

Water Supply Outlook 2120

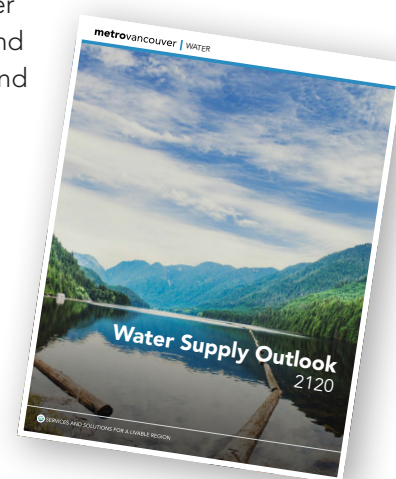
SUMMARY

Drinking water is a valuable and essential resource. In Metro Vancouver, we're fortunate to have access to a clean and safe supply of water that can reliably meet the needs of a growing region well into the future.

Water Supply Outlook 2120 presents key findings and actions from a recent regional water supply planning study conducted by Metro Vancouver.

Purpose of Water Supply Outlook 2120

- To ensure that the regional water system is resilient to risks and challenges, including a growing population, changing climate, seismic events, and power outages.
- To help guide the regional water system for the next 100 years and to ensure continued, reliable, and sustainable delivery of high-quality drinking water.



Resiliency to Risks and Challenges

The climate in Metro Vancouver is changing. Warmer and wetter winters and hotter and longer summers mean less snowmelt will be available as inflow to sustain the reservoirs during summer, when demand is highest. The region's population is also increasing, with another one million residents expected in the next 30 years.

Metro Vancouver's water reservoirs are expected to continue to refill every fall and winter, but expansion of the water supply will be required to respond to the impacts of a changing climate and to meet the needs of a growing population.

The region will likely need additional source storage by the mid-2030s to avoid seasonal supply shortages, which Metro Vancouver is planning to achieve by building new infrastructure to double its capacity to access, treat, and distribute water from Coquitlam Lake. Implementation is underway, and once complete the Coquitlam Lake Water Supply Project will help meet the region's growing need for drinking water well into the next half century.

It is critical that the water system reliably meets essential service demands both during and after events such as earthquakes or power outages. Metro Vancouver has completed extensive seismic upgrades of infrastructure over the past decade, and is currently upgrading critical marine water supply tunnels to support rapid recovery following a major earthquake. Phased implementation of back-up power supplies is underway at pump stations and other facilities to ensure resiliency and continued operation during power outages.

Long-term Water Supply Planning

Metro Vancouver continuously evaluates long-term options to ensure a future supply of high-quality drinking water, including water reuse and reclamation programs, expansion of existing sources, new sources within the region, and new sources outside of the region.

Metro Vancouver's long-term water supply planning study confirmed the region is on the right track by planning to have the Coquitlam Lake Water Supply Project in place by the mid 2030s to avoid seasonal supply shortages. This project will help Metro Vancouver secure an adequate supply of drinking water for future generations.

Beyond the Coquitlam Lake Water Supply Project, Metro Vancouver is well positioned to access additional water supply from within its existing three watersheds. Greater implementation of water conservation and efficiency programs can also reduce demands on Metro Vancouver's water system, deferring the need for additional supply projects.

