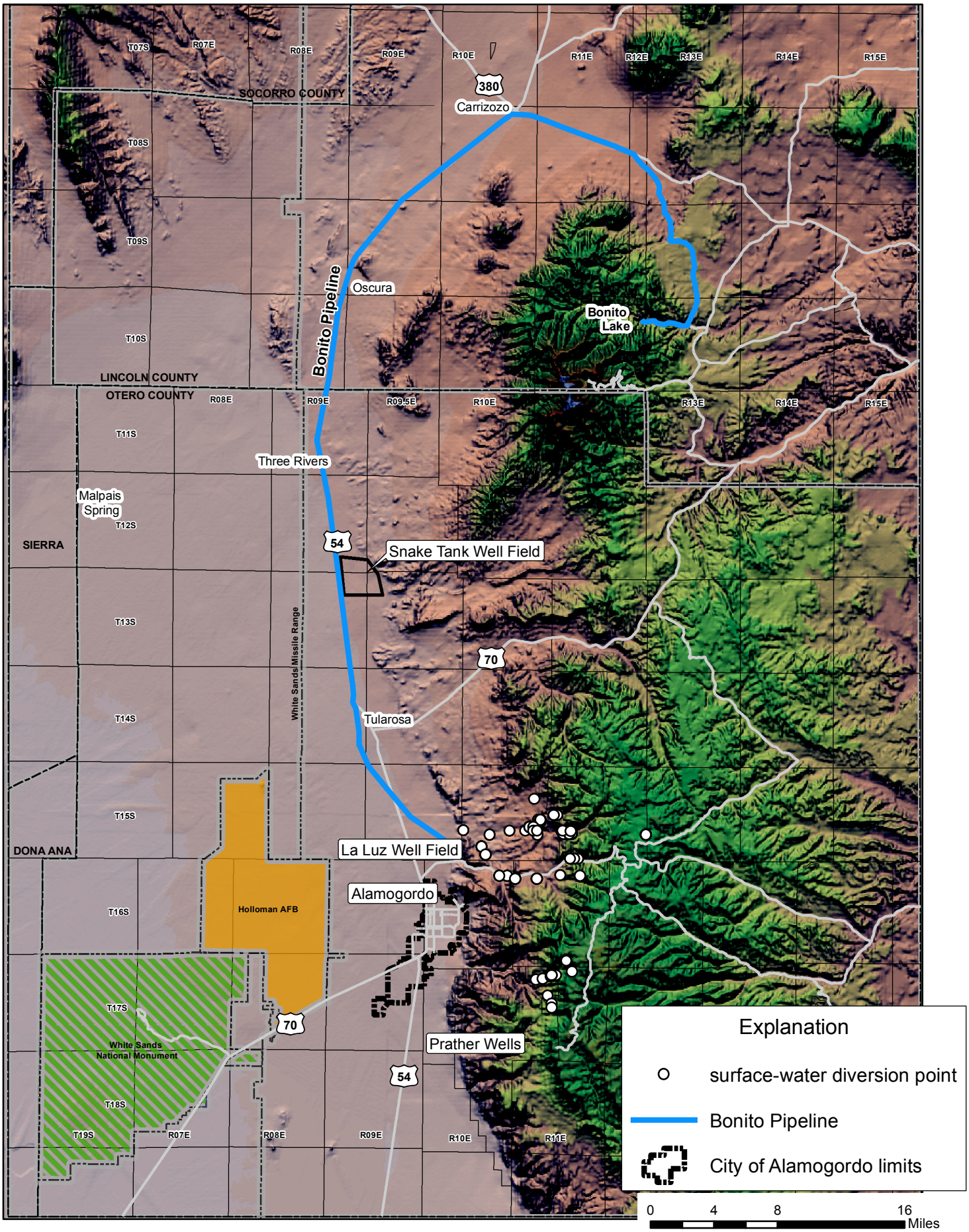

Figure 1.1. Map showing planning area, location of City of Alamogordo's water sources, and geographic features.

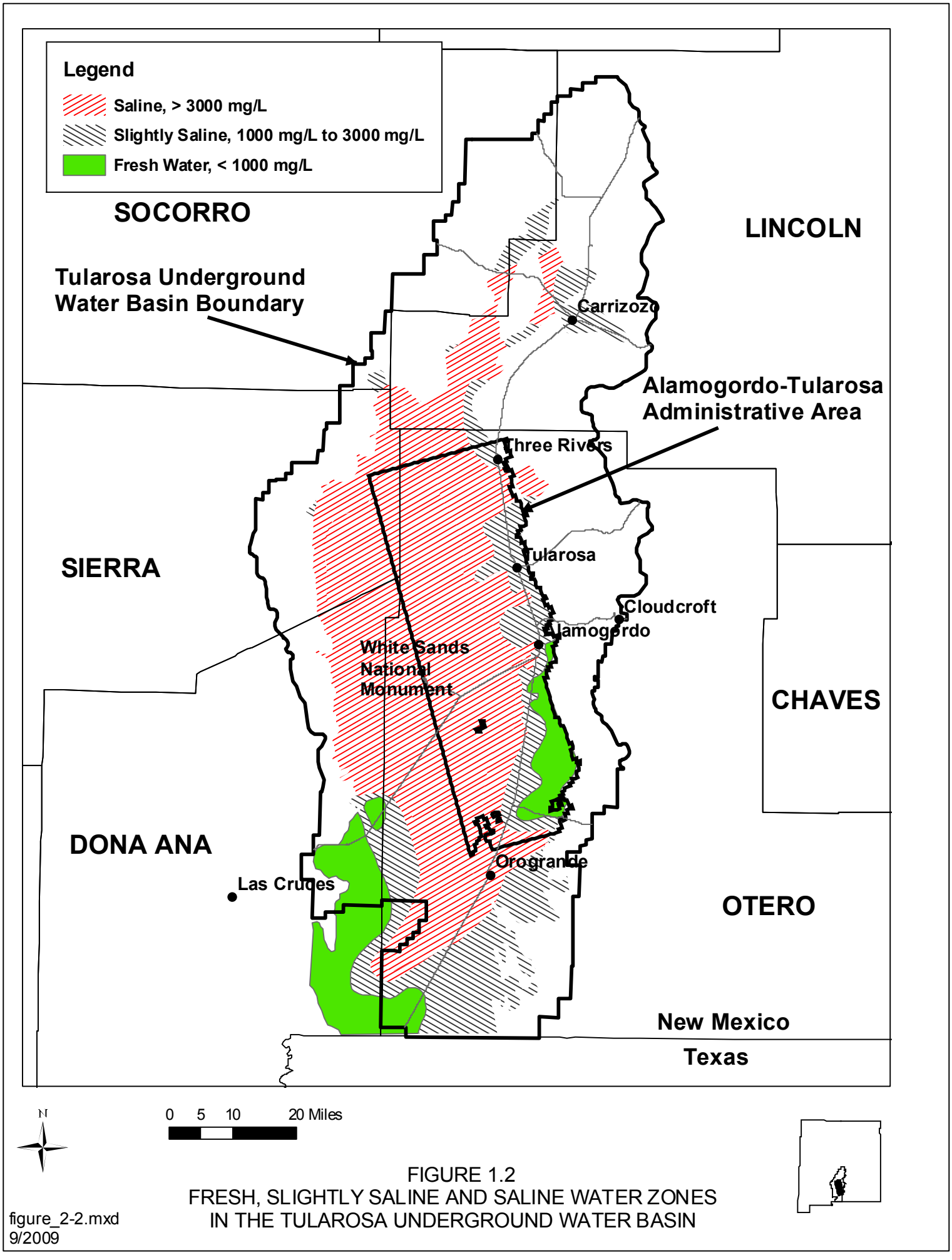

FIGURE 1.2
FRESH, SLIGHTLY SALINE AND SALINE WATER ZONES
IN THE TULAROSA UNDERGROUND WATER BASIN

figure_2-2.mxd
9/2009

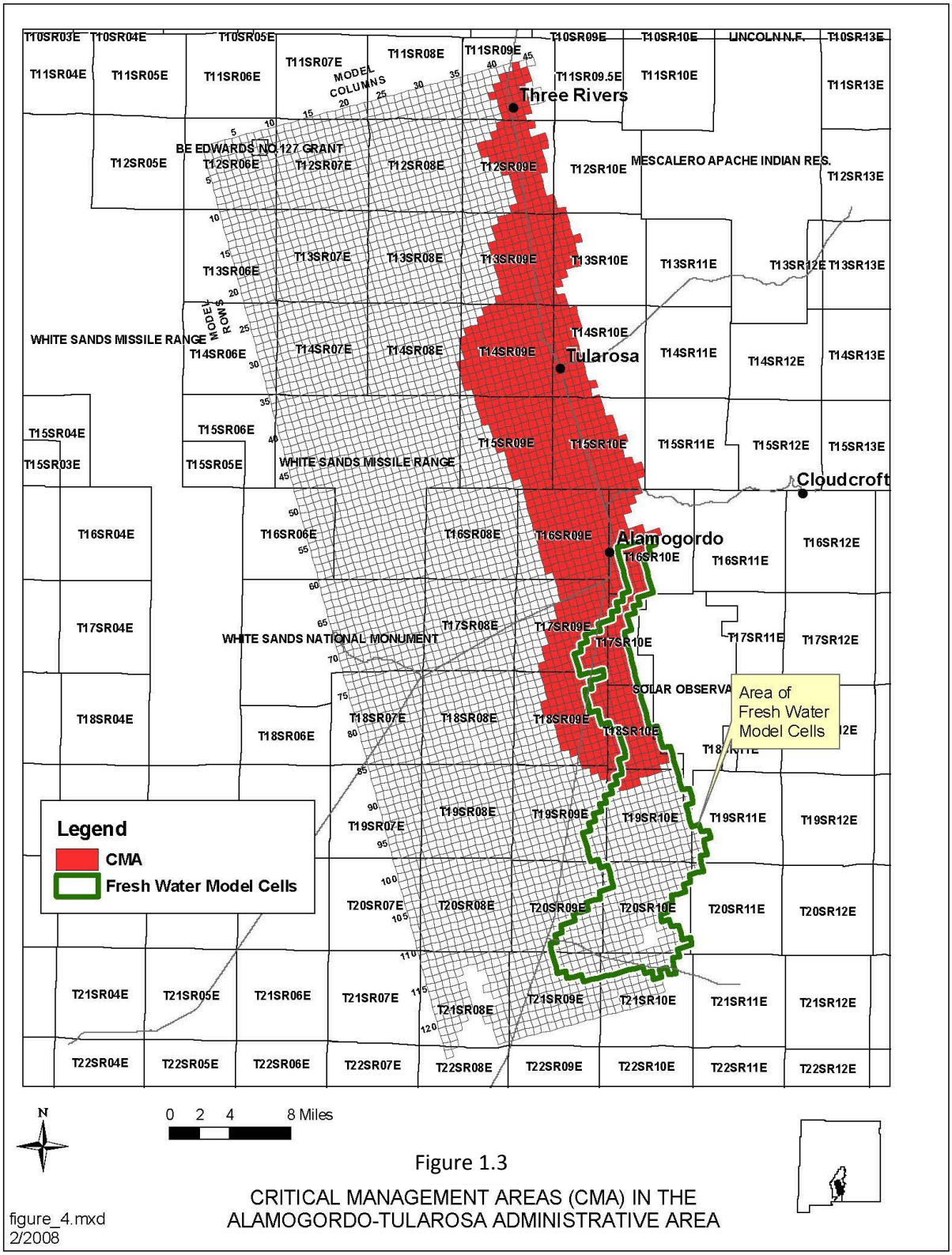

Figure 1.3

CRITICAL MANAGEMENT AREAS (CMA) IN THE ALAMOGORDO-TULAROSA ADMINISTRATIVE AREA

figure_4.mxd
2/2008

Source: NMOSE

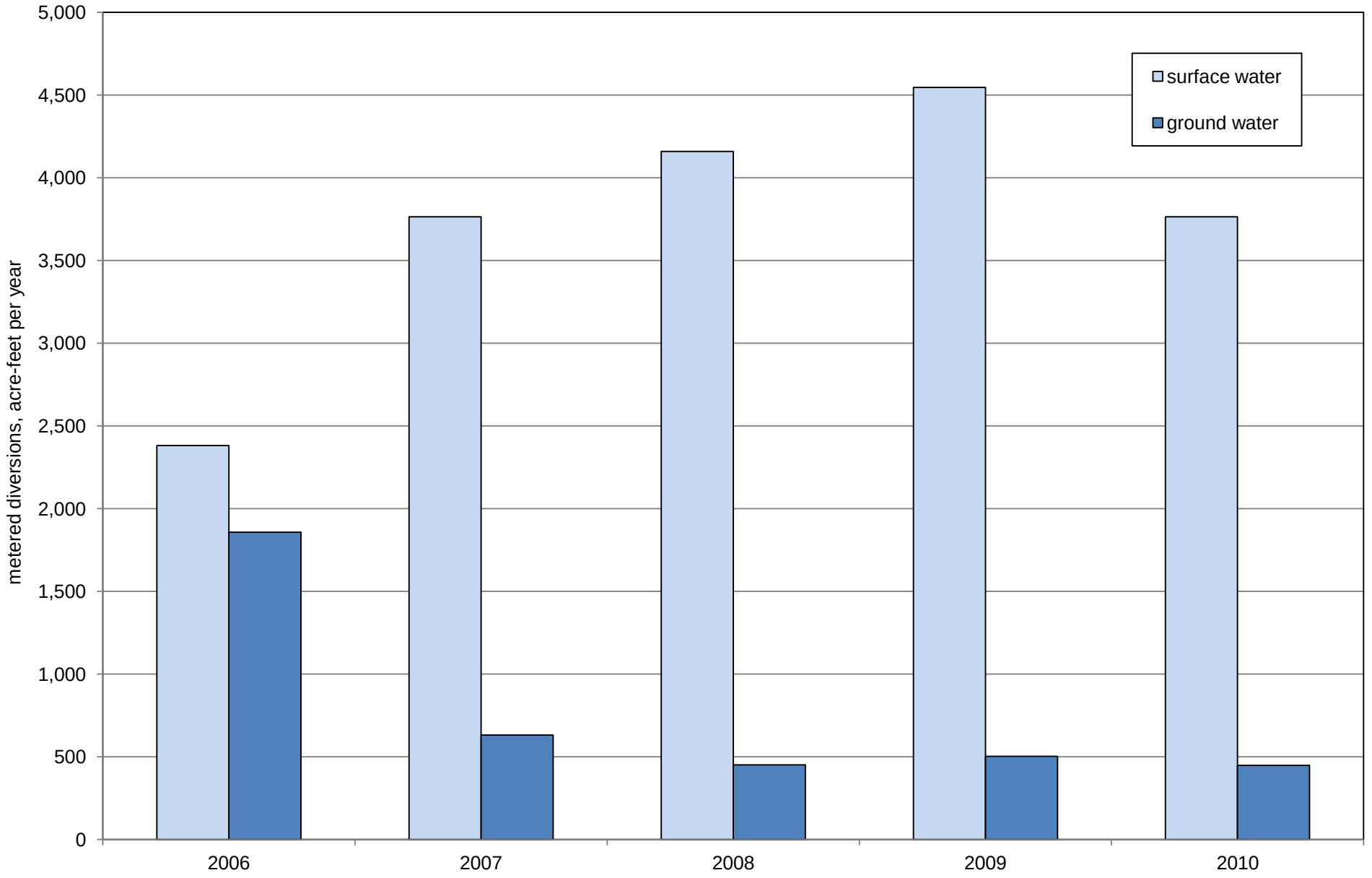

Figure 2.1. Graph showing metered surface- and ground-water diversions from 2006 to 2010, for the City of Alamogordo.

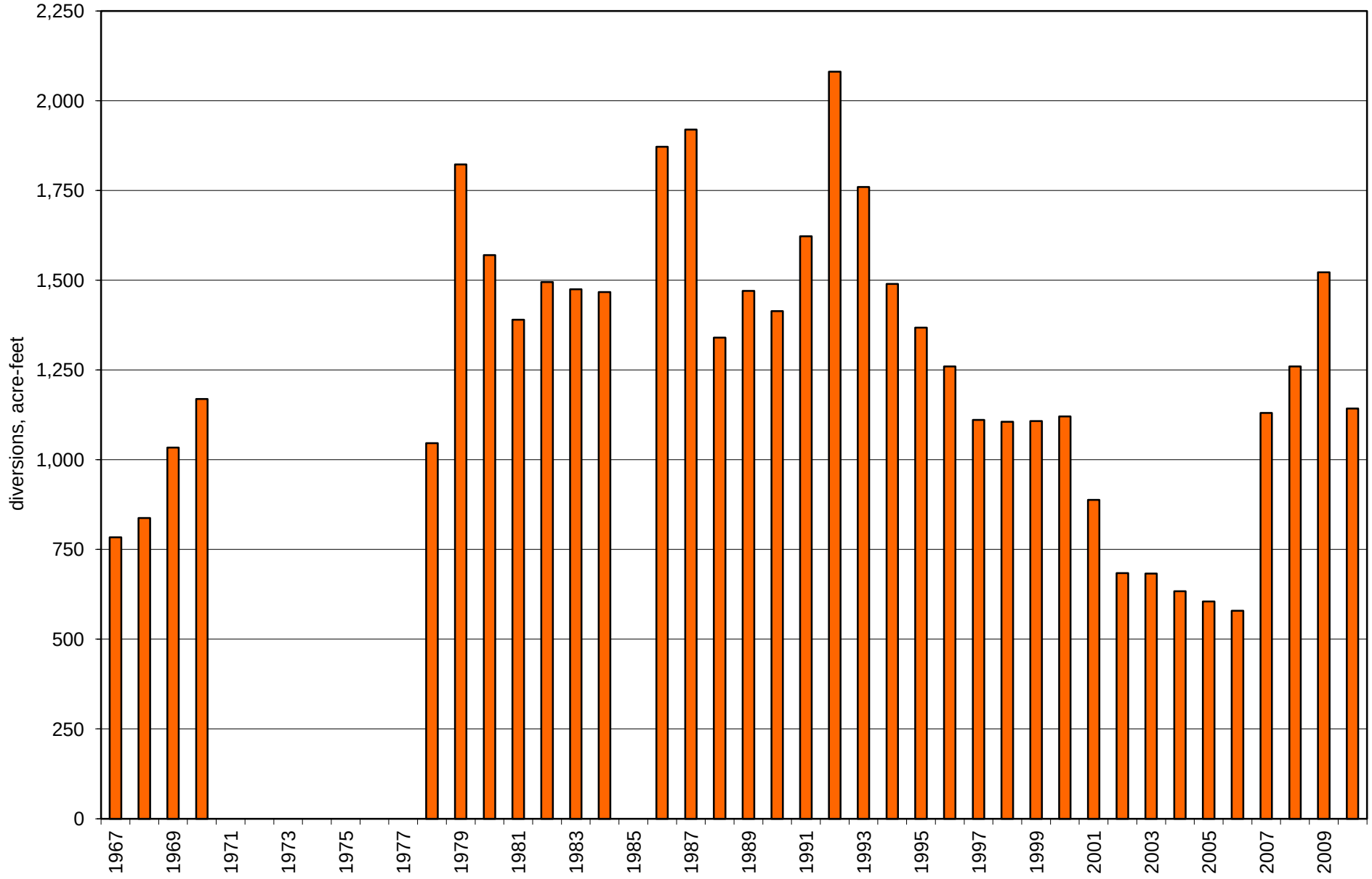

Figure 2.2. Graph showing surface-water diversions from Alamo Canyon, from 1967 to 2010, for the City of Alamogordo.

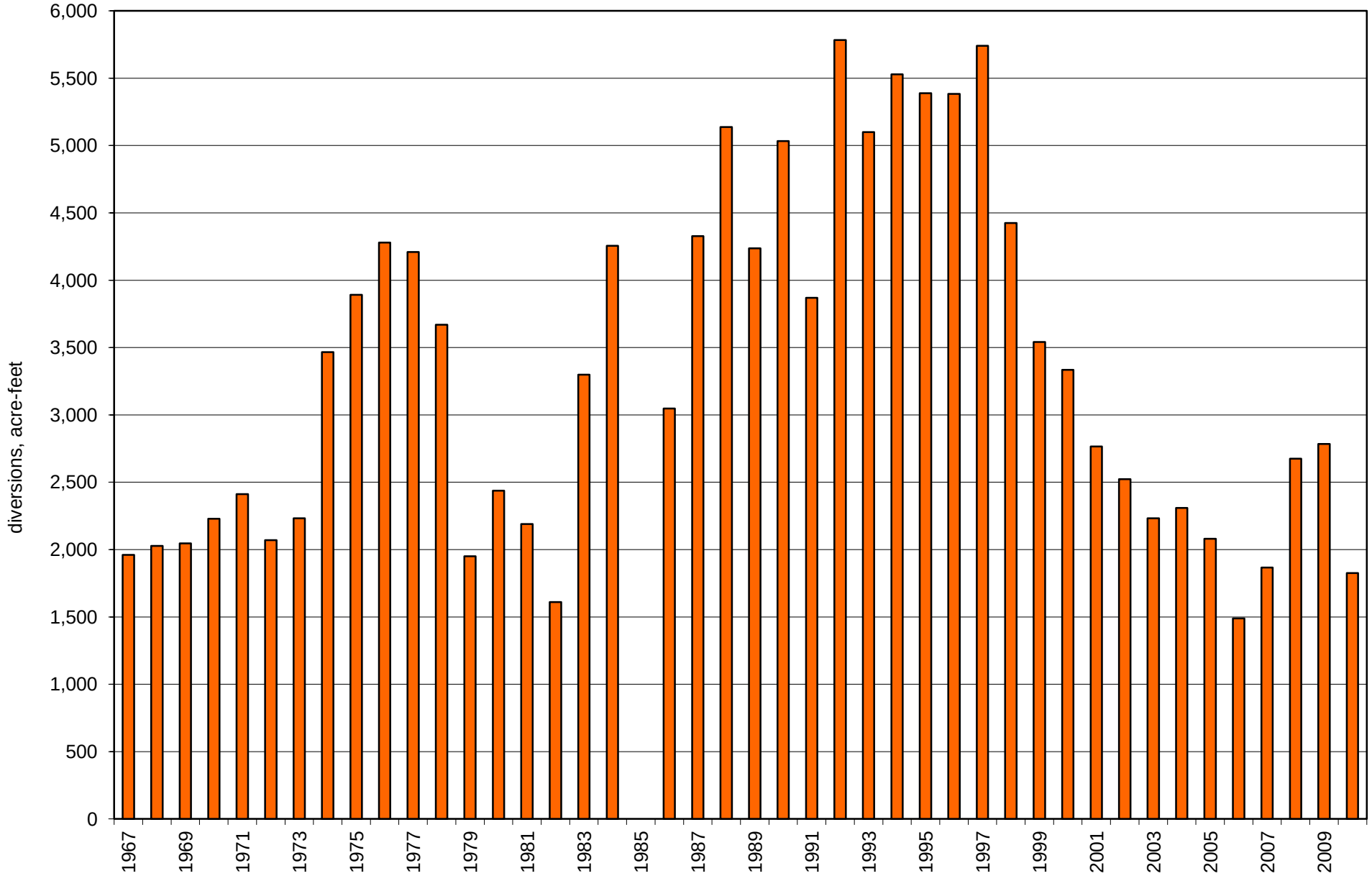

Figure 2.3. Graph showing surface-water diversions from the La Luz-Fresnal Canyon, from 1967 to 2010, for the City of Alamogordo.

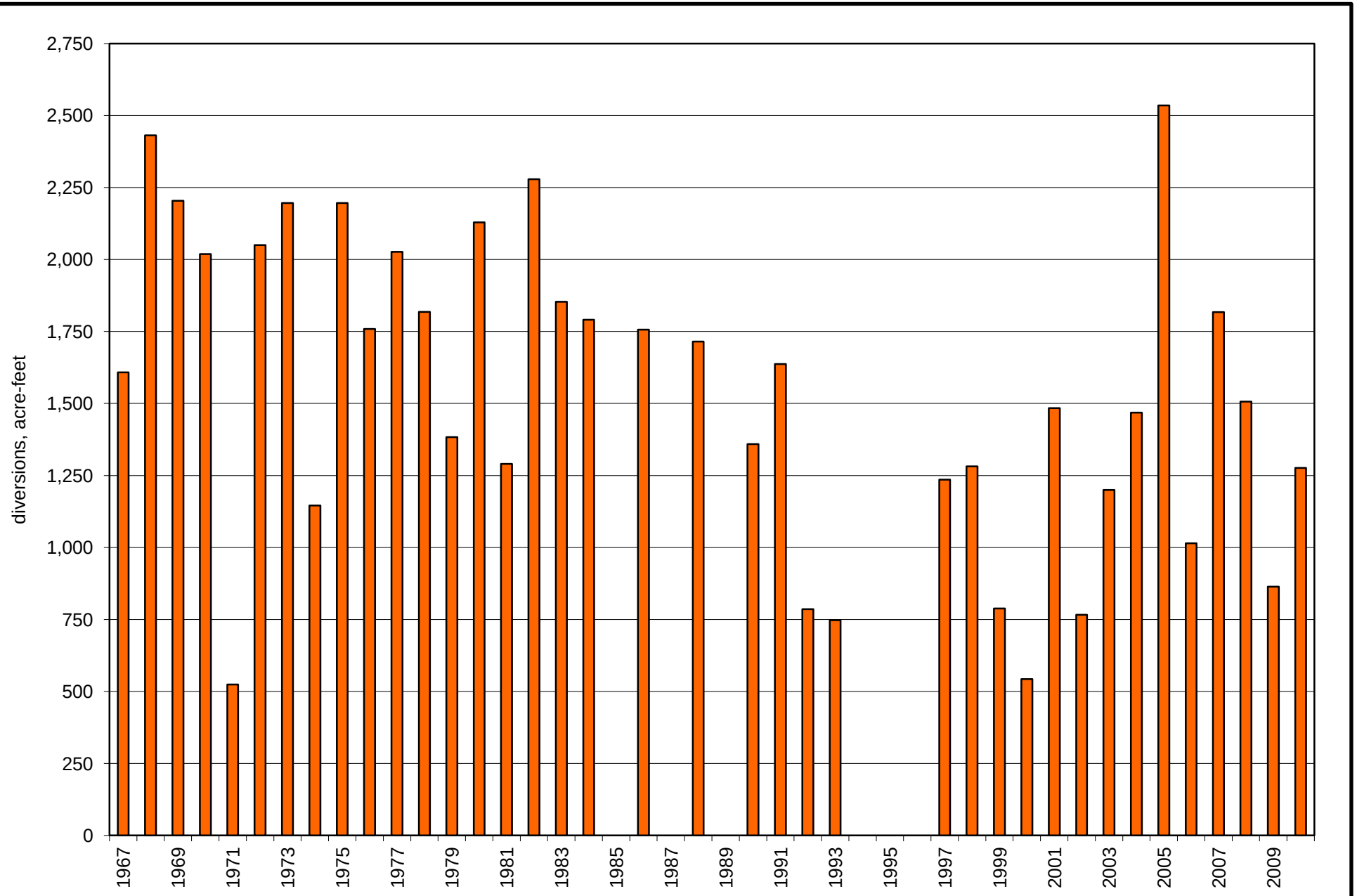

Figure 2.4. Graph showing surface-water diversions from Bonito Lake, from 1967 to 2010, for City of Alamogordo and Holloman Air Force Base.

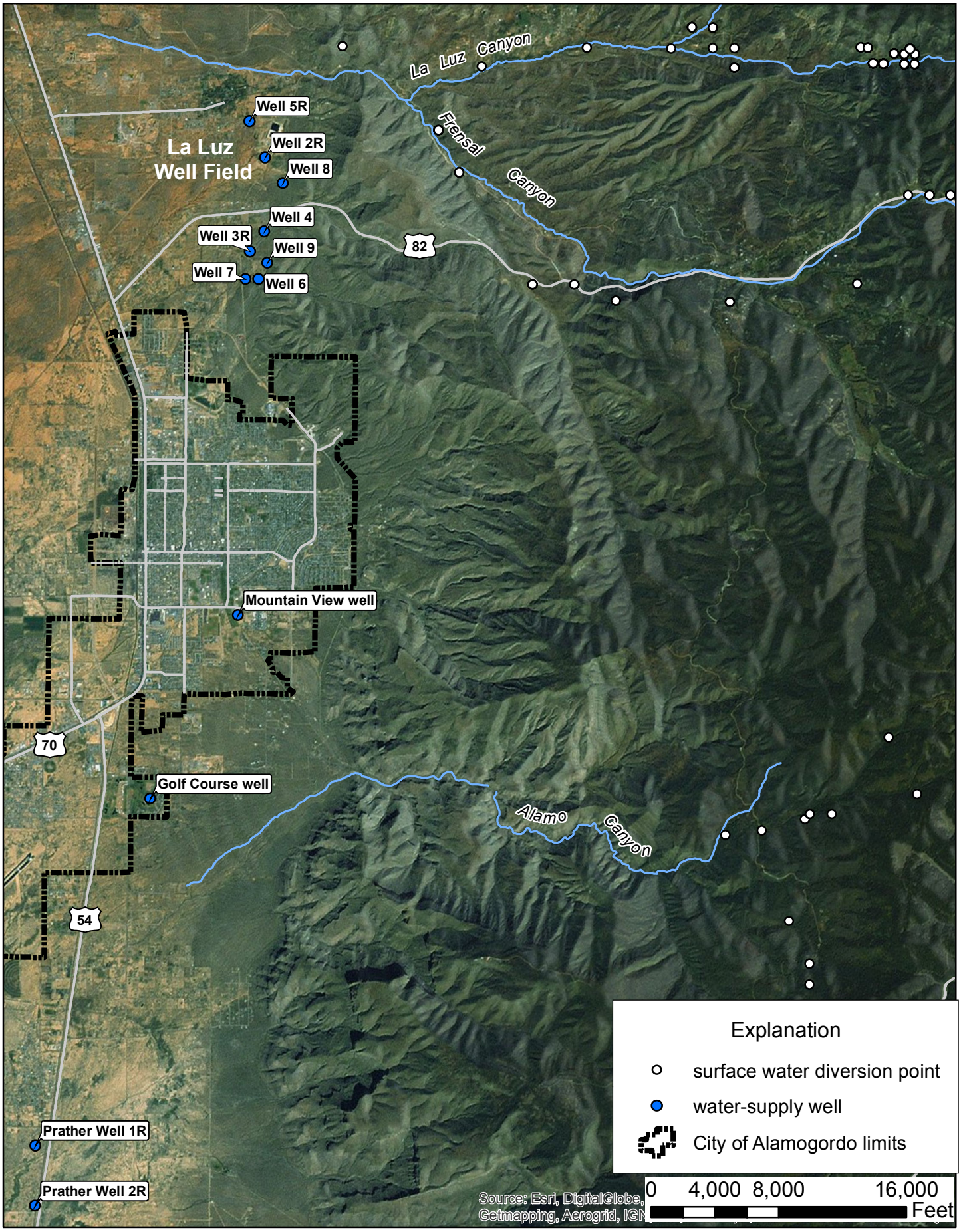

Figure 3.1. Aerial photograph showing locations of Alamogordo water-supply wells and surface diversion points.

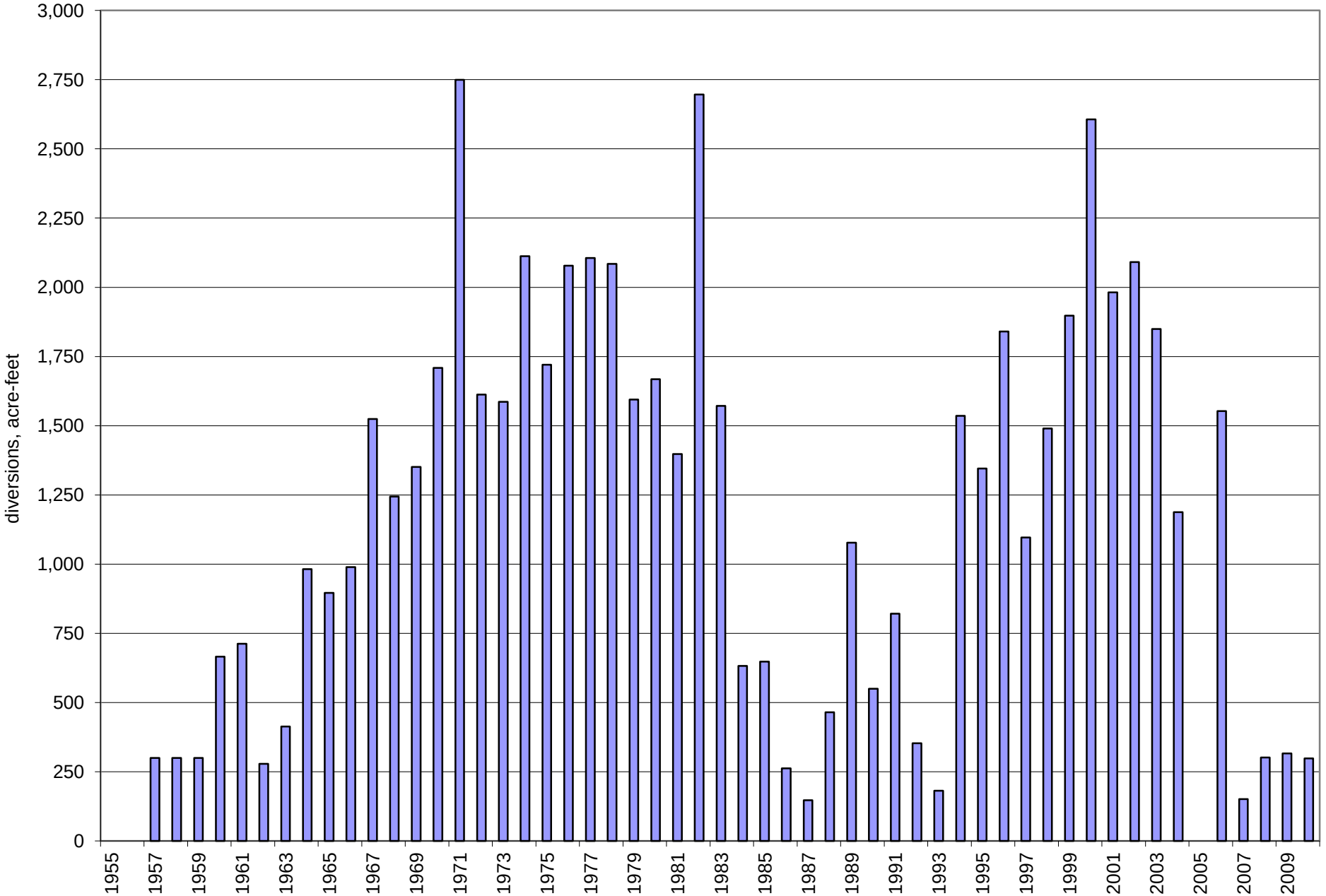

Figure 3.2 Graph showing ground-water diversions from La Luz Well Field, from 1957 to 2010, for the City of Alamogordo.

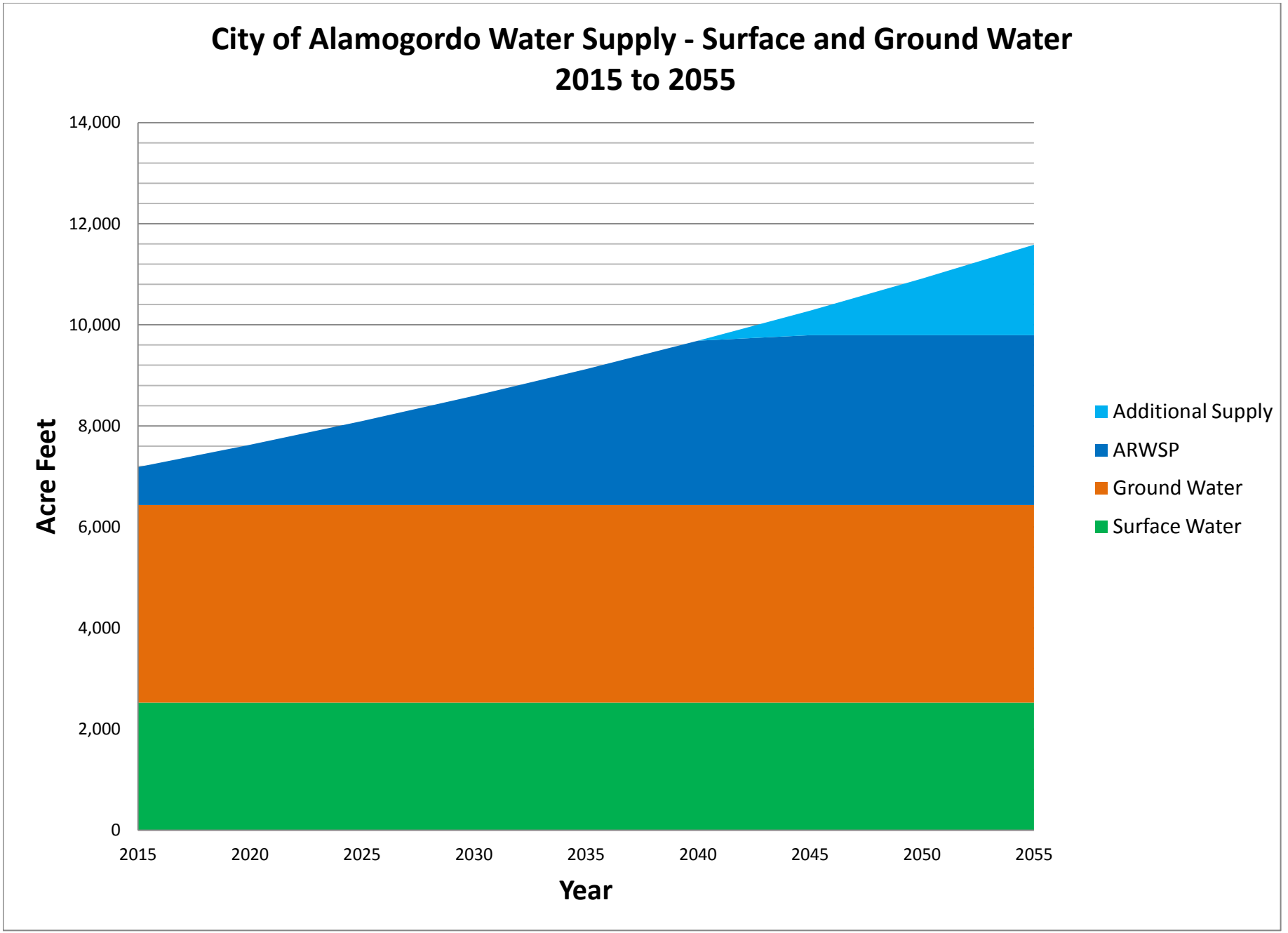
City of Alamogordo Water Supply - Surface and Ground Water
2015 to 2055
14,000
12,000
10,000
8,000
6,000
4,000
2,000
0
Acre Feet
2015
2020
2025
2030
2035
2040
2045
2050
2055
Year
Additional Supply
ARWSP
Ground Water
Surface Water

Figure 6.1

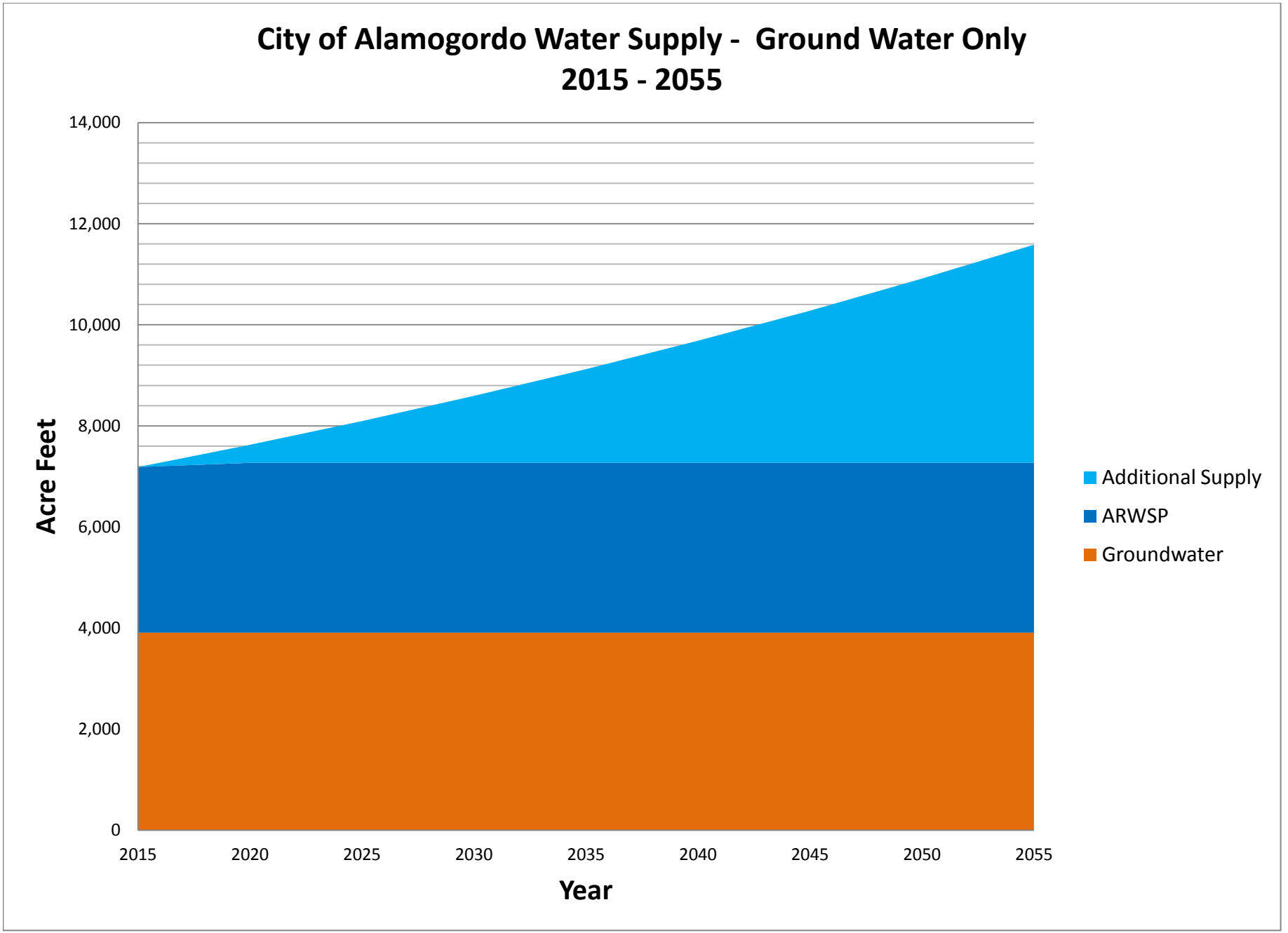
City of Alamogordo Water Supply - Ground Water Only
2015 - 2055
14,000
12,000
10,000
8,000
6,000
4,000
2,000
0
Acre Feet
2015
2020
2025
2030
2035
2040
2045
2050
2055
Year
Additional Supply
ARWSP
Groundwater

Figure 6.2

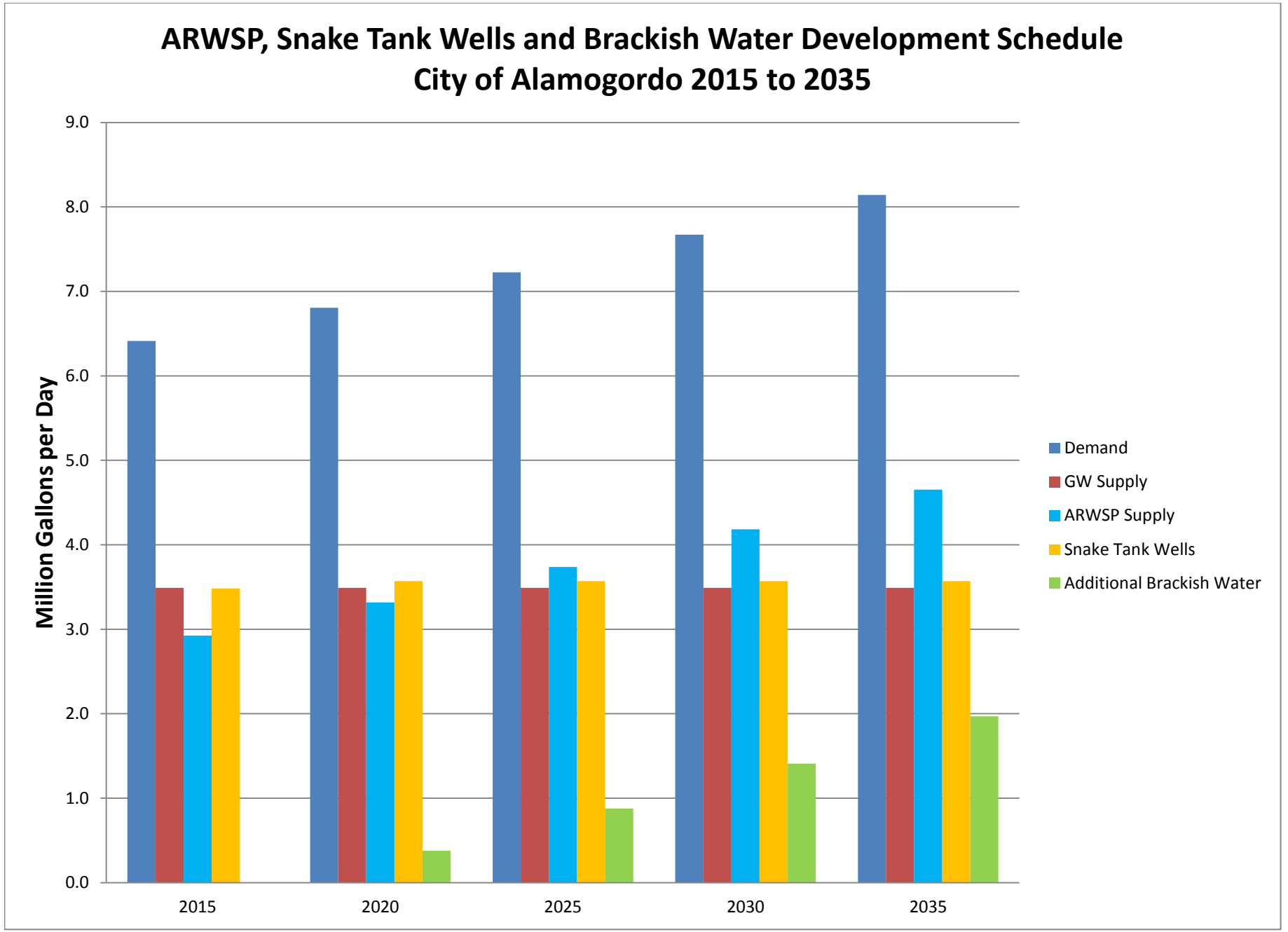
ARWSP, Snake Tank Wells and Brackish Water Development Schedule
City of Alamogordo 2015 to 2035
Million Gallons per Day
9.0
8.0
7.0
6.0
5.0
4.0
3.0
2.0
1.0
0.0
2015
2020
2025
2030
2035
Demand
GW Supply
ARWSP Supply
Snake Tank Wells
Additional Brackish Water

Figure 8.1

August 2014

CITY OF ALAMOGORDO

40-Year
Water Development Plan
2015 - 2055