

## PRE-STORED WATER POLICY

- I. Introduction
  - A. The Mojave Water Agency (MWA; Agency) has a limited amount of water to import into the region. This limit is largely dictated by the availability of State Water Project (SWP) along with the funds to import that water.
  - B. The purpose of this Pre-Stored Water Policy (Policy) is to establish guidelines to ensure that an adequate amount of imported water is available in groundwater and surface water storage to satisfy demands while providing MWA high operational flexibility and the ability to meet demands in the event of a prolonged outage or low SWP allocations in which imported water would be limited in a given year.
  
- II. Definitions
  - A. **Pre-stored Water:** Water imported and stored inside or outside the MWA service area boundary in groundwater or surface water storage for later delivery. Pre-stored water is not comprised of any natural supplies to the MWA service area.
  - B. **Imported Water Obligations:** Customer demands of imported water supplied by the MWA; these are satisfied by imported water from the SWP. MWA currently owns a contracted Table A amount of 89,900 acre-feet from the SWP; between 0 and 100 percent of this Table A is made available to MWA on an annual basis as determined by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR). Customers include court-mandated obligations as well as ordinance 9 obligations.
  - C. **Reliability Storage:** MWA pre-stored water to meet subarea demand for three (3) years.
  - D. **Flexible Storage:** MWA pre-stored water in excess of the amount required to be maintained in reliability storage.
  - E. **Mojave Basin Area:** Adjudicated management area that encompasses 5 distinct subareas: Alto, Baja, Centro, Este, and Oeste. The main customer in the Mojave Basin Area is the Mojave Basin Area Watermaster.
  - F. **Morongo Area:** The region that includes three (4) distinct Ordinance 9 customers: Hi Desert Water Agency, Bighorn Desert View Water Agency, CSA 70 W-4, and Joshua Basin Water District.
  
- III. Pre-Stored Water
  - A. Pre-stored water is owned by the MWA.
  - B. Pre-stored water may be stored in:
    - 1. Groundwater basins inside the MWA service area;
    - 2. Groundwater basins outside the MWA service area;
    - 3. Available storage in San Luis Reservoir; or
    - 4. Other surface water reservoirs.
  
- IV. Imported Water Obligations
  - A. All imported water obligations will be met out of pre-stored water storage where possible and reasonable.
  - B. Customer demands are the imported water obligations supplied by the MWA.

1. Imported water customers are primarily the Mojave Basin Area Watermaster, Morongo Area water districts, and other Ordinance 9 customers.
2. Table 1 summarizes projected customer demands for the MWA service area by 2025.

Table 1	
2025 Projected SWP Demands by Customer	
All Values in Acre-Feet	
Alto Watermaster Obligations	12,868
Alto Other Customers	1,828
Baja Watermaster Obligations	2,973
Centro Watermaster Obligations	0
Oeste Watermaster Obligations	1,747
Este Watermaster Obligations	0
Morongo - Hi Desert Water Agency	2,929
Morongo - Bighorn Desert View Water Agency	73
Morongo - Joshua Basin Water District	559
Morongo - CSA 70 W-4	20
Total	22,996

V. Customer Storage Pools

- A. There are two storage pools assigned to each customer group. The storage pool amounts are determined as follows:
  1. Reliability Storage: Three (3) years of imported water demands projected in the next five (5) years, rounded up to the nearest 1,000 acre-feet or a minimum of 1,000 acre-feet.
    - a. The purpose of the reliability storage is to be able to meet customer demands during low SWP allocation years, SWP system outages, and MWA system outages.
    - b. Reliability storage should only be used to satisfy imported water obligations.
    - c. Preferably, reliability storage is pre-stored within the groundwater basin that the imported water obligation exists.
      - i. Some customers may overlie basins for which the opportunity to pre-store water in the basin is limited; in such cases, other storage locations, including but not limited to San Luis Reservoir, for reliability storage can be utilized if the water is recoverable and deliverable to the customer.
    - d. Under normal conditions, the reliability storage would remain full.
  2. Flexible Storage: Any pre-stored water that is in excess of the reliability storage.
    - a. Flexible storage is intended to provide MWA additional operational flexibility to meet imported water obligations from pre-storage on an annual basis. Flexible storage may also be used for other purposes such as, but not limited to:
      - i. MWA operational use;

- ii. Environmental mitigation;
- iii. Groundwater augmentation; and
- iv. Marketing excess supplies.

B. Storage Agreements

- 1. The MWA will enter into storage agreements with the Mojave Basin Area Watermaster and potentially other groundwater storage locations. Storage agreement amounts will vary by basin. Storage agreements will be revised with the Watermaster or jurisdiction as needed.

C. Reliability storage amounts by subarea are summarized in Table 2:

Table 2							
2025 Reliability Storage Amounts for Pre-Stored Water Policy							
All Values in Acre-Feet							
	Alto	Este	Oeste	Centro	Baja	Morongo	Total
Projected SWP Demand	14,696	0	1,747	0	2,973	3,580	22,996
Reliability Storage	45,000	1,000	6,000	1,000	9,000	11,000	73,000

D. Re-evaluation of Storage Pool Amounts

- 1. Storage pool amounts will be evaluated annually to adjust reliability storage amounts.

VI. Storage Locations

- A. Having a diverse portfolio of storage locations for pre-stored water is necessary to ensure a sustainable water supply. Pre-stored may be stored in the following locations:
  - 1. At the point of use;
  - 2. Within Central Valley groundwater basins;
  - 3. San Luis Reservoir (Article 56); or
  - 4. Other locations if the water is recoverable and deliverable.