



# Metro Area Water Supply Plan

Public comments and options for response



Metro Area Water Supply Policy and Technical Advisory Committees (MAWSAC & TAC) | October 23, 2024

Lanya Ross

# Purpose



## **Advise on responses to public comments**

Consider options to respond to public comments received on the draft Metro Area Water Supply Plan from August 15, 2024 to October 7, 2024.

Recommend changes needed for MAWSAC to approve a final Metro Area Water Supply Plan to include with the 2050 Water Policy Plan.

# Public comments received



- 1,200 comments received on the complete Imagine 2050
- 500 organizations and individuals provided comments
- Over 110 comments on Water Policy Plan specifically from four counties, one state agency, and five additional partner organizations
- Over 50 detailed comments related to water supply and the Metro Area Water Supply Plan
- Met Council staff still processing and responding

# High-level support for Metro Area Water Supply Plan with Water Policy Plan



- Appreciation for the process to create the Water Policy Plan (including Metro Area Water Supply Plan)
- Support for subregional work; requests for resources
- Support for policies and objectives such as:
  - Integrated Water Policy
  - Climate change adaptation and resilience
  - Safe water reuse
  - Protecting water quality

# Requests for the final Metro Area Water Supply Plan with Water Policy Plan



- Additional clarification on specifically how the policies will impact local comprehensive planning
- Some clarifications related to different definitions, including use of the term equity
- More information related to public health concerns related to water policy
- Include source water protection areas in comprehensive planning guidance
- More information about how technology may impact long-term planning and data
- Clarity about how the Priority Waters List might impact elements in the Water Policy Plan

# Concerns for the final Metro Area Water Supply Plan with Water Policy Plan



- General concern when the plan includes language related to water utilities
- Desire for greater discussion of collaboration between government partners
- Plans should address emerging contaminants

# Detailed comments on the Metro Area Water Supply Plan



- 50 detailed comments received
  - *12 cities and townships*
  - *3 counties*
  - *2 non-governmental organizations*
  - *1 state agency (Minnesota Department of Health)*
- 27 comments may result in plan revisions
- 18 comments were advisory and may not result in changes
- 8 comments related to subregional content
- 6 comments were water supply related but may result in plan revisions to Water Policy Plan or Land Use Policy (outside the Metro Area Water Supply Plan)

# Example 1

## Appreciation for subregional approach

Excellent effort to include multiple perspectives and stakeholders into the development of the plan. Dividing the plan by subregion is essential in ensuring there are not “one-size-fits-all” policies. The place-based narrative was consistently unique for all subregion plans, highlighting your commitment to an equitable process. In particular, Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community’s comments had a distinct influence on challenges, opportunities, and actions outlined in the Southwest Metro subregion.



# Example 2



## Local concern around Met Council role

We ask that the Met Council continue to promote regional partnerships and responsible stewardship of the natural resources but not venture into regional water planning and regulation, which we feel will be the end result of this plan.

# Example 3



## Request to add additional information

Consider additional wording changes to ensure public health is considered when evaluating stormwater management and determining the feasibility of water reuse.

# Example 4

## **Recognize connections between water supply infrastructure capacity and land use in local and regional plans**

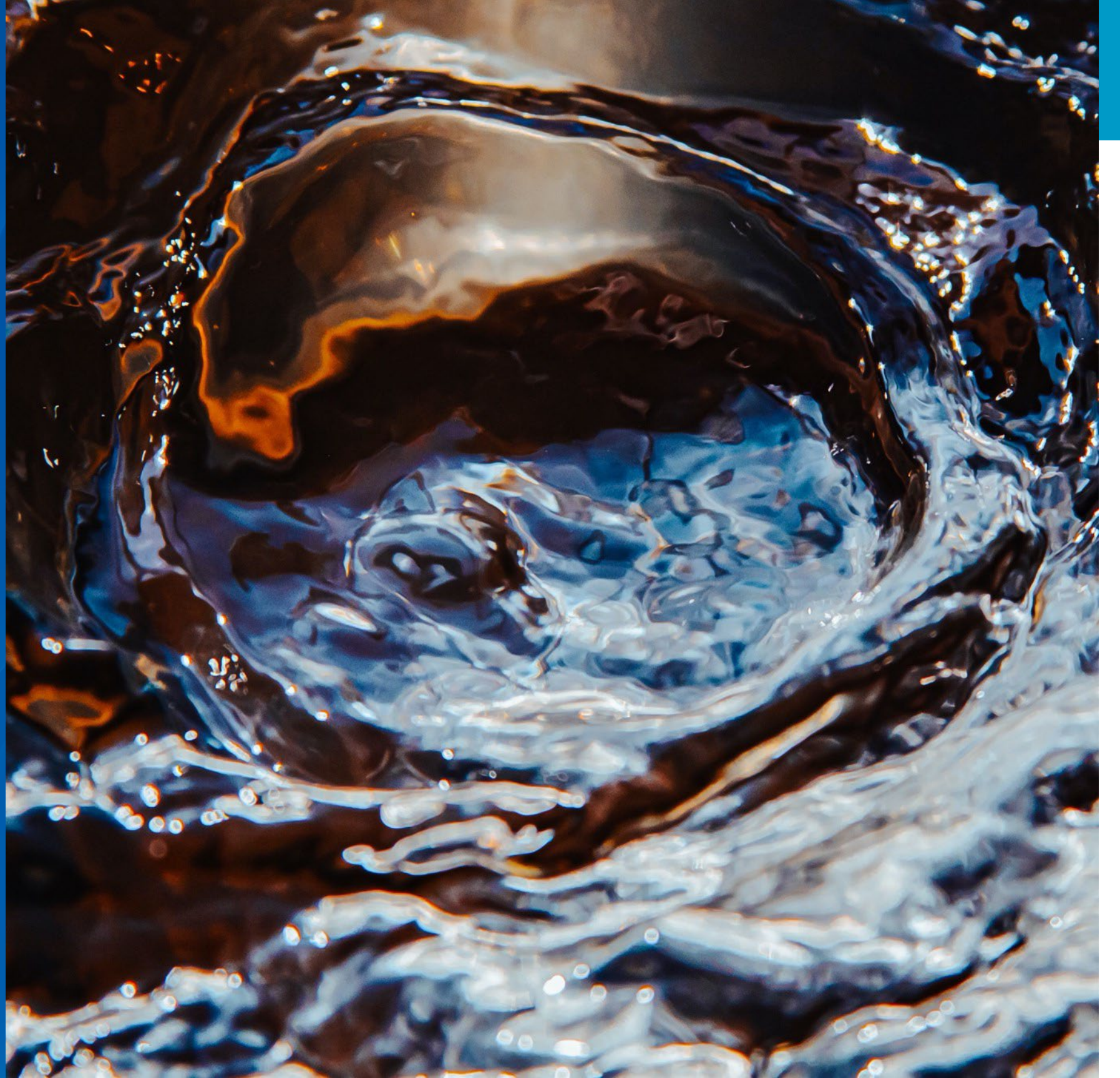
Any changes to density requirements should take into account the capacity of local infrastructure to support higher-density developments. In communities like Minnestrista, where infrastructure is designed for lower densities, mandating higher densities without providing adequate resources for infrastructure improvements would create long-term financial challenges.

# General options for response



- Comment noted.
  - Met Council will continue.
  - This topic is highlighted on these page(s).
  - Met Council does not intend to do this (and why).
- The comment will be shared.
- Response to questions.
- Met Council will revise plan content.

# DISCUSSION: COMMITTEE REVIEW OF COMMENTS



# Action requested



## **MAWSAC and TAC recommendations**

Identify changes needed in response to public comments for MAWSAC to approve a final Metro Area Water Supply Plan to include with the 2050 Water Policy Plan.

# Tentative upcoming committee actions

- December 10, 2024** Environment Committee review of public comments and proposed changes to Water Policy Plan, in order to recommend Council adoption along with approval of 2050 Water Policy Plan with the rest of Imagine 2050
- December 11, 2024** MAWSAC approve revised Metro Area Water Supply Plan based on public comments; recommend Council adoption with the 2050 Water Policy Plan and the rest of Imagine 2050
- January 21, 2025** Environment Committee recommend Council adoption of 2050 Water Policy Plan with the rest of Imagine 2050 (tentative)
- February 12, 2025** Council adoption of Imagine 2050 (tentative)



Thank You

**Lanya Ross**

Environmental Analyst, Water Resources

