



Water Conservation and Drought Management

October 20, 2010

Treasure Valley (Boise) Comprehensive Aquifer Management Plan Committee

Calvin R. Finch, PhD

Director / Regional Initiatives and Special Projects

Page 2

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!

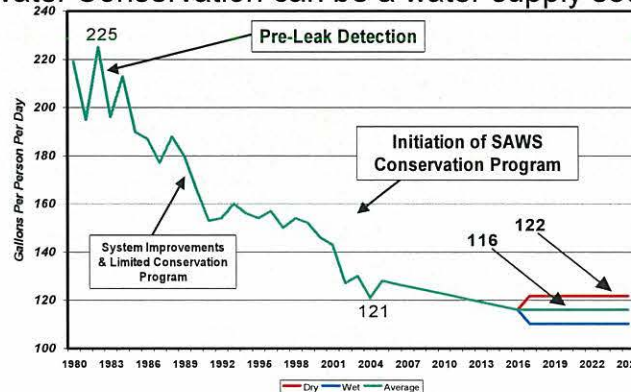
October 20, 2010

Water Conservation and Drought Management



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

October 20, 2010

Water Conservation and Drought Management



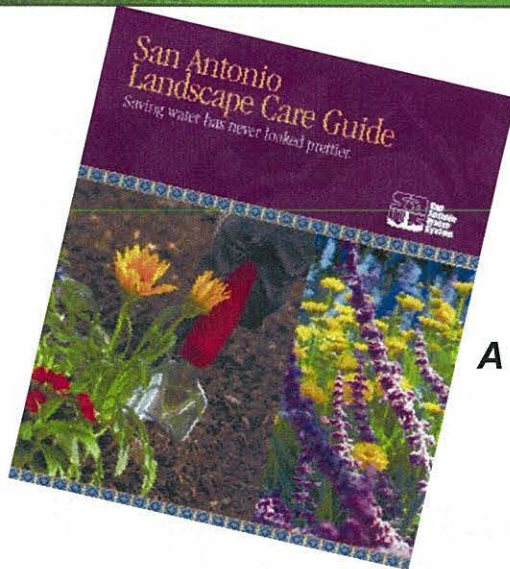
Public Input

- 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

October 20, 2010

Water Conservation and Drought Management





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

October 20, 2010

Water Conservation and Drought Management


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.***

October 20, 2010

Water Conservation and Drought Management


Incentives

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



October 20, 2010

Water Conservation and Drought Management



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

October 20, 2010

Water Conservation and Drought Management



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

October 20, 2010

Water Conservation and Drought Management



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

October 20, 2010

Water Conservation and Drought Management



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

October 20, 2010

Water Conservation and Drought Management



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

October 20, 2010

Water Conservation and Drought Management



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

October 20, 2010

Water Conservation and Drought Management



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

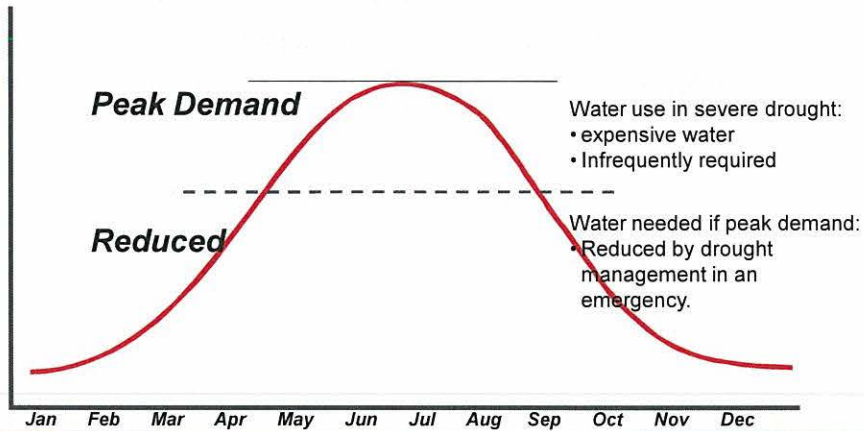
October 20, 2010

Water Conservation and Drought Management



Reduce Peak Needs

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



October 20, 2010

Water Conservation and Drought Management


Water Conservation and Drought Management

October 8, 2010

Treasure Valley (Boise) Comprehensive Aquifer Management Plan Committee

Calvin R. Finch, PhD

Director / Regional Initiatives and Special Projects