



Water Forward 2024 Update



Water Forward 2024 (WF24) Project Plan

Task 1 - Project Management

Task 2 - Community Engagement

Task 3. Refine planning methodology

Task 4. Forecast baseline water demands

Task 5. Update climate and hydrology analysis

Task 6. Identify water resource needs

Task 7. Identify, screen, and characterize strategies

Task 8. Develop and evaluate 50-yr water resource portfolios

Task 9. Develop plan recommendations and 100-yr adaptive management plan

1/2022

1/2023

1/2024



WF24 Task Progress to Date & Next Steps

	Task Name	Progress to Date	Next Steps
1	Project Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identified consultant procurement approaches 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue consultant procurement process
2	Community Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CAG members were selected and notified Continued draft Education and Engagement Plan (EEP) development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Schedule CAG meetings and Equity Grounding Workshops Complete draft EEP
3	Planning Methodology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developed draft mission statement & guiding principles and received initial Task Force feedback 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Receive additional WF Task Force feedback on draft mission statement & guiding principles
4	Demand Forecast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Began development of baseline 2020 population estimates Continued Disaggregated Demand Model (DDM) structural update work 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete development of baseline 2020 population and employment estimates Continue DDM structural update work
5	Climate and Hydrology Analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UT developed Global Climate Model (GCM) selection memo and identified downscaling methodology Held Climate Technical Advisory Group meeting 1/28 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop time series of downscaled weather variables from each GCM Develop hydrologic models for basin gages



Community Advisory Group

- Nine members have been selected and notified
 - Monthly meetings for the first several months, social media, and online engagement
- Goals of the CAG include:

Meaningful Engagement

Ensure community capacity to play a leadership role in decision-making and the implementation of decisions.

Representation

Include community members from historically excluded and underrepresented groups in Austin, as well as multiple Council districts

Education & Outreach

Education and leadership development supports residents to make informed decisions that reflect the needs and interests of their communities and share this information with others

Impact

Build a sustainable relationship between Austin Water and the community; participants gain ownership and understanding of city programs and remain civically involved



Draft WF24 Mission Statement, Guiding Principles, and Objectives



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Mission Statement

Water Forward 2018

The Integrated Water Resource Plan (IWRP) will provide a mid- and long-term evaluation of, and plan for, water supply and demand management options for the City of Austin in a regional water supply context.

Through public outreach and coordination of efforts between City departments and the Austin Integrated Water Resource Planning Community Task Force, the IWRP offers a holistic and inclusive approach to water resource planning.

The plan embraces an innovative and integrated water management process with the goal of ensuring a diversified, sustainable, and resilient water future, with strong emphasis on water conservation.

Water Forward 2024 – Draft Proposed

The purpose of Water Forward is to develop and implement diverse water management strategies to adapt to growth, drought, and climate change and ensure a sustainable, resilient, equitable, and affordable water future for our community for the next 100 years.



Guiding Principles

Water Forward 2018

- Avoid severe water shortages during times of drought
- Engage the public and stakeholders throughout the plan development process
- Continue Austin's focus on water conservation and water use efficiency
- Strengthen long-term sustainability, reliability, and diversity of Austin's water supply through maximizing local water resources
- Continue to protect Austin's natural environment, including source and receiving water quality
- Focus on projects that are technically, socially, and economically feasible

Recognizing that Colorado River water is Austin's core supply, continue a strong partnership between the City and LCRA to assure its reliability

Ensure Austin's water supply continues to meet/exceed all federal, state and local public health regulations

Align with Imagine Austin's "Sustainably Manage Our Water Resources Priority Program"

Maintain coordination and communication with regional partners

Water Forward 2024 – Draft Proposed

- Create a plan that is resilient to growth, drought and climate change
- Use a holistic and inclusive approach to water resource planning that incorporates the Austin community's values
- Include diverse water management strategies that make use of all water sources, including reuse, conservation, and efficiency
- Continue to protect Austin's natural environment
- Minimize implementation and operational risk
- **New** Use an equity and affordability lens to develop and implement the plan

Foundational
Utility
Practices

Moved to
Objectives



Concepts

Distributive justice

- Pertains to the fair distribution of benefits and burdens within society.

Procedural justice

- Focuses on the fairness of the process by which a distributive decision is reached.

Concepts

- Distributive and procedural fairness in this context will seek to align with the City of Austin Equity Office's focus on racial equity.
 - This is in recognition that race is the most consistent predictor across all quality of life outcomes.
 - “Intersections exist within other oppressions such as gender, sexual orientation, age, ability, class, immigrant status, veteran status, but outcomes within these identities still most negatively impact people of color.”



Draft WF24 Guiding Principles + Objectives

Procedural Elements

Guiding Principles (strategic goals)	Objectives (tactical)	Performance Measures (specific measures to be determined)
Create a plan that is resilient to growth, drought, and climate change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Incorporate methods to plan for uncertainty with strategies that are resilient through a range of possible futures Focus primarily on long term water supplies, but consider emergency water supply benefits 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Document process to incorporate climate data, perform scenario planning, and evaluate resiliency benefits
Use a holistic and inclusive approach to water resource planning that incorporates the Austin community's values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meaningfully engage the Austin Integrated Water Resource Planning Community Task Force, other City departments, regional partners, and the community throughout the process Use multicriteria decision making and reflect community values in the evaluation of trade-offs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Track engagement and coordination efforts Document inclusion of community input throughout the planning process
Include diverse water management strategies that make use of all water sources, including reuse, conservation, and efficiency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plan for water supply, reuse, and demand management options for the City of Austin 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Document process to select and characterize strategies
Use an equity and affordability lens to develop and implement the plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use an equity lens throughout the planning process Evaluate affordability impacts in a holistic manner that balances near-term and long-term costs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a WF24 Equity and Affordability Roadmap



Draft WF24 Guiding Principles + Objectives

Distributive Elements

Guiding Principles (strategic goals)	Objectives (tactical)	Performance Measures (specific measures to be determined)
Create a plan that is resilient to growth, drought, and climate change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Avoid severe water shortages during drought and a variety of climate change scenarios 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WAM modeling results
Include diverse water management strategies that make use of all water sources, including reuse, conservation, and efficiency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue Austin’s focus on water conservation and water use efficiency 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potable GPCD Portfolio diversity score*
Use an equity and affordability lens to develop and implement the plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimize impacts and maximize benefits of plan outcomes for vulnerable communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cost (lifecycle, capital, O&M) Equity & Affordability Tool*
Continue to protect Austin’s natural environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop strategies that continue to protect Austin’s natural environment, including source and receiving water quality 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Net return flows Operational energy use Water quality impacts*
Minimize implementation and operational risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop strategies that can be implemented and operated with a manageable level of risk 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation and operational risk score Volume of local and AW-controlled water resources System resiliency benefits

*New for Water Forward 2024



Draft WF24 Guiding Principles + Objectives

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Project Plan: Equity and Affordability

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Equity and Affordability Roadmap

Equity and Affordability Tool Development

Characterize water management strategies using Equity and Affordability Tool metrics

Use Equity and Affordability Tool to evaluate portfolios

Refine portfolios in alignment with Equity and Affordability Tool and other objectives

Next Steps

- ◆ Requesting any additional Task Force feedback via email by Monday, April 4th
- ◆ Staff will provide revised mission statement, guiding principles, and objectives in backup for May 3rd Task Force meeting





Questions

