CERTIFICATION REPORT

Alliance for Water Stewardship (AWS)

Audit Number: AO-000265

WSAS WATER STEWARDSHIP ASSURANCE SERVICES

SITE DETAILS

Site: **Abbott Temecula CA facility**

Address: 26531 Ynez Road, 92591, Temecula, California, UNITED STATES

Contact Person: Raju Patel

AWS Reference Number: AWS-000459

Site Structure: Single Site

CERTIFICATION DETAILS

Certification status: Certified Core

Date of certification decision: 2022-Aug-15

Validity of certificate: 2025-Aug-15

AUDIT DETAILS

Audited Service(s): AWS Standard v2.0 (2019)

Audit Type(s): Initial Audit

Audit Start Date: 2022-May-24

Lead Auditor: Claudia M. Jaime

Audit team participants:

Hartmann Joerg, Local Auditor

Gisela Galan, Trainee

Claudia M Jaime, Lead Auditor

Site Participants:

-, Sr. Director, EHS, Security and Facilities

-, Director, Dangerous Goods and Environmental Programs

-, California and Site EHS Managers

-, Sr. EHS Specialist

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ADDITIONAL INFO

Summary of Audit Findings: A total of zero major non-conformities, 3 minor non-conformities, 9 observations were identified during the audit process.

The Client is requested to perform a root cause analysis and define corrective actions for each of the non-conformities and to submit these to WSAS within 60 days of receipt of the audit report, by 28 September 2022.

Minor non-conformities must be closed out by the time of the next annual audit.

The audit team recommends certification of Abbott Vascular at Core level pending approval of the corrective action plans for the minor non-conformities.

CLOSURE OF NON-CONFORMITIES: The site has prepared a corrective action plan for all non-conformities raised. The implementation of the corrective action plan will be assessed at the next surveillance audit.
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Scope of Assessment: The scope of services covers the Initial certification audit for assessing conformity of Abbott Vascular against the AWS International Water Stewardship Standard Version 2.

Abbott's vascular business has an industry-leading pipeline and a comprehensive portfolio of market-leading products for cardiac and vascular care, including products for coronary artery disease, vessel closure and endovascular disease. The facility is located at 26531 Ynez Road in Temecula, California. Wastewater discharges from the facility are governed by the Eastern Municipal Water District's (EMWD) Regulations for Waste Discharge and Sewer Use and regulated through Permit Number 710. The facility has two types of sewer systems – sanitary and storm, location Riverside County, Southern California, USA / City of Temecula. The facility is located in the Santa Margarita River Watershed is a Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC) 8 and the Code is 18070302 (Figure 3). Its sub-water sheds (HUC 10s) include:

- Lower Temecula Creek
- Murrieta Creek
- Santa Margarita River
- Upper temecula Creek and
- Wilson Creek.

The audit was conducted onsite on 24th-26th May 2022.
The onsite site visit included the assessment of main documents related to the implementation of the AWS STD and visited the production area, research and development area, waste and disposal facility, boilers, chemicals storage, waste management production and IWRA onsite. During the 3 days interviews with selected stakeholders were conducted by the audit team.

FINDINGS

NUMBER OF FINDINGS PER LEVEL

Observation	9
Minor	3

FINDING DETAILS

Finding No:	TNR-000990
Checklist Item No:	1.3.3
Status:	Open
Finding level:	Observation
Checklist item:	Site water balance, inflows, losses, storage, and outflows, including indication of annual variance in water usage rates, shall be quantified. Where there is a water-related challenge that would be a threat to good water balance for people or environment, an indication of annual high and low variances shall be quantified.
Findings:	The site has presented is data as monthly per quarter. If data was presented monthly and then annualised trends can be tracked more easily. Similarly annual data which is trended graphically will show annual and seasonal variances in a more meaningful manner.

Finding No:	TNR-000961
Checklist Item No:	1.5.5
Status:	In Progress - CA plan approved
Finding level:	Minor
Due date:	2023-May-23
Checklist item:	Important Water-Related Areas shall be identified, and where appropriate, mapped,and their status assessed including any threats to people or the natural environment, using scientific information and through stakeholder engagement.
Findings:	While the site has identified officially reconginised IWRAs in the area it has not identified potential IWRAs closer to the site which have relevance and would benefit from the recognition and intervention from the site. For example Storm water runoff from the Site drains via four points into a constructed channel/unnamed natural creek (open storm water ditch) that runs along the western property line that eventually drains into the Murrieta Creek. This area is an IWRA that is impacted by the site. The site is required to re-evaluate the land closer to home, possibly on a smaller scale where they are able to implement good water stewardship for IWRAs. See below the definition of IWRA. 1. Definition of IWRA Glossary: The specific water-related areas of a catchment that, if impaired or lost, would adversely impact the environmental, social, cultural or economic benefits derived from the catchment in a significant or disproportionate manner. Important Water-Related Areas are deemed “important” either by local stakeholders or by key stakeholders at regional or international levels. Important Water-Related Areas include areas that are legally protected or under a conservation agreement; areas that have been identified by local or indigenous communities as having significance for cultural, spiritual, religious or recreational values; and areas that are recognized as providing important ecosystem services, such as riparian areas, vernal pools critical for breeding of important aquatic species, aquifer recharge zones, wetlands that provide purification services, etc. A High Conservation Value Area (HCVA) is one form of Important Water- Related Area. See AWS Guidance for more information
Corrective action:	Site will review definition and guidance and expand existing list of currently identified IWRAs including those that are closer to the site. Good water stewardship practices at IWRAs closer to the site will be considered and, as appropriate, implemented.

Finding No:	TNR-000989
Checklist Item No:	1.6.1
Status:	In Progress - CA plan approved
Finding level:	Minor
Due date:	2023-May-23
Checklist item:	Shared water challenges shall be identified and prioritized from the information gathered.
Findings:	The evidence provided to indicates that the site has adequately identified their shared water challenges and is insufficient to demonstrate full compliance to the indicator. The site has potential stakeholders in the nearby vicinity with whom they have not engaged on shared water challenges.
Corrective action:	Site will engage with stakeholders in the immediate vicinity (example, shopping mall and car dealers) on shared water challenges. Their responses will be prioritized based on urgency and significance and considered for potential inclusion as targets/objectives.

Finding No:	TNR-001124
Checklist Item No:	1.6.2
Status:	Open
Finding level:	Observation
Checklist item:	Initiatives to address shared water challenges shall be identified.
Findings:	As the site has not completed the identification of the shared water challenge adequately the initiatives which have been identified and provided as evidence will need to be reviewed once the share water challenges have been agreed.

Finding No:	TNR-000994
Checklist Item No:	1.8.3
Status:	Open
Finding level:	Observation
Checklist item:	Relevant sector and/or catchment best practice for water quality shall be identified, including rationale for data source.
Findings:	It is important to note that going forward from Initial Certification that maintaining compliance is not considered to be Best Practice but common practice and that the site will be required to create targets and goals which reflect Best Practice benchmarked against international entities and guidelines, a road map of continual improvement is recommended.

Finding No:	TNR-000972
Checklist Item No:	1.8.4
Status:	Open
Finding level:	Observation
Checklist item:	Relevant catchment best practice for site maintenance of Important Water-Related Areas shall be identified.
Findings:	The site has provided 3 examples of good practice for IWRAs, it should be noted that there are many more opportunities which could be identified for the site to implement and action going forward.

Finding No:	TNR-000974
Checklist Item No:	2.3.2
Status:	Open
Finding level:	Observation
Checklist item:	A water stewardship plan shall be identified, including for each target: - How it will be measured and monitored - Actions to achieve and maintain (or exceed) it - Planned timeframes to achieve it - Financial budgets allocated for actions - Positions of persons responsible for actions and achieving targets - Where available, note the link between each target and the achievement of best practice to help address shared water challenges and the AWS outcomes.
Findings:	While the site has identified loose timelines with non specific targets it is advisable to create defined deadlines and specific targets and metrics. This will allow the site to have new targets each year and demonstrate both continual improvement and the evolution of the Water Stewardship Plan through lessons learned. Actions should align with the following principles: Be prioritized according to the urgency and level of risk, through consultation with selected stakeholders, taking into account their interests and concerns. Be linked to targets or objectives that are SMART: Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, and Time-based.

Finding No:	TNR-000975
Checklist Item No:	3.7.1
Status:	Open
Finding level:	Observation
Checklist item:	Evidence that indirect water use targets set in the water stewardship plan, as applicable, have been met shall be quantified.
Findings:	The site is encouraged to set indirect water targets in the WS Plan and work with suppliers outside of the catchment.

Finding No:	TNR-000976
Checklist Item No:	3.9.3
Status:	Open
Finding level:	Observation
Checklist item:	Actions towards achieving best practice, related to targets in terms of water quality shall be implemented.
Findings:	It should be noted that although the concept of Best Practice is open to interpretation merely maintaining compliance cannot strictly be considered "Best Practice" and it can neither be considered to be 'continual improvement'. The evidence for conformity will be accepted for this audit but the site is encouraged to expand on their AWS Best Practice implementation for water quality for the following audit.

Finding No:	TNR-000977
Checklist Item No:	3.9.4
Status:	In Progress - CA plan approved
Finding level:	Minor
Due date:	2023-May-23
Checklist item:	Actions towards achieving best practice, related to targets in terms of the site’s maintenance of Important Water-Related Areas shall be implemented.
Findings:	The site has only considered IWRas within the site's boundaries. The site will be required to expand on their offering for implementation for maintenance and improvement of Important Water-Related Areas at future audits. Improvement of catchment IWRAs presents many opportunities for good water stewardship.
Corrective action:	Site will evaluate opportunities (volunteering, partnering, educational communication and/or financial support) and, as appropriate, implement them to help maintain or improve IWRAs outside its boundaries.

Finding No:	TNR-000978
Checklist Item No:	3.9.5
Status:	Open
Finding level:	Observation
Checklist item:	Actions towards achieving best practice related to targets in terms of WASH shall be implemented.
Findings:	The site is encourage to look beyond the boundaries of the site for opportunities to implement Best Practice for WASH.

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Finding No:	TNR-000995
Checklist Item No:	5.4.1
Status:	Open
Finding level:	Observation
Checklist item:	The site's shared water-related challenges and efforts made to address these challenges shall be disclosed.
Findings:	Compliance to this indicator should be reviewed pending the finalisation of the shared water challenges.

Signature WSAS

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Alliance for Water Stewardship (AWS)

Audit Number: AO-000265

Report Details

Report	Value
Report prepared by	Claudia M Jaime
Report approved by	Mia Antoni-Naidoo
Report approved on (Date)	11 August 2022

Surveillance

Proposed date for next audit
2023-May-23

Comment The 1st surveillance audit will take place 2023.

Stakeholder Announcements

Date of publication	Location
2022-Apr-22	WSAS Website
2022-Apr-22	AWS Website
2022-May-03	Abbott Website

Catchment Information

Catchment Information

The Site receives water through a public utility, Rancho California Water District (Rancho Water). As described below under Water Service Provider and their Ultimate Water Source sub-indicator, this utility receives water from multiple catchments spread over a wide geographic area. In comparison, the size of the Site and activities are modest. While the Site is in the Santa Margarita River Watershed (1,919 square kilometers or 740 square miles), it utilized latitude referenced above and delineated relevant Physical Scope to the Upper Watershed of the Santa Margarita River Watershed (Figures 1 and 2). This area includes upstream land and aquifer bodies that contribute water the Site relies on (through Rancho Water) plus downstream portions affected by the Site's water withdrawals and effluent discharge (storm water and indirect discharge of treated wastewater through the sanitary district).

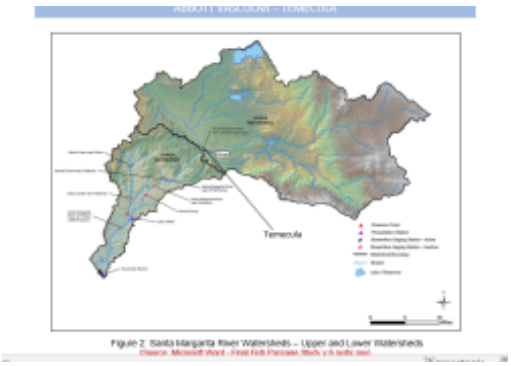
Storm water runoff from the Site drains via four points into a constructed channel/unnamed natural creek (open storm water ditch) that runs along the western property line that eventually drains into the Murrieta Creek. This creek originates in the Elsinore Mountains, runs thirteen miles across southwestern Riverside County through the cities of Wildomar, Murrieta and Temecula.

Headwaters of Temecula Creek originate on Aguanga Mountain (elevation about 4,200 feet) in the Cleveland National Forest within San Diego County. The creek flows northeast about one mile to Dodge Valley where it continues northwest to Vail Lake, after which it flows southwest through Pauba Valley and onto Temecula Valley where it joins Murrieta Creek at the head of Temecula Canyon (also referred to as "Gorge") and forms the head of Santa Margarita River. The confluence is east of the Interstate 15, about half a mile southeast of Temecula. The river flows for about five miles through the Temecula Canyon and eventually enters San Diego County where it crosses Camp Pendleton Marine Corps Base before emptying into the Pacific Ocean about three miles northwest of Oceanside. The Santa Margarita River runs approximately thirty miles.

Murrieta and Temecula Creeks and the Santa Margarita River are in the Santa Margarita Watershed. The watershed is in southwestern Riverside and northern San Diego Counties and encompasses a land area of approximately 750 square miles, of which about 550 square miles lies within Riverside County.

Santa Margarita River Watershed is a Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC) 8 and the Code is 18070302 (Figure 3). Its sub-water sheds (HUC 10s) include:

- Lower Temecula Creek
- Murrieta Creek
- Santa Margarita River
- Upper temecula Creek and
- Wilson Creek



Catchment Santa Margarita River Abbot Vascular (lower watershed).png

Client Description and Site Details

Client/Site Background

Abbott's vascular business has an industry-leading pipeline and a comprehensive portfolio of market-leading products for cardiac and vascular care, including products for coronary artery disease, vessel closure and endovascular disease. One facility of this business is located at 26531 Ynez Road in Temecula, California. Wastewater discharges from the facility are governed by the Eastern Municipal Water District's (EMWD) Regulations for Waste Discharge and Sewer Use and regulated through Permit Number 710. The facility has two types of sewer systems – sanitary and storm.

Summary of Shared Water Challenges

Summary of Shared Water Challenges

The site has not completed its interaction with stakeholders on their shared water challenges at the time of audit.

Some preliminary water challenges which are under discussion with stakeholders are the following:

Potable Water Availability
Potable Water Quality
High Water Demand Challenges
Effluent Quality
Impact of Effluent on Receiving Waters
Catchment Ecosystem Health
Source Water Ecosystem Health Geopolitical Challenges in Importing Water
Stormwater Management
Infrastructure Resiliency
Water/Wastewater Treatment Cost
Recovering Cost for Service/Investment
Funding for Capital Improvement Projects
Investing/Implementing Innovative Technologies
Emergency Preparedness
Regulatory Burden/Emerging Regulations

0.1	General Requirements for Single Sites, Multi-Sites and Groups

0.1.1 *Eligibility Criteria*

0.1.1.1 *The site(s) occupy one catchment OR an exception has been granted.* Yes

Comment

In instances where the catchment is disproportionately large compared to the size, activities and portion the Site interacts with, AWS Guidance 2.0 dated January 1, 2020 provides flexibility in limiting Physical Scope (area) to which the Site applies the principles of water stewardship.
The Site receives water through a public utility, Rancho California Water District (Rancho Water). As described below under Water Service Provider and their Ultimate Water Source sub-indicator, this utility receives water from multiple catchments spread over a wide geographic area. In comparison, the size of the Site and activities are modest. While the Site is in the Santa Margarita River Watershed (1,919 square kilometers or 740 square miles), it utilized latitude referenced above and delineated relevant Physical Scope to the Upper Watershed of the Santa Margarita River Watershed (Figures 1 and 2). This area includes upstream land and aquifer bodies that contribute water the Site relies on (through Rancho Water) plus downstream portions affected by the Site's water withdrawals and effluent discharge (storm water and indirect discharge of treated wastewater through the sanitary district).

Murrieta and Temecula Creeks and the Santa Margarita River are in the Santa Margarita Watershed. The watershed is in southwestern Riverside and northern San Diego Counties and encompasses a land area of approximately 750 square miles, of which about 550 square miles lies within Riverside County. Santa Margarita River Watershed is a Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC) 8 and the Code is 18070302 (Figure 3). Its sub-water sheds (HUC 10s) include:

- Lower Temecula Creek
- Murrieta Creek
- Santa Margarita River
- Upper temecula Creek and
- Wilson Creek

The Santa Margarita River Watershed is divided into two distinct watersheds – Upper and Lower Watersheds (Figures 1 and 2). The Upper Watershed is the drainage area located above the convergence of Murrieta and Temecula Creeks (Temecula Canyon or Gorge). The Lower Watershed is the drainage area downstream of the Gorge to the Pacific. The Site has delineated relevant Physical Scope to the Upper Watershed of the Santa Margarita Watershed

0.1.1.2 *The scope of the proposed certification shall be under the control of a single management system.* Yes

Comment

The Site operates under a single management system

0.1.1.3 *The scope of the proposed certification shall be homogeneous with respect to primary production system, water management, product or service range, and the main market structures.* Yes

Comment

The site's primary factory medical products, water management, products or service range, and the main market structures are homogeneous.

1	STEP 1: GATHER AND UNDERSTAND

1.1 *Gather information to define the site's physical scope for water stewardship purposes, including: its operational boundaries; the water sources from which the site draws; the locations to which the site returns its discharges; and the catchment(s) that the site affect(s) and upon which it is reliant.*

1.1.1 *The physical scope of the site shall be mapped, considering the regulatory landscape and zone of stakeholder interests, including:*
- Site boundaries;
- Water-related infrastructure, including piping network, owned or managed by the site or its parent organization;
- Any water sources providing water to the site that are owned or managed by the site or its parent organization;
- Water service provider (if applicable) and its ultimate water source;
- Discharge points and waste water service provider (if applicable) and ultimate receiving water body or bodies;
- Catchment(s) that the site affect(s) and is reliant upon for water.

Yes

Comment

The Site has presented maps with detailed information:
- Site boundaries;
- Water-related infrastructure, including piping network including: water, wastewater and storm water piping/channel network; water treatment units (for use in manufacturing); wastewater storage and discharge points and wastewater and storm water sampling locations
- Water sources providing water to the site; which include: Potable water supplied by a public utility, Rancho Water; 5-gallon bottled drinking water supplied by Horizon Drinking Water Company; Bottled distilled water used in manufacturing supplied by Avantor Sciences; Per Section 1.6 of Rancho Water's 2020 Urban Water Management Plan dated June 10, 2021(UMWP) and FAQs on the Rancho Water web page, the District currently obtains its water supplies from the following primary water sources: a) Local groundwater from the Temecula Valley Groundwater Basin – 30%; b)Imported SWP (State Water Project) and Colorado River water from MWDSC (Metropolitan Water District of Southern California) via EMWD (Eastern Municipal Water District) and WMWD (Western Municipal Water District) – 65%, and Recycled water from both the District and EMWD – 5%
- Water service provider and its ultimate water source. Wastewater discharge points from the facility are shown in Figures 6 and 7. Wastewater service is provided by a public utility, Eastern Municipal Water District (EMWD).
- Discharge points and waste water service provider and ultimate receiving water body or bodies: Wastewater discharged from the Site is treated at EMWD's Temecula Valley Regional Water Reclamation Facility located at 42565 Avenida Alvarado, Temecula, California 92590. Based on demand, reclaimed water is either used as irrigation water, stored in on-site/off-site ponds (Winchester) and/or discharged to Reach 5 of the Temescal Creek (tributary to Reach 3 of Santa Ana River) near Lake Elsinore. Typically, treated wastewater is not discharged to the ponds or Temescal Creek in spring, summer and fall as demand for use as irrigation water is high
- Catchment(s) that the site affect(s) and is reliant upon for water: The Site's delineated catchment (surface and groundwater) it affects and reliant upon for water is the Murrieta Creek Sub-watershed – HUC 10.
The Site's water supplier is Rancho Water which, in turn, relies on precipitation, local groundwater, untreated import water recharge basins, regional groundwater (aquifers) and water imported from Northern California and the Colorado River.
Source: https://www.ranchowater.com/147/Water-Quality#:~:text=Rancho%
As noted above, the Site discharges storm water to an unnamed creek that is tributary to the Murrieta Creek. Sanitary wastewater is discharged to EMWD

1.2 *Understand relevant stakeholders, their water related challenges, and the site's ability to influence beyond its boundaries.*

1.2.1 *Stakeholders and their water-related challenges shall be identified. The process used for stakeholder identification shall be identified. This process shall:*
- Inclusively cover all relevant stakeholder groups including vulnerable, women, minority, and Indigenous people;
- Consider the physical scope identified, including stakeholders, representative of the site's ultimate water source and ultimate receiving water body or bodies;
- Provide evidence of stakeholder consultation on water-related interests and challenges;
- Note that the ability and/or willingness of stakeholders to participate may vary across the relevant stakeholder groups;
- Identify the degree of stakeholder engagement based on their level of interest and influence.

Yes

Comment: A broad range of stakeholders with water-related interests, influence and responsibilities has been identified and engaged, through a systematic process. These include water and wastewater service providers, regulatory bodies, NGOs, large water consumers in the area (wineries) and Indigenous people. The stakeholder register includes contact information, a log of responses, and the water-related challenges shared with each stakeholder.

1.2.2 *Current and potential degree of influence between site and stakeholder shall be identified, within the catchment and considering the site's ultimate water source and ultimate receiving water body for wastewater.*

Yes

Comment: The Site has include different methods of influence such as:
- Partner: Work together as equal partners to address a common water challenge
- Involve: Where the site takes a lead on an initiative and involves other organizations or groups with a common interest
- Consult: Actively meet or discuss proposed actions
- Inform: Let stakeholders know what you are doing, allowing them to respond if they have questions or concerns
- Reciprocate: Explore if there is action you can take in return

The Site has presented the assessment on a table that is attached.

1.3 *Gather water-related data for the site, including: water balance; water quality, Important Water-Related Areas, water governance, WASH; water-related costs, revenues, and shared value creation.*

1.3.1 *Existing water-related incident response plans shall be identified.*

Yes

Comment: Incident response (and preventative) plans include:
a) Facility's Emergency Response Plan (ERP)
b) California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) Hazardous Materials Business Plan
c) EMWD Total Toxic Organics Management and Slug Control Plans
d) Documents related to Abbott's Emergency Preparedness Planning
e) Site employee training to report emergencies and spills

Copies of the documents are attached.
The Site´s Emergency Response Plan or ERP (attached) specifically states:
Water-related Incident. Specific steps that will be taken during and after a water-related incident are listed. Also, water main shut-off locations and assembly points.

1.3.2 *Site water balance, including inflows, losses, storage, and outflows shall be identified and mapped*

Yes

Comment: The Site's Water Balance includes:
a) Inflows or Water In
b) Losses or Water Consumed in Process (evaporation from cooling towers)
c) Water that does not require treatment (irrigation water)
d) Water that requires treatment (sanitary and process wastewater; select waste streams are stored in three totes of 330 gallons capacity each))
e) Storm water

The above are shown on the scaled map in Figure 7 and 13. The Site does not have a water storage tank.

1.3.3	*Site water balance, inflows, losses, storage, and outflows, including indication of annual variance in water usage rates, shall be quantified. Where there is a water-related challenge that would be a threat to good water balance for people or environment, an indication of annual high and low variances shall be quantified.*	Obs.

Comment

Site water balance including variances for Items a through d in Section 1.3.2 is tracked monthly by the Site and available in the Site's electronic EHS file. Example 2021 data, by quarter is presented in Table 3 in AWS Tables file – Water Balance Data, 2021, separate file. Rolled-up data for the three Temecula facilities is available in Abbott's ENVision database.
Based on 808,920 ft2 of impervious area on Site and average rainfall amount of 5.58" in Temecula during the 2020 - 2021 season, the calculated average volume of storm water discharged to unnamed natural creek west of the facility is 2,813,586 gallons.
Similarly, for the Site's 184,604 ft2 of previous area, the average volume of rainwater that percolated into the ground during the 2020 - 2021 season is 642,090 gallons.
Source: https://weathercurrents.com/temecula/ArchivePrecipitation.do
The Site uses some water-containing chemicals in the manufacturing process – example, isopropyl alcohol and nitric acid. An estimate of this volume based on the 2021 usage of such chemicals indicated it was negligible – approximately 1,100 gallons. Considering it comprised a small percentage of the Site's total inflow, it was excluded in the water balance.
While the Site's water usage increases during the summer months, the public supplier (Rancho Water) is able to meet the incremental demand and provided required water volume. The Site has not experienced any water-related impact in this regard and understands providers have sufficient water availability and system flexibility to meet the facility's peak water demands.
Site records water use data on a monthly basis which provides annual variance information. The 2021 Temecula Water Balance (pag 2) provides an example of the Site´s monthly water balance data.

1.3.4	*Water quality of the site's water source(s), provided waters, effluent and receiving water bodies shall be quantified. Where there is a water-related challenge that would be a threat to good water quality status for people or environment, an indication of annual, and where appropriate, seasonal, high and low variances shall be quantified.*	Yes

Comment

The Site's Water Quality Monitoring Plan applies to wastewater and storm water discharges. In both cases it is governed by their respective permits. Wastewater samples are collected semi-annually by EMWD from sample locations designated SP-001 and SP-002. Sample type is based on parameter and specified in the Site's Wastewater Discharge Permit Number 710 issued January 9, 2019. Analysis is performed by EMWD. For storm water, grab samples are collected by Site staff during a "qualifying rain event" and analyzed off-site by a commercial laboratory retained by the Site (except pH which is done in house) for parameters listed in facility's Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP). Two "qualifying rain event" samples are expected to be collected during each of the two monitoring periods – January to June and July to December.
Varying times of year when samples are collected (and data generated therefrom) reflect the seasonal variation in water quality.
Other water quality information is provided below:
- Site's Water Source: Site does not have any on-site water source
- Provided Water - Information on quality of water provided by Rancho Water source is available from their Consumer Confidence Report (CCR). Further, Rancho Water's Strategic Business Plan, 2017 describes strategies to continue providing high quality water, wastewater and recycled water services.

Rancho Water and MWDSC also monitor for chemicals of emerging concern. This includes per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) which are a family of more than 7,800 chemicals widely used in products that resist heat, oils, stains and water. The two types of PFAS of greatest concern, perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS), have not been detected in Metropolitan's imported or treated water supplies. MWDSC has recently detected in its supplies low levels of perfluorohexanoic acid (PFHxA), which is not acutely toxic or carcinogenic. No other PFAS have been detected in MWDSC supplies. Further, Rancho Water has tested for PFOA and PFOS as required by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and none were detected in the District's drinking water supply.

Sources:
https://www.ranchowater.com/147/Water-Quality
https://www.ranchowater.com/232/Vision-Mission
https://www.ranchowater.com/2015AWMP_UWMPUpdate

- Bottled water is provided by Horizon Drinking Water company. The Q2 2021 analytical report is posted on their web page which provided results on physicals, organics, inorganics, radiological, Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs), dioxin, disinfection byproducts and herbicides/pesticides. Except for corrosivity, pH and turbidity that are within acceptable limits, all other parameters analyzed were

1.3.5 *Potential sources of pollution shall be identified and if applicable, mapped, including chemicals used or stored on site.* Yes

Comment

Potential sources pollution were identified based:
a) Hazards given in their Safety Data Sheets (SDS)
b) Listing as a pollutant in a regulation or in an internal standard (provided it was used at the Site)
As appropriate, sources of pollution are mapped in the documents identified above. These documents are available in Site's EHS electronic files and maintained by the environmental staff.
The potential environmental impact of chemicals stored or used on-site would be from their accidental spill/release and would either directly or indirectly impact a water body. Direct impact would be from a release through the facility's storm water discharge and affect the receiving body – unnamed natural creek that eventually drains into the Murrieta Creek. An indirect impact would be from a spill to the EMWD's sanitary sewer system, be transported to and pass through their treatment system and discharged through their effluent to receiving waters – either ground water (if recycled) or Reach 5 of the Temescal Creek.
During the tour of the site, the important H&S measures, which are rigorously implemented, could be observed and there are no reports of accidents. Attached is a picture of how the waste is handled. The chemical storage and waste collection area was also visited, where a high level of waste management and control is also observed. The audit team was required to wear safety equipment during the tour and to be accompanied by staff at all times.

1.3.6 *On-site Important Water-Related Areas shall be identified and mapped, including a description of their status including Indigenous cultural values.* Yes

Comment The IWRA on-site is the zeroscape area (old Building A footprint), and is marked "Rocks" on Figure 6. In 2013, the Site demolished this building at which point a conscious decision was made to cover the footprint of the building with rocks (zeroscape) instead of landscaping it to conserve water. The plan is to retain and maintain it and continue benefiting from its zero-water demand. Through a routine maintenance program, the Site ensures the area is not overtaken by invasive plant species that would create a water demand.
The status of this IWRA is it is in good condition and using the rating scale recommended in the AWS Standard Guidance 2.0 shown below, is deemed "4".
0. Lost or beyond a financially feasible restoration
1. Severely degraded and will require considerable restoration
2. Somewhat degraded and will require some restoration
3. Acceptable condition but would benefit from improvement
4. Good condition requiring little work apart from protection
5. Excellent condition and protected requiring no work (beyond, perhaps, ongoing maintenance and monitoring

1.3.7 *Annual water-related costs, revenues, and a description or quantification of the social, cultural, environmental, or economic water-related value generated by the site shall be identified and used to inform the evaluation of the plan in 4.1.2.* Yes

Comment The Site's water-related costs are identified below:
a) Water supply and wastewater service
b) Energy, site-wide
c) Water treatment systems – service, maintenance and chemicals
d) Irrigation System Maintenance
e) Fire sprinkler system testing and repairs
f) Regulatory Agency Fee
g) Environmental Consulting Fees
h) Analytical Laboratory Charges
i) Stakeholder engagement and associated activities
Costs for the above items are available and data for 2022 in Table 4 (attached) – Water-related Costs in AWS Plan Tables, separate file.
The Site does not directly generate any water-related revenue. However, it does contribute value through the following work:
a) Social Value
i. Increasing awareness of importance of water stewardship and motivating stakeholders in the water basin to seek similar accreditation
b) Cultural Value
i. Recognizing and respecting water rights of the Indigenous tribe, Pechanga through the Site's water stewardship work
c) Environmental Value:
i. Through the parent company's (Abbott) water sustainability programs and thereby maintaining its ranking in the Dow Jones Sustainability Index (DJSI) – a family of best-in-class benchmarks for investors who have recognized that sustainable business practices are critical to generating long-term shareholder value and who wish to reflect their sustainability convictions in their investment portfolios
d) Economic Value:
i. Discharging wastewater to EMWD and indirectly participating in their beneficial use of reclaimed water, and thereby preserving catchment quantity
ii. Managing select process wastewater streams through beneficial reuse - dust control and pH adjustment and conserving fresh water
iii. Providing a stable revenue source to water and wastewater utilities
Site management is aware of the scope of short and long-term investment/commitments related to water stewardship and is committed to provide resources necessary (including financial support) to meet them through annual budgets

1.3.8	*Levels of access and adequacy of WASH at the site shall be identified.*	Yes
Comment	During the audit and site visit it was possible to assess the adequacy of WASH at the Site level; The site shows a high level of organisation, everything looks in order, there are enough toilets and they impose measures to protect their staff to the utmost. For example, we auditors had to wear masks throughout the audit and despite showing a full vaccination schedule we were given a rapid COVID test, which they give to all their workers once a week, and if the entry system does not record that they have shown negative test results they are restricted from accessing the site. Drinking water is provided through potable water supplied by Rancho Water and bottled water purchased from Horizon Drinking Water Company. From use of World Business Council's Sustainable Development's (WBCSD) self-assessment tool to evaluate access to WASH, available WASH facilities at the Site are deemed "Satisfactory". Criteria for this rating is 90% and Site score was 98%. A copy of the assessment is available in the AWS Plan Tables file – titled WASH Access Self-assessment Tool, WBCSD, 30-Apr 2022.	
1.4	*Gather data on the site's indirect water use, including: its primary inputs; the water use embedded in the production of those primary inputs the status of the waters at the origin of the inputs (where they can be identified); and water used in out-sourced water-related services.*	
1.4.1	*The embedded water use of primary inputs, including quantity, quality and level of water risk within the site's catchment, shall be identified.*	Yes
Comment	An assessment of the Site's indirect water use for its primary inputs have been summarized . Inputs identified represent top 75% spend for externally sourced materials/goods/services (excluding temporary and contingent worker providers). As seen in the table, none of the primary inputs are in the Site's delineated catchment – Murrieta Creek sub-watershed (HUC 10).	
1.4.2	*The embedded water use of outsourced services shall be identified, and where those services originate within the site's catchment, quantified.*	Yes
Comment	The only one vendor for services with significant water use was identified, a laundry company that is located outside the catchment.	
1.5	*Gather water-related data for the catchment, including water governance, water balance, water quality, Important Water-Related Areas, infrastructure, and WASH*	
1.5.1	*Water governance initiatives shall be identified, including catchment plan(s), water-related public policies, major publicly-led initiatives under way, and relevant goals to help inform site of possible opportunities for water stewardship collective action.*	Yes
Comment	The site has identified key policy and planning documents from service providers and public agencies engaged in water supply, wastewater collection, treatment and re-use, stormwater management, and integrated water resources management. It shows a good understanding of the complex institutional arrangements in the catchment, and of the medium-term plans and initiatives of those institutions.	
1.5.2	*Applicable water-related legal and regulatory requirements shall be identified, including legally-defined and/or stakeholder-verified customary water rights.*	Yes

Comment	The site has identified a number of regulatory requirements, principally related to wastewater and stormwater discharge. Going beyond that, the site has also identified the regulatory requirements under which the service providers operate. a) EMWD's Ordinance 59.6 dated January 16,2013 Source: https://www.emwd.org/post/wastewater-control-ordinance-discharge-limits b) Site's EMWD Waste Discharge Permit Number 710 dated January 14, 2019 c) Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure (SPCC) Source: https://www.epa.gov/oil-spills-prevention-and-preparedness-regulations d) California Storm Water Resources Control Board's Industrial Storm Water Program Source: unoff_igp_amend.pdf (ca.gov) e) Building, City and Fire codes (includes potable water and sewer construction standards) The Site relies on Rancho Water for its supply and does not have any water rights. Water provider's (Rancho Water) legal requirements are governed by the California State Water Resources Board's Drinking Water Program. Additionally, Rancho Water's Urban Water Management Plan, June 10, 2021 covers: a) Water volume in Section 3.1.1 b) Water quality in Section 3.2.2 c) Water pricing in Section 6.1.1.3 d) Water rights in Appendix G – Documents Related to Management of Temecula Valley Groundwater Basin Source: https://www.ranchowater.com/150/Water-Resource-Planning Wastewater treatment service provider's (EMWD) discharges (primarily related to water quality) are governed by their National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit and the federal regulations for use and disposal of sewage sludge given in 40 CFR, Part 503. Sewer rates depend on the size of households and the rate structure has four blocks or tiers. For most commercial, industrial and institutional customers, the rate structure is similar to one that used for residential and landscape customers. Water budgets for non-residential customers are based on industry-standard methodology, which considers factors such as the type of business, historical average use and amount of irrigated landscaping. Sources: https://www.emwd.org/post/about-block-sewer-rates https://www.emwd.org/post/commercial-institutional-and-industrial-water-budgets-and-rates
1.5.3	*The catchment water-balance, and where applicable, scarcity, shall be quantified, including indication of annual, and where appropriate, seasonal, variance.*

Yes

Comment	Based on the information on the catchment gathered in step 1.1 above, the site has gathered qualitative and quantitative data on the catchment water balance. The Murrieta Creek, main surface waterway in the catchment, is typically dry and only running in exceptional storm events. Total and seasonal runoff data were gathered from an open-source model and from 7 USGS gages, whose locations are mapped. Rancho Water District's data show historic, current and anticipated future water availability. The Rancho Water supply area appears more resilient against drought than some neighboring areas. While the site is in a water-scarce area, the site basin risk (as assessed through the WWF Water Risk Filter). World Wildlife Foundation's (WWF) Water Risk Filter provides a tool to assess Basin Risk. The modelling tool uses 32 basin risk indicators that are available in the public domain. These indicators are reviewed and updated (either with new data or with a new indicator) annually, drawing upon the latest research and best available data. Risk indicators are aggregated into twelve Basin Risk Categories which then are grouped into three 3 risk types - Physical, Regulatory and Reputational. Use of this tool shows the Overall Basin Risk for the Site's physical address to essentially remain flat between 2020 and 2050 under current and pessimistic scenarios and improve marginally in an optimistic outlook. A screen shot from the model is shown in Figure 14. The base year (2020) score is 3.38. The scoring range is 1.0 (very low) to 5.0 (very high). Source: https://waterriskfilter.org/ Additionally, The World Research Institute's (WRI) Aqueduct™ tools were used to identify and determine water risks for the Site and catchment in general. Their tools map water risks such as floods, droughts, and stress, using open-source, peer reviewed data. The Water Stress indicator from Aqueduct's™ Water Risk Atlas was used to assess future water scarcity. WRI defines water stress as "an indicator of competition for water resources and is defined informally as the ratio of demand for water by human society divided by available water." The projection through 2040 shows the Site (and catchment) to continue being in an Extremely High water stressed area under all three available scenarios – Pessimistic, Business as Usual and Optimistic. Sources: https://www.ranchowater.com/DocumentCenter/Index/38 https://www.wri.org/aqueduct
1.5.4	*Water quality, including physical, chemical, and biological status, of the catchment shall be identified, and where possible, quantified. Where there is a water-related challenge that would be a threat to good water quality status for people or environment, an indication of annual, and where appropriate, seasonal, high and low variances shall be identified.*

Yes

Comment

Water quality data for the Murrieta Creek catchment were gathered from multiple sources. There are 32 monitoring stations with publicly available data in the catchment, for a range of parameters. Quality is closely supervised and considered 'less healthy' and 'impaired' by the authorities, and discharge limits e.g. for nutrients (phosphorus and nitrogen) have been imposed on jurisdictions and service providers. Total dissolved solids (TDS) are considered a significant concern. Seasonal variations are tracked e.g. for ph values and are related to flow variability (dilution of pollutant loads) and temperatures.
EPA's How's My Waterway was used to determine water quality in the delineated catchment. This database is designed to provide the public with information about the condition of their local waters based on data that states, federal, tribal, local agencies and others have provided to EPA. From this information source, the Long Canyon – Murrieta Creek:
a) Has 31 monitoring sampling locations and one current water condition station (total 32)
b) Deemed impaired for drinking water, aquatic and swimming/boating. Murrieta Creek is deemed impaired for low oxygen, mercury, metals, murky water, nitrogen, phosphorus, pesticides and Total Toxic Chemicals
c) Has a Watershed Health Score of 0.49 or "Less Healthy". Scale is 0 (less healthy to 1 (more healthy). This score is based on multiple measurements and based on EPA's Healthy Watersheds Program that considers Landscape Condition, Geomorphology, Habitat, Water Quality, Hydrology, and Biological Condition
Sources:
Upper Santa Margarita Watershed IRWM Plan (ranchowater.com)
https://mywaterway.epa.gov/community/26531%20Ynez%20Rd,%20Temecula,%20CA%2092591/overview
https://www.epa.gov/hwp/developing-watershed-health-index-introduction
In 1986 the Santa Margarita Estuary was added to the Clean Water Act's Section 303(d) List of Water Quality Limited Segments for eutrophic conditions. In 2005 a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for nitrogen and phosphorus was adopted for the tributary Rainbow Creek and in 2018 and alternative to a TMDL was adopted for the Santa Margarita Estuary. Eutrophic conditions cause dissolved oxygen concentrations to fall below 5 mg/l, making it difficult for the Estuary and River to support healthy aquatic life. The eutrophic condition was the result of excess nutrient inputs causing overabundant algal growth and the algal life cycle consuming more oxygen than it produces. Nutrients (Total Nitrogen and Total Phosphorus) discharged into the Estuary and River from the surrounding Watershed stimulate excessive algal growth.
On May 9, 2019, the California Regional Water Quality Board – San Diego Region issued an Investigative Order directing the Cities of Murrieta, Temecula and Wildomar, Counties of Riverside and San Diego and other regional entities to design and implement a water quality improvement and monitoring assessment program for eutrophic conditions in the Santa Margarita River Estuary.
In 2012, the Santa Margarita River was added to the 303(d) list for nutrients (nitrogen and phosphorus), and the most recent 2014/2016 303(d) list includes nutrients as pollutants in the lower 19 miles and upper 18 miles of the Santa Margarita River. The TMDLs are currently in development.
The Murrieta Creek is impaired for bacteria, metals, nitrogen and/or phosphorus, pesticides and Total Toxic Chemicals. While the Site uses nitrogen and phosphorus-containing fertilizer, it applies it per the manufacturer's label. Irrigation drainage and landscape watering in such instances is deemed Authorized Non-Storm Water Discharges per Section IV.4 of the Stormwater Industrial General Permit. This negligible contribution from the Site is supported from the conclusion in Section 17 of the Investigative Order that states, "The owners and operators of MS4s (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System) in the Watershed are responsible for discharges of total nitrogen and total phosphorus from land uses and locations within their jurisdictions through their MS4s to tributaries of the Santa Margarita River, Santa Margarita River, and Estuary".
Source:
https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/water_issues/programs/tmdls/santa_margarita_river_estuary.html
Seasonal water quality variation in Murrieta Creek Sub-water shed was obtained from the Model My Watershed that tracks average loads from 30 years of daily fluxes and is presented in Table 6b in AWS Plan Tables – Watershed Multi-year Model Data tab (separate file).
Information on water quality data is also available from USGS's National Water Dashboard (NWD) – an interactive tool that provides real-time information on water levels and historical data from more than 13,500 USGS observation stations across the country. These include the following in the Site catchment

(Figure 15):
a) San Jacinto Elsinore (Monitoring location 11070500): Current conditions of discharge, gage height and stream water level elevation above NAVD 1988 are available online. Water data back to 1916 are available.
Source:
https://waterdata.usgs.gov/monitoring-location/11070500/#parameterCode=00065&startDT=2019-01-01&endDT=2022-04-19
b) Murrieta Creek NR (Monitoring location 11042700): Current conditions of gage height are available. Water data back to 1997 are available online.
Source:
https://waterdata.usgs.gov/monitoring-location/11042700/#parameterCode=00065&period=P7D
c) Warm Springs Creek NR (Monitoring location 11042800): Current conditions of discharge, gage height and stream water level elevation above NAVD 1988 are available online. Water data back to 1987 are available online.
Source:
https://waterdata.usgs.gov/monitoring-location/11042800/#parameterCode=00065&startDT=2019-01-01&endDT=2022-04-19
d) Santa Gertrudis Creek (Monitoring location 11042900 – closes to the Sire): Current conditions of discharge and gage height are available. Water data back to 1987 are available online.
Source:
https://waterdata.usgs.gov/monitoring-location/11042900/#parameterCode=00065&startDT=2019-01-01&endDT=2022-04-19
e) Murrieta Creek CA (Monitoring location 11043000): Current conditions of discharge, gage height and stream water level elevation above NAVD 1988 are available online. Water data back to 1930 are available online
Source:
https://waterdata.usgs.gov/monitoring-location/11043000/#parameterCode=00065&period=P7D
f) Santa Margarita Creek NR (Monitoring location 11044000): Current conditions of discharge, gage height, dissolved oxygen, pH, specific conductance, steam level elevation above NAVD 1988 and temperature. Water data back to 1923 are available online. Example screen prints for temperature and pH for this stream are shown in Figure 16
Source:
https://waterdata.usgs.gov/monitoring-location/11044000/#parameterCode=00065&startDT=2019-01-01&endDT=2022-04-19
g) Pechanga Creek (Monitoring location 11042631): Current conditions of gage height and stream water level elevation above NAVD 1988 are available. Water data back to 1987 are available online.
Source:
https://waterdata.usgs.gov/monitoring-location/11042631/#parameterCode=00065&period=P7D

1.5.5 *Important Water-Related Areas shall be identified, and where appropriate, mapped,and their status assessed including any threats to people or the natural environment, using scientific information and through stakeholder engagement.*

No

Comment

Two ecological reserves (one on an upstream plateau, the other a downstream wetland) as well as an urban pond with recreational values, and a wetland constructed for wastewater treatment, have been identified as important water-related areas in the catchment and downstream. These are all at considerable distances to the site and with no direct influence from the site (Fig17 attached).

a) Santa Rosa Plateau Ecological Reserve and
b) Santa Margarita River Ecological Reserve
c) Temecula Duck Pond

Another IWRA is, EMWD's Hemet/San Jacinto Multipurpose Constructed Wetlands adjacent to the Water Reclamation Facility which provide additional treatment of tertiary treated wastewater from the San Jacinto Valley Regional Water Reclamation Facility, environmental enhancement and creation of habitat, educational opportunities, and other public benefits. It is now an integral part of the treatment plant, with proven improvement in water quality. It is also a haven for nearly 120 species of migratory and resident waterfowl, shorebirds, neotropical song birds, and raptors (Figure 18 attached). Based on the numerous awards received and visitors it has attracted (including from 34 countries), this IWRA is in good condition.
Source: https://www.emwd.org/hemet-san-jacinto-constructed-wetlands

Finding No: TNR-000961

1.5.6 *Existing and planned water-related infrastructure shall be identified, including condition and potential exposure to extreme events.* Yes

Comment

Water infrastructure in the catchment is primarily owned and operated by the water and wastewater service providers, Rancho Water and EWMD. Both these public utilities have robust finances and robust infrastructure maintenance and capital improvement plans, which are available to the public and open to stakeholder inputs. Multiple individual improvements are ongoing in the service area, but currently not directly affecting the site.

1.5.7 *The adequacy of available WASH services within the catchment shall be identified.* Yes

Comment

The percentage of the population of the catchment without access to adequate WASH services is considered to be very low. The site verified this through WRI's 'Water Risk Atlas' for the Unimproved/No drinking water and Unimproved/No sanitation indicators, which are both below the 2.5% thresholds; which is defined for:

a) Unimproved/No Drinking Water = "the percentage of the population collecting drinking water from an unprotected dug well or spring, or directly from a river, dam, lake, pond, stream, canal, or irrigation canal (WHO and UNICEF 2017). Specifically, the indicator aligns with the unimproved and surface water categories of the Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP)—the lowest tiers of drinking water services. Higher values indicate areas where people have less access to safe drinking water supplies."
b) Unimproved/No Sanitation = "the percentage of the population using pit latrines without a slab or platform, hanging/bucket latrines, or directly disposing human waste in fields, forests, bushes, open bodies of water, beaches, other open spaces, or with solid waste (WHO and UNICEF 2017). Specifically, the indicator aligns with JMP's unimproved and open defecation categories— the lowest tier of sanitation services. Higher values indicate areas where people have less access to improved sanitation services."

The default setting in the tool is 5% which represent examples of thresholds that have been adopted by the private sector. Output is presented in Table 7 – Water Risk Atlas Outputs in AWS Plan Tables, separate file.
Source: https://www.wri.org/aqueduct
There are no indications otherwise from publicly available data.

1.6 *Understand current and future shared water challenges in the catchment, by linking the water challenges identified by stakeholders with the site's water challenges.*

1.6.1 *Shared water challenges shall be identified and prioritized from the information gathered.* No

Comment	Information is summarized in Table 2 of AWS Plan Tables – Shareholder Engagement Log tab (separate file). Additionally, the Site was preparing a following meeting with stakeholders in order to prioritize and identify (if possible) new shared water challenges. ***Finding No: TNR-000989***	
1.6.2	*Initiatives to address shared water challenges shall be identified.*	Obs.
Comment	Refers to the Initiatives indicated in the Water Stewardship Plan	
1.7	*Understand the site's water risks and opportunities: Assess and prioritize the water risks and opportunities affecting the site based upon the status of the site, existing risk management plans and/or the issues and future risk trends identified in 1.6.*	
1.7.1	*Water risks faced by the site shall be identified, and prioritized, including likelihood and severity of impact within a given timeframe, potential costs and business impact.*	Yes
Comment	The site applied WWF's Water Risk Filter's Operation Risk assessment module.	
1.7.2	*Water-related opportunities shall be identified, including how the site may participate, assessment and prioritization of potential savings, and business opportunities.*	Yes
Comment	A total of 5 high-priority opportunities were identified, through assessments of their potential benefits, feasibility, timeframe, cost, as well as rationale and link to a specific water challenge. All of these are reflected in the Water Stewardship Plan.	
1.8	*Understand best practice towards achieving AWS outcomes: Determining sectoral best practices having a local/catchment, regional, or national relevance.*	
1.8.1	*Relevant catchment best practice for water governance shall be identified.*	Yes

Comment

Best practices for water governance are described in:
a) Management System and Accountability:
- Santa Margarita River Watershed Watermaster: On January 25, 1951, the United States of America sued Fallbrook Public Utility District to seek a judicial determination of all respective water rights within the Santa Margarita River Watershed. The Final Judgment and Decree was entered on May 8, 1963 and appealed. A Modified Final Judgment and Decree was entered on April 6, 1966. In March 1989, the Court appointed a Watermaster and Steering Committee to administer and enforce provisions of the final decree. Committee representatives include staff from the federal government, several regional water utilities and the Pechanga Band of Luiseño Mission Indians. The purpose of the Steering Committee is to assist the Watermaster and Court in the oversight management of the resolved water sharing dispute. Rancho Water (Site's water supplier) complies with this Agreement.
- Water Governance Facility: Refers to political, social, economic and administrative systems in place that influence water's use and management. Essentially, who gets what water, when and how, and who has the right to water and related services, and their benefits. The political issues and resolution regarding water rights of the Santa Margarita River are captured in Item a above. The administrative system is afforded through regulations administered by agencies including U.S. EPA, California Storm Water Regional Control Board, Rancho Water's Administrative Code and EMWD Wastewater Control Ordinance.
b) Continuous Improvement:
- Advanced water governance in the Santa Ana River watershed as referenced in Setting Water Targets Informed by Catchment Context – Case Study: Santa Ana River Watershed, California, August 2019. The report states, "Developing site water targets that account for catchment conditions—the context— can help companies reduce their water risk and improve water security by aligning corporate water strategies with public sector policies and goals." This case study references AWS.
- CEO Water Mandate: One of the six core areas where member companies (Abbott is not a member) agree on continuous improvement related to water stewardship is Direct Operations. The Site has included two of the five proposed actions in this core area including water use assessment and water use targets in operations. These objectives are reflected in the Improve Site Water Balance (EMWD meter data work).
c) Stakeholder Collaboration and Transparency:
- Riverside County Watershed Protection – a partnership program between Riverside County, the Flood Control and Water Conservation District, Coachella Valley Water District and 27 cities that manage watershed programs which protect, preserve and enhance the quality of the water and the natural environment of the region's watersheds. The partnership uses a combination of public education, best management practices, evaluation and water quality monitoring to eliminate stormwater pollution in the waterways and comply with applicable federal, state and local regulations. The program's aim is to empower residents with information about pollution prevention and implement tactics that keep watersheds healthy.
- Pacific Institute's Global Water Governance in the 21st Century, July 2013: This document describes the "The What, Who and How" of water governance. The paper identifies key deficiencies in global water governance and offered recommendations. Site's Water Stewardship Plan projects with City of Temecula Parks and Garden Project and Wilson Creek Winery mulch project are good examples of one of the proposals – "Promote greater collaboration among organizations engaged in water governance to build understanding and coordinate action."
Sources: https://www.smrwm.org/?page_id=263
https://law.justia.com/cases/federal/district-courts/FSupp/193/342/1733894/
https://www.watergovernance.org/
https://pacinst.org/publication/setting-site-water-targets-informed-by-catchment-context-case-study-santa-ana-river-watershed-california/
https://ceowatermandate.org/
https://ceowatermandate.org/about/six-commitment-areas/#1529600036526-75d9e107-daea
https://rcwatershed.org/
https://pacinst.org/publication/global-water-governance-in-the-21st-century-2/

1.8.2 *Relevant sector and/or catchment best practice for water balance (either through water efficiency or less total water use) shall be identified.* Yes

Comment

Relevant sector best practices are available from EPA's WaterSense at Work:
Best Management Practices for Commercial and Institutional Facilities
Source: https://www.epa.gov/watersense
Relevant catchment best practices for water balance are provided by the Riverside County Watershed Protection and are available at:
Sources:
https://rcwatershed.org/2015/12/15/how-can-i-conserve-water/
https://saveourwater.com/en/How-to-Save-Water/Around-the-House
https://www.bewaterwise.com/
Water Savings Incentive Program (WSIP) implemented by SoCal Water$mart's on behalf of MWDSC that is designed for non-residential customers to improve their water efficiency through upgraded equipment or services that do not qualify for standard rebates.
Source: https://socalwatersmart.com/en/commercial/water-savings-incentive-program/
Another example of best practice in the catchment is EMWD's full utilization of available recycled wastewater. One of the few agencies to achieve this level of reclaim and one of the largest by-volume water recyclers in the nation
Source: https://www.emwd.org/recycled-water-service

1.8.3 *Relevant sector and/or catchment best practice for water quality shall be identified, including rationale for data source.* Obs.

Comment

Relevant sector best practices for wastewater quality include applicability of EPA's Metal Finishing Point Source Category (40 CFR Part 433). Site complies with all wastewater discharge requirements.
Other relevant industrial/catchment best practices for water quality include:
a) Regulatory requirements for water quality and discharge criteria/limits for wastewater and storm water discharges from facilities
b) City of Temecula Jurisdictional Runoff Management Plan 2018 which describes the City's urban runoff management programs implemented to comply with the requirements of the NPDES MS4 Permit.
Source: https://temeculaca.gov/792/Water-Quality-Stormwater
c) Best Management Practices provided in the California Storm Water Resources Board's Industrial General Permit Order
Source: unoff_igp_amend.pdf (ca.gov)
d) Inspections by governing bodies (EMWD, City of Temecula, California Storm Water Resources Board and County of Riverside Department of Health) to ensure adequate chemical spill prevention measures and practices that could potentially impact waterways are implemented
e) Wastewater and storm water sampling requirements to ensure compliance with discharge criteria
f) Obligation to notify regulatory authorities in the event of:
- chemical spill
- discharge of a slug release to the wastewater treatment facility
- known violation of a permit condition

1.8.4 *Relevant catchment best practice for site maintenance of Important Water-Related Areas shall be identified.* Obs.

Comment

There are programs described below that are good examples of maintaining IWRAs in the catchment Scope through public awareness for both current and future generations.
A non-profit organization, Santa Rosa Plateau Nature Education Foundation (SRPF) conducts several education programs for area school children including Environmental Education Pathway, Third Grade Program, Habitat Studies and others. They are geared towards providing progressively more exciting and advanced nature activities and field studies beginning with elementary school students. As described by SRPF, "Children and youth in our communities will become the new generation of environmental stewards with an active understanding and love for the natural world in which they live. Our unique program of funding and developing hands-on environmental programs is designed to encourage innovative projects that inspire, educate and empower children and youth to appreciate, preserve and protect nature."
Source: https://srpnef.org/
The Santa Margarita Ecological Reserve (SMER) provides protected sites for research and education of southern California ecosystems. The reserve is managed by San Diego State University and maintains classrooms and housing for visiting researchers and students. SMER supports an active scientific research program, provides an outdoor classroom for education and outreach, and protects critical wildlife habitat.
Source: https://fsp.sdsu.edu/about-us/
Another unique best practice are EMWD's Hemet/San Jacinto Multipurpose Constructed Wetlands which provide additional treatment of tertiary treated wastewater from the San Jacinto Valley Regional Water Reclamation Facility, environmental enhancement and creation of habitat, educational opportunities, and other public benefits. It is now an integral part of the treatment plant, with proven improvement in water quality. They augment removal capabilities without necessitating the expenditure of funds on biological nutrient removal at the Water Reclamation Facility. They also showcase value and public acceptance of reclaimed water. Public and educational use of the wetlands, as well as offering the wetlands as a site for research by others, provides recognition for the District, advances science, provides an opportunity to share technology, is low-cost, and provides tangible and intangible public benefits.
Source: https://www.emwd.org/hemet-san-jacinto-constructed-wetlands

1.8.5 *Relevant sector and/or catchment best practice for site provision of equitable and adequate WASH services shall be identified.*

Yes

Comment

Catchment best practices for the site are reflected from the conclusion drawn in Section 1.5.7 on adequate WASH services being available in the area. Additionally, UNICEF's Progress on Household Drinking Water, Sanitation and Hygiene, 2000 - 2020 publication dated July 2021 that is referenced in the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) describes five levels of service each for drinking water and sanitation hygiene shown below. The highest level, "Safely Managed" for both water and sanitation reflect best practices and are available at the Site.
Another example of best practice at the Site is allegiance to uphold Abbott's commitment to improving access to clean water in communities around the world and to reducing and efficiently managing our company's own use of water. This pledge is communicated through the Water Policy that is available externally at Environmental Policy | Abbott U.S.

2	STEP 2: COMMIT & PLAN - Commit to be a responsible water steward and develop a Water Stewardship Plan	
2.1	*Commit to water stewardship by having the senior-most manager in charge of water at the site, or if necessary, a suitable individual within the organization head office, sign and publicly disclose a commitment to water stewardship, the implementation of the AWS Standard and achieving its five outcomes, and the allocation of required resources.*	
2.1.1	*A signed and publicly disclosed site statement OR organizational document shall be identified. The statement or document shall include the following commitments:* *- That the site will implement and disclose progress on water stewardship program(s) to achieve improvements in AWS water stewardship outcomes* *- That the site implementation will be aligned to and in support of existing catchment sustainability plans* *- That the site's stakeholders will be engaged in an open and transparent way* *- That the site will allocate resources to implement the Standard.*	Yes
Comment	An adequate, up-to-date and signed statement is posted at the Abbott USA website. Additionally, an update to Abbott USA's EHS policy (also publicly available) to reflect the recent AWS commitment, is under consideration. Abbott's Water Policy is also publicly available. The AWS commitment is also communicated internally.	
2.2	*Develop and document a process to achieve and maintain legal and regulatory compliance.*	
2.2.1	*The system to maintain compliance obligations for water and wastewater management shall be identified, including:* *- Identification of responsible persons/positions within facility organizational structure* *- Process for submissions to regulatory agencies.*	Yes
Comment	System to maintain compliance obligations for water and wastewater management include annual completion of regulatory self-assessment using Young and Global Partners EHS Audit Protocol at https://ynpglobal.com/global-ehs-audit-protocol/. Internal Abbott access is through https://www.ehslex.com/CL/C293627/ Responsible positions in the organization and process for submissions to regulatory agencies are covered in Section 5.3 of AV Temecula Environmental Management System document, SHE 2112914. Process for submissions to regulatory agencies entails: a) Submission reminders from regulatory agencies (example EMWD including Total Toxic Organics or TTO certification certification) b) Maintaining a Quickbase -based compliance calendar c) Collecting required data/information, preparing submission, obtaining required signature/fees and submitting required reports. The governing regulatory agency specifies information required to be submitted d) Information on regulatory compliance inspections/reports, written non-compliance notifications, corrective actions, Notices of Violations and fines/penalties are entered in Action Management – an internal Web-based computer system maintained by the parent organization, Abbott to report, manage, and document closure of EHS actions. All Abbott facilities are required to use this system and the EHS Business Analyst manages this task for the Site	
2.3	*Create a water stewardship strategy and plan including addressing risks (to and from the site), shared catchment water challenges, and opportunities.*	
2.3.1	*A water stewardship strategy shall be identified that defines the overarching mission, vision, and goals of the organization towards good water stewardship in line with this AWS Standard.*	Yes

Comment	Strategy statement: “The Site’s Water Strategy is to achieve and sustain a water-secure catchment now and in the future. The Site will advance water sustainability through ongoing compliance, implementing best practices and collaborating with stakeholders to safeguard the community, cultural, environmental and economic value of water. To accomplish this strategy, the Site will engage relevant stakeholders and lead or facilitate stewardship projects to alleviate water challenges identified in the catchment.”	
2.3.2	*A water stewardship plan shall be identified, including for each target:* *- How it will be measured and monitored* *- Actions to achieve and maintain (or exceed) it* *- Planned timeframes to achieve it* *- Financial budgets allocated for actions* *- Positions of persons responsible for actions and achieving targets* *- Where available, note the link between each target and the achievement of best practice to help address shared water challenges and the AWS outcomes.*	Obs.
Comment	Between 1-3 targets have been formulated for each of AWS outcome areas governance, quantity, quality, IWRAs; not target has been included for WASH as no significant opportunities for improvement were identified. The site has mentioned that at the next stakeholder meeting (June 2022), once the "shared water challenges" have been prioritized, the budget to be allocated to the resulting actions can be precisely defined. However, as stated in their public commitment, the site has sufficient budget for the implementation of their WSP actions.	
2.4	*Demonstrate the site’s responsiveness and resilience to respond to water risks*	
2.4.1	*A plan to mitigate or adapt to identified water risks developed in co-ordination with relevant public-sector and infrastructure agencies shall be identified.*	Yes

Comment

The Site's internal responsiveness and resilience to respond to water risks is covered in the Emergency Response Plan, ERP (available in Site EHS electronic file). However, this indicator also applies to Site's plan to address external risks outside of the site's direct control or responsibility, and particularly for those risks associated with dependence on public infrastructure and those are discussed below.
Section 2013 of America's Water Infrastructure Act (AWIA) that became effective October 23, 2018 requires community (drinking) water systems serving more than 3,300 people to develop or update risk assessments and emergency response plans (ERPs).
The Site relies on public utilities and their infrastructure for water supply and wastewater treatment services. The relevant agencies, Rancho Water and EMWD, respectively include risk assessments to support their business management and is covered in the following documents:
a) Rancho Water's 2017 Strategic Business Plan which addresses water-related challenges and risks. One of their five guiding principles for this Plan is Stewardship which states, "The District will exercise good stewardship of financial and operating assets through use of sound, cost-effective business judgment." Strategies under this guiding principle include:
- Plan and prepare for catastrophic emergencies
- Research and analyze beneficial outside service agreements
- Maximize outside funding opportunities, and
- Maintain, implement, and enhance the long-range financial plan

b) EMWD's Triennial Strategic Plan, 2019 to 2021 identifies Effective Communication, Advocacy and Community Partnerships as a strategic priority and describes it as "Engage in mutually beneficial partnerships, communicate with clarity and purpose, and conduct constructive advocacy with Federal, State and local stakeholders".
Sources:
https://www.ranchowater.com/233/RCWD-Strategic-Plan-PDF
https://www.emwd.org/sites/default/files/file-attachments/2019_strat_plan_update_-_final.pdf?1561138691
The Site's ERP, commitment to be good water stewards, excellent working relationships and regular engagement with Rancho Water and EMWD and above noted Agency strategies to partner with customer/community collectively demonstrate the Site's responsiveness and resilience to address water risks.
At Site level, resilience to water risks is demonstrated by compliance with internal and regulatory programs including:
a) Abbott's Spill Prevention (T08) and Water Management (T12) technical Standards
b) Site Emergency Response Plan
c) California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) Hazardous Materials Business Plan
d) EMWD Ordinance 59.6 dated January 16, 2013
e) Site's EMWD Waste Discharge Permit Number 710 dated January 14, 2019 (including TTO certification and Slug Control Plans)
f) Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure (SPCC)
g) California Storm Water Resources Control Board's Industrial Storm Water Program
The Site has addressed water-related emergencies in the Emergency Response Plan. The Executive Management Crisis Team (ECMT) is informed of all crises and, if necessary, the Business Continuity Plan (BCP) is activated.
A good example of open communication on infrastructure work is Rancho Water's proactive notification on meter upgrade for the water main servicing the facility. The Site was informed of it in advance (see letter attached below) and the Site's ERP would be activated in the event of any unplanned or unanticipated development (attached document).
Additionally, Rancho Water's has a robust water pipes' replacement and rehabilitation program that uses a risk-based approach that considers both probability of failure (PoF) and consequence of failure (CoF). This approach minimizes business risk exposure and ensures operational resilience. PoF measures an asset's likelihood of failure and was determined using multiple criteria. The results indicated 19% of the pipeline was in excellent condition, 44% in good and 36% of average condition. Less than 1% was fair and none were in poor condition.
Source: 5-Year Capital Improvement Plan | Rancho California Water District, CA (ranchowater.com)
CoF evaluated direct and indirect impacts of asset failure against triple factors – environment, economic, and social. CoF was determined using multiple criteria including critical facilities (hospitals, schools, top water users), land use, traffic impact and hazards. Based on this analysis, the CoF was 69%

negligible, 30% minimal and 2% moderate for pipeline network.

3	STEP 3: IMPLEMENT - Implement the site's stewardship plan and improve impacts

3.1 *Implement plan to participate positively in catchment governance.*

3.1.1 *Evidence that the site has supported good catchment governance shall be identified.* Yes

Comment

The site has engaged actively with catchment regulators and public service providers to introduce the concept of water stewardship and propose collaborative initiatives, as evidenced by stakeholder logs, emails, presentations, and other material on meetings.
Additionally, efforts are underway to post a statement on Rancho Water's web page on Site's water stewardship initiative. While highlighting the importance of and need to protect water as a community resource, the announcement also intends to encourage area stakeholders from considering similar water stewardship work.
During the audit there was strong evidence of a clear relationship and communication with stakeholders; it took only a few phone calls to confirm appointments. And the interviewees show an attitude of close collaboration.

3.1.2 *Measures identified to respect the water rights of others including Indigenous peoples, that are not part of 3.2 shall be implemented.* Yes

Comment

Abbott has committed to 'improving access to clean water for our customers and for the communities where we operate' (2020 Sustainability Report). The most relevant third-party water rights in the catchment are those of the Pechanga Band of Luiseño Mission Indians, as formally specified in 2006 and 2017 agreements with public authorities. While the site is not a party to these agreements because it does not hold any water rights directly (but is a customer of Rancho Water District, which holds the water rights), it has expressed its support.
In December 2006, "Groundwater Management Agreement between Rancho California Water District and the Pechanga Band of Luiseño Mission Indians' (Pechanga – Indigenous People) was executed to govern the management of groundwater pumping from the Wolf Valley Groundwater Basin in a manner not to exceed the safe yield that protects groundwater resources in the Wolf Valley Groundwater Basin for present and future uses. Subsequently on November 29, 2017 a Settlement Agreement was reached between Pechanga, RCWD and the United States of America that gave Pechanga water rights of up 4,994 acre-feet per year (AFY) from groundwater and MWDSC imported water (excluding recycled water or local granitic wells). This resulted in the 'Amended and Restated Groundwater Management Agreement between Rancho California Water District and the Pechanga Band of Luiseño Mission Indians' whereby up to 75% of the Wolf Subbasin safe yield is for Pechanga and 25% for Rancho Water. The legislation also authorizes necessary infrastructure to guarantee a permanent supply of water to Pechanga through cooperative agreements with local water providers, including RCWD, EMWD and the Metropolitan Water District. The legislation provides for a coordinated effort by the parties to manage the water within the Santa Margarita Basin that is intended to bring all residents of the Pechanga Reservation a safe and dependable water supply for the future.
Through the Agreement, Pechanga's water rights are legally protected, and local signatories include Rancho Water and EMWD. Further, Santa Margarita River Watershed Watermaster is tasked with administering and enforcing provisions of the Agreement. The Site does not have legal authority in the matter but will support Rancho Water and EMWD (Agreement signatories) in adhering to and respecting Pechanga's water rights.
Sources:
RCWD 2020 Urban Water Management Plan, May 11, 2021
https://argentco.com/post/u-s-secretary-interior-formally-executes-pechanga-water-rights-settlement-agreement/
https://www.smrwm.org/?page_id=263

3.2 *Implement system to comply with water-related legal and regulatory requirements and respect water rights.*

3.2.1	*A process to verify full legal and regulatory compliance shall be implemented.*	Yes
Comment	The Site implements this requirement by complying with Abbott's EHS Management Standard M03 (Risk Assessment/Self Assessment) which requires annual performance of a documented self-assessment. Site also annually performs a supplemental documented regulatory self-assessment. The Corporate EHS Audit Program provides a third means of ensuring compliance with regulatory requirements The Site relies of public provider, Rancho Water for all its supply and does not have any water rights of its own.	
3.2.2	*Where water rights are part of legal and regulatory requirements, measures identified to respect the water rights of others including Indigenous peoples, shall be implemented.*	Yes
Comment	The Site does not have any water rights nor is signatory to the Agreement discussed in Section 3.1.2. Consequently, it is not able to identify any legally binding measures in this matter.	
3.3	*Implement plan to achieve site water balance targets.*	
3.3.1	*Status of progress towards meeting water balance targets set in the water stewardship plan shall be identified.*	Yes
Comment	Target: City of Temecula Parks and Gardens Target: Facilitate Compost Availability Action taken: 2022 https://socalwatersmart.com/en/residential/rebates/available-rebates/turf-replacement-program/	
3.3.2	*Where water scarcity is a shared water challenge, annual targets to improve the site's water use efficiency, or if practical and applicable, reduce volumetric total use shall be implemented.*	Yes
Comment	One target the Site is considering for will implement in 2023 is to remain flat to water volume intake (absolute value and baseline 2022). The baseline data is being collected and tracked quarterly through Abbott's ENVision database. Note between 2018 and 2021, the Site implemented water efficiency projects (including improvements in cooling tower evaporation operation) that resulted in approximately 10% reduction in water use. 100% of wastewater treated by EMWD (third-party wastewater treatment facility) is recycled for use in irrigation. The Site's rationale to remain flat instead of taking a volumetric reduction is based on this reuse – a volumetric reduction by the facility would mean relatively lower amount of wastewater being generated and, in turn, less treated volume being available for use in irrigation. Less availability of reclaimed water results in use of more fresh water. Site's plan to remain flat for water use in 2023 (baseline 2022) is bearing the entire water picture (fresh and recycled) in mind.	
3.3.3	*Legally-binding documentation, if applicable, for the re-allocation of water to social, cultural or environmental needs shall be identified.*	Yes
Comment	Site does not have any water rights and consequently does not have legal obligation for re-allocation of water. That said, water conservation measures implemented at the Site will result in corresponding excess in available supply for Rancho Water that it can chose to re-allocate as appropriate.	
3.4	*Implement plan to achieve site water quality targets*	
3.4.1	*Status of progress towards meeting water quality targets set in the water stewardship plan shall be identified.*	Yes
Comment	Target: Enhance Site Water Balance and Effluent TDS Mass Discharge Data 50% of progres May 2022 Action taken: Flow data collected in December 2021. Next round scheduled for July 2022	

3.4.2 *Where water quality is a shared water challenge, continual improvement to achieve best practice for the site's effluent shall be identified and where applicable, quantified.* Yes

Comment

On-going compliance with wastewater and storm water discharge limits have been achieved and supporting analytical data is available in the Site EHS files. Additionally,
EMWD's email dated April 14, 2022 confirmed Site has not been issued a Notice of Violation or is a Significant Non Compliance dischargers since January 2020 (start date of inquiry).

Continual improvement to achieve best practice for the Site's effluent is also maintained by complying with:

a) Abbott's Spill Prevention (T08) and Water Management (T12) technical Standards
b) Site Emergency Response Plans
c) California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) Hazardous Materials Business Plan
d) EMWD Ordinance 59.6 dated January 16, 2013
e) Site's EMWD Waste Discharge Permit Number 710 dated January 14, 2019 (including TTO certification and Slug Control Plans)
f) Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure (SPCC)
g) California Storm Water Resources Control Board's Industrial Storm Water Program

The Murrieta Creek is impaired for bacteria, metals, nitrogen and/or phosphorus, pesticides and Total Toxic Chemicals. While the Site uses nitrogen and phosphorus-containing fertilizer, it applies it per the manufacturer's label. Irrigation drainage and landscape watering in such instances are deemed Authorized Non-Storm Water Discharges per Section IV.4 of the Storm water Industrial General Permit. Even so, target listed in the Water Stewardship Plan to preserve quality of storm water discharge from the site and thereby reduce TMDL designation risk for Murrieta Creek supports this shared water quality challenge.

The Site assures continual improvement to achieve best practice in water effluent by:

a) Routinely reviewing internal environmental standards and making required updates to reflect current best industry practices
b) Complying with ISO14001 certification
c) Winning Abbott's internal Plant of the Year Awards in 2016 and 2018
d) Sharing (and implementing as appropriate) good practices through monthly meetings with all Vascular facilities
e) Performing risk assessment
f) Identifying projects that would improve water quality (or minimize deterioration risk) and tracking through Abbott's internal Environmental Tracker System.
g) Assure water quality of Site effluent by continually evaluating beneficial reuse of process wastewater generated.

3.5 *Implement plan to maintain or improve the site's and/or catchment's Important Water-Related Areas.*

3.5.1 *Practices set in the water stewardship plan to maintain and/or enhance the site's Important Water-Related Areas shall be implemented.* Yes

Comment

Since 2013, the site maintains a 'zeroscape', essentially the footprint of the former large Building A covered in rocks, and prevents the establishment of plants to minimize evapotranspiration and maximize infiltration.

3.6 *Implement plan to provide access to safe drinking water, effective sanitation, and protective hygiene (WASH) for all workers at all premises under the site's control.*

3.6.1 *Evidence of the site's provision of adequate access to safe drinking water, effective sanitation, and protective hygiene (WASH) for all workers onsite shall be identified and where applicable, quantified.* Yes

Comment

Adequate WASH facilities are maintained at the Site through robust housekeeping and a preventive/on-demand maintenance program for water and sanitation (toilets, showers, sinks) facilities. This is reflected in satisfactory WASH facilities as shown in Section 1.3.8.

3.6.2	*Evidence that the site is not impinging on the human right to safe water and sanitation of communities through their operations, and that traditional access rights for indigenous and local communities are being respected, and that remedial actions are in place where this is not the case, and that these are effective.*	Yes
Comment	The Site has never received any concerns or complaint from internal or externa sources that their operations are impinging on the human right to safe water and sanitation of communities, or that traditional access rights for Indigenous and local communities are not being respected.	
3.7	*Implement plan to maintain or improve indirect water use within the catchment:*	
3.7.1	*Evidence that indirect water use targets set in the water stewardship plan, as applicable, have been met shall be quantified.*	Obs.
Comment	Abbott has made a commitment to 'work with 50 key suppliers in high water-stressed areas to reduce risks to water quality and quantity for Abbott and the community' by 2030 (2020 Sustainability Report.	
3.7.2	*Evidence of engagement with suppliers and service providers, as well as, when applicable, actions they have taken in the catchment as a result of the site's engagement related to indirect water use, shall be identified.*	Yes
Comment	Since the site has not identified suppliers within the catchment, it has not engaged any suppliers. It has contacted service providers about their water usage, but these also turned out not to have operations within the catchment; hence indirect water use actions in the catchment are not applicable.	
3.8	*Implement plan to engage with and notify the owners of any shared water-related infrastructure of any concerns the site may have.*	
3.8.1	*Evidence of engagement, and the key messages relayed with confirmation of receipt, shall be identified.*	Yes
Comment	The site has reviewed water infrastructure plans for the catchment, both for water supply and wastewater management, and has communicated to public utilities that it does not have any concerns or comments on these plans. Engagement with the public utilities is ongoing, so that there will be more opportunities to address any common risks such as supply interruptions due to natural hazards such as earthquakes.	
3.9	*Implement actions to achieve best practice towards AWS outcomes: continually improve towards achieving sectoral best practice having a local/catchment, regional, or national relevance.*	
3.9.1	*Actions towards achieving best practice, related to water governance, as applicable, shall be implemented.*	Yes

Comment

Several best practices related to water governance identified in references cited Section 1.8.1 have been implemented at the Site including:

a) Management System and Accountability:

- Abbott EHS Management and Technical Standards: EHS management standards and technical standards including Spill Prevention (T08) and Water (T12). All Abbott sites globally are required to comply with these internal standards. This is comparable to the best practice cited in 1.8.1 related to Modified Final Judgment and Decree for shared water rights
- Accountability to comply with Abbott's internal management and technical standards though the Corporate Audit Program. Similar to the role of the Watermaster and Steering Committee to administer and enforce provisions of the water rights decree.
- As required, regulatory reports are signed by the Site Director – highest ranking official at the facility

b) Continuous Improvement:

- Site has successfully maintained ISO14001 certification since 2017
- Parent organization, Abbott is included in the 2021 Dow Jones Sustainability Index (DJSI) which marked the seventeenth consecutive year of recognition. Earned top score in the Health Care Equipment and Supplies sector nine times in a row
- Stakeholder Collaboration: Engaged with stakeholders to promote water stewardship (projects with City of Temecula Parks and Garden and CR&R/Wilson Creek Winery)

Above best practices align with continually advancing Site/company objectives and targets including CEO Water Mandate's Commitment Area of Direct Operations.

c) Stakeholder Collaboration and Transparency:

- Scheduled presentation to Rancho Water's Planning Administration Committee on Site's water stewardship initiatives and identify potential areas of collaboration
- Engaged with stakeholders to promote water stewardship. This work is comparable to Riverside County Watershed Protection partnership referenced in Section 1.8.1
- Annual publication of Abbott's Global Sustainability Report. It includes rolled-up water usage data for the entire company

3.9.2 *Actions towards achieving best practice, related to targets in terms of water balance shall be implemented.* Yes

Comment

Several best practices related to water balance identified in references cited in Section 1.8.2 have been implemented at the Site including:

a) Use of drought-resistant landscaping at the Site – a recommended "Around the Yard" practice by Riverside County Watershed Protection

b) Discharge categorical wastewaters generated at the Site to EMWD instead of off-site disposal. EMWD treats and reuses all reclaimed water. Use of treated gray water is cited as Best Management Practice (BMP) in EPA's WaterSense at Work document

c) Use of recirculating water systems in cooling towers and air scrubbers. Use of single-pass systems is discouraged in the above referenced EPA WaterSense source

d) Minimize water use in Site restrooms through motion sensor faucets in sinks, low flow toilets and waterless urinals – use of water-efficient fixtures is recommended in the reference cited in e)

Maintaining zeroscape at the footprint of demolished Building A – ultimate water conservation practice

f) Established and tracked water use or sustainability goals over the past several years – an industry best practice with results reported i Abbott's Global Sustainability Report – available at Global Reports | Sustainability | Responsibility (abbott.com)

Item c

3.9.3 *Actions towards achieving best practice, related to targets in terms of water quality shall be implemented.* Obs.

Comment

Relevant sector and/or catchment best practices for water quality include consistent compliance with municipal and storm water discharge permit limits. Potable water supply is provided by a public utility, Rancho Water. Also, Site meets all requirements of internal Spill Prevention (T08) and Water (T12) technical standards. Data and documents referenced are available in Site EHS file.

3.9.4	*Actions towards achieving best practice, related to targets in terms of the site's maintenance of Important Water-Related Areas shall be implemented.*	No
Comment	One best practice related to on-site IWRA is to continue maintaining zeroscape at the footprint of demolished Building A. An annual preventive maintenance program is implemented to ensure invasive plant species do not overtake this area. The site has not implemented any maintenance or improvement of IWRAs outside the factory boundaries. ***Finding No: TNR-000977***	
3.9.5	*Actions towards achieving best practice related to targets in terms of WASH shall be implemented.*	Obs.
Comment	Plans are to continue maintaining adequate WASH services that are currently available at the Site. This will be achieved through the Site's on-going preventive/demand maintenance program for water and sanitation services that will ensure continuing "Safety Managed" status described in Section 1.8.5. Site's will also continue allegiance and contribute to upholding Abbott's Water Policy, Environmental Policy | Abbott U.S. – a commitment to improving access to clean water in communities around the world and to reducing and efficiently managing our company's own use of water.	

4	STEP 4: EVALUATE - Evaluate the site's performance.	
4.1	*Evaluate the site's performance in light of its actions and targets from its water stewardship plan and demonstrate its contribution to achieving water stewardship outcomes.*	
4.1.1	*Performance against targets in the site's water stewardship plan and the contribution to achieving water stewardship outcomes shall be evaluated.*	Yes
Comment	Responsibilities for progress against targets in the Water Stewardship Plan, anticipated completion dates, percent completed, actions taken, and contributions to the 5 AWS outcomes are recorded in an evaluation data sheet (last updated May 9, 2022).	
4.1.2	*Value creation resulting from the water stewardship plan shall be evaluated.*	Yes
Comment	Upon completion of each Plan target, a financial water cost-benefit determination (including from risk reduction and achieving water supply security) on the investment will be performed and information included in Table 11.	
4.1.3	*The shared value benefits in the catchment shall be identified and where applicable, quantified.*	Yes
Comment	The evaluation data sheet also includes indicators for Value Creation for Catchment and Catchment Stakeholders, including financial benefit, improved natural capital, ecosystem services, and improved long-term water security. This will be determined upon completion of each target in the Water Stewardship Plan. The Site´s shared value benefits were identified to be Financial Benefit, Improved Natural Capital, Ecosystem Services and/or Improved Long-term Water Security. See final columns in Table 11 (N-R attached).	
4.2	*Evaluate the impacts of water-related emergency incidents (including extreme events), if any occurred, and determine the effectiveness of corrective and preventative measures.*	
4.2.1	*A written annual review and (where appropriate) root-cause analysis of the year's emergency incident(s) shall be prepared and the site's response to the incident(s) shall be evaluated and proposed preventative and corrective actions and mitigations against future incidents shall be identified.*	Yes
Comment	The Annual Review – Water-related Incidents template included as Table 12 in AWS Plan Tables will be completed by the end first quarter for the previous calendar year. Obligation to complete this requirement is included in the Site's Quickbase – Regulatory/Internal Reminders Application.	
4.3	*Evaluate stakeholders' consultation feedback regarding the site's water stewardship performance, including the effectiveness of the site's engagement process.*	
4.3.1	*Consultation efforts with stakeholders on the site's water stewardship performance shall be identified.*	Yes
Comment	The site plans to engage stakeholders at least annually, to seek feedback on the site's performance, including the effectiveness of its engagement process, by the end of the first quarter of each calendar year. This engagement will be documented and will also be used to seek input on water challenges and recommended updates to the Water Stewardship Plan. An entry in the compliance calendar application has been created to ensure timely communications.	
4.4	*Evaluate and update the site's water stewardship plan, incorporating the information obtained from the evaluation process in the context of continual improvement.*	

4.4.1	*The site's water stewardship plan shall be modified and adapted to incorporate any relevant information and lessons learned from the evaluations in this step and these changes shall be identified.*	Yes
Comment	The Water Stewardship Plan Evaluation template included as Table 13 will be completed in by the end first quarter for the previous calendar year. The Plan (and associated tables) will be maintained as Controlled Document(s) in the Site's Document Control System (ViewPoint). Relevant information and feedback from the evaluation will be incorporated as updates to the Plan to ensure continuous improvement objective. Revisions made will be identified at the end of the controlled version of the document.	

5	STEP 5: COMMUNICATE & DISCLOSE - Communicate about water stewardship and disclose the site's stewardship efforts
5.1	*Disclose water-related internal governance of the site's management, including the positions of those accountable for legal compliance with water-related local laws and regulations.*
5.1.1	*The site's water-related internal governance, including positions of those accountable for compliance with water-related laws and regulations shall be disclosed.* ✓ Yes
Comment	Positions responsible for compliance with water-related regulation and governance are identified on company's intranet under Vascular at: https://abbott.sharepoint.com/sites/abbottworld/AbbottVascular/BF/ehs/Pages/default.aspx The site also includes links to Abbott's EHS Management/Technical standards and the Division EHS Policy. EHS metrics are also displayed on the Site's Visual Factory panels, shared at Site All-Employee Meetings and globally rolled-up data/information is included in Abbott's annual Global Sustainability Report.
5.2	*Communicate the water stewardship plan with relevant stakeholders.*
5.2.1	*The water stewardship plan, including how the water stewardship plan contributes to AWS Standard outcomes, shall be communicated to relevant stakeholders.* ✓ Yes
Comment	The Water Stewardship Plan including initial information on how it contributes to AWS Standard outcomes was shared with relevant stakeholders via email dated March 15, 2022. An update will be provided by the end of the first quarter for the previous calendar year, and a reminder for this task is included in the Quickbase Application referenced in Section 4.2.1.
5.3	*Disclose annual site water stewardship summary, including: the relevant information about the site's annual water stewardship performance and results against the site's targets.*
5.3.1	*A summary of the site's water stewardship performance, including quantified performance against targets, shall be disclosed annually at a minimum.* ✓ Yes
Comment	The site plans to annually prepare or update a Water Stewardship Summary presentation, and disclose it by the end of the first quarter of the calendar year, tentatively during on-site meetings with stakeholders. For 2022, the summary was shared through email. In combination with the annual global Sustainability Report and the AWS Audit Reports, these are considered suitable formats. Completion will be tracked through the compliance calendar application.
5.4	*Disclose efforts to collectively address shared water challenges, including: associated efforts to address the challenges;engagement with stakeholders; and co-ordination with public-sector agencies.*
5.4.1	*The site's shared water-related challenges and efforts made to address these challenges shall be disclosed.* 🔍 Obs.
Comment	The Annual Site Water Stewardship Summary referenced in Section 5.3.1 includes information available to date and covers requirements of this indicator including: a) Listing all shared water challenges b) Description of actions/efforts undertaken to address shared water challenges c) Discussion on stakeholder engagement efforts, with an emphasis on engagement directed toward shared water challenges
5.4.2	*Efforts made by the site to engage stakeholders and coordinate and support public-sector agencies shall be identified.* ✓ Yes
Comment	The draft Annual Site Water Stewardship Summary referenced in Section 5.3.1 includes information available to date and covers requirements of this indicator.

5.5	*Communicate transparency in water-related compliance: make any site water-related compliance violations available upon request as well as any corrective actions the site has taken to prevent future occurrences.*	
5.5.1	*Any site water-related compliance violations and associated corrections shall be disclosed.*	Yes
Comment	The Site has disclosed water-related violation including information on cause and corrective action to prevent recurrence for the excursion. A review of or information from the following confirmed Site did not have any violations since January 2020: a) Federal violations recorded in EPA's Enforcement and Compliance History Online (ECHO). This database provides three-year compliance history summary (by quarter) Source: Enforcement and Compliance History Online | US EPA b) Storm water violations listed at https://data.ca.gov/dataset/dd553361-ddc6-4fe6-a95f-c9bf3342e0d1/resource/9b69a654-0c9a-4865-8d10-38c55b1b8c58/download/violations_2022-05-03.csv c) Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTW) also publish names of Industrial Users that meet the Significant Non-Compliance (SNC) criteria; per email dated April 14, 2022, EMWD confirmed Site has not been issued a Notice of Violation or is a Significant Non Compliance discharger since January 2020 (start date of inquiry).	
5.5.2	*Necessary corrective actions taken by the site to prevent future occurrences shall be disclosed if applicable.*	Yes
Comment	In general, a Notice of Violation (NOV) or equivalent issued by a regulatory agency does require a written response – among other items it requires information on corrective actions taken to prevent future occurrences. Moreover, Abbott's internal standards require violations to be entered in the internal Action Management System including Action Plan (corrective action) and Action Taken.	
5.5.3	*Any site water-related violation that may pose significant risk and threat to human or ecosystem health shall be immediately communicated to relevant public agencies and disclosed.*	Yes

Photographic Evidence from Audit

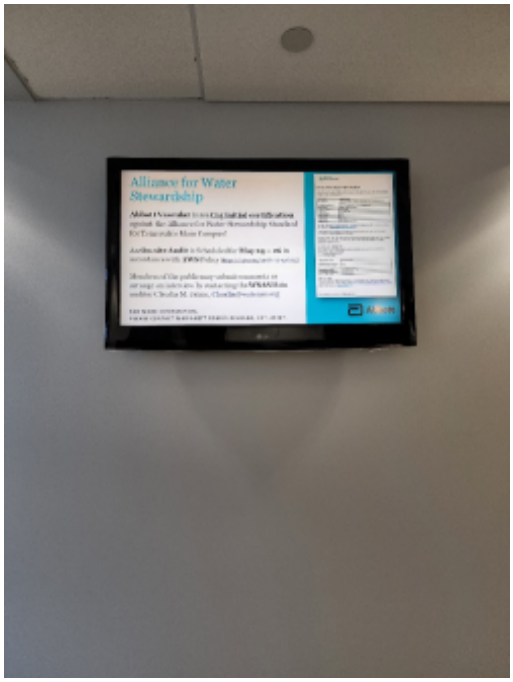
Yes

Comment: During the Site visit the auditor´s team requested some pictures that were interesting for us to present at the report; such as the prevention to split liquids at the waste storage. Different signs, IWRA, management of residuals,

Wastewater Storage Area.jpg

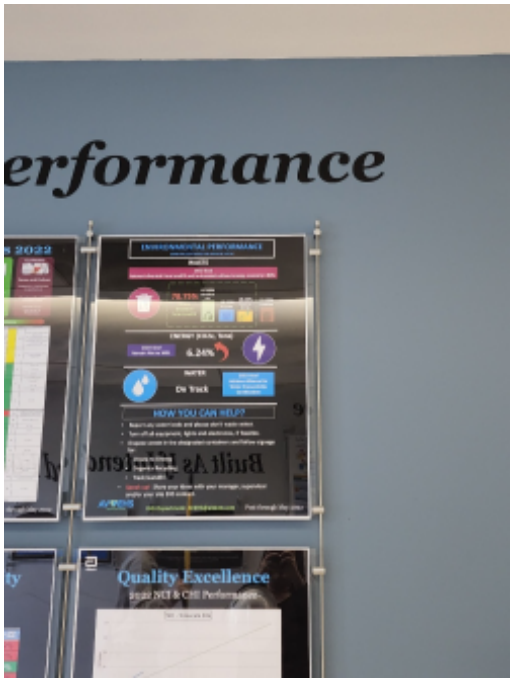
Door Sign 2.jpg

Recycling Area 2.jpg



Stakeholder Notification.jpg

AV TEM - IWRA 1.jpg



Environmental Metrics.jpg

Door Sign 1.jpg

Stormwater Drain Channel.jpg

Waste - Secondary Containment.jpg

Hazardous Waste Storage Area.jpg

Recycling Area 1.jpg

Water Conservation - Drought Tolerant Plants.jpg

Cooling Towers.jpg

AV TEM - IWRA 2.jpg