

Local Water Production Challenges

Local water supplies include **groundwater**, **non-potable surface water**, **recycled water**, and potentially other sources developed within the region. Many customers expressed support for expanding local water production because it can **improve reliability** and **reduce dependence** on imported water.

Questions We Heard

- **Why can't Camrosa simply drill more wells?**

Developing local supplies is not as simple as drilling new wells. Local water production is influenced by water rights, groundwater availability, water quality conditions, environmental regulations, energy costs, and treatment requirements.

- **Why is groundwater treatment sometimes necessary?**

Some groundwater contains naturally occurring minerals or salts that require treatment before the water can be used. In other cases, contaminants have made their way into the groundwater and need to be removed. In several cases, Camrosa has held those companies responsible for the contamination and secured millions of dollars to fund the necessary treatment.



Conejo Wellfield and the Granular Activated Carbon (GAC) Water Treatment Plant



Round Mountain Reverse Osmosis (RO) Water Treatment Plant

- **What role do water rights play in local groundwater supply development?**

In some locations, legal water rights and groundwater management requirements limit how much water can be pumped. Currently, one of Camrosa's groundwater sources, the Pleasant Valley Basin, is going through the adjudication process. Adjudication is a legal process used to determine the rights and responsibilities of water users within a groundwater basin, including how much water each party may be entitled to pump and how the basin will be managed going forward.

The outcome of the Pleasant Valley Basin adjudication could affect Camrosa's future groundwater production, water supply reliability, and the amount of imported or alternative water supplies needed to meet customer demands.

- **Why not develop every possible local water source?**

Developing a local source does not necessarily mean it is the best use of District resources. Some projects may produce relatively small amounts of water at a high cost, while others may provide greater quantities or improve reliability but require substantial infrastructure investment. The Master Plan evaluates projects based on factors such as water supply benefit, reliability, cost, sustainability, and how they work together with Camrosa's existing resources. This allows Camrosa to consider a portfolio of projects rather than assuming that every potential source should be developed.

The long-term objective is a **reliable, diversified** portfolio. We want local groundwater, recycled and non-potable supplies, and imported water working together so that we're not overly dependent on any single source.

- **Can local water supplies provide most of Camrosa's water needs?**

Potentially. Through the Master Plan development process, Camrosa has identified a combination of projects that could provide a substantial portion, and possibly most, of Camrosa's future potable water needs from local sources. The Master Plan is evaluating different combinations and levels of investment to understand what a more locally based water supply portfolio could look like.

The question is not simply whether these projects can produce the water. It is also whether the additional investment required to develop, treat, store, and deliver that water provides sufficient long-term benefits **when compared with the projected cost and reliability of imported water**. The Master Plan will help Camrosa and its customers understand those costs, benefits, and tradeoffs before decisions are made about which projects to pursue.



Integrated Master Plan Development