CERTIFICATION REPORT

Alliance for Water Stewardship (AWS)

Audit Number: AO-001574

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: 2025-Jul-03
Validity of certificate: 2028-Jul-02

AUDIT DETAILS

Audited Service(s): AWS Standard v2.0 (2019)
Audit Type(s): Re-Certification Audit
Audit Start Date: 2025-May-19
Audit End Date: 2025-May-21
Lead Auditor: Rupa Bidap

Audit team participants:
Rupa Bidap, Trainee Lead Auditor
Monserrath Zamora, Support Auditor
Jose Manuel Gonzalez, Other

Site Participants:
Marianett Román Delgado, Senior Manager EHS
Josh Jasso, Divisional EHS
Thomas Crouthesis, Divisional EHS
Robert Langna, Other
Raju Patel, Director

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ADDITIONAL INFO

Summary of Audit Findings: During the Re-certification audit, no non-conformities and 8 observations were raised.

As no non-conformities were identified, no corrective action plan is required. The site is encouraged to review the observations and consider continuous improvement actions where applicable. Key areas for improvement include:

- Continue to further understand the aquifer from which part of the water supply is sourced.
- Enhancing the analysis of potential business risks related to water, such as regulatory impacts or operational disruptions.
- Establishing a clear system to quantify water savings from efficiency projects to support performance tracking.
- Using population-specific data to improve the assessment of WASH services in the catchment.
- Better documenting performance against water stewardship targets in internal tracking tools.
- Formally disclosing the internal governance structure and roles related to water stewardship.
- Consolidating evidence of value creation from water-related initiatives for clearer visibility.
- Identifying and, where possible, quantifying shared value benefits in the catchment, and capturing these in planning documentation.

The audit team recommends re-certification of Abbott Temecula CA facility at Core level.

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Scope of Assessment: The scope of services covers the recertification audit for assessing conformity of Abbott Vascular Facility Temecula CA against the AWS International Water Stewardship Standard Version 2.

The Abbott Vascular facility at 26531 Ynez Road, Temecula, California (hereafter referred to as "the Site"). Abbott Vascular owns and operates this Site, which includes medical device manufacturing, warehousing, facilities and maintenance operations, research and development (R&D) functions, and administrative offices. The Site is situated in Riverside County and called Temecula.
The Site lies within the Santa Margarita River Watershed, which spans approximately 1,919 square kilometers (740 square miles). However, consistent with AWS Guidance, and in recognition that the Site is relatively small in scale and interacts with only a portion of the broader catchment, the Physical Scope has been delineated more narrowly to the Upper Watershed of the Santa Margarita River. This area encompasses upstream lands and aquifers that contribute water used by the Site (via Rancho California Water District) as well as downstream zones influenced by the Site's stormwater runoff and indirect treated wastewater discharges through the local sanitary district.

The facility is located approximately 1.5 kilometers southeast of central Temecula, in southern California, USA. The region is semi-arid and characterized by rolling hills and valley floors, with the Santa Margarita River and its tributaries forming a significant geo-hydrological feature. The Site lies within the Upper Santa Margarita aquifer system, a groundwater basin that plays a key role in local water supply and ecological balance. The watershed includes both urbanized and natural areas, with land use ranging from residential and commercial development to protected habitat.

The audit was conducted at Abbott Temecula CA onsite from May 19th to May 21st, 2025. The onsite site visit included assessment that encompassed all key areas and operations within the facility. This included manufacturing buildings, R&D laboratories, process units, and support spaces such as locker rooms and laundry areas. Site visits covered all water inlets and outlets, including five cooling towers, the boiler room, water purification systems, chemical storage areas, a 2,000-gallon diesel tank, oil storage units, and the pH water system. Additional infrastructure assessed included dust collectors, air condensers, break rooms, and lab safety equipment such as emergency showers, eyewash stations, and spill kits.

Waste handling facilities, hazardous waste storage, and stormwater management systems were also reviewed. The Site's utility systems and water treatment infrastructure were evaluated in detail to ensure alignment with AWS Standard requirements. The facility's outputs—high-precision medical devices for global vascular care—rely on cleanroom manufacturing processes and support services that were fully considered in this assessment. All water-related inputs, uses, discharges, and associated risks were reviewed within the defined Physical Scope.

FINDINGS

NUMBER OF FINDINGS PER LEVEL

Observation	8

FINDING DETAILS

Finding No:	TNR-018596
Checklist Item No:	1.1.1
Status:	Open
Finding level:	Observation
Checklist item:	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.
Findings:	The site has identified the Murrieta Creek Sub-watershed as its surface water catchment. In addition, approximately 30% of the site's water is supplied indirectly through Rancho California Water District, which sources from the Temecula Valley Groundwater Basin. The site has acknowledged the groundwater source and referenced Vail Lake as a recharge zone. The site should continue to further understand the extent of the aquifer and how groundwater is recharged.

Finding No:	TNR-018180
Checklist Item No:	1.5.7
Status:	Open
Finding level:	Observation
Checklist item:	The adequacy of available WASH services within the catchment shall be identified.
Findings:	The site is encouraged to provide data at the population level rather than relying solely on catchment-wide assessments. Incorporating population-specific data will strengthen the accuracy and relevance of the indicator and provide clearer insight into the social context of water access and use.

Finding No:	TNR-018162
Checklist Item No:	1.7.1
Status:	Open
Finding level:	Observation
Checklist item:	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.
Findings:	The site could expand the analysis of potential business impacts, such as production downtime, regulatory fines, or supply chain disruptions.

Finding No:	TNR-018167
Checklist Item No:	3.3.1
Status:	Open
Finding level:	Observation
Checklist item:	Status of progress towards meeting water balance targets set in the water stewardship plan shall be identified.
Findings:	While the site has implemented several projects aimed at improving water efficiency (e.g., boiler replacement, quench tank bypass), the efficiency gains have not been fully mapped or quantified. It is recommended that the site establish a system for measuring and tracking water savings associated with these projects—either through flow metering, data logging, or modeled estimates—to support continuous improvement and demonstrate progress toward water balance targets.

Finding No:	TNR-018183
Checklist Item No:	4.1.1
Status:	Open
Finding level:	Observation
Checklist item:	Performance against targets in the site's water stewardship plan and the contribution to achieving water stewardship outcomes shall be evaluated.
Findings:	The site has successfully evaluated relevant information and provided evidence of progress toward its water-related targets. The site may consider integrating this in the Table 11 of the Water Stewardship Plan for better clarity.

Finding No:	TNR-018374
Checklist Item No:	4.1.2
Status:	Open
Finding level:	Observation
Checklist item:	Value creation resulting from the water stewardship plan shall be evaluated.
Findings:	The site has taken steps to evaluate the value created through its water stewardship activities. However, in Table 11 of the Water Stewardship Plan, the value creation outcomes with qualitative or quantitative benefits are not clearly documented against each action or initiative. The site should aim to provide a financial water cost-benefit component and report on its financial investment in water stewardship and the services and benefits achieved.

Finding No:	TNR-018375
Checklist Item No:	4.1.3
Status:	Open
Finding level:	Observation
Checklist item:	The shared value benefits in the catchment shall be identified and where applicable, quantified.
Findings:	The site has identified multiple shared value benefits resulting from its water stewardship initiatives. However, the specific quantified details—such as the number of WASH facilities supported or the IWRA features maintained—are not yet fully reflected in Table 11 of the Water Stewardship Plan.

Finding No:	TNR-018371
Checklist Item No:	5.1.1
Status:	Open
Finding level:	Observation
Checklist item:	The site's water-related internal governance, including positions of those accountable for compliance with water-related laws and regulations shall be disclosed.
Findings:	The site is encouraged to formally disclose the internal team responsible for water stewardship, including the positions accountable for compliance with water-related laws and regulations.

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Report Details

Report	Value
Report prepared by	Rupa Bidap
Report approved by	Sa-Myeong Gim
Report approved on (Date)	June.28.2025

Surveillance

Proposed date for next audit
2026-May-18

Comment: It is recommended that the next surveillance audit be conducted by May 18, 2026, which is within one year of the previous audit.

Stakeholder Announcements

Date of publication	Location
20/03/2025	Abbott Website
20/03/2025	The Temecula Chamber of Commerce platform - Website

Comment: The site published a stakeholder announcement at least eight weeks in advance.
The announcement was displayed on the Abbott website, the Temecula Chamber of Commerce platform, and posted prominently in the front lobby.
Temecula Chamber of Commerce platform – 20th March 2025
Abbott website – 20th March 2025

Comment: Two stakeholder interviews were held for this audit 1) The Riverside County Watershed Protection, and 2) Rancho Water.

Catchment Information

Figure 10a Ultimate Water Source

Source: https://www.mwdh2o.com/how-we-get-our-water/

Murrieta Creek Sub-watershed Image 2.png

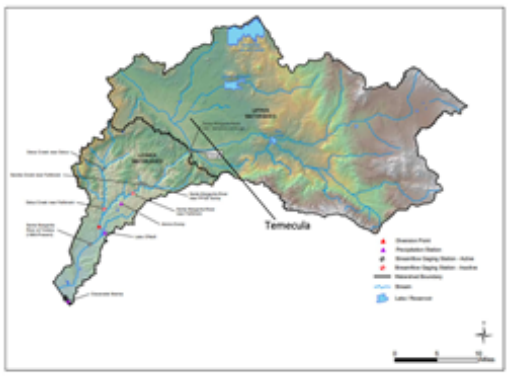


Figure 2: Santa Margarita River Watersheds – Upper and Lower Watersheds

(Source: Microsoft Word - Final Fish Passage Study v 6 (usbr.gov)

Murrieta Creek Sub-watershed Image 3.png

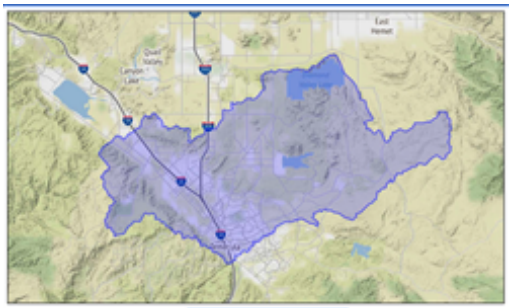


Figure 4: Murrieta Creek Sub-watershed – HUC 10

Murrieta Creek Sub-watershed Image 1.png

Catchment Information

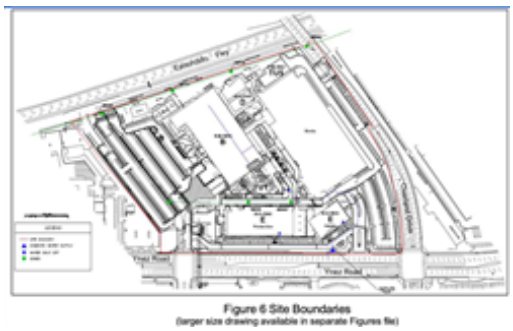
Catchment Location and Designation
The site is located within the Murrieta Creek Sub-watershed (HUC 10 – 1807030204), a sub-basin of the Santa Margarita River Watershed (HUC 8 – 18070302). The immediate sub-unit is the Long Canyon-Murrieta Creek Sub-watershed (HUC 12 – 180703020407). The Santa Margarita Watershed spans approximately 750 square miles, with 588 square miles comprising the Upper Watershed where the site is physically located.
Water Supply and Discharge Catchment
Water is supplied by Rancho California Water District (Rancho Water), a public utility that sources water from:
- Local groundwater (Temecula Valley Groundwater Basin) – 30%
- Imported water (State Water Project and Colorado River via Metropolitan Water District of Southern California) – 65%
- Recycled water – 5%

Treated potable water is delivered via Lake Skinner and regional infrastructure including pump stations, storage reservoirs, and distribution pipelines.
Wastewater services are provided by the Eastern Municipal Water District (EMWD). Treated effluent from the site is conveyed to EMWD's Temecula Valley Regional Water Reclamation Facility. Depending on demand, reclaimed water is reused for irrigation or discharged into Reach 5 of Temescal Creek, a tributary of the Santa Ana River.
Stormwater Management
Stormwater runoff from the site is discharged at four locations into an open drainage ditch/natural creek that borders the western property. This channel ultimately drains into Murrieta Creek, which flows southwest through Temecula Canyon, joining Temecula Creek to form the Santa Margarita River. The river continues through Camp Pendleton before discharging into the Pacific Ocean near Oceanside, CA.
Groundwater Aquifer Information
The primary aquifer is the Temecula Valley Groundwater Basin, which receives recharge from natural runoff, percolation basins, and Vail Lake. The district manages groundwater via 48 production wells, several recharge zones, and percolation basins at the Valle De Los Caballos Recharge and Recovery Facility.
Catchment Characteristics
- Climate: The region has a Mediterranean climate with wet winters and hot, dry summers.
- Water Risk: Southern California concluded the 2024 water year with stable supplies and no drought declarations.
- Flooding: Localized flooding may occur during intense seasonal rainfall, but the watershed has flood management infrastructure in place.
- Water Quality: Managed through soil filtration and compliance with the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permit.
- Protected Areas: Portions of the watershed include national forests (Cleveland, San Bernardino), tribal lands (Pechanga, Ramona), and sensitive ecosystems.
- Water Use Patterns: The basin supports urban, agricultural, and light industrial uses, with growing emphasis on water reuse and conservation.

Summary of Catchment Relevance
The Murrieta Creek Sub-watershed serves as both the physical and hydrological context for the site's operations. The site indirectly influences and depends on regional water availability and quality through its connections to Rancho Water and EMWD. The Santa Margarita Watershed's mix of natural, urban, and agricultural areas makes stakeholder collaboration essential for long-term sustainability.

Comment Murrieta Creek Sub-watershed

Client Description and Site Details



Site Boundaries Abbott Temecula May 2025.png

Client/Site Background

Site Location
The Abbott Vascular site is located at 26531 Ynez Road, Temecula, California, within Riverside County. It is positioned near key transport infrastructure, with Ynez Road to the east, Interstate 15 to the west, Overland Drive to the north, and a car dealership to the south.

Site Footprint and Employment
Abbott Vascular owns and operates the facility, which includes manufacturing, R&D, warehouse, office, maintenance, and facility operations.
- Total site area: 571,712 gross square feet
- Manufacturing area: 104,202 square feet
- Warehouse area: 32,427 square feet
- Number of employees: Approximately 1,251 personnel are employed on site.

Surrounding Area
The site is situated in a mixed-use zone comprising residential, commercial, and light industrial facilities. Its immediate surroundings reflect typical urban infrastructure and development.

Site Operations and Water Use
Abbott Vascular specializes in the design and manufacturing of therapeutic medical devices for treating atherosclerotic disease in coronary and peripheral arteries. Product lines include stents, angioplasty balloon catheters, guidewires, and associated accessories.
Water use at the site is minimal in direct manufacturing. The majority of water consumption is attributed to cooling tower make-up water for facility temperature control.

Water and Wastewater Infrastructure

- Water Supply: The site is connected to the Rancho California Water District (Rancho Water) for its potable and industrial water needs.
- Wastewater Services: Wastewater is managed by Eastern Municipal Water District (EMWD). There is no on-site wastewater treatment.
- Cooling Tower: A cooling tower is in place and represents the primary water-using infrastructure.
- Stormwater Management: Stormwater runoff is discharged through four outflow points into a man-made channel/natural creek that flows into Murrieta Creek.
- Fire Water and Other Utilities: The site has an internal water piping network for fire protection, process water, wastewater storage/discharge, and stormwater drainage.
- Rainwater Harvesting: There is no rainwater harvesting infrastructure on site.

Wastewater and Stormwater Discharge
- Sanitary and process wastewater is conveyed to EMWD's Temecula Valley Regional Water Reclamation Facility, located at 42565 Avenida Alvarado, Temecula, CA 92590.
- Stormwater is directed into an open drainage channel along the western boundary, which ultimately flows into Murrieta Creek.

Comment Site Map - Abbott Temecula Site

Summary of Shared Water Challenges

Summary of Shared Water Challenges
To identify and prioritize shared water challenges in the catchment, the site conducted stakeholder engagement through surveys in 2022 and 2025. Stakeholders were asked to provide input on key water-related concerns. The findings are documented in the "Stakeholder Engagement Log" (Table 2, AWS Plan Tables – separate file).

Based on the analysis of stakeholder responses, the following shared water challenges—identified by at least four stakeholders—were prioritized:
1. Limited Availability of Potable Water: Concerns were raised about the sustainability and equitable access to clean drinking water for both community and industrial use.
2. Degradation of Potable and Effluent Water Quality: Stakeholders highlighted risks related to declining water quality, including contaminants affecting both supplied and discharged water.
3. Anticipated Impacts of Emerging Water Regulations: Multiple stakeholders noted uncertainties and potential compliance burdens associated with evolving local and regional water governance frameworks.

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.

Obs.

Comment

The site did map its physical scope in alignment with the regulatory landscape and relevant stakeholder zones of interest. The mapping includes defined site boundaries and water-related infrastructure, including the piping network of stormwater on the site along with discharge points and inlet points.

Site boundaries - Clearly defined at 26531 Ynez Road, Temecula, CA.
- Water-related infrastructure - Infrastructure includes water, wastewater, and stormwater piping networks, treatment units, and discharge points.
- Owned water sources - The site and its parent company do not own or manage any water source. All water is procured via the city -Rancho California Water District.
- Water service provider - Primary provider: Rancho California Water District. Sources include local groundwater (30%), imported water from Northern CA and the Colorado River (65%), and recycled water (5%). Extensive detail on the conveyance, treatment, and recharge systems is provided.
- Discharge points and wastewater service provider - Discharge points are shown in site maps. Wastewater is treated by EMWD - Eastern Water Municipal District at the Temecula Valley Reclamation Facility.
- Catchments the site - Defined as the Murrieta Creek Sub-watershed (HUC 10: 1807030204), within the Santa Margarita River Watershed (HUC 8: 18070302). Hydrological context and downstream connectivity to the Pacific Ocean are clearly articulated. Maps support spatial delineation. The catchment topography was taken into account in the demarcation process.

UPDATE - Rancho Water provides the source of water, and ESWD takes care of the wastewater. The site does not receive recycled water from the EWDM but contributes to it.

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	The site conducted a stakeholder mapping exercise through collaboration between site-level staff, corporate representatives, and desktop research. A comprehensive list of relevant stakeholders was developed, with deliberate attention to including less vocal groups—such as tribal communities, specifically the Pechanga Tribe. The site engaged the Indigenous community through regular outreach via email and awareness-building efforts related to Abbott initiatives. Inclusivity of Stakeholder Groups: Stakeholders were prioritized based on their level of impact, interest, and influence. Physical Scope Consideration: The stakeholder list includes entities connected to the site's ultimate water source and associated catchment area. Stakeholder Engagement Based on Interest and Influence: An interest–influence matrix was used to prioritize stakeholders, and this guided the site's engagement with high-priority groups. In addition to email outreach, the team organized a dedicated stakeholder workshop to better understand shared water challenges and priorities. This included participation from relevant stakeholders, including water agencies and community representatives. The site also maintained regular follow-ups and identified specific collaborative initiatives, with a commitment to actively engage in those efforts.	
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 developed a Stakeholder Prioritization Matrix, effectively categorizing stakeholders into Key Player, Involve, Consult, and Monitor groups based on their influence and engagement needs. The site has been able to provide specific justifications for stakeholder placement, reducing transparency in the prioritization process. Additionally, while new stakeholders have been identified, actual outreach and engagement efforts have been satisfactory.	
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

Spill kits for chemicals are located near potential pollution points and are easily accessible on every floor. A third-party service provider is responsible for the operation and maintenance of water-related systems, including response to incidents such as sewage issues.

The site has an emergency plan in place to address extreme weather events, including floods, tornadoes or storms, fire outbreaks, and wildfires.
The site also has a California Wildfire Response Plan in place in case of a wildfire outbreak.

The site also has a Sewage Incident and Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (Revision April 2025) in place and was able to provide supporting evidence.

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

Yes

Comment

The site identified its water balance and shared evidence to show the water balance mapped for the water flow on the site. The site indicated no new changes to the water balance on the site.
The site is involved in developing a comprehensive water balance that accounts for all key inflows, outflows, losses (no storage). Each major flow has been identified and mapped. A scaled site map shows the physical locations of these elements, and a schematic diagram provides a clear visualization of the quantitative flows.
Water inflows include the incoming water supply. Water outflows account for wastewater discharge, surface runoff, and evaporation. This approach ensures a complete and accurate understanding of water movement within the site, supporting effective water stewardship and efficiency planning.

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.*

Yes

Comment

The site has developed a comprehensive water balance that quantifies all major components—inflows, losses, storage, and outflows—in alignment with AWS definitions. Data is presented on both a monthly and annual basis, covering the period from January 2021 through December 2024.

The analysis includes a breakdown of water intake, operational losses (e.g., cooling tower evaporation), and discharge volumes, along with documented variances in water use trends over time.

Updated - The site provided a complete water balance equation. The standard formula—(Water Outflow) = (Water Inflow) - (Loss in Volume)— update was presented with quantified data for the current year.

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 provided evidence and a permit from EWMD for wastewater outflow. While the recycled water managed by EWMD is not discharged, it is stored for future use, considering California's drought conditions. The site also submitted municipal water quality results for 2024. Water quality is appropriately quantified across all applicable categories: effluent, stormwater, provided water, and bottled water. Regulatory compliance is demonstrated through adherence to both local (California SWPPP) and federal (EPA LCRI) frameworks. Seasonal and annual variances in water quality are indirectly addressed through structured monitoring cycles. No significant water-related quality challenges were identified. UPDATED - The site provided an updated report from Rancho Water—a consumer confidence report and a water quality report from the Murrieta Creek were also provided.

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

Comment	Point Sources: The site has mapped key point sources of potential pollution - chemical storage areas, waste disposal facilities, potential oil or chemical leak points, and maintenance areas such as laundry /locker rooms zones where potential source of pollution have been identified. Non-Point Sources: All wastewater from the site is collected and discharged to EWMD. As EWMD does not release this water into natural water bodies, but instead stores it for future use due to California's drought-prone conditions, non-point source discharges to the environment are effectively minimized.

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 rock garden has been identified and mapped as an on-site Important Water-Related Area (IWRA). However, the proposed activity of covering a significant portion of the site with rocks may impact the site's ability to meet compliance requirements for maintaining or preserving IWRAs. This potential conflict requires further review and deliberation to determine alignment with AWS criteria. UPDATE: The site acknowledged that the identified rock garden as an IWRA may not be accurate. They have agreed to remove this designation and confirmed that there are no IWRA features present on the site.

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 provided annual water-related cost data for 2023 and 2024. The site has identified and documented its annual water-related costs, which include expenditures for water and wastewater services, energy, water treatment systems, irrigation maintenance, fire system testing, regulatory fees, environmental consulting, laboratory analysis, and stakeholder engagement. These costs are detailed in Table 4 of the AWS Plan Tables, with data for the 2023–2024 period. Notably, the annual cost for water and wastewater services averages approximately $116,000.

Social Value: The site raises awareness of water issues and actively engages the community.
Cultural Value: It recognizes and respects the water rights of the Indigenous Pechanga Tribe.
Environmental Value: Through its parent company's water sustainability programs, the site contributes to maintaining a strong ranking on the Dow Jones Sustainability Index.
Economic Value: By discharging wastewater to EWMD, the site indirectly supports the beneficial reuse of reclaimed water, helping to preserve the catchment area.

Additionally, the site is aware of the scope of both short- and long-term investments related to water and has made the necessary financial adjustments accordingly.

UPDATED: The site reported a nearly 20% increase in water treatment system maintenance costs due to an accounting error, which has since been corrected. Additionally, the previously missing economic value information has been addressed, and the site did provide the necessary supporting evidence.
The site has also demonstrated awareness of the long-term financial commitment required to implement and maintain its water stewardship efforts and has integrated these costs into its annual budgeting process.

1.3.8 *Levels of access and adequacy of WASH at the site shall be identified.* Yes

Comment

The facility provides adequate WASH provisions in line with local, state, and federal regulations. The site also ensures safe drinking water access; the bottled water provider has shared a water quality report confirming compliance.
Furthermore, the site's WASH facilities align with the guidelines of the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD). A formal WASH assessment was conducted on May 2, 2025, using the WBCSD's Access to WASH assessment tool, verifying the adequacy and accessibility of services provided.

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

The site provided a list of primary and secondary suppliers that deliver key inputs; however, all listed suppliers are located outside the site's catchment area.
None of the vendors supplying primary inputs or outsourced services are located within the site's catchment area, specifically the 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 site's outsourced laundry services are located outside the catchment area and were therefore not included in the site's mapping. Additionally, the canteen services utilize the on-site water facilities.

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 relevant water governance initiatives within the catchment. These efforts reflect an understanding of the broader water context and demonstrate proactive collaboration with regional actors.

Notable initiatives include:

Regional CropSWAP Program: Implemented by Rancho California Water District, this program enhances water use efficiency by promoting water-smart landscaping and incentivizing sustainable crop practices.
Rancho Water Demonstration Garden: Features 12 themed garden styles to educate the public on water-efficient landscaping techniques. The garden remains accessible year-round, supporting community awareness.
Water Use Efficiency Promotion: Implemented by Rancho California Water District, the site encourages the adoption of the MyWater Tracker app to support responsible indoor and outdoor water use behavior among residents and businesses.

Additionally, the site has initiated discussions with the City of Temecula to explore partnership opportunities on upcoming water conservation programs. Outreach efforts have also extended to the Sierra Club, and the site is currently awaiting a response, indicating ongoing efforts to expand collaboration with environmental stakeholders.

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 comprehensive list of applicable water-related legal and regulatory requirements. This includes compliance obligations related to:
- Water quality standards
- Wastewater discharge limits
- Stormwater management and disposal

The site actively monitors and maintains up-to-date information on these regulatory requirements to ensure ongoing compliance.

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

The site has
- Quantifying the water balance at the catchment level using a reputable model (Model My Watershed),
- Capturing seasonal and annual variability through monthly data over a 30-year span,

The catchment-level water balance was clearly identified and quantified. This aligns with the approach used for the site-level water balance under Indicator 1.3.3.
UPDATED: Clarification/proof provided regarding the WRI (World Resources Institute) assessment tool used, including the methodology and key outputs.

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

The site has demonstrated conformity with the indicator by identifying key water quality challenges within the catchment. The catchment is classified as impaired for drinking water use due to a range of factors, including low dissolved oxygen, elevated mercury and metal concentrations, turbidity, excess nutrients (nitrogen and phosphorus), pesticide residues, and total toxic chemicals. These conditions reflect both seasonal influences and long-term stressors, supporting the site's understanding of the catchment's variability and water quality status.

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.*

Yes

Comment

The site has identified several Important Water-Related Areas (IWRAs), including:
Unnamed constructed channels
Santa Rosa Plateau Ecological Reserve
Santa Margarita River Ecological Reserve
Temecula Duck Pond
Murrieta Creek
Temecula Creek
Pechanga Creek
EMWD's Hemet/San Jacinto Multipurpose Constructed Wetlands

These areas were identified and mapped during the initial certification process, and the site engaged relevant stakeholders, including EWMD, at that time. Since then, the site has not engaged with any new stakeholders, as no significant changes have been observed in catchment-level water balances or shared water challenges. During the current audit, the only on-site IWRA identified remains the unnamed constructed channel.
The site did identify current threats to the status of these IWRAs, including risks to either the environment or local communities.

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

Yes

Comment

The site referenced Rancho Water's 5-Year Capital Improvement Plan to identify relevant projects linked to Important Water-Related Areas (IWRAs) within the catchment.

Two key projects noted include:

Vail Dam Remediation Project – a planned reconstruction effort aimed at improving the dam's structural integrity and safety.
Butterfield Stage Pump Station Emergency Generator Project – designed to ensure continued water service during power outages by installing backup power systems.
These projects indicate an awareness of regional water infrastructure and potential impacts on IWRAs, reflecting the site's ongoing efforts to stay informed about developments in the catchment area.

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

Obs.

Comment

The data provided references broader Southern California figures rather than those specific to the site's catchment area, limiting its relevance for localized analysis. Additionally, while the WRI Aqueduct Risk Atlas includes population data, it does not fully address the indicator's intent to assess access to good WASH within the defined catchment.

UPDATED - The site provided the information and evidence for the catchment area using the WRI Aqueduct Risk Atlas.

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.* Yes

Comment

The site conducted stakeholder surveys in 2022 and 2025, requesting input on water-related challenges. Engagements included Rancho Water, EMWD, City of Temecula, Riverside County Flood Control, Pechanga Tribe, NGOs, and local businesses. Based on this outreach, shared water challenges were identified.

Based on the analysis of stakeholder responses, the following shared water challenges—identified by at least four stakeholders—were prioritized:

Limited Availability of Potable Water: Concerns were raised about the sustainability and equitable access to clean drinking water for both community and industrial use.

Degradation of Potable and Effluent Water Quality: Stakeholders highlighted risks related to declining water quality, including contaminants affecting both supplied and discharged water.

Anticipated Impacts of Emerging Water Regulations: Multiple stakeholders noted uncertainties and potential compliance burdens associated with evolving local and regional water governance frameworks.

1.6.2 *Initiatives to address shared water challenges shall be identified.* Yes

Comment

The site has taken meaningful steps to respond to the shared water challenges identified in the catchment.

The site has continued engagement with Rancho Water and the City of Temecula to support local water governance and explore collaborative initiatives focused on improving water use efficiency and long-term stewardship. A notable example includes the site's participation in a trial cleanup of the Temecula, pump for the Duck Pond, a community-recognized IWRA. As part of this initiative, the site also supported the installation of a public drinking water fountain, enhancing community access to safe water while promoting sustainability and reducing reliance on single-use plastics.

Internal water use assessments have been conducted to identify areas for improvement, and the site has actively pursued projects and operational adjustments aimed at reducing overall water consumption.

As part of its environmental management efforts, the site has also taken responsibility for the operation and maintenance of the adjacent unnamed constructed stormwater channels. This preventive maintenance program is designed to reduce stormwater pollution risks and aligns with broader catchment stewardship objectives.

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.* Obs.

Comment

The site has a structured operational water risk assessment that has been conducted using the WWF Water Risk Filter and an internal site-specific evaluation framework.

The assessment addresses key water-related risks, including physical, regulatory, and reputational categories. The risks are categorized by likelihood and severity, with clear qualitative ratings (e.g., Low, Medium, Annual) and corresponding consequence descriptions such as “reduced or interrupted production” or “calls to reduce usage." Financial impact ranges have been identified for various risk scenarios (e.g., $10,000–$100,000), providing a preliminary estimate of potential business exposure.
Additionally, the table includes links to response actions, such as the development of a Site Water Stewardship Plan and stormwater risk management actions.

However, the site could expand the analysis of potential business impacts, such as production downtime, regulatory fines, or supply chain disruptions.

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

Water-related opportunities has been identified, including how the site may participate, assessment and prioritization of potential savings, and business opportunities.

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

The site is demonstrating continued engagement with water-specific stakeholders and support for community-level environmental initiatives.

The site maintains ongoing engagement with relevant water-related stakeholders, including local water agencies.
It supports community creek and trail clean-up activities, contributing to the health of local water bodies and fostering community stewardship.
Plans are underway to organize meetings with community representatives to strengthen dialogue and ensure local concerns and insights are incorporated into water stewardship activities. These efforts reflect the site's commitment to meaningful and inclusive engagement with stakeholders connected to the local catchment.

These planned and proposed efforts reflect the site’s commitment not only to maintaining existing engagement but also to advancing its role in catchment-level water sustainability. For example, the site has expressed interest in supporting local groundwater recharge initiatives in partnership with regional water agencies as part of long-term resilience planning.

Additionally, the site has initiated outreach to new stakeholders, such as a neighboring car dealership, to better understand any shared water-related risks or operational changes. The goal is to explore opportunities for joint action—such as runoff management or infrastructure improvements—that align with both parties’ interests and contribute to broader catchment stewardship.

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

The site has identified and responded to water-related challenges through the implementation of several best practices that support sustainable water management.
Example - Drought-Resistant Landscaping: The site utilizes drought-tolerant (xeriscape) landscaping to reduce outdoor water consumption, aligning with water conservation efforts in a drought-prone region.
Efficient Water Use Infrastructure: The site has installed water-efficient fixtures in restrooms and other facilities to support reduced water use and meet internal sustainability goals.

UPDATE - When the site detects elevated pH levels in wastewater, it does not treat the water on-site. Instead, a third-party service provider is engaged to manage and dispose of the water. This is an SOP requirement - The site showed the agreement with the vendor.

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

Yes

Comment

The site demonstrated actions that support the maintenance and improvement of IWRAs within the catchment.

- The site has purchased and deployed debris booms at the City of Temecula Duck Pond to help protect water quality by containing dirt and debris, thereby improving surface water quality and reducing the risk of downstream contamination. (new activity)
- It has implemented Best Management Practices (BMPs) as outlined in its Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) to preserve the quality of stormwater discharged from the site.
- The site is also engaged in cleanup and maintenance efforts for the unnamed stormwater channels adjacent to the facility, further supporting catchment-level water quality. These efforts help prevent clogging, reduce pollutant load from runoff, and support improved stormwater conveyance—all of which align with sectoral best practices for urban catchment water quality management. (new activity)

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

Yes

Comment

The site has taken appropriate actions to maintain and, where possible, enhance the condition of IWRAs within and around the catchment.
Example,

- The site contributes to protecting the water quality of the City of Temecula Duck Pond, a recognized community water feature.
- A preventive maintenance program has been established for the unnamed stormwater channel adjacent to the site, helping to manage runoff and reduce pollution risks.
- The site actively collaborates with stakeholders through community outreach initiatives that promote water conservation awareness and support the preservation of local habitats.

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

Yes

Comment

The site has demonstrated a clear commitment to ensuring equitable access to safe drinking water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) for all workers.

In addition to meeting internal WASH requirements, the site has taken proactive steps to engage external stakeholders and explore opportunities for collaborative WASH initiatives within the broader community. These efforts support the site's alignment with catchment-level water stewardship and contribute positively to social impact objectives.

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	A formal site-level commitment to water stewardship has been established and is signed by site leadership, demonstrating accountability at the highest level. The commitment is also publicly accessible via the Abbott website and made available to all employees, reinforcing transparency and internal awareness of the site's dedication to sustainable water management.	
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	The site is has designated individual appointed to oversee water-related compliance, and a clear process is in place outlining responsibilities and submission timelines. For stormwater compliance, the site maintains a documented process and has provided evidence of a valid stormwater permit. The site has also identified its compliance system and confirmed that a TTO (Total Toxic Organics) statement is submitted annually, following an established protocol. The current compliance system remains consistent, and the site has implemented a submission and tracking process through its internal compliance calendar tracker. This system outlines compliance responsibilities for water and wastewater systems, the designated responsible person for each task, and records of the most recent submissions. Additionally, the site has shared details of its submission process, including the requirement to submit information through the regulator's specified portal, as per current water regulatory expectations.	
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	The site provided a water stewardship strategy with the goal, mission, and vision included. The site indicated that it had made no changes since the previous audit.	

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.

Yes

Comment

The site has demonstrated that water-related actions and plans are integrated into its broader site-level business strategy and operational planning processes.
This integration reflects a structured and forward-looking approach to water stewardship, ensuring that water-related risks, opportunities, and objectives are aligned with business continuity, compliance, and sustainability goals.

Observed:
During the initial audit review, it was noted that while integration was evident, there was an opportunity to strengthen alignment with AWS best practices by explicitly mapping budget allocations for water-related initiatives, refining the quantification of water targets, and increasing clarity on the specific measures used to track progress. These enhancements would improve transparency and support more effective monitoring of outcomes.

Updated:
The site addressed the observation during the audit process by updating its Water Stewardship Plan (WSP). The revised plan now includes:
Clearly defined budget allocations for key water initiatives.
Quantified water targets.

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 has established a comprehensive Emergency Response Plan that addresses key water-related risks, including severe weather events, flooding, hazardous materials incidents, citywide emergencies, and interruptions to the water supply and sewer systems.

As part of its public stakeholder engagement, the site submits the Emergency Response Plan annually to Riverside County and the local fire department for review, approval, and coordination. This demonstrates a proactive and transparent approach to emergency preparedness, ensuring alignment with local authorities and reinforcing the site's commitment to community safety and catchment resilience.

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 demonstrated active engagement with key stakeholders, including Rancho California Water District and the City of Temecula, to identify and initiate a water governance project within the catchment area. This collaboration aims to enhance water governance structures and reduce regulatory burdens for both the site and the broader catchment.

The project, initiated in 2024 and 2025, reflects the site's commitment to proactive water stewardship and alignment with regional water management objectives. By partnering with local authorities, the site contributes to sustainable water governance practices that benefit the community and the environment.

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: The site has demonstrated a comprehensive understanding of the legal and cultural significance of water rights held by the Pechanga tribe, as established under the Pechanga Water Rights Settlement Act of 2016. While the site does not possess legal authority over these rights, it has expressed a commitment to supporting Rancho California Water District (RCWD) and Western Municipal Water District (WMWD) in upholding and respecting the tribe's water entitlements.

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 has implemented a comprehensive system to ensure full compliance with water-related legal and regulatory requirements. Evidence provided confirms adherence to the Eastern Municipal Water District (EWMD) standards for wastewater management, including a documented submission dated November 20, 2024.

To effectively manage inspections, internal audits, and regulatory obligations, the site utilizes an Environmental, Health, and Safety (EHS) Obligations App. This platform systematically tracks a range of compliance requirements, such as: training programs, risk assessments, security protocols, total toxic organics (TTO) certification, spill prevention measures, annual stormwater inspections, and AWS certification status

Additionally, the site voluntarily submits wastewater volume data to EWMD every six months, even though this is not a regulatory requirement.

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 has acknowledged that it does not hold any water rights nor is it a signatory to any water rights agreements within the catchment area. Consequently, the site is not subject to any legally binding measures related to water rights.
Although the water rights of the Pechanga Tribe are guaranteed under the Pechanga Water Rights Settlement Act of 2016, there are no legal obligations or compliance requirements from this Act that apply to the site.

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.* Obs.

Comment: The site has established water balance targets within its water stewardship plan and actively monitors progress toward these goals. The site employs a comprehensive tracking system to assess water inflows, outflows, and losses.
Regular reviews and updates to the water balance data are conducted, ensuring alignment with the site's sustainability objectives.

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: The site has established a measurable water consumption target for 2024, aiming to maintain water usage at 2023 levels, and has identified a project to reduce consumption by the end of 2024. Progress toward this target is actively monitored, with a 25% completion rate reported for 2025 projects, supported by email correspondence evidence.

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: The site does not possess any legally binding agreements or obligations related to the reallocation of water for social, cultural, or environmental purposes. Consequently, there are no such reallocation measures in place at this time.

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: The site has actively engaged in community-level water stewardship initiatives, notably partnering with the City of Temecula to organize and participate in the Community Creek & Trail Clean-Up events.

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: The site has consistently demonstrated compliance with stormwater discharge regulations by conducting regular water quality testing of its stormwater discharges. Over the past three years, the site has maintained records of these tests, ensuring that all parameters meet or exceed regulatory standards.

The site also proactively reviews and updates its environmental standards to align with evolving regulations and best practices. This includes maintaining a comprehensive Emergency Response Plan that addresses hazardous waste management and spill prevention.

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

The site has identified relevant catchment-level IWRAs, for example, the duck pond, trail cleanup, drinking water fountain, and the unnamed stormwater channel, and is currently undertaking routine maintenance activities such as vegetation management, sediment control, and flow monitoring to preserve their functionality.

While these actions are being implemented, the Water Stewardship Plan does include a timeline for maintaining or enhancing these IWRAs. The site acknowledges this and has included specific objectives and measurable actions related to catchment IWRA maintenance and potential enhancement in the plan.

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

The site has implemented and maintains Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) facilities.These facilities are adequately provisioned and regularly maintained to ensure safe and hygienic conditions for all employees. Adequate access to safe drinking water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) facilities is provided for all workers onsite. The calculation method used to assess WASH access was appropriate, reflecting the total workforce on-site and demonstrating sufficient coverage and compliance with health and safety standards.

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 demonstrated that its operations do not infringe upon the human right to safe water and sanitation (WASH) through several lines of evidence:

- On-site WASH facilities are well-maintained and fully accessible to all employees, with no reported issues related to water availability or quality. Regular inspections and adherence to occupational health and safety standards ensure continuous access to safe drinking water, sanitation, and hygiene services within the facility.
- At the catchment level, no significant WASH challenges have been identified and further validated through a catchment-level analysis using tools such as the WWF Water Risk. Available information indicates that public WASH infrastructure in the region is stable and functional.
- The site does not extract from or discharge into any community water systems used for drinking or sanitation, significantly reducing the risk of negatively affecting public access or water quality.

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.*

Yes

Comment

The site has no indirect water use within its immediate operations. However, at the corporate level, the organization has committed to engaging with 50 key suppliers in high water-stressed areas by 2030 to help reduce water-related quality and quantity risks for both the company and the communities where those suppliers operate.
The site itself is not in a position to set meaningful or measurable targets related to supply chain water impacts at the local level.

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	As the suppliers operate beyond the catchment boundary, no direct actions within the catchment have resulted from this engagement, and none are required under the current applicability of the indicator.	
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 actively engaged with key water management stakeholders, including Rancho California Water District (Rancho Water) and the Eastern Municipal Water District (EMWD), by reviewing their respective capital investment plans. This proactive approach demonstrates the site's commitment to transparent communication and collaboration with regional water authorities.	
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	The site has implemented several water governance-related actions in collaboration with public stakeholders. Notably, the site partnered with Rancho Water and the City of Temecula to identify and co-develop a catchment-level water governance project, which is being integrated into the Water Stewardship Plan. Actions include coordinated meetings, stakeholder outreach, and project scoping focused on stormwater runoff management, community trail clean-up, and public access to improved WASH infrastructure (e.g., installation of a drinking fountain and touchless faucets at the Temecula Duck Pond).	
3.9.2	*Actions towards achieving best practice, related to targets in terms of water balance shall be implemented.*	Yes
Comment	The site has implemented several actions aligned with its water balance targets. Specifically, the site committed to remaining flat on water consumption in 2024, using 2023 as the baseline year. Water usage is tracked monthly and quarterly through ENVision database, and performance is shared during monthly management meetings. In 2024, the site achieved a 3.11% reduction in water consumption, surpassing the flat target.	
3.9.3	*Actions towards achieving best practice, related to targets in terms of water quality shall be implemented.*	Yes

Comment

The site has implemented targeted actions to maintain and improve water quality. The site has implemented a series of targeted actions to support its water quality improvement objectives and demonstrate best practice under this indicator.

Key initiatives include:

Quarterly inspection and maintenance of the unnamed constructed stormwater channel adjacent to the facility. Preventive maintenance activities conducted throughout 2024 included debris and sediment removal to reduce the pollutant load in runoff before it enters the catchment system.

Installation of debris booms at the City of Temecula Duck Pond, a local Important Water-Related Area (IWRA). This initiative was designed to prevent floating debris, trash, and sediment from dispersing into open water, thereby enhancing water quality and reducing maintenance burdens for the city. The project demonstrates a shared commitment to urban water body protection.

Participation in a community cleanup trial focused on nearby trail areas. This activity helped raise public awareness while directly contributing to the reduction of non-point source pollution, litter, and sediment entering the local watershed.

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.*

Yes

Comment

The site does not have any on-site IWRAs, it has actively engaged in the identification and maintenance of catchment-level IWRA features, example the duck pond and the unnamed stormwater channel. These areas have been recognized for their ecological and hydrological significance and are being maintained through routine site-led efforts such as vegetation management, stormwater flow monitoring, and sediment removal.

3.9.5 *Actions towards achieving best practice related to targets in terms of WASH shall be implemented.*

Yes

Comment

Actions aligned with best practices for Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) have been implemented to ensure all workers have consistent access to safe drinking water, adequate sanitation, and hygiene facilities. These measures are regularly maintained and monitored, demonstrating the site's commitment to health, safety, and continuous improvement.

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.* Obs.

Comment The observation noted pertains to the site's target of engaging at least two stakeholders and initiating collaboration on water stewardship initiatives. The site has exceeded this target by reaching out to more than two stakeholders and identifying opportunities to work jointly on ongoing catchment-related efforts. This engagement progress was documented and shared through a separate stakeholder engagement tracking table.

However, to fully meet the intent and compliance requirements of Indicator 4.1.1, it would be beneficial for the site to integrate this information directly into Table 11 of the Water Stewardship Plan. Including the stakeholder engagement outcomes, aligned with performance against targets, within the main planning document will provide greater clarity, improve traceability of progress, and strengthen alignment with the indicator.

4.1.2 *Value creation resulting from the water stewardship plan shall be evaluated.* Obs.

Comment The site has taken steps to evaluate the value created through its water stewardship activities, with specific emphasis on stakeholder engagement outcomes and improvements in local infrastructure. Examples include collaborative discussions with Rancho Water and the City of Temecula, and visual evidence of improvements to the unnamed stormwater infrastructure, demonstrated through before-and-after photographs. These actions have contributed to both environmental benefits (e.g., better runoff management) and strengthened stakeholder relationships, reflecting tangible shared value outcomes.

However, in Table 11 of the Water Stewardship Plan, the value creation outcomes are not clearly documented against each action or initiative. While the site has effectively implemented and tracked progress, it would improve clarity and alignment with Indicator 4.1.2 to explicitly capture the qualitative or quantitative benefits (e.g., improved infrastructure condition, stakeholder feedback, co-developed initiatives) alongside each activity listed in Table 11. This would more clearly demonstrate the value created and support the evaluation process.

4.1.3 *The shared value benefits in the catchment shall be identified and where applicable, quantified.* Obs.

Comment

The site has identified multiple shared value benefits resulting from its water stewardship initiatives. These include:

- Improved stormwater management through ongoing maintenance of the unnamed stormwater channel and the IWRA-designated duck pond, which contribute to enhanced flood control and local ecosystem support.
- Enhanced WASH facilities in the catchment, including support for identifying and engaging in initiatives that improve access to water and sanitation infrastructure.
- Clean-up and upkeep of nearby park trails, contributing to community well-being and recreational value.
- Strengthened partnerships with Rancho Water and the City of Temecula through coordinated planning and stakeholder dialogue.

While these benefits were clearly observed and supported by evidence such as before-and-after photos, engagement records, and site documentation, specific quantified details—such as the number of WASH facilities supported or the IWRA features maintained—are not yet fully reflected in Table 11 of the Water Stewardship Plan. To strengthen alignment with Indicator 4.1.3, the site is encouraged to incorporate these shared value outcomes—along with any measurable indicators or qualitative impacts—directly into Table 11 to enhance clarity, transparency, and traceability of results.

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

No emergency water-related incidents occurred during the reporting period. While a root-cause analysis was not required, the site maintains documented procedures for incident response and has systems in place to evaluate and address any future incidents, should they arise.

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

Stakeholder consultation efforts were evident through documented email correspondence and feedback shared during the audit. Stakeholders expressed openness to continued engagement. Notably, feedback from a stakeholder workshop highlighted appreciation for the dialogue and interest in collaborating on future goals and broader-scale water stewardship initiatives.

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 has been updated to reflect relevant findings and lessons learned from performance evaluations, stakeholder consultations, and internal reviews. Documented changes demonstrate a commitment to adaptive management and continuous improvement in alignment with AWS Standard outcomes.

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.* Obs.

Comment: The site has made significant and consistent efforts to communicate the key personnel involved in the water stewardship initiative. This includes presenting team roles during stakeholder workshops, providing verbal introductions during engagements, and offering clear context on the individuals leading water-related efforts. Evidence of this communication was provided during the audit, including stakeholder meeting materials and presentation content referencing the core team.
While these efforts show a clear intent to communicate governance roles, the site did not formally disclose its internal water-related governance structure. This point was also raised in the previous audit cycle, and the site's actions since then demonstrate clear improvement in communication. The element that remained is the formal, documented team structure or organogram being directly shared with external stakeholders.

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 has been communicated to relevant stakeholders, and there is clear evidence that the plan outlines how it contributes to the AWS Standard outcomes. Communication has been carried out through appropriate stakeholder engagement activities and documented materials, ensuring transparency and alignment with the indicator's intent.

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 has demonstrated measurable progress under Indicator 5.3.1 by tracking and reporting several quantifiable elements: Stakeholder Engagements: The site engaged with more than two key stakeholders, exceeding its outreach target. Documentation of these engagements shows targeted communication with relevant catchment actors. IWRA Identification and Maintenance: The site continues to monitor and maintain IWRA features, including the duck pond and an unnamed stormwater channel, as part of its ongoing stewardship activities. Disclosure of the Water Stewardship Plan: The plan was shared during stakeholder workshops, and the supporting presentation materials—also provided to the audit team—highlighted: The number and type of WASH-related programs identified. The current status and ongoing management of IWRA features. Clear evidence of performance tracking across multiple initiatives, including reduction of 3.11% in total water intake The audit team reviewed the presentation materials and found the level of detail and performance tracking presented to be satisfactory and aligned with the intent of the indicator.
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.* ✓ Yes
Comment	Shared water-related challenges and the actions taken to address them have been clearly disclosed through stakeholder engagement records and relevant documentation, reflecting transparency and commitment to collaborative water stewardship. The site has disclosed shared water-related challenges and corresponding actions through multiple stakeholder engagements and supporting documentation. Key stakeholders engaged include Rancho Water, the Eastern Municipal Water District (EMWD), and other relevant local actors aligned with the Temecula, CA catchment context. These engagements reflect the site's commitment to collaborative water stewardship and regional alignment. Stakeholder communication included discussion of identification and maintenance of IWRA features and WASH. These discussions, along with documentation reviewed by the audit team, demonstrate both transparency and a structured approach to addressing 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 site has supported public-sector efforts by engaging with and providing input to the City of Temecula on water-related issues. This collaboration included hosting workshops and initiatives focused on catchment management, water quality, and stormwater infrastructure. The engagement reflects the site's alignment with public-sector objectives and its contribution to broader water stewardship efforts in the region. Evidence demonstrates that the site has actively engaged stakeholders and collaborated with public-sector agencies through meetings and joint initiatives, supporting coordinated efforts to address shared water challenges in the catchment.
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	During the audit, no water-related compliance violations were identified.	
5.5.2	*Necessary corrective actions taken by the site to prevent future occurrences shall be disclosed if applicable.*	Yes
Comment	As no water-related compliance violations were identified (refer to 5.5.1), no corrective actions were required.	
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
Comment	There were no water-related violations posing significant risk to human or ecosystem health identified during the audit. The site has protocols in place to immediately notify relevant public agencies and disclose such incidents, should they occur.	

Previous Findings

	All non-conformities raised in the previous audit have been satisfactorily closed.	Yes
Comment	There were no non-conformities identified in the previous audit. However, the site has successfully addressed all observations raised during that assessment.	