

CHAPTER 11
WATER RESOURCES

VISION STATEMENT

Camp Verde will be a community that places a high value on a safe and adequate water supply for future growth and natural environment while protecting the water quality and needs of the existing community. Water conservation will be encouraged.

STATE REQUIREMENTS

The Water Resources Element of the Town of Camp Verde's General Plan is mandated by Arizona Revised Statutes, which stipulates that communities larger than 2,500 inhabitants include a Water Resources Element.

According to Arizona Statutes, the Water Resources Element will address:

- a. The known legally and physically available surface water, groundwater and effluent supplies.
- b. The demand for water that will result from future growth projected in the general plan, added to existing uses.
- c. An analysis of how the demand for water that will result from future growth projected in the general plan will be served by the water supplies identified in subdivision (a) of this paragraph or a plan to obtain additional necessary water supplies.

Camp Verde and Yavapai-Apache Nation Water Use Projections*

	Year 2001	Year 2010**	Year 2020**
Population Projection	9,814	13,463	16,836
Total Water Demand (acre-ft/yr)	19,796	20,252	20,663
Total Potable Water Demand (includes private wells)	1,228	1,684	2,095
GPCD	112	112	111
Other Uses (Agriculture, industrial, golf courses, reservoirs)	18,568	18,568	18,568

*Information provided by the Yavapai County Water Advisory Committee and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, Water Use Projections, Verde Valley Arizona April 2003.

** Population estimates in this chart are greater than those projected by Town staff in the other elements of the General Plan because this figure includes population projects for the Yavapai-Apache Nation and the area of service for the Camp Verde Water Company which includes areas outside of the Town's boundaries.

A. GOAL: PRESERVE AND ENHANCE THE TOWN'S UNIQUE WATER RESOURCES: IRRIGATION DITCHES, THE VERDE RIVER, CREEKS, IRRIGATED LANDS AND RIPARIAN AREAS.

Implementation Strategies:

- A. 1. Develop a water portfolio for the Town.
- A. 2. Require new residential subdivisions and commercial developments to provide centralized water service, whenever feasible.
- A. 3. Acquire the existing water companies when financially feasible.
- A. 4. Inform the local ditch companies of all development projects to enable them to review impact on the ditch system.

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B. GOAL: MAINTAIN A HIGH LEVEL OF WATER QUALITY.

Implementation Strategies:

- B. 1. Direct high-density development to areas where water and sewer utilities exist, are planned, or can be established.
- B. 2. Coordinate with ADEQ and various ditch companies to create a drainage system to regulate water runoff to the ditches and river.

C. GOAL: ENCOURAGE AND PROMOTE WATER CONSERVATION AND THE REUSE OF WATER.

Implementation Strategies:

- C. 1. Partner with private water companies, community organizations, businesses, schools, service groups, volunteers and citizens in conservation educational efforts.
- C. 2. Plan and implement Town-sponsored educational programs and events promoting water conservation.
- C. 3. Provide incentives to increase the number of low water use and native plants used in landscaping on properties that do not have access to irrigation.
- C. 4. Promote the use of water-conservation irrigation in landscaping.
- C. 5. Ensure low-flow plumbing standards are required for new development.
- C. 6. Acquire the Camp Verde Sanitary District when financially feasible.
- C. 7. Research and implement programs to increase use or recharge of reclaimed water.
- C. 8. Provide incentives to encourage the use of reclaimed water, especially on open spaces and parks and identify potential reclaimed water users.
- C. 9. Encourage the private use of gray water.

D. GOAL: PARTICIPATE IN REGIONAL COOPERATION FOR WATER MANAGEMENT ISSUES INCLUDING PUBLIC AND PRIVATE WATER PROVIDERS AND USERS.

Implementation Strategies:

- D. 1. Participate in regional water management studies.
- D. 2. Participate in regional water users organizations.
- D. 3. Work with neighboring legislative bodies, private water providers and well owners in water management studies and to promote the Verde Valley's water needs.

EXISTING CONDITIONS AND IMPLEMENTATION CHALLENGES

Camp Verde currently does not own any water source. Privately owned water companies, individual wells, private ditch companies, and the Camp Verde Sanitary District serve the planning area. The Town has partnered with other communities in the Verde River Watershed to form the Yavapai County Water Advisory Committee (WAC) and with central and northern Arizona communities to form the Northern Arizona Municipal Water Users Association (NAMWUA). To date, the WAC has completed or is currently conducting 14 different scientific studies of the Verde River Watershed.

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Three private water companies provide service within the area of influence: The Camp Verde Water System, the Verde Lakes Water Corporation and the Lake Verde Water Company.

The Camp Verde Water System provides service to 960 residential and commercial users. Currently the water system has a total of 12 wells, of those, three are in operation.

The Verde Lakes Water Corporation provides water to the residents of the Verde Lakes Estates Subdivision. Approximately 730 customers receive water from the Verde Lakes Water Corporation. The water corporation has four wells.

The Lake Verde Water Company has two wells that serve the Lake Verde Club Estates Subdivision, located within the Town's area of influence but outside of the actual Town boundary. Information from the Lake Verde Water Company was unobtainable.

The area receiving service from the water companies is considerably smaller than their certificated areas of service. Private wells provide water for areas outside of the water companies' service areas.

There are seven ditch companies that provide domestic and agricultural irrigation service in the Town. The ditch companies are informally organized among their members and are volunteer organizations. In general, the individuals or organizations that receive water from these ditch companies hold senior rights to the use of water from the Verde River and its tributaries. These surface water rights represent a significant portion of the water rights in Camp Verde and the Town could negotiate with willing water right owners and the ditch companies to use unused allocated water to meet municipal and industrial demand in the future. The four major ditches are: the Diamond S Ditch, the OK Ditch, the Eureka Ditch and the Verde Ditch.

The Diamond S Ditch is approximately 4.9 miles long and serves 635 acres south of downtown Camp Verde.

The OK Ditch is approximately 5.5 miles long and serves 600 acres. The OK Ditch is located in the north part of Town.

The Eureka Ditch extends for 7.6 miles and serves approximately 440 acres. The Eureka Ditch runs parallel and north of the Verde River.

The Verde Ditch Company oversees the operation of the largest ditch. The Verde Ditch is 17 miles long and serves approximately 1,489 acres.

Smaller ditches provide irrigation water for specific subdivisions. They are the Bullard Ditch, Pioneer Ditch and the Wingfield Ditch.

The Camp Verde Sanitary District, a Title 48 special taxing district, serves the area from White Bridge to Black Bridge, east of Oasis Road to the Verde River on the south and including the Cliff's development, then west and northwest on Finnie Flat Road to Dickison Circle, as annexed in 1993. The District currently serves 435 users. Upon completion of the 2001 Camp Verde Sanitary District Plant and Collection Line Project, the system will serve 891 users. The District will operate under an Aquifer Protection Permit that meets or exceeds Best Available Demonstrated Control Technology (BADCT) standards.

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Upon completion of the 2001 CVSD project, the treated effluent will meet reuse standards and treated bio-solids may be a commodity available to be used as a soil amendment or fertilizer for non-edible crops. When completed, the facility will be able to treat 1.3 million gallons per day. The wastewater treatment plant is located on 166 acres of Forest Service land on the north side of Highway 260 across from Forest Service property commonly referred to as the "Old Airport Site." The District is acquiring the plant-site from the USFS.

Other Considerations

At the writing of this document, Arizona is in the midst of the worst drought in over 100 years. Arizona is heading into its fifth consecutive dry winter and the seventh in eight years. In May 2002, then Governor Jane D. Hull, requested that the U.S. Agriculture Department declare all of Arizona a drought disaster area. That declaration allowed farmers and ranchers to seek relief from ruined crops and a weakened livestock market by applying for low-interest emergency loans.

Current Governor Janet Napolitano has commissioned a Governor's Drought Task Force. That task force has released the Arizona Drought Preparedness Plan draft. The plan acknowledges that the growing communities in rural Arizona have the greatest need for drought and water management planning. Under a drought emergency, the Governor may be able to impose restrictions on water use. The draft plan currently specifies that providers of potable water will be required to develop a drought mitigation plan. Under these conditions, it will be crucial for developers to prove a 100-year water supply as Camp Verde continues to grow.

The Yavapai-Apache Nation, with lands located within and adjacent to the Camp Verde corporate limits, has potential to impact area water resources. The tribe has an unspecified volume of federal reserve water rights, the ability to access groundwater supplies and a 1,500 acre-foot allocation of Central Arizona Project (CAP) water. It is uncertain how the Nation will acquire wet supplies of water to meet its needs under these rights and allocation and how that could eventually impact water resources available to the Town.

In addition, wells in the Verde Valley that are located in the Holocene alluvium, could be subjected to the Gila River Adjudication, a legal battle being fought at the Arizona Supreme Court level to determine who has the right to the water from those wells. The Verde Valley Water Users Association (VWUA) is sponsoring a well monitoring program to assist well owners in determining if their water draws from the Verde River and its sub-flow or from groundwater. If the Town participates in the well monitoring program, a map could be produced indicating where the wells are that draw from the Verde River. This map could then be used to help determine water sources for future development.

As competitive users vie for this limited and most precious resource, it will be vital for all of the Verde Valley communities to work together to assure an adequate and safe water supply for future generations. A number of studies are currently being conducted to determine the extent of the Verde Valley water supply and effect of a population increase on that supply.

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