# MEMORANDUM

Date: April 10, 2024

To: Water Commission

From: Michael Neale, Water Resources Engineer & Water Resources Division Staff

Subject: April 2023, Quarterly Water Resources Division Staff Report

## Purpose

## This memorandum is intended to update the Water Commission on water resource conditions for the City of Fort Collins’ Water Utility over the last quarter, entire water year, and provide updated outlook information. For additional information, please refer to the City’s website: [*fcgov.com/water-status*](https://www.fcgov.com/utilities/water-status).

## Supply and Demand

* Since Jan. 1, 2024, water supply has consisted of 36% from the Cache La Poudre River, and 64% from Horsetooth Reservoir. Generally, throughout the year, slightly more than half of our supplies come from Horsetooth. This year, the pipeline replacement project and water quality conditions have reduced full intake from the Poudre.
* Running total treated water demand since Jan. 1 is currently 103% of projected.

**Cache la Poudre Basin and Upper Colorado Basin Snowpack**

## [Natural Resources Conservation Service SNOTEL](https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/wcc/home/quicklinks/states/colorado/products/basingraphs)

## Snowpack or snow-water equivalent (SWE) in the Cache la Poudre Basin is currently 97% of median. See SWE chart attached.

## Snow water equivalent totals as of May 12, 2023:

## Upper Colorado River Basin: 107% of median

## Poudre Basin: 97% of median

**Cache la Poudre River Flow**

* [Graphical data for the Poudre River at the Canyon Mouth is available online](https://dwr.state.co.us/Tools/Stations/CLAFTCCO?params=DISCHRG)

**Reservoir Storage**

* Presented in the Northern Water District Storage and Delivery Report, as of May 1:
  + Colorado-Big Thompson (C-BT) Project reservoirs (Granby, Carter, and Horsetooth): 83% full
  + Horsetooth Reservoir: 77% full
* Joe Wright Reservoir: 64% full (112% of average based on 14 years of data).

**Water Supply Considerations**

* Northern Water Board will set the C-BT quota during their board meeting on April 11, 2024. As of now, supplies are adequate to meet projected demands for the remainder of the 2024 water year.
* Water Shortage Action Committee will meet on April 18 to assess water supply and demand outlook and determine any potential for water shortage. If drought management action is deemed necessary, the Water Shortage Action Plan (WSAP) is in place to guide our decisions and actions ([*fcgov.com/WSAP*](https://www.fcgov.com/utilities/water-shortage-planning/)).
* Water Resources Division maintains close communication with Northern Water regarding any drought response or policy action affecting the C-BT system. As of now, there is no indication of drought management action needed from Northern Water.
* Water Resources Division is closely monitoring the hydrology of the Colorado River Basin, the statewide and regional discussions around the Colorado River Compact, and any demand management action by the Federal Bureau of Reclamation in response to drought in the Colorado River Basin.

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