

Conservation Department

Conservation Success & Challenges

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Conservation Goals

- Reduce the need for water by looking at **ALL** of the ways water is used in San Antonio.
- Reach 116 gal/person/day within ten years.
 - 2008 goal 550 million gallons
- Save water at \$400/acre-feet or less
- Maintain quality of life in region.

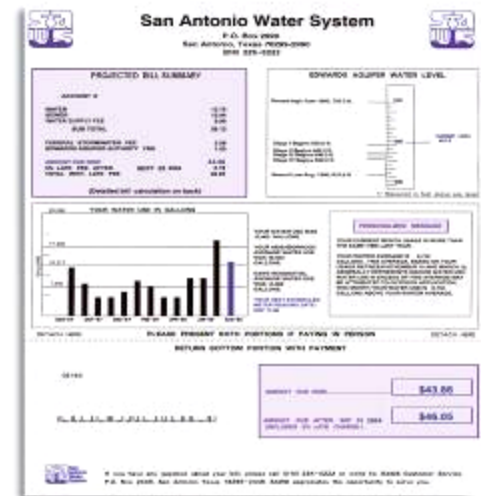
Conservation Investment

■ Residential Conservation

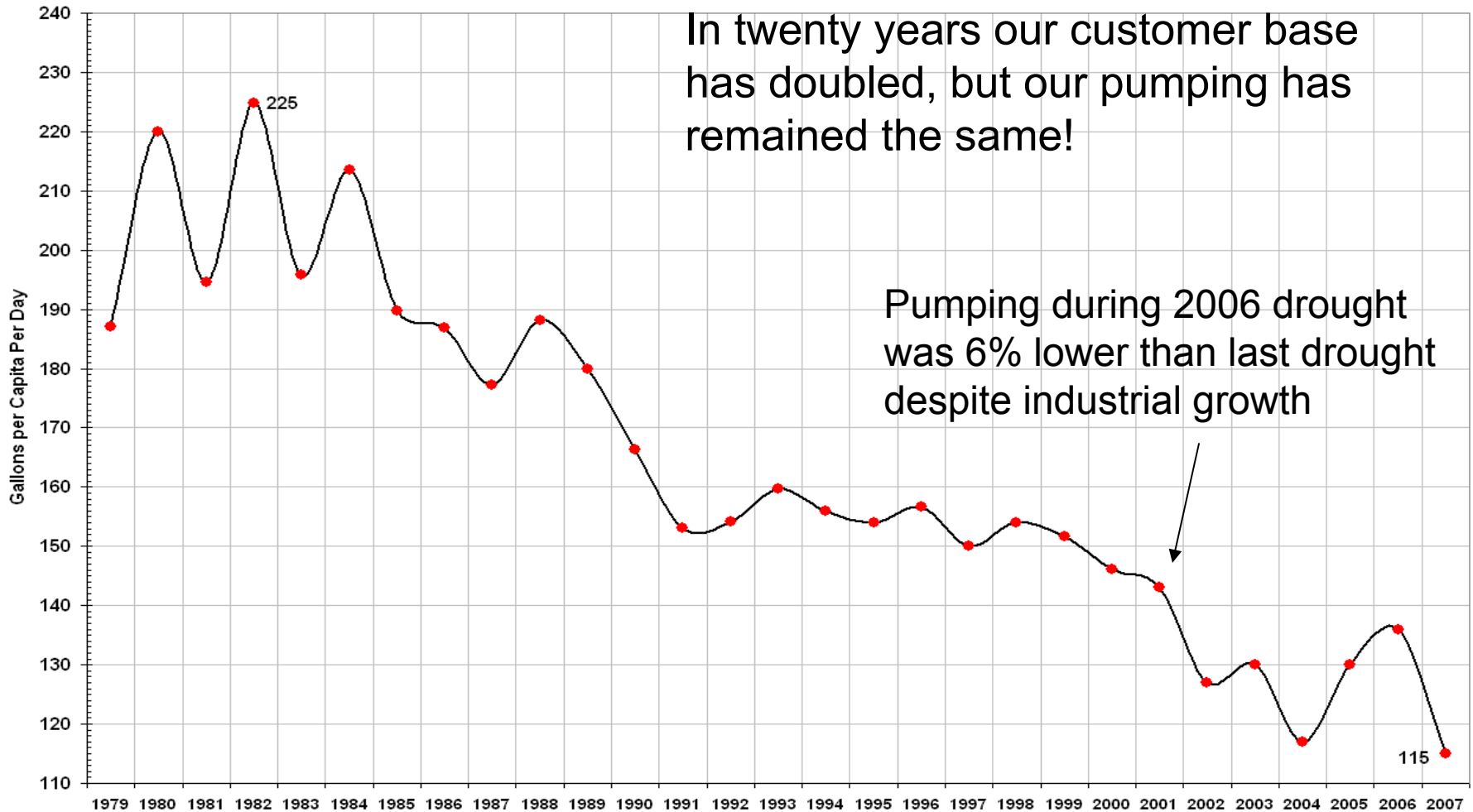
- Portion of funds from top tier water use billing each month.
- Generates \$2-3 million each year.

■ Commercial Conservation

- Small meter fee.
- Generates approximately \$3 million each year.



Conservation Trends



Three Conservation Pillars



Kick the Can

It's a great ways to save money and water.



1. Rebates & Incentives
2. Education & Outreach
3. Reasonable Regulation



Conservation

Commercial Programs

- Large Scale Retrofits
- Efficient (HET) Toilets
- Industry Certification
 - Restaurants
 - Schools
 - Powerwashing
 - Hotels
- Cooling Tower Audits
- WaterSaver Awards

**50% of savings each year
is from Commercial
Programs!**



Residential Programs

- High Efficiency Toilets
- Wash Right Rebates
- Hot Water On Demand
- Plumbers To People
- SIP (Seasonal Irrigation Program)
- Irrigation Check-Ups
- Targeted Programs; High Users
- Education Events



Events & Workshops

- 50 Events Each Year*
 - Trainings/Workshops*
 - Spring Bloom
 - Garden Jazz Party
 - WaterSaver Awards
 - Festival of Flowers
- Over 200 Presentations Each year
 - Many programs are through partnership agreements.



Partnerships for Outreach

- Botanical Gardens
- Gardening Volunteers of South Texas
- Bexar County Master Gardeners
- Mitchell Lake Audubon
- Green Builders
- Professional Organizations; plumbers, irrigators, facility managers, and more!
- Stakeholder Groups

Reasonable Regulations

www.saws.org/conservation/ordinance/

- Water Waste Against the Law
- Time of Day Irrigation
- Drought Rules
- San Antonio Irrigation Standards
- Rain Sensor Requirement
- Cooling Tower Efficiencies
- Power Washing Rules of Use
- Irrigation Check-Ups for Large Properties
- Making Reclaim Water Accessible on Commercial Construction
- Turfgrass Selection & Soil Under Turfgrass

Stumbling Blocks/ AKA...challenges

- Enforcement is hard!
 - Requires constant reminders of rules, staff time to identify responsible parties, and constant review of legal situations.
- Outdoor Water Use Increasing!
 - Standard irrigation systems in new homes seem to result in long-term usage increases.
 - There is no easy solution.
 - Technology like smart controllers are not easy fix.

Challenge: Are Programs Working?

- Program evaluation is critical.
- Popular and intuitive programs do NOT always save water.
 - WaterSaver Landscape Rebate; original program showed no savings, second version gave expensive savings
 - Smart Controller pilot neighborhood defied logic because pilot neighborhood has higher usage

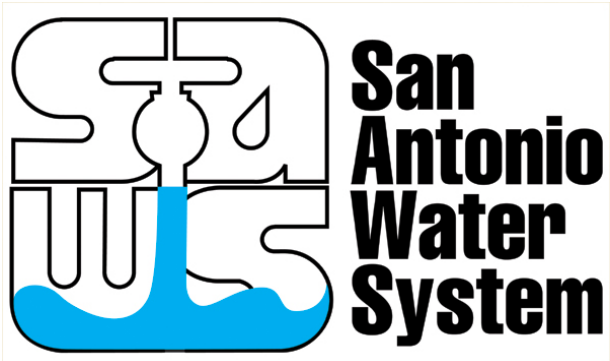
Challenge: Keeping up Citizen Input

- Community Conservation Committee
 - Twelve years of monthly citizen input to conservation programs.
- Regular stakeholder meetings necessary to keep support for funding, programs and regulation
- Constant public education on conservation message.

Ongoing Strategic Analysis

- Each program must meet criteria of reasonable cost/AF.
 - Change/cut programs if evaluation shows need.
- Program mix should give all opportunity to participate.
- Must consider strategic options for the future.
- Shift priorities with drought status.

QUESTIONS?



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