



Water Conservation and Drought Management

October 20, 2010

Treasure Valley (Boise) Comprehensive Aquifer Management Plan Committee

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Director / Regional Initiatives and Special Projects

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Water Conservation and Drought Management

- Water Conservation is a process of using water more efficiently in day to day activities
- Drought Management is a planned response to emergencies in water supply or normal droughts
- Unusual Business Model – Discourage ratepayers from using excess water which is the revenue source!

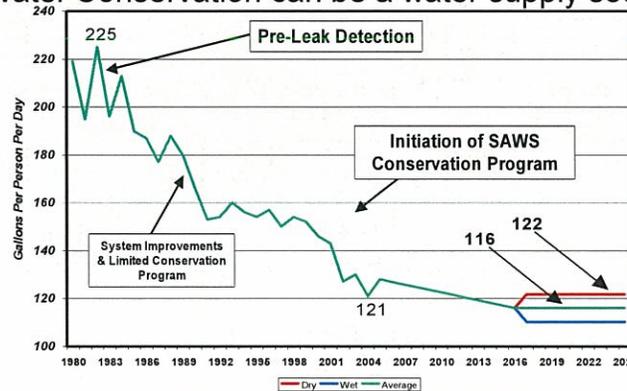
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Conservation as a Water Supply Source

Water Conservation can be a water supply source



Since 1987, 50% population increase but same water use in San Antonio

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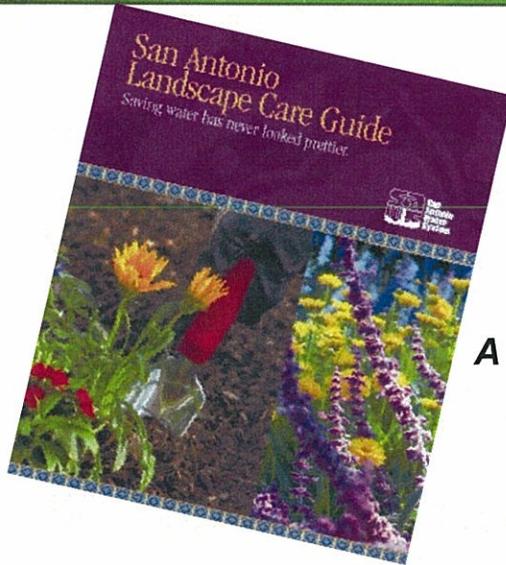
Public Input

- To select the right laws, rebates and to avoid adversarial relationship between a water purveyor and its ratepayers requires that they have input
 - Community Conservation Committee
- Media Involvement
 - Gardening columns in Express News and suburban newspapers
 - Four hours of radio per week and regular primetime TV
 - Websites – www.saws.org and www.plantanswer.com

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**A few pretty brochures
and a third grade
curriculum are not
enough.**

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Education

***“Toothbrush water,” yes,
but also more efficient
landscape care.***



***“Low Water Use Gardening is Exciting Gardening”
New plants, new practices, events,
and media access.***

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Incentives

- Rebates
 - Share costs of industrial changes
 - Two speed potato flushing toilet
- Adequate, long-term funding
- Change based on cost/benefit and citizen input



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Ordinances and Rates

- Ordinances
 - Soil under lawn
 - Certified irrigators
 - Rain sensors
 - Leaks must be repaired
 - No sprinkling 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- Pay for excessive water use – inverted block rates

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Commercial Program

- Large Scale Retrofit (share costs of water saving technology)
- Toilet Distribution and Rebates
- Cooling Tower Program
- On-Site Reclaimed Water
- Recycled Water
- Workshops and Education

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Residential Program

- Kick the Can (free efficient toilets)
- Plumbers to People (low income, leak repair)
- Wash Right (rebate on efficient washing machine)
- I lot Water on Demand Rebate
- Water Saver E-Newsletter (weekly watering recommendation)
- Water Saver Landscape Rebate
- Showerheads and Aerators
- Home and Irrigation System Check-Up
- Partnerships with Volunteer Organizations

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Funding in San Antonio

- Tier 4 water users (over 17,200 gallons per month) fund the residential program
- Meter fee funds the commercial program
- Essential to have long-term funding to build program
 - Spend approximately \$5 per person per year for Conservation - \$5 million

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Drought Management

- Drought Management is a planned response to emergencies in water supply or normal droughts
- Drought Management to be effective must not be a last minute reaction to emergency

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Water Supply Strategy

- In a city like San Antonio with regular pattern of droughts, Drought Management can be an efficient way to reduce demand and the need for extra water supplies

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Landscape Watering

- In summer, cities use 50% or more of their water for landscapes
- It is relatively easy to reduce water use by 20 – 30% (education, public input, triggers, enforcement) by reducing lawn watering to one day per week, which is SAWS major tactic
- Landscape lives but is less attractive

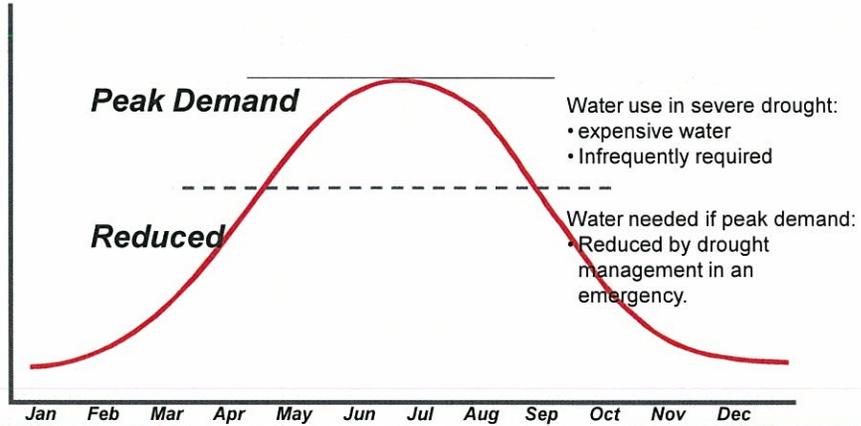
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Reduce Peak Needs

- Landscapes don't look as good but jobs unaffected and huge amounts saved on water supplies



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