

INFRASTRUCTURE COMPONENTS

- A pumped abstraction of winter water from the Berg River – intended to increase the yield of the Voëlvlei Dam by 23 million cubic meters per annum;
- A low-level weir and a 4–6m³/s pump station – proposed to be at the Lorelei site on the Berg River; and
- A 6.3km-long pipeline to deliver water into the dam. The pipeline will be capable of reverse operation during summers so that releases can be made from the Voëlvlei Dam to the downstream users and to meet the ecological water requirements of the estuary.

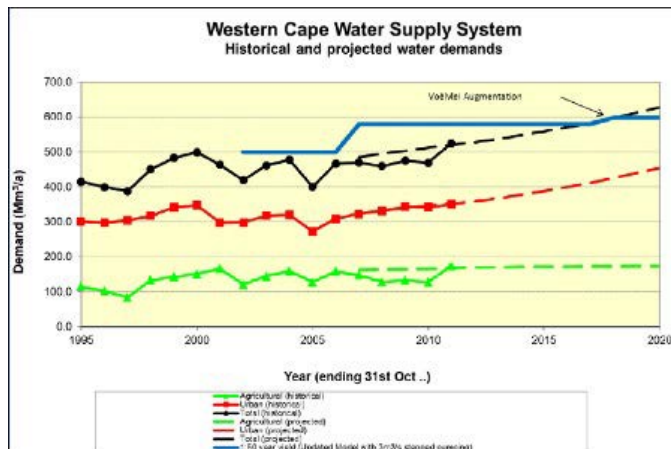
SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT

The project will improve regional water security and create a more reliable supply to domestic, agricultural and industrial water users. It has the potential for job creation, mainly during the construction phase. This stage will generate temporary employment for the duration of the contract. There also exists a possibility for secondary jobs from small businesses using more people to sell goods and services to the construction workers. These opportunities will transfer skills to unemployed locals, most of whom have low levels of education. The beneficiaries will then be able to use the skills elsewhere when the project ends. Several other business opportunities will be created for the SMME sector. These range from site clearing to fencing, construction and the supply of construction materials. There also exist opportunities for community members to provide catering, accommodation and other related services to the hired workers and visitors. Since these will mainly be SMMEs from the project area, the profits generated will stay in the community, improving its welfare while stimulating the local economy.



FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS

The cost of constructing BRVAS is estimated at R1 billion, which the Minister of Human Settlements, Water and Sanitation has tasked TCTA with securing.



TRANS-CALEDON TUNNEL AUTHORITY (TCTA)

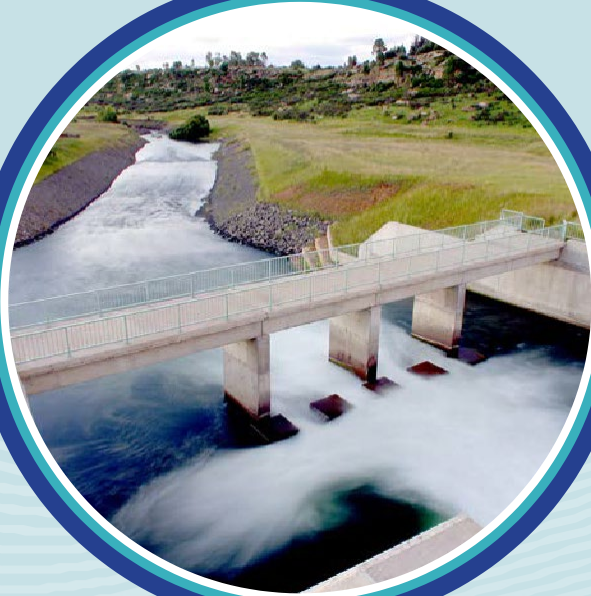
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Berg River-Voëlvlei Augmentation Scheme (BRVAS)

BACKGROUND

In May 2017, TCTA received a directive to fund and implement BRVAS. The project has been identified as a surface water development that can satisfy the augmentation requirement of the Western Cape Water Supply System (WCWSS). The system serves the City of Cape Town, its surrounding urban centres and irrigators along the Berg, Eerste and Sonderend rivers. The Reconciliation Strategy for the WCWSS shows that it is in deficit and needs urgent augmentation to avert a severe shortfall. The failure of the supply system to deal with the 2015 drought in Cape Town demonstrated this need. The Reconciliation Strategy explored various interventions but settled on BRVAS as the best surface water intervention to meet the shortfall in the short term.



PROJECT OVERVIEW

BRVAS will abstract water from the Berg River and pump it to the existing Voëlvlei Dam, increasing the yield by 23 million-m³ per annum in the medium to long term. The scheme will extensively use existing infrastructure, namely the Voëlvlei Dam, water treatment works, Cape Town's pipeline from the treatment works and the facilities of the West Coast District Municipality. The Minister of Human Settlements, Water and Sanitation has appointed TCTA to implement the BRVAS project on a fast-tracked basis on behalf of the government.

