CITY OF SEQUIM

FACT SHEET

Water Availability

SUMMARY

Water is a finite resource requiring responsible management to ensure adequate water availability for communities and ecosystems. The City of Sequim provides drinking water to its residents and businesses under regulation by Washington State agencies administering municipal water law. The City's Water System Plan and water utility program addresses water supply (how much water and of what quality) and water demand (how much water do humans and ecosystems need) for stewardship of water resources for current and future use.

BACKGROUND

The City of Sequim's primary water sources are three groundwater wellfields that provide around 800,000 gallons of potable water per day to the residents and businesses of Sequim. The Public Works Department maintains approximately 72 miles of water line, four booster pump stations and three reservoirs providing 2.9 million gallons of water storage to deliver this critical resource.

A 2023 update to the City of Sequim Water System Plan (WSP) is currently under review by the Department of Health. The WSP is a 20-year plan that meets state requirements designed to ensure safe drinking water, consistency with the City's Comprehensive Plan policies to plan for growth and a Capital Improvement Plan to keep pace with expected growth and replacement of aging infrastructure. The 20-year planning window demonstrates adequate water supply to meet population growth as shown below.

Year	Population	% Annual Water Right Used	Existing Reservoir Capacity (gallons)	Needed Reservoir Capacity (gallons)
2021	8,419	24%	2,900,000	1,585,000
2031	11,341	33%	2,900,000	2,031,188
2041	15,206	44%	2,900,000	2,814,086

CURRENT STATUS

As seen several times over the last decade, snowpack deficits in the Olympics, which provides water to the Dungeness River and underlying aquifers, forecasts a drier than normal year. The City coordinates with regional partners in eastern Clallam County, including the Dungeness River Management Team, on water storage, salmon habitat and water conservation projects, climate resiliency and water resource planning for cooperative stewardship for the region.

The Water System Plan requires the City Council to adopt water conservation goals, which include customer education, conservation pricing and service meter improvements. The City of Sequim benefits from having a reclaimed water system utilizing water from the Water Reclamation Facility to keep playfields and street medians green without using drinking water sources. Additional information on the City's water utility and reclaimed water system is provided on the City website, www.sequimwa.gov.

FUTURE OUTLOOK

With the decline of snowpack and glaciers in the Olympics, water storage will become increasingly important for all regional water users. While the City's water supply is sourced from groundwater, not surface water, ultimately all water is connected in complex ways. As such, the City constantly monitors the overarching water system in the regional and plans for storage and distribution system accordingly. The City's water storage reservoir capacity is planned to be expanded as growth progresses.

DROUGHT

In Washington, the legal definition of drought is based on water availability. The Department of Ecology has the authority to declare a drought emergency when water supply conditions are expected to fall below 75 percent of average, and there is potential for undue hardships due to low water supply. With our water sources being groundwater, Sequim is less susceptible to seasonal rainfall/snowmelt variability. Therefore, most drought declarations do not affect the city residents.

Learn more at: https://ecology.wa.gov/water-shorelines/water-supply/water-availability/statewide-conditions/drought-response