# CERTIFICATION REPORT

## Alliance for Water Stewardship (AWS)

Audit Number: AO-001816

WSAS WATER STEWARDSHIP ASSURANCE SERVICES

## SITE DETAILS

Site: **Suntory Kita-Alps Shinanonomori Water Plant**
Address: 8071-1, Tokiwa, Omachi, 398-0004, Nagano, JAPAN
Contact Person: Sachiko Umei
AWS Reference Number: AWS-000849
Site Structure: Single Site

## CERTIFICATION DETAILS

Certification status: Certified Platinum
Date of certification decision: 2025-Nov-18
Validity of certificate: 2028-Nov-17

## AUDIT DETAILS

Audited Service(s): AWS Standard v2.0 (2019)
Audit Type(s): Initial Audit
Audit Start Date: 2025-Oct-06
Audit End Date: 2025-Oct-09
Lead Auditor: Naoya Ogawa

Site Participants:
Mr. Daisuke Iga, Engineering Dept.
Mr. Yasuhiro Koyama, Plant Manager
Mr. Mikiji Masumune, Senior General Manager
Mr. Junya Watanabe, General Manager, Administration Dept.
Mr. Kazuyoshi Takenoshita, Engineering Dept.
Mr. Masaru Nakatani, Quality Assurance Dept.
Mr. Akihiro Koga, Engineering Dept.
Mr. Tomoyuki Ichida, Sustainability Management Division, Suntory Holdings Ltd.
Mr. Akira Watanuki, Institute for Water Science, Suntory Global Innovation Center
Mr. Atsuhiro Tsuji, General Manager, Sustainability Management Division, Suntory Holding Ltd.
Ms. Sachiko Umei, Sustainability Management Division, Suntory Holdings Ltd.

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## ADDITIONAL INFO

Summary of Audit Findings: During the certification audit, no non-conformities and 2 observations were raised.

The audit team recommends certification of Suntory Kita-Alps Shinanonomori Water Plant at Platinum level.

Scope of Assessment: The scope of services covers the Initial certification audit for assessing conformity of Suntory Kita-Alps Shinanonomori Water Plant against the AWS International Water Stewardship Standard Version 2.

Suntory Kita-Alps Shinanonomori Water Plant is located in Omachi City, Nagano Prefecture, Japan. This is the factory where Suntory Tennensui, the natural mineral water, is produced.
The production process is as follows:
□Natural Water Production Process
Pumping well water → Sterilisation → Filling → Packaging
Boilers and freezers are used for heating and cooling during the production process. Water is recycled in the boilers and freezers.

The facility is located in the upper and middle catchments of Chigawa River. The site collects groundwater from fissures in Late Cretaceous granite and groundwater trapped in relatively thin weathered layers. The mid- and upper reaches of the Chigawa River are located in a humid temperate climate, with high precipitation throughout the year and abundant groundwater resources. Forests cover most of the catchment.

The audit was conducted onsite on 6-9 October 2025.
The onsite site visit included the assessment of water-related infrastructure such as wells, water tanks, production lines, wastewater treatment plant, discharging point, waste storage, chemical storage and IWRAs such as Natural Water Sanctuary Forest Kita-Alps.

## FINDINGS

**NUMBER OF FINDINGS PER LEVEL**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Observation** | 2 |

### FINDING DETAILS

| | |
|---|---|
| Finding No: | TNR-021443 |
| Checklist Item No: | 4.1.4 |
| Status: | Open |
| Finding level: | Observation |
| Checklist item: | Advanced Indicator<br>A governance or executive-level review, including discussion of shared water challenges, water risks, and opportunities, and any water-related cost savings or benefits realized, and any relevant incidents shall be identified. |
| Findings: | Currently, AWS-related items are reviewed separately across multiple existing management mechanisms. A consolidated review of the Water Stewardship Plan has not yet been evidenced. |

| | |
|---|---|
| Finding No: | TNR-021445 |
| Checklist Item No: | 5.3.1 |
| Status: | Open |
| Finding level: | Observation |
| Checklist item: | A summary of the site's water stewardship performance, including quantified performance against targets, shall be disclosed annually at a minimum. |
| Findings: | For some plans, quantified targets cannot be disclosed due to confidentiality, and performance against targets were not clearly described. As a result, it was not clear for some targets if the targets were achieved or not. |

# CERTIFICATION REPORT

## Alliance for Water Stewardship (AWS)

Audit Number: AO-001816

WSAS WATER STEWARDSHIP ASSURANCE SERVICES

### Report Details

| Report | Value |
|---|---|
| Report prepared by | Naoya Ogawa |
| Report approved by | Marion Dardare |
| Report approved on (Date) | 17/11/2025 |

### Surveillance

**Proposed date for next audit**
2026-Oct-05

### Stakeholder Announcements

| Date of publication | Location |
|---|---|
| 05/08/2025 | https://www.suntory.co.jp/company/csr/highlight/202508_1478.html |
| 09/06/2025 | Direct explanation to stakeholders |
| | https://a4ws.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/AWS-000849_Suntory-Kita-Alps_StakAnn_Oct25.pdf |

## Catchment Information

**Catchment Information**
Catchment: The upper and middle parts of Chigawa River catchment

Water Supply & Discharge Catchment: The site draws groundwater from the mid-upper reaches of the Chigawa River, which includes the Suntory Natural Water Sanctuary "Kita-Alps." The wastewater passes through the Chigawa River, where the discharging point is located, as well as the Hotaka River, Sai River, Chikuma River, and Shinano River, and finally reaches the Sea of Japan.

Groundwater Aquifers: The site collects water from fissures in Late Cretaceous granite and groundwater trapped in relatively thin weathered layers.

Catchment Water Service Providers: The site does not use any water supply service provider. Domestic wastewater from the factory is connected to Omachi City's public sewerage system and is discharged into the Takase River from the Matsukawa Purification Plant, a sewage treatment plant.

Catchment Features: The mid- and upper reaches of the Chigawa River are located in a humid temperate climate, with high precipitation throughout the year and abundant groundwater resources. Forests cover most of the catchment, part of which is the Alps Azumino National Park. There is no inter-basin transfer. In the event of an extremely rare rainfall of 762 mm within 24 hours (a once-in-a-millennium scale), flooding of less than 0.5 meters is projected. This estimate is based on the worst-case assumption that downstream rivers such as the Hotaka River and the Sai River do not overflow but remain at high water levels. Accordingly, the overall risk of flooding is assessed to be low. Part of the upper catchment of the Chigawa River is designated as Chubu Sangaku National Park. The drainage basin is not dominated by specific water uses. There are farmland and residential land.

Catchment map.png

### Client Description and Site Details

**Client/Site Background**
Site location: 8071-1 Tokiwa, Omachi-shi, Nagano 398-0004 Japan

Suntory Kita-Alps Shinanonomori Water Plant is located in Omachi City, Nagano Prefecture, Japan, surrounded primarily by natural environments and agricultural areas. This area is blessed with the rich natural resources and forests of the Kita-Alps (Northern Alps), and is surrounded by the National Alps Azumino Park, where forest conservation efforts are focused. Because the factory is located away from any specific industrial or residential areas, it can be said to operate within a natural environment.

This is the factory where Suntory Tennensui, the natural mineral water, is produced.
The production process is as follows:
□Natural Water Production Process
Pumping well water → Sterilisation → Filling → Packaging
Boilers and freezers are used for heating and cooling during the production process. Water is recycled in the boilers and freezers.

All water used is groundwater (well water). Wells are located within the factory grounds, and water pumped from these wells is transported through underground pipes to the factory's water treatment process.
The water treatment process supplies water to each production process according to its intended use.
The water treatment equipment is regularly cleaned and regenerated, requiring large amounts of water.
The water used in each process is classified into product water, water used to clean and sterilize products, and water used to clean tanks and pipes.
Energy-related facilities use well water to generate steam in boiler equipment. Water is also used as equipment cooling water in freezers and air compressors, and is recycled in cooling towers.
Wastewater used in each process is sent through the appropriate pipes to the wastewater treatment process, where it is blended and treated at each stage. Treated water is constantly monitored by automatic instruments to ensure it meets discharge standards before being released into the river (Chigawa).
Rainwater that falls on the factory grounds passes through an inner ditch and is stored in a stormwater monitoring tank. If it meets the discharge standards, it is released into the same river (Chigawa) as the wastewater outfall.
If the discharge standards are violated, the shut-off valve in the stormwater monitoring tank is closed and the water is returned to the wastewater treatment system, preventing it from overflowing into the river.
Domestic water is stored in a fire water tank and used for firefighting.
Other wastewater is connected to Omachi City's public sewerage system and is discharged into the Takase River from Matsukawa Purification Plant (sewage treatment plant).

Completion year: 2021
Site area: Approximately 410,000 m2
Building area: Approximately 40,000 m2
Number of employees: 78 people

Site map.png

| | Summary of Shared Water Challenges |
|---|---|

**Summary of Shared Water Challenges**
Based on consultations with stakeholders, it appears that there are no current shared water challenges. The site also does not consider there to be any current challenges.
Future concerns (events that would have a major impact on the business if they occurred) include the depletion of groundwater and freshwater resources, contamination of groundwater and freshwater resources, river water pollution due to wastewater, a lack of safe water and sanitation, and weakening of local water governance.

| 0.0.1 | Water Source & Discharge Locations |
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| **0.01** | *Have any water source or discharge locations been visited during the audit, if so, which and where? If none were visited, please provide justification.* | Yes |
| Comment | The wells on the factory grounds and the discharge point at the Chigawa River were visited during the audit. | |

| 1 | STEP 1: GATHER AND UNDERSTAND |
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**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 supplied a map that outlines the location of the site and any water related infrastructure surrounding it. The plant utilise on-site wells. The map lists wells and discharging point to Chigawa river.
The site only receives water from the on-site wells and receives no municipal water. The evidence maps the location of all production wells and their pipework back the site.
In the another map, the catchment that feeds the factory is shown. The catchment is the upper and middle catchment of Chigawa River. The catchment area was decided based on sicentific research by The Institute for Water Science of Suntory group and Shinshu University. Scientific studies have shown that the catchment of groundwater and that of river water are consistent.
The another map is showing the river framework for discharged water, Chigawa river -> Hotaka river -> Sai river -> Chikuma river -> Shinano river. The Shinano River flows into the Sea of Japan, which is the ultimate receiving body for the post-production treated wastewater.
The another map shows the effluent network. Wastewater from production is treated at a wastewater treatment facility of the plant and then discharged into the Chigawa River from a wastewater outfall. Clean rainwater that falls on the factory roof is collected in an underground rainwater infiltration facility and seeps underground. Rainwater that may be contaminated with oil, such as rainwater that falls on asphalt pavement, is collected in an underground disaster prevention reservoir and its quality is monitored in a discharge monitoring hut. If no abnormalities are found, it is released into the Chigawa River from the same wastewater outfall. Domestic wastewater from toilets, hand-washing basins, kitchens, etc. is discharged into the sewer system managed by Omachi City and ultimately treated at the Matsukawa Water Purification Plant (sewage treatment plant) located in the neighboring village of Matsukawa, where the treated water is discharged into the Takase River.

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

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

Comment

A stakeholder list has been compiled, including local communities, agricultural producers, fishing cooperatives, academics, government agencies,companies, Shrine, and suppliers (not located within the catchment).
All applicable stakeholders were listed using the stakeholder checklist in Appendix 1 (a matrix based on the stakeholder cases from AWS Guidance and four categories from the AWS Standard), and relevant stakeholders were identified. Stakeholder groups such as vulnerable, minority, and Indigenous people do not exist in the catchment. (Women are included in all kinds of stakeholders.)
Communication history records, including dates, stakeholder names, content, frequency (planned and actual), and feedback from stakeholders, have been recorded since 2024. Regular exchanges of opinions are generally planned with the listed stakeholders. However, after a discussion with the Fisheries Association, they agreed that there is no need for regular communication, so they will be contacted if anything comes up. There are no fishermen involved; the Fisheries Association only sells recreational fishing licenses.
The treated wastewater from the plant, which produces only drinking water, is clean, and water quality surveys upstream and downstream of the Chigawa River have confirmed that it does not affect the water quality of the Chigawa River. Therefore, although the Chigawa River flows downstream from the plant through the neighboring Matsukawa Village, it is not believed to have any impact on residents, and the site has not received any feedback about the plant to date. Therefore, the Matsukawa Village Office and residents of Matsukawa Village are not included in our stakeholder list. The agricultural producers are the only downstream stakeholder.
The "Stakeholders' Water-Related Interests and Concerns" section summarises the opinions on water-related challenges from stakeholders. The site has interacted with local residents and agricultural producers through councils and other means, but no challenges have been raised. When the site asked the city, they told that no challenges regarding water have been raised by residents.
Academics expressed the view that, as there has not been an objective evaluation of Omachi City's groundwater to date, they would like to clarify this in the future. The government also agreed that there are no challenges. However, there was a desire to revitalise the region by utilising the water brand. Surrounding businesses also did not raise any particular challenges. As a result, overall, no issues that are currently considered water-related challenges were raised. The view was that if groundwater were to run dry or water quality were to deteriorate in the future, it would affect all stakeholders, including the plant, so action is needed to prevent such problems from occurring. There was also a view that efforts and education are needed to improve Omachi City's water brand.

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| **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 impact of the site on stakeholders and the impact of stakeholders on the site are evaluated on a three-point scale, with stakeholders with the greatest influence being prioritised as stakeholders to be involved with. The government, Alps Azumino National Park, and surrounding businesses are rated as stakeholders with a high degree of influence. There are no stakeholders upstream of the site other than Alps Azumino National Park. The ultimate receiving water body for the site is the Sea of Japan, but as stated in 1.2.1, it is believed that even residents downstream of the Chigawa River have no impact, and therefore residents further downstream have not been identified as stakeholders.

**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

This section has been edited for confidentiality reasons.

According to the hazard list for the Chigawa River inundation area, the plant's location is classified as an area subject to approximately 30 cm of flooding, but the probability of this occurring is extremely low. Furthermore, even if the Chigawa River were to overflow, the plant is designed with a slope that allows all water to flow toward the truck yard. While this area experienced flooding in 1959, flood control measures have been implemented since then, and the risk of a similar flood occurring in the future is very low.

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

Yes

Comment

The piping from the well to the plant, the piping within the plant, the drainage piping, and the production process have been mapped. It is clear where and how water is used. As the factory only manufactures bottled drinking water, the flow is simple.

**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

Flow rates are constantly recorded and the data is compiled by month.
Flow meters are installed for each well, and pumping volumes are recorded. G1 water supply volumes, G4 water supply volumes, and well blowdown volumes are recorded. Product volume is recorded as water usage. For wastewater, the total well blowdown volume, activated carbon blowdown volume, on-site wastewater treatment (amount of treated water discharged from the wastewater treatment facility), and off-site sewage treatment volume (amount of water supplied for domestic use) are recorded. The error between pumping volumes and usage + wastewater volumes for 2024 is extremely small, so it is considered to be fairly accurate. It is believed that the error includes evaporation volumes, etc.

**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

Water quality of the site's water sources, effluent and receiving water body is quantified.

Well water is tested weekly, while fill water (the water used to fill the product) is tested daily for chemicals, microorganisms, and sensory testing. Well water has never exceeded standards (although it occasionally exceeds control values).
Well water, fill water, and product water undergo water quality analysis annually by an external specialist. (Example: 31 May 2024)
All results to date have been below the standard values.
The water used within the factory is chlorinated well water.

The quality of effluent from the wastewater treatment facility is constantly monitored using instruments. In addition, water from two locations (immediately after the treatment facility and at the final discharge point) is externally tested once a month. (Example: 8 July 2025)
The results of continuous wastewater monitoring are reviewed at the morning meeting every morning. If an abnormality is detected, the water is shut off by an automatic shut-off valve, returned to the wastewater treatment facility, and an alarm is sent via Teams. They conduct monthly inspections to ensure the shut-off valve is functioning properly.
The site conducts more detailed inspections of the wastewater quality at the final discharge outlet once a year. (Example: 3 November 2024) At the same time, the site also conducts water quality inspections at points upstream and downstream of the plant in the Chigawa River.

The site holds regular monthly meetings of the Water Supply and Utilisation Subcommittee to discuss whether there are any problems with water quality.

Domestic water is discharged into the public sewer system and treated at Matsukawa Josuien (a sewage treatment plant). The site obtained monthly water quality survey data of discharged water for the fiscal year 2024 from Matsukawa Josuien. It has been confirmed that the water quality remains consistent.

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

Yes

Comment

Chemicals are considered potential sources of pollution.

The "Shinano WP Process Materials and Factory Management Materials List" manages all materials used in the plant, including chemicals.
The Eco Station stores chemicals used for cleaning during the manufacturing process.
There are also LNG tanks.
There are chemicals for wastewater treatment.
There are also small amounts of other chemicals and reagents.
All chemical storage locations are mapped.

Drains are provided at chemical receiving areas so that any spills can be collected and sent to the wastewater treatment facility. Leak prevention kits, including absorbent mats, are also available. When receiving materials from a tanker truck, someone is always present to check during receiving them.

**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

No on-site IWRAs are identified.
The site has the production wells and the observation well. The production wells are important not only for product production but also as a local water source in the event of a disaster.
Data from the observation well is submitted to the Omachi City Water and Groundwater Environmental Conservation Council as reference information, and is an important data source. However, wells are considered as water-related infrastructure, and not considered as IWRAs.

**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

Annual water-related costs are recorded.
Groundwater resource recharge costs includes maintenance costs for Natural Water Sanctuary activities and research expenses. Fiscal 2024 results and the 2025 budget are listed.
Well and water-related costs include energy costs (electricity bills), maintenance costs, consumables/fees, etc. (Water-saving capital investments were made at the time of construction.)
WASH-related costs are included in the cafeteria contract fees and cleaning contract fees.
Wastewater treatment costs include energy costs (electricity bills), maintenance costs, consumables/fees, etc., and sludge treatment costs.

Product manufacturing results are recorded as revenues.

The following social, cultural, environmental, and economic water-related value is listed as the value created since the factory's establishment:

Economic Value: Local job creation, factory tours (regional tourism), product development through the Shinano Omachi Mizunowa Project

Social Value: Mizuiku activities (high school and university), a factory open day event in May (500 attendees this year)
The site conducts Mizuiku (water education) activities for all six elementary schools in Omachi City (annual implementation starting in 2024).

Cultural Value: As a community contribution activity, the site annually clean up Hachioji Shrine, which is identified as IWRA. 10 people participated in 2025.
Mizuiku: Northern Alps School of Forest and Water: 12 sessions in 2024, the same level in 2025.

Environmental Value: Plant pumping volume: 493k m3, 441 hectares of forest conservation
2021: Mizunowa Project
2025: Launch of the Omachi City Water and Groundwater Environmental Conservation Council

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

Yes

Comment

The factory concept is to "achieve manufacturing that balances employee job satisfaction with improved productivity," and the company is committed to creating a comfortable working environment.
For WASH, hand-washing stations have been installed in 21 required locations (manufacturing sites) and 3 convenient locations.
While the legally required number of toilets, calculated based on the number of employees, is 8, there are 35 installed within the company and 17 in the PR area (area for general visitors), which is sufficient.
As for drinking water, the water that comes out of the taps is drinkable, but there are also water servers in two locations, and a tea dispenser in the cafeteria.

**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

There is a list of ingredients and packaging suppliers.
Since the company only produces mineral water, it does not have any ingredients suppliers.
There are multiple packaging manufacturers, but they are not within the catchment.
Therefore, there is no raw material (ingredients and packaging) suppliers within the site's catchment.

**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

Outsourced services include a company that analyses water quality and wastewater quality, two cleaning companies, and a company to which the site outsources mat cleaning. None of these are within the catchment.
The site has company cars that are washed regularly at a gas station, but this is done outside the catchment area. As a reference value, the site determined the amount of water used to wash one car.

**1.4.3** *Advanced Indicator*
*The embedded water use of primary inputs in catchment(s) of origin shall be quantified.*

Yes

Comment

Since the company only produces mineral water, it does not have any ingredients suppliers.
There are multiple packaging manufacturers. The site only uses PET bottles, and the weight of a PET bottle of 550ml product is 11.9g, which is less than 5% of the total weight of 550ml bottled water. (https://www.suntory.co.jp/sustainability/env_circular/reduce/)
Therefore, there are no suppliers of primary inputs, and this is not applicable.

**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

Prior to the plant's construction, there were the following water governance initiatives in the area:
□"Omachi City Environmental Conservation Ordinance": A well installation notification must be submitted when digging a well. Drilling can begin after the notification is accepted.
□"Alps Region Groundwater Conservation Council": An administrative-only council consisting of 11 municipalities and the prefecture. It develops guidelines for groundwater conservation and recharge. It also monitors groundwater levels and quality and makes the data publicly available. https://www.city.matsumoto.nagano.jp/soshiki/52/4552.html
□River Basin Flood Control Project: The Shinano River System (Chikuma River) Emergency Flood Control Project and the Nagano Prefecture Catchment Flood Control Promotion Plan are in place. However, there is no specific mention of the Chigawa River.

Due to the lack of groundwater management initiatives in Omachi City, Suntory led the establishment of the "Omachi City Water and Groundwater Environmental Conservation Council" in May 2025. Chairman: Mayor of Omachi City; Vice Chairman: Suntory Tennensui Kita-Alps Shinano-no-Mori Water Plant; and four other participating companies.
https://www.mizunowa-omachi.jp/pages/mizutochikasui
In the future, the council plans to monitor groundwater levels and conduct watershed conservation activities within Omachi City.

Sewerage management initiatives include Omachi City's "Omachi City Sewerage Business Management Strategy" (FY2025-FY2034) and Matsukawa Village's "Matsukawa Village Sewerage Business Management Strategy" (FY2025-FY2034). Sewerage fees are likely to rise in the future due to a decline in population and increased costs for earthquake-proofing and equipment renewal.

**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 "Register of Environmental Laws and Regulations and Monitoring Table for Environmental Laws and Regulations" lists all relevant laws, including those related to water. Water-related laws include the Water Pollution Control Law, Sewerage Law, Poisonous and Deleterious Substances Control Law, and Omachi City Environmental Conservation Ordinance.
The site subscribe to email newsletters from a legal information company and keep up to date on legal changes. For example, the Water Pollution Control Law was partially revised in January 2024.
There are no regulatory requirements for stakeholder-verified customary water rights. Yokomizosegi (an irrigation canal dug around 1650) crosses the factory grounds and is managed by the Yokomizosegi Management Association. When the factory was constructed, the site promised not to pollute the water. Currently, an artificial stream has been created in the outdoor promotion area, and water is drawn from the Yokomizosegi with permission from the Yokomizosegi Management Association, but the bottom of the stream has been paved with concrete to prevent the water from seeping into the ground, and the water is returned directly to the Yokomizosegi. In this way, the water rights of the Yokomizosegi have been protected, and there are currently no requirements that need to be addressed.

**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 catchment water-balance was calculated based on scientific research by the Institute for Water Science of Suntory group and Shinshu University.
A water cycle model developed for the Shinano WP catchment was used to calculate annual and seasonal water balance fluctuations. The conclusion was that there is abundant water.

In terms of the annual water balance, precipitation and snowmelt are high from April to September, and in winter runoff decreases due to snow accumulation, resulting in a temporary negative water balance, but looking at the year as a whole, there is an abundant input of water to the catchment.

**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

While it is publicly known that Omachi City conducts water quality surveys at two locations on the Chigawa River upstream from the site, the data is not disclosed. Furthermore, no public water quality surveys are being conducted on the Chigawa River downstream from the site. Regarding data further downstream from the Chigawa River, the site checked the results of public river water quality surveys. Data from Nagano and Niigata prefectures is publicly available, and they were able to confirm that the national water quality standards (BOD, COD, etc.) are generally met and there are no problems.
Since there is no public water quality data on the Chigawa River, on-site water quality surveys by the site began in 2023. These surveys are being conducted on two tributaries upstream from the plant. The river is clear and no particular water quality issues have been identified. Furthermore, as described in 1.3.4, water quality tests are continuously conducted upstream and downstream of the final discharge outlet, and no problems have been identified to date. There are no water-related challenges regarding water quality.

**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

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|---|---|---|
| Comment | The IWRA within the catchment have been mapped, including the Natural Water Sanctuary Kita-Alps, Hachioji Shrine, and Chigawa River.<br>- Natural Water Sanctuary Kita-Alps: The forest area of Alps Azumino National Park (approximately 165 hectares, managed under a 30-year agreement with the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism), and Omachi City Forest (approximately 276 hectares, managed under a 30-year agreement with Omachi City based on Nagano Prefecture's "Forest Adoption Promotion Project"). These areas are important for their water source conservation functions. With the advice of experts, forest maintenance activities and ecosystem protection activities are regularly carried out to check their condition.<br>- Hachioji Shrine: The shrine is dedicated to the god of water, and is therefore culturally important. New Year's prayers and the annual festival are attended from the site. The priest is invited to perform religious services on site. Cleanup activities are carried out independently by the site once a year.<br>- Chigawa River: The site's treated wastewater is discharged into this river, and it is important as an area where the environment must be maintained and as agricultural water downstream. Water quality surveys are conducted once a year, and the condition of the rivers is also observed at that time.<br>The condition of each IWRA is recorded with photographs and text.<br>No threats to the value of any IWRA have currently been identified. | |
| **1.5.6** | *Existing and planned water-related infrastructure shall be identified, including condition and potential exposure to extreme events.* | Yes |
| Comment | The water-related infrastructure located within the catchment that the site uses are the water-wells operated by the site and located within its boundaries.<br>The pumping capacity is sufficient, and since it has only been in operation for three years, there are currently no issues with deterioration. The well's condition is checked monthly. One well is cleaned per year. The area is virtually free of flooding and other disaster risks, so the site believes there will be no problems unless a major earthquake occurs.<br>Omachi City plans and manages the sewerage system, which carries domestic wastewater. The Omachi City Sewerage Business Management Strategy states that 0% of the pipes have exceeded their useful life. Sewage from this area of Omachi City is treated at the Matsukawa Josuien (sewage treatment plant) in the neighboring village of Matsukawa. Matsukawa Josuien is a joint sewage treatment plant operated by Omachi City and Matsukawa Village, and has been in operation since October 2000. Partial renovations are planned for 2029. The site believes there will be no problems with this sewerage-related infrastructure unless a major earthquake occurs. | |
| **1.5.7** | *The adequacy of available WASH services within the catchment shall be identified.* | Yes |
| Comment | There are no residential buildings within the catchment, and no public water supply is available. However, sewer pipes are installed.<br>For reference, the site looked at data on the coverage rates of water supply and sewage treatment facilities in Omachi City and Nagano Prefecture.<br>Water supply: 99.1% in Nagano Prefecture, nearly 100% in Omachi City.<br>Sewage treatment: 98.3% in Nagano Prefecture, 93.6% in Omachi City.<br>WASH services are considered to be at a sufficient level. | |
| **1.5.8** | *Advanced Indicator*<br>*Efforts by the site to support and undertake catchment level water-related data collection shall be identified.* | Yes |

Comment

The Omachi City Water and Groundwater Environmental Conservation Council collects and monitors groundwater level data from each member. The site and other members of the council submit data to the council. The mayor of Omachi serves as the council's chairman, and data is shared with the city. The site leads the activities of the council and support the chairman. Activities began in 2025, and data is currently being analysed. Plans call for annual monitoring of groundwater levels (data sharing) to level.
Water level gauges have been installed at locations where water level surveys are conducted in the Chigawa River outside of the site, and water volume is monitored every 10 minutes by the site. This is being carried out after applying for and receiving permission from Omachi City in accordance with the River Law. Data can be provided if Omachi City requests it, but no such request has been made to date.

**1.5.9** *Advanced Indicator*
*The adequacy of WASH provision within the catchments of origin of primary inputs shall be identified.*

Yes

Comment

As there are no primary inputs suppliers (see 1.4.3), this is not applicable.

**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

As stated in 1.2.2, based on consultations with stakeholders, it appears that there are no current shared water challenges. The site also does not consider there to be any current challenges.
Future concerns (events that would have a major impact on the business if they occurred) include the depletion of groundwater and freshwater resources, contamination of groundwater and freshwater resources, river water pollution due to wastewater, a lack of safe water and sanitation, and weakening of local water governance.
Priorities were organised in relation to the risks caused by these. Impact and likelihood of occurrence were assessed on a three-level scale and prioritised. Most risks would have a major impact if they occurred, but the likelihood of them occurring is currently low, so they have been given low priority. However, there is no reliable data on whether groundwater resources can continue to be used stably in the region, so this alone has been given a medium priority.

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

Yes

Comment

There are no shared water challenges, but current initiatives are listed to address the concerns raised in 1.6.1.
Depletion of groundwater and flooded water resources: Natural Water Sanctuary development activities, Mizuiku (Water Education) Program, Omachi City Water and Groundwater Environmental Conservation Council
Pollution of groundwater and freshwater resources: Liaison council with Nishiyama district municipalities
River water pollution due to wastewater: Water Pollution Control Law
Lack of safe water and sanitation: Maintenance and management of WASH facilities
Weakening of local water governance: Support for the maintenance and management of Alps Azumino National Park and Hachioji Shrine

**1.6.3** *Advanced Indicator*
*Future water issues shall be identified, including anticipated impacts and trends*

Yes

Comment

A decrease in precipitation would likely cause water shortages and have a significant impact on site operations, so the site investigated the possibility of a future decrease in precipitation as a possible future water issue.
Omachi City's "Water Circulation and Resource Recycling Path 2022" initiative outlines measures to address domestic wastewater, but makes no mention of future water resource conservation.
According to the Water Security Compass, a next-generation water risk assessment platform (a model based on data such as precipitation and population decline; https://water-sc.diasjp.net/), future water demand in the region is on a downward trend.
Most of the land within the catchment is forest, and approximately one-third is designated as a natural park, so the risk of future land alteration is low. Therefore, it is not expected that the water source's recharge function will change significantly in the future. Future precipitation projections predict that precipitation will remain the same as current levels or slightly increase.
Even in the worst-case scenario of various weather forecast models published on the Ministry of the Environment's website, precipitation is expected to decrease by approximately 0.95 times.
Consequently, the site has determined that future climate change risks are low and that there are no future water issues to be concerned about.

**1.6.4** *Advanced Indicator*
*Potential water-related social impacts from the site shall be identified, resulting in a social impact assessment with a particular focus on water.*

Yes

Comment

The site conducted a social impact assessment, listing 20 items covering the local economy, local community, environment, social responsibility, consumers, and workplace impacts. Each item was rated on a five-point scale (1: Negative impact, 3: Neither negative nor positive impact, 5: Very positive impact).
Because this site is a drinking water plant, all activities are water-related, and the site assessed all social impacts, including job creation, educating the next generation, and contributing to society. Specifically, water-related items include contributions to city government regarding water governance, water resource management, wastewater management, consideration for the ecosystem through IWRA management, and employee benefits through WASH. All of these were rated as very positive, with a score of 5. The assessment showed that the site had no negative impacts in any social aspects.

**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

In documents for 1.6 and 1.7, the site lists potential risks due to future concerns and prioritise them based on their impact and likelihood of occurrence.

Groundwater and aquatic resource depletion → Physical risk of groundwater decline and reputational risk of damage to corporate image.
Groundwater and freshwater resource contamination → Physical risk of groundwater contamination.
River water pollution due to wastewater → Physical risk of river pollution and reputational risk of damage to corporate image.
Lack of safe water and sanitation → Physical risk of lack of WASH access for employees.
Weakening of local water governance → Physical risk of IWRA degradation.

While the probability of occurrence is low, if they do occur, the impact will be long-lasting and have a significant business impact. Since the site cannot predict the cost burden until they actually occur, it is unable to calculate potential costs.
Most risks would have a significant impact if they occurred, but their likelihood is currently low, so they are low priority. However, since there is no reliable data on whether groundwater resources can continue to be used reliably in the region, this alone is given a medium priority.

**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: The site believes that actions taken to prevent the risks listed in 1.7.1 will create opportunities.

Groundwater and freshwater resource depletion: Continuously reduce water usage, strengthen catchment governance, foster stakeholder relationships, and contribute to corporate value.
Groundwater and freshwater resource contamination: Early risk detection and response.
River water pollution due to wastewater: Improve wastewater treatment, strengthen catchment governance, foster stakeholder relationships, and contribute to corporate value.
Lack of safe water and sanitation: Maintain and strengthen internal WASH infrastructure.
Weakening of local water governance: Strengthen monitoring systems and provide local support.

A monetary estimate is not possible because it does not directly lead to potential savings. Reducing water usage will lead to reduced electricity costs for water pumps.

**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: Taking into account best practices from other regions, the site has decided to establish a council with other groundwater users and local governments in the region, and to create a system for continuous groundwater monitoring, as a catchment best practice for water governance.

**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: To identify best practices for water balance, the site looked at the water consumption units of each Suntory plant. As a result, the best factory's water consumption unit was identified as the relevant sector best practice for water balance.

**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 has identified setting and adhering to internal standards that are stricter than the wastewater discharge standards set by Nagano Prefecture, and actually maintaining a high level of water quality in the Chigawa River, as relevant sector best practices for water quality. With regard to water quality in the Chigawa River, the site has adopted and will adhere to the strictest of the river fisheries standards, river environment standards, and agricultural water standards, from the perspective of maintaining the ecosystem and ensuring appropriate agricultural water use.

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

Comment: Maintaining and managing the IWRA in accordance with the Water Stewardship Plan has been identified as a relevant catchment best practice. The current IWRA is in good condition with no signs of deterioration, so maintaining it is considered best practice.

**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's current WASH situation has been identified as already being in a state of best practice, with more hand-washing stations than required, more toilets than legally required, and water provided that meets the water quality standards of the Water Supply Law.

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| 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:*<br>*- That the site will implement and disclose progress on water stewardship program(s) to achieve improvements in AWS water stewardship outcomes*<br>*- That the site implementation will be aligned to and in support of existing catchment sustainability plans*<br>*- That the site's stakeholders will be engaged in an open and transparent way*<br>*- That the site will allocate resources to implement the Standard.* | Yes |
| Comment | The site statement meets the requirements set out in the indicator. The statement was authorized by Mr. Yasuhiro Koyama (Plant Manager) on July 29, 2025, and is displayed in the office.<br>It has also been posted on the "Latest News" page of the Suntory's website.<br>https://www.suntory.co.jp/company/csr/?ke=mn#sec06 | |
| **2.1.2** | *Advanced Indicator*<br>*A statement that explicitly covers all requirements set out in Indicator 2.1.1 and is signed by the organization's senior-most executive or governance body and publicly disclosed shall be identified.* | Yes |
| Comment | The statement was authorised by Mr Yasuhiro Koyama (Plant Manager) on 29 July 2025. | |
| **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:*<br>*- Identification of responsible persons/positions within facility organizational structure*<br>*- Process for submissions to regulatory agencies.* | Yes |
| Comment | The "Register of Environmental Laws and Regulations and Monitoring Table for Environmental Laws and Regulations" mentioned in 1.5.2 is a system for checking compliance with all relevant laws, including those related to water.<br>The frequency of compliance checks for each law is set out in an annual plan, and records are kept of whether compliance was confirmed as planned.<br>A person in charge and responsible person are designated for each law. This is managed by the Environmental Conservation Subcommittee, and a diagram of the organisation is available.<br>Details of matters that require notification or reporting to the government are described and planned. | |
| **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 Suntory Group's ""Water Philosophy"" is its mission and vision.<br>https://www.suntory.com/softdrink/company/sustainability/environment/water.html<br>Under this philosophy, each plant's ""Basic Policy (Plant Manager's Promise)"" is listed at the beginning of the Water Stewardship Plan. |

**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

Based on 1.6 (potential shared water challenges) and 1.7 (water risks and opportunities), each item of plan has been established and a Water Stewardship Plan has been created. It currently contains 10 WSP Actions:
1.I. Natural Water Sanctuary (Azumino Park and Site)
- Forest maintenance to improve watershed conservation functions
- Forest ecosystem conservation

II. Natural Water Sanctuary (Omachi City Forest)
- Forest maintenance to improve watershed conservation functions
- Creation of a diverse forest environment as a habitat for various wildlife
- Effective utilization of timber

2.Securing participants in ""Mizuiku"" (Water Education) activities and increasing awareness of these activities
3. Reduce water usage per unit of the entire Group by 35% in 2030 compared to 2015 (2030 Group Goals)
4. Continually meet the effluent standards set forth in the Nagano Prefecture Effluent Standards and the site standards
5. Conduct investigations based on the ""Guidelines for Information Collection Activities Regarding Suspected Soil and Water Contamination (Possible Impact from Surrounding Areas)""
6. I. Provide a continuous supply of clean water on-site.
II. Ensure on-site toilets are always available.
7. Contribute to the conservation of nature in the Alps Azumino National Park by continuing forest conservation, ecosystem protection, and environmental education in the conservation zone.
8. Contribute through continued environmental improvement at Hachioji Shrine.
9. I. Continue participation in the Shinano Omachi Mizunowa Project.
II. Continue establishing and operating the Omachi City Water and Groundwater Environmental Conservation Council.
10. Continue the Suntory Shinano-no-Mori Plant Liaison Council.

The following items are included for each target:
- Actions to achieve and maintain (or exceed) it
- Planned timeframes to achieve it (long term and short term (yearly))
- Financial budgets allocated for actions
- Positions of persons responsible for actions and achieving targets
- The link between each target and the achievement of best practice to help address the AWS outcomes.

**2.3.3** *Advanced Indicator*
*The site's partnership/water stewardship activities with other sites within the same catchment (which may or may not be under the same organisational ownership) shall be identified and described.*

Yes

Comment

The site undertakes water stewardship activities with a number of key stakeholders, such as Omachi City, forestry companies, natural survey organisations, etc. The site has developed a table that lists: the partner, form of partnership. water stewardship activities undertaken and the site's role.
For example: Omachi City > 'Natural Water Sanctuary Kita-Alps' forest development agreement > water resource recharge at Natural Water Sanctuary Kita-Alps > Maintenance coordination and subsidy application.
The table contains 14 examples of identified partnerships on water stewardship activities within the catchment and it has described the relations between the site and its partner.

**2.3.4** *Advanced Indicator*
*The site's partnership/water stewardship activities with other sites in another catchment(s) (either under same corporate structure or with another corporate site) shall be identified.*

Yes

Comment

Suntory's 'Natural Water Sanctuary initiative' started in 2003. The water source protection project has now expanded to cover 12,000 ha, at 26 locations in 16 prefectures in Japan. Suntory Holdings has a contract in place with each land owner, such as the local authorities, of the area in Suntory Natural Water Sanctuary. At Suntory headquarters, multiple people in charge of Natural Water Sanctuary activities belong to the same department and exchange opinions on a daily basis as they carry out their activities. A Suntory-style forest management manual has been prepared, and this manual is presented to forestry contractors in each forest to carry out forest management. Natural Water Sanctuary is established at each plant of Suntory, and each plant manages the sanctuary forest of the plant, based on a specific forest management plan of each sanctuary forest. Natural Water Sanctuary Kita-Alps is managed by the site.
Contracted forestry companies also do forestry operations in other Natural Water Sanctuary.
Omachi City's Water and Groundwater Environmental Conservation Council and the Shinano Omachi Mizunowa Project are carrying out city-wide activities, including other catchments within Omachi City.

**2.3.5** *Advanced Indicator*
*Stakeholder consensus shall be sought on the site's water stewardship plan. Consensus should be achieved on at least one target. A list of targets that have consensus and in which stakeholders are involved shall be identified.*

Yes

Comment

The Natural Water Sanctuary action plan in the WSP has been agreed upon by stakeholders related to the Natural Water Sanctuary, and the plan is being implemented.
Example: Omachi City Hall Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Division (on 2 Oct 2025): The WSP was explained and positive comments were received.
Omachi Mayor (on 25 Sep 2025): The WSP was explained. The Mayor commented that there were no particular issues and no additional issues. The Mayor also commented that he considered the Omachi City's Water and Groundwater Environmental Conservation Council important.
Shinshu University Assistant Professor Sakakibara (on 26 Sep 2025): The WSP was explained. He commented that he would like to thoroughly evaluate the groundwater monitoring activities of the Omachi City's Water and Groundwater Environmental Conservation Council.
Omachi City's Water and Groundwater Environmental Conservation Council (on 26 Aug 2025): The WSP was explained to council members at a council meeting. There were questions about Suntory's initiatives. There were also positive comments about the council's commitment to caring for the local community.

**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

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| Comment | The site does not rely on any public water supply infrastructure. The site relies on public sewerage infrastructure. The amount of water discharged into the sewer system is small, and none of the sewer pipes have reached the end of their useful life, so there is little risk of deterioration. As a result, the site has determined that there are no risks to the infrastructure at this stage.<br><br>Planning items have been established based on 1.6 (potential shared water challenges) and 1.7 (water risks and opportunities), and a WSP has been prepared. | |
| **2.4.2** | *Advanced Indicator*<br>*A plan to mitigate or adapt to water risks associated with climate change projections developed in co-ordination with relevant public-sector and infrastructure agencies shall be identified.* | Yes |
| Comment | As stated in 1.6.3, there is currently little risk of future climate change, so a climate change risk response plan is not currently necessary. | |

| 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

Omachi City Water and Groundwater Environmental Conservation Council began its activities on 20 May 2025. Site has been leading the council since its inception as vice chair and secretariat. Going forward, the council plans to monitor groundwater levels and conduct water resource conservation activities within Omachi City. The 2025 activity schedule is as follows:
7th November: Tree planting activities as part of watershed conservation activities
1st December: Third-party evaluation meeting for groundwater observation well monitoring and lecture by Assistant Professor Sakakibara of Shinshu University
For groundwater observation well monitoring, member companies submitted their own groundwater data, which is currently being analysed.
The Suntory Shinano-no-Mori Plant Liaison Council has been held annually since 2021 (e.g., on 26 Aug 2025). It has become a forum for effective communication on water with local residents, agricultural stakeholders, and others.
To contribute to improving local water governance capabilities, Suntory is implementing Mizuiku (Water Education) programs. Starting in fiscal year 2024, Mizuiku programs are held annually for all six elementary schools in Omachi City. The programs are combined with factory tours. In 2024, 340 students participated. Additionally, the "Kita-Alps School of Forests and Water" program is being held at the Natural Water Sanctuary Kita-Alps for elementary school students from within and outside the prefecture and their parents. In 2024, 12 Mizuiku programs were held, with 360 participants.
When drilling a well, the site submitted a well installation notification to Omachi City, following the Omachi City Environmental Conservation Ordinance, and it was accepted.

**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 water rights to Yokomizosegi (an agricultural irrigation canal dug around 1650) are relevant. While Yokomizosegi runs through the plant grounds, the site does not own the canal; it is managed by the Yokomizosegi Management Association. Association members are permitted to enter the site for maintenance purposes. Additionally, an artificial stream has been created in the outdoor promotion area, and water is drawn from the Yokomizosegi with permission from the Yokomizosegi Management Association, but the bottom of the stream has been paved with concrete to prevent the water from seeping into the ground, and the water is returned directly to the Yokomizosegi. In this way, the water rights to Yokomizosegi, which existed before the construction of the plant, are respected.
Confirmation regarding the maintenance and management of Yokomizosegi and its branch canals during the construction of the new plant was signed with the Takase River Right Bank Land Improvement District on 30 Apr 2020, before construction began.
The management association cleans the canal every November, with the participation of several site employees. Drinking water is provided after cleaning is completed.

**3.1.3** *Advanced Indicator*
*Evidence of improvements in water governance capacity from a site-selected baseline date shall be identified.*

Yes

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| Comment | The site set the baseline as 1 January 2024.<br>In 2024, there were two AWS staff members, but from 2025, this was organised, establishing an AWS structure of 18 people.<br>Environmental education is conducted once a year. On 15 Nov 2024, education was held to increase understanding of policies, environmental impact, environmental performance, and environmental risks. Pre- and post-event surveys showed that understanding of employees had improved. All employees on site, including those from partner companies, receive the education.<br>In addition, monthly meetings are held in which all employees participate, during which time time is set aside for environmental education, covering a variety of environmental topics.<br>Starting in 2025, water-related environmental education has been conducted (February, June, July, and August). Materials are distributed to those who are absent on those days. | |
| **3.1.4** | *Advanced Indicator*<br>*Evidence from a representative range of stakeholders showing consensus that the site is seen as positively contributing to the good water governance of the catchment shall be identified.* | ✓ Yes |
| Comment | Suntory serves as a management partner for the Shinano Omachi Mizunowa Project.<br>The site was also appointed from among the member companies to serve as vice chairman and secretary of Omachi City's Water and Groundwater Environmental Conservation Council.<br>Suntory proposed a groundwater level monitoring method, which the member companies agreed to, and the groundwater level monitoring project is now underway.<br>The above is evidence from a representative range of stakeholders showing consensus that the site is seen as positively contributing to the good water governance of the catchment.<br>Stakeholder interviews also expressed the opinion that the site is practicing good water governance. | |
| **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 | A system for checking compliance with laws and regulations is in operation using the "Register of Environmental Laws and Regulations and Monitoring Table for Environmental Laws and Regulations" mentioned in 2.2.1. Annual plans and implementation status are recorded monthly. When plans cannot be implemented as planned (compliance with laws and regulations cannot be confirmed), the reason is made clear (e.g., a machine was not operating, so measurements related to that machine could not be taken). Implementation records up to June 2025 have been confirmed. | |
| **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 stated that there are no water rights of others identified for the site and catchment that are part of legal and regulatory requirements. | |
| **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 | Progress results are released monthly and shared within the team against the annual target for water consumption units in 2025. Documents were presented showing that the annual target had already been achieved as of September 2025. | |
| **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 | Water scarcity is not currently a shared water challenge. Regardless, the site has set targets for improving the site's water use efficiency and this is recorded in the indicator 3.3.1. | |
| **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 reallocate any water to social, cultural or environmental needs, and no legally binding documentation is therefore required. | |
| **3.3.4** | *Voluntary Advanced Indicator*<br>*The total volume of water voluntarily re-allocated (from site water savings) for social, cultural and environmental needs shall be quantified.* | N/A |
| Comment | Voluntary Advanced Indicator is not assessed. | |
| **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 | WSP's goal is to have zero water quality incidents, and as of September 2025, they have achieved this goal.<br>A detailed plan has been drawn up for water quality testing locations, test items, and frequency at each point from the well water to the final discharge point, and water quality testing is carried out regularly in accordance with this plan. To date, wastewater exceeding internal standards has never been discharged off-site. On rare occasions, the automatic shut-off valve closes due to a false positive by the sensor, but this is restored after the details are confirmed. | |
| **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 | Water quality is not currently a shared water challenge. Regardless, the site has set targets for maintaining the site's good water quality and this is recorded in the indicator 3.4.1. | |
| **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 | Following plans and results in the WSP are relevant to IWRAs.<br>For the Natural Water Sanctuary, the site has created a Natural Water Sanctuary Kita-Alps Vision for each of the Azumino Park and Omachi City Forest areas. Specific plans are being developed and implemented based on this vision.<br>- Natural Water Sanctuary (Alps Azumino National Park and forest within the plant): Post-planting monitoring of the planned area (once a year) and monitoring of raptor nesting (three times a year) were carried out as planned.<br>- Natural Water Sanctuary (Omachi City Forest): Monitoring of the zoning demonstration experiment based on thinning intensity (four times a year) was carried out as planned.<br>- Hachioji Shrine: Cleanup activities were carried out once a year as planned. This helps maintain cultural value. | |
| **3.5.2** | *Advanced Indicator*<br>*Evidence of completed restoration of non-functioning or severely degraded Important Water-Related Areas including where appropriate cultural values from a site-selected baseline date shall be identified. Restored areas may be outside of the site, but within the catchment.* | Yes |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Comment | There are no non-functioning or severely degraded Important Water-Related Areas within the catchment. This was confirmed during the catchment tour. Stakeholders did not indicate that such areas exist. | |
| **3.5.3** | *Advanced Indicator*<br>*Evidence from a representative range of stakeholders showing consensus that the site is seen as positively contributing to the healthy status of Important Water-Related Areas in the catchment shall be identified.* | Yes |
| Comment | The site was informed by the Parks Division of the Nagano National Highway Office of the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, which manages the Alps Azumino National Park, that an internal report states their support for Natural Water Sanctuary activities.<br>The Forest and Water School, held within the IWRA Natural Water Sanctuary Kita-Alps, is sponsored by the Ministry of the Environment, the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, Nagano Prefecture, the Nagano Prefectural Board of Education, Omachi City, and the Omachi City Board of Education.<br>The "National Conference on River Learning Experiences" hosted by Omachi City was held in September 2024, and the site was appointed by the city to give a lecture on IWRA.<br>When the site visited the Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Division of Omachi City Hall on 10 Feb 2025, they received positive comments about the water source conservation activities at the IWRA Natural Water Sanctuary.<br>The priest of Hachioji Shrine also expressed his gratitude.<br>The above is evidence from a representative range of stakeholders showing consensus that the site is seen as positively contributing to the healthy status of Important Water-Related Areas in the catchment. | |
| **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 | WASH facilities are properly maintained. The condition of the WASH facilities was confirmed during the site tour. The following documents were presented as relevant evidence:<br>Water tank inspection record (2 Sep 2024)<br>Water quality testing report (on-site domestic water) (21 Aug 2025)<br>Canteen hygiene inspection (outsourced) (10 Jul 2025)<br>Toilets are cleaned daily, and cleaning records are kept.<br>Drinking water is provided in the guardroom as a summer heatstroke prevention measure and is available to anyone on site.<br><br>Factory visitors are given two bottles of drinking water to sample.<br>Anyone can freely visit the factory's promotional area without a reservation. While bottled water is not provided to visitors, the tap water in the promotional area is potable.<br>Visitor restrooms are located in the parking lot and promotional area and are available for public use. | |
| **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 |

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| Comment | There was no evidence that the site was impinging on the human rights to safe water and sanitation of communities through their operations. This was confirmed through stakeholder interviews.<br><br>The national Alps Azumino Park is located within the catchment, but the site does not affect it because it is upstream.<br>There is one well near the site and five others in the area whose water levels are publicly available, but there is no data to suggest that water levels have been affected since the site began drawing water.<br>The quality of wastewater has been consistently confirmed to be no problem.<br>The sources of the city's public water supply is located at a higher elevation in another nearby catchment, so the site does not affect them. | |
| **3.6.3** | *Advanced Indicator*<br>*A list of actions taken to support the provision to stakeholders in the catchment of access to safe drinking water, adequate sanitation and hygiene awareness shall be identified.* | Yes |
| Comment | There are no houses within the catchment, so there is no need to provide direct WASH services, so this is not applicable.<br>Discharging clean treated wastewater into the Chigawa River leads to a good WASH environment downstream.<br>Implementing Mizuiku (Water Education) gives people an opportunity to think about good water management around them, including WASH. | |
| **3.6.4** | *Voluntary Advanced Indicator:*<br>*In catchments where WASH has been identified as a shared water challenge, evidence of efforts taken with relevant public-sector agencies to share information and to advocate for change to address access to safe drinking water and sanitation shall be identified.* | N/A |
| Comment | Voluntary Advanced Indicator is not assessed. | |
| **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 | As there are no primary input suppliers or outsourced companies within the catchment, indirect water use targets have not been set for WSP and this does is not applicable.<br>For reference, Suntory headquarters explains Suntory's Partner Guidelines, including its water management policy, to ingredient manufacturers and packaging manufacturers every year. Conference rooms are set up and participants are asked to attend. In fiscal 2025, ingredient manufacturers and packaging manufacturers were invited to participate, with 100% participating. This includes the packaging supplier for the Shinano-no-Mori Plant. | |
| **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 there are no primary input suppliers or outsourced companies within the catchment, indirect water use targets have not been set for WSP and this does is not applicable.<br>For reference, Suntory headquarters explains Suntory's Partner Guidelines, including its water management policy, to ingredient and packaging manufacturers every year and receives signatures from them stating that they will comply with the guidelines. In addition, ingredient manufacturers are asked to respond to Sedex water sustainability questions. | |

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| **3.7.3** | *Advanced Indicator*<br>*Actions taken to address water related risks and challenges related to indirect water use outside the catchment shall be documented and evaluated.* | Yes |
| Comment | Not applicable as there are no primary input suppliers.<br>For reference, as mentioned above, the Partner Guidelines have been explained to raw material and packaging manufacturers and their signatures have been obtained. | |
| **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 | Although there is a sewerage system as a shared water-related infrastructure, as per 1.5.6, there is currently no risk to the sewerage system, so no engagement plan for the infrastructure is required. Not applicable. | |
| **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 | As a catchment best practice for water governance, the site has established a council with other groundwater-using companies and local governments in the area to create a system for continuous groundwater monitoring.<br>To this end, Suntory took the lead in lobbying Omachi City and other groundwater-using companies, and in 2025 they established the "Omachi City Water and Groundwater Environmental Conservation Council."<br>The chairman is the Mayor of Omachi City, and the vice chairman is the Suntory Tennensui Kita-Alps Shinano-no-Mori Water Plant. For the time being, the site will also serve as the secretariat.<br>The activities scheduled for 2025 are as follows:<br>7 November: Tree planting activities as part of water source cultivation activities<br>1 December: Third-party evaluation meeting for groundwater observation well monitoring and a lecture by Assistant Professor Sakakibara of Shinshu University | |
| **3.9.2** | *Actions towards achieving best practice, related to targets in terms of water balance shall be implemented.* | Yes |
| Comment | As a best practice for water balance, the site has set high targets for water consumption per unit of production.<br>With the introduction of variable water consumption control from fiscal 2023, the site is steadily reducing water consumption per unit of production. The site is continuing its efforts to achieve the best practice targets. | |
| **3.9.3** | *Actions towards achieving best practice, related to targets in terms of water quality shall be implemented.* | Yes |

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| Comment | As a best practice for water quality, the site aims to set and adheres to internal standards that are stricter than the wastewater discharge standards set by Nagano Prefecture, and to actually maintain a high level of water quality in the Chigawa River.<br>The site carries out appropriate wastewater treatment and constantly monitor using machines to ensure that wastewater quality standards are being met. The site also confirms the status every morning at the morning meeting.<br>As constant monitoring of the water quality of the Chigawa River is difficult, the site has introduced a system that adds water volume and quality data from constant monitoring of factory wastewater to water volume and quality data from February, when water volume is low, and constantly checks whether the target water quality for the Chigawa River is being achieved.<br>There have been no cases to date where the set water quality standards have been violated, and the site has consistently achieved best practice. | |
| **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 | Maintaining and managing the IWRA in its current good condition has been identified as catchment best practice for the IWRA.<br>In fact, forest maintenance activities and biodiversity conservation activities are being carried out at the Natural Water Sanctuary Kita-Alps based on a long-term plan in accordance with the Water Stewardship Plan. The condition of Hachioji Shrine and the Chigawa River is also being maintained. | |
| **3.9.5** | *Actions towards achieving best practice related to targets in terms of WASH shall be implemented.* | Yes |
| Comment | The current WASH status at the site has been identified as best practice. This status is maintained through regular inspections and cleaning. In addition, company-wide hygiene training is conducted once a year to raise employee awareness of WASH. | |
| **3.9.6** | *Voluntary Advanced Indicator*<br>*Achievement of identified best practice related to targets in terms of good water governance shall be quantified.* | N/A |
| Comment | Voluntary Advanced Indicator is not assessed. | |
| **3.9.7** | *Voluntary Advanced Indicator*<br>*Achievement of identified best practice related to targets in terms of sustainable water balance shall be quantified.* | N/A |
| Comment | Voluntary Advanced Indicator is not assessed. | |
| **3.9.8** | *Voluntary Advanced Indicator*<br>*Achievement of identified best practices related to targets in terms of water quality shall be quantified* | N/A |
| Comment | Voluntary Advanced Indicator is not assessed. | |
| **3.9.9** | *Voluntary Advanced Indicator*<br>*Achievement of identified best practices related to targets in terms of the site's maintenance of Important Water-Related Areas have been implemented.* | N/A |
| Comment | Voluntary Advanced Indicator is not assessed. | |
| **3.9.10** | *Voluntary Advanced Indicator*<br>*Achievement of identified best practice related to targets in terms of WASH shall be quantified.* | N/A |
| Comment | Voluntary Advanced Indicator is not assessed. | |

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| **3.9.11** | *Voluntary Advanced Indicator*<br>*A list of efforts to spread best practices shall be identified.* | N/A |
| Comment | Voluntary Advanced Indicator is not assessed. | |
| **3.9.12** | *Voluntary Advanced Indicator*<br>*A list of collective action efforts, including the organizations involved, positions of responsible persons of other entities involved, and a description of the role played by the site shall be identified.* | N/A |
| Comment | Voluntary Advanced Indicator is not assessed. | |
| **3.9.13** | *Voluntary Advanced Indicator*<br>*Evidence of the quantified improvement that has resulted from the collective action relative to a site-selected baseline date shall be identified and evidence from an appropriate range of stakeholders linked to the collective action (including both those implementing the action and those affected by the action) that the site is materially and positively contributing to the achievement of the collective action shall be identified.* | N/A |
| Comment | Voluntary Advanced Indicator is not assessed. | |

| 4 | STEP 4: EVALUATE - Evaluate the site's performance. | |
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| **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 | The site has evaluated their performance against the long-term targets and yearly targets listed in 2024 in the WSP. Each target indicates the contribution to achieving each water stewardship outcomes.<br>All targets in 2024 were achieved. | |
| **4.1.2** | *Value creation resulting from the water stewardship plan shall be evaluated.* | Yes |
| Comment | In the WSP, a column stating the evaluation of value creation is included.<br>1. Reduce water intensity per unit (m3/KL) by 35% between 2015 and 2030.<br>Evaluation of value creation: Reducing the electricity costs for pumping water by reducing water usage.<br>For other targets, it is difficult to evaluate value creation by financial water cost-benefit, as required in the AWS Guidance. | |
| **4.1.3** | *The shared value benefits in the catchment shall be identified and where applicable, quantified.* | Yes |
| Comment | In the WSP, a column stating evaluation of value creation is included. The shared value benefits are identified. It is difficult to quantify these value benefits.<br>For example, by conducting forest maintenance activities in the Narural Water Sanctuary Kita-Alps, ecosystems and groundwater were conserved. | |
| **4.1.4** | *Advanced Indicator*<br>*A governance or executive-level review, including discussion of shared water challenges, water risks, and opportunities, and any water-related cost savings or benefits realized, and any relevant incidents shall be identified.* | Obs. |
| Comment | Management reviews are conducted quarterly at the Environmental Conservation Subcommittee (e.g., 30 Apr 2025).<br>Environmental goals, including the water consumption ratio reduction target, and the number of incidents (zero), are reported to management for review. Currently, there are no shared water challenges or water risks, so they are not subject to management review.<br>In addition, a management committee is held monthly to confirm forecasts and actuals for water and utility costs.<br>Currently, AWS-related items are reviewed separately across multiple existing management mechanisms. A consolidated review of the Water Stewardship Plan has not yet been evidenced. | |
| **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 |

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| Comment | There was no emergency incident until September 2025.<br>In case of an emergency incident, the site conducts emergency response drills every year (e.g., 20 May 2024). | |
| **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 2024 WSP, performance, and 2025 WSP were explained to the following stakeholders.<br>Omachi City Hall Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries Division (on 2 Oct 2025): Received positive comments about the plan.<br>Omachi Mayor (on 25 Sep 2025): Received comments that there were no particular issues and no additional issues. He also commented that he considered the Omachi City's Water and Groundwater Environmental Conservation Council important.<br>Shinshu University Assistant Professor Sakakibara (on 26 Sep 2025): Received comments that he would like to thoroughly evaluate the groundwater monitoring conducted by the Omachi City's Water and Groundwater Environmental Conservation Council.<br>Omachi City's Water and Groundwater Environmental Conservation Council (on 26 Aug 2025): Explained the WSP to council members at a council meeting. There were questions about Suntory's initiatives. There were also positive comments about Suntory's commitment to the local community. | |
| **4.3.2** | *Voluntary Advanced Indicator*<br>*The site's efforts to address shared water challenges shall be evaluated by stakeholders. This shall include stakeholder reviewing of the site's efforts across all five outcome areas, and their suggestions for continual improvement.* | N/A |
| Comment | Voluntary Advanced Indicator is not assessed. | |
| **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 | There is a system to review and update the water stewardship plan every year. The plan was updated and the current plan is for 2025. It incorporates relevant information and lessons learned from the evaluations. Changes can be understood by refering to the previous year's plan.<br>As each goal was largely achieved and the situation surrounding the factory remained unchanged, the WSP for fiscal 2025 was planned to be the same as that for fiscal 2024. | |

| 5 | STEP 5: COMMUNICATE & DISCLOSE - Communicate about water stewardship and disclose the site's stewardship efforts |
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**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: The site's water-related internal governance is disclosed in the Water-related Activity Report 2024 on the website. https://www.suntory.co.jp/company/csr/env_water/aws/
The position of those accountable for compliance with water-related laws and regulations is "Environmental Management Officer." It is written that "The Environmental Management Officer is responsible for compliance with water-related laws and regulations."

**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 2025, including how the water stewardship plan contributes to AWS Standard outcomes, was communicated to main stakeholders in meetings.
Omachi City Hall Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries Division (on 2 Oct 2025)
Omachi Mayor (on 25 Sep 2025)
Shinshu University Assistant Professor Sakakibara (on 26 Sep 2025):
Omachi City's Water and Groundwater Environmental Conservation Council (on 26 Aug 2025)

Also, the summary of the water stewardship plan 2024 and its performance is disclosed in the Water-related Activity Report 2024 on the website.
https://www.suntory.co.jp/company/csr/env_water/aws/

**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.* 🔍 Obs.

Comment: The site has developed good dissemination material, particularly the 'Water-related Activity Report 2024' which is available in their website.
https://www.suntory.co.jp/company/csr/env_water/aws/
It states Summary of the Water Stewardship Performance for 10 targets, including Purpose, Target, quantified Activities/Performance, potential shared water challenges and stakeholder engagement.

However, for some plans, quantified targets cannot be disclosed due to confidentiality, and performance against targets were not clearly described. As a result, it was not clear for some targets if the targets were achieved or not.

This is an issue regarding the published plans and results. In the detailed WSP, quantitative targets are stated and the degree of achievement is clear. Since some figures cannot be disclosed to the public, the published summary version is expressed in a somewhat qualitative manner. However, it should be clearly stated whether the targets have been achieved or not.

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| **5.3.2** | *Advanced Indicator*<br>*The site's efforts to implement the AWS Standard shall be disclosed in the organization's annual report.* | Yes |
| Comment | The site has prepared the Water-related Activity Report 2024 which forms part of the annual report. It's a digital report and disclosed on the website. The Suntory company website contains a section on the AWS standard, and the site-specific reports are communicated on the global website. | |
| **5.3.3** | *Voluntary Advanced Indicator*<br>*Benefits to the site and stakeholders from implementation of the AWS Standard shall be quantified in the organization's annual report.* | N/A |
| Comment | Voluntary Advanced Indicator is not assessed. | |
| **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 | The Water-related Activity Report 2024 includes collaborative efforts to address potential shared water challenges. As stated in 1.6.1, the site judged that there is no current shared water challenge, but there are common regional risks. The site identified these as potential shared water challenges. In the Water-related Activity Report 2024, it is stated that "After reviewing the matter, it was found that there are no shared water challenges facing the site and stakeholders. However, there are concerns about the depletion of groundwater and freshwater resources and the pollution of river water due to wastewater." and stated following potential shared water challenges: Depletion of groundwater and freshwater resources, Pollution of groundwater and freshwater resources, and Wastewater-based water pollution of rivers. Plans and targets are linked to these potential 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 summary WSP 2024 within the Water-related Activity Report 2024 includes "Stakeholder engagement" for each plan. Therefore, efforts made by the site to engage stakeholders and coordinate and support public-sector agencies are stated in the summary of WSP 2024. Stakeholders and public-sector agencies are: Nagano Prefecture, Omachi City, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, Omachi City's Water and Groundwater Environmental Conservation Council, the Shinano Omachi Mizunowa Project, and Suntory Shinano-no-mori Plant Liaison Council, etc. Activities with these stakeholders are stated. | |
| **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.* | N/A |
| Comment | The site has had no water-related compliance violations. No compliance violations are recorded in the "Register of Environmental Laws and Regulations and Monitoring Table for Environmental Laws and Regulations" stated in section 3.2.1.<br>The site has undergone an external ISO 14001 audit, and the 2025 audit report stated that the external auditor confirmed that the system for confirming compliance with laws and regulations was being operated appropriately. | |
| **5.5.2** | *Necessary corrective actions taken by the site to prevent future occurrences shall be disclosed if applicable.* | N/A |
| Comment | There have been no water-related incidents and the site has therefore not been required to disclose corrective actions. | |

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| **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.* | N/A |
| Comment | There have been no site related violations and no communication or disclosure has therefore been necessary. | |

**Previous Findings**

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| | *All non-conformities raised in the previous audit have been satisfactorily closed.* | N/A |
| Comment | This is an initial audit. | |