Water System

04/23/2025 Asheville Leadership Forum David Melton, Director of Water Resources City of Asheville





Presentation Outline

- System Background
- Asheville Water System Helene Impacts and Response
- Resilience Measures



Water System Background

- The City of Asheville's water system provides potable water to the City of Asheville, Town of Biltmore Forest, Town of Woodfin, Black Mountain, and the majority of unincorporated Buncombe County, as well as Northern Henderson County.
- The service area emcompasses approximately 183 square miles & serves 160,000 customers.
- The system consists of three water treatment plants (WTP). North Fork WTP with a rated capacity
 of 31 million gallons per day (MGD), the William Debruhl WTP with a rated capacity of 5 mgd. Mills
 River WTP with a rated capacity of 7.5 mgd. Combined rated capacity for all there WTPs is 43.5
 mgd.
- The average daily water demand is 23.5 mgd.
- The Asheville water distribution system consists of approximately 1,700 miles of water lines, over 20,000 water control valves, 37 water storage tanks, 42 booster pump stations, and over 50 pressure zones.



AVL Water System - Helene Impacts and Response



Water System - Helene Impacts and Response

- Service to 80 percent of Water Resources customers was disrupted mid-morning on Sept. 27. Helene caused catastrophic damage to our production and distribution systems.
- Partial service was restored to every customer who could receive it within 18+/- days, although a Boil Water Notice was issued due to water quality.
- Potable water was restored within 52 days.
- The Water system is fully operational and capable of meeting typical demand.





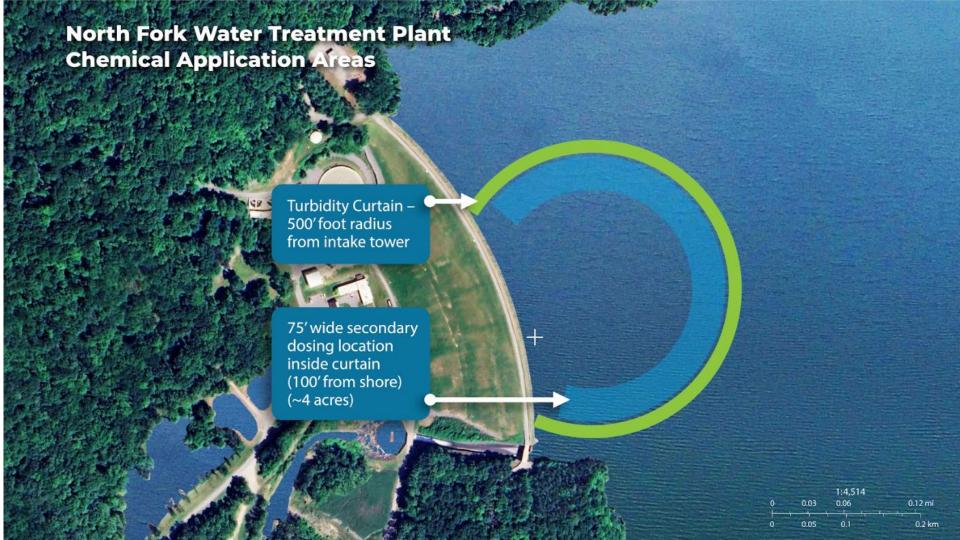




Auxiliary Spillway







Diffused Air Floatation (DAF) Sedimentation Units



Water System - Resilience Measures

- Three projects stand out for the resilience they would provide:
 - Sediment basins for filters at North Fork and DeBruhl WTPs
 - Cost: \$150 million
 - Alternate bypass line at North Fork
 - Cost: \$50 million
 - Long term, a new treatment facility in West Service Area
 - Cost: \$150-\$200 million



Questions?

