

conservation

Conservation Success & Challenges

Karen Guz

Director - Conservation



Rates Advisory Committee

8 January 2009



Helping communities flourish

San Antonio Water System

Conservation Goals

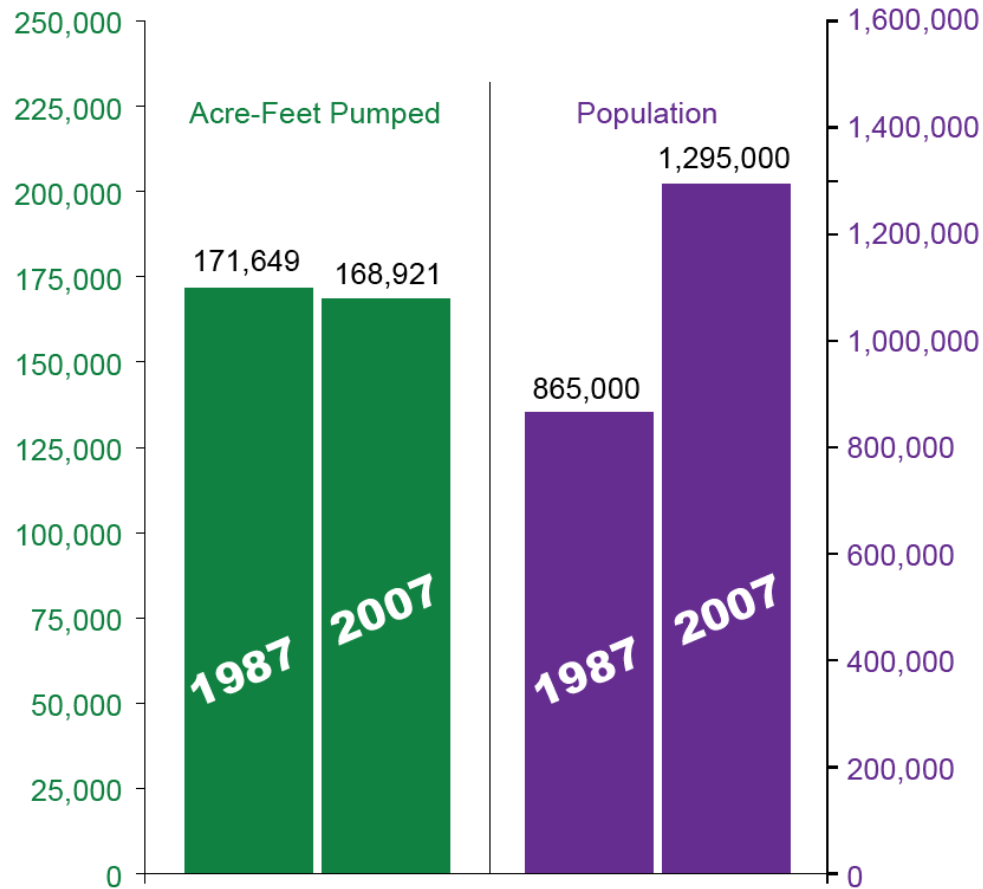
- Reduce the need for water by looking at **ALL** of the ways water is used in San Antonio
- Reach 116 gal/person/day within ten years
 - 2009 goal 1 billion gallons or 3,000 acre-feet
- Save water at \$400/acre-foot or less
- Maintain quality of life in region

San Antonio Unique Water Situation

- Edwards Aquifer is primary supply
 - Shared across large region
 - Regulated by aquifer authority
 - Permit usage drops quickly with levels
- Extreme weather/precipitation fluctuations
- Plant material capable of summer dormancy
- Highly water aware public
- New supplies expensive

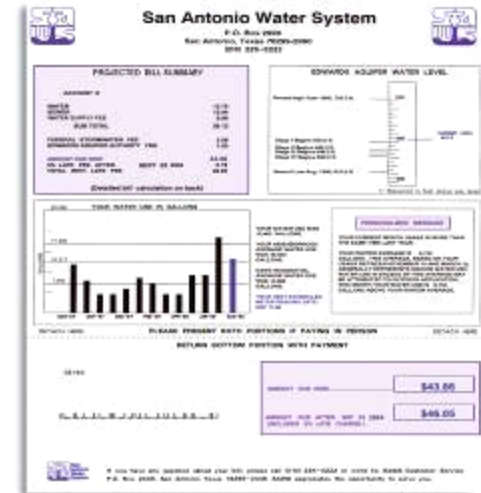
The Big Picture Progress

50% More Customers, 0% More Water (1987 vs. 2007)



Conservation Investment

- **Residential Conservation**
 - Portion of funds from top tier water use billing each month
 - Generates \$1-3 million each year
- **Commercial Conservation**
 - Small meter fee
 - Generates approximately \$3 million each year

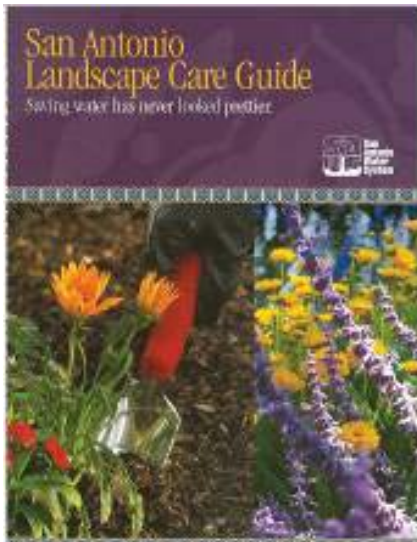


Three Conservation Pillars



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
- WaterSaver E-Newsletter
- Irrigation Check-Ups
- Targeted Programs: High Users
- Education Events



Reasonable Regulations

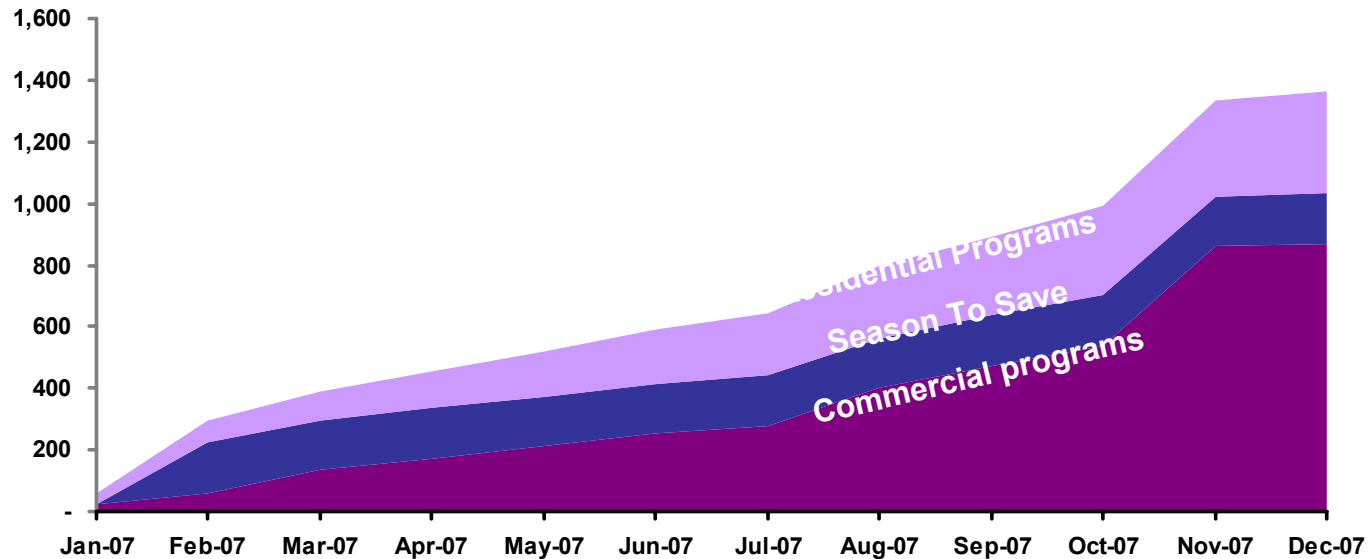
www.saws.org/conservation/ordinance/

- 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

Toilet Retrofit Program

- 21,629 toilets installed in 2008
- 1,200 acre-feet saved

Acre-feet saved



Other Indoor Conservation Programs 2008

- Hot Water on Demand: 72 units/4 acre-feet
- Wash Right: 2,140 units/44 acre-feet
- Plumbers to People: 620 visits/93 acre-feet
- Industrial Retrofits: 3 projects/78 acre-feet
- Showerheads: 7,667 customers/225 acre-feet
- WaterSaver New Homes: 93 homes/6 acre-feet

ALL Indoor Programs = 1,768 acre-feet in 2008

Outdoor Conservation Public Education

- Staff presentations reached 8,500 people with conservation education
- Partner organizations and education events reached another 150,000 people with conservation education
- New weekly E-Newsletter launched to rave reviews
- Took 20,000 department calls and processed 14,000 applications in 2008

Other Outdoor Conservation Programs

- Home Indoor Audit: 250 visits/18 acre-feet
- Irrigation Audits: 700 visits/103 acre-feet
- Irrigation Check-Up Reports: 1,200 turned/442 acre-feet
- Top Residential Program: 24 participants/7 acre-feet
- WaterSaver Landscape Rebates: 37 rebates/2 acre-feet
- WaterSaver Specialist: 450 sites/213 acre-feet
- Water Waste Reports Processed: 3,872 reports/14 acre-feet
- Water Waster & Citation Sites: 141/129 acre-feet

Total Savings 2008: 928 acre feet

Challenges for 2009

- We must address growing outdoor water usage from irrigation systems
 - High usage from irrigation can “wash out” all savings from indoor programs
- There are many new customers we will need to reach with the conservation message
- We must double our efforts in 2009 in order to reach goal over time

QUESTIONS?



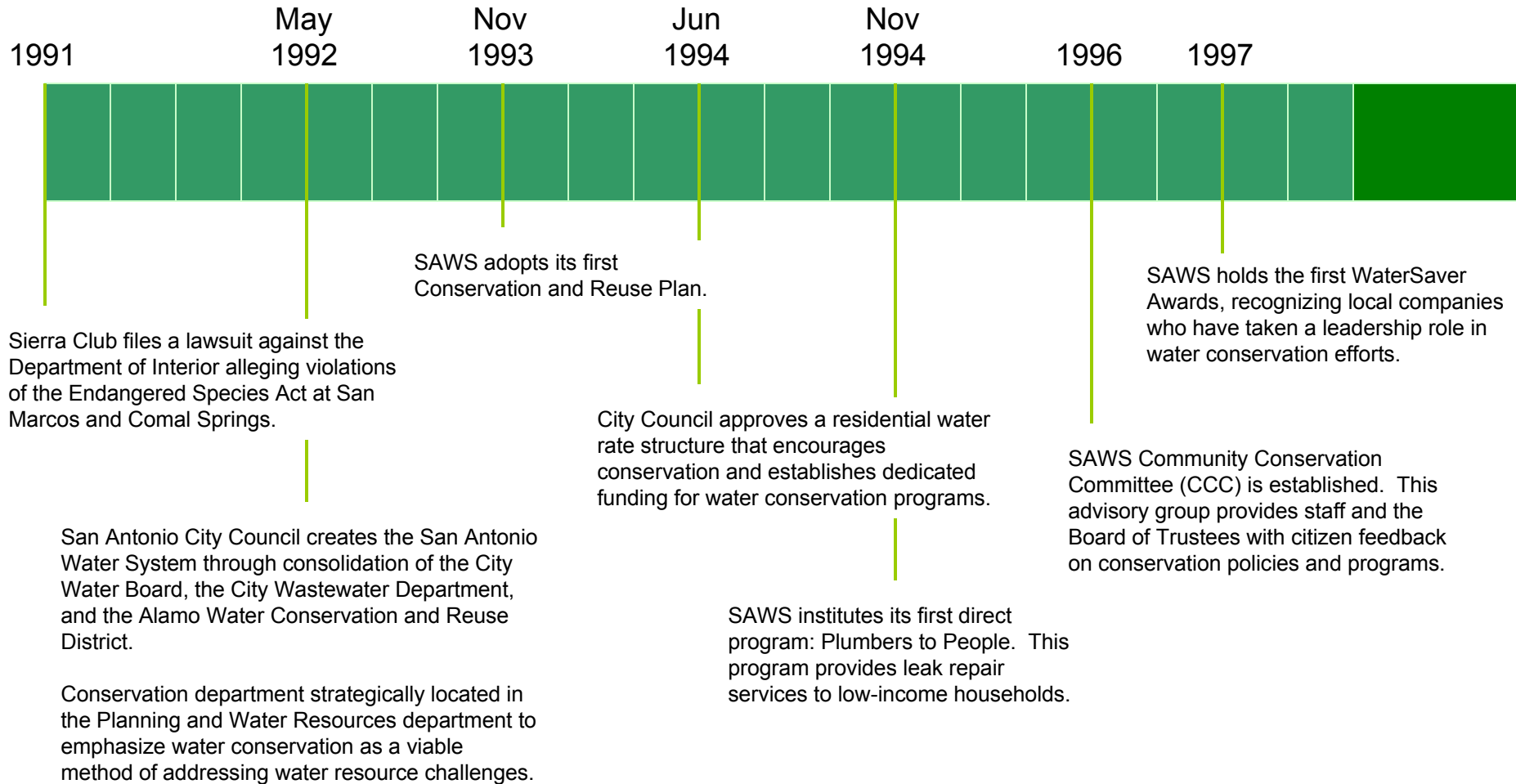
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History of Conservation



History of Conservation

Jan
1998

Mar
1998

Oct
1998

Jan
2001

Dec
2001

Jan
2002

San Antonio City Council approves a fee on all commercial water accounts in support of commercial conservation programs.

Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) appoints SAWS representative to the South Central Texas Regional Water Planning Group (Region L). Region L is one of 16 regional planning groups in Texas, tasked with the development of a 50-year water plan for inclusion in the state water plan.

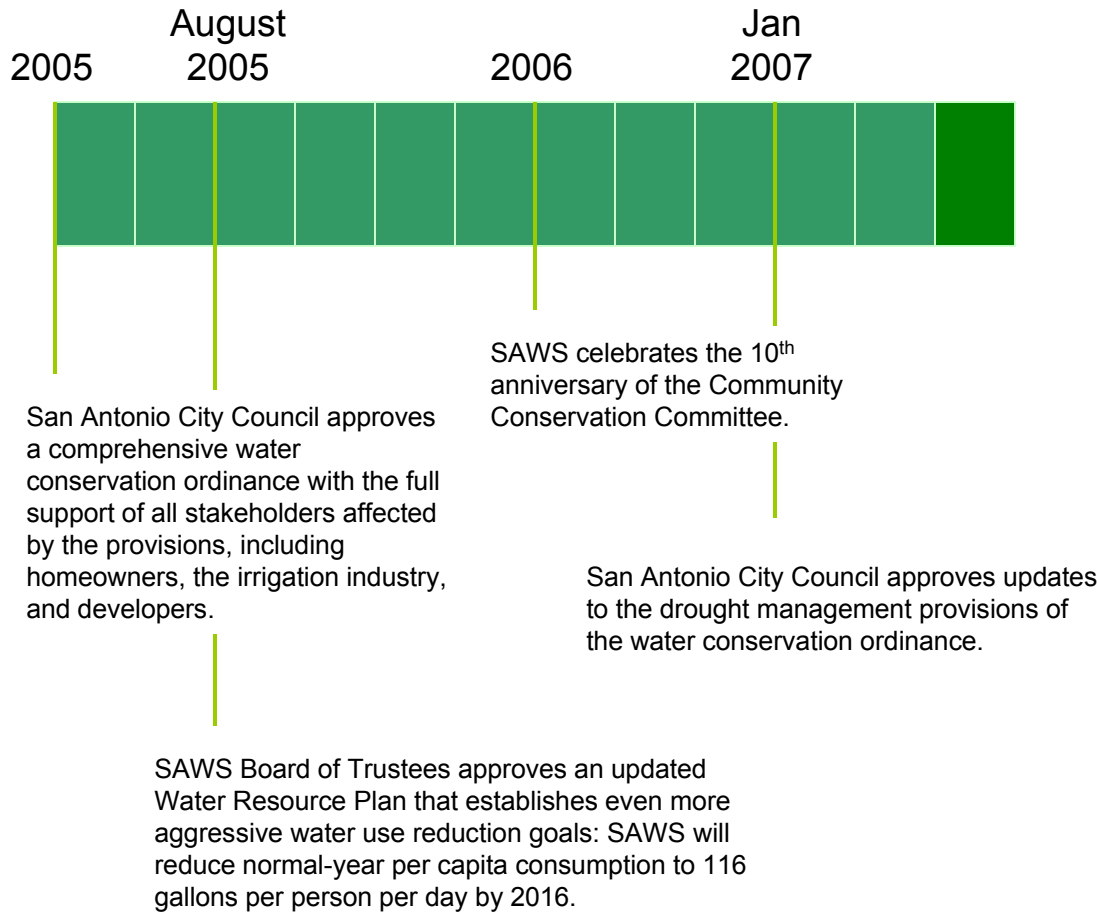
SAWS Board of Trustees approves the first Water Resource Plan, titled "Securing our Water Future Together." This plan identified methods for meeting future water needs through diversification of our water resources.

Water use reduction goals established in the 1993 Conservation and Reuse Plan for 2008 are achieved a full 7 years in advance.

With input from Region L and regional planning groups throughout the state, TWDB adopts the first state water plan. In this plan, the San Antonio region is the only area in the state that adopts "advanced conservation" as a significant resource option.

SAWS per capita consumption drops to 143 gallons per person per day.

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