

City of Spokane Water Supply

Prepared by: Beryl Fredrickson, PE (City of Spokane)

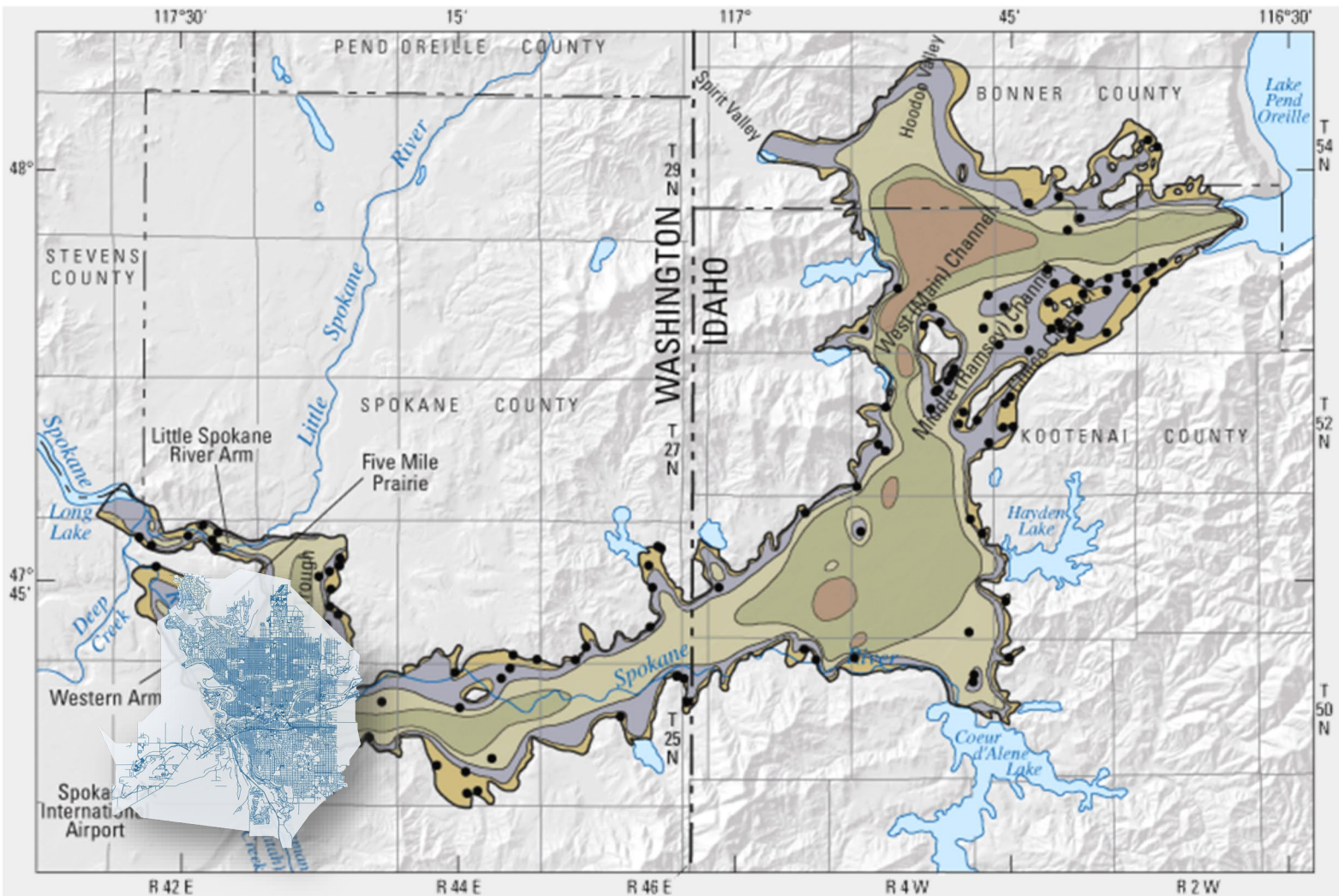
Date: Thursday May 28, 2026

Prepared for: Eastern Washington Water Law Conference
Spokane, Washington



Spokane's Water Supply Overview

- ▶ Water System and Supply
- ▶ Regional Purveyor
- ▶ Water Use Efficiency/Conservation
- ▶ Emerging Issues
- ▶ Climate Change Impacts on Spokane's River and Declining Aquifer Levels
- ▶ Capital Costs

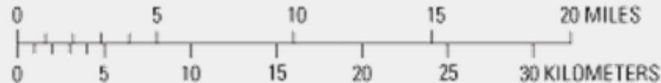


Base modified from U.S. Geological Survey digital data. City boundaries, 1:24,000, various years (1961-86); Public land survey, 1:100,000, 1985; Lakes, 1:100,000, 1995; and rivers, 1:100,000, 1985. North American Datum of 1983 (NAD 83).

EXPLANATION
THICKNESS OF SPOKANE VALLEY-
RATHDRUM PRAIRIE AQUIFER, in feet

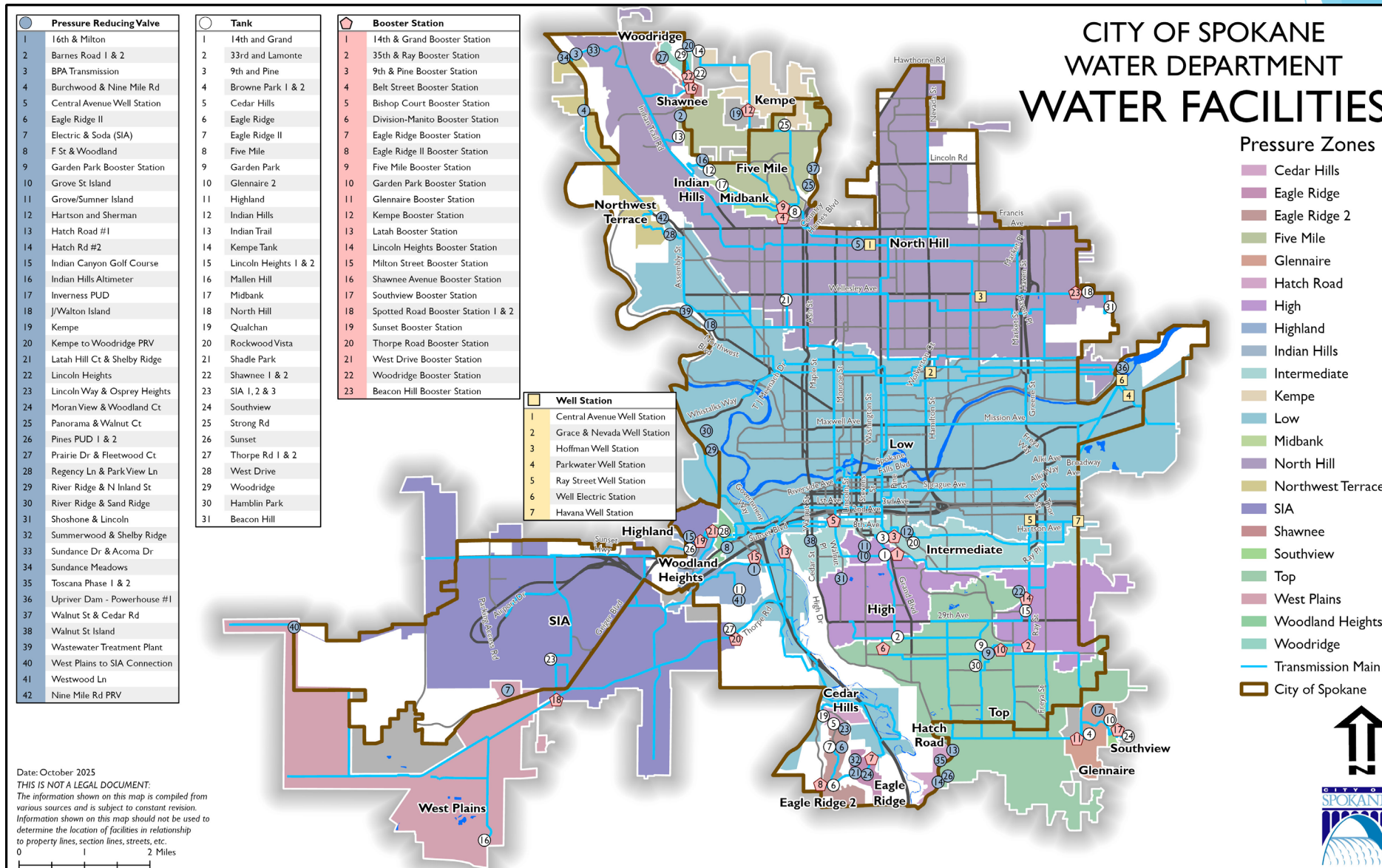
- 0-200
- 200-400
- 400-600
- 600-800
- 800-1,000

- EXTENT OF SPOKANE VALLEY-
RATHDRUM PRAIRIE AQUIFER
(Kahle and others, 2005)
- WELLS THAT FULLY PENETRATE THE SVRP AQUIFER

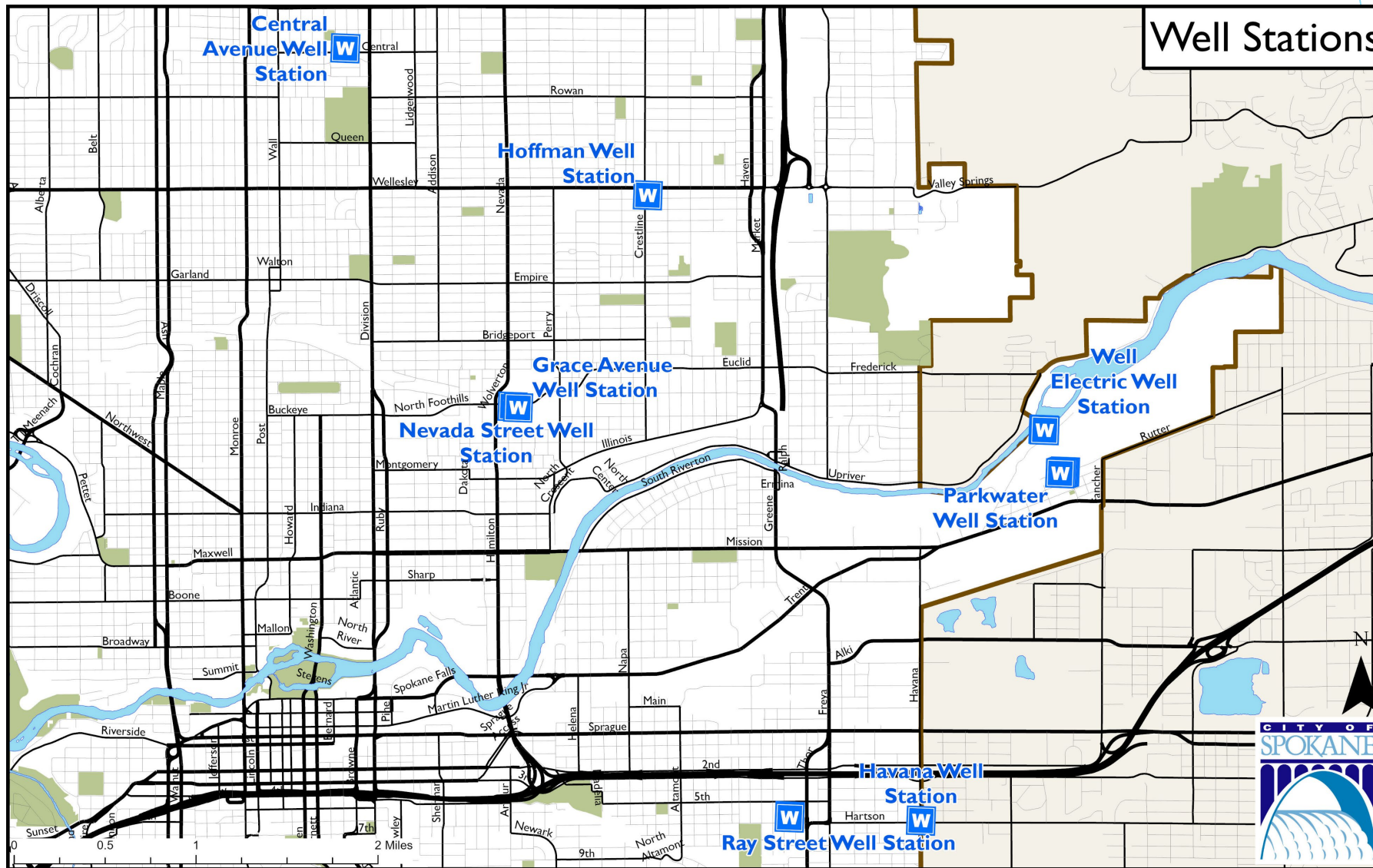


Spokane Valley - Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer

Spokane's Public Water System

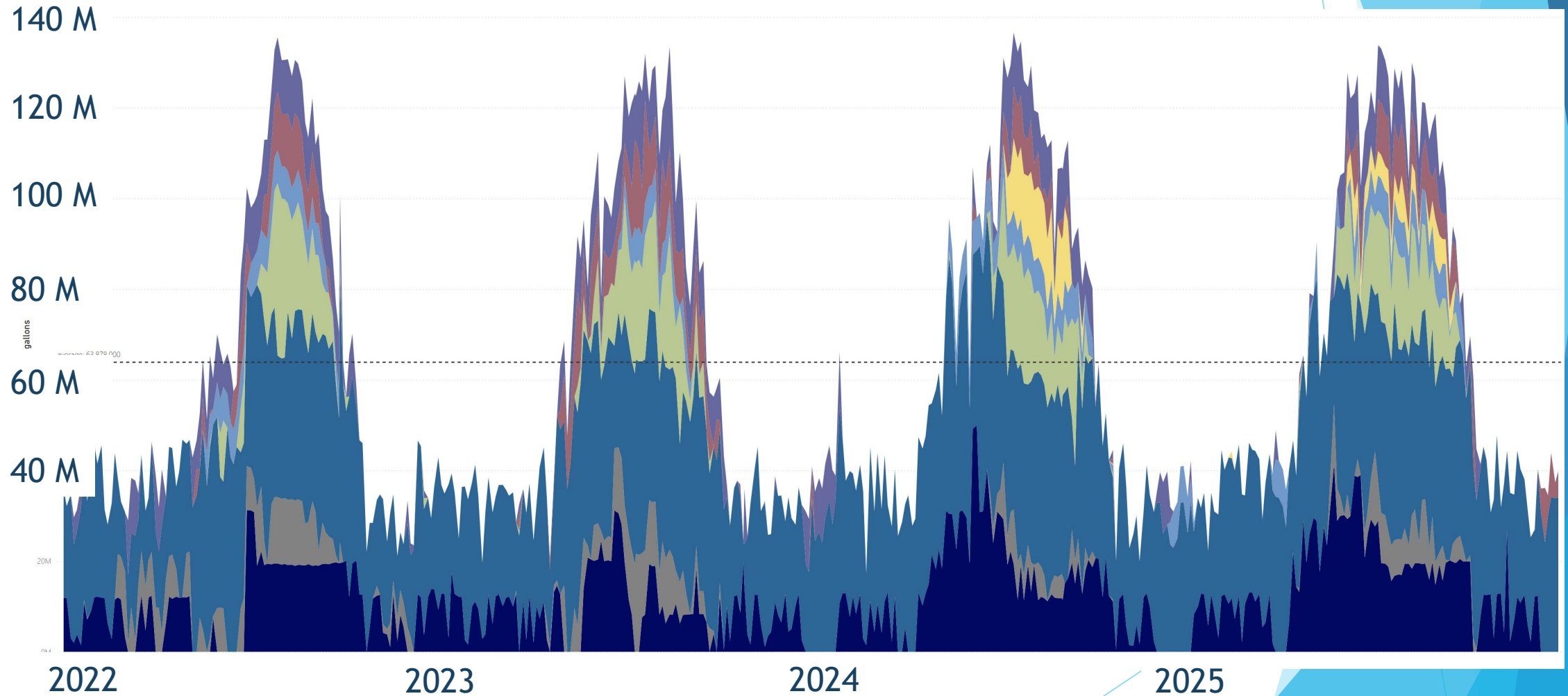


Spokane's Well Stations



Daily Pumped Water per Well Station

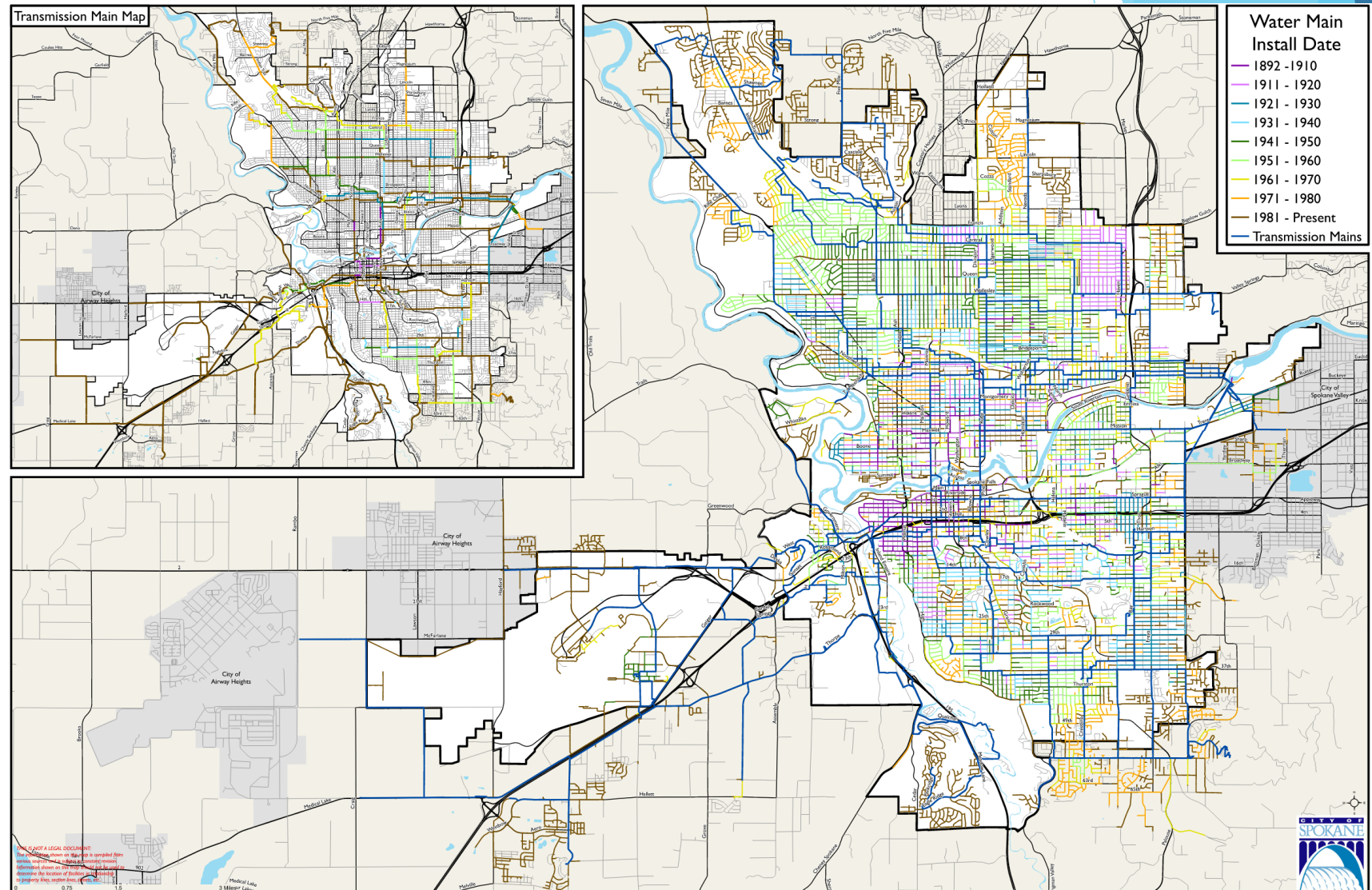
Pump site ● Central ● Grace ● Havana ● Hoffman ● Nevada ● Parkwater ● Ray ● Well Electric



Distribution of Water

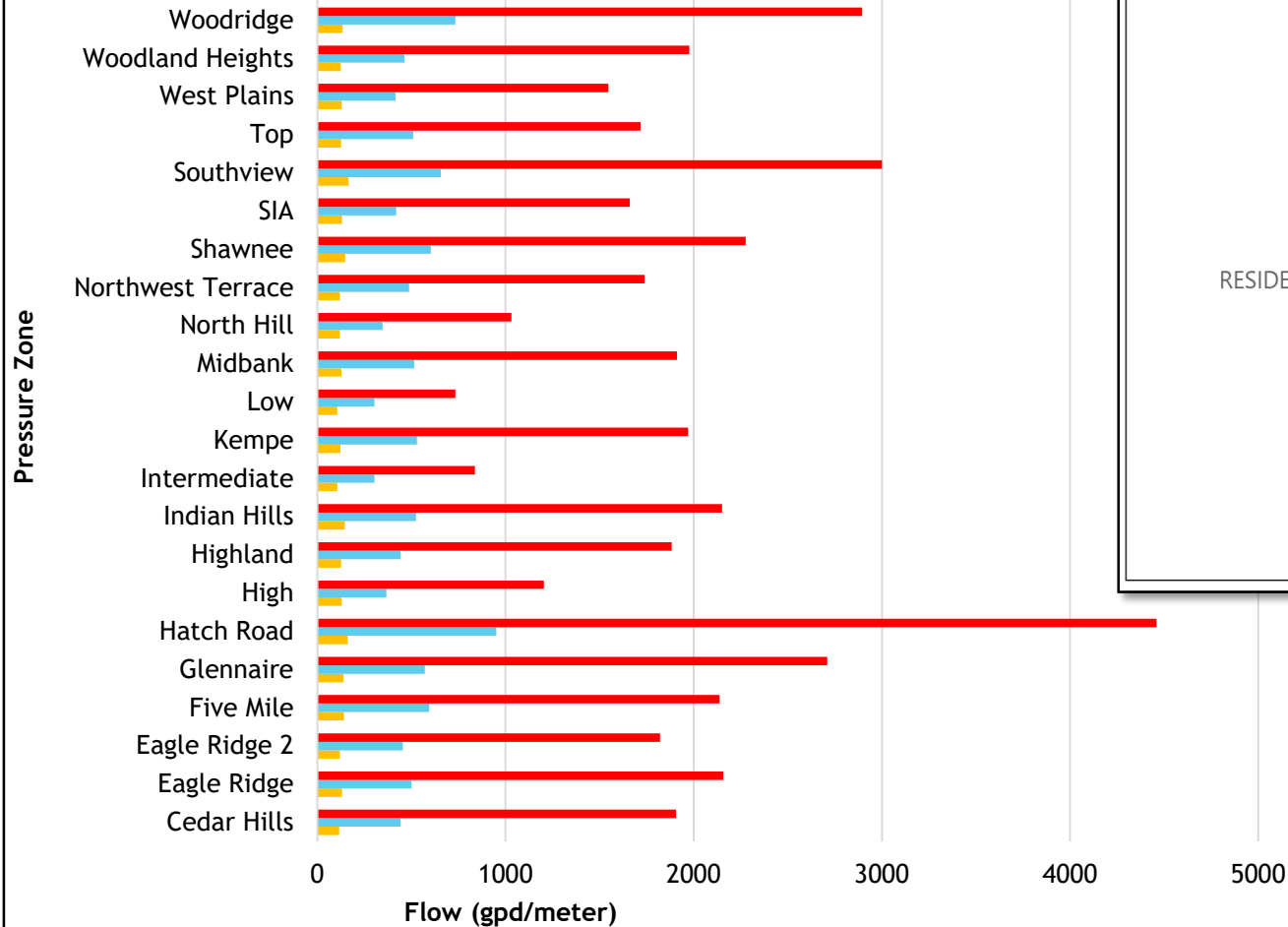
Transmission Mains	
Construction Year	Miles
1892-1910	2
1911-1920	2
1921-1930	13
1930-1940	2
1941-1950	9
1951-1960	12
1961-1970	19
1971-1980	11
1981-2000	55
2001+	65
Total	191

Distribution Mains	
Construction Year	Miles
1892-1910	29
1911-1920	47
1921-1930	45
1931-1940	52
1941-1950	104
1951-1960	123
1961-1970	99
1971-1980	86
1981-2000	133
2001+	164
Total	882

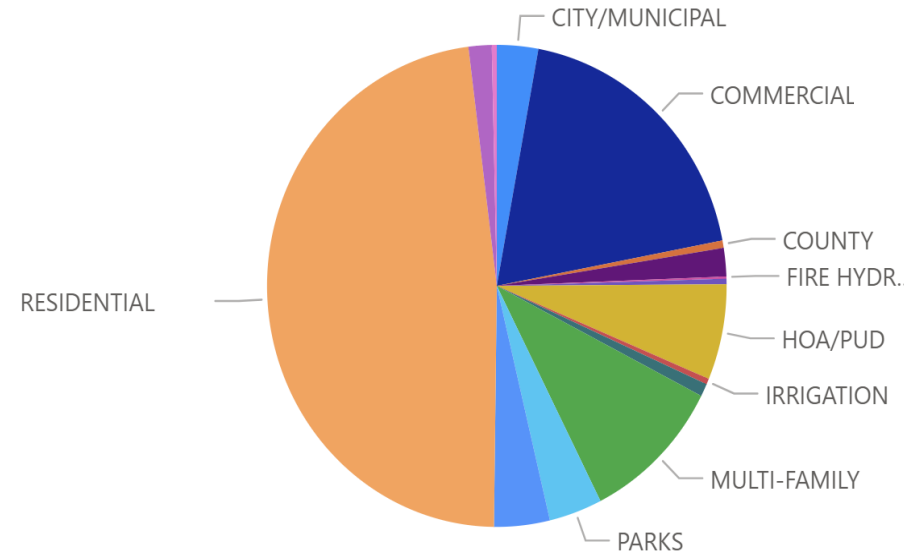


Water Demands

AVG, SUMMER, and WINTER Usage by Pressure Zone



Consumption By Property Class



*Annual consumption by volume comparison

▶ Equivalent Residential Unit is defined as a system-specific unit of measure used to express the amount of water consumed by a typical full-time single-family residence

▶ Link: [WAC 246-290-010](http://wac.leg.wa.gov/WAC/2016/290/010)

Regional Water Purveyor

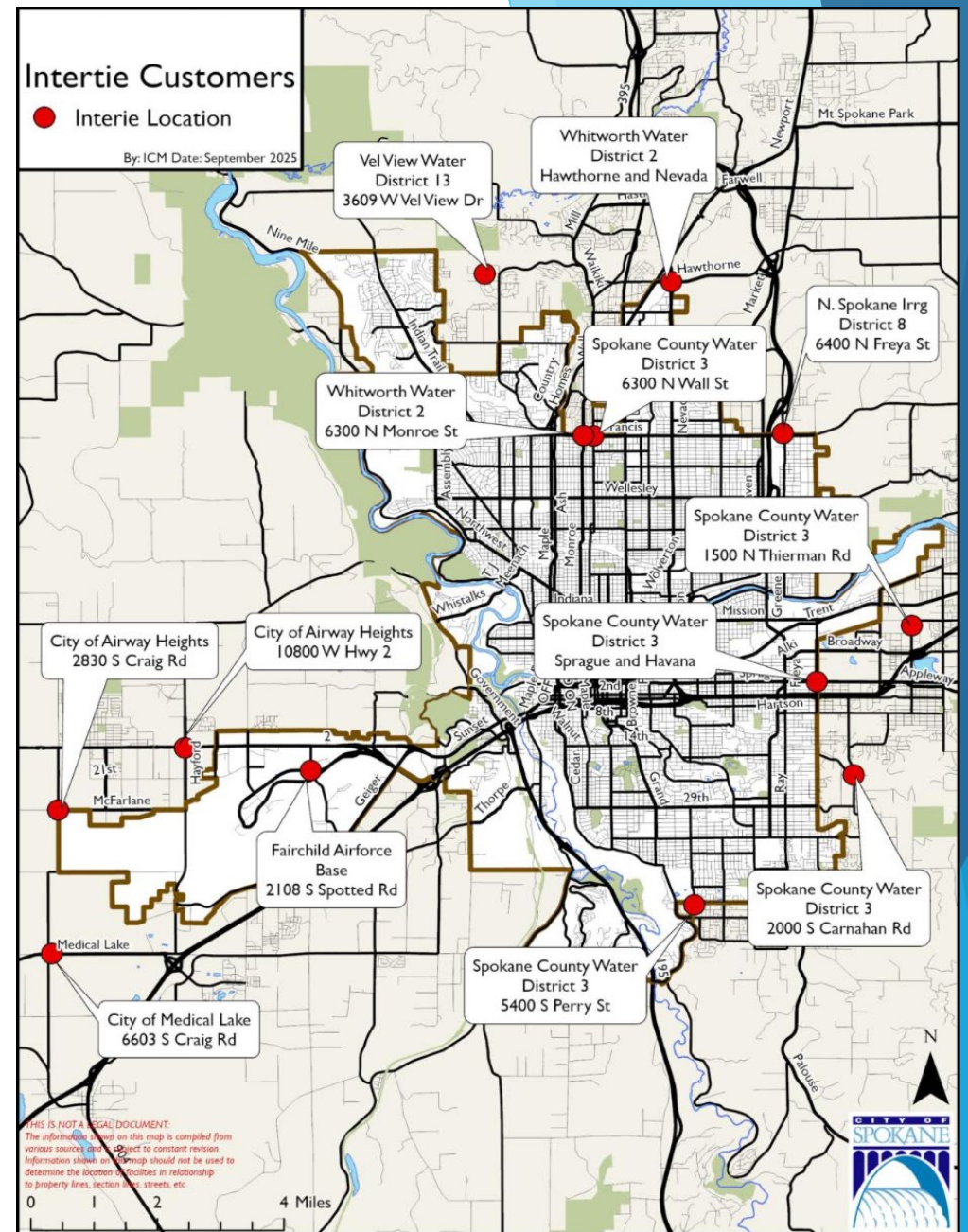
Adjacent Water System

- City of Airway Heights
- City of Medical Lake
- Fairchild Air Force Base
- North Spokane District No. 8
- Spokane County Water 3
- Vel View Water District #13
- Whitworth Water Irrigation District 2

Type of Service

- Wholesale supply
- Supplemental supply
- Emergency
- Emergency
- Supplemental supply and emergency
- Supplemental supply
- Emergency

- ▶ The definition of a Regional Water Purveyor is found in the Public Water System Coordination Act of 1977
Link: RCW 70A.100.
- ▶ Defined as the physical interconnection or coordinated management of multiple independent community water systems to serve a large geographic area, population, or multiple municipalities.



Water Use Efficiency



Date Submitted: 6/30/2025

Water Use Efficiency Annual Performance Report - 2024

WS Name: SPOKANE CITY OF

Water System ID#: 83100

WS County: SPOKANE

Report submitted by: Doug Greenlund

Meter Installation Information:

Estimate the percentage of metered connections: 100%

If not 100% metered – Did you submit a meter installation plan to DOH? No

Within your meter installation plan, what date did you commit to completing meter installation?

Current status of meter installation:

Production, Authorized Consumption, and Distribution System Leakage Information:

12-Month WUE Reporting Period 01/01/2024 To 12/31/2024

Incomplete or missing data for the year? No

If yes, explain:

Total Water Produced & Purchased (TP) – Annual volume gallons	22,789,386,000 gallons
Authorized Consumption (AC) – Annual Volume in gallons	19,914,210,000 gallons
Distribution System Leakage – Annual Volume TP – AC	2,875,176,000 gallons
Distribution System Leakage – DSL = $[(TP - AC) / TP] \times 100 \%$	12.6 %
3-year annual average - %	12.6 % 2021, 2022, 2024

Goal-Setting Information:

Enter the date of most recent public forum to establish WUE goal: 07/20/2020

Has goal been changed since last performance report? No

Note: Customer goal must be re-established every 6 years through a public process.

Customer WUE Goal (Demand Side):

12.6 %

12.6 %

2021, 2022, 2024



Conservation Successes - Spokane Codes

- ▶ WAC 246-290-Part 8 Water Use Efficiency
- ▶ RCW 90.54.180 Water use efficiency and conservation programs and practices.
- ▶ 2022 Ordinance C36209 passed by Council
- ▶ Spokane Municipal Code Link: [Section 13.04.1925](#)
 - ▶ Water Conservation Measures
 - ▶ Between June and Oct that prohibit watering during the heat of the day, no more than 4 days a week, only water for 2 hrs, and don't water impervious area
 - ▶ More stringent requirements are implemented if the Spokane River levels fall below 1,000 cfs
 - ▶ Effective 2023



Conservation Successes- Residential & Educational

- ▶ Educational Outreach
 - ▶ 26 Events or Classes in 2026 with a total of 2,350 participants
 - ▶ 7 upcoming education events between now and September
- ▶ Residential Appointments (Indoor & Outdoor)
 - ▶ In 2025 - 181 & In 2026 - 45
- ▶ Rebates Program
- ▶ SpokaneScape Rebate Program
 - ▶ Link: [SpokaneScape - City of Spokane, Washington](#)
 - ▶ 2018 to now- 509 projects and 611,000 sqft of lawn replaced
- ▶ Added one more tiered consumption rate charge in 2021 (Tier 5) and increase the usage fees, especially for the higher usage rates

Rebates Issued in 2025

Rebate Group	Rebate Count	Unique Customers	Total Amount
Commercial	1	1	\$675
Cooling Tower Controller Rebate	1	1	\$675
Indoor Fixtures	4	4	\$700
Toilet Rebate	4	4	\$700
Irrigation	128	123	\$14,023
Efficient Nozzle Rebate	8	8	\$580
IRR Controller Rebate	103	101	\$10,143
Spray to Drip Rebate	17	17	\$3,300
Other	106	102	\$41,483
Spokanescape	87	84	\$38,633
Water Wise Challenge	19	19	\$2,850
Total	239	211	\$56,881

*IRR - Rain Dial Controller for Irrigation



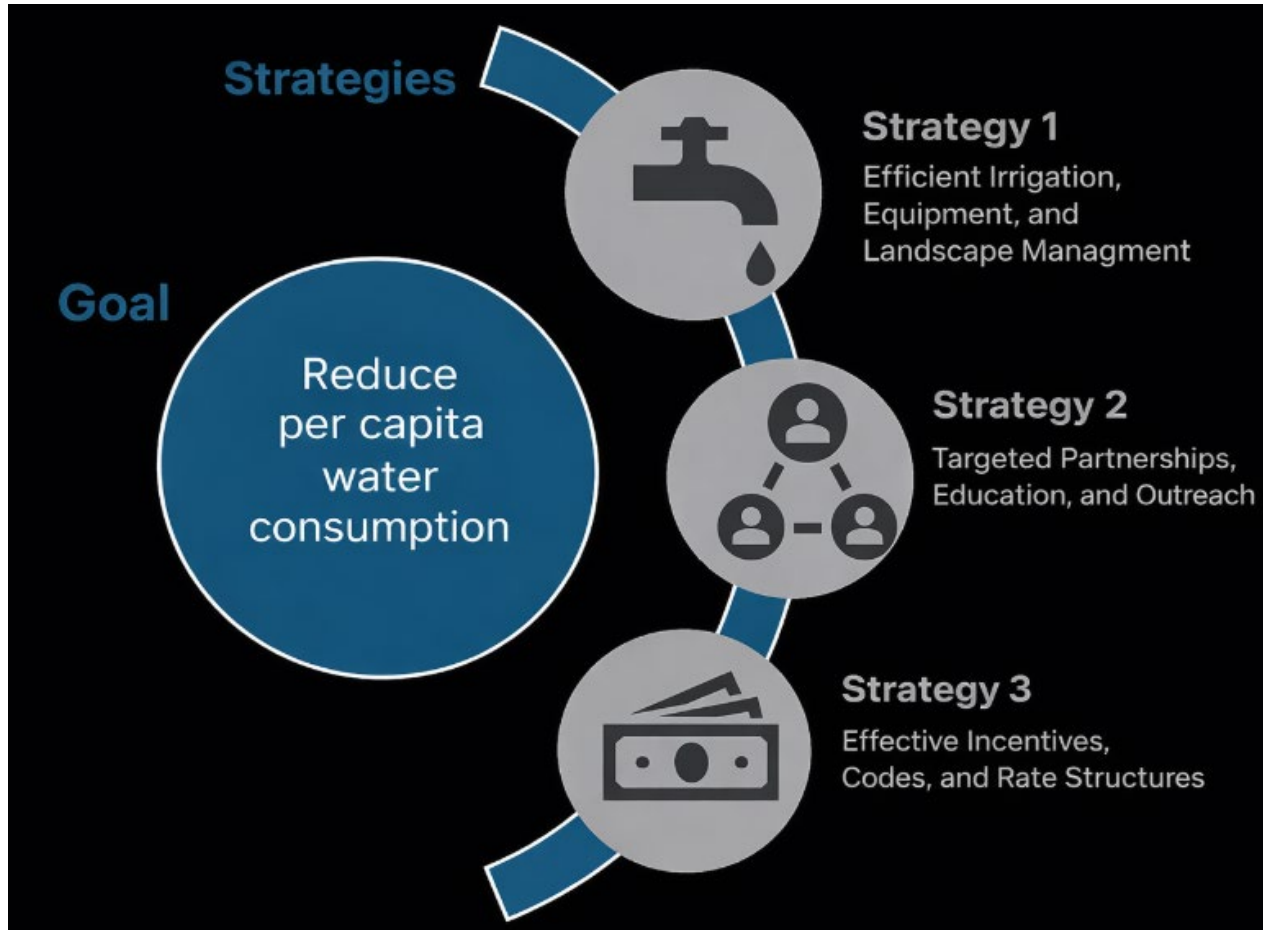
Conservation Successes - Commercial

- ▶ Water Wise Spokane Commercial Program
 - ▶ Holy Family Hospital Story - 2025 Video Link: <https://vimeo.com/1129707907/dde781b82d>
 - ▶ Repaired broken lines - landscaped and watered appropriately with smarter technology
 - ▶ Saved 7.2 million gallons annually
 - ▶ \$12,000 saved annually
 - ▶ Annual Water Demand Reduction: 47+ Million Gallons
 - ▶ Verified through: Utility billing analysis, advanced metering infrastructure data, submetering, before-and-after demand comparisons

Major Project Highlights Project	Confirmed Annual Reduction
Glen. HOA Mainline Leak	~12.9 million gallons
Spokane Public Utilities Irrigation Portfolio	~12.1 million gallons
WA Trust Bank Cooling Optimization	~6 million gallons
Great Western Building Cooling Valve Leak	~5.4 million gallons
St. Luke's Irrigation Controller Correction	~4.5 million gallons
Kiemle Hagood Trap Primer Failure	~4 million gallons
Multicare Deaconess Hospital Optimization	~2.5 million gallons



Draft Water Use Efficiency/Conservation Plan



In the 5 Year Review Process



DRAFT Water Use Efficiency/Conservation Plan

▶ Examples Actions (A):

- ▶ Evaluate high water users
- ▶ Expand water conservation tools
- ▶ Promote efficiency with a focus on irrigation system
- ▶ Conduct check-ups and recommendations
- ▶ Improve data use with Advanced Metering Infrastructure integration

Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

Action → KPI Alignment

	KPI 1	KPI 2	KPI 3	KPI 4	KPI 5
A1	●	●	●	●	
A2	●	●	●		●
A3	●	●	●	●	
A4	●	●		●	●
A5		●	●		
A6	●				
A7		●	●		
A8	●			●	
A9	●	●	●		
A10	●		●		



Emerging Issues

PFAS/PFOA Forever Chemicals - Spokane

Well Station	Number of Primary PZ Supplied	Annual Supply in 2025 (MG)
Havana Street	2	584
Central	1	1,426
Hoffman	1	1,006
Nevada	1	1,978
Grace	1	1,021
Well Electric	3	5,396
Ray Street	1	867
Parkwater	2	12,429
Total Pumping	3 Primary	24,707

The current Running Annual Average at Ray Well Street is 3.63.

Compound	4/22/2025	7/29/2025	10/28/2025	1/27/2026
PFOS RAA	2.86	2.86	3.97	3.63

The current Running Annual Average at Havana Well Street is 2.26.

Compound	4/22/2025	7/29/2025	10/28/2025	1/27/2026
PFOS RAA	0.00	1.08	2.26	2.26

*Running Annual Average Maximum Contaminate Level is 4 parts per trillion for PFOS



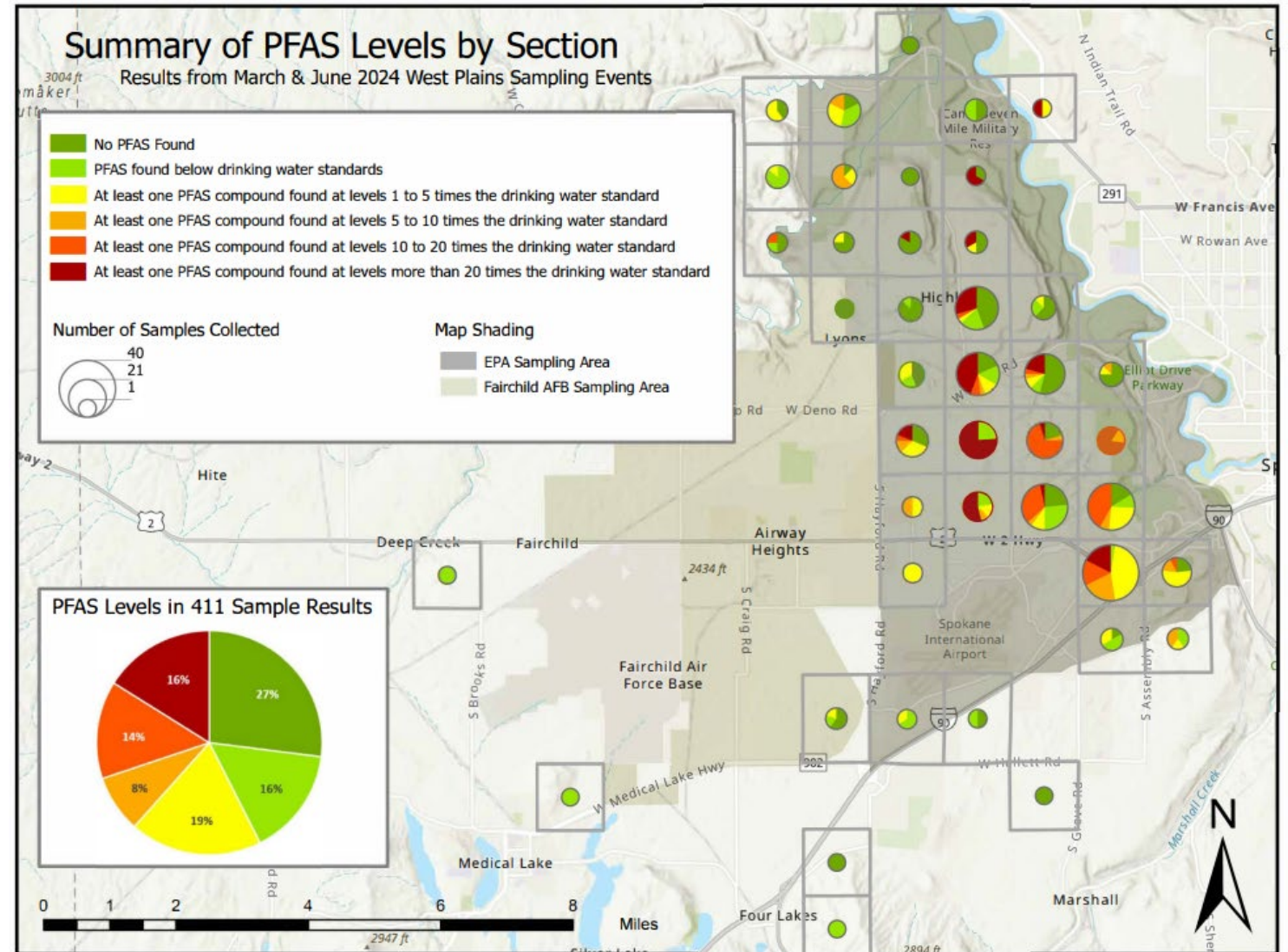
Spokane's Supplemental Water Supply to Airway Heights - PFAS Contamination

- ▶ Airway Heights drinking water was tested and found PFAS in 2017
 - ▶ Spokane responded within days to provide additional temporary water intertie
 - ▶ Constructed a new intertie location at Craig Road and McFarlane Road in 2018
- ▶ Continued investments in Spokane's water system infrastructure
- ▶ Continued to update the intertie agreements between Spokane and Airway Heights
- ▶ Spokane is now serving an additional 11,000 people outside of Spokane's ultimate service area through these two connections
- ▶ Currently working on the design of a larger capacity intertie vault to meet Airway Heights future demand needs

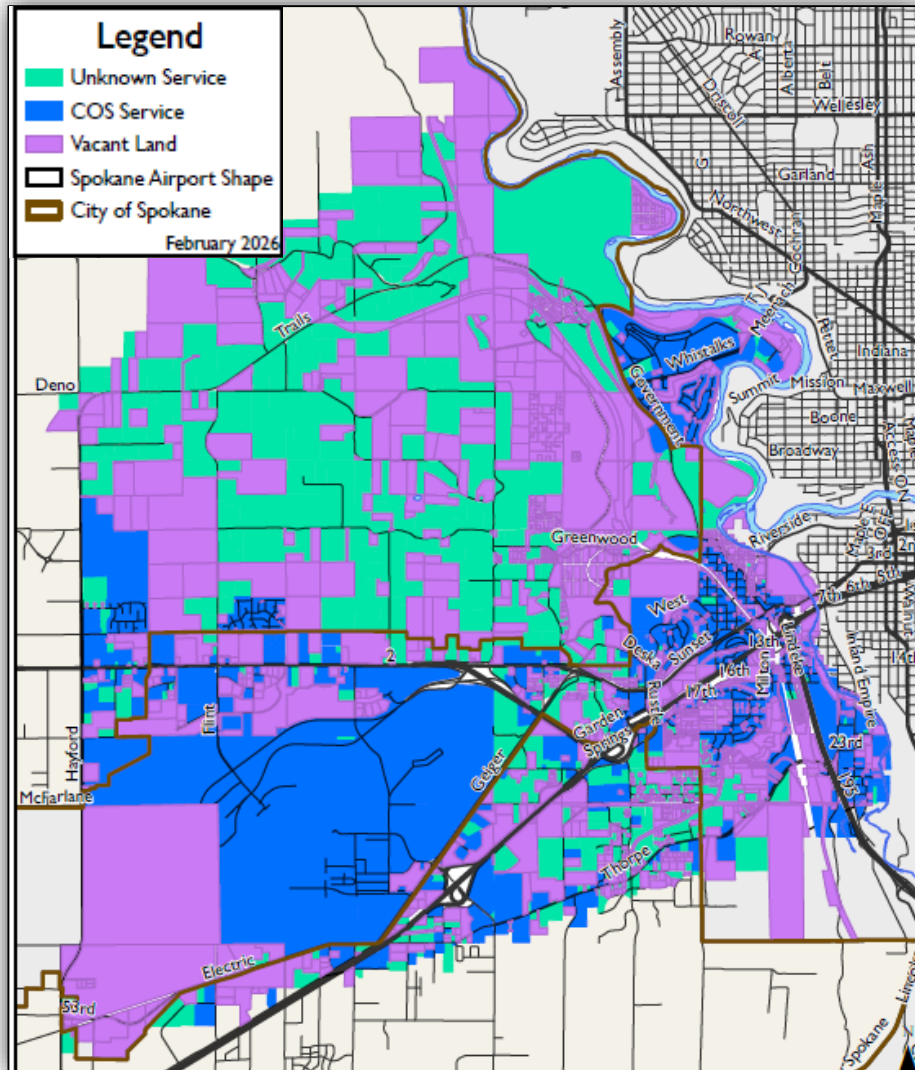


Private Wells Contaminated with PFAS

- ▶ 2024 EPA's testing results of 411 private wells identified 236 wells had PFAS levels above drinking water standards



The Role of the City and County



Ecology named the City & County Potentially Liable Parties (PLP) because of their ownership of the Spokane International Airport

The airport required by Federal Aviation Administration to use AFFF* firefighting foam, which contains PFAS

The City and County signed an agreed order with Ecology

Ecology has defined an area where they are requiring the City, County and Airport to provide access to clean water

Geographic area includes about:

- ▶ 2,000 parcels already connected to City of Spokane municipal water
- ▶ 2,000 vacant parcels
- ▶ 900 properties with buildings and possibly private wells

*AFFF: Aqueous Film-Forming Foam



What is happening now?

- ▶ Under an Ecology-approved short-term plan:
 - ▶ Filter pitchers and countertop units are available
 - ▶ Residents also can access the City's Garden Spring Fill Station
 - ▶ Testing throughout the area will begin soon.
- ▶ Spokane County received \$7.5 million grant from County & Spokane Regional Health Dist. for point of entry treatment (POET) filter distribution systems.
- ▶ City and County are pursuing funding for other projects - to install more POET systems and look at possibilities for extending municipal water



Drought Conditions Across Washington State

Prior to the current legislative framework:

1977 – Statewide (Governor convened "Ad Hoc Executive Water Emergency Committee" Feb. 16, 1977 – pre current drought framework)

1988 – Statewide (Very dry 1987 resulted in legislation enacting current drought framework- RCW 43.83B)

Following years were based on current drought framework from 1989 (RCW 43.83B.405 and WAC 173-166-050):

1992 – Yakima Basin

1994 – Yakima Basin

2001 – Statewide

2005 – Statewide

2006 – Lyre-Hoko

2015 – Statewide

2019 – 27 Watersheds, including the Yakima, but excluding SE Washington and Puget Sound region

2021 – Statewide, except for central Puget Sound (Green, Cedar, Snohomish WRIAs)

2022 – Partial extension of 2021 declaration for a few watersheds in eastern WA, with the remainder of eastern Washington being put in Drought Advisory status. (Ecology pulled back the declaration in July after extending it in late May).

2023 – 12 watersheds/12 counties in the emergency drought declaration with a statewide advisory.

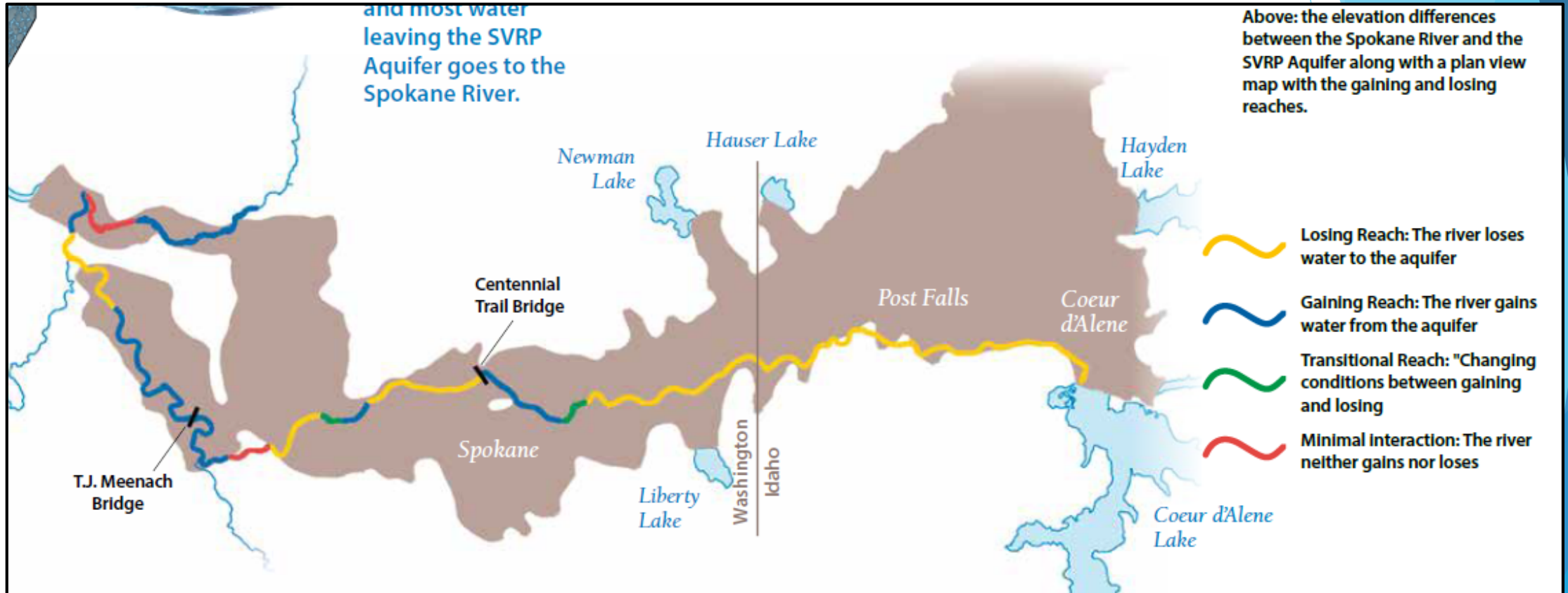
2024 – Statewide declaration, except for the areas served by the utilities of Everett, Seattle, and Tacoma.

2025 – 22 watersheds, except for the areas served by the utilities of Everett, Seattle, and Tacoma.

2026 – 4th Statewide drought



Spokane River and Aquifer



Source: The Spokane Valley-Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer Atlas, Fifth Edition (2023)



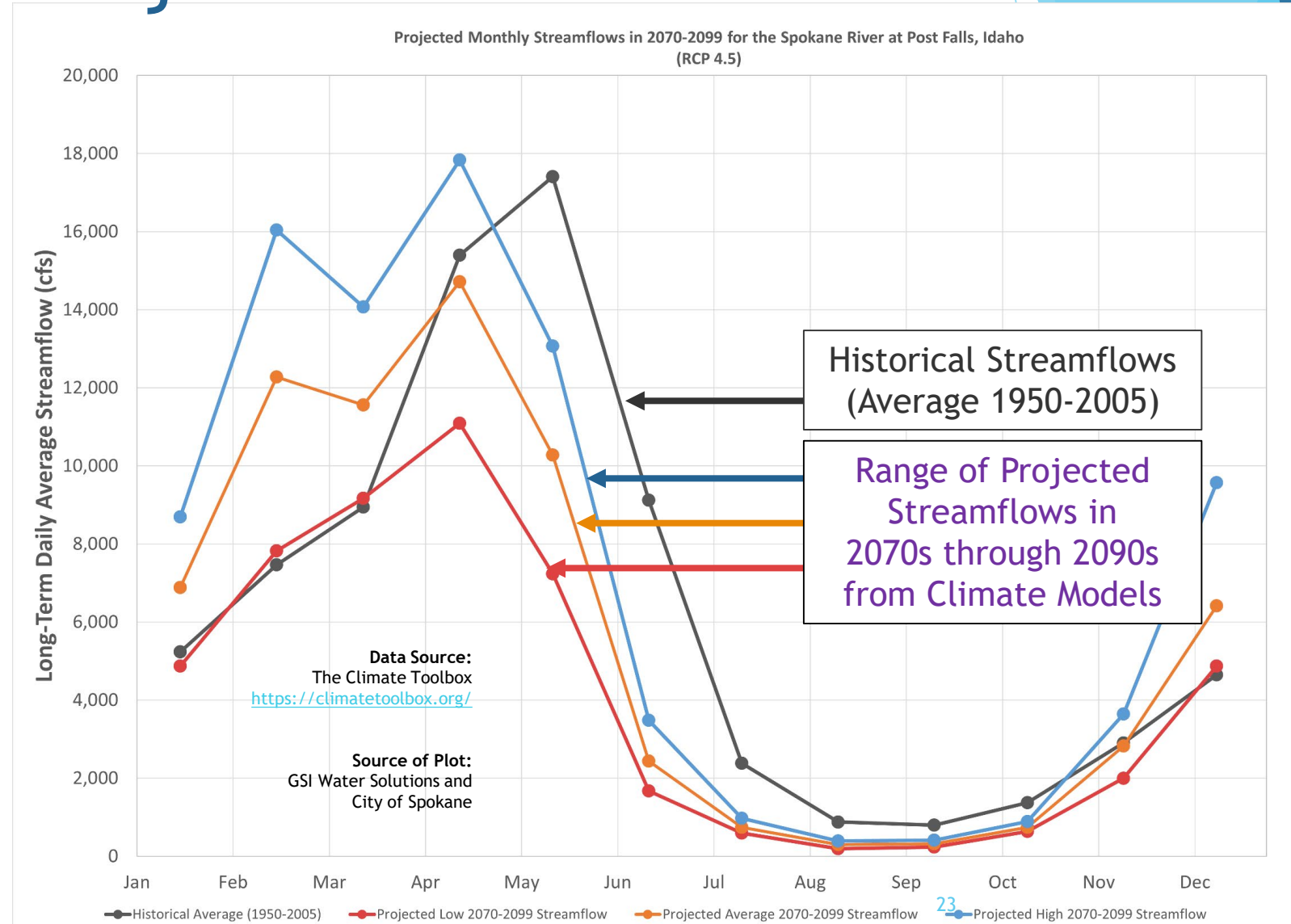
Spokane River Projections - Post Falls

The groundwater model was used to examine potential climate effects on streamflows and the aquifer in the latter 3 decades of the 21st century

Climate Influences on Recharge to the Aquifer

Spokane River Streamflows at Headwaters (Outflows from Post Falls Dam)

RCP 4.5 - Representative Concentration Pathways (RCPs)
Moderate greenhouse gas emissions



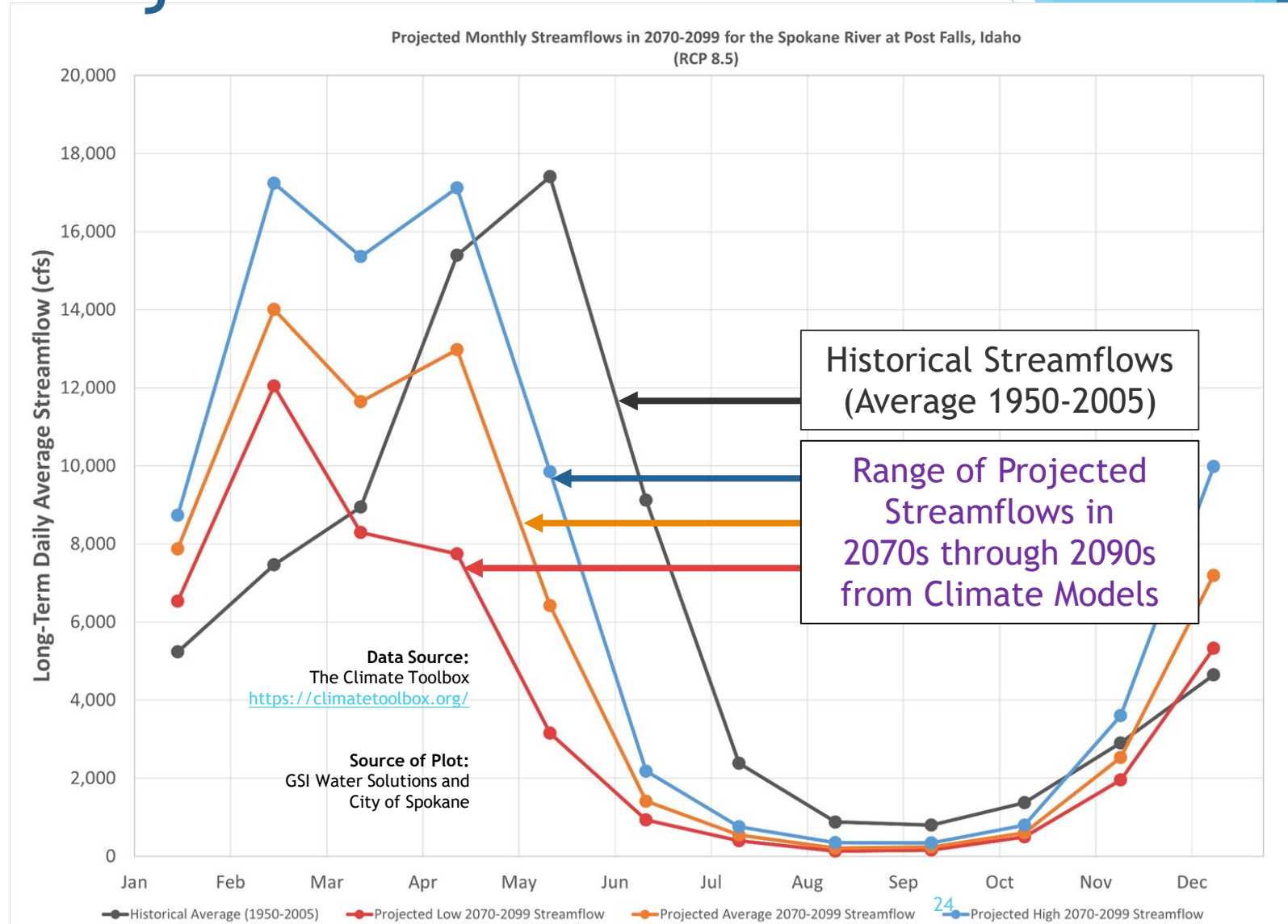
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Climate Influences on Recharge to the Aquifer

Spokane River Streamflows at Headwaters (Outflows from Post Falls Dam)

RCP 8.5 - Representative Concentration Pathways (RCPs)
High greenhouse gas emissions



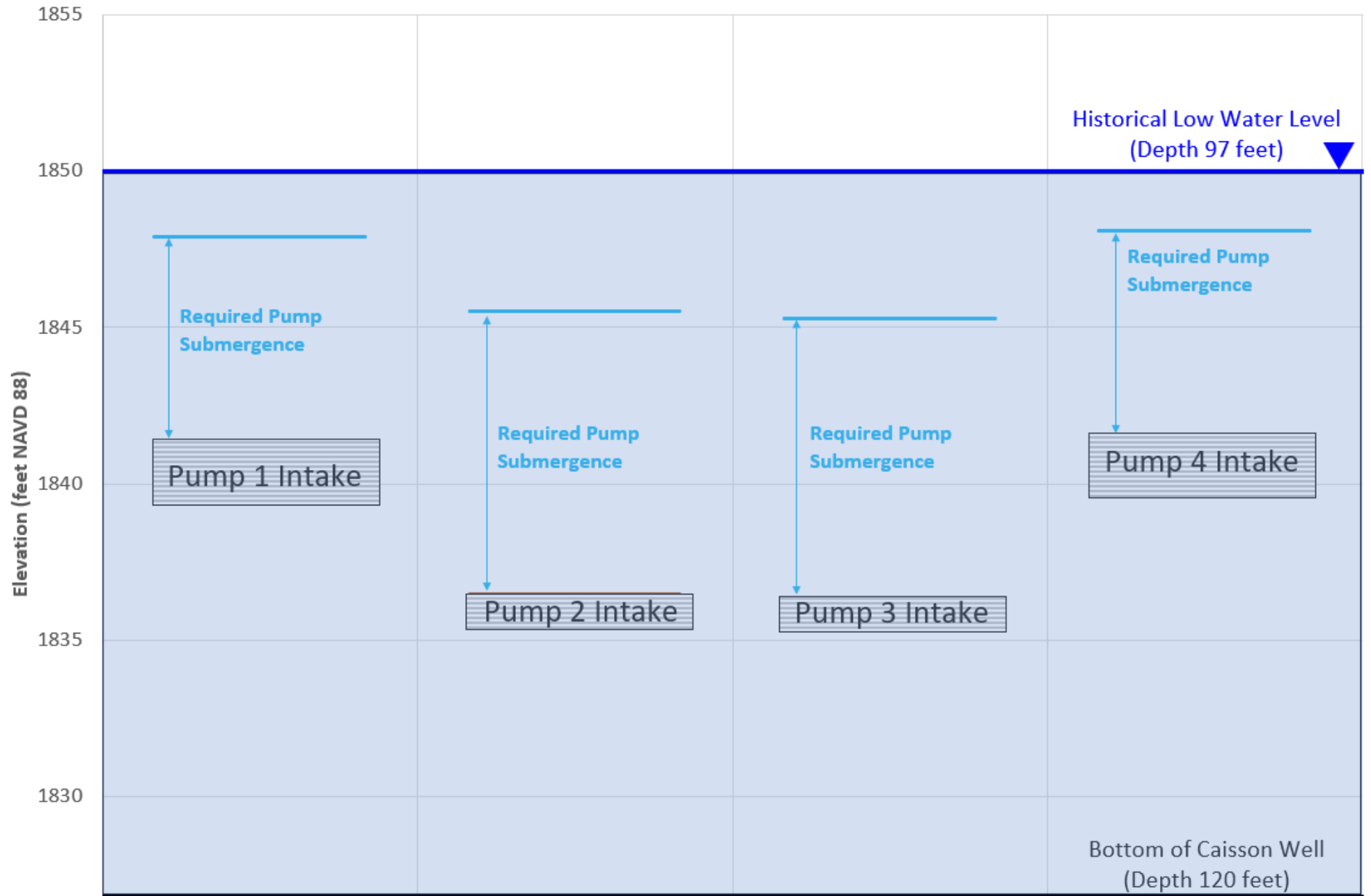
Case Study:

Assessment of Future Water Levels at the Nevada Well Station

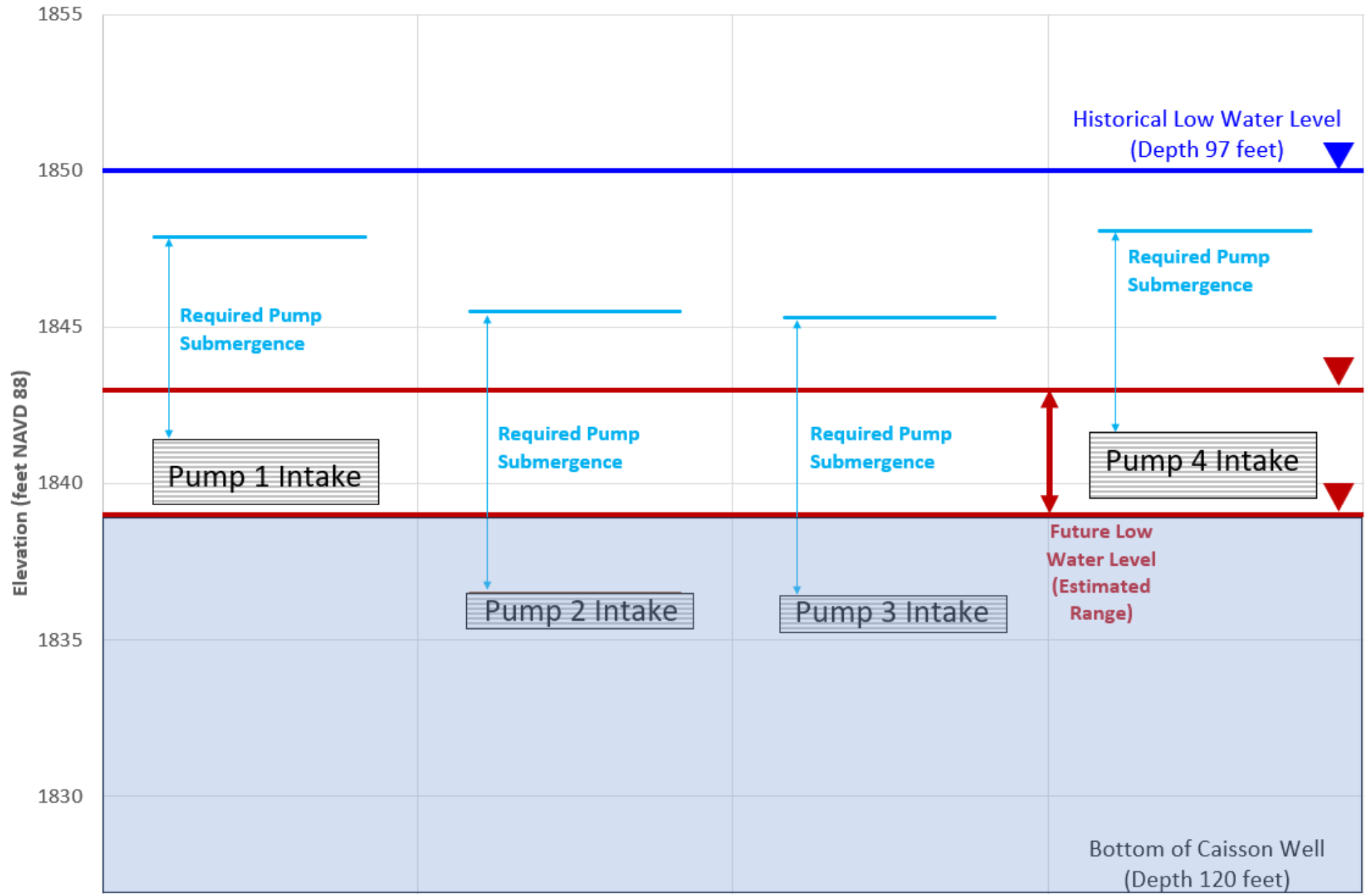
Estimated Changes in Summer-Low Groundwater Elevations in 2070-2099 at the Nevada Well Station



Case Study: Assessment of Future Water Levels at the Nevada Well Station

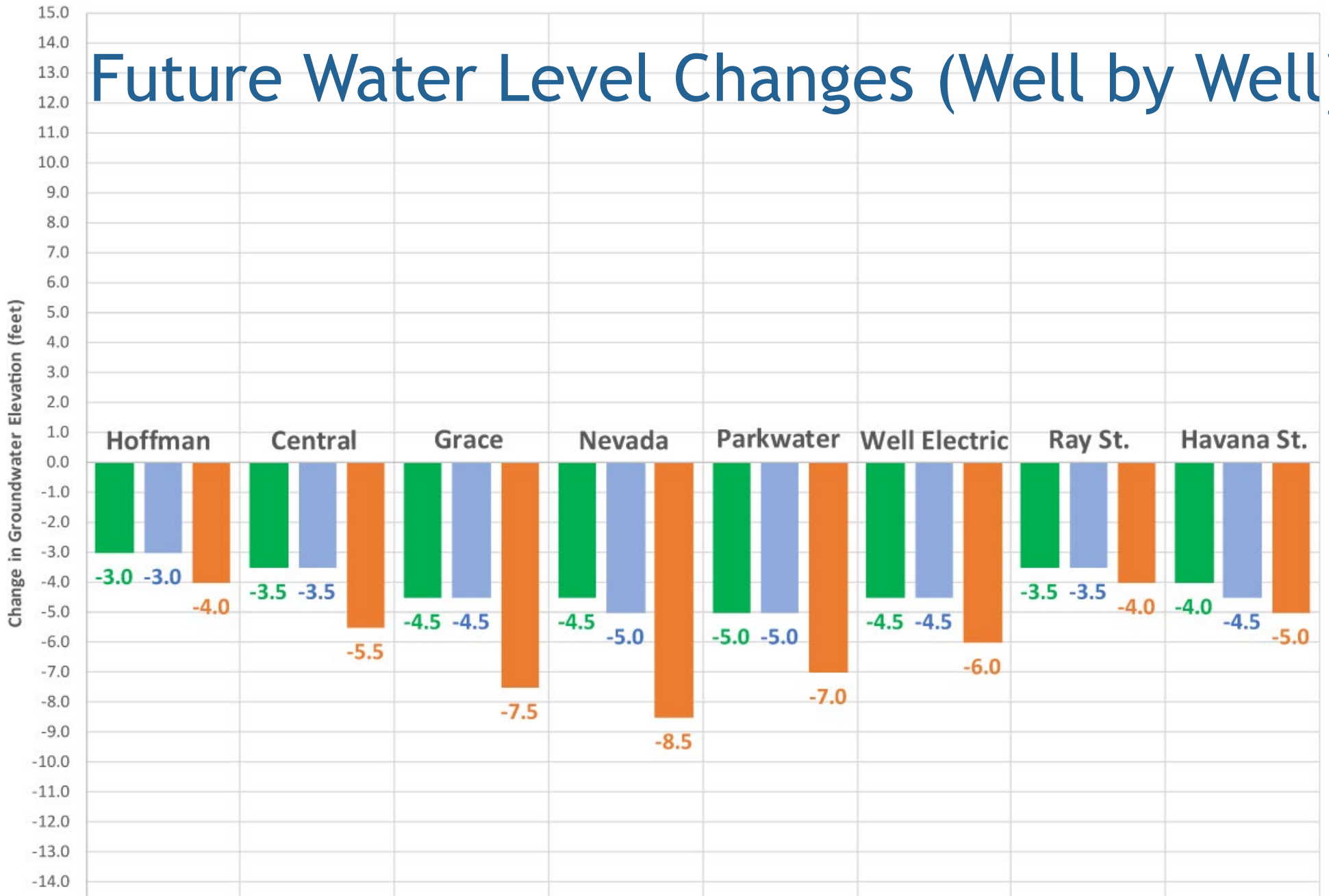


Case Study: Assessment of Future Water Levels at the Nevada Well Station



Summary of Findings for Future Median Climate Conditions

Future Water Level Changes (Well by Well)



Spokane Water Supply Costs

- ▶ 6 Year Capital Program
 - ▶ Capital Infrastructure Investments of \$210 Million
 - ▶ Operational Investments = \$140 Million
 - ▶ Total= \$350 Million
- ▶ 20 Year Capital Facility Program
 - ▶ Total 20 Year Investments =\$570 Million



Spokane Water Supply: Long-Term

- ▶ Continue to serve our constituents
- ▶ Continue to be the regional water purveyor
- ▶ Continue to be a good steward of our water source
- ▶ Continue to work towards greater water efficiency
- ▶ Continue to reevaluate, study, problem solve, and act



Thank You



Photo Credit: Craig Goodwin

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Integrated Capital Management Department
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