



Colorado Springs Utilities  
*It's how we're all connected*

# Water Conservation: Where We're At

Pikes Peak Alliance for a Sustainable Future

04/17/2024

# Agenda

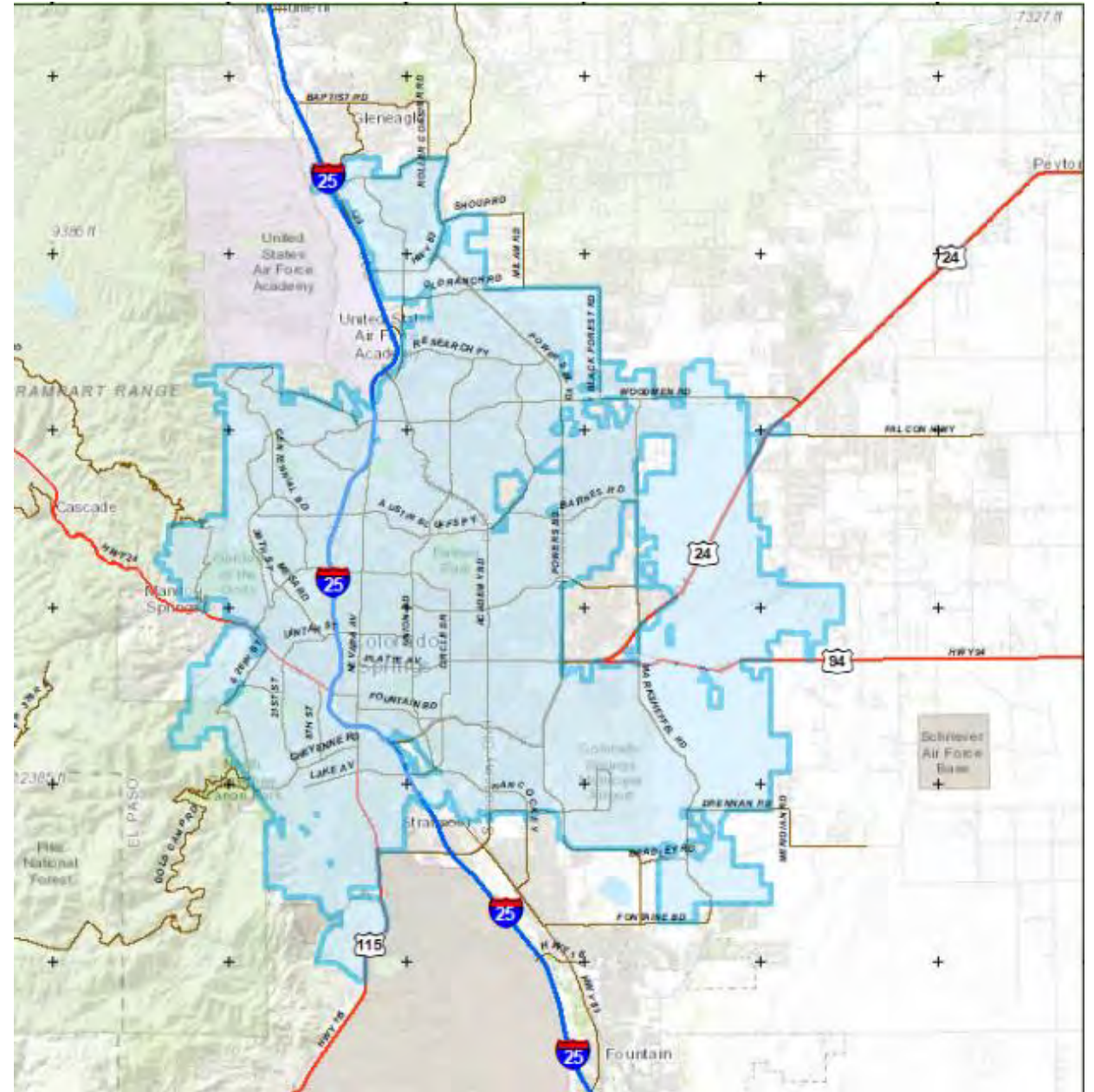
1. Our System and Demands
2. Long-range Planning and the Role of Conservation
3. Water Conservation Programs
4. Critical Program
5. Landscape Transformation

# Our System and Demands



# Colorado Springs Water System

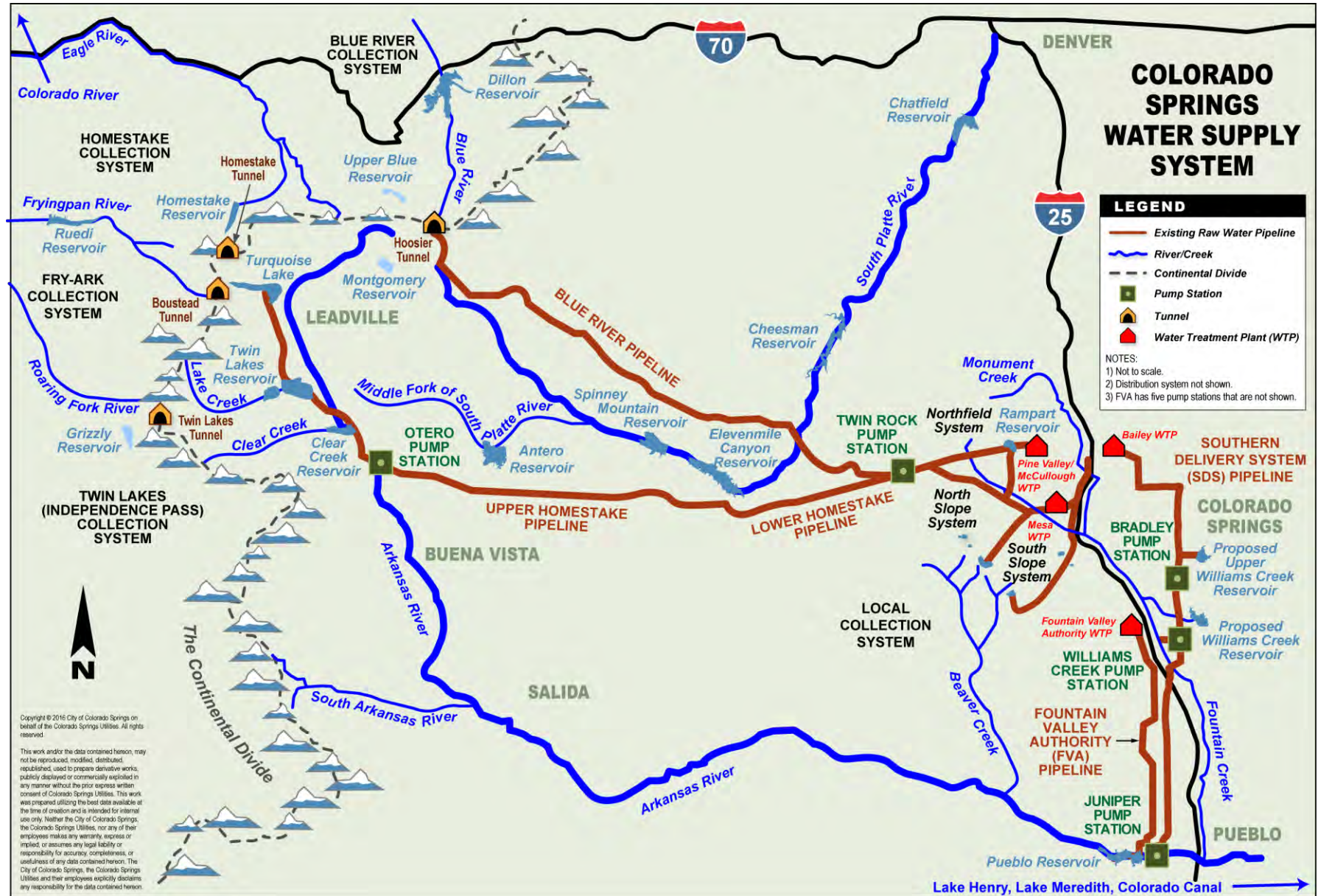
- Service Territory – 206 square miles
- Serve more than 540,000 people
- 68 million gallons per day on average
- Six water treatment facilities
- Three water resource reclamation facilities



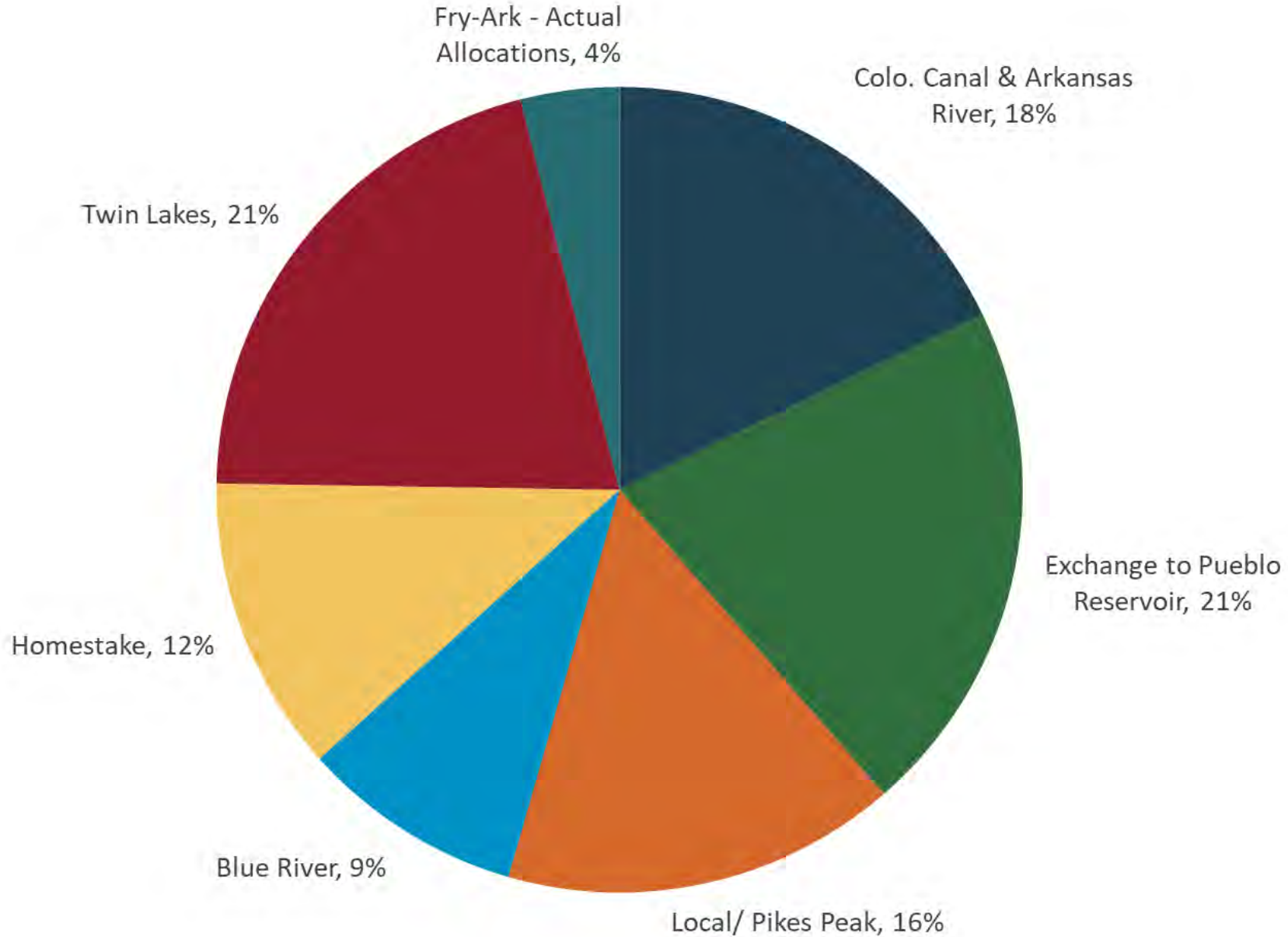


# Colorado Springs Collection Systems

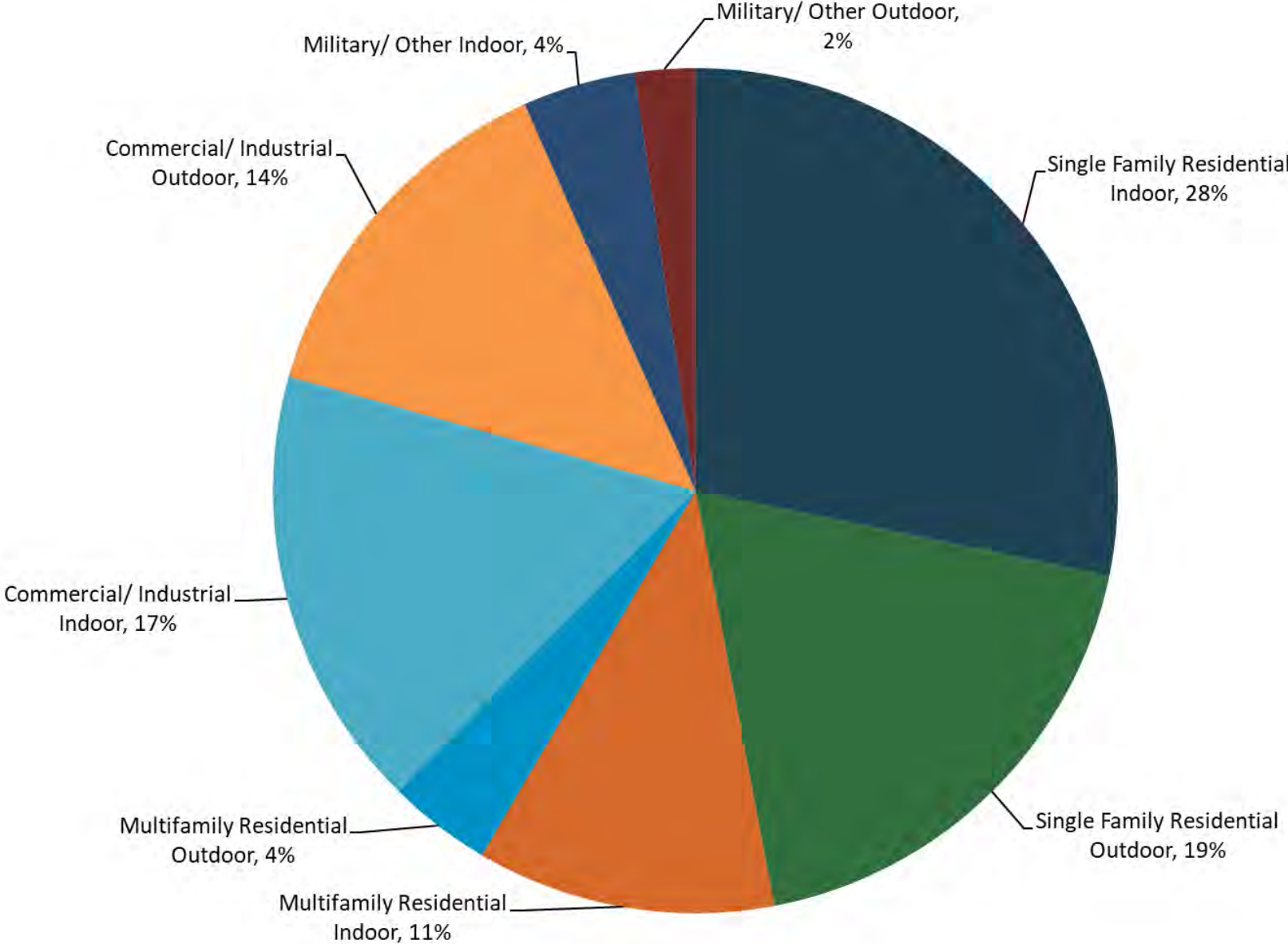
- Seven Collection Systems
- 25 reservoirs



# Water Supplies by Source



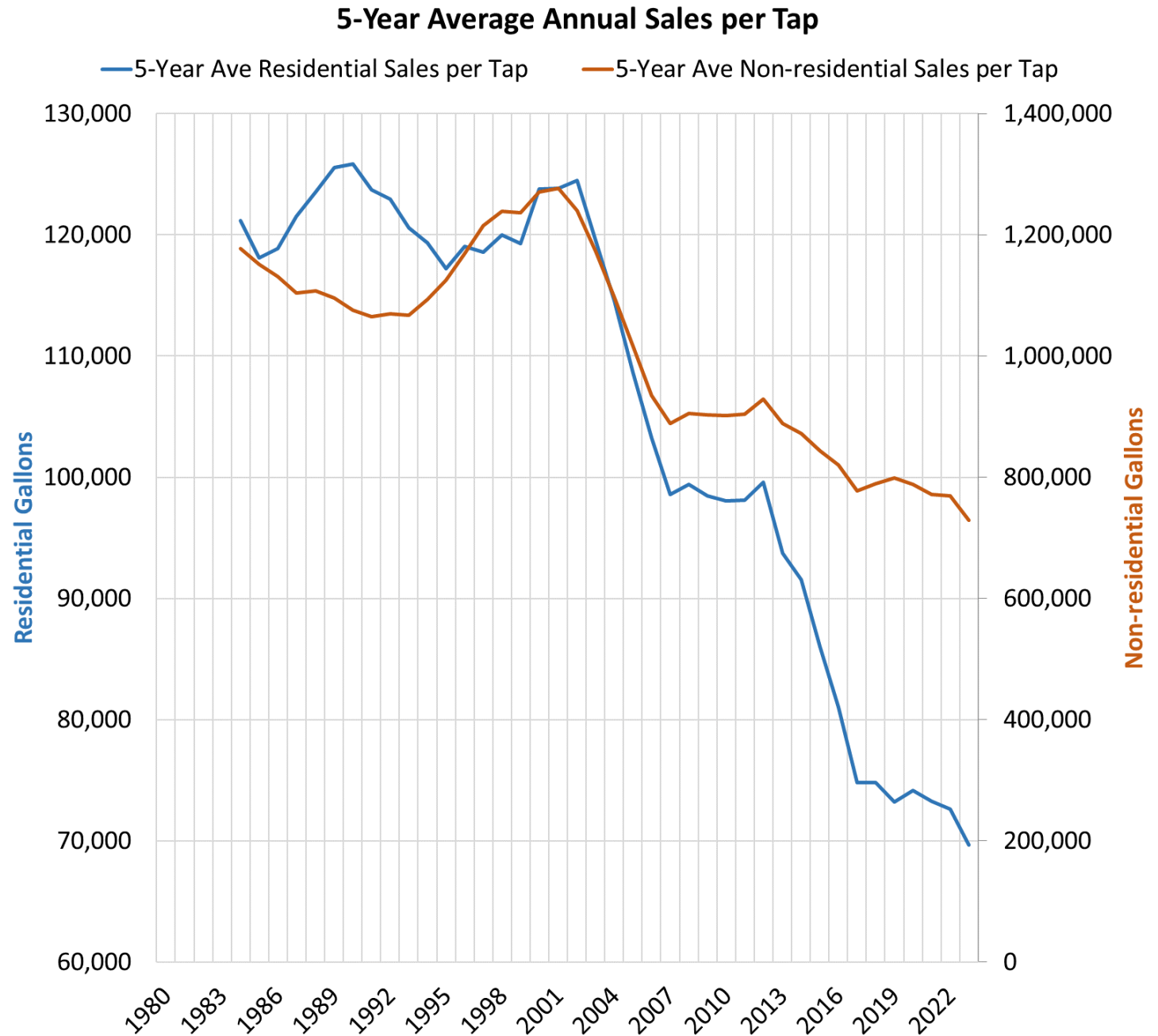
# Water Sales by General Use





# Water Use History

- Population doubled since 1985
- Overall demands are unchanged
- Residential sales per customer are down 40%, non-residential 35%
- Conservation, recurring drought, and increasing prices

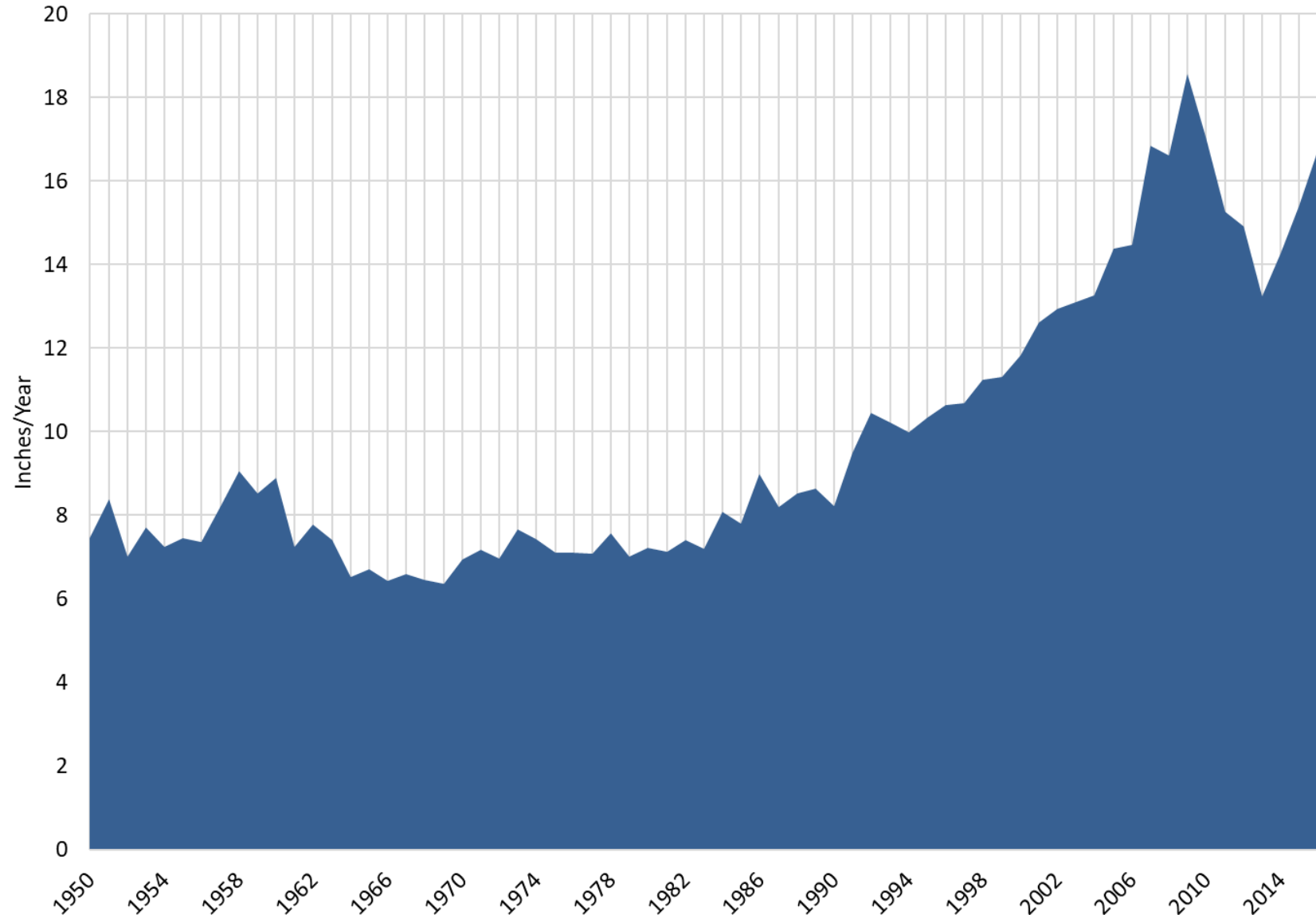




# Underlying Trends

- Irrigation rates are much higher in new construction
- Continued declines in use are not guaranteed
- Conservation efforts are designed to reflect and address inefficiencies

Irrigation Depth by Year of Construction



# Long Range Planning and the Role of Conservation

# Integrated Water Resource Plan

Balanced Portfolio of Projects: 50 Year Planning Window



**All components** are necessary to ensure an adequate water supply and effectively manage risks

**Doing less of one thing = more of another**

**All components** have implementation challenges



Conservation

8,000  
to 10,000  
AF by 2070

# Conservation Targets

Annual savings targets of our 2022  
Water Efficiency Plan:

- 2,191 cumulative acre-feet/yr by 2030
- Committed to another 1,715 acre-feet/year to minimize Colorado River curtailment risks



# Conservation Programs

# Levers to Conserve Water



EDUCATION

INCENTIVES

REGS AND POLICY



# Residential Programs Overview

## Education

- Native Grass Conversion
- Irrigation nozzle retrofits
- First Saturdays
- Conservation Center
- Water Wise  
Demonstration gardens
- Water Use Goals

## Incentives

- Turf to Native Program
- High Efficiency Toilets Rebate
- Showerhead Exchange
- Irrigation Equipment rebates
- Multifamily affordable  
housing retrofit
- HEAP low-income retrofits
- New Construction Landscape  
Installs

## Regulation and Policy

- Water waste ordinance  
(Water-wise rules)
- 25% turf limit in all new  
development including  
residential yards
- Water-Budget Based  
Rates

# 2023 Achievements

- Supported over 3,000 visitors at Conservation Center with landscape education/guidance
- 944 UHET toilets replaced in affordable housing, low-income housing and across multi-family
- Led 32 presentations at state and national events
- Received 3 state and national awards



# Critical Program



# Water-Budget Based Rates: Benefits

- Achieves required water savings and provides meaningful feedback to customers
- Makes water waste more expensive while giving customers choice
- Allows for better drought response





# Industry Best Practice

- Boulder, Caste Rock, Centennial, Greeley already in place
- Denver and Fort Collins and (in 2024) Colorado Springs provide informational budgets



# Holistic Landscape Transformation



# Benefits of Taking Systematic Action

- Reduce water needs
- Enhance vitality
- Preserve trees
- Improve climate resilience
- Drive water awareness



# Vision: Landscapes for a Resilient Future

Landscapes serve as infrastructure to support economic vitality, resilient environments, and healthy lifestyles.

They thrive within available resources and adapt to changing conditions.

Landscapes honor our history while enabling an exciting, creative future.





Landscapes of the Future





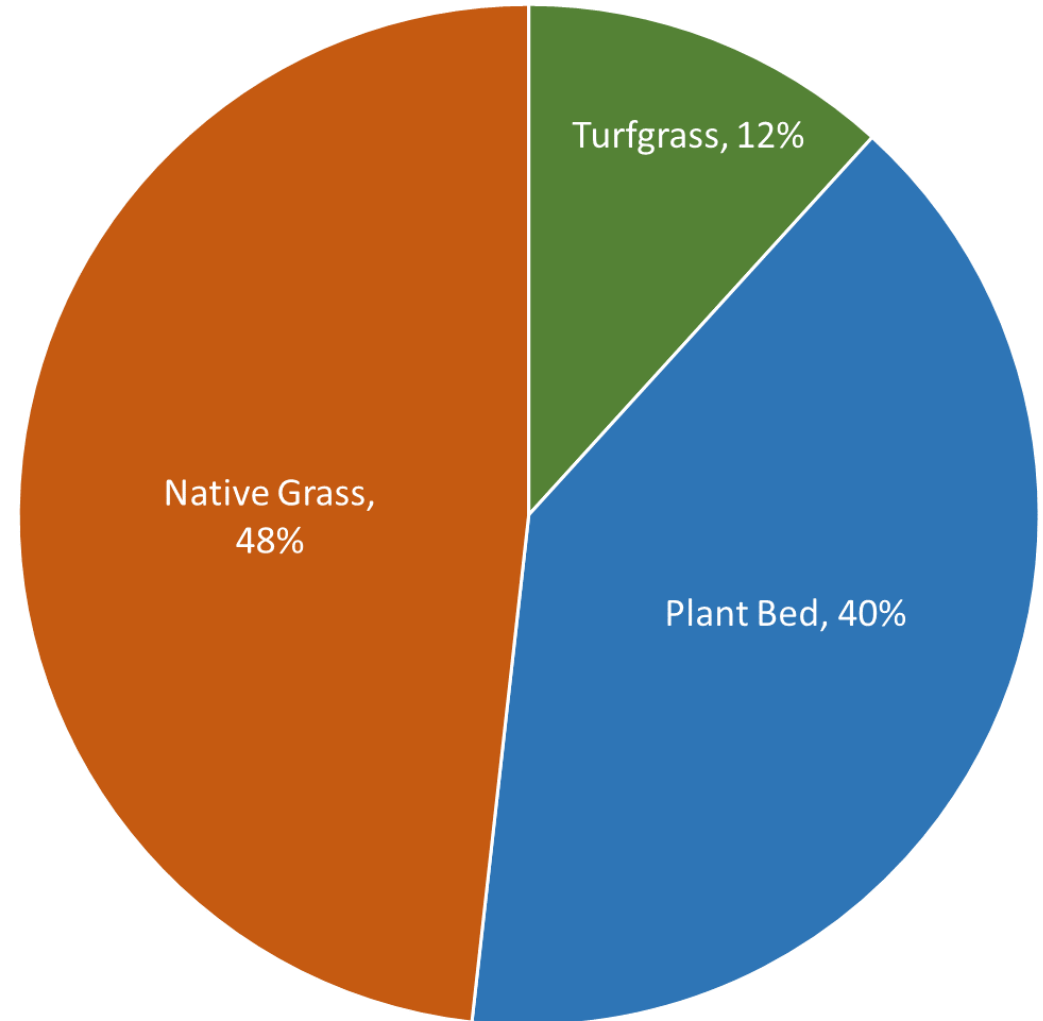
Landscapes of the Future



# High Water Use Turf Limits in New Construction

Irrigable Acreage Composition since June, 2023

- 25% limit in both commercial and residential
- One average, turfgrass comprised 17% prior to the adoption of the UDC.
- Through 9 months, turfgrass comprises less than 12% of new irrigable acres.



# Long-term Focus

- Maximize efficiency and cost-effectiveness while preserving or enhancing livability
- Lead with consistent, expert guidance, and best practices to maximize project success.
- **Achieve resilient living land cover with minimum 50% water reduction.**
- Invest in education, incentives and policies for a sustainable future.







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