Water Use & Preservation Element

Pleasant Grove City

Pleasant Grove
Utah's City of Trees

11/13/2025

S.B. 110: Water as Part of the General Plan

Requires most municipalities and all counties to amend their general plans to address how land use planning impacts water use by December 2025 (17-27a-403).

Four main requirements:

1. The **effect of permitted development or development patterns** on water demand and water infrastructure.
2. Methods of reducing water demand and per capita water use for **existing development**.
3. Methods of reducing water demand and per capita water use for **future development**.
4. Opportunities for the municipality to modify operations to eliminate practices or conditions that **waste water**.

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Draft Document Walk-through

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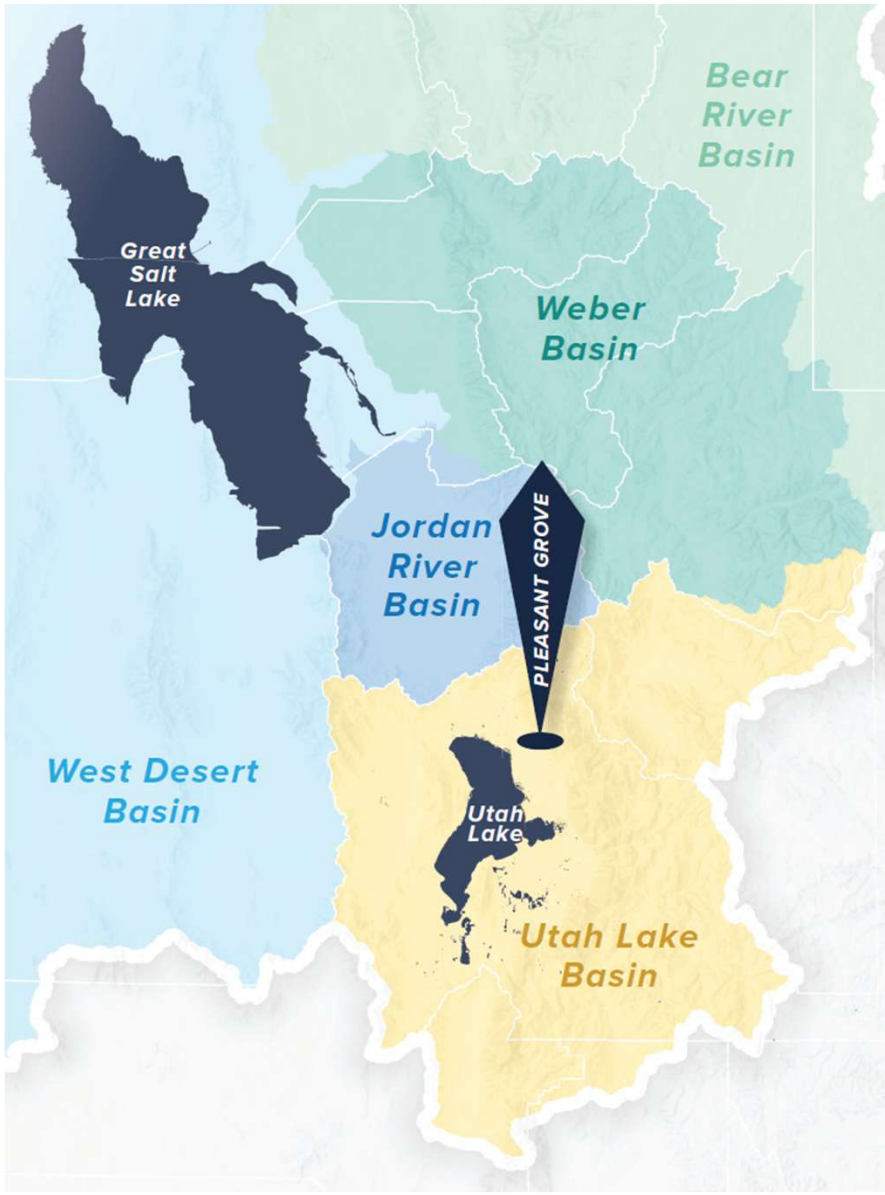
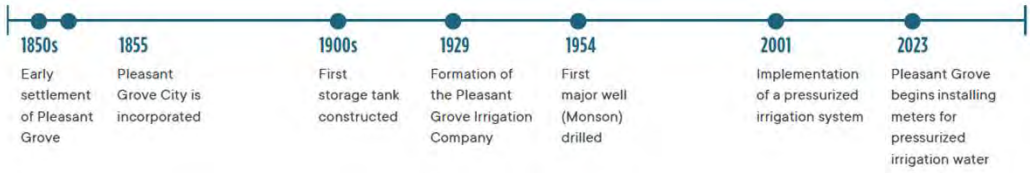
Introduction

- Regional Basin
- The Great Salt Lake
- Regional Reduction Goals



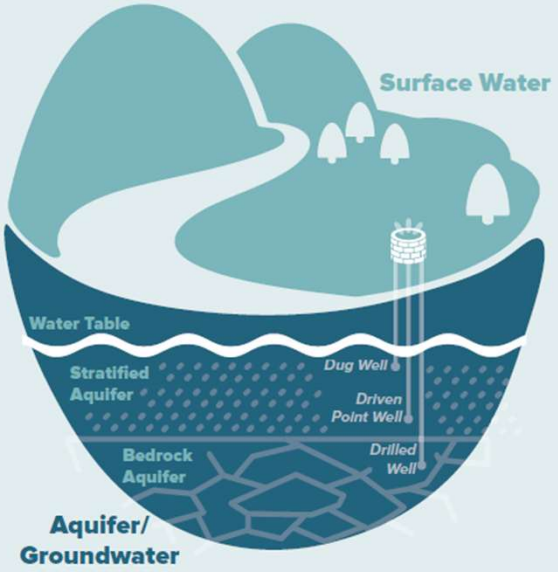
Pleasant Grove's Existing Water Context

- Culinary Water
  - Sources – 2 springs & 11 wells (only 6 operational)
  - Storage – 4 tanks, 2 wells, 1 spring, 5 river diversions
  - Both are adequate for current needs
- Irrigation Water
  - 90% of connections are residential
  - Secondary metering & tiered rate structure near completion
  - Current demand exceeds infrastructure capacity
- Water Rights & Water Shares



Addressing the "Aqui-phant" in the Room

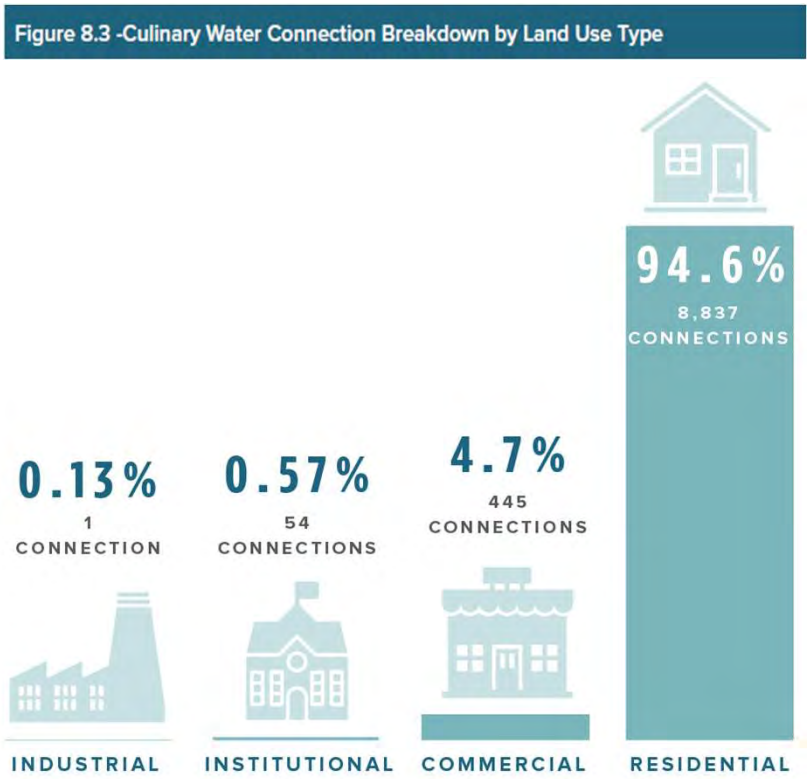
- Water rights are over-allocated
- Natural replenishment/Lack there-of (drought)
- Long-term water security at risk
- Coordinated regional action needed to protect recharge zones and limit overuse



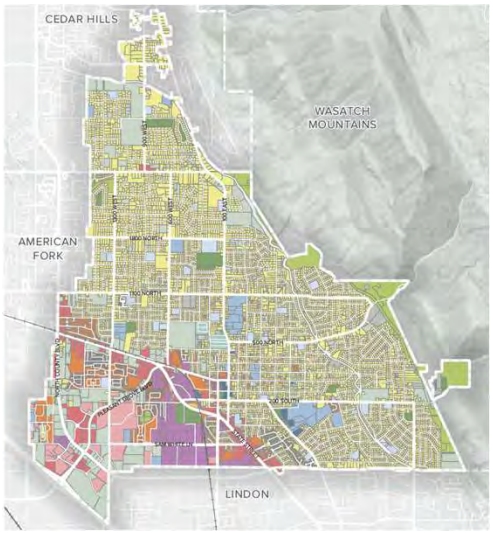
Pleasant Grove's Water Challenges

- Approaching Build-out
  - Ensuring infrastructure capacity, water demand, and service levels remain balanced
- Water-Intensive Landscaping Traditions
  - Large lot, large lawn areas with high water use
- Culinary System Strain
  - Unmetered water loss – leaks and public properties
- Building a Conservation Culture
  - Landscape standards and rebate programs

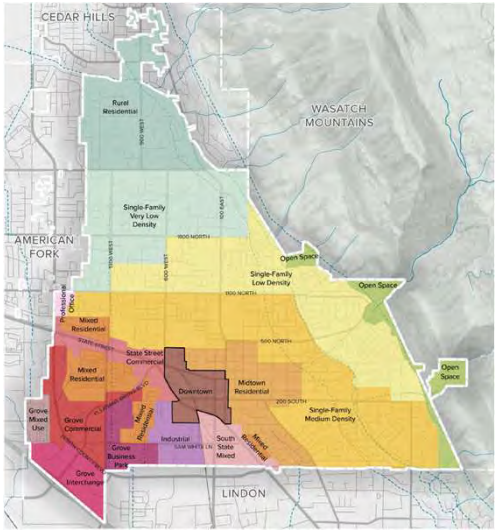
Land Use & Water



- Existing Land Use
  - Residential
  - Commercial
  - Institutional
  - Industrial
  - Parks & Open Space
  - Mixed Use



- Future Use Changes
  - The Grove
  - Parks & Open Space
  - Mixed Use



Landscaping Standards

To address long-term outdoor water demand, the City should prioritize establishing clear, enforceable guidelines that support water-efficient site design – especially for multifamily residential and non-residential uses.

A Landscaping Standard *typically*...

Supports:

- Promotes green infrastructure and Low Impact Design (LID)
- Promotion of water-wise, drought-tolerate plant selection

Limits:

- Limitations on turf in narrow, hard-to-irrigate spaces
- Limitations on ponds, pools, or other features that promote unnecessary evaporation

Requires :

- Restrictions on “zero-scapes” and artificial turf
- Requirements for drip irrigation
- Requirements for irrigation controllers

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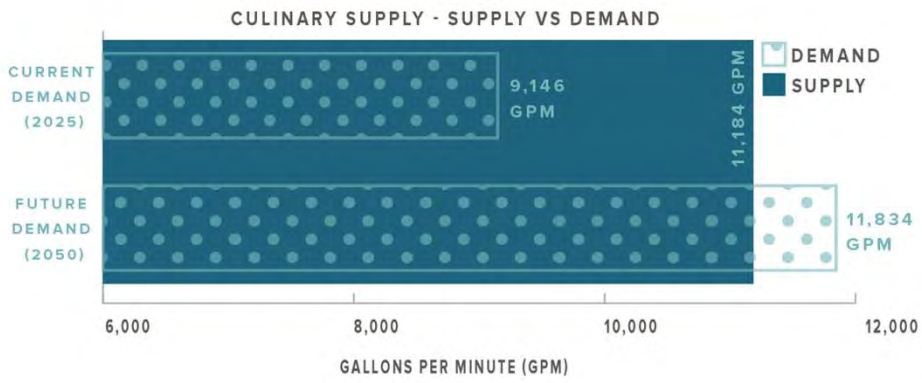
Forecasting the Future

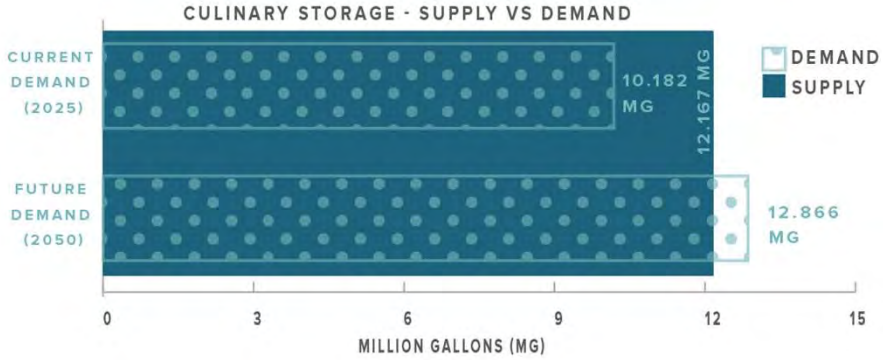
Water Budget:

- A water budget compares the water a community **will need in the future** with the amount it can reliably provide, helping ensure sufficient supply as the City grows.

- Based on projected increases in residential units and non-residential connections by 2050, Pleasant Grove City is **expected to NOT have enough drinking water to meet average demand**

- Currently, **there isn't enough data to determine a reliable supply for secondary water use**. The water budget may be updated to include outdoor demand as usage data becomes available through the secondary metering project.





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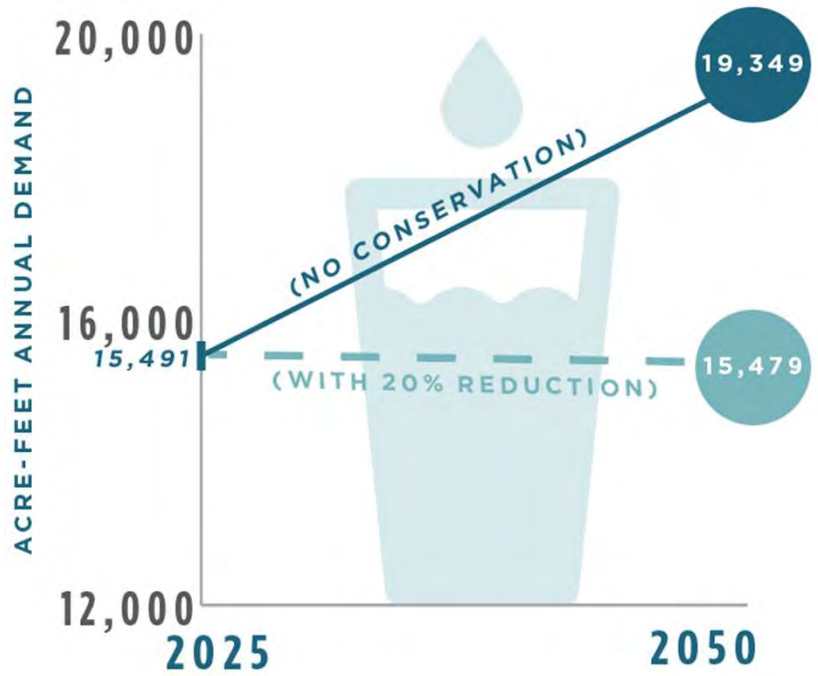
Reducing Water Waste

1. Appliance Upgrades & Leak Repairs
2. Increased Irrigation Efficiency
3. Landscape Design
4. Water-Efficient Land Use Patterns
5. Water Conservation Pricing
6. Education and Outreach



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Looking Forward

- Moving the Needle Further: Ideas to Explore
  - **Minimize Barriers:** Keep water-efficient landscaping accessible for all residents.
  - **Expand Data Access:** Provide residents with easy access to water usage data.
  - ***Enhance Program Participation:** Promote rebate and education programs like Localscapes.
  - **Water Conservation Pricing:** Adjust rates to encourage conservation while remaining affordable.
  - **Incentivize Water-Wise Development:** Incentivize multi-family and common areas with efficient landscaping.
  - **Lead by Example:** Convert City landscapes to low-water plantings and showcase models.
  - **Post-Occupancy Outreach:** Support long-term conservation after landscape installation.
  - **Regional Collaboration:** Continue to support regional collaboration with the North Utah County Aquifer Council (NUCAC) and establish stronger regional collaborations with other agencies and municipalities.

Table 8.6 - Intervention points, tools, and purpose for strengthening water & land use integration

POINT OF INTERVENTION	TOOL/MEASURE	PURPOSE
Planning & Goal Setting	General Plans	Evaluates local water supplies, current and future demands, and related community economic values. Establishes goals and objectives for managing the intersection of natural resources and the built environment.
	Conservation Plans	
	Stormwater Management Plans	
	Capital Improvement Plans	
	Hazard Mitigation, Response, and Recovery Plans	
Water Smart Land Use & Development Policies	Zoning Ordinances, Subdivision Regulations, and Planned Development Policies	Links new development to water supply planning. Determines the requirements applied to new development for water resource management, conservation, and efficiency.
	Water Budgets	
	Demand Offset Programs	
	Building and Design Codes	
	Water Efficient Landscaping Ordinances	
Watershed Resilience & Water Smart Infrastructure	Watershed Planning for Resilience	An integrated water resource management approach helps mitigate the factors that can degrade ground and surface water quality and quantity. Green infrastructure can support these efforts.
	Green Infrastructure and Low Impact Development	
Water Conservation & Efficiency Tools	Conservation Rate Structuring	Empowers and incentives landowners and renters to reduce water consumption. Links community-wide programs to water supply planning.
	Post-Occupancy Incentives and Educational Programs	

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Goals, Strategies & Implementation Actions

GOAL 1 – EXPAND WATER-SAVING INCENTIVES AND PRICING TOOLS

STRATEGY 1.1: Promote community conservation by promoting or offering effective rebates, incentives, and pricing tools that encourage water-efficient practices.

- ☐ **Action Item 1.1.1:** Consider revisiting the water efficiency standards required by the Central Utah Water Conservancy District (CUWCD) for participation in sponsored rebate programs and evaluate whether the City should adopt them (see also Implementation 2.3).
- ☐ **Action Item 1.1.2:** Continue the irrigation water metering project to meet state requirements, enhance system monitoring, and provide residents with data to support more efficient outdoor water use.
- ☐ **Action Item 1.1.3:** Support the Comprehensive Rate Study currently being conducted and implement the resulting proposed tiered rate structure for irrigation water. Align outreach and incentive programs to help residents reduce outdoor water use and avoid higher rate tiers.
- ☐ **Action Item 1.1.4:** Promote regional and local rebates for high-efficiency appliances, irrigation systems, and landscape conversions by distributing flyers with utility bills, leveraging social media, and co-hosting community workshops with partners (see also Implementation 5.2).

GOAL 2 – STRENGTHEN WATER-SMART POLICIES AND DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS

STRATEGY 2.1: Explore opportunities to integrate water efficiency into city ordinances by establishing landscaping standards and development regulations that encourage water conservation and efficient use in new developments.

- ☐ **Action Item 2.1.1:** Explore further opportunities to integrate water-wise principles and language into City Ordinances, Standards, and Development Policies.
- ☐ **Action Item 2.1.2:** Consider developing and incorporating appropriate water-efficient landscaping standards into the City Code for new and reconstructed commercial, industrial, institutional, and multifamily housing projects, including limits on lawn areas, use of efficient irrigation, and drought-tolerant landscaping (see also Implementation 1.1).
- ☐ **Action Item 2.1.3:** Consider developing a comprehensive landscaping standard within the Development Code that clearly defines xeriscaping and distinguishes it from zeroscaping. Establish detailed guidelines for xeriscape design that promote water-efficient, attractive, and environmentally beneficial landscaping practices. Include inspiring examples, images, and best-practice recommendations to support effective implementation.
- ☐ **Action Item 2.1.4:** Consider developing and incorporating appropriate water-efficient landscaping standards into the City Code for new residential projects.
- ☐ **Action Item 2.1.5:** Continue enforcing time-of-day watering ordinance and monitoring for excess use to limit irrigation water waste.
- ☐ **Action Item 2.1.6:** Explore offering potential incentives to developers such as reduced impact fees or expedited permitting for developments that meet high-efficiency water use standards.

GOAL 3 – ALIGN PLANNING EFFORTS WITH WATER RESOURCES

STRATEGY 3.1: Explore opportunities to coordinate water supply, conservation, and demand management across all city plans and policies.

- ☐ **Action Item 3.1.1:** Consider regularly re-evaluating and updating the drought contingency plan to help protect public health, safety, and welfare during periods of drought or water shortage.
- ☐ **Action Item 3.1.2:** As City plans and policies are updated or amended, incorporate clear connections between water supply and demand, conservation, recharge, and reuse priorities, ensuring alignment in both policy and language.
- ☐ **Action Item 3.1.3:** Coordinate regular updates with the City's webpage to add a water conservation section that contains relevant conservation data, rebate programs, and policy updates.
- ☐ **Action Item 3.1.4:** Continue work with NUCAC towards an Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) Project which injects an aquifer with culinary water during low-demand winter months in order to extract water during higher demand months of June through September.

GOAL 4 – STRENGTHEN LOCAL CAPACITY AND BUILD REGIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

STRATEGY 4.1: Strengthen the City's water conservation efforts through dedicated local leadership and collaboration with regional water providers.

- ☐ **Action Item 4.1.1:** Explore the creation of a Water Conservation Coordinator or designate a member of City staff to lead the development and implementation of the City's water conservation efforts. Responsibilities should include coordinating across departments, managing public education and outreach programs, overseeing the City's conservation website, developing and promoting incentives, tracking implementation progress, and strengthening regional relationships.
- ☐ **Action Item 4.1.2:** Establish a Water Conservation Committee composed of City staff, CUWCD representatives, and other stakeholders to support the Water Conservation Coordinator to align on conservation strategies, coordinate regional planning, and co-host educational events. The committee should meet quarterly to evaluate initiatives, recommend program adjustments, and advance water use and preservation goals.
- ☐ **Action Item 4.1.3:** Continue work with NUCAC and neighboring communities towards completion of the 2100 Northern Utah County Regional Water Master Plan.

GOAL 5 – EDUCATE AND ENGAGE THE COMMUNITY

STRATEGY 5.1: Explore opportunities to provide the community with inspiring, actionable, and useful educational resources and programs that promote a culture of water conservation and efficient use.

- ☐ **Action Item 5.1.1:** Explore funding opportunities to transition city-maintained park strips from turfgrass to xeriscape.
- ☐ **Action Item 5.1.2:** Provide Pleasant Grove residents and/or homeowners with recommendations and resources for using both indoor and outdoor water more efficiently (Including flyers, digital content, workshops, etc.) and continue support for the Beautification Commission Water Wise Program.
- ☐ **Action Item 5.1.3:** Consider opportunities to support youth education about water conservation at local schools.
- ☐ **Action Item 5.1.4:** Explore opportunities to co-host community events or workshops in collaboration with regional partners to promote rebate programs and water-saving practices
- ☐ **Action Item 5.1.5:** Consider integrating educational signage in public spaces to raise awareness about water-efficient landscaping and other conservation practices

GOAL 6 – LEAD BY EXAMPLE IN CITY PROJECTS AND PUBLIC SPACES

STRATEGY 6.1: Model waterwise practices through City facilities, capital projects, and public landscapes.

- ☐ **Action Item 6.1.1:** Actively pursue the transition of City-owned parks, medians, and facilities using culinary water for irrigation to metered secondary systems as funding becomes available. Prioritize high-use sites and continue monitoring progress toward full metering and secondary conversion.
- ☐ **Action Item 6.1.2:** Actively support current and future efforts to retrofit City-owned facilities, parks, and landscaped areas with smart irrigation systems, low-flow fixtures, and drought-tolerant landscaping.
- ☐ **Action Item 6.1.3:** Consider incorporating water-efficient standards into all new or renovated City-led development projects, including limits on turfgrass and requirements for water-saving technologies.
- ☐ **Action Item 6.1.4:** Explore using prominent public spaces - such as the Civic Campus, parks, and Downtown District - as highly visible examples of water-wise design, integrating green infrastructure and educational signage.

Discussion/ Questions

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