



The San Antonio Example

November 13, 2012

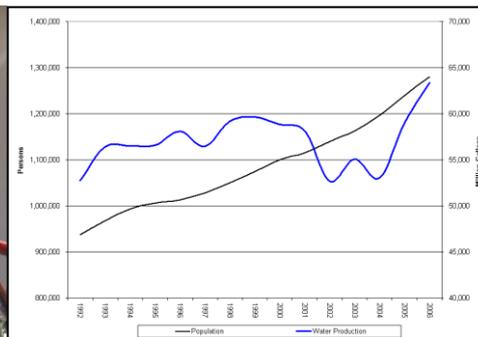
***Governor's Water Conference
Tulsa, OK***

Karen Guz

Director / Water Conservation

Today San Antonio is Fully Committed to Conservation

Advanced Conservation Goals Fully Integrated into Water Resource Plan



November 13, 2012

The San Antonio Example

..... But that Wasn't Always the Case

Sierra Club files class-action suit over pumping

By JERRY NEEDHAM
AND STEFANIE SCOTT
EXPRESS-NEWS STAFF WRITERS

The Sierra Club has sounded the bell for Round 2 of litigation over endangered species living in Edwards Aquifer waters, filing a class-action lawsuit against San Antonio and all aquifer pumpers.

The suit filed late Monday in federal court in Midland asks for court-ordered pumping limits to protect endangered species.

With aquifer levels dropping and the summer still ahead, the environmental group's lawsuit throws the aquifer, San Antonio's sole source of drinking water, back into federal court.

"What is at issue here is not simply the survival of several endangered species, but also the future

Limits on water source established

San Antonio Express-News

Serving South Texas since 1865

SATURDAY, August 24, 1996

★ Final Edition 50c

Bunton orders pumping limits

City leaders react angrily, plan to file appeal Monday

By KEN DILANIAN
EXPRESS-NEWS STAFF WRITER

Flanked by local leaders at a dramatic City Hall news conference, Mayor Bill Thornton vowed Friday to appeal a federal judge's order that he decried as favoring animals over people.

"Today I think it's time we draw a line in the sand to fight for consideration of humans and human rights," Thornton said. "Quite frankly, the court is jacking us around."

Thornton's sentiments were echoed by a variety of city officials who protested an order by Senior U.S. District Judge Lucius D. Bun-

ton III that may require San Antonians to stop watering their lawns in an effort to save five federally protected species at Comal and San Marcos springs.

After years of warnings, threats and voluntary plans, Bunton finally imposed a legally binding court order in response to allegations from the non-profit Sierra Club that San Antonio's Edwards Aquifer water use is violating the Endangered Species Act.

Governments at all levels have failed to properly preserve the Edwards, Bunton wrote, and that failure is killing species in violation

■ See THORNTON/8A



"Today I think it's time we draw a line in the sand to fight for consideration of humans and human rights. Quite frankly, the court is jacking us around."

— Mayor Bill Thornton

"The Edwards Aquifer region has finally reached the point where the aquifer is unable to provide for the needs of all those who depend upon it during dry years."

— Senior U.S. District Judge Lucius D. Bunton III



SAWS chief foresees ban on lawn watering by Oct. 1

By JERRY NEEDHAM
EXPRESS-NEWS STAFF WRITER

A federal judge ordered restrictions on pumping from the Edwards Aquifer by the city of San Antonio and other defendants Friday, in an endangered species lawsuit filed by the Sierra Club.

Mayor Bill Thornton and City Council members vowed an appeal.

The order by Senior U.S. District Judge Lucius D. Bunton III does not take effect until Oct. 1. Depending on how much rain falls by then, the San Antonio Water System and other large users of aquifer water could be limited to no



The water debate is about a lot more than blind critters.
Carlos Guerra/1B

more than 1.2 times their winter average pumpage.

Joe Aceves, SAWS president, said that to meet that limit, the city probably would have to ban any outdoor water use by residen-

■ See FEDERAL/8A

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The San Antonio Example



San Antonio Responds

- SAWS is faced with developing alternative water sources
- City and Water Resource Leaders identified Conservation as the first water resource program developed to address water needs
- 1993: SAWS adopts first Conservation and Reuse Plan

San Antonio Express-News

This page is recyclable ♻️

Sunday, September 26, 1993 7A

A new bureaucratic climate lets creative ideas bloom

To Victor Miramontes, a member of the board of the San Antonio Water System, the message on his desk signifies a huge change in one of the city's most important bureaucracies.

"It's from Joe Aceves," Miramontes said, referring to the president of the water agency. "He wants me to participate in a day-long conference with the Audubon Society to discuss an alliance for the future."

For San Antonio water officials to collaborate with an environmental group is not just a change. It's a revolution.

A few years ago, City Council was so frustrated by the then-City Water Board's refusal to get aggressive about water conservation and water reuse that it set up a whole new agency to deal with



Rick Casey

those issues.

It was, unfortunately, a mistake. The last thing the city needed was one more water agency. Last year, a fresh city council, mayor and city manager undid the mistake, abolished both the old City Water Board and the new Alamo Conservation and Reuse District, created the San Antonio Water System and endowed it with new leadership.

The agency board now in-

cludes several members committed to an aggressive approach to conservation and reuse, and its staff includes a water professional whose sole job is to develop and push those strategies.

He is Tom Fox, former director of the Edwards Underground Water District, and hiring him was one of the better moves by the agency's planning director, Becky Cedillo.

Given the limits on water San Antonio will be able to take from the Edwards aquifer due to lawsuits and legislation, the city must start looking for new sources of water immediately. Costly surface-water projects will be explored, as well as an expensive water pipeline from East Texas.

But the cheapest ways to get new water, at least up to a point,

will be to use less so we'll have more available for newcomers, and to recycle what we've used.

The first stage of a major recycling plan already is under way. The agency has committed to buying a huge pump to take water collected in the massive new flood tunnel under downtown and take it back upstream where it can be used to water public golf courses and to replace the aquifer water now used to keep a stream-flow in the San Antonio River.

As for conservation, the new attitude described by Miramontes is leading to a wide range of creative new ideas. Though details haven't been worked out, basic approaches have been outlined. They are based on two complementary notions.

One is that while conservation

is the cheapest source of new water, it is not free. The second is that the best way to get people to quit wasting water is to make it very expensive for them to do so.

So look for a plan that keeps water about the same for average users, but sharply raises rates for amounts over the average. This makes sense in a system where about 10 percent of the residences use 30 percent of the water.

The approach favored by Miramontes, Fox and others would dedicate increased collections on heavy users for conservation. Fox's ideas include a youth corps trained to help the elderly fix leaky faucets and solve other simple problems. Rebates would be offered for water-efficient toilets, showers and appliances.

Miramontes has asked the

agency's attorneys to explore the possibility of a fund to finance the re-plumbing of inefficient houses and re-landscaping of the city's thirsty lawns.

"Lawns are an English invention," he said. "Xeriscaping is where we're at. San Antonio needs its own look."

If Miramontes' notion works, a customer would choose a landscaper from an approved list and repay the water agency over time from the savings on his or her water bill. The beauty is that rather than sending the money east for pipelines and reservoirs, this would put San Antonians to work.

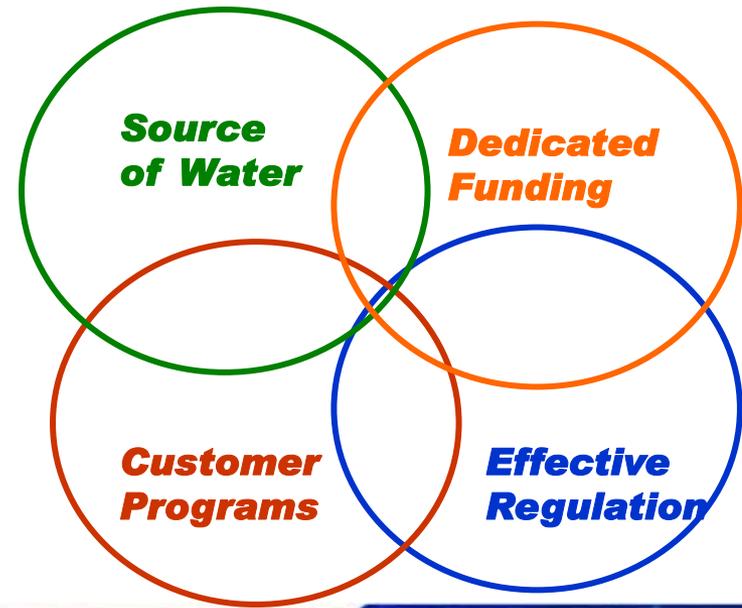
These are just a few ideas coming out of the year-old water agency. In this new climate, may a thousand ideas bloom.

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The San Antonio Example

Formula For Success in San Antonio

- Customer Programs
 - Equipment Change and Behavior Change
- Year Round and Drought Regulation
- Conservation Considered a Source of Water
- Dedicated Funding with Supporting Rate Structure



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The San Antonio Example

Formula for Success:

Customer Programs

Rebates, Services, Distribution

- Broad range of programs for residential and commercial customers
- Gives all users an opportunity to conserve
- A customer that has benefited from a conservation program will support conservation – On the Conservation Team



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The San Antonio Example

Customer Programs

Equipment Change vs. Behavior Change

- One decision, one time, ongoing, month to month savings
- Decision to use water or not needs to be made daily



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Formula for Success:

Effective Regulation

- Prohibits sprinkling in the day and water running down the street
- Construction and maintenance standards regulation promote year round conservation
- Public overwhelmingly supports enforcement – Recent Survey -85% support citation model
- Enforcement reduces wastes and keeps those who conserve on the **Conservation Team**
- Drought Restrictions as needed



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The San Antonio Example

Formula for Success:

Conservation: a Source of Water

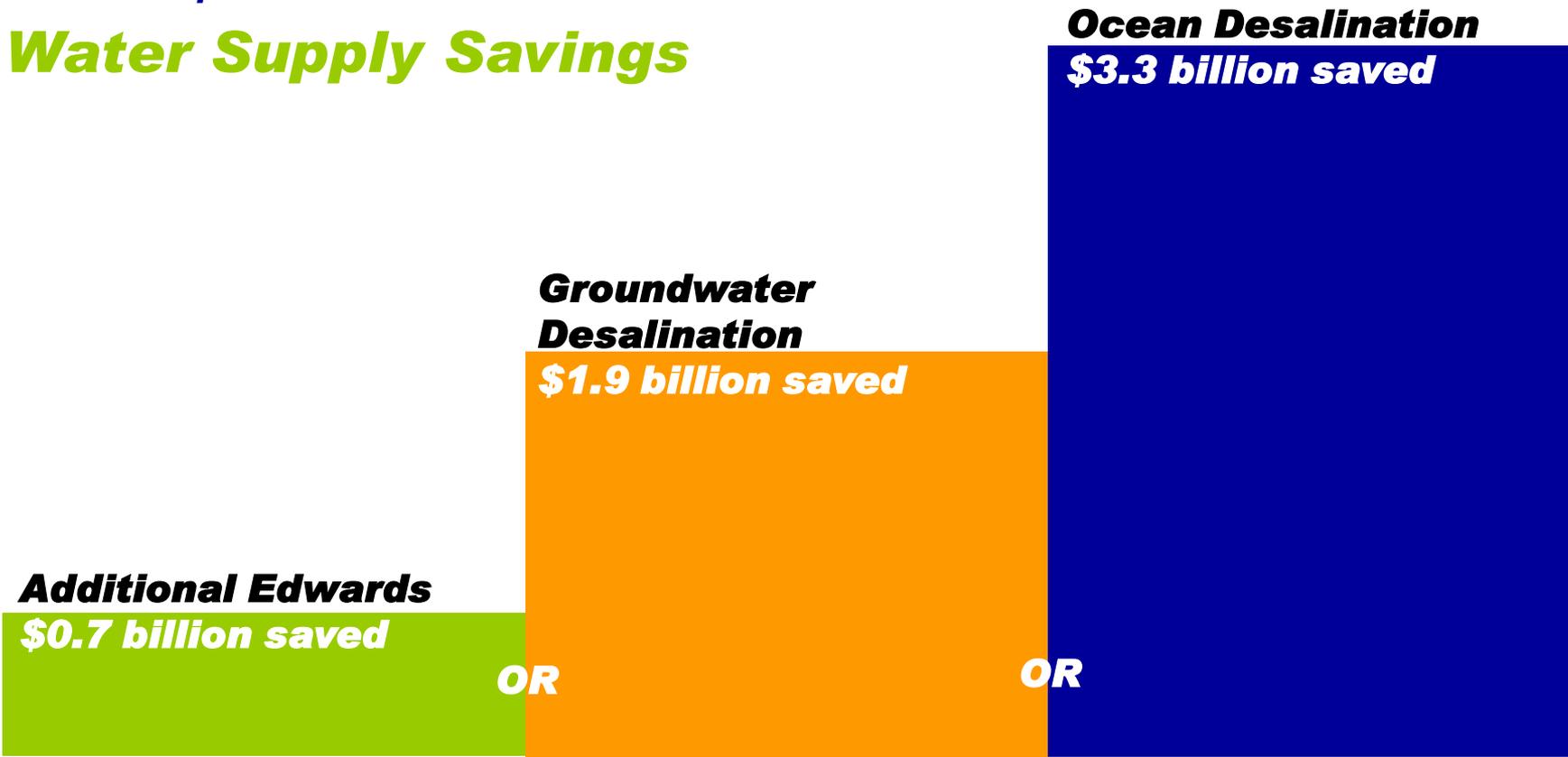
- Conservation fully integrated into water resource management plan
- Program costs assessed against other water resource options
- Economic analysis on SAWS programs showed for every \$1 spent on conservation, \$4-\$7 are saved

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The San Antonio Example

The Value Proposition

Water Supply Savings



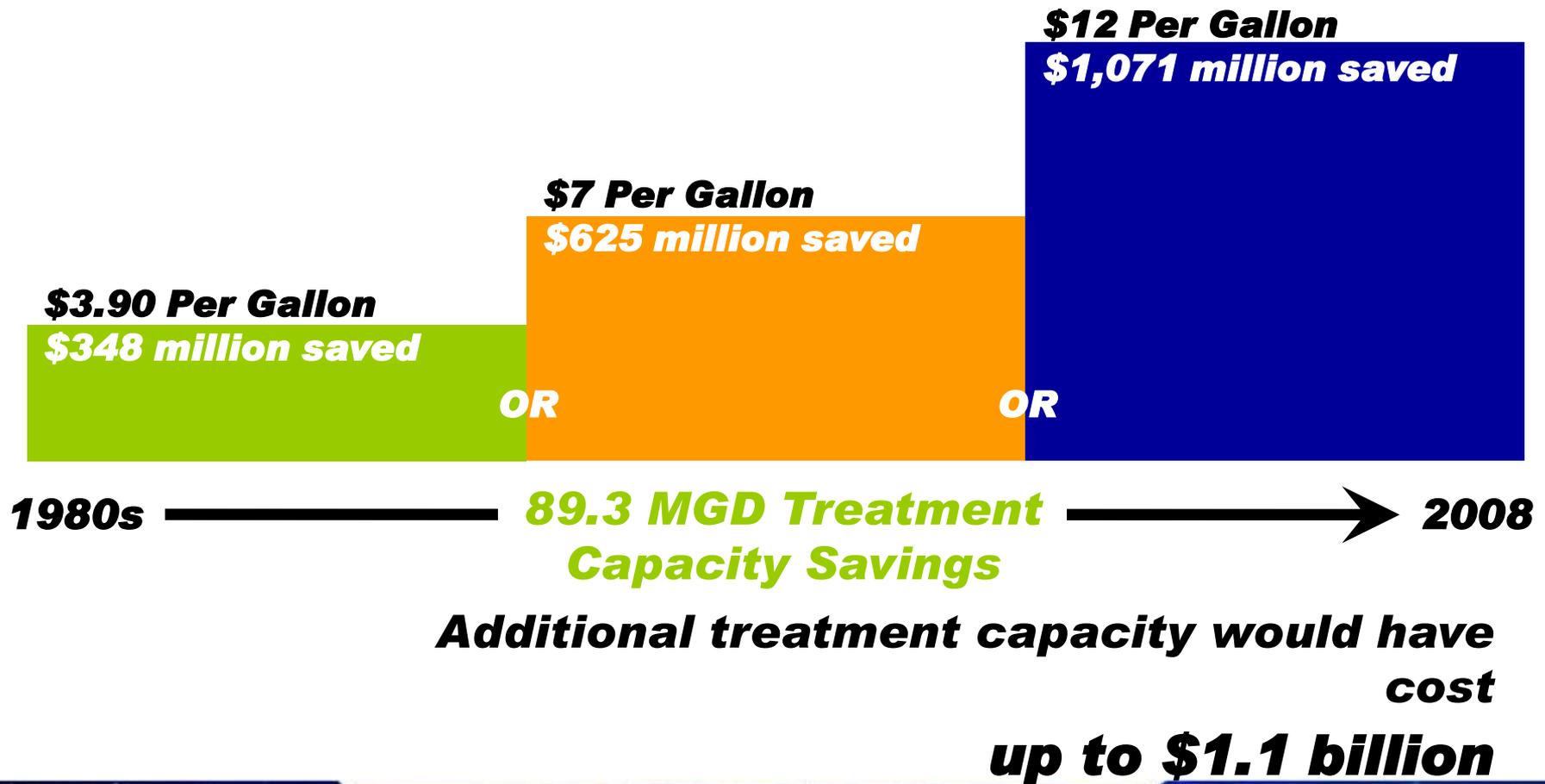
1980s ————— **121,000 ac-ft saved** —————> 2008

Deferred alternative supplies would have cost up to \$3.3 billion

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The Value Proposition Part II

Wastewater Treatment Savings



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The San Antonio Example

Water Bill- Use as Educational Piece

- Everyone gets it
- Everyone reads it (at least the bottom line)
- First best way to communicate and educate cost effectively
- Includes a monthly newsletter



San Antonio Water System

P.O. Box 2990
San Antonio, Texas 78290-2990
(210) 704-SAWS (7297)



CURRENT BILL SUMMARY

ACCOUNT HOLDER
3456 SERVICE ADDRESS
ACCOUNT # 12 3456 789012 3

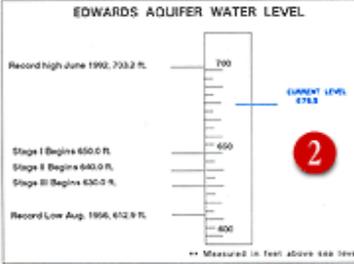
DOMESTIC WATER SERVICE CHARGE	6.89
WATER SUPPLY FEE	1.28
EDWARDS AQUIFER AUTHORITY FEE	.18
FEDERAL STORMWATER FEE	2.50
SEWER SERVICE CHARGE	5.70

1

AMOUNT DUE NOW 16.33
5% LATE FEE AFTER JAN 26 2004 .82
TOTAL WITH LATE FEE 17.15

(Detailed bill calculation on back)

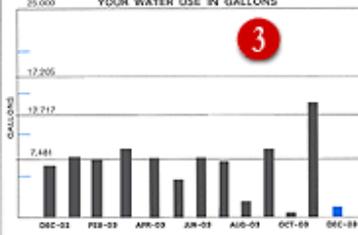
EDWARDS AQUIFER WATER LEVEL



2

** Measured in feet above sea level

YOUR WATER USE IN GALLONS



3

YOUR WATER USE WAS 1,846 GALLONS.
YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD AVERAGE WATER USE WAS 8,229 GALLONS.
SAWS RESIDENTIAL AVERAGE WATER USE WAS 8,229 GALLONS.
YOUR NEXT SCHEDULED METER READING DATE: JAN 30 2004

IMPORTANT NOTICE

PAY TOTAL AMOUNT PRIOR TO DUE DATE TO AVOID NOTICE OF PRETERMINATION HEARING, SERVICE CHARGES, AND ADDITIONAL DEPOSIT.

THE ABOVE SUMMARY INDICATES A PREVIOUS BALANCE. IF SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES EXIST THAT WOULD PRECLUDE PAYMENT OF THIS BILL PLEASE CONTACT US AT (210) 704-SAWS (7297).

4

DETACH HERE PLEASE PRESENT BOTH PORTIONS IF PAYING IN PERSON DETACH HERE

RETURN BOTTOM PORTION WITH PAYMENT A

ACCT# 12 3456 789012 3
00161 **FOR PAYMENTS BY CHECK, SEE BACK OF BILL.**

5

ACCOUNT HOLDER
3456 SERVICE ADDRESS
SAN ANTONIO TX 78200-0000



AMOUNT DUE NOW	\$16.33
AMOUNT DUE AFTER JAN 26 2004 <small>(INCLUDES 5% LATE CHARGE)</small>	\$17.15

230712366015100005405000053371



If you have any question about your bill, please call (210) 704-SAWS or write to: SAWS Customer Service, P.O. Box 2449, San Antonio Texas 78298-2449. SAWS appreciates the opportunity to serve you.

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Conservation Consultations

- Free to any SAWS water customers
- One-on-one customer communication
- Gives customers the extra confidence they need to make landscape changes
- 2500 COMPLETED IN 2011
- Complete landscape assessment
 - Landscape suggestions/recommendations
 - Irrigation system maintenance/design
 - Irrigation controller programming



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The San Antonio Example

Award Winning Wastewater "Trifecta"

Recycling of process residuals: biosolids, gas, water



- 98% to beneficial use in 2009
- First in nation to market digester gas
- Nation's largest direct recycled water system

- Environmental Excellence Award
- Other Uses: Solar & Hydroelectric



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The San Antonio Example

Managing through Extremes

San Antonio's Challenge



Jan 2007

Sep 2007

Aug 2009

Sep 2010

Sep 2011

| *Driest 24 months on record* |

**Wettest First
8 Months of
Any Year**

44.6" in 8 mos

**68 days of
100 degree
temperature**

24.8" in 24 mos

**3rd Wettest 13
month period
on record**

58.6" in 13 mos

**Least rain since
recording began
in 1871**

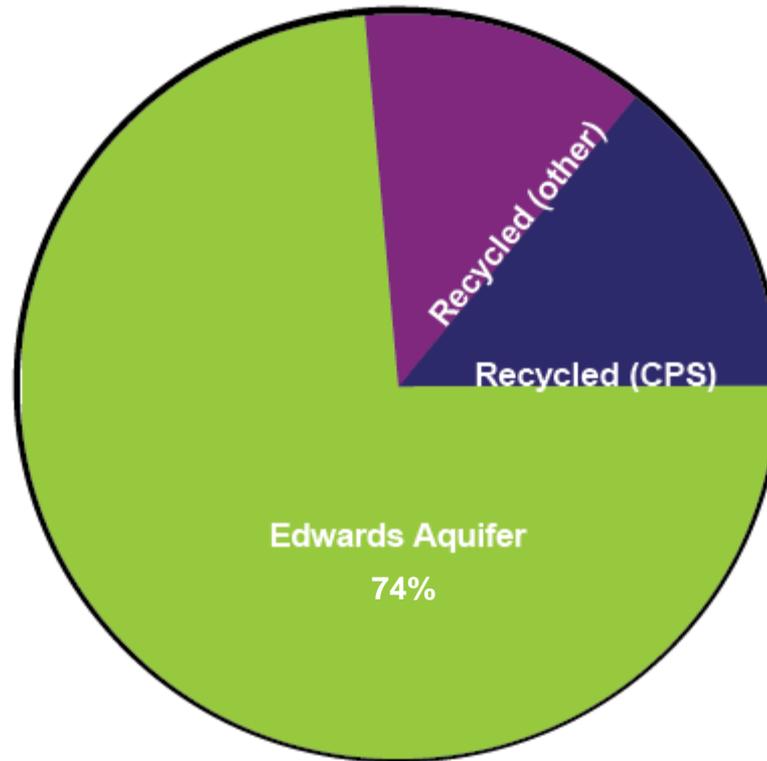
7.6" in 11 mos

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SAWS Water Supply - 2000

Normal Conditions

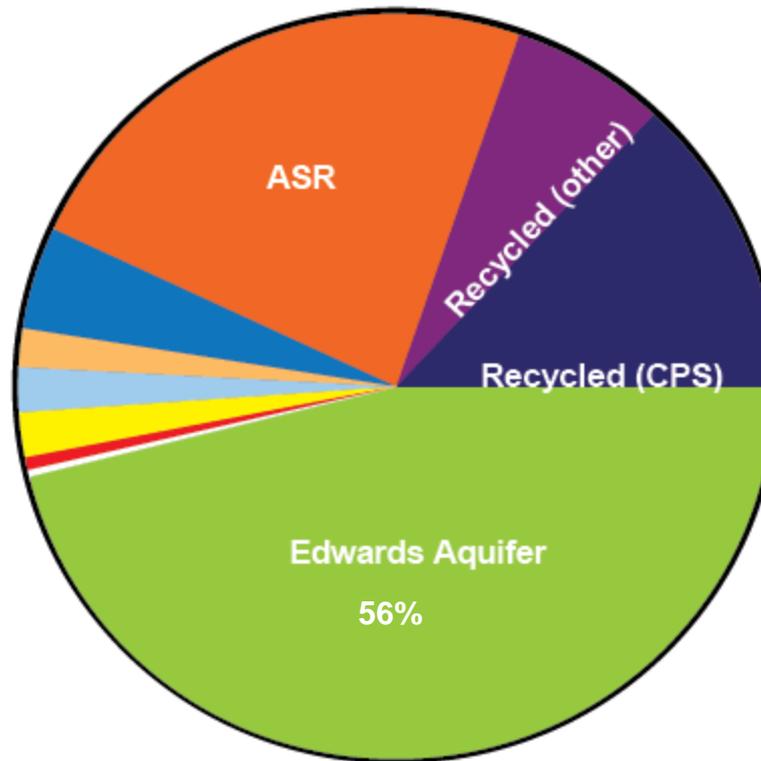


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The San Antonio Example

SAWS Water Supply - 2012

Normal Conditions



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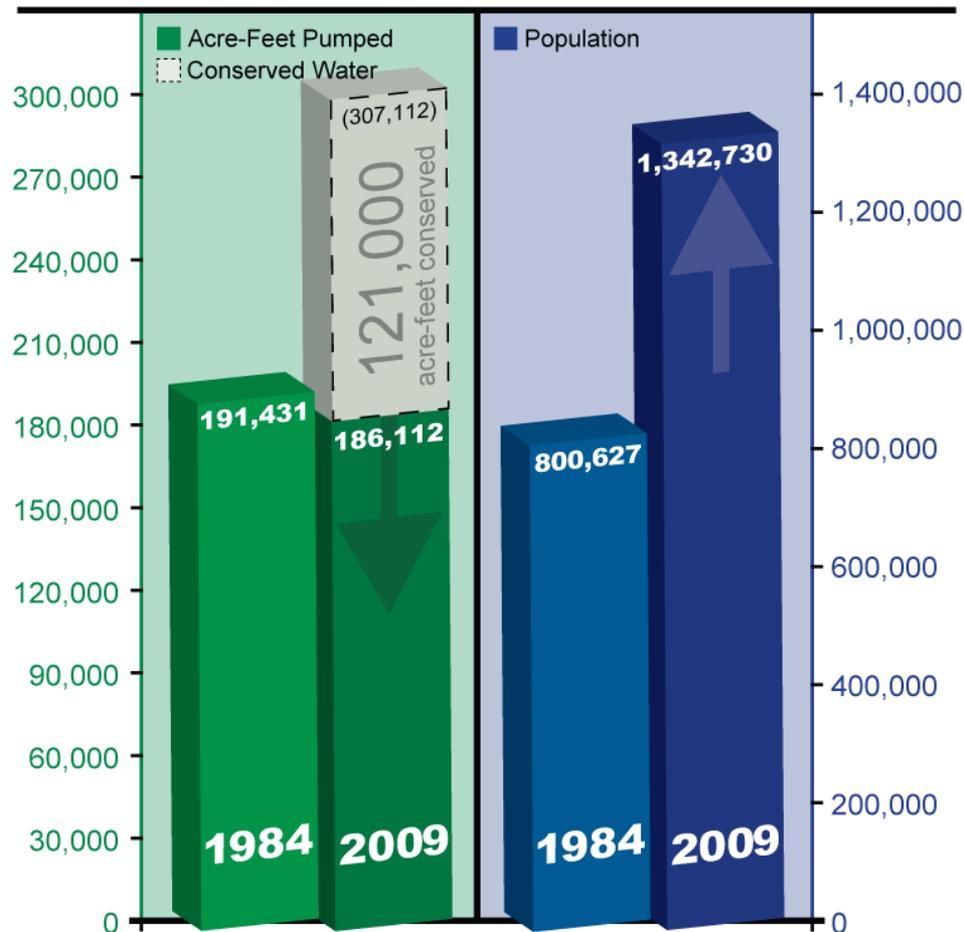
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Managing Water Demand

67% More Customers

0% More Water

SAWS Total Production (1984 vs. 2009)



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**Savings based on water use in the early 1980s*

The San Antonio Example

Contact Information

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Director of Conservation

Karen.Guz@saws.org

210-233-3671

<http://www.saws.org/conservation/newsletter/>



Seasonal color
for your inbox.

Delivered.

Look inside the new
WaterSaver
eNewsletter
>>>



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Tulsa, OK***

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