

City of Palo Alto

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Service Area

Located in north Santa Clara County, Palo Alto is the only municipality in California that operates six utilities - electric and fiber, water, gas, waste water collection and treatment, storm drainage and refuse. The utility's service area includes approximately 40 residential accounts (about 100 people) outside of the City's boundaries (in Los Altos Hills and Portola Valley).

System

Profile

Area Size	26 square miles
Service Population	63,467
Number of Accounts	19,335
Number of SFPUC Connections	5
Connections To SFPUC Mains	Palo Alto Pipeline, BDPL 3 and 4
Avg. Day Demand (mgd)	13.57
Avg. Day Purchases From SFPUC (mgd)	12.72
% Demand Met With SFPUC Supplies	93.7%
Maximum Local Water Production (mgd)	0.70
Alternative Supply Sources	Recycled Water, Local Groundwater
Interties With Other Agencies	East Palo Alto CWD, Mountain View, Purissima Hills WD, Stanford University
Local Storage (mg)	10.5
Days of Storage	0.8 — Currently, Palo Alto water system can independently supply 2.5 hr of the 8 hr criteria under max. day demands for emergency use, assuming all existing 5 reservoirs are full, and 5 standby wells are operational – Source 1999 Study, Fig. ES.3

Summary

The City of Palo Alto's primary source of water is the SFPUC, via 5 turnouts, 3 off the Palo Alto Pipeline and 2 off BDPLs 3 and 4, that in most years provide 100% of Palo Alto's potable water supply. Palo Alto has 8 pressure zones, 6 storage tanks, and 6 booster pump stations which pump water from pressure zone to pressure zone and the higher elevation pressure zones.

Local groundwater wells do not meet secondary drinking water standards for iron and manganese without additional treatment. To improve the capacity of the local water distribution system for providing water during an emergency event, Palo Alto has begun a program to rehabilitate the 5 existing wells, construct 3 new wells, and construct a new 2.5 million gallon emergency water storage reservoir. The new and rehabilitated wells would be used only for emergency supplies.

Palo Alto replaces potable water with recycled water to irrigate a golf course and a city park, to fill a duck pond, and some uses at the water quality control plant. Recycled water use that does not replace potable water includes the Emily Renzel Marsh enhancement project and additional process uses at the water quality control plant.

Water Supply and Demand

Supply by Source	Actual FY 04-05 (ccf)	Actual FY 05-06 (ccf)	Actual FY 06-07 (ccf)	Actual FY 07-08 (ccf)
San Francisco Water	5,896,965	5,802,911	6,361,100	6,205,790
Local Groundwater	0	0	0	0
Surface Water	0	0	0	0
Recycled Water	340,000	377,700	417,000	415,025
Other	0	0	0	0
Total	6,236,965	6,180,611	6,778,100	6,620,815
mgd equivalent	12.78	12.67	13.89	13.57

Demand by Sector

Residential	3,456,141	3,410,810	3,582,243	3,536,215
Commercial/Industrial	1,480,534	1,459,029	1,516,299	1,576,218
Other	734,649	716,764	799,061	829,236
Unaccounted for	565,641	594,008	880,497	679,146
Total	6,236,965	6,180,611	6,778,100	6,620,815
mgd equivalent	12.78	12.67	13.89	13.57

Per Capita Use	Actual FY 04-05 (gpcpd)	Actual FY 05-06 (gpcpd)	Actual FY 06-07 (gpcpd)	Actual FY 07-08 (gpcpd)
Residential	118	112	118	114
Gross	213	204	224	214

Facilities and Distribution

Storage Reservoirs

Designation	Type	Capacity (gallons)	Designation	Type	Capacity (gallons)
Mayfield	Concrete	4,000,000	Dahl	Steel	1,000,000
Boronda	Concrete	1,500,000	Montebello	Steel	1,500,000
Corte Madera	Steel	1,500,000	Park	Steel	1,000,000
			Total		10,500,000

Wells

Name	Capacity (mgd)	Status
Fernando*	0.4	Standby
Hale*	1.7	Standby
Matadero	0.4	Standby
Peers*	1.2	Standby
Rinconada*	1.8	Standby
Total	5.5	

* Emergency use

Interties

Name	No.	Diameter (in.)
East Palo Alto	1	6
Mountain View	2	6
Stanford	2	8
Purissima Hills WD	2	8, 12